This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Colorectal cancer (CRC) classification system that correlates cellular phenotype to clinical outcome	<p>Computational analysis of drug-induced gene expression profiles in CRC provides a classification system that could be used to guide treatment decisions. Gene expression data from 1,290 CRC tumors were analyzed and mapped to a data set of clinical responses to the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) inhibitor Erbitux cetuximab in 80 patients. Six subgroups were identified that corresponded to different levels of disease-free survival. For each subgroup, gene expression and protein biomarkers were identified that could be used to propose subtype-specific therapeutic strategies. Next steps include refining the quantitative gene expression approach and further validating the CRC subtype-specific signatures using additional retrospective sample sets.</p> <p>Eli Lilly and Co. and partners Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Merck KGaA market Erbitux to treat CRC and head and neck cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.451 Published online May 9, 2013</p>	Patent status undisclosed; available for licensing	<p>Sadanandam, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online April 14, 2013; doi:10.1038/nm.3175</p> <p>Contact: Douglas Hanahan, Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: douglas.hanahan@epfl.ch</p> <p>Contact: Joe W. Gray, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon e-mail: grayjo@oshu.edu</p>