This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Methyl beads, emulsion, amplification and magnetics (Methyl-BEAMing) technology for quantifying DNA methylation	Studies of plasma and stool samples suggest that Methyl-BEAMing can quantify methylation levels of oncogenic genes and potentially help diagnose some cancers. In stool samples from patients with adenomas or colorectal cancer, Methyl-BEAMing detected higher levels of methylation in the <i>vimentin</i> gene than in healthy controls. The technique also showed greater sensitivity than PCR-based methylation detection methods. Next steps include engineering the method to make it high throughput.	Patent application filed for the Methyl-BEAMing method, vimentin Methyl-BEAMing and the diagnostic applications of Methyl-BEAMing; available for licensing	Li, M. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Aug. 16, 2009; doi:10.1038/nbt.1559 Contact: Sanford D. Markowitz, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: sxm10@cwru.edu
	SciBX 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1288 Published online Aug. 27, 2009		