This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Total synthesis of kapakahines	<p>A method for the total synthesis of kapakahines can produce sufficient quantities of the compounds for evaluation of their anticancer activity. Kapakahine B inhibits growth of murine leukemia cells at micromolar concentrations but has limited availability from its only known natural source, the marine sponge <i>Cribrochalina olemda</i>. Using commercially available starting materials, a synthetic method produced kapakahine B and its structurally related precursor, kapakahine F, at overall yields of 10% and 12%, respectively, resulting in gram-scale quantities of material. Ongoing work includes synthesis of kapakahine analogs from synthetic kapakahine F by an undisclosed pharmaceutical company.</p> <p>SciBX 2(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.726 Published online April 30, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Newhouse, T. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online April 17, 2009; doi:10.1021/ja901573x Contact: Phil S. Baran, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: pbaran@scripps.edu</p>