This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Gene expression signature for predicting responsiveness to breast cancer therapy	Human genetic studies suggest that an interferon (IFN)-related DNA damage resistance signature could help predict negative response to breast cancer therapy. The signature is an expression profile that includes genes associated with an *IFN-STAT1* prosurvival signaling pathway. In 295 cases of early-stage breast cancer, the signature correctly predicted response to adjuvant chemotherapy or radiotherapy but did not predict occurrence of metastasis or prognosis in the absence of therapy. Next steps include developing a detection assay that works on a formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sample, validating the assay and assessing the utility of the predictive marker in other types of cancer. At least four companies have tests marketed or approved for diagnosing or assessing prognosis of breast cancer. *SciBX* 1(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1035 Published online Nov. 20, 2008	Patent application filed for marker technology in U.S. for diagnostic, prognostic and therapy-response uses; available for licensing	Weichselbaum, R. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Nov. 6, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0809242105 **Contact:** Andy Minn, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. e-mail: aminn@radonc.uchicago.edu