

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Synthesis of simaomicin- α to enable derivatization	A method to synthesize the natural compound simaomicin- α could help the development of analogs for use in cancer. Simaomicin- α , a polycyclic xanthone, is derived from an actinomycete and was previously shown to synergize with the DNA-damaging agent bleomycin to kill cancer cells. <i>In vitro</i> , simaomicin- α was synthesized using palladium-mediated dehydrogenative coupling of two aryl rings to create the key biaryl linkage in the molecule. In multiple human cancer cell lines, the synthetic simaomicin- α inhibited growth with nanomolar IC ₅₀ values comparable to those of natural simaomicin- α . Next steps include studies to understand the mechanism of simaomicin- α .	Unpatented; available for licensing	Wang, Y. <i>et al.</i> <i>Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online Aug. 22, 2013; doi:10.1002/anie.201304812 Contact: Joseph M. Ready, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: joseph.ready@utsouthwestern.edu
	SciBX 6(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1039 Published online Sept. 26, 2013		