This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
An automated microfluidic tissue processor (MTP) for immunohistochemistry	An automated MTP could allow immunohistochemistry to detect cancer biomarkers. The microfluidic device delivered fluorescently labeled antibodies and other bioreagents to 5 µm-thick tissue samples and subsequently generated immunohistochemistry (IHC) images of the tissues. In a set of 76 human invasive ductal breast carcinomas, MTP-IHC resulted in 73 accurate HER2 (EGFR2; ErbB2; neu) diagnoses and 3 ambiguous scores, whereas traditional IHC resulted in 49 accurate HER2 diagnoses and 27 ambiguous scores. Next steps include optimizing the MTP to automatically quantify HER2 expression and comparing the results with current clinical scoring.	Patent application filed; unlicensed	Ciftlik, A.T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 11, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1211273110 Contact: Martin A.M. Gijs, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: martin.gijs@epfl.ch
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