

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Using the crystal structure of phospholipase C, β_2 (PLCB ₂) to design therapeutics	The crystal structure of PLCB ₂ may be useful for developing therapeutics to treat conditions involving abnormal PLC signaling such as renal disease, heart disease and cancer. The structure revealed the autoregulatory role of an X/Y linker region near the active site that is highly conserved across most PLC isozymes. Cell-transfection studies showed that selective deletions in the linker region resulted in a constitutively active PLC. Next steps include using the PLC structural information to rationally design small molecule inhibitors or activators of PLC.	Not patented; licensing status not applicable	Hicks, S.N. <i>et al. Mol. Cell</i> ; published online Aug. 7, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.molcel.2008.06.018 Contact: John Sondek, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: sondek@med.unc.edu