This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Epigenetic, methyllysine-binding protein inhibitors	<p>Identification of the first potent and selective inhibitor of a methyllysine-binding domain suggests this class of epigenetic proteins could be targeted with small molecules. <i>In vitro</i>, the lead compound, UNC1215, inhibited the interaction of lethal(3) malignant brain tumor-like 3 (L3MBTL3) with a methylated peptide, with an IC_{50} value of 40 nM and at least 50-fold selectivity over other proteins in the family. In cell culture, UNC1215 blocked the interaction between L3MBTL3 and a methyllysine-dependent, protein-binding partner. Next steps include screening for small molecule inhibitors of additional methyllysine-binding proteins, including tumor protein p53 binding protein 1 (TP53BP1; 53BP1) and chromobox homolog 7 (CBX7).</p> <p>SciBX 6(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.178 Published online Feb. 21, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>James, L.I. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Jan. 6, 2013; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1157 Contact: Stephen V. Frye, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: svfrye@email.unc.edu Contact: Cheryl H. Arrowsmith, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: carrow@uhnres.utoronto.ca</p>