This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Personalized <i>ex vivo</i> culture method for analysis of antitumor treatment	<p>A tissue culture protocol that replicates tumor microenvironments could help predict treatment response in cancer patients. The protocol used <i>ex vivo</i> tumor tissue samples from patient surgical explants. In <i>ex vivo</i> cultures of colon, lung and prostate adenocarcinomas, the oncogenic phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) and protein kinase B (PKB; Akt) pathway was inhibited by a PI3K inhibitor, leading to decreased tissue proliferation compared with no treatment. Next steps include comparing <i>in vitro</i> drug responses to patient responses for a given drug. At least 11 companies have PI3K inhibitors in clinical and preclinical testing to treat cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.537 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Vaira, V. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 19, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907676107</p> <p>Contact: Massimo Loda, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: massimo_loda@dfci.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Silvano Bosari, University of Milan, Milan, Italy e-mail: silvano.bosari@unimi.it</p>