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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Synthesis of trioxacarcins and non-natural analogs	A method for synthesizing trioxacarcins and their analogs could lead to new chemotherapies. Trioxacarcins are natural products that bind DNA and block cancer cell growth *in vitro*. Small building-block molecules were used to chemically synthesize the naturally occurring trioxacarcin DC-45-A2 and the non-natural analog dideoxy-DC-45-A2. In human cancer cell lines, DC-45-A2 and the analog inhibited growth at micromolar and submicromolar IC_{50} values, respectively. Ongoing work includes synthesizing analogs of dideoxy-DC-45-A2 and scaling up the method. *SciBX* 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.141 Published online Feb. 3, 2011	Patented by Harvard University; available for licensing	Švenda, J. *et al.* *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Jan. 17, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1015257108 **Contact:** Andrew G. Myers, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: myers@chemistry.harvard.edu