This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Crystal structure of $\alpha\beta$ -tubulin in complex with anticancer microtubule-stabilizing agents	<p>Protein crystal structure studies identified the molecular mechanism of microtubule-stabilizing cancer therapeutics, which could help guide the development of new treatments.</p> <p>Crystallography studies of $\alpha\beta$-tubulin complexed with two microtubule-stabilizing cancer therapies—zampanolide and epothilone A—showed that the compounds bind to a hydrophobic pocket on the tubulin-β subunit known as the taxane pocket. Next steps include using the structural data to develop analogs of zampanolide and epothilone A and investigating the mechanism of additional tubulin-targeting compounds.</p> <p>Zampanolide and epothilone A are research reagents.</p> <p>SciBX 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.72 Published online Jan. 24, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Prota, A.E. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 3, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1230582</p> <p>Contact: Michel O. Steinmetz, Paul Scherrer Institute, Villigen, Switzerland e-mail: michel.steinmetz@psi.ch</p>