This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Nonimmunocompromised xenograft rat models	<p>Nonimmunocompromised xenograft rat models may be useful for studying cancer and other diseases in which the immune system can influence disease progression and outcome. To desensitize the rat immune system to human cells, neonatal rats received an intraperitoneal injection of living human fetal brain-derived neural precursors. In the desensitized adult rats, transplantation of various human neuronal cells into the brain resulted in graft survival rates of 50–87%, whereas all grafts in nondesensitized rats died. The desensitization protocol was effective in rats at 5 days after birth but not at 10 days or in adults. Next steps include performing long-term transplant experiments and identifying the mechanism behind graft tolerance.</p> <p>SciBX 2(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.469 Published online March 19, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Kelly, C.M. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i>; published online March 8, 2009; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1308</p> <p>Contact: Claire M. Kelly, Cardiff University, Cardiff, U.K. e-mail: kellycm@cf.ac.uk</p>