This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Clustered, regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) interference system for gene regulation	The CRISPR interference platform for modulating gene expression could be used to modify DNA in diverse biological systems. CRISPR systems use a small guide RNA (sgRNA), which pairs with a target DNA sequence and the CRISPR-associated protein (Cas9) to excise target DNA. In *Escherichia coli* cells, expression of a modified Cas9 without endonuclease activity plus sgRNA against a target gene led to reversible gene knockout. The same system also knocked down genes in human embryonic kidney cells. Next steps include testing and optimizing the CRISPR interference platform in patient-derived cells. *SciBX* 6(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.249 Published online March 14, 2013	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Qi, L.S. *et al. Cell*; published online Feb. 28, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.02.022 **Contact:** Lei S. Qi, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: stanley.qi@ucsf.edu