This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Crystal structure of the antifibrotic halofuginone bound to the prolyl-tRNA synthetase domain of human glutamyl-prolyl-tRNA synthetase (EPRS)	<p>The crystal structure of the antifibrotic halofuginone bound to the prolyl-tRNA synthetase domain of human EPRS could aid the development of new compounds to target the synthetase. Halofuginone is a halogenated derivative of the alkaloid febrifugine, which is the active compound in a Chinese herb used to treat malaria-induced fever. The crystal structure showed that halofuginone is an ATP-dependent inhibitor. Next steps could include optimizing the halofuginone analogs and determining how such compounds bind to other tRNA synthetases.</p> <p>SciBX 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.73 Published online Jan. 24, 2013</p>	Unpatented; aTyr Pharma Inc. has an exclusive option to license the work	<p>Zhou, H. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Dec. 23, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11774 Contact: Paul Schimmel, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: schimmel@scripps.edu</p>