This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Diagnostic test for tuberculosis (TB)	<p>Studies in patient samples suggest that T cell cytokine profiles could be useful for distinguishing between active and latent <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> infection. <i>In vitro</i>, CD4⁺ T cells from patients with active disease produced only the single cytokine tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α). In contrast, CD4⁺ T cells from patients with latent disease produced multiple cytokines. In a cohort of 101 TB patients, the T cell analysis had 67% sensitivity and 92% specificity in predicting latent vs. active infection. Next steps include developing a cytokine profiling method that does not require specialized equipment and trained personnel.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.292 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Patent application filed in U.S.; available for licensing worldwide	<p>Harari, A. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 20, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2299</p> <p>Contact: Giuseppe Pantaleo, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland e-mail: giuseppe.pantaleo@chuv.ch</p>