This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Phosphorylated β -amyloid (A β) as a marker of Alzheimer's disease (AD)	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest phosphorylated A β could be developed as a biomarker for AD. <i>In vitro</i> , synthetic A β was phosphorylated at serine 8 after incubation with cultured mouse neuronal cells, human cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or purified protein kinase A (PKA) compared with incubation using CSF depleted of PKA. In brain samples from AD patients, an antibody detected phosphorylated A β enriched in amyloid plaques. Next steps include investigating the use of A β as a biomarker and characterizing the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the secretion of protein kinases in the brain.	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	Kumar, S. <i>et al.</i> <i>EMBO J</i> ; published online April 28, 2011; doi:10.1038/emboj.2011.138 Contact: Jochen Walter, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany e-mail: Jochen.Walter@ukb.uni-bonn.de
	SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.616 Published online May 26, 2011		