This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Mutations in <i>vacuolar protein sorting 35</i> homolog (<i>VPS35</i>) as a predictive marker for Parkinson's disease (PD)	Two studies of patients with familial PD identified a SNP in <i>VPS35</i> that is strongly associated with the disease. In the first study, high throughput sequencing identified an aspartic acid-to-asparagine point mutation in all PD-affected members of a Swiss family. Subsequent sequencing of <i>VPS35</i> in 7,635 patients and controls also identified the mutation in 3 familial cases of PD and 1 sporadic case of PD but in no controls. In the second study, exome sequencing of an Austrian family identified the same mutation in all living members with PD. Next steps include generating a mouse model with the mutation to study its function <i>in vivo</i> .	Unpatented; available for licensing	Vilariño-Güell, C. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online July 15, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2011.06.001 Contact: Carles Vilariño-Güell, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: carles@can.ubc.ca Zimprich, A. <i>et al. Am. J. Hum. Genet.</i>; published online July 15, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.ajhg.2011.06.008 Contact: Tim M. Strom, German Research Center for Environmental Health, Neuherberg, Germany e-mail: timstrom@helmholtz-muenchen.de Contact: Alexander Zimprich, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria e-mail: alexander.zimprich@meduniwien.ac.at
	SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.840 Published online July 28, 2011		