

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
<i>RAD51</i> promoter-driven anticancer therapy	<p>Fusion vectors containing the <i>RAD51</i> promoter and a cytotoxin-encoding gene may be a selective and efficacious tool for treating cancer. Levels of a <i>Rad51</i> promoter-reporter gene fusion were 840-fold higher in cancer cells than in normal cells. In a variety of cancer cell lines, transfection with a plasmid containing the <i>diphtheria toxin A</i> gene fused to the <i>RAD51</i> promoter lowered cell survival by 30–80% compared with survival of cells transfected with a control plasmid. Cell survival in transfected noncancerous cell lines was not significantly affected. Next steps include designing and evaluating <i>RAD51</i> promoter-driven therapies for testing in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.35 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing from the University of Rochester Office of Technology Transfer	<p>Hine, C.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 15, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0807990106</p> <p>Contact: Vera Gorbunova, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: vgorbuno@mail.rochester.edu</p>