This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Instrumentation			
Combined photoacoustic and ultrasonic endoscopy system for <i>in vivo</i> imaging of soft tissues	<p>An imaging system that combines photoacoustic and ultrasonic endoscopy could help improve <i>in vivo</i> imaging of soft tissues. In rabbits, the endoscopic system generated 3D visualization of a 14 cm-long and 18 mm-diameter volume that included the esophagus, its surrounding tissue and proximal organs. In rats, the system generated 3D visualizations of the lower gastrointestinal and lymphatic systems and enabled high-resolution visualization of vasculature, revealing optical and mechanical contrast differences not visible to ultrasonic endoscopy. Next steps include running clinical studies to test the system.</p> <p>SciBX 5(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.802 Published online Aug. 2, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Yang, J.-M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 15, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2823 Contact: Lihong V. Wang, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: lhwang@biomed.wustl.edu Contact: Qifa Zhou, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: qifazhou@usc.edu</p>