This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Using <i>in vivo</i> phage selection to identify ligand-receptor pairs in blood vessels	<p><i>In vivo</i> selection of phage display libraries could help identify previously unknown ligand-receptor pair targets in the vasculature. A phage display peptide library was injected into terminal cancer patients, and then phage were isolated from specific organs postmortem. Potential ligand-receptor pairs were predicted based on which peptides were enriched in the vasculature of specific tissues, and then the pairs were verified biochemically. The approach identified two ligand-receptor pairs common to the vasculature of multiple human tissues, a pair specific to normal white adipose tissue and a pair specific to bone metastases. Next steps include discovering and evaluating compounds that target the ligand-receptor pairs.</p> <p>SciBX 4(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1247 Published online Nov. 10, 2011</p>	Covered by issued and pending patents; licensed to Ablaris Therapeutics Inc. for use in obesity and related metabolic disorders; licensed to Alvos Therapeutics Inc. for all other indications	<p>Staquicini, F.I. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 2, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1114503108</p> <p>Contact: Wadih Arap, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: warap@mdanderson.org</p> <p>Contact: Renata Pasqualini, same affiliation as above e-mail: rpasqual@mdanderson.org</p> <p>Contact: Richard L. Sidman, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: richard_sidman@hms.harvard.edu</p>