

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Four-protein signature for prostate cancer prognosis	<p>A signature of four proteins could help predict prostate cancer progression. In mice, prostate-specific deletion of Pten (Mmac1; Tep1) and mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 4 (Madh4; Smad4; Dpc4) led to metastatic prostate cancer and significantly shorter survival compared with either deletion alone. Also in mice, implantation of prostate tumor cells expressing cyclin D1 (Cnd1; Bcl1) or osteopontin (Opn; Spp1) led to greater tumor growth and metastasis than implantation of cells expressing control protein. In 405 patient prostate samples, immunohistochemical staining of PTEN, SMAD4, CCND1 and OPN predicted patient outcomes better than Gleason scoring. Next steps include improving quantitative detection of the four markers using immunofluorescent staining techniques.</p> <p>SciBX 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.267 Published online March 3, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensed exclusively to Metamark Genetics Inc.	<p>Ding, Z. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 2, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09677</p> <p>Contact: Ronald A. DePinho, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ron_depinho@dfci.harvard.edu</p> <p>Contact: Lynda Chin, same affiliation as above e-mail: lynda_chin@dfci.harvard.edu</p>