This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Genetic risk markers for autism	<p>A study in humans identified rare mutations that could be useful for predicting risk of autism. Microarray analysis of the genomes of autistic children and their parents identified a total of 226 gene deletions or duplications that were absent in healthy controls. Approximately 5.7% of autistic patients had at least one of these deletions or duplications. Next steps include resequencing the candidate genes from the study to identify point mutations that could correlate with disease in other autistic patients and developing screening procedures for early diagnosis and psychological therapy of autism.</p> <p>SciBX 3(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.783 Published online June 24, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Pinto, D. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09146 Contact: Stephen Scherer, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: stephen.scherer@sickkids.ca Contact: Geraldine Dawson, Autism Speaks, New York, N.Y. e-mail: gdawson@autismspeaks.org</p>