This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Prenatal genome sequencing	<p>A study in pregnant women suggests fetal whole-genome sequencing could help detect chromosomal abnormalities. In blood from two pregnant women, a DNA isolation and enrichment procedure allowed the sequencing of the complete fetal genome, leading to the detection of a 2.85 Mb deletion associated with DiGeorge syndrome. Next steps could include development of screening procedures to detect the presence of hereditary disease alleles in fetal DNA circulating in maternal blood.</p> <p>SciBX 5(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.909 Published online Aug. 30, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fan, H.C. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 4, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11251 Contact: Stephen R. Quake, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: quake@stanford.edu</p>