This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Yeast-compatible assay for identifying bioactive cyclic peptide-based drug candidates	<p>A yeast-compatible assay for identifying bioactive cyclic peptides could help generate new drug candidates. Researchers created a yeast-compatible cyclic peptide library, and an assay of the library identified two cyclic peptides that reduced α-synuclein toxicity in yeast cells. α-Synuclein toxicity has been implicated in Parkinson's disease (PD) pathology. In a <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> model of PD, expression of the cyclic peptides decreased α-synuclein-induced loss of dopaminergic neurons compared with expression of peptide variants that could not be properly processed. Next steps could include evaluating the cyclic peptides in additional animal models of PD.</p> <p>SciBX 2(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1160 Published online July 30, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kritzer, J.A. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online July 13, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.193</p> <p>Contact: Susan Lindquist, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: lindquist_admin@wi.mit.edu</p>