This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
<i>BRAF V600E</i> mutant as a marker for hairy cell leukemia	<p>The <i>BRAF V600E</i> mutant could be useful as a diagnostic biomarker of hairy cell leukemia. Genetic sequencing of patient samples revealed the <i>BRAF V600E</i> mutant in all 47 hairy cell leukemia cases compared with in none of the 195 cases of other peripheral B cell lymphomas or leukemias. In hairy cell leukemia samples, a BRAF inhibitor lowered MEK and MAPK phosphorylation compared with vehicle. Next steps could include studying how the <i>BRAF V600E</i> mutant results in the development of hairy cell leukemia.</p> <p>Vemurafenib, an oral small molecule inhibitor of the oncogenic BRAF V600E mutant from Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. and Roche, is under review for melanoma.</p> <p>GSK2118436, a BRAF protein kinase inhibitor from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in Phase III testing for melanoma.</p> <p>At least four other companies have BRAF inhibitors in Phase I/II trials or earlier to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 4(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.753 Published online June 30, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Tiacci, E. <i>et al. N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online June 11, 2011; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1014209</p> <p>Contact: Brunangelo Falini, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy e-mail: faliniem@unipg.it</p>