This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Assay for identifying serine hydrolase inhibitors	<p>An assay for screening a panel of serine hydrolases could be used to identify new drug leads. <i>In vitro</i>, 140 carbamate-based small molecules were screened against 72 serine hydrolases, leading to the identification of inhibitors with low nanomolar to low micromolar IC_{50} values for 33 of the serine hydrolases. In mice, two of the compounds inhibited a specific serine hydrolase in the brain compared with vehicle control. Next steps include automating the assay to enable screening of larger compound libraries.</p> <p>SciBX 3(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1395 Published online Dec. 2, 2010</p>	Patent application filed on platform and compounds; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Bachovchin, D.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 17, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1011663107 Contact: Benjamin F. Cravatt, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: cravatt@scripps.edu</p>