This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Aptamer-mediated detection of low-epitope targets using organic receptor derivatization agents	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest aptamer-mediated detection of low-epitope molecules such as monosaccharides could help diagnostics development. Certain small molecule diagnostic targets such as glucose lack differentiating surface epitopes required for binding and detection with aptamers. In buffer solutions with glucose, fructose or galactose, addition of excess high-epitope organic receptors that bind the monosaccharides plus aptamers designed to specifically bind each receptor enabled detection of each monosaccharide. In sera spiked with aromatic amino acids, specific receptors and an aptamer enabled measurement of varying concentrations of the target. Next steps include testing the method in a large number of clinical samples.</p> <p>SciBX 7(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1247 Published online Oct. 30, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Yang, K.-A. <i>et al. Nat. Chem.</i>; published online Sept. 28, 2014; doi:10.1038/nchem.2058 Contact: Milan N. Stojanovic, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: mns18@columbia.edu Contact: Tilla S. Worgall, same affiliation as above e-mail: tpw7@columbia.edu</p>