This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Truncated neurokinin 1 substance P receptor (TACR1) as a marker for colorectal cancer	<p>A study in patient samples suggests a truncated form of TACR1 could be a biomarker for colorectal cancer. In samples from patients with colitis-associated cancer, truncated TACR1 mRNA levels were 14-fold higher in carcinoma tissues compared with in high-grade dysplasias. Also, levels of truncated TACR1 protein were 40% higher in high-grade dysplasias and 80% higher in carcinomas than in quiescent colitis tissues. Next steps could include validating the disease association in additional patient samples and developing a diagnostic to detect truncated TACR1.</p> <p>SciBX 4(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1164 Published online Oct. 20, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Gillespie, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Oct. 3, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1114275108 Contact: James M. Becker, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: james.becker@bmc.org Contact: Arthur F. Stucchi, same affiliation as above e-mail: astucchi@bu.edu Contact: Susan E. Leeman, same affiliation as above e-mail: sleeman@bu.edu</p>