This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Secreted frizzled-related protein 4 (SFRP4) as a marker of islet dysfunction	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest SFRP4 could be useful as a biomarker to detect islet dysfunction in type 2 diabetes. Gene expression data of islets from 48 humans showed that high levels of SFRP4 were associated with multiple markers of type 2 diabetes, such as increased hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) levels and decreased insulin secretion. In mouse and human pancreatic islets, SFRP4 decreased glucose-induced insulin secretion compared with no treatment. In mice, SFRP4 injections decreased insulin secretion and increased glucose intolerance compared with saline injections. Next steps include validating SFRP4 as a marker in a larger cohort.</p> <p>SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1222 Published online Nov. 29, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Lund University Diabetes Centre	<p>Mahdi, T. <i>et al. Cell Metab.</i>; published online Nov. 6, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2012.10.009 Contact: Anders H. Rosengren, Lund University, Malmo, Sweden e-mail: anders.rosengren@med.lu.se</p>