

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Serum/glucocorticoid regulated kinase 1 (SGK1) activity as a marker for reproductive function	<p>Mouse and patient sample studies suggest SGK1 activity could be a biomarker for female infertility or recurrent pregnancy loss. In endometrial samples from patients with recurrent pregnancy loss or infertility, SGK1 mRNA levels were lower or higher, respectively, than those in fertile, healthy controls. In mice lacking Sgk1, spontaneous pregnancy loss was greater than that in wild-type controls. In mice, vector-mediated expression of a constitutively active Sgk1 decreased embryo implantation compared with wild-type Sgk1 expression. Next steps include identifying additional biomarkers in women at high risk of reproductive failure.</p> <p>SciBX 4(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1223 Published online Nov. 3, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Salker, M.S. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 16, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2498</p> <p>Contact: Jan J. Brosens, Warwick Medical School, Coventry, U.K. e-mail: j.j.brosens@warwick.ac.uk</p>