

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Markers</b>			
Sequencing the <i>family with sequence similarity 175 (FAM175A; abraxas)</i> gene to determine breast cancer susceptibility and guide treatment	<p>Studies in cell culture and in patient samples suggest germline mutations in <i>abraxas</i> could contribute to susceptibility to breast cancer and help guide treatment decisions. <i>Abraxas</i> interacts with breast cancer 1 early onset (BRCA1) and helps recruit the complex to sites of DNA damage. In 125 familial Finnish patients with breast cancer, a mutation was identified in 3 patients that was absent in 868 healthy controls. In cultured cells with mutant <i>abraxas</i>, DNA-damaging <math>\gamma</math>-radiation led to greater cell death than that seen in cells with wild-type <i>abraxas</i>. Next steps could include screening additional patients for <i>abraxas</i> mutations.</p> <p><b>SciBX 5(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.270</b> Published online March 8, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Solyom, S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 22, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003223  <b>Contact:</b> Robert Winqvist, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:robert.winqvist@oulu.fi">robert.winqvist@oulu.fi</a>  <b>Contact:</b> Roger A. Greenberg, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.                      e-mail: <a href="mailto:rogergr@mail.med.upenn.edu">rogergr@mail.med.upenn.edu</a></p>