This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for autism spectrum disorder (ASD)	<p><i>Cntnap2</i> (contactin associated protein-like 2) knockout mice could be useful models for ASD. The knockout mice had defective neuronal migration, epilepsy, repetitive behavior, hyperactivity and abnormal social interactions compared with wild-type controls. In the knockout mice, the monoaminergic receptor antagonist risperidone decreased hyperactivity and repetitive activity and improved nest building compared with saline control. Next steps include comparing the knockout mice with other mouse models of ASD in behavioral and neurophysiological tests. Johnson & Johnson markets Risperdal risperidone in the U.S. to treat schizophrenia, acute manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder and irritability associated with autism.</p> <p>SciBX 4(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1161 Published online Oct. 20, 2011</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Peñagarikano, O. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 30, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2011.08.040 Contact: Daniel H. Geschwind, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: dhg@ucla.edu</p>