This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Crystal structure of glucagon receptor (GCGR)	<p>A crystal structure of GCGR could help drug discovery efforts targeting class B GPCRs. Researchers solved the structure of the 7-transmembrane helical domain of GCGR at 3.4 Å resolution. The structure showed that a stalk extends from the N terminus of helix I that may be involved in glucagon (GCG) binding. Compared with class A GPCR structures, GCGR has a large ligand-binding pocket. Next steps could include building models of interactions between peptide ligands and other class B GPCRs.</p> <p>SciBX 6(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.911 Published online Aug. 29, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Siu, F.Y. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 17, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12393 Contact: Raymond C. Stevens, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: stevens@scripps.edu Contact: Ming-Wei Wang, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China e-mail: wangmw@mail.shcnc.ac.cn</p>