This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assay & screens			
An antibody specific to an oxidized form of apolipoprotein A-1 (APOA1) to diagnose atherosclerosis	An antibody specific for oxidized, dysfunctional APOA1 complexes could be used to diagnose atherosclerosis. The mAb r8B5.2 was developed against a form of APOA1 that contains an oxidized Trp-72 residue (oxTrp72-APOA1). In mice, injection of oxTrp72-APOA1, but not injection of normal APOA1, impaired formation of cholesterol-containing high-density lipoprotein complexes, suggesting the oxidized variant promotes atherosclerosis. In blood samples from a 627-patient cohort, use of r8B5.2 showed that absolute levels of oxTrp72-APOA1 and ratios of oxTrp72-APOA1 to total APOA1 were associated with elevated cardiovascular disease risk. Next steps include further studying the prognostic value of the antibody in prospective studies and investigating what interventions modulate levels of oxTrp72-APOA1.	Patent applications filed; IP covering a diagnostic test with r8B5.2 licensed to Cleveland HeartLab Inc.	Huang, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Jan. 26, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3459 Contact: Stanley L. Hazen, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: hazens@ccf.org
SciBX 7(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.233			
Published online Feb. 27, 2014			