This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Enzyme toolkit for replication of unnatural nucleic acids	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest engineered polymerases could enable screening for new, unnatural nucleic acid aptamers. <i>In vitro</i>, engineered polymerases copied DNA and RNA templates into locked nucleic acid (LNA) aptamers with a variety of unnatural sugar backbones. The polymerases were able to make DNA and RNA copies from LNA templates. Next steps include improving the read length of the engineered polymerases and testing the therapeutic utility of LNA aptamers identified through <i>in vitro</i> selection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.478 Published online May 3, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Pinheiro, V.B. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online April 20, 2012; doi:10.1126/science.1217622 Contact: Philipp Holliger, Medical Research Council, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: ph1@mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk</p>