

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Gold-coated iron oxide core nanoparticles as multifunctional contrast agents	Imaging studies suggest that gold-coated iron oxide core nanoparticles could be used as multifunctional contrast agents for various imaging methods. The nanoparticles, which consisted of an iron oxide core separated from a gold shell by a dielectric polymer layer, showed high resolution and contrast in MRI, photoacoustic (PA) imaging, transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and optical imaging applications. They were also used with magnetomotive photoacoustic (mmPA) imaging and had better contrast than conventional PA imaging. Next steps include simplifying the procedure to increase production of the nanoparticles.	Patent application filed in U.S.; available for licensing	Jin, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Commun.</i> ; published online July 27, 2010; doi:10.1038/ncomms1042 Contact: Xiaohu Gao, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: xgao@u.washington.edu
	SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.936 Published online Aug. 5, 2010		