This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Magnetic glycol-nanoparticles for MRI-based cancer imaging	<p>Magnetic glycol-nanoparticles could help identify and discriminate cancer cells based on their MRI signatures. In a proof-of-concept study, five different glycol-nanoparticles bound different cell types, resulting in five distinct MRI signatures. Closely related cell lines that had different degrees of metastatic potential also showed distinct MRI signatures using the five different nanoparticles. In a cell culture assay, the nanoparticles were nontoxic. Next steps include evaluating the use of the magnetic glycol-nanoparticles for the <i>in vivo</i> detection of cancer by MRI.</p> <p>SciBX 3(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.392 Published online March 25, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>El-Boubbou, K. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online March 4, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja100455c</p> <p>Contact: Xuefei Huang, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. e-mail: xuefei@chemistry.msu.edu</p>