This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
High throughput synthesis of transcription activator-like effector nucleases (TALENs)	<p>A high throughput TALEN synthesis system could enable rapid, large-scale modification of regions of the genome. TALENs are a class of proteins engineered to bind almost any given DNA sequence depending on the composition of amino acid repeats within each TALEN's DNA-binding domain. DNA fragments encoding the TALEN repeats were conjugated to magnetic beads, allowing the automation of serial DNA cloning steps to produce many unique TALEN sequences using a robotic system. The system enabled the targeting and modification of about 88% of 96 test genes involved in cancer and epigenetic regulation. Next steps include improving the precision of TALENs generated using this method.</p> <p>SciBX 5(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.479 Published online May 3, 2012</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from Massachusetts General Hospital Contact: Juliana Leung, Partners Research Ventures & Licensing, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jl537@partners.org</p>	<p>Reyon, D. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online April 8, 2012; doi:10.1038/nbt.2170 Contact: J. Keith Joung, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: jjoung@partners.org Contact: Jeffrey D. Sander, same affiliation as above e-mail: jsander@partners.org</p>