This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Automated, high throughput, microfluidic SAR platform	<p>An automated, microfluidic SAR platform could be used to rapidly optimize kinase inhibitors. Gleevec imatinib, a small molecule inhibitor of BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase, was subjected to repeated cycles of computer-assisted derivatization, synthesis, purification and screening using a microfluidic system. The best of the resulting compounds had about 100-fold more potent IC₅₀ values for BCR-ABL than imatinib. The molecules also were more effective against imatinib-resistant mutant versions of the enzyme and were cell permeable. Next steps include adapting the platform for cell culture and screening against nonsoluble targets.</p> <p>Gleevec is marketed by Novartis AG to treat multiple cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 6(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.298 Published online March 28, 2013</p>	Platform patented; available for partnering	<p>Desai, B. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 26, 2013; doi:10.1021/jm400099d</p> <p>Contact: Christopher N. Selway, Cyclofluidic Ltd., Welwyn Garden City, U.K. e-mail: chris.selway@cyclofluidic.co.uk</p>