This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
<i>In vitro</i> assay to identify new targets in drug-resistant bacteria	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> assay could help identify new targets to help treat drug-resistant bacterial infections. In <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> cultures, genomewide insertion of engineered transposons allowed detection of genes that were up- or downregulated in drug-resistant bacteria. In methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> (MRSA), the assay identified <i>GMP synthase</i> (<i>guaA</i>) downregulation and <i>acetate kinase</i> (<i>ackA</i>) deletion as mechanisms of resistance to the antibiotics indolmycin and platensimycin. Ongoing work with the assay continues to match drug compounds to changes in bacterial gene expression.</p> <p>SciBX 4(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1024 Published online Sept. 15, 2011</p>	Unpatented; available for partnering	<p>Wang, H. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Sept. 4, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchembio.643 Contact: Timothy C. Meredith, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: tcmered@gmail.com Contact: Terry Roemer, Merck Frosst Centre for Therapeutic Research, Kirkland, Quebec, Canada e-mail: terry_roemer@merck.com</p>