This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Catechol polymers for pH-responsive, targeted drug delivery to cancer cells	Catechol-based polymers could be useful for pH-responsive, targeted drug delivery to cancer cells. A polyethylene glycol (PEG) polymer containing a pH-sensitive catechol molecule and a cell-targeting biotin molecule was linked to Velcade bortezomib. In human cell lines, the polymer-drug conjugate led to 1.7-fold greater growth inhibition against cancer cells than normal cells, whereas both cell types were equally sensitive to free bortezomib. Next steps include evaluating the conjugate <i>in vivo</i>. Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Johnson & Johnson market Velcade bortezomib to treat MM and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL). SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.835 Published online July 28, 2011	Patent application filed covering composition of matter; available for licensing from the Northwestern University Innovations and New Ventures Office	Su, J. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online July 13, 2011; doi:10.1021/ja203077x Contact: Phillip B. Messersmith, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. e-mail: philm@northwestern.edu