This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Pseudogenes as markers and therapeutic targets for human diseases	<p>Transcriptome analysis and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest pseudogenes could be useful as biomarkers or therapeutic targets for human diseases such as cancer. Pseudogenes are copies of genes that have lost the ability to encode proteins. Transcriptome analysis of 248 cancer and 45 benign samples covering 13 tissue types generated pseudogene expression maps that helped identify tissue- and cancer-specific pseudogenes. In two human breast cancer cell lines, small interfering RNA-mediated knockdown of a breast cancer-associated pseudogene decreased proliferation compared with knockdown of the wild-type version of the gene. Next steps could include studies in larger numbers of samples.</p> <p>SciBX 5(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.717 Published online July 12, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Kalyana-Sundaram, S. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online June 22, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.04.041 Contact: Arul M. Chinnaiyan, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: arul@umich.edu</p>