This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
A chiral porphyrazine near-infrared imaging agent for breast cancer detection	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies identified an imaging agent that selectively accumulates in tumor cells and could help diagnose cancer. In breast cancer cells, the chiral porphyrazine compound 247 accumulated in cells via endocytosis and was detectable using near-infrared imaging. In mice with human breast cancer tumors, tail vein injection of the imaging agent led to selective accumulation in tumors and increased near-infrared intensity for up to 48 hours postinjection. Next steps include optimizing and testing the imaging agent.	Findings patented; available for licensing	Trivedi, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 21, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912811107 Contact: Brian M. Hoffman, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. e-mail: bmh@northwestern.edu
	SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.72 Published online Jan. 14, 2010		