This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Multiple survival screening (MSS) algorithm for identifying biomarker sets that predict low-risk cases of breast cancer	The MSS algorithm could help identify biomarkers of low-risk breast cancer and thus reduce unnecessary treatment. The MSS algorithm screens data sets using randomly generated gene combinations. As proof of concept, MSS identified six biomarker sets for estrogen receptor (ER)-positive breast cancers and three biomarker sets for ER-negative breast cancers that correlated with greater disease-free survival. In 1,375 samples from 8 patient cohorts, the biomarker sets were able to identify low-risk patients with 86%–96% accuracy for the ER-positive subtype and 88%–100% accuracy for the ER-negative subtype. Next steps could include further testing of the biomarker sets in different patient cohorts in the U.S. *SciBX* **3(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.904** **Published online July 29, 2010**	Patent application filed covering the breast cancer markers and method for identifying prognostic and drug-response markers for other types of cancers; available for licensing **Contact:** Daniel Desmarteaux, National Research Council Canada, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: Daniel.Desmarteaux@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca	Li, J. *et al. Nat. Commun.*; published online July 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/ncomms1033 **Contact:** Edwin Wang, National Research Council Canada, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: Edwin.Wang@cnrc-nrc.gc.ca