This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Aptamer-small hairpin RNA chimeras for radiosensitization	<p>Aptamer-shRNA chimeras that decrease DNA repair activity in tumors could improve the efficacy of radiation therapy. In an <i>in vitro</i> screen, small interfering RNA against protein kinase DNA-activated catalytic polypeptide (PRKDC; DNAPK) increased cellular radiation sensitivity compared with a control siRNA. In a mouse model of prostate cancer, radiation plus intratumoral injection of an aptamer-shRNA targeting PRKDC decreased tumor growth compared with radiation plus either aptamer or shRNA alone. Next steps include generating clinical-grade material for preclinical toxicology studies.</p> <p>SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.609 Published online May 26, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Ni, X. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 9, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI45109 Contact: Shawn E. Lupold, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: slupold@jhmi.edu</p>