This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
<i>In vivo</i> selection of tumor-targeting RNA aptamers	<p><i>In vivo</i> selection of tumor-targeting RNA aptamers could be useful for developing tumor-specific hybrid molecules to treat cancer. Mice with colorectal cancer metastases in the liver were injected with a library of RNA aptamers of random sequences to screen for tumor-binding motifs. After 14 rounds of <i>in vivo</i> selection, the RNA aptamers extracted from the mouse tumors showed specific affinity for the colorectal cancer cells compared with a random aptamer from the original library. The lead aptamer bound to DEAD box polypeptide 5 (DDX5; p68), an RNA helicase known to be upregulated in colorectal cancer. Next steps include evaluating the specificity and efficacy of delivering therapeutic moieties using the lead aptamer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1775 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Patent pending covering the <i>in vivo</i> functional selection process; licensed to an undisclosed party	<p>Mi, J. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Nov. 29, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.277</p> <p>Contact: Bryan M. Clary, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. e-mail: bryan.clary@duke.edu</p> <p>Contact: Bruce A. Sullenger, same affiliation as above e-mail: bruce.sullenger@duke.edu</p>