This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Copper complex-based imaging agents to diagnose Alzheimer's disease (AD)	<p>Studies in mice and human samples suggest copper complex-based imaging agents could help diagnose AD. In wild-type mice, microPET imaging showed that β-amyloid ($A\beta$) plaque-targeted thiosemicarbazonato-pyridylhyseoxazine tetradentate ligands form a complex with a copper isotope and can cross the blood brain barrier and quickly dissipate when $A\beta$ plaques are absent. In brain tissue samples from patients with AD, the ligands bound to antibody-labeled $A\beta$ plaques, whereas they did not bind to tissue from healthy controls. Next steps could include testing the imaging agents in mouse models of AD.</p> <p>SciBX 6(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1208 Published online Oct. 31, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hickey, J.L. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Sept. 26, 2013; doi:10.1021/ja4057807</p> <p>Contact: Paul S. Donnelly, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: pauld@unimelb.edu.au</p>