This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Forssman disaccharide antibodies predict positive response to ProstVac-VF prostate cancer vaccine	<p>Patient sample studies suggest serum antibodies against Forssman disaccharide could help predict a positive response to ProstVac-VF, a poxvirus-based cancer vaccine that induces responses to prostate-specific antigen (KLK3; PSA) as well as a poxvirus-specific carbohydrate called Forssman disaccharide. In two independent cohorts of over 100 patients, ProstVac-VF-treated patients who had high Forssman disaccharide serum antibodies showed increased overall survival compared with those who had low serum antibody levels and those who received a control vector. In an additional cohort of 13 patients receiving both ProstVac-VF and the radiopharmaceutical Quadramet, seven patients had high levels of Forssman disaccharide serum antibodies and increased overall survival compared with those who had low serum levels of the antibodies. Next steps could include validating the marker in additional patient cohorts.</p> <p>Bavarian Nordic A/S has ProstVac-VF rilimogene galvacirepvec in Phase III testing to treat prostate cancer.</p> <p>Jazz Pharmaceuticals plc markets Quadramet samarium 153 lexidronam to treat bone pain associated with cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.571 Published online May 15, 2014</p>	<p>Patent and licensing status unavailable</p>	<p>Campbell, C.T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 14, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1314722111 Contact: Jeffrey C. Gildersleeve, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: gildersj@mail.nih.gov</p>