This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Multiplexed electronic chip system for hybridization-based microRNA profiling	<p>A multiplexed electronic chip system for hybridization-based miRNA profiling could help analyze patient samples at higher speeds and sensitivity and could use smaller sample volumes than some other methods. The system analyzed a sample in 30 minutes and detected a particular miRNA using as little as 5 ng of total RNA. The system also was able to distinguish between miRNA-26a and miRNA-26b, two closely related sequences. Next steps include using the chip to profile a variety of cancer biomarkers and evaluating its use in bacterial detection and diagnosis of antibiotic-resistant infections.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1545 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	<p>Assay used for readout of the chip-based system is patented; additional patent applications filed covering use of chip-based systems for protein and cancer biomarker analysis; available for licensing from the University of Toronto</p>	<p>Yang, H. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200902577</p> <p>Contact: Shana O. Kelley, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: shana.kelley@utoronto.ca</p>