This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Bioluminescent indicator for sodium channel activity	<p>A genetically encoded bioluminescent indicator that detects Na⁺ channel activity in living cells could be useful for identifying Na⁺ channel blockers to treat cardiac arrhythmias and epileptic seizures. The indicator, which was constructed by fusing Na⁺-sensitive <i>Gaussia</i> luciferase to a voltage-gated Na⁺ channel, detected Na⁺ flow through the channels in response to membrane depolarization. Next steps include optimizing the indicator and detection system.</p> <p>SciBX 2(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.510 Published online March 26, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Kaihara, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online March 9, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja808669y Contact: Tetsushi Furukawa, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: t_furukawa.bip@mri.tmd.ac.jp</p>