This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Poly(n-butyl cyanoacrylate) dextran polymers coated with polysorbate 80 (PBCA nanoparticles) for brain delivery of imaging agents	<p>Mouse studies suggest PBCA nanoparticles could be used to deliver imaging agents across the blood brain barrier (BBB) to help detect and diagnose neurological conditions, including Alzheimer's disease (AD). In wild-type mice, i.v. fluorophore-loaded PBCA nanoparticles crossed the BBB, whereas dye alone did not. In an AD mouse model, PBCA nanoparticles loaded with β-amyloid (Aβ) plaque-imaging agents stained Aβ plaques in the brain. Next steps could include testing delivery in additional animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 4(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1307 Published online Dec. 1, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Koffie, R.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 7, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1111405108 Contact: Tara L. Spires-Jones, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: tspires@partners.org</p>