This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Nanobody-based modulation of intracellular protein activity	<p>Small antigen-binding peptides derived from camel antibodies, called nanobodies, could help alter intracellular protein activity to treat multiple diseases. <i>In vitro</i> screening identified green fluorescent protein (GFP)-specific nanobodies that modulated the intensity and spectral properties of GFP fluorescence. In cells, GFP-selective nanobodies expressed from transfected DNA led to altered GFP fluorescence compared with that in mock-transfected controls. Next steps include delivering recombinant nanobodies <i>in vivo</i> to modulate protein activity.</p> <p>SciBX 3(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.69 Published online Jan. 14, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Kirchhofer, A. <i>et al. Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.</i>; published online Dec. 13, 2009; doi:10.1038/nsmb.1727</p> <p>Contact: Ulrich Rothbauer, ChromoTek GmbH, Planegg-Martinsried, Germany e-mail: U.Rothbauer@chromotek.com</p> <p>Contact: Karl-Peter Hopfner, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany e-mail: Hopfner@lmb.uni-muenchen.de</p> <p>Contact: Heinrich Leonhardt, same affiliation as above e-mail: H.Leonhardt@lmu.de</p>