This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Computational models			
Identification of drug targets using analysis of common side effects	A side-effect profile analysis suggests that chemically unrelated compounds with similar side effects may also share targets and could, on that basis alone, be repurposed for other indications. A computational network analysis of 746 drugs revealed that 261 of 1,018 possible side-effect similarities occurred for chemically dissimilar drugs from different indications. Moreover, *in vitro* binding assays confirmed that 13 of these similarities were supported by a common molecular target. Further studies are necessary to validate the targets predicted using the method in combination with *in vitro* assays, cell-based assays and animal testing.	Method patented; biobyte solutions GmbH is in the process of nonexclusively licensing the technology; available for licensing	Bork, P. *et al. Science*; published online July 10, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1158140 **Contact:** Peer Bork, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: bork@embl.de