This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
High throughput screening using activity-based protein profiling (ABPP)	<p>A high throughput screening method could identify leads against proteins with unknown biological function. The ABPP method uses a fluorescent probe that competes with substrates for binding to target enzymes. The probe shows a strong fluorescent signal when it binds an enzyme target. Hits from a compound library resulted in low fluorescence signal when the probe was displaced from the binding pocket. Screens of a 19,000-compound library identified inhibitors of two proteins of unknown biochemical function that have been implicated in cancer. Ongoing studies are using ABPP to screen other poorly characterized proteins implicated in human disease. Future studies will apply ABPP to the optimization of inhibitors identified by the method.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.598 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Bachovchin, D. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online March 29, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1531</p> <p>Contact: Benjamin F. Cravatt, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: cravatt@scripps.edu</p>