This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Total synthesis of γ -rubromycin and related analogs	A total synthetic method could be useful for producing the telomerase inhibitor γ -rubromycin and its analogs in fewer steps and at higher yields than existing methods. Two precursor structures of γ -rubromycin were synthesized and then linked, overcoming a key synthetic challenge associated with creating a spiroketal structure. The approach could also be applicable to the synthesis of γ -rubromycin analogs such as purpurumycin and heliquinomycin. Ongoing studies include synthesizing the analogs and testing them for telomerase inhibitory activity.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Rathwell, D. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online July 30, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200903316 Contact: Margaret A. Brimble, The University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand e-mail: m.brimble@auckland.ac.nz
	SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1226 Published online Aug. 13, 2009		