This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Rat model of febrile seizures	<p>Rats expressing a mutant form of the sodium channel voltage-gated type I α subunit (<i>Scn1a</i>) could help identify new therapies for febrile seizures. In rats with the <i>Scn1a</i> missense mutation, immersion in a hot water bath induced seizures that were similar to human febrile seizures. Mutant rats pretreated with diazepam, which is marketed to treat febrile seizures, had fewer hyperthermia-induced seizures than did untreated controls. Ongoing work includes further characterization of the disease phenotype in the <i>Scn1a</i>-mutant rats.</p> <p>SciBX 3(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.508 Published online April 22, 2010</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Mashimo, T. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i>; published online April 21, 2010; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3360-09.2010</p> <p>Contact: Tomoji Mashimo, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: tmashimo@anim.med.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>