This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Colorimetric enzyme-nanoparticle biosensor for bacterial detection	A colorimetric enzyme-nanoparticle biosensor could help detect bacteria in samples. The biosensor used β -galactosidase for signal amplification and a positively charged gold nanoparticle that inhibited β -galactosidase when bacteria were absent. In solutions containing <i>Escherichia coli</i> , the biosensor detected as few as 100 bacteria per mL in minutes. Next steps include evaluating the biosensor's sensitivity to off-target compounds and its shelf stability.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Miranda, O.R. <i>et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online May 31, 2011; doi:10.1021/ja2021729 Contact: Vincent M. Rotello, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Mass. e-mail: rotello@chem.umass.edu
	SciBX 4(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.719 Published online June 23, 2011		