This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Chromosomal instability gene signature to predict taxane resistance	<p>Cancer cell line studies suggest that assessing chromosomal instability before cancer therapy could help optimize treatments. A meta-analysis of taxane-treated cancer cell lines and an ovarian cancer xenograft identified a gene signature associated with chromosomal instability. In the cancer cells, small interfering RNA silencing of the genes led to cell death. In breast cancer studies, overexpression of the chromosomal instability genes was associated with poor clinical outcome. In an ovarian cancer clinical trial, high levels of the gene signature were associated with taxane resistance. Next steps include additional development of a biomarker assay of taxane resistance.</p> <p>SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.810 Published online May 14, 2009</p>	Gene signature is subject of a pending patent application; available for licensing	<p>Swanton, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 4, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811835106</p> <p>Contact: Julian Downward, Cancer Research UK, London, U.K. e-mail: julian.downward@cancer.org.uk</p> <p>Contact: James D. Brenton, same affiliation as above e-mail: james.brenton@cancer.org.uk</p> <p>Contact: Zoltan Szallasi, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: zoltan.szallasi@childrens.harvard.edu</p>