This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Fluorescent cellular assays that monitor protein tyrosine phosphatase activity	Fluorescent cellular assays that monitor tyrosine phosphatase activity could be useful for drug screening. The assay uses a human T cell line incubated with cell-permeable, phosphorylated peptides that emit a fluorescent signal when dephosphorylated by tyrosine phosphatases. The assay was used to screen chemical libraries for small molecule inhibitors of tyrosine phosphatase CD45 and identified four hits. In a validation study using human T cell and macrophage cell lines, the four hits inhibited CD45. Next steps include developing probes selective for other phosphatases. SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.884 Published online Aug. 23, 2012	Patent application filed covering system to monitor intracellular phosphatase activity; available for licensing from the University of Southern California Contact: Chris Moulding, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: moulding@stevens.usc.edu	Stanford, S.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 13, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1205028109 Contact: Nunzio Bottini, La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: nunzio@liai.org