This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Mutant methionyl-tRNA synthetase for protein labeling	<p>Expression of a mutant methionyl-tRNA synthetase derived from <i>Escherichia coli</i> could be useful for producing modified variants of therapeutic proteins. The mutant <i>E. coli</i> methionyl-tRNA synthetase was expressed in a human cell line and designed to incorporate azidonorleucine at the N-terminus of proteins. In the same human cell line, supplementation with azidonorleucine led to the synthesis of azidonorleucine-labeled proteins that were detectable with mass spectrometry. Next steps could include generating therapeutic proteins that are fluorescently labeled or have improved pharmacological properties.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.296 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ngo, J.T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 11, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1216375110 Contact: David A. Tirrell, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif. e-mail: tirrell@caltech.edu</p>