This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Reprogramming specificity of sortase enzymes	<p>A method to reprogram the substrate preference of sortase enzymes could help generate variants of the enzyme that can aid protein conjugation. A yeast display screen was used to direct the evolution of a previously described evolved sortase A (esrtA) and generate mutant variants that have altered substrate preferences versus the original esrtA. Two of the esrtA variants enabled the synthesis of complex polyethylene glycol- and fluorophore-conjugated proteins at 15%–30% yields in milligram quantities. Next steps include reprogramming sortase enzymes to target disease-associated proteins and generating enzymes with additional properties.</p> <p>SciBX 7(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1131 Published online Oct. 2, 2014</p>	<p>Patent applications filed; licensing discussions in progress with undisclosed companies; available for licensing</p>	<p>Dorr, B.M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 3, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1411179111 Contact: David R. Liu, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: drliu@fas.harvard.edu</p>