This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Marker cells for autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS)	<p>A study in patient samples suggests that higher levels of Fas ligand (TNF superfamily, member 6; FASL) and IL-10 in plasma and higher percentages of double-negative CD4⁻/CD8⁻ TCRαβ⁺ T (DNT) cells may be useful biomarkers of ALPS. In samples from a cohort of 54 ALPS patients with FAS mutations, FASL levels were higher than those seen in samples from non-ALPS relatives and healthy age-matched controls. ALPS patients also had higher levels of cells expressing IL-10 and higher percentages of DNT cells than healthy controls. Next steps include evaluating FASL and IL-10 plasma levels and DNT cell percentages as surrogate markers of efficacy of immunosuppressives and as predictive biomarkers of disease onset.</p> <p>SciBX 2(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.254 Published online Feb. 12, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Magerus-Chatinet, A. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Jan. 27, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-09-179630</p> <p>Contact: Frederic Rieux-Laucat, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Paris, France e-mail: frederic.rioux-laucat@inserm.fr</p>