This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
<i>Hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase 15 NAD (HPGD; 15-PGDH)</i> expression as a biomarker of aspirin-associated decrease in colorectal cancer risk	<p>Measuring <i>HPGD</i> expression could help predict whether regular aspirin use will help decrease colorectal cancer risk. In a study with 127,865 participants, regular aspirin use was associated with decreased incidence of colorectal cancer in subjects who had high <i>HPGD</i> expression in the colonic mucosa but not in subjects who had low <i>HPGD</i> expression. Next steps include carrying out a prospective clinical trial to determine whether levels of <i>HPGD</i> in patients are a significant predictor of whether aspirin therapy can decrease recurrent colorectal polyps.</p> <p>SciBX 7(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.572 Published online May 15, 2014</p>	Use of <i>HPGD</i> to select individuals for treatment with aspirin patented; available for licensing	<p>Fink, S.P. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 23, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3008481</p> <p>Contact: Andrew T. Chan, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: achan@mgh.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Reiko Nishihara, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rnishiha@hsph.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Sanford D. Markowitz, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: sxm10@cwru.edu</p>