

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Assays &amp; screens</b>			
Fluorescent, cell-based reporter system to screen for HCV protease inhibitors	<p>Primary hepatocytes or hepatocyte cell lines expressing a recombinant fluorescent host protein could help detect HCV infection. The recombinant host protein, containing a target for the HCV NS3 protease (NS3) and a mitochondrial tether, was modified to contain a red fluorescent protein (RFP) and to include a nuclear localization sequence. In HCV-infected hepatocytes, the construct translocated to the nucleus. When HCV-infected hepatocytes were treated with Telaprevir, the nuclear fluorescent signal was lower and the mitochondrial fluorescent signal was higher than in untreated cells. Next steps could include using the reporter system to screen for HCV infection in patient samples. Telaprevir (VX-950), a small molecule NS3 inhibitor from partners Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corp. and Johnson &amp; Johnson, is in Phase III testing to treat HCV infection.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.165</b>  <b>Published online Feb. 4, 2010</b></p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Jones, C. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Jan. 31, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1604</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Charles M. Rice, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:ricec@rockefeller.edu">ricec@rockefeller.edu</a></p>