This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Gold plasmonic chip for biomarker discovery and diagnosis of type 1 diabetes	An islet antigen microarray on a gold plasmonic chip could be useful for discovering biomarkers and diagnosing type 1 diabetes. The gold plasmonic chip is a multiplexed islet antigen microarray that consists of nanostructured gold islands on a glass surface, which are coated with a layer of polyethylene glycol and then printed with islet antigens. When tested with human serum samples, the chip detected islet-targeting autoantibodies from sample volumes of about 2 μ L and distinguished between type 1 and type 2 diabetes with sensitivity and specificity comparable to those of a radioimmunoassay. Next steps include using the chip to discover biomarkers for type 1 diabetes and to understand disease pathogenesis and forming a company to commercialize the technology.	Patent applications filed; licensing status undisclosed	Zhang, B. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online July 13, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3619 Contact: Brian J. Feldman, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: feldman@stanford.edu Contact: Hongjie Dai, same affiliation as above e-mail: hdai1@stanford.edu
	SciBX 7(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.961 Published online Aug. 21, 2014		