This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
<i>In vivo</i> -assembling nanoparticles for tumor imaging	<p>Mouse studies suggest that administration of contrast agents and gold nanoparticles that aggregate in tumors could improve tumor imaging. In tumor-bearing mice, injection of biotinylated gold nanoparticles followed by a streptavidin-modified fluorescent contrast agent led to accumulation and assembly of nanoparticles within tumors. The nanoparticle-contrast agent assemblages accumulated more quickly in tumors, had shorter circulation times and had a better signal-to-noise ratio than nonassembling controls or passively targeted fluorescent nanoparticles. Next steps include comparing the assemblages with clinical-grade or commercially available contrast agents.</p> <p>SciBX 3(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.750 Published online June 17, 2010</p>	Invention disclosure submitted but findings currently unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Perrault, S.D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 7, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1001367107 Contact: Warren Chan, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: warren.chan@utoronto.ca</p>