This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> model of neurosecretion	<p>A <i>C. elegans</i> model of neurosecretion could be useful for guiding the development of strategies to treat diseases caused by aberrant neuroendocrine secretion, such as diabetes. <i>C. elegans</i> with a loss-of-function mutation in the nematode's equivalent of <i>mammalian growth factor independent 1 transcription repressor (GFI1)</i> had greater expression of the <i>C. elegans</i> equivalent of <i>protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor type N (PTPRN; ICA512; IA2)</i>, a gene associated with higher neurosecretion in humans, than wild-type controls. Nematodes containing the mutation had higher numbers of presynaptic vesicles than wild-type <i>C. elegans</i>. Next steps could include using the <i>C. elegans</i> model to identify compounds that modulate neurosecretion.</p> <p>SciBX 2(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.678 Published online April 23, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Cai, T. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online April 3, 2009; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000447 Contact: Michael Krause, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: mwkrause@helix.nih.gov Contact: Tao Cai, same affiliation as above e-mail: tcai@mail.nih.gov</p>