SciBX
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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Microfluidic screening of aptamer libraries	A microfluids-based platform could isolate DNA aptamers with high protein-binding affinities more quickly and efficiently than existing approaches. Screening an aptamer library with the smallest amount of target will in principle select for aptamers with the highest binding affinity. Magnetic beads immobilized with recombinant light chain *Botulinum* neurotoxin A bound DNA aptamers, and the beads were magnetically separated from unbound DNA aptamers on a microfluidics chip. After a single round of screening, 15 aptamers were selected and 4 aptamers showed binding affinities of 34–86 nM. Future work could validate the platform against known aptamer targets and demonstrate whether it could be used to screen for aptamers targeting small molecule or peptide libraries. *SciBX* 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.297 Published online Feb. 19, 2009	Patent and licensing status undisclosed **Contact:** Sherylle Mills Englander, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. phone: 805-893-5180 e-mail: englander@research.ucsb.edu	Lou, X. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813135106 **Contact:** H. Tom Soh, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. e-mail: tsoh@engineering.ucsb.edu