This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Measurement of β -amyloid ($A\beta$) oligomers in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to diagnose and monitor the progression of Alzheimer's disease (AD)	<p>An assay that measures $A\beta$ oligomers levels in CSF could help diagnose AD and monitor disease progression in patients. An ELISA using an anti-$A\beta$ oligomer mAb detected $A\beta$ oligomers in CSF at levels as low as 0.09 picograms/mL. In CSF from patients with AD, $A\beta$ oligomer levels were higher than those in CSF from healthy controls and patients with Parkinson's disease (PD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or schizophrenia. In patients with AD, $A\beta$ oligomer levels correlated with disease severity as measured by mini-mental state examination (MMSE) scores. Next steps could include testing diagnostic applications of the assay in a larger cohort of patients with AD.</p> <p>SciBX 7(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.293 Published online March 13, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Savage, M.J. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 19, 2014; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1675-13.2014 Contact: Mary J. Savage, Merck & Co. Inc., West Point, Pa. e-mail: mary_savage@merck.com</p>