This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Instrumentation			
Quantitative micro-NMR technique for rapid, point-of-care cancer diagnosis	<p>A micro-NMR-based technology could help diagnose cancer faster and with greater accuracy than standard biopsy methods. The benchtop technology used a micro-NMR analyzer and magnetic nanoparticle-based affinity ligands to detect multiple cancer-associated proteins in samples from suspected breast, lung, pancreatic and other abdominal tumors. Using a 4-protein signature, the technology diagnosed 70 patients with >96% accuracy with a turnaround of <60 minutes per patient compared with 84% accuracy and a mean turnaround of 3 days for conventional biopsies in the same patients. Ongoing work includes testing the technology in a larger patient population and modifying it to detect markers for specific types of cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.297 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Patented by Massachusetts General Hospital; unlicensed	<p>Haun, J.B. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 23, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002048 Contact: Ralph Weissleder, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: rweissleder@mgh.harvard.edu Contact: Cesar M. Castro, same affiliation as above e-mail: cmcastro@partners.org</p>