

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
pH-sensitive iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles for targeted cancer imaging and therapy	pH-sensitive iron oxide magnetic nanoparticles could be useful for targeted cancer imaging and therapy. The nanoparticles were coated with the tumor-targeting ligand chlorotoxin and a small interfering RNA molecule. In rat glioma cells, the nanoparticles lowered viability under acidic pH conditions compared with that under nonacidic conditions ($p=0.0001$). In rat glioma cells expressing GFP, the coated nanoparticles caused a pH-dependent reduction in GFP expression. Next steps include evaluating the efficacy and toxicity of the coated nanoparticles <i>in vivo</i> .	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the University of Washington Center for Commercialization	Mok, H. <i>et al. Mol. Pharm.</i> ; published online Aug. 19, 2010; doi:10.1021/mp100221h Contact: Miqin Zhang, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: mzhang@u.washington.edu
	SciBX 3(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1051 Published online Sept. 2, 2010		