

**This week in techniques**

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Crystal structure of a ternary complex including bacitracin A to guide analog development	<p>A crystal structure of the peptide antibiotic bacitracin A in complex with zinc and a geranyl pyrophosphate ligand could help inform the rational design of new topical antibiotics. The structure of bacitracin A in complex with zinc and geranyl pyrophosphate was solved at 1.1 Å resolution. The structure showed that bacitracin A envelopes the pyrophosphate group of its ligand and zinc ion. The structure also showed that direct bacitracin A–ligand interactions are mediated by hydrogen bonds between the peptide backbone and side chain amide groups of bacitracin A with oxygen atoms of the ligand. Next steps include using the structural information to rationally design and generate candidate molecules for affinity and activity testing.</p> <p><b>SciBX 6(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1012</b> Published online Sept. 19, 2013</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing	Economou, N.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 12, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1308268110 <b>Contact:</b> Patrick J. Loll, Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: <a href="mailto:ploll@drexelmed.edu">ploll@drexelmed.edu</a>