This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Biodegradable antimicrobial polymer	<p>Micelle-like nanoparticles derived from biodegradable antimicrobial polymers could be useful for treating infectious diseases. In bacterial growth assays, nanoparticles generated from two antimicrobial polymers inhibited the growth of Gram-positive bacteria and pathogenic fungi with micromolar minimal inhibitory concentrations (MICs). In cultured murine erythrocytes and in mice, the nanoparticles did not cause toxic hemolysis or acute organ toxicity at the MIC. Next steps include further evaluating the toxicity and efficacy of the antimicrobial polymers in animals.</p> <p>SciBX 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.438 Published online April 14, 2011</p>	Multiple patent applications filed; available for licensing from Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd.	<p>Nederberg, F. <i>et al. Nat. Chem.</i>; published online April 3, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchem.1012 Contact: Yi-Yan Yang, Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Singapore, Singapore e-mail: yyyang@ibn.a-star.edu.sg Contact: James L. Hedrick, IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose, Calif. e-mail: hedrick@almaden.ibm.com</p>