

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Killing cancer cells using small conditional RNAs	<p>A study in cell culture suggests that self-assembling RNA duplexes could be used to kill tumor cells. In cultured tumor cells, transfection with genes encoding duplex-forming RNA hairpins increased both activation of protein kinase regulated by RNA (PKR) and apoptosis compared with similarly treated tumor cells that lacked the RNA hairpins. Next steps include formulating the RNA hairpins for external delivery and testing them in animal models of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1135 Published online Sept. 23, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Venkataraman, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 7, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1006377107 Contact: Niles A. Pierce, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif. e-mail: niles@caltech.edu</p>