This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Plug-based microfluidics to aid diagnostics development	<p>The use of plug-based microfluidic devices may expedite the development of new diagnostics for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and other conditions related to aberrant protein aggregation. The plugs, which are nanoliter aqueous droplets formed inside the microfluidic device, were loaded with β40-amyloid ($A\beta$40), and used to run protein aggregation experiments with mouse cerebrospinal fluid. The plug-based devices used nanoliter sample sizes for each experiment, which should enable hundreds of experiments to be run from a single sample.</p> <p>SciBX 2(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.159 Published online Jan. 29, 2009</p>	<p>Patent pending covering all fields of use; available for licensing from The University of Chicago Office of Technology and Intellectual Property Contact: The University of Chicago Office of Technology and Intellectual Property, Chicago, Ill. phone: 773-702-1692 e-mail: contactadmin@tech.uchicago.edu</p>	<p>Meier, M. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i>; published online Jan. 16, 2009; doi:10.1002/anie.200805225 Contact: Rustem F. Ismagilov, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: r-ismagilov@uchicago.edu</p>