This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Optically controlled gene expression in monkey brains	<p>A study in rhesus macaques describes a noninvasive technique for monitoring brain activity that could help guide treatment of brain injury and disease. The brains of living monkeys were transfected with viral vectors encoding three optically activated, fluorescently labeled channel proteins. In fluorescence detection and electrophysiological assays, transfected neurons were turned on and off <i>in vivo</i> with laser light compared with untransfected control regions of the monkeys' brains. The transgenes were well tolerated. Next steps could include screening compounds and genes that modulate brain activity in regions of the brain involved in neurological disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 4(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.239 Published online Feb. 24, 2011</p>	<p>Patents filed; licensed to Circuit Therapeutics Inc.</p>	<p>Diester, I. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online Jan. 30, 2011; doi:10.1038/nn.2749 Contact: Krishna V. Shenoy, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: shenoy@stanford.edu Contact: Karl Deisseroth, same affiliation as above e-mail: deissero@stanford.edu</p>