

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Chemistry</b>			
High yield, catalyst-based site-selective and stereo-selective oxidation of methylene carbons for chemical synthesis	A methylene-specific catalyst could help streamline the synthesis of therapeutic alkaloids and other natural products. The catalyst selectively oxidized methylene carbons to carbonyl groups, yielding new derivatives of the bactericidal compound pleuromutilin and other terpenoid structures. Ongoing work includes reducing the amount of catalyst required to achieve a given product yield and using the method to help identify metabolites of drug candidates in oxidative enzyme assays.  <b>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.199</b> Published online Feb. 11, 2010	Patented by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; available for licensing	Chen, M. & White, M.C. <i>Science</i> ; published online Jan. 28, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1183602 <b>Contact:</b> M. Christina White, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: <a href="mailto:white@scs.uiuc.edu">white@scs.uiuc.edu</a>