

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Two-nanoparticle approach for imaging or treating cancer	<p>An approach using two nanoparticles could help image or treat cancer. Tumor-targeted gold nanorods were used to initiate a tumor-localized coagulation cascade while clot-targeted nanoparticles were used to deliver a diagnostic or therapeutic molecule. In mice with human melanoma xenografts, gold nanorods plus localized heating increased coagulation at the tumor site compared with no heating. In the mice, addition of clot-targeted nanoparticles coupled to a fluorescent imaging agent or doxorubicin increased fluorescence at the tumor site or decreased tumor growth, respectively, compared with addition of nontargeted nanoparticles. Next steps include integrating other cancer drugs into the system.</p> <p>SciBX 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.781 Published online July 14, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Von Maltzahn, G. <i>et al. Nat. Mater.</i>; published online June 19, 2011; doi:10.1038/nmat3049 Contact: Sangeeta N. Bhatia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: sbhatia@mit.edu</p>