This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Primary culture of patient tumor cells in multicellular spheroid clusters	<p>A method to maintain cell-cell interactions in cultured primary tumor cells could provide a new cell-based model for testing cancer therapeutics. Mechanical and enzymatic separation of primary colorectal cancer specimens generated spherical multicellular clusters of purified cancer cells that had histological characteristics of adenocarcinomas. The spheroid clusters could be cultured and expanded <i>in vitro</i> and could be generated from additional tumor types including lung and bladder. They also showed a dose-dependent response to chemotherapeutics. Next steps include identifying the best conditions for preparation and culture of spheroids from different tumor types.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.437 Published online April 14, 2011</p>	Patent applications filed; available for licensing from REI Medical Co. Ltd.	<p>Kondo, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 28, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1015938108</p> <p>Contact: Masahiro Inoue, Osaka Medical Center for Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases, Osaka, Japan e-mail: minoue0112@gmail.com</p>