This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Phosphorylated α -synuclein (SNCA) as a marker for diagnosing and monitoring progression in Parkinson's disease (PD)	<p>Patient sample studies suggest measuring phosphorylated SNCA levels could help diagnose and monitor PD. In cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples, phosphorylated SNCA levels were higher in patients with PD than in healthy controls. Phosphorylated SNCA levels also were associated with PD severity in the patients ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include validating the findings in an independent patient population.</p> <p>SciBX 5(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.242 Published online March 1, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Wang, Y. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 15, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002566 Contact: Jing Zhang, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: zhangj@uw.edu</p>