

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Crystal structure of human GABA _A receptor	<p>The crystal structure of the human GABA_A receptor could help guide the design of new γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-targeted therapies to treat psychiatric disorders. <i>In vitro</i>, the X-ray crystal structure of the human GABA_A receptor bound to the previously unknown agonist benzamidine was solved at a resolution of 3 Å and revealed a complex of 19 different subunits arranged in a homopentameric architecture. The crystal structure also showed that the receptor's neurotransmitter-binding pocket is located between extracellular domains. Next steps include solving the crystal structure of additional heterometric human receptors and evaluating benzamidine derivatives as modulators of such receptors.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 7(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.778 Published online July 10, 2014</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from Isis Innovation Ltd. Contact: Louis Pymar, Isis Innovation Ltd., Oxford, U.K. e-mail: louis.pymar@isis.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Miller, P.S. & Aricescu, A.R. <i>Nature</i>; Published online July 8, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13293 Contact: A. Radu Aricescu, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: radu@strubi.ox.ac.uk Contact: Paul Miller, same affiliation as above e-mail: paul@strubi.ox.ac.uk</p>