This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Identification of polyketide biosynthetic pathways in bacteria	<p>A structure-directed genomics approach could help identify biosynthetic pathways in sponge bacteria that produce antitumor polyketides. The approach enabled putative identification of all genes on the biosynthetic pathway of psymberin, an antitumor polyketide found in the sponge <i>Psammocinia</i> aff. <i>bulbosa</i>. Ongoing work includes <i>in vitro</i> examination of the individual psymberin-related enzymes and heterologous expression of the full psymberin biosynthetic pathway in <i>Escherichia coli</i>.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.894 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Fisch, K. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online May 17, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.176</p> <p>Contact: Joern Piel, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: joern.piel@uni-bonn.de</p>