This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays and screens			
Droplet interface bilayer array for rapid screening	<p>A droplet interface bilayer array may be useful for the rapid screening of ion channel blockers to treat CNS disorders. Microelectrodes in the droplets are used to measure ionic currents flowing through channels and pores embedded in the droplet interface bilayer. In a proof-of-concept study, a droplet interface bilayer array identified nine blockers of the viral potassium channel K_{CV} in less than an hour. The array also determined the inhibition constants of three marketed K_{CV} blockers. Next steps include streamlining the screening approach by using larger chip arrays and automating the process.</p> <p>SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1004 Published online Nov. 13, 2008</p>	<p>Approach patented; exclusively licensed to Oxford Nanopore Technologies Ltd.</p>	<p>Syeda, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Oct. 25, 2008; doi:10.1021/ja804968g Contact: Hagan Bayley, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: hagan.bayley@chem.ox.ac.uk</p>