This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Genetic signatures for determining prognosis and guiding treatment for pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma	<p>Genetic signatures that distinguish three subtypes of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma could be used to determine prognosis and guide treatment decisions. In human pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma samples, genetic profiling stratified tumors into three types: classical, quasimesenchymal and exocrine-like. In human pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma cell lines, quasimesenchymal tumor cells were the most sensitive to Gemzar gemcitabine, whereas classical cells were most sensitive to Tarceva erlotinib, suggesting the subtypes may respond to different drugs. Next steps include narrowing the gene set used for subtype determination and validating the findings in a larger cohort.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. markets Gemzar to treat multiple cancers including pancreatic cancer.</p> <p>Astellas Pharma Inc. and Roche market Tarceva to treat pancreatic cancer and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).</p> <p>SciBX 4(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.443 Published online April 14, 2011</p>	Unpatented; available for licensing for prognostic or predictive applications	<p>Collisson, E.A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online April 3, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2344</p> <p>Contact: Joe W. Gray, Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Ore. e-mail: grayjo@ohsu.edu</p>