This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Mutant <i>NRL</i> family <i>CARD</i> domain containing 4 (<i>NLR4</i>) as a marker of familial cold autoinflammatory syndrome (FCAS)	<p>Studies in patients and mice suggest a mutation in <i>NLR4</i> could be a diagnostic marker for FCAS, which involves episodes of rash, arthralgia and fever after exposure to cold stimuli. Genomic sequencing of seven non-consanguineous members of a Japanese family identified a heterozygous 1589A>C missense mutation in <i>NLR4</i> in the five individuals who had the condition but not in the two individuals who did not. In mice, the equivalent missense mutation in <i>Nlr4</i> yielded animals that recapitulated symptoms of human FCAS, such as systemic autoinflammation in response to cold stimuli. Next steps could include validating the missense mutation as a marker of FCAS in larger patient cohorts.</p> <p>SciBX 7(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1393 Published online Dec. 11, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kitamura, A. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Exp. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 10, 2014; doi:10.1084/jem.20141091 Contact: Koji Yasutomo, Tokushima University, Tokushima, Japan e-mail: yasutomo@tokushima-u.ac.jp</p>