

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Circulating giant macrophages as diagnostic markers for metastasizing tumors	<p>Human sample studies suggest detection of circulating giant macrophages could be used to predict solid tumor metastasis. In blood samples from a cohort of 79 patients with breast, prostate or pancreatic cancer, a low-pressure filtration system with precision microfilters isolated cancer-associated, macrophage-like cells (CAMLs) with giant cellular morphology and large, atypical nuclei in 83%–97% of the samples. CAMLs were positive for markers from engulfed cancer cells and markers from angiogenic endothelial cells, and in 10% of the cases the cells were associated with circulating tumor cells. Next steps include identifying clinical applications for CAML measurements such as assessing tumor responses to specific therapy.</p> <p>Creatv MicroTech Inc. markets the CellSieve microfiltration assay to isolate CAMLs.</p> <p>SciBX 7(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.330 Published online March 20, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Adams, D.L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 18, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1320198111 Contact: Daniel L. Adams, Creatv MicroTech Inc., Rockville, Md. e-mail: dan@creatvmicrotech.com</p>