

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Aptamer-based assay against secreted proteins for the identification of new cancer biomarkers	An aptamer-based assay of secreted proteins may help identify new cancer biomarkers. The screen consisted of an RNA aptamer library that bound proteins secreted from a pancreatic cancer cell line but not proteins from a noncancerous pancreatic cell line. The screen identified an aptamer that bound serum cyclophilin B (CYPB; PPIB) and was able to distinguish patients with pancreatic cancer from healthy volunteers with 92% accuracy and a 4% false positive rate. Next steps include testing an optimized aptamer-based assay in patients with early stage pancreatic cancer or benign pancreatic disease and using the method to look for biomarkers in additional cancers. <i>SciBX</i> 5(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.501 Published online May 10, 2012	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Ray, P. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online April 9, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI62385 Contact: Rebekah R. White, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: rebekah.white@duke.edu Contact: Partha Ray, same affiliation as above e-mail: partha.ray@duke.edu