This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Ferumoxytol, heparin and protamine nanocomplexes for cellular tracking with MRI	<p>Self-assembling Feraheme ferumoxytol, heparin and protamine nanocomplexes could be useful labels for detecting cells with MRI. Mixtures of ferumoxytol, heparin and protamine self-assembled into nanocomplexes that labeled cells. In rats receiving intracerebral implantation of bone marrow stromal cells labeled with the nanocomplexes, <i>in vivo</i> MRI detected the implanted cells. Next steps include discussions with the FDA on how to use the nanocomplexes in clinical trials of cell therapies.</p> <p>Feraheme, an i.v. iron replacement therapy from AMAG Pharmaceuticals Inc., is marketed to treat anemia.</p> <p>Heparin is a generic. Protamine is used to reverse the anticoagulant effects of heparin.</p> <p>SciBX 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.269 Published online March 8, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Thu, M.S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 26, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2666</p> <p>Contact: Joseph A. Frank, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: jafrank@helix.nih.gov</p>