This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Haploid genetic screen of human cells to identify potential targets for infectious diseases	<p>A genetic screening method in haploid cells could help identify targets to treat infectious diseases. The approach consists of randomly inserting a retroviral vector into the genome of haploid cells to separately generate knockout mutants and identify genes that confer resistance to infection. As proof of principle, the method helped identify multiple genes involved in resistance to H1N1 influenza virus infection, resistance to toxins produced by <i>Escherichia coli</i> and other pathogenic bacteria and resistance to diphtheria and anthrax toxins. Next steps could include identifying targets for other diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1744 Published online Dec. 10, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Carette, J. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Nov. 26, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1178955 Contact: Thijn R. Brummelkamp, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: brummelkamp@wi.mit.edu Contact: Jan E. Carette, same affiliation as above e-mail: carette@wi.mit.edu</p>