

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Cell-based genetic screen for mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1) inhibitors	<p>A cell-based genetic screen for mTOR inhibitors could help identify new cancer therapies. mTOR promotes cancer cell growth by interacting with the family of eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E binding proteins (EIF4EBPs; 4EBPs). A two-step screen of 3,584 compounds in murine cells expressing a 4EBP1 knockout mutation identified new mTOR inhibitors. Next steps include performing a larger screen on additional chemical libraries to identify other mTOR inhibitors.</p> <p>At least nine companies have mTOR inhibitors in development stages ranging from preclinical to marketed to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.164 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; cells used in screen available for licensing	Livingstone, M. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online Dec. 24, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2009.11.010 Contact: Nahum Sonenberg, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: nahum.sonenberg@mcgill.ca