This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Popcorn-shaped gold nanoparticles for prostate cancer detection and treatment	Optically activated gold nanoparticles could help detect and treat prostate cancer. The shape of the gold nanoparticles was modified to amplify and increase collection of the activation signal, thus improving irradiation and detection of target cells. Conjugation of the modified nanoparticles (dubbed nano-popcorn) to antibodies and RNA aptamers targeting prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) led to binding, sensing and killing of cultured prostate cancer cells. Next steps include using the nano-popcorn to treat mice with tumors and detect PSMA from clinical prostate cancer samples.	Unpatented; available for licensing	Lu, W. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Dec. 3, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja104924b Contact: Paresh Chandra Ray, Jackson State University, Jackson, Miss. e-mail: paresh.c.ray@jsums.edu
	<i>SciBX</i> 4(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.59 Published online Jan. 13, 2011		