SciBX
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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
RE1-silencing transcription factor (REST; NRSF)-based breast cancer prognosis	Genetic studies suggest that measuring activity of the tumor suppressor REST in breast cancer biopsies could help predict breast cancer prognosis. Five of 129 human breast tumor samples showed overexpression of a set of 24 REST-regulated genes, indicating that those tumors lacked REST expression or activity. In the REST-deficient breast tumors, expression of a truncated splice variant of REST was increased, suggesting that alternative splicing could be responsible for lost REST activity. REST-deficient tumors were associated with lower disease-free survival, shorter average time to relapse, larger tumors and increased lymph node involvement. Next steps include validating the prognostic potential of the findings with a larger cohort of samples. *SciBX* 3(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.813 Published online July 1, 2010	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Wagoner, M.P. *et al. PLoS Genet.*; published online June 10, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000979 **Contact:** Avtar Roopra, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: roopra@neurology.wisc.edu