

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Near-infrared-activated nanoparticles for photothermal therapy to treat cancer	<p><i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest that antibody-coated, light-activated nanoparticles can be used for photothermal cancer therapy. Polyamine nanoparticles containing light-absorbing molecules were coated with antibodies against tumor antigen epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR). In EGFR-expressing tumor cell culture, the nanoparticles plus near-infrared irradiation were toxic, whereas nanoparticles alone were not. Next steps include testing the nanoparticles in <i>in vivo</i> cancer models.</p> <p>Celsion Corp.'s ThermoDox heat-activated liposomal doxorubicin formulation is in Phase III testing for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma and Phase II for recurrent chest wall breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.261 Published online Feb. 25, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	Yu, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Jan. 21, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja908139y Contact: Michael S. Wong, Rice University, Houston, Texas e-mail: mswong@rice.edu