This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Droplet-scale, digital microfluidic assay for estrogen	<p>An automated, digital microfluidic assay to determine estrogen concentrations in 1 μl samples of patient specimens could be useful for frequent testing of estrogen levels in indications such as cancer and infertility. The decrease in sample size over conventional techniques was 1,000- to 4,000-fold. Also, the samples could be analyzed in about 20 minutes, whereas conventional hormone extraction techniques require 5–6 hours of processing time. Next steps could include evaluating the use of the assay in a clinical setting.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1543 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Mousa, N.A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 7, 2009; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000105</p> <p>Contact: Aaron R. Wheeler, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: awheeler@chem.utoronto.ca</p> <p>Contact: Robert F. Casper, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: rforcasper@aol.com</p>