This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Fluorescent peptide probes for neurosurgery	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that fluorescently labeled neurotropic peptides could be useful for guiding neurosurgery. Phage display screening identified peptides that preferentially bound to CNS tissue compared with other tissues. In mouse models of nerve crush injury, preoperative injection of the labeled peptides highlighted nerve branches that were otherwise invisible. Next steps include preclinical development of the molecules.</p> <p>Avelas Biosciences Inc. is developing surgical imaging tools based on the technology.</p> <p>SciBX 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.265 Published online March 3, 2011</p>	Patent pending; licensed to Avelas Biosciences	<p>Whitney, M.A. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Feb. 4, 2011; doi:10.1038/nbt.1764</p> <p>Contact: Quyen T. Nguyen, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: quyennnguyen@ucsd.edu</p>