

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Self-assembling polypeptide nanoparticles for delivery of chemotherapeutics	Self-assembling, pH-sensitive polypeptide nanoparticles could be useful for delivering cancer therapies. In a mouse model of colorectal cancer, the doxorubicin-conjugated nanoparticles increased median survival compared with free doxorubicin ($p=0.002$). Mice given the doxorubicin-conjugated nanoparticles had, on average, significantly smaller tumors ($p=0.03$) and greater doxorubicin concentration at the tumor site than controls given free doxorubicin. Next steps include evaluating the feasibility of using these nanoparticles to deliver other chemotherapeutic agents.	Patented for use in drug delivery across all indications; licensed to PhaseBio Pharmaceuticals Inc.	MacKay, J.A. <i>et al. Nat. Mater.</i> ; published online Nov. 8, 2009; doi:10.1038/nmat2569 Contact: Ashutosh Chilkoti, Duke University, Durham, N.C. e-mail: chilkoti@duke.edu
	SciBX 2(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1648 Published online Nov. 12, 2009		