This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Small molecule inhibitors of microRNA processing	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> screening system could be used to identify small molecule inhibitors of miRNAs. Structural calculations of human miRNA hairpin precursors were analyzed in conjunction with a database of predicted interactions between small molecules and RNA motifs to identify small molecules that could bind to processing sites required for miRNA maturation. In a human cell line, one computationally identified compound inhibited the production of miRNA-96 (miR-96) and stimulated apoptosis. Next steps could include using the method to identify small molecules to inhibit miRNAs or other RNAs of therapeutic interest.</p> <p>SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.417 Published online April 10, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Velagapudi, S.P. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Feb. 9, 2014; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1452 Contact: Matthew D. Disney, Scripps Florida, Jupiter, Fla. e-mail: disney@scripps.edu</p>