

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
MicroRNA profiling of multiple cell types	A microarray-based technique could offer improved sensitivity over cloning and direct hybridization methods for detecting miRNAs involved in cell differentiation and tumorigenesis. In human embryonic stem cells (hESCs), the screen identified a single consensus sequence, AAGTGC, that was significantly overrepresented compared with other sequences in a population of upregulated miRNAs ($p < 1.2 \times 10^{-14}$). The method also revealed that oncogenic miRNAs were significantly upregulated ($p < 0.008$) and tumor suppressor miRNAs were significantly downregulated ($p < 0.000475$) compared with the overall expression of miRNAs in hESCs. Next steps include generating a cell profile database and using the method to categorize cell types.	Not patented; unavailable for licensing	Laurent, L.C. <i>et al. Stem Cells</i> ; published online April 10, 2008; doi:10.1634/stemcells.2007-1081 Contact: Louise C. Laurent, University of California, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: llaurent@ucsd.edu Contact: Jeanne F. Loring, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: jloring@scripps.edu