This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of hypokalemic periodic paralysis	<p>A mouse model of hypokalemic periodic paralysis could aid the development of new treatments for the disease. Hypokalemic periodic paralysis is an inherited genetic disease that can be caused by mutations in <i>sodium channel voltage-gated type IV α-subunit (SCN4A)</i>. Mice carrying mutations in the murine homolog of <i>SCN4A</i> recapitulated disease symptoms, including transient loss of muscle excitability and absence of myotonia. Next steps include using the model to screen for disease-modifying interventions.</p> <p>SciBX 4(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1052 Published online Sept. 22, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Wu, F. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Sept. 1, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI57398 Contact: Stephen C. Cannon, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas e-mail: steve.cannon@utsouthwestern.edu</p>