This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Polymer nanoparticles that mimic antibodies	Polymer nanoparticles that mimic the function of antibodies could be used to treat various diseases. As proof of principle, the nanoparticles were designed to recognize the bee venom peptide melittin, and they bound the peptide with nanomolar affinity. In a mouse model of melittin-induced death, the nanoparticles significantly reduced mortality, peritoneal inflammation and weight loss compared with control nanoparticles ($p \leq 0.03$). Next steps include designing and evaluating nanoparticles that mimic the function of undisclosed antibodies. SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.602 Published online May 13, 2010	Fabrication of synthetic nanoparticles with antibody-like affinities covered by existing patents; available for licensing from the University of California, Irvine Office of Technology Alliances	Hoshino, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online April 26, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja102148f Contact: Kenneth J. Shea, University of California, Irvine, Calif. e-mail: kjshea@uci.edu Contact: Yu Hoshino, same affiliation as above e-mail: yhoshino@uci.edu