This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Mutations in <i>p53</i> and <i>SMAD</i> family member 4 (<i>MADH4</i> ; <i>SMAD4</i> ; <i>DPC4</i>) as risk factors for esophageal cancer	Genome sequencing studies suggest mutations in <i>p53</i> and <i>SMAD4</i> could help identify patients with Barrett's esophagus who have a high probability of developing esophageal adenocarcinoma. Individuals with Barrett's esophagus have an increased risk of developing esophageal adenocarcinoma but most do not progress to invasive disease. Genomic sequencing of patient samples showed that mutations in <i>p53</i> or <i>SMAD4</i> were associated with progression from Barrett's esophagus to high-grade dysplasia or esophageal adenocarcinoma. Next steps could include validating the study prospectively.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Weaver, J.M.J. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i> ; published online June 22, 2014; doi:10.1038/ng.3013 Contact: Rebecca C. Fitzgerald, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: rcf29@mrc-cu.cam.ac.uk
	SciBX 7(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.940 Published online Aug. 14, 2014		