This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
MRI-based computational model to differentiate between malignant and benign breast tumors	Imaging studies suggest that introducing a shutter-speed variable into the standard MRI computational model could help differentiate malignant from benign breast tumors. In a screen of 15 patients with benign tumors and 7 with malignant tumors, including the shutter-speed variable in the model better differentiated kinetic parameters associated with benign and malignant tumors. In a patient screen, the new model correctly identified 15 tumors as benign, and thus, use of the MRI-based computational model could have avoided unnecessary biopsies. Next steps include screening a larger patient population to confirm the method's efficacy and testing other magnetic field strengths.	Provisional U.S. patent application covering the approach filed; available for licensing	Huang, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 11, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0711226105 Contact: Charles S. Springer, Jr., Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Ore. e-mail: springer@ohsu.edu
	SciBX 1(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1011 Published online Nov. 13, 2008		