This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Yeast chemical genetic screen for inhibitors of human telomerase	<p>A yeast chemical genetic screening assay for small molecule inhibitors of human telomerase could help identify new leads to treat telomerase-positive cancers. The assay identified small molecules that could restore growth in an engineered strain of yeast that undergoes inducible growth arrest in the presence of human telomerase. In a library of 678 compounds, the screening assay identified 8 such molecules. In a series of <i>in vitro</i> assays, three of the eight identified molecules were shown to inhibit human telomerase. Next steps could include testing the molecules in telomerase-positive cancer cell lines and screening a larger compound library in the yeast-based assay.</p> <p>SciBX 6(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.346 Published online April 11, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Wong, L.H. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online March 21, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2012.12.008 Contact: Lea Harrington, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: lea.harrington@umontreal.ca</p>