

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Instrumentation			
Immunomagnetic isolation of rare cells from blood	<p>A magnetic device to isolate rare cells from blood samples could help cancer research and diagnosis. Using a robotic magnetic rod, as few as 50 magnetically tagged, major histocompatibility complex class I A2 (HLA-A2)-positive cells were captured in 1–3 mL blood samples. In samples from breast cancer patients, epithelial cell adhesion molecule (EpCAM)-positive circulating epithelial cells were captured from 9 mL samples. The device achieved up to a 10⁸-fold increase for EpCAM cells. Ongoing work is seeking to further optimize the device for the isolation of rare cancer cells from blood samples.</p> <p>SciBX 2(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.343 Published online Feb. 26, 2009</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Talasaz, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb.16, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813188106 Contact: Stefanie S. Jeffrey, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: ssj@stanford.edu Contact: Ronald W. Davis, same affiliation as above e-mail: dbowe@stanford.edu</p>