

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Imaging</b>			
Magnetic nanoparticles as MRI contrast agents	Linear, chain-like assemblies of magnetic nanoparticles could offer lower toxicity, better biocompatibility and higher contrast than gadolinium (Gd)-based complexes that are commonly used as MRI contrast agents. In rats, tail vein injection of the magnetic nanoparticles immediately displayed an image of the brain. At 24 hours postinjection, there were no visible signs of adverse reactions. Next steps include further investigation and optimization of the magnetic nanoparticles for use in clinical MRI applications.	Not patented; unlicensed	Corr, S. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online March 11, 2008; doi:10.1021/ja710172z <b>Contact:</b> Yurii K. Gun'ko, University of Dublin, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: <a href="mailto:igounko@tcd.ie">igounko@tcd.ie</a>