This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Fluorescence-based bilirubin assay	<p>A fluorescent, bilirubin-binding protein, called UnaG, from the Japanese eel could be useful for a new bilirubin diagnostic assay. UnaG is an apoprotein that binds unconjugated bilirubin with high affinity and selectivity and that fluoresces upon binding. In both serum and whole blood, UnaG-based quantitation of unconjugated bilirubin was shown to be independent of conjugated bilirubin. Next steps include development of a low-cost fluorescence detector for use with the assay.</p> <p>SciBX 6(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.697 Published online July 18, 2013</p>	Patented by RIKEN; available for licensing	<p>Kumagai, A. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online June 13, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2013.05.038 Contact: Atsushi Miyawaki, RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Saitama, Japan e-mail: matsushi@brain.riken.jp</p>