This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Asparagine-aspartate peptide ligase for peptide macrocyclization	An asparagine-aspartate ligase, butelase 1, could enable the synthesis of cyclic peptides with utility for drug discovery. The enzyme was isolated from a tropical plant, <i>Clitoria ternatea</i> , and was shown to mediate the cyclization of non-native peptide substrates, including bioactive peptides. Next steps could include continued identification of plant-produced natural products with drug-like properties and adaptation of butelase 1 into a high throughput system for peptide cyclization and selection. <i>SciBX</i> 7(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.963 Published online Aug. 21, 2014	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Nguyen, G.K.T. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online July 20, 2014; doi:10.1038/nchembio.1586 Contact: James P. Tam, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore e-mail: jptam@ntu.edu.sg