This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Protein M, an IgG-binding protein with a new mode of antibody interaction	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest Protein M, a broadly reactive, antibody-binding protein, could complement Proteins A and G as a reagent for large-scale antibody purification. Protein M from <i>Mycoplasma genitalium</i> bound all isotypes of human and nonhuman IgG through a binding mode distinct from other high-affinity IgG-binding proteins targeting a conserved region on the variable chain of IgG. In binding assays, pretreatment with recombinant Protein M blocked binding between antibody-antigen pairs including a monoclonal anti-influenza antibody-antigen pair and a mouse polyclonal lupus antibody-antigen pair. Ongoing studies could include purifying the agent for therapeutic and research purposes.</p> <p>SciBX 7(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.294 Published online March 13, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; licensing negotiations under way with three undisclosed companies; available for licensing	<p>Grover, R.K. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Feb. 7, 2014; doi:10.1126/science.1246135 Contact: Richard A. Lerner, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: rlerner@scripps.edu</p>