This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Carbon nanoparticle delivery of chemotherapeutic agents	<p>Delivery of chemotherapy using carbon nanoparticles could help treat cancer. In human cancer cell lines, complexes of the carbon nanoparticles and doxorubicin resulted in greater apoptosis compared with doxorubicin alone. In two mouse models of cancer, the nanoparticle-doxorubicin complex decreased tumor growth and increased survival compared with doxorubicin alone. Ongoing studies include testing the safety and efficacy of the nanoparticles in mice and in larger animal models of cancer.</p> <p>At least six companies have liposomal formulations of doxorubicin that are approved to treat cancer.</p> <p>Doxorubicin transdrug (BA-003), a nanoparticle formulation of doxorubicin from BioAlliance Pharma S.A., is in Phase II/III testing to treat liver cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.354 Published online March 24, 2011</p>	Patented by Northwestern University; available for licensing or partnering	<p>Chow, E.K. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 9, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001713</p> <p>Contact: Dean Ho, Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: d-ho@northwestern.edu</p>