This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Target detection using DNA-based sensors and personal glucose meters	DNA-based sensors that employ commercially available personal glucose meters could be used to detect nonglucose compounds. The sensor consists of DNA-enzyme complexes attached to magnetic beads. Upon target binding, the enzyme is released and hydrolyzes sucrose into glucose, which can then be detected by commercial personal glucose meters. In proof-of-concept studies, the system detected and quantified cocaine, adenosine, interferon- γ (IFNG; IFN- γ) and uranium with micromolar to nanomolar sensitivity. Next steps include extending the range of molecules that can be quantified with the approach and simplifying the sample preparation process.	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	Xiang, Y. & Lu, Y. <i>Nat. Chem.</i> ; published online July 24, 2011; doi:10.1038/nchem.1092 Contact: Yi Lu, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: yi-lu@illinois.edu
	<i>SciBX</i> 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.996 Published online Sept. 8, 2011		