This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Isoacyl dipeptides to increase insulin yield from chemical synthesis	<p>Chemical synthesis of insulin using isoacyl dipeptides could improve yield of the hormone. Synthesis of insulin—a protein composed of two peptide chains—is inefficient, with yields generally less than 15%. Incorporation of an isoacyl dipeptide into the insulin A chain improved purification of the peptide and enabled on-resin intramolecular disulfide bond formation. Incorporation of an isoacyl dipeptide in the insulin B chain increased yield compared with no isoacyl dipeptide. Subsequent ligation of the two chains produced insulin with an overall yield of 24%. Next steps could include further optimizing the synthesis process.</p> <p>SciBX 7(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.440 Published online April 17, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Liu, F. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online March 11, 2014; doi:10.1002/anie.201310735</p> <p>Contact: Fa Liu, Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis, Ind. e-mail: liufx@lilly.com</p>