This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Genome-scale small hairpin RNA-pooled screen to identify functional cancer genes	Studies in cancer cell lines suggest that pooled shRNAs could be used to screen for genes essential for drug resistance and cancer progression. In three cancer cell lines transfected with a library of about 45,000 shRNAs and treated with three different resistance-inducing agents, gene expression identified upregulated or downregulated genes that could underlie the drug resistance mechanism. Comparative analysis of 12 cancer cell lines resulted in the identification of essential genes for cellular proliferation. Next steps include adaptation of this approach to other cancer cell lines. SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.73 Published online Jan. 15, 2009	Patent status not applicable; unavailable for licensing from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard	Luo, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0810485105 Contact: David E. Root, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: droot@broad.mit.edu Contact: Eric S. Lander, same affiliation as above e-mail: lander@broad.mit.edu