This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Serum biomarker for Alzheimer's disease (AD)	<p>A study in patients with AD suggests low plasma levels of apolipoprotein E (APOE) could help predict AD onset. In 396 patients with mild cognitive impairment, an early stage of AD, compared with healthy control subjects, the AD-associated <i>APOE4</i> allele was associated with lower plasma levels of APOE. After one year, patients from this cohort who advanced to full AD had lower plasma levels of APOE than patients whose disease did not progress. Next steps could include replicating the findings in a larger cohort and studying the relationship between APOE levels and other plasma markers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.803 Published online Aug. 2, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Soares, H.D. <i>et al. Arch. Neurol.</i>; published online July 16, 2012; doi:10.1001/archneurol.2012.1070 Contact: Holly D. Soares, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., Wallingford, Conn. e-mail: holly.soares@bms.com</p>