This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Guidelines for lead compound selection and optimization	<p>Guidelines derived from an analysis of marketed drugs could help improve optimization of lead candidates. An analysis comparing 60 marketed drugs to their initial lead compounds identified modifications in molecular weight, binding efficiency and lipophilicity that helped drive the development of a successful drug. According to the guidelines, the marketed drugs generally had binding efficiencies and lipophilicity properties that were similar to those of their leads, but had greater potency, which correlated with an increase molecular weight. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. is incorporating the guidelines into its drug discovery programs.</p> <p>SciBX 3(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.417 Published online April 1, 2010</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Perola, E. <i>J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online March 17, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100118x</p> <p>Contact: Emanuele Perola, Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: emanuele_perola@vrtx.com</p>