This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Polymerized antibody-tagged magnetic beads for isolation of circulating tumor cells (CTCs)	<p>Magnetic beads tagged with polymerized antibodies or antibody-like molecules could help capture CTCs for cancer research purposes. A method of forming isopeptide bonds between peptide-tagged proteins enabled synthesis of polymeric chains of antibody-like molecules targeting epidermal growth factor receptor 1 (EGFR1; HER1; ErbB1) or HER2 (EGFR2; ErbB2; neu). In cultures of human breast cancer cell lines expressing HER1 or in blood samples spiked with HER2⁺ breast cancer cells, magnetic beads tagged with the polymerized antibody-like molecules captured cells better than magnetic beads tagged with monomeric antibody-like molecules. Planned work includes using the technology to capture CTCs from patients with breast cancer enrolled in a clinical trial of an undisclosed antiangiogenic therapy.</p> <p>SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.409 Published online April 10, 2014</p>	Patent application filed by University of Oxford for method of isopeptide bond formation; available for licensing	<p>Fierer, J.O. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 17, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1315776111</p> <p>Contact: Mark Howarth, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K. e-mail: mark.howarth@bioch.ox.ac.uk</p>