This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Crystal structure of the β -ketoacyl reductase (KR) domain of fatty acid synthase (FASN; FAS)–small molecule inhibitor complex	<p>The crystal structure of the KR domain of FAS could aid the rational design of new small molecule FAS inhibitors to treat cancer. <i>In vitro</i>, a triazolone specifically inhibited KR activity of FAS with a K_i of ~10 nM. In cultured cancer cells, the compound decreased lipid synthesis and cell viability compared with vehicle. The crystal structure showed that the compound bound a cleft between the KR and pseudo-methyltransferase domains of FAS that is also occupied by the substrate NADPH. Next steps could include using the structure to design more potent FAS inhibitors.</p> <p>SciBX 7(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1026 Published online Sept. 4, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Hardwicke, M.A. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Aug. 3, 2014; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1603 Contact: Cynthia A. Parrish, GlaxoSmithKline plc, Collegeville, Pa. e-mail: cynthia.a.parrish@gsk.com</p>