This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Detection of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> endocarditis with fluorescent or radiolabeled prothrombin analogs	<p>Mouse studies suggest radioactive or fluorescently labeled prothrombin analogs could help identify endocarditis caused by <i>S. aureus</i> infection. During <i>S. aureus</i> infection, thrombin (factor IIa; F2) is cleaved by staphylocoagulase, an enzyme produced by the bacteria. In mice receiving a prothrombin analog, animals with <i>S. aureus</i>-associated endocarditis generated stronger signals during PET imaging and fluorescent molecular tomography than mice without <i>S. aureus</i> infection. Next steps could include optimizing the PET reporter and testing it in larger animal models of <i>S. aureus</i>-associated endocarditis.</p> <p>SciBX 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1002 Published online Sept. 8, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Panizzi, P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 21, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2423</p> <p>Contact: Ralph Weissleder, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rweissleder@mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Matthias Nahrendorf, same affiliation as above e-mail: mnahrendorf@mgh.harvard.edu</p>