This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Detection of <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> or Trypanosome infection with ultrasound-based separation of red blood cells (RBCs)	An ultrasound-based separation technique could help detect low levels of parasitemia. The densities of RBCs infected with <i>P. falciparum</i> are known to be lower than those of uninfected RBCs. A handheld device was constructed that exposed a human blood droplet to ultrasonic waves to induce density-based separation of infected RBCs and allow for sample extraction for microscopic analysis. Compared with no separation, the technique increased infected cell levels in samples by over 100-fold and enabled detection of <i>Trypanosoma cyclops</i> and the ring stage of <i>P. falciparum</i> at levels corresponding to 6 parasites/mL and 25 parasites/ μ L. Ongoing work includes optimizing the technology for <i>P. falciparum</i> detection.	Patented by the University of Glasgow; licensed to SAW Dx Ltd.	Bourquin, Y. <i>et al. Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.</i> ; published online March 26, 2014; doi:10.1002/anie.201310401 Contact: Jonathan M. Cooper, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, U.K. e-mail: jon.cooper@glasgow.ac.uk
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