

**This week in techniques**

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Assays &amp; screens</b>			
Multiplexed, microfluidic protease activity assay for biomarker detection	A multiplexed, microfluidic assay that measures protease activity could be used to detect biomarkers. The device contains protease ligands and inhibitors in droplets on a chip that are mixed with picoliter volumes of biological fluids and analyzed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)-based proteolytic activity matrix analysis (PrAMA). As proof of concept, the platform analyzed 20 $\mu$ L samples of peritoneal fluid from patients with endometriosis and healthy controls and identified protease activity profiles that could discriminate between the two groups. Next steps include testing additional clinical samples and further optimizing the detection system.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Chen, C.-H. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Nov. 18, 2012; doi:10.1021/ja307866z <b>Contact:</b> Jongyoon Han, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: <a href="mailto: jyhan@mit.edu">jyhan@mit.edu</a>
	<b>SciBX 5(49); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1294</b> Published online Dec. 20, 2012		