

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Direct RNA sequencing	Direct sequencing of small amounts of short RNAs could be useful for single-cell gene expression analysis and RNA-based diagnostics. As proof of concept, about 2 ng of poly(A) RNA from the yeast <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> were captured onto a solid support and sequenced, providing read lengths of up to several dozen nucleotides. Sequence reads showed high concordance with those obtained using conventional cDNA sequencing. Next steps include ongoing efforts to implement the approach on the HeliScope single-molecule sequencer for high throughput transcriptional analysis. Helicos BioSciences Corp. markets HeliScope.	Patent status undisclosed; available for licensing	Ozsolak, F. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Sept. 23, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08390 Contact: Patrice Milos, Helicos BioSciences Corp., Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: pmilos@helicosbio.com
	SciBX 2(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1452 Published online Oct. 1, 2009		