This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Locus-specific control of histone modification using transcription activator-like (TAL) effector repeat fusion proteins	TAL effector repeats linked to chromatin-modifying enzymes could enable locus-specific chromatin modification and inform epigenetic drug development. TAL effector repeats targeting specific DNA sequences were linked to lysine-specific histone demethylase 1 (KDM1A; LSD1), which enabled locus-specific binding and reduction in levels of H3K4me2 and H3K27 acetylation, whereas a TAL effector alone did not. Next steps include using this approach to better understand how compounds that inhibit chromatin-modifying proteins function in normal and cancerous cells and to guide their development and identify potential biomarkers. <i>SciBX</i> 6(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1079 Published online Oct. 3, 2013	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Mendenhall, E.M. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Sept. 8, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2701 Contact: Bradley E. Bernstein, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bernstein.bradley@mg.harvard.edu