This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Rat model of neurodegeneration	<p>Transgenic rats expressing a mutant form of TAR DNA binding protein 43 (TDP-43; TARDBP) could be useful models of neurodegenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In the rats, overexpression of mutant TDP-43 led to widespread neurodegeneration that primarily affected the motor system and resulted in progressive paralysis. The rats also recapitulated pathological features of ALS, such as the formation of TDP-43 inclusions, cytoplasmic localization of phosphorylated TDP-43 and fragmentation of the TDP-43 protein. Next steps could include evaluating the effect of ALS therapeutics in the rat model.</p> <p>SciBX 3(15); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.478 Published online April 15, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhou, H. et al. PLoS Genet.; published online March 26, 2010; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1000887</p> <p>Contact: Xu Gang Xia, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: xugang.xia@jefferson.edu</p> <p>Contact: Hongxia Zhou, same affiliation as above e-mail: Hongxia.zhou@jefferson.edu</p>