This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
High throughput combinatorial screening to identify genotype-selective combination therapies for melanoma	<p>High throughput combinatorial screening could be useful for identifying genotype-selective combination therapies to treat melanoma. The combinatorial screen tested a curated panel of 150 small molecule chemotherapy or targeted therapies against melanomas with activating mutations in <i>BRAF</i> or <i>Ras</i> or those with wild-type forms of the genes. Inhibition of both epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and protein kinase B (PKB; PKBA; AKT; AKT1) sensitized treatment-resistant <i>BRAF</i> mutant melanomas to Zelboraf vemurafenib. The screen also found that <i>Ras</i>-mutant melanomas were sensitive to the combination of statins and cyclin dependent kinase (CDK) inhibitors. Next steps include running additional animal studies.</p> <p>Roche, Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd. and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. market the BRAF inhibitor Zelboraf to treat melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.41 Published online Jan. 17, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Held, M.A. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online Dec. 13, 2012; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-12-0408</p> <p>Contact: David F. Stern, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn. e-mail: df.stern@yale.edu</p>