This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Ghrelin analogs as probes for tumor imaging	<p>Ghrelin analogs could be useful for radioimaging tumors. Growth hormone secretagogue receptor (GHSR), ghrelin's receptor, is highly expressed on various tumor types but not on corresponding healthy tissues. Binding assays identified fluorine-substituted and rhenium-substituted ghrelin analogs that inhibited GHSR at concentrations of 28 nM and 35 nM, respectively. The results suggest that the ^{18}F- and $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$-radiolabeled analogs could potentially be used as tumor imaging agents in PET and single photon emission CT, respectively. Ongoing work includes the synthesis of dye-labeled and radiolabeled ghrelin probes to confirm GHSR targeting in small animals.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.685 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	<p>U.S. provisional patent filed; available for licensing from The University of Western Ontario</p>	<p>Rosita, D. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 26, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm8014519 Contact: Leonard G. Luyt, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada e-mail: lluyt@uwo.ca</p>