

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
3D structure of human histamine H1 receptor (HRH1) to aid development of antagonists	The 3D structure of HRH1 could help guide the rational design of new antagonists of the target. A crystal structure of HRH1 showed that the first-generation HRH1 antagonist doxepin interacts directly with Trp428 in the receptor's ligand-binding pocket. Modeling studies suggested that the increased selectivity of second-generation HRH1 antagonists could be due to an interaction between the compound's carboxyl group and the receptor's Lys191 and/or Lys179 residues. Next steps could include using the 3D structure to guide the development of new HRH1 antagonists. Somaxon Pharmaceuticals Inc. markets Silenor doxepin to treat insomnia.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Shimamura, T. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 22, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10236 Contact: So Iwata, Imperial College London, London, U.K. e-mail: so_iwata@me.com
	<i>SciBX</i> 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.776 Published online July 14, 2011		