This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Total synthesis of the hedgehog signaling inhibitor cyclopamine	<p>Total synthesis of the hedgehog signaling pathway inhibitor cyclopamine could provide a way to efficiently produce the cancer therapeutic and to generate optimized derivatives. The 20-step, diastereoselective approach resulted in a 1% overall yield using commercially available dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) as the starting point. Next steps include developing cyclopamine derivatives that have better stability, biological activity and solubility than the parent molecule.</p> <p>Infinity Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s IPI-926, a hedgehog pathway inhibitor derived from cyclopamine, is in Phase I testing to treat advanced solid tumors. The compound is partnered with Mundipharma International Ltd.</p> <p>SciBX 2(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1124 Published online July 23, 2009</p>	The findings are unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Giannis, A. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online July 9, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200902520</p> <p>Contact: Athanassios Giannis, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany e-mail: giannis@uni-leipzig.de</p>