This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Neuronal model of sporadic Parkinson's disease (PD)	<p>A neuronal cell culture model may help identify targets or therapies to treat PD. In cultured mouse hippocampal neurons, extracellular addition of preformed fibrils of human α-synuclein (SNCA) led to the aggregation of intracellular Snca, and decreased synaptic protein levels and neuronal connectivity and increased neuronal cell death compared with addition of saline control. Next steps include using the model to screen for genes or small molecules that modify disease pathology.</p> <p>SciBX(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1190 Published online Oct. 27, 2011</p>	Patent status undisclosed; licensing discussions ongoing	<p>Volpicelli-Daley, L.A. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Oct. 6, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2011.08.033</p> <p>Contact: Virginia M.-Y. Lee, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: vmylee@upenn.edu</p>