This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Sequential long- and short-read transcriptome sequencing for gene fusion detection	<p>Sequential long- and short-read transcriptome sequencing could be useful for detecting gene fusions underlying cancer and other diseases. In proof-of-concept experiments, long-read sequencing using Roche subsidiary 454 Life Sciences Corp.'s FLX Sequencing followed by short-read sequencing using Illumina Inc.'s Genome Analyzer detected the <i>BCR-ABL1</i> gene fusion in a chronic myelogenous leukemia cell line and the <i>TMPRSS2-ERG</i> gene fusion in a prostate cancer cell line. Transcriptome analysis of prostate cancer tissues provided a panel of gene fusions of potential interest as markers for this condition. Further studies are necessary to validate the new prostate cancer markers and to refine the approach to minimize false positives.</p> <p>SciBX 2(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.116 Published online Jan. 22, 2009</p>	Patent application filed in the U.S., EU and Japan covering prostate cancer findings; findings licensed to Gen-Probe Inc. for diagnostic application; available for licensing for therapeutic use	<p>Maher, C. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 11, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07638</p> <p>Contact: Arul M. Chinnaiyan, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: arul@umich.edu</p>