This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Mass spectrometry for cancer biomarker detection	<p>A mass spectrometry-based method for detecting and quantifying levels of proteins with oncogenic mutations could help diagnose cancer and guide treatment. In patient colorectal tumor tissue samples, antibody-based capture methods isolated the K-Ras protein, and mass spectrometry determined the ratio of K-Ras containing the oncogenic G12D mutation to wild-type K-Ras. In fluid from patients with precancerous pancreatic cysts, the mass spectrometry method detected mutated K-Ras in two different samples. Next steps include optimizing the method for use in detecting additional oncogenic mutations.</p> <p>SciBX 4(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.175 Published online Feb. 10, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing through The Johns Hopkins University Technology Transfer Office	<p>Wang, Q. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 17, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1019203108</p> <p>Contact: Bert Vogelstein, The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: bertvog@gmail.com</p> <p>Contact: Akhilesh Pandey, same affiliation as above e-mail: pandey@jhmi.edu</p>