This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Improved enzymatic synthesis yields of cyclic echinomycin analogs in the presence of oligonucleotides	Adding DNA during the *in vitro* enzymatic synthesis of cyclic echinomycin analogs could improve yields of the compounds, which have been tested as antibiotics and cancer therapeutics. The addition of short oligonucleotides containing echinomycin analog binding sites stabilized cyclic reaction intermediates and increased the yield of the cyclic triostin A analog TANDEM to 67% from 19% in an oligonucleotide-free reaction. Next steps include linking oligonucleotides to a solid support to lower degradation during the reaction and developing more efficient enzymes to catalyze echinomycin cyclization.	Not patented; available for licensing through Hokkaido University	Koketsu, K. *et al. Chem. Biol.*; published online Aug. 22, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2008.05.022 **Contact:** Hideaki Oikawa, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan e-mail: hoik@sci.hokudai.ac.jp