This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Human blood metabolite-based timetable	<p>A human blood metabolite-based timetable could help estimate internal body time with just two blood samples. Delivering drugs based on internal body time is associated with improved therapeutic efficacy and reduced side effects, but measuring internal body time requires constant sampling of metabolite levels for more than 24 hours. Blood samples from human subjects were taken every 2 hours over 1.5 days and used to create a reference internal body timetable based on metabolite levels at various time points. In paired human blood samples taken 12 hours apart, the resulting reference metabolite timetable was able to predict internal body time to within 3 hours. Next steps include testing the timetable in additional subjects and developing a strategy to only require a single blood sample.</p> <p>SciBX 5(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.963 Published online Sept. 13, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Kasukawa, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Aug. 27, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1207768109 Contact: Hiroki R. Ueda, RIKEN Quantitative Biology Center, Hyogo, Japan e-mail: uedah-tky@umin.ac.jp Contact: Tomoyoshi Soga, Keio University, Yamagata, Japan e-mail: soga@sfc.keio.ac.jp</p>