This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Canine model of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	<p>Canines with degenerative myelopathy may be useful for identifying new therapeutics to treat ALS. A genomewide association study across multiple canine breeds showed a risk allele in superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1) that was significantly associated with degenerative myelopathy ($p=2.93 \times 10^{-19}$), a clinical component of ALS. Isolated spinal cord neurons from the affected canines showed myelin and axon loss in the lateral white matter and the presence of cytoplasmic inclusion bodies that bind anti-SOD1 antibodies. Next steps include using the canine model to study ALS disease progression and evaluate potential treatments.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.207 Published online Feb. 5, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Tomoyuki, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812297106 Contact: Gary S. Johnson, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. e-mail: johnsongs@missouri.edu</p>