This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Microfluidic chip for cultivation of diverse bacterial species	<p>A microfluidic cultivation system could be useful for growing bacterial species that cannot be cultured with conventional protocols. The method uses the SlipChip platform, which can create thousands of compartmentalized reactions on a chip, and various growth substrates to isolate microbes present in a sample and identify viable culture conditions. The system was used to define viable culture conditions for a member of the <i>Oscillibacter</i> genus identified in a human cecal biopsy. Researchers did not disclose next steps, which could include using the microfluidics system to identify viable culture conditions for other bacterial species.</p> <p>SlipChip Corp. markets the SlipChip microfluidics platform.</p> <p>SciBX 7(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.876 Published online July 31, 2014</p>	Patented; licensed to SlipChip	<p>Ma, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 25, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1404753111</p> <p>Contact: Rustem F. Ismagilov, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif. e-mail: rustem.admin@caltech.edu</p>