This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Subtype-specific somatic mutations in medulloblastoma	<p>Identification of new subtype-specific somatic mutations in medulloblastoma could aid the development of new treatments for the disease. Whole-exome hybrid capture and deep sequencing of 92 primary medulloblastoma samples identified 12 genes mutated at statistically significant frequencies, including new mutations in four genes: <i>DEAD box polypeptide 3 X-linked (DDX3X)</i>, <i>G protein pathway suppressor 2 (GPS2)</i>, <i>BCL6 co-repressor (BCOR)</i> and <i>LIM domain binding 1 (LDB1)</i>. The <i>DDX3X</i> mutations were associated with mutant β-catenin (<i>CTNNB1</i>) in medulloblastoma. The <i>GPS2</i>, <i>BCOR</i> and <i>LDB1</i> mutations were associated with nuclear co-repressor signaling pathways in the disease. Next steps include determining whether targeting the genes and pathways results in a biological or therapeutic effect.</p> <p>SciBX 5(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.804 Published online Aug. 2, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Pugh, T.J. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 22, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11329 Contact: Yoon-Jae Cho, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: yjcho1@stanford.edu Contact: Scott L. Pomeroy, same affiliation as above e-mail: scott.pomeroy@childrens.harvard.edu Contact: Matthew Meyerson, same affiliation as above e-mail: matthew_meyerson@dfci.harvard.edu</p>