This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Transforming growth factor- α (TGFA; TGF α) shedding assay to detect G protein-coupled receptor (GPR) ligands	A TGF α shedding assay could help identify GPR ligands. TGF α shedding occurs downstream of GPR activation when certain G α subunits are activated. In cell culture, the TGF α shedding assay detected receptor activity for 104 out of 116 GPRs. In cells expressing histamine receptor subtypes, only ligands that selectively activated a particular receptor subtype induced shedding. Next steps include modifying the platform to involve fewer steps.	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	Inoue, A. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i> ; published online Sept. 16, 2012; doi:10.1038/nmeth.2172 Contact: Junken Aoki, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan e-mail: jaoki@m.tohoku.ac.jp
	SciBX 5(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1039 Published online Oct. 4, 2012		