This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Better taxane synthesis using <i>N</i> -debenzoyl-2'-deoxytaxane <i>N</i> -benzoyltransferase (NDTBT)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies identified NDTBT as an enzyme that could be used for efficient and cost-effective production of therapeutic taxanes. The enzyme catalyzed a reaction that is a step in the biosynthetic pathway for paclitaxel, and it could be used to construct next-generation taxanes. Next steps could include characterizing the structural features of the enzyme and using directional mutation analysis to produce new catalyst derivatives.</p> <p>At least 30 companies have taxane compounds in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.682 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Nevarez, D. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online April 2, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja900545m Contact: Kevin D. Walker, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. e-mail: walker@chemistry.msu.edu</p>