This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
High-yield biosynthesis of taxol precursors in engineered <i>Escherichia coli</i>	<p>High-yield biosynthesis of taxol precursor molecules in <i>E. coli</i> could enable the discovery of new taxol analogs. In <i>E. coli</i>, optimized expression of bacterial enzymes involved in mevalonate and taxol biosynthesis resulted in 100-fold higher yields of the taxol precursor taxadiene than previous yields in bacteria and yeast. Planned work includes synthesizing analogs of taxadiene and engineering <i>E. coli</i> to produce additional downstream taxol precursors.</p> <p>SciBX 3(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1194 Published online Oct. 7, 2010</p>	Patented by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; available for licensing	<p>Ajikumar, P.K. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Sept. 30, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1191652 Contact: Gregory Stephanopoulos, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: gregstep@mit.edu Contact: Blaine Pfeifer, Tufts University, Medford, Mass. e-mail: blaine.pfeifer@tufts.edu</p>