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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Mutations in fetal long noncoding RNA (lncRNA) as a diagnostic marker of hemolysis, liver enzymes and low platelets (HELLP) syndrome	Human and *in vitro* studies suggest fetal lncRNA mutations could help diagnose HELLP syndrome in pregnant women. Genomic analysis of patients with HELLP syndrome and unaffected family members identified associations between the syndrome in the mother and multiple SNPs on an lncRNA on fetal chromosome 12q23.2. In a human trophoblast cell line expressing wild-type lncRNA, antisense against lncRNA sites corresponding to several of the SNPs decreased the cells' invasive capacity, mimicking a clinical feature of HELLP syndrome, compared with inactive control antisense. Ongoing work includes investigating whether fetal lncRNA is detectable in maternal plasma. *SciBX* 5(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1149 Published online Nov. 1, 2012	Unpatented; available for partnering	van Dijk, M. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online Oct. 24, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI65171 **Contact:** Cees B.M. Oudejans, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: cbm.oudejans@vumc.nl