This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
<i>Solute carrier family 12 potassium-chloride transporter member 2 (SLC12A2; NKCC1)</i> -based markers for schizophrenia	Genetic profiling studies suggest assessing variation in <i>NKCC1</i> expression could help predict schizophrenia risk. <i>NKCC1</i> is expressed as two alternative splice variants— <i>NKCC1a</i> and <i>NKCC1b</i> —and as an ultra-short transcript. Sequencing and analysis of postmortem brain tissue samples showed that schizophrenia patients had lower expression of the <i>NKCC1b</i> and ultra-short transcripts than controls without psychiatric disorders. The rs3087889 SNP in <i>NKCC1</i> was associated with decreased <i>NKCC1b</i> expression and increased risk of schizophrenia. Next steps could include validating the various <i>NKCC1</i> -based markers in larger patient cohorts.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Morita, Y. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online April 2, 2014; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1423-13.2014 Contact: Thomas M. Hyde, Lieber Institute for Brain Development, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: thomas.hyde@libd.org
	<i>SciBX</i> 7(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.509 Published online May 1, 2014		