This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Oxepane-based molecules for activating wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT) signaling	<p>Oxepane-based molecules that activate WNT signaling could provide potential drug leads for regenerative medicine applications. WNT pathway activation has been implicated in stem cell differentiation processes including bone repair, but few small molecule activators of the pathway have been identified. In a human cell line stimulated with a WNT family member, several oxepanes increased WNT signaling compared with vehicle controls. Next steps including testing the oxepanes in differentiating stem cells.</p> <p>Wintherix LLC's WNT activator, WX04554, is in preclinical development for bone repair.</p> <p>SciBX 4(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.383 Published online March 31, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Basu, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 17, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1015269108</p> <p>Contact: Herbert Waldmann, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology, Dortmund, Germany e-mail: herbert.waldmann@mpi-dortmund.mpg.de</p>