This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
N-terminal truncated carboxypeptidase E (CPE) as a metastasis biomarker	<p><i>In vitro</i> mouse and patient sample studies suggest that truncated CPE could be a biomarker of metastasis in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and head and neck cancer. Metastatic HCC cell lines had greater levels of truncated CPE expression than nonmetastatic HCC cell lines. In mice injected with highly metastatic HCC cells, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of truncated CPE inhibited tumor growth and metastasis compared with those in controls given scrambled siRNA. High levels of truncated CPE also correlated with metastasis in human breast, colon and head and neck cancers. Prospective studies to validate CPE as a biomarker for HCC and other cancers are ongoing.</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.240 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; methods, composition and kits available for licensing	<p>Lee, T.K. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI40433</p> <p>Contact: Y. Peng Loh, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: lohp@mail.nih.gov</p> <p>Contact: Ronnie T. Poon, The University of Hong Kong, Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong, China e-mail: poontp@hkucc.hku.hk</p>