This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Functionalized multiwalled carbon nanotubes as contrast agents for ultrasound imaging	<p>Functionalized multiwalled carbon nanotubes could be used as contrast agents to enhance ultrasound imaging. Multiwalled carbon nanotubes were oxidized and then modified by adding azomethine ylides to make them biocompatible. In <i>ex vivo</i> studies using pig livers and hearts, injection of the carbon nanotubes increased ultrasound imaging contrast 20-fold compared with water. In pig studies, delivery of the carbon nanotubes to the bladder increased ultrasound imaging contrast compared with no treatment. Next steps could include evaluating the safety and pharmacokinetics of the carbon nanotubes.</p> <p>SciBX 5(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1066 Published online Oct. 11, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Delogu, L.G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 24, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1208312109 Contact: Alberto Bianco, Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Strasbourg, France e-mail: a.bianco@ibmc-cnrs.unistra.fr Contact: Lucia Gemma Delogu, University of Sassari, Sassari, Italy e-mail: lgdelogu@uniss.it</p>