This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Membrane proteins anchored by glycosylphosphatidylinositol as markers of breast carcinomas	<p>Membrane proteins anchored by glycosylphosphatidylinositol could be useful markers of breast carcinomas. In human cell lines, <i>Clostridium septicum</i> α-toxin bound and captured glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored membrane proteins. Human breast cancer tissues showed greater α-toxin binding than normal breast tissue. In human sera samples, two of the identified α-toxin-binding proteins, fermitin family member 3 (FERMT3) and filamin A (FLNA), were detected in at least 90% of breast cancer cases, whereas they were detected in 10% and 0% of nonmalignant sera, respectively. Next steps could include validating the candidate breast cancer biomarkers by analyzing sera samples from patients and nondiseased controls.</p> <p>SciBX 5(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.716 Published online July 12, 2012</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use of α-toxin as a tool for the discovery and detection of cancer biomarkers; available for licensing from The University of Georgia Technology Commercialization Office</p>	<p>Zhao, P. <i>et al. J. Cell Biol.</i>; published online May 31, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.339465 Contact: Karen L. Abbott, Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, The University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. e-mail: kabbott@uga.edu</p>