This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
DNA methylation signature for breast cancer prognosis	<p>A DNA methylation signature may help predict breast cancer outcomes. In 39 breast cancer tissue samples analyzed by whole-genome profiling of DNA methylation, patients classified as methylation positive had longer metastasis-free and overall survival compared with patients classified as methylation negative. In an independent set of 132 samples, a 3-loci methylation signature was sufficient to classify patients as methylation positive or negative about 95% of the time. Next steps include validating an optimized PCR-based assay and comparing it to a marketed prognostic test.</p> <p>Oncotype DX from Genomic Health Inc. is a marketed gene expression-based test to predict breast cancer recurrence.</p> <p>SciBX 4(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.385 Published online March 31, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Fang, F. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online March 23, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001875</p> <p>Contact: Timothy A. Chan, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: chant@mskcc.org</p>