

## This week in techniques

| Approach   | Summary  | Licensing status  | Publication and contact information  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Drug delivery</b>   |  |   |  |
| Delivery of chemotherapy agents with genome-free viral capsids | DNA-free viral capsids could help deliver chemotherapy agents to tumors. Self-assembling capsids composed of an engineered bacteriophage MS2 protein were loaded with multiple molecules of taxol by conjugating the drug to cysteine residues on the capsid interior. In a human breast cancer cell line, the taxol-loaded capsids produced reductions in cell viability that were comparable to those seen using a solution of free taxol. Next steps could include modifying the exterior of the capsids to enable cell-specific targeting and drug delivery. | Patented by The Regents of the University of California; licensing status unavailable | Wu, W. <i>et al.</i> <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Nov. 17, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200902426<br><b>Contact:</b> Matthew B. Francis, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.<br>e-mail: <a href="mailto:francis@cchem.berkeley.edu">francis@cchem.berkeley.edu</a> |
|  | <b>SciBX 2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1748</b><br>Published online Dec. 10, 2009  |   |  |