This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Biomarkers for responsiveness to melphalan plus dexamethasone in patients with systemic light chain amyloidosis	<p>A study in patients identified biomarkers that could help predict responsiveness to melphalan-dexamethasone combination therapy for systemic light chain amyloidosis. In patients with the disease, increased systemic levels of free light chains, N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) and troponin T type 2 (cardiac) (TNNT2; cTnT)—all cardiac markers—were significantly associated with reduced overall survival during therapy ($p=0.003$, $p=0.001$ and $p=0.02$, respectively). Next steps could include confirming the markers in larger patient cohorts.</p> <p>Alkeran melphalan, a small molecule alkylating agent from GlaxoSmithKline plc and Celgene Corp., is approved to treat multiple myeloma (MM) and ovarian cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.540 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Dietrich, S. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online April 7, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-11-253237</p> <p>Contact: Ute Hegenbart, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: ute.hegenbart@med.uni-heidelberg.de</p>