This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Synthesis of <i>cis</i> -restricted, stable combretastatin analogues	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that a series of conformation-restricted combretastatin analogs could have better stability than the parent compound while matching its anticancer activity. In a panel of six human cancer cell lines, the most active of a series of 1,5-disubstituted 1,2,4-triazole combretastatin analogs inhibited cell proliferation and tubulin polymerization at levels comparable to those for combretastatin A4P. Next steps could include testing the analogs in preclinical animal models of cancer.</p> <p>OxiGene Inc. has Combretastatin A4P fosbretabulin in clinical testing to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.599 Published online May 13, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Romagnoli, R. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online April 26, 2010; doi:10.1021/jm100245q Contact: Giampietro Viola, Padova University, Padova, Italy e-mail: giampietro.viola1@unipd.it Contact: Romeo Romagnoli, University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy e-mail: rmr@unife.it</p>