This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Fruit fly model of infection-associated intestinal dysplasia	<p>A fruit fly model of infection-associated intestinal dysplasia could help identify potential cancer therapeutics. Excessively proliferating intestinal stem and progenitor cells can form dysplasias that increase the risk of gastrointestinal cancer. In the fruit fly, a virulent <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> strain increased the population of stem and progenitor cells in the posterior midgut compared with heat-killed or nonvirulent bacteria. <i>P. aeruginosa</i> induced apoptosis in mature cells and increased stem and progenitor cell proliferation. The infected flies also showed tissue hyperplasia. Next steps could include using the fly model to screen for compounds to prevent intestinal dysplasia.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1776 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Apidianakis, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 23, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911797106 Contact: Laurence Rahme, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: rahme@molbio.mgh.harvard.edu</p>