

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Telomerase promoter activity-based assay to detect circulating tumor cells (CTCs)	An adenovirus that expresses GFP from the telomerase promoter could be used to detect CTCs in patients with brain cancer. Telomerase activity is elevated in nearly all types of tumor cells but not normal cells. In blood samples from patients with glioma undergoing radiation therapy, the reporter-based assay detected CTCs in 8 of 11 patients pre-radiation therapy, 1 of 8 patients post-radiation therapy and 0 of 10 healthy controls. In sequential blood samples from two patients, the reporter assay distinguished progressive disease and tumor recurrence in one patient from pseudoprogession in the second patient. Next steps could include using the assay in larger cohorts of patients with glioma.	Patent filed; licensing status undisclosed	MacArthur, K.M. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i> ; published online Feb. 13, 2014; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-0813 Contact: Jay F. Dorsey, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: jayd@uphs.upenn.edu
	SciBX 7(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.324 Published online March 20, 2014		