This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Comprehensive cell-line panel for predicting responses to cancer therapies	A collection of nearly 1,000 cancer cell lines could help predict responses to cancer therapies. The Cancer Cell Line Encyclopedia (CCLE) consists of 947 human cancer cell lines that encompass 36 tumor types. Multiple genomic technology platforms were used to characterize each of the cell lines according to three broad metrics: the mutational status of more than 1,600 genes, DNA copy number variation and mRNA expression. Based on those metrics, the sensitivity of the cell lines to 24 known cancer therapeutics was measured. As proof of principle, many cell lines were sensitive to broadly active compounds such as a histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor, whereas fewer cell lines were sensitive to more selective compounds such as a BRAF inhibitor. Next steps include using the platform to guide patient selection for Novartis AG's Phase I cancer trials. *SciBX* **5**(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.449 Published online April 26, 2012	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Barretina, J. *et al. Nature*; published online March 28, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11003 **Contact:** Levi A. Garraway, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: levi_garraway@dfci.harvard.edu **Contact:** Robert Schlegel, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: robert.schlegel@novartis.com