This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Shotgun glycomics to characterize glycosphingolipids (GSLs)	<p>A glycomics approach for characterizing the structure and function of specific glycans could lead to new diagnostics. GSLs, a major class of glycan-containing molecules, were chemically labeled with fluorescent tags in cell extracts, partially purified and attached to glass slides to form microarrays. In proof-of-concept studies using microarrays of GSLs from bovine brains, human erythrocytes or prostate cancer cells, antibodies and other glycan-binding proteins selectively bound to selected regions of the microarrays. Next steps could include testing serum from patients to look for glycan-specific disease biomarkers.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.24 Published online Jan. 6, 2011</p>	Patent pending covering method; available for licensing	<p>Song, X. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i>; published online Dec. 5, 2010; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1540 Contact: David F. Smith, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: dfsmith@emory.edu Contact: Richard D. Cummings, same affiliation as above e-mail: rdcummi@emory.edu</p>