

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Assays &amp; screens</b>			
Amplicon fusion site (AFS) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for cancer diagnosis and prognosis	<i>In vitro</i> and patient tissue studies suggest that AFS-PCR could help stage cancer and detect residual disease. In cell culture, AFS-PCR assays detected 1 tumor cell in $1 \times 10^6$ – $8 \times 10^6$ control cells. In patient samples, AFS-PCR assays detected tumor cells in bone marrow, peripheral blood and residual tumor tissue compared with no signal in control tissue. Next steps include testing the prognostic potential of the method in multiple types of cancer.  <b>SciBX 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.139</b> <b>Published online Feb. 3, 2011</b>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Weber, A. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Jan. 10, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI44415 <b>Contact:</b> Axel Weber, Children's Hospital, University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany e-mail: <a href="mailto:axel.weber@medizin.uni-leipzig.de">axel.weber@medizin.uni-leipzig.de</a>