This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Systematic evolution of ligands by exponential enrichment (SELEX) incorporating artificially expanded genetic information systems (AEGIS) nucleotides	SELEX using AEGIS-incorporating libraries could help identify aptamers with strong binding to cellular targets. SELEX involves screening libraries of nucleic acid molecules for binding to targets, then amplifying and sequencing the binders. SELEX with a nucleotide-based library created with the four standard nucleic acids plus two artificially constructed AEGIS nucleotides identified an aptamer that bound to a breast cancer cell line with a lower dissociation constant than a standard SELEX aptamer. Next steps could include applying the method to other targets. <i>SciBX</i> 7(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.186 Published online Feb. 13, 2014	Patent application filed; nonexclusively licensed to undisclosed companies; available for licensing	Sefah, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 30, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1311778111 Contact: Steven A. Benner, Foundation for Applied Molecular Evolution, Gainesville, Fla. e-mail: sbenner@ffame.org