This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
<p><i>Fibroblast growth factor receptor 4 (FGFR4; CD334)</i></p> <p>SNP as a response marker for pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors</p>	<p>A SNP in <i>FGFR4</i> could be used as a marker to predict pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor progression and response to mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR; FRAP; RAFT1) inhibitors. In 71 patients with pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, a polymorphism in <i>FGFR4</i> substituting an arginine for glycine at codon 388 was associated with larger, more aggressive and more invasive tumors. In mice with human pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, the mTOR inhibitor Afinitor everolimus delayed growth and progression of tumors expressing FGFR4 G388 but not tumors expressing FGFR4 R388. Next steps could include developing an assay to screen patients for the <i>FGFR4</i> SNP. Novartis AG markets Afinitor to treat multiple cancers and to prevent transplant rejection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1068 Published online Oct. 11, 2012</p>	<p>Patent and licensing status unavailable</p>	<p>Serra, S. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Sept. 17, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-2102 Contact: Sylvia L. Asa, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: sylvia.asa@uhn.ca</p>