This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
A detector to quantify antibody- and magnetic nanoparticle-tagged circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in whole blood	<p>A detector that quantifies antibody- and magnetic nanoparticle-tagged CTCs could be useful for cancer diagnosis. In whole blood, cells were labeled with targeted antibodies and magnetic nanoparticles and then screened in a microfluidic chip-based detector that uses magnetic sensors. In 20 samples from patients with ovarian cancer, the detector quantified CTCs in 100% of patients with progressive disease, whereas the CellSearch Circulating Tumor Cell Kit quantified only 18%. Next steps include increasing the system's throughput.</p> <p>Johnson & Johnson's Veridex LLC unit markets CellSearch to capture and count CTCs to determine the prognosis of patients with metastatic prostate, colorectal or breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.766 Published online July 26, 2012</p>	Provisional patent filed; available for licensing	<p>Issadore, D. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online July 14, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003747</p> <p>Contact: Ralph Weissleder, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rweissleder@mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Hakho Lee, same affiliation as above e-mail: hlee@mgh.harvard.edu</p>