This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
A transcript signature in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) to identify active and latent tuberculosis (TB) infection	<p>In two independent patient cohorts, a 393-transcript PBMC signature identified patients with active TB infection, latent TB infection and no infection. About 20% of patients with latent TB had a transcript signature of active TB, suggesting the signature might help identify patients with latent TB that will progress to active TB. A smaller 86-transcript signature distinguished patients with active TB infection from patients with other bacterial and inflammatory diseases. Next steps could include longitudinal studies to determine if the signature can identify patients with latent TB infection that will progress to active TB infection.</p> <p>SciBX 3(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1079 Published online Sept. 9, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status unavailable	<p>Berry, M.P.R. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Aug. 19, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09247</p> <p>Contact: Anne O'Garra, MRC National Institute for Medical Research, London, U.K. e-mail: aogarra@nimr.mrc.ac.uk</p>