This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Site-specific N-methylation of macrocycles and cyclic peptides to increase bioavailability	N-Methylation may help increase the bioavailability of macrocycles and cyclic peptides. In cell culture, cyclic hexapeptide derivatives with partial N-methylation had greater cell permeability than the parent compounds. In rats, one of the partially N-methylated derivatives had an oral bioavailability of 28%, which was similar to the macrocycle cyclosporine A. Next steps include identifying cyclic peptides that are orally bioavailable and active against disease-relevant targets. SciBX 4(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1097 Published online Oct. 6, 2011	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	White, T.R. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Sept. 25, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchembio.664 Contact: R. Scott Lokey, University of California, Santa Cruz, Calif. e-mail: slokey@ucsc.edu Contact: Matthew P. Jacobson, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: matt.jacobson@ucsf.edu