This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Nanoparticle-based imaging system using the metadherin (MTDH; AEG1) promoter to image prostate cancer	<p>A nanoparticle-based imaging system that uses the <i>AEG1</i> promoter could be useful for detecting metastatic prostate cancer. Nanoparticles comprised of linear polyethyleneimine were used for intracellular delivery of a construct encoding a luciferase gene controlled by the cancer cell-associated <i>AEG1</i> promoter. In a mouse xenograft model of metastatic prostate cancer, single-photon emission computed tomography-CT imaging on nanoparticle recipients enabled detection of the primary tumor and metastatic lesions with sensitivity higher than or comparable to that of different PET imaging methods with radiotracers. Next steps include testing the imaging system in multiple types of cancer <i>in vivo</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 7(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1111 Published online Sept. 25, 2014</p>	Patent application filed covering use in imaging and treating cancer; licensed to an undisclosed party	<p>Bhatnagar, A. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Aug. 21, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-14-0018 Contact: Martin Pomper, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: mpomper@jhmi.edu</p>