This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
A SNP in brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) as a marker of treatment response in anxiety-related disorders	A <i>BDNF</i> SNP could help predict response to therapies for phobia, post-traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety-related disorders. Mice expressing the Val66Met SNP on <i>Bdnf</i> , as well as humans with the homologous <i>BDNF</i> SNP, showed anxiety-related behaviors. In two fear-conditioning tests, SNP-bearing humans and mice had significant impairments in their ability to control fear responses compared with non-SNP-bearing controls ($p < 0.03$ for both). Ongoing work includes studying SNP-bearing post-traumatic stress disorder patients.	Use of the <i>BDNF</i> SNP as a marker of response to antidepressant therapy patented by Cornell University; licensing status undisclosed	Soliman, F. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Jan. 14, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1181886 Contact: B.J. Casey, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: bjc2002@med.cornell.edu Contact: Fatima Soliman, same affiliation as above e-mail: fas2002@med.cornell.edu
	SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.136 Published online Jan. 28, 2010		