This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Nanobody stabilization of G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) for activated structure determination	Nanobodies could help determine the structures of activated GPCRs to guide the development of targeted therapies. Small, antigen-binding proteins called nanobodies were generated from antibodies isolated from an adrenergic receptor β_2 (ADRB2)-immunized llama. An <i>in vitro</i> screen then selected nanobodies that bound with high affinity to an agonist-ADRB2 complex. Cococrystallization of the selected nanobody and the complex enabled determination of the structure of the activated GPCR. Next steps include applying nanobodies to the crystallization of additional GPCRs. SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.179 Published online Feb. 10, 2011	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	Rasmussen, S.G.F. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Jan. 12, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09648 Contact: Brian K. Kobilka, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: kobilka@stanford.edu