This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Chemical-genetic interaction networks for target discovery against methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA)	Chemical-genetic interaction networks could help identify therapeutic targets that sensitize MRSA to antibiotics. Antisense knockdown of a panel of 245 <i>S. aureus</i> genes in combination with an antibiotics screen led to a chemical-genetic interaction network. The network was used to identify genes that sensitized MRSA to β -lactam antibiotics. In a MRSA strain and β -lactam-resistant <i>S. epidermidis</i> strain, inhibition of one of the identified genes, <i>glucosamine-fructose-6-phosphate aminotransferase</i> (<i>GlmS</i>), increased sensitivity to a β -lactam antibiotic compared with <i>GlmS</i> expression. Next steps include identifying additional small molecules that disrupt members of the interaction network for β -lactam antibiotics. SciBX 4(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1364 Published online Dec. 15, 2011	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	Lee, S.H. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Nov. 23, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2011.08.015 Contact: Terry Roemer, Merck & Co. Inc., Kenilworth, N.J. e-mail: terry_roemer@merck.com