This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of Parkinson's disease (PD)	<p>Transgenic mice expressing a mutant form of the leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) could help guide the development of neuroprotective PD therapies. <i>LRRK2</i> is the gene responsible for an autosomal dominant type of PD. The transgenic mice developed age-dependent, L-dopa-responsive motor deficits, and their dopaminergic neurons had axonal pathologies and significantly lower dopamine release compared with wild-type controls ($p=0.03$). Overexpression of wild-type LRRK2 resulted in normal development and no progressive motor behavioral deficits in the mice. Next steps include identifying the most robust phenotypes of the PD mouse model that can be used as endpoint readouts for preclinical studies.</p> <p>SciBX 2(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.991 Published online June 18, 2009</p>	<p>Patent pending; available for licensing from the Weill Cornell Medical College Office of Technology Development Contact: Bruce Toman, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: bet2006@med.cornell.edu</p>	<p>Li, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online June 7, 2009; doi:10.1038/nn.2349 Contact: Chenjian Li, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y. e-mail: chl2011@med.cornell.edu</p>