

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Scalable, automated microfluidic western blotting	<p>A scalable, automated microfluidics system could help improve the efficiency of western blots. The automated system is compatible with 48-blot microchips and completes western blots in 10–60 minutes while consuming 1,000-fold less antibody than conventional western blots.</p> <p>As proof of concept, the system measured levels of NF-κB in cell lysates and detected HIV proteins in samples. Researchers did not disclose next steps, which could include using the system to detect and quantify levels of disease-linked proteins in clinical samples.</p> <p>SciBX 5(49); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1295 Published online Dec. 20, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing undisclosed	<p>Hughes, A.J. & Herr, A.E. <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 5, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1207754110 Contact: Amy E. Herr, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: ah@berkeley.edu</p>