This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Chemical reporter approach using strain-promoted alkyne-azide cycloaddition (SPAAC) to track cellular glycoproteins	<p>A chemical approach to track glycoprotein storage in cells could help identify therapeutics to treat Neimann-Pick type C (NPC). NPC involves impaired cholesterol efflux from cellular vesicles and altered trafficking of glycoproteins. In NPC fibroblasts lacking Niemann-Pick disease type C1 (NPC1) or NPC2, the SPAAC chemical reporter detected accumulated glycoproteins in intracellular vesicles that were distinct from those that accumulated cholesterol. In NPC fibroblasts, a compound that lowered cholesterol accumulation decreased both glycoprotein and cholesterol levels compared with no treatment. Next steps could include using the technology to screen for new therapeutics to treat NPC.</p> <p>SciBX 6(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.641 Published online June 27, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Mbua, N.E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 3, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1221105110 Contact: Richard Steet, The University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. e-mail: rsteet@ccrc.uga.edu Contact: Geert-Jan Boons, same affiliation as above e-mail: gjboons@ccrc.uga.edu</p>