This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Simultaneous sensitive detection of infectious diseases using a portable, microfluidic ELISA device	<p>A portable, microfluidic ELISA device could be used to rapidly detect multiple infectious diseases in remote settings. The mobile microfluidic chip for immunoassay on protein markers (mChip) device automatically processed a sample using 14 different ELISA reagents and used the reduction of silver ions onto gold nanoparticles to amplify signal. In a Rwanda hospital lacking on-site ELISAs, the device could simultaneously detect HIV and syphilis antibodies in blood samples with sensitivity and specificity comparable to those of commercial ELISA kits at an estimated cost of \$0.55 per test. Next steps include developing this test to a form ready to be used by healthcare workers in developing countries.</p> <p>SciBX 4(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.887 Published online Aug. 11, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Chin, C.D. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online July 31, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2408 Contact: Samuel K. Sia, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ss2735@columbia.edu</p>