

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Fluorescent antibodies to membrane-bound tumor necrosis factor (mTNF) as a predictive biomarker for therapeutic responders	<p>Fluorescent antibodies against mTNF could provide an <i>in vivo</i> molecular diagnostic for predicting response to anti-TNF treatment in Crohn's disease. In patients with Crohn's disease not treated with anti-TNF therapy, live endoscopic imaging of gut mucosa with fluorescently labeled Humira adalimumab, an anti-TNF antibody, identified mTNF-expressing intestinal cells. High numbers of mTNF-expressing cells correlated with clinical response to subsequent anti-TNF antibody therapy, and low numbers of mTNF-expressing cells correlated with lack of clinical response. Next steps include comparable studies in ulcerative colitis and multicenter studies to test a larger population of patients with Crohn's disease. Humira is marketed by AbbVie Inc. to treat several autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 7(13); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.388 Published online April 3, 2014</p>	Patent filed by the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; unavailable for licensing	<p>Atreya, R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 23, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3462 Contact: Markus F. Neurath, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany e-mail: markus.neurath@uk-erlangen.de</p>