This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Aptamer probes for <i>in vivo</i> cancer imaging	<p>Aptamer probes could be useful for cancer cell-specific imaging. <i>In vitro</i> selection methods identified an aptamer that emitted a fluorescent signal in the presence of oncogenic PTK7 protein tyrosine kinase 7 (PTK7; CCK4). In human leukemia cell lines and in mice with tumors, the aptamer showed greater fluorescence than a control aptamer. Next steps include evaluating the serum stability of the aptamer and designing additional aptamers specific for other tumor types.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.295 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Shi, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 21, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1016197108 Contact: Kemin Wang, Hunan University, Changsha, China e-mail: kmwang@hnu.cn</p>