This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
<i>In situ</i> monitoring of dopamine metabolism to identify improved monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors	<p>A method of <i>in situ</i> monitoring of dopamine metabolism could be used to identify improved MAO inhibitors to treat neurological diseases. An isotope-labeled dopamine that could be used with NMR to detect MAO-mediated dopamine metabolism was synthesized. In a mouse liver tissue homogenate, the method identified analogs of an MAO inhibitor that were more potent inhibitors of dopamine metabolism <i>in situ</i> than the parent compound, despite being less potent inhibitors of the enzyme <i>in vitro</i>. Next steps include using the method to screen for additional MAO inhibitors with improved <i>in situ</i> potency.</p> <p>At least 10 companies have MAO inhibitors in development stages from preclinical to marketed for neurological conditions and other diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.876 Published online Aug. 23, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Ueki, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online July 19, 2012; doi:10.1021/ja305051u Contact: Shinsuke Sando, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan e-mail: ssando@ifrc.kyushu-u.ac.jp</p>