This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Synthesis of biologically active meroterpenoids	<p>A method of synthesizing meroterpenoids could generate new compounds to treat cancer and infectious diseases. A five-step reaction sequence produced gram-scale quantities of a meroterpenoid precursor, and a six-step sequence produced gram-scale quantities of a meroterpenoid intermediate. Additional reaction sequences converted the precursor or the intermediate into 9 known meroterpenoids in overall yields of 8%–33%, including those with antimicrobial and anticancer properties. Ongoing collaborations with Leo Pharma A/S include using the method to synthesize and test the biological activity of other meroterpenoids.</p> <p>SciBX 5(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.562 Published online May 24, 2012</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Dixon, D.D. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online May 14, 2012; doi:10.1021/ja303937y Contact: Phil S. Baran, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: pbaran@scripps.edu</p>