

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Targeting core signaling pathways in pancreatic cancer	A genome-wide association study suggests that targeting core signaling pathways, as opposed to individual genes, may be a more viable strategy for treating pancreatic cancer. An analysis of 24 advanced pancreatic adenocarcinomas identified 1,562 disease-associated somatic mutations from a set of 20,661 genes. Many of the mutated genes play roles in 12 partially overlapping core signaling pathways. Next steps include identifying compounds that target key mediators in the core signaling pathways.	Patent pending; Beckman Coulter Inc. assessing exclusive option for certain aspects of the technology	Jones, S. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online Sept. 4, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1164368 Contact: Kenneth W. Kinzler, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: kinzlke@welch.jhu.edu Contact: Victor E. Velculescu, same affiliation as above e-mail: velculescu@jhmi.edu Contact: Bert Vogelstein, same affiliation as above e-mail: bertvog@gmail.com