This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
<i>In vitro</i> assembly of large DNA molecules	A one-step <i>in vitro</i> method for assembling DNA fragments into DNA molecules several hundred kilobases long could be used to produce synthetic genomes. The method assembled a trio of 5 kb DNA fragments into a bacterial artificial chromosome that was successfully cloned in <i>Escherichia coli</i> . The method also assembled 150 kb fragments of the <i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> genome to complete the synthetic 583 kb genome. Ongoing work is using the assembly method to help produce a synthetic cell from a synthetic <i>M. genitalium</i> genome.	Patented by the J. Craig Venter Institute and Synthetic Genomics Inc.; licensing status undisclosed	Gibson, D. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nat. Methods</i> ; published online April 12, 2009; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1318 Contact: Daniel Gibson, J. Craig Venter Institute, Rockville, Md. e-mail: dgibson@jcv.org
	SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.676 Published online April 23, 2009		