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THE DISTILLERY

## This week in techniques

| Approach | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Imaging** | | | |
| MRI contrast agent for visualizing myelination | A myelination-specific MRI contrast agent could help visualize neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis (MS). A fluorescent, myelin-binding compound was chemically coupled with the MRI contrast agent gadolinium to form a myelin-specific contrast agent. In mouse brain tissue, the targeted MRI agent had a distribution similar to that of a myelin-specific immunohistochemical stain. In a mouse model of myelin deficiency, the contrast agent had a lower signal in the brain than in the brains of wild-type control mice. Next steps include evaluating dosimetry, metabolism and toxicity of the myelin-targeted contrast agent. | Patent application filed; available for licensing through the Case Western Reserve University Technology Transfer Office | Frullano, L. *et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.*; published online Jan. 25, 2011; doi:10.1021/ja1040896<br>**Contact:** Yanming Wang, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio<br>e-mail: yanming.wang@case.edu |

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