This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Predicting the risk of emphysema in smokers with multi-detector computed tomography (MDCT)	MDCT-based imaging could help predict risk of emphysema in smokers. In smokers with early signs of emphysema, the technique showed greater variability in blood levels and flow within the lungs compared with those in the lungs of nonsmokers and of smokers without emphysema. The findings suggest that inflammatory responses to smoking can induce localized vasoconstriction that reroutes pulmonary blood flow and can lead to emphysema. Planned studies include testing whether inhibitors of pulmonary vasoconstriction could normalize blood flow to prevent emphysema.	Unpatented; unlicensed	Alford, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.</i> ; published online April 5, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0913880107 Contact: Eric A. Hoffman, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: eric-hoffman@uiowa.edu
	SciBX 3(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.511 Published online April 22, 2010		