This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
High throughput sequencing strategy for pairs of immunoglobulin heavy (V_H) and light (V_L) variable regions	A method to sequence paired V_H and V_L regions could help improve the design of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. Sequencing methods usually do not provide any information on which V_H and V_L chains are paired. The new approach involves depositing, lysing and capturing mRNA from single B cells in high-density microwell plates. This mRNA is reverse transcribed, amplified as a pair by linkage PCR and then sequenced. The strategy identified variable region pairs for three types of B cells and was faster, less expensive and able to identify more paired sequences than single-cell RT-PCR. Next steps include optimizing the approach to increase throughput.	Patent application filed; licensing status available from The University of Texas at Austin	DeKosky, B.J. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Jan. 20, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2492 Contact: George Georgiou, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas e-mail: gg@che.utexas.edu
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