This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Synthetic platform for tetracycline analogs	<p>A chemistry platform for synthesizing tetracycline analogs could be useful for developing new antibiotics. Using a fully synthetic approach, 8-azatetracycline compounds were identified that were active against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria. In mouse models of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> septicemia, one of the compounds had better potency than tetracycline and comparable potency to tigecycline. Clinical and preclinical studies are ongoing with compounds developed using this platform.</p> <p>Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals Inc. has the fluorocycline TP-434 in Phase II testing to treat bacterial infection.</p> <p>Pfizer Inc. markets Tygacil tigecycline to treat various bacterial infections.</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.234 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	<p>Patent application filed by Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals covering preparation of 8-azatetracyclines as antimicrobial agents; available for licensing worldwide</p>	<p>Clark, R.B. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 8, 2011; doi:10.1021/jm1015389 Contact: Roger B. Clark, Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals Inc., Watertown, Mass. e-mail: rclark@tphase.com</p>