This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Paper-based diagnostic for drug-associated hepatotoxicity	<p>A paper-based method for detecting liver enzymes in the blood could be useful for detecting drug-related hepatotoxicity in the point-of-care setting. The method consists of a paper-based microfluidic device that detects the liver enzymes aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) in a single drop of blood. In serum and whole-blood samples, the device generated colorimetric readouts that fell into one of three clinically relevant concentration ranges and showed over 90% accuracy. Next steps include testing the device in a third-world hospital setting in Vietnam.</p> <p>SciBX 5(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1098 Published online Oct. 18, 2012</p>	Findings patented; available for licensing from Diagnostics for All	<p>Pollack, N.R. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Sept. 19, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003981 Contact: Jason P. Rolland, Diagnostics for All, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: jrolland@dfa.org Contact: Nira R. Pollock, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Mass. e-mail: npollock@bidmc.harvard.edu</p>