This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Noninvasive detection of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in prostate cancer patients	A method for noninvasive detection of CTCs in prostate cancer patients could help guide the choice of proper treatment regimens. CTCs are shed into the blood by both local and metastatic tumors. For 8 of 12 men with prostate tumors, an automated microfluidic device identified CTCs in blood samples before surgery. In men with metastatic prostate cancer, the device detected CTCs in 23 of 36 patients before therapy and monitored decreasing CTC numbers as therapy progressed. Next steps could include further optimization of the technology.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Stott, S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online March 31, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000403 Contact: Daniel A. Haber, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: haber@helix.mgh.harvard.edu
	SciBX 3(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.507 Published online April 22, 2010		