

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Plasma lipid signature to identify presymptomatic individuals that may progress to Alzheimer's disease (AD)	<p>Clinical data suggest plasma lipids could help identify presymptomatic individuals who will develop AD or mild cognitive impairment (MCI). The 5-year study included 46 patients who already had AD or MCI, 28 initially unaffected individuals who were diagnosed with AD or MCI during the study and 73 unaffected age-matched controls. In plasma samples from the participants, lipidomics analysis identified a panel of 8 phosphatidylcholines and 2 acylcarnitines that predicted the conversion of unaffected patients to diagnosis with AD or MCI with 90% sensitivity and 90% specificity. A forthcoming manuscript will report the results of transcriptomic and genomic analyses of plasma samples from the same cohort.</p> <p>SciBX 7(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.323 Published online March 20, 2014</p>	Patented by the University of Rochester and Georgetown University; unlicensed	Mapstone, M. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online March 9, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3466 Contact: Howard J. Federoff, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. e-mail: hjf8@georgetown.edu