This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of β -thalassemia major	<p>A humanized mouse model could help guide the development of new transfusion, iron-chelation or genetic therapies for β-thalassemia major. Transgenic mice that switched from producing human fetal to human adult hemoglobin after being born developed severe anemia, which led to death. Similar to human patients, the severe anemia brought on by the switch to adult hemoglobin production was corrected by regular blood transfusion but led to iron overload, which causes other pathologies. According to the researchers, the mouse model is ready to be used.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.426 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Unpatented; mice available to be licensed from the University of Alabama at Birmingham for use as a research tool	<p>Huo, Y. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online March 3, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-12-197012</p> <p>Contact: Thomas M. Ryan, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala. e-mail: tryan@uab.edu</p>