This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Bispecific, digoxigenin-binding antibodies for targeted delivery	<p>Bispecific, digoxigenin-binding antibodies could be used for imaging and to deliver therapeutic payloads. The bispecific antibodies are composed of an anti-digoxigenin IgG and an antitumor antigen IgG loaded with either a digoxigenin-fluorophore conjugate or a digoxigenin-doxorubicin conjugate. In mouse tumor xenograft models, fluorophore conjugate-loaded, bispecific antibodies accumulated in intracellular vesicles and enabled imaging of cancer cells. However, doxorubicin conjugate-loaded antibodies failed to show cytotoxicity toward cancer cells due to sequestering in vesicles. Next steps include further refinement of the antibodies to avoid sequestering of the therapeutic payload inside intracellular vesicles.</p> <p>Doxorubicin is a generic chemotherapeutic.</p> <p>SciBX 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.552 Published online May 12, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Metz, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 2, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1018565108</p> <p>Contact: Ulrich Brinkmann, Roche Pharma Research and Early Development, Penzberg, Germany e-mail: ulrich.brinkmann@roche.com</p>