This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Noninvasive diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease using nasal brushings or urine samples	<p>Two separate studies in human samples suggest Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease could be diagnosed using nasal brushings or urine samples. The first study showed that a mechanical agitation-based assay could detect prion protein (PRNP; PrP; CD230) in 30 of 31 nasal brushings from patients with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and 0 of 43 nasal brushings from subjects without the disease. The second study showed that a protein misfolding cyclic amplification assay could detect PrP in 13 of 14 urine samples from patients with the disease and 0 of 224 samples from subjects without the disease. Next steps include testing the assays in additional patient cohorts.</p> <p>SciBX 7(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1087 Published online Sept. 18, 2014</p>	<p>For first study: nasal brushing method covered by two issued and two filed patents; available for licensing</p> <p>For second study: urine method patented; licensed to Amprion Inc.</p>	<p>Orrú, C.D. <i>et al. N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 7, 2014; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1315200 Contact: Gianluigi Zanusso, University Hospital Integrated Trust of Verona, Verona, Italy e-mail: gianluigi.zanusso@univr.it Contact: Byron Caughey, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Hamilton, Mont. e-mail: bcaughey@nih.gov</p> <p>Moda, F. <i>et al. N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 7, 2014; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1404401 Contact: Claudio Soto, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Houston, Texas e-mail: claudio.soto@uth.tmc.edu</p>