This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Phosphatase and tensin homolog deleted on chromosome ten (PTEN; MMAC1; TEP1) as a marker for poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor responsiveness in endometrial cancer	<p>Studies in cell culture suggest that PTEN deficiency could be a useful biomarker for responsiveness of endometrial cancer to PARP inhibitors. In a panel of eight human endometrial adenocarcinoma cell lines, PTEN deficiency was associated with greater sensitivity to a PARP inhibitor than that in nondeficient controls ($p < 0.01$). In an endometrial cancer cell line expressing wild-type PTEN, small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of PTEN increased sensitivity to a PARP inhibitor compared with that seen using control shRNA. Next steps could include validating the results in primary tumor samples.</p> <p>Iniparib, a PARP inhibitor from sanofi-aventis Group, is in Phase III testing to treat multiple cancers.</p> <p>At least five other companies have PARP inhibitors in Phase II or earlier to treat cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1281 Published online Oct. 28, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Dedes, K.J. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 15, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3001538</p> <p>Contact: Jorge S. Reis-Filho, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, U.K. e-mail: jorge.reis-filho@icr.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Konstantin J. Dedes, same affiliation as above e-mail: konstantin.dedes@icr.ac.uk</p>