This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) assay for early detection of prostate cancer recurrence	<p>An assay for the immunological detection of PSA could help predict the recurrence of prostate cancer earlier than existing methods. The nanoparticle-based sandwich assay has a detection limit of 330 fg/mL, which is about 300 times more sensitive than commercially available methods for measuring serum PSA levels. In patients who underwent radical prostatectomy, the assay detected increases in PSA earlier than commercially available methods in six of nine patients with recurrent prostate cancer. Next steps could include applying the assay to a larger patient cohort to confirm its value for predicting cancer recurrence.</p> <p>SciBX 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1580 Published online Oct. 29, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Thaxton, C.S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904719106</p> <p>Contact: Chad Mirkin, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. e-mail: chadnano@northwestern.edu</p>