This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Yeast display-based platform for evolution of bond-forming enzymes	<p>A yeast-based platform for generating enzymes could aid the discovery of protein therapeutics. The platform identified yeast cells that expressed enzymes catalyzing formation of covalent bonds between two substrates. In a proof-of-concept study, the system was used to generate sortase A protein variants that had up to 140-fold greater activity than wild-type sortase A. Next steps include using the platform to evolve other bond-forming enzymes.</p> <p>SciBX 4(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.751 Published online June 30, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Chen, I. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 22, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1101046108</p> <p>Contact: David R. Liu, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: drliu@fas.harvard.edu</p>