This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Methylation-specific quantum dot fluorescence resonance energy transfer (MS-qFRET) for detection of DNA methylation patterns in cancer	MS-qFRET could help evaluate DNA methylation patterns for either early cancer diagnosis or therapeutic response. In DNA samples from lung cancer patients, MS-qFRET determined the methylation status of genes known to be markers for lung cancer. In bone marrow aspirates from patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), the method detected decreases in DNA methylation after patients received epigenetic therapy compared with methylation levels before the treatment. Next steps include application of the method to additional clinical samples of different diseases, both pre- and post-treatment.	Patent cooperation treaty patent application filed covering the method; available for licensing for cancer diagnostics and prognosis	Bailey, V. <i>et al. Genome Res.</i> ; published online May 14, 2009; doi:10.1101/gr.088831.108 Contact: Jeff Wang, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: thwang@jhu.edu
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