This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Rodent models of pericyte-mediated blood brain barrier (BBB) permeability	<p>A pair of mouse studies generated a set of transgenic mouse models of the BBB that could aid the development of new CNS-targeting therapies. The transgenic mice had varying levels of platelet derived growth factor receptor-β (Pdgfrb; Pdgfr1; Cd140b), a protein that mediates BBB permeability. Low levels of Pdgfrb expression correlated with less pericyte coverage in CNS blood vessels and greater BBB permeability. Next steps could include using the mice to study the mechanisms by which pericytes regulate BBB permeability.</p> <p>SciBX 3(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1340 Published online Nov. 11, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Daneman, R. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09513 Contact: Richard Daneman, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: richard.daneman@ucsf.edu</p> <p>Armulik, A. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Oct. 13, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09522 Contact: Christer Betsholtz, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: christer.betsholtz@ki.se</p>