

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Transcription factors engineered to promote or inhibit gene splicing	Engineered transcription factors could help correct aberrant gene splicing and treat cancer. The factors are fusion constructs consisting of protein domains that promote or inhibit post-transcriptional gene splicing. In cultured human cell lines, one of the factors targeted <i>Bcl-XL</i> and promoted higher expression of the proapoptotic splicing isoform of <i>Bcl-XL</i> than that in controls. Ongoing work includes testing other designed factors that target undisclosed genes in animal models of cancer. <i>SciBX</i> 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1490 Published online Oct. 8, 2009	Patented by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; available for licensing	Wang, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i> ; published online Oct. 4, 2009; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1379 Contact: Zefeng Wang, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: zefeng@med.unc.edu