SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
pH-sensitive polymer-caged liposomes for targeted drug delivery	Tumor-targeted, pH-sensitive, polymer-caged liposomes could offer less off-target toxicity than conventional nontargeted liposomal carriers of chemotherapeutics. The new liposomal carriers were caged by pH-sensitive amine-based polymers that allowed conjugation to a tumor-targeted ligand. The liposomes released payload only in the acidic interior of tumor cells. *In vitro*, folate-conjugated carriers loaded with doxorubicin were 50 times more potent at decreasing the viability of folate receptor–expressing cancer cells than unconjugated carriers. Next steps include evaluating the carriers in additional pharmacokinetic and efficacy studies in animal models. Doxil, a liposomal formulation of doxorubicin, is marketed by Johnson & Johnson to treat multiple cancers.	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Northwestern University Office of Technology Transfer **Contact:** Michael Moore, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. phone: 847-491-4645 e-mail: michaelmoore@northwestern.edu	Lee, S.-M. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.*; published online June 15, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja9017336 **Contact:** SonBinh T. Nguyen, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. e-mail: stn@northwestern.edu **Contact:** Thomas V. O'Halloran, same affiliation as above e-mail: t-ohalloran@northwestern.edu

SciBX 2(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1060
Published online July 9, 2009