This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Assessment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) risk in sickle cell disease patients using plasma apolipoproteins	<p>Apolipoprotein levels in plasma samples could potentially predict risk of PAH in sickle cell disease patients. Sickle cell patients with high PAH had lower levels of apolipoprotein A-I (APOA1) and higher levels of apolipoprotein B (APOB) than sickle cell patients without PAH. Patients with both diseases also had lower levels of haptoglobin dimers and plasminogen and higher levels of apolipoprotein A-II (APOA2), APOB and serum amyloid A than patients who only had sickle cell disease, indicating that these proteins could be used to potentially assess the risk of PAH in sickle cell patients. Ongoing studies are analyzing FDA-approved APOA1 mimetics in sickle cell disease.</p> <p>At least five companies have therapeutics targeting APOA1 in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cardiovascular conditions.</p> <p>SciBX 1(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1119 Published online Dec. 18, 2008</p>	Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing	<p>Yuditskaya, S. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Nov. 20, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-03-142604</p> <p>Contact: Gregory J. Kato, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gkato@mail.nih.gov</p>