This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Genomic markers to guide the use of neoadjuvant aromatase inhibitors in patients with breast cancer	<p>Whole-genome and exome sequencing of pretreatment tumor biopsies from patients with breast cancer that received neoadjuvant aromatase inhibitors identified potential markers for patient stratification. A predictive algorithm based on the sequencing and clinical data determined that individuals with <i>MAP kinase kinase 1</i> (<i>MAP3K1</i>; <i>MEKK1</i>) mutations, low Ki-67 (antigen KI-67; MKI67) index and luminal A subtype likely would respond to neoadjuvant aromatase inhibitor treatment, whereas those with <i>p53</i> mutations, high Ki-67 index and luminal B subtype likely would not respond. Next steps include using larger numbers of patient samples to optimize the predictive algorithm in preparation for using the method to stratify patients in a clinical trial.</p> <p>Marketed aromatase inhibitors for breast cancer include AstraZeneca plc's Arimidex anastrozole, Novartis AG's Femara letrozole and Pfizer Inc.'s Aromasin exemestane.</p> <p>SciBX 5(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.715 Published online July 12, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Ellis, M.J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 10, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11143</p> <p>Contact: Elaine R. Mardis, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: emardis@wustl.edu</p>