This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Rapid creation of high-coverage virus-based small hairpin RNA libraries	<p>High-coverage, virus-based shRNA libraries could help identify new disease targets and biomarkers. Existing, low-coverage lentiviral shRNA libraries typically contain about 3–5 shRNAs per gene, which can result in a high rate of false positives and false negatives. Researchers used microarray-based oligonucleotide synthesis to generate high-coverage shRNA libraries with about 30 shRNAs per gene. Deep sequencing showed that about 60–80% of shRNA sequences were correct and allowed for statistical evaluation of true hits and deconvolution. Next steps could include generating additional high-coverage shRNA libraries for biomarker and disease target identification studies.</p> <p>SciBX 2(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.891 Published online May 28, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bassik, M.C. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i>; published online May 17, 2009; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1330</p> <p>Contact: Michael T. McManus, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: michael.mcmanus@ucsf.edu</p> <p>Contact: Jonathan S. Weissman, same affiliation as above e-mail: weissman@cmp.ucsf.edu</p>