This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Polyisoprene nanoparticles for cancer drug delivery	<p>Polyisoprene nanoparticles could be used to deliver drugs to cancer cells. Polyisoprene nanoparticles were conjugated to alkoxyamine-coupled Gemzar gemcitabine using nitroxide-mediated polymerization. In a panel of four human cancer cell lines, the drug-loaded nanoparticles had nanomolar IC_{50} values. In a mouse xenograft model of human pancreatic cancer, the drug-loaded nanoparticles decreased tumor volume compared with free gemcitabine, non-drug-loaded nanoparticles or saline. Next steps could include conjugating the particles with other chemotherapies and evaluating them in additional cancer models. Eli Lilly and Co. markets the nucleoside analog Gemzar to treat pancreatic and other cancers.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.70 Published online Jan. 24, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Harrisson, S. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online Dec. 17, 2012; doi:10.1002/anie.201207297</p> <p>Contact: Julien Nicolas, University of Paris-Sud 11, Châtenay-Malabry, France e-mail: julien.nicolas@u-psud.fr</p>