This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Melatonin MT1 receptor knockout mice as a model of retinal degeneration	Melatonin MT1 receptor knockout mice could help guide the development of therapies for ophthalmic conditions like age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and glaucoma. In this mouse model, animals with an MT1 receptor deficiency had a significantly lower number of photoreceptor nuclei starting at 12 months than controls expressing the MT1 receptor ($p < 0.05$). The MT1 receptor-deficient mice also had significantly lower numbers of ganglion cells by 18 months than controls ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include determining the pathway activated by melatonin and melatonin MT1 receptors and identifying specific MT1 receptor agonists.	Model unpatented; available for licensing from the Morehouse School of Medicine Technology Transfer Office	Baba, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 10, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904400106 Contact: Gianluca Tosini, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: gatosini@msm.edu
	<i>SciBX</i> 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1292 Published online Aug. 27, 2009		