This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Highly prevalent telomerase reverse transcriptase (<i>TERT</i>) promoter mutations in melanoma	<p>Two independent studies identified highly prevalent mutations upstream of <i>TERT</i> that could help guide the development of new treatments for melanoma. In a family with members diagnosed with melanoma, sequencing studies identified mutations upstream of <i>TERT</i> in all affected individuals. In sporadic melanoma cases, one study identified mutations upstream of <i>TERT</i> in 33% of primary tumors and 85% of metastatic tumors, whereas the second study identified mutations upstream of <i>TERT</i> in 71% of melanoma samples. In cells carrying the mutations, <i>TERT</i> expression was greater than that in cells without such mutations. Next steps include additional studies evaluating the functional consequences of these mutations and the effect of <i>TERT</i> inhibition in this population.</p> <p>SciBX 6(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.154 Published online Feb. 14, 2013</p>	Findings in both studies unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Huang, F.W. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 24, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1229259 Contact: Levi A. Garraway, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: levi_garraway@dfci.harvard.edu</p> <p>Horn, S. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 24, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1230062 Contact: Rajiv Kumar, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany e-mail: r.kumar@dkfz.de Contact: Susanne Horn, same affiliation as above e-mail: s.horn@dkfz.de Contact: Dirk Schadendorf, Essen University Hospital, Essen, Germany e-mail: dirk.schadendorf@uk-essen.de</p>