This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
DNA analysis of Pap smear samples to detect ovarian and endometrial cancer	<p>DNA sequencing of Pap smear samples could help diagnose ovarian and endometrial cancer. In Pap smear samples isolated from patients with endometrial or ovarian tumors, targeted DNA amplification and sequencing identified tumor-associated mutations in all 24 endometrial cancer cases and 9 of 22 ovarian cancer cases. In Pap smear samples from patients with cancer and healthy controls, a multiplexed test that amplifies and sequences 50 commonly mutated genomic regions identified mutations in all 14 cancer cases and none of the 14 controls. Next steps include validating the PapGene test on a larger number of specimens to determine its specificity and sensitivity.</p> <p>SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.96 Published online Jan. 31, 2013</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from The Johns Hopkins University Contact: Keith Baker, Technology Transfer, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: kbaker@jhmi.edu</p>	<p>Kinde, I. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 9, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3004952 Contact: Bert Vogelstein, Ludwig Center for Cancer Genetics and Therapeutics, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: bertvog@gmail.com Contact: Luis A. Diaz Jr., same affiliation as above e-mail: ldiaz1@jhmi.edu Contact: Isaac Kinde, same affiliation as above e-mail: ik@jhmi.edu</p>