This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Encapsulated cancer cells to treat cancer	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that agarose-encapsulated cancer cells could be used to treat cancer. Mouse renal adenocarcinoma (RENCA) cells were grown in an agarose matrix and then coated with agarose to produce macrobeads. In RENCA- or human epithelial-derived tumor cell lines, media conditioned with mouse RENCA cell macrobeads slowed growth compared with unconditioned media. In mice bearing RENCA cells, intraperitoneal implantation of RENCA cell macrobeads led to smaller tumors than implantation of empty macrobeads ($p < 0.05$). Ongoing studies include a Phase II clinical trial initiated in 2010 in patients with all stages of pancreatic cancer and advanced colorectal cancer that no longer respond to standard therapy.</p> <p>SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.204 Published online Feb. 17, 2011</p>	The Rogosin Institute has several patents and patent applications covering the encapsulation of cancer cells in macrobeads; technology exclusively licensed to Metromedia Bio-Science LLC	<p>Smith, B.H. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Jan. 24, 2011; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-2258</p> <p>Contact: Barry H. Smith, The Rogosin Institute, New York, N.Y. e-mail: bas2005@nyp.org</p>