This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Synthesis of small molecule phosphoserine mimetic prodrugs that could inhibit protein-protein interactions	<p>A method to synthesize small molecule prodrugs could be useful for generating compounds that block disease-associated protein-protein interactions. A multistep synthesis process generated a phosphoserine mimetic prodrug. In a human leukemia cell line, the prodrug inhibited growth with an IC_{50} of 5 μM. An <i>in vitro</i> assay showed that the compound worked by inhibiting the activity of 14-3-3 proteins on forkhead box O (FOXO) transcription factors. Next steps include developing more potent and selective compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 5(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.688 Published online June 28, 2012</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering undisclosed indications; available for licensing from the Purdue Research Foundation</p> <p>Contact: Thomas Hutton, Purdue Research Foundation, West Lafayette, Ind. phone: 765-588-3486 e-mail: tkhutton@prf.org</p>	<p>Arrendale, A. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online June 22, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2012.05.011</p> <p>Contact: Richard F. Borch, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. e-mail: borch@purdue.edu</p>