

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Automated method for assembling oligonucleotide vectors to generate whole genomes	An automated method for assembling vectors directly from overlapping oligonucleotides could help rapidly generate whole genomes for pharmaceutical and vaccine applications. Starting from 600 overlapping 60-mer oligonucleotides, 75 vectors each containing 8 oligonucleotides were generated in 1 step. After sequential assembly and PCR amplification steps, the oligonucleotide-coded sequences were combined to reconstruct the 16.3 kb mouse mitochondrial genome. Next steps include installing a synthetic mitochondrial genome into mitochondrial-deficient mouse cells to try to increase aerobic respiration and using the method in combination with cell-based approaches to produce influenza vaccines.	Patent application filed; licensed to Synthetic Genomics Inc.	Gibson, D.G. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nat. Methods</i> ; published online Oct. 10, 2010; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1515 Contact: Daniel G. Gibson, J. Craig Venter Institute, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: dgibson@jvci.org
	<i>SciBX</i> 3(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1250 Published online Oct. 21, 2010		