This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Chronic HCV infection markers	<p>A human genetic study suggests that the gene encoding KIR2DS3 (killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptor two domains short cytoplasmic tail 3; nkat7) could help identify patients at risk of chronic HCV infection. In a study of 543 HCV patients, the <i>KIR2DS3</i> gene was significantly associated with chronic infection ($p < 0.002$). In patients with the <i>KIR2D3S</i> gene, the presence of the IL-28B (IFNL3) T allele, a previously identified HCV risk factor, significantly increased the risk of chronic HCV infection compared with the presence of the HCV-neutral IL28B C allele ($p < 10^{-7}$). Next steps include validating <i>KIR2DS3</i> as a marker in larger populations and developing clinical screening procedures for the marker.</p> <p>SciBX 4(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.384 Published online March 31, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Dring, M.M. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 14, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1016358108 Contact: Clair M. Gardiner, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland e-mail: clair.gardiner@tcd.ie</p>