This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Computational models			
Computational method to identify helix-helix interactions for peptide antagonist development	<p>A computational method could be used to design therapeutic peptides that inhibit helix-helix interactions. As proof of concept, two peptides were designed that inhibited helix-helix interactions within heat shock protein 90 (HSP90) and within clusterin. In lipopolysaccharide-treated mice, the HSP90 inhibitor reduced levels of proinflammatory molecules compared with saline. In a xenograft mouse model of lung cancer, the clusterin-targeting peptide plus chemotherapeutic Taxol led to greater tumor reduction than Taxol alone. Next steps include testing the two peptides for safety and efficacy in preclinical disease models.</p> <p>SciBX 2(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1257 Published online Aug. 20, 2009</p>	<p>Patent applications filed by Compugen Ltd. for clusterin-derived peptides and therapeutic antibodies against epitopes mediating helix-helix interactions; both peptides available for licensing</p>	<p>Kliger, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 3, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0906514106 Contact: Yossef Kliger, Compugen Ltd., Tel Aviv, Israel e-mail: yossef.kliger@gmail.com</p>