This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Crystal structure of corticotropin-releasing factor receptor 1 (CRHR1; CRFR1) bound to a small molecule antagonist	A crystal structure of an antagonist-bound CRHR1 could help inform the development of compounds targeting class B GPCRs. Researchers solved the structure of the transmembrane region of CRHR1 in an inactive conformation bound to a small molecule antagonist at 3.0 Å resolution. The structure showed that the antagonist binding site is in a deep hydrophobic pocket ~13–23 Å away from ligands that bind class A GPCRs. Next steps include combining these and other structural data to build a model of another GPCR, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor (GLP-1R; GLP1R), to aid the development of therapeutics to treat diabetes.	Patented; unavailable for licensing	Hollenstein, K. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online July 17, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12357 Contact: Fiona H. Marshall, Heptares Therapeutics Ltd., Welwyn Garden City, U.K. e-mail: fiona.marshall@heptares.com
	SciBX 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.875 Published online Aug. 22, 2013		