This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Improved variants of ϕ 29 polymerase for DNA amplification	<p>ϕ29 polymerase variants could lead to faster and more efficient amplification of DNA. Fusion of a helix-hairpin-helix class 2 DNA binding domain to ϕ29 polymerase increased the amplification speed and quantity of DNA generated using two different amplification methods compared with wild-type polymerase. Next steps include optimizing reaction conditions for efficient amplification of limited amounts of DNA.</p> <p>SciBX 3(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1105 Published online Sept. 16, 2010</p>	Patented by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC); licensing under negotiation	<p>Vega, M.D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 6, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1011428107 Contact: Margarita Salas, CSIC-Autonomous University of Madrid, Cantoblanco, Madrid, Spain e-mail: msalas@cbm.uam.es Contact: Miguel de Vega, same affiliation as above e-mail: mdevega@cbm.uam.es</p>