This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of narcolepsy	<p>Mice lacking <i>orexin 2 receptor</i> (<i>Hcrtr2</i>; <i>Ox2r</i>) expression in the brain could be useful for evaluating new narcolepsy therapies. The <i>Ox2r</i>-deficient mice had decreased wakefulness and fragmented sleep patterns compared with wild-type controls. In the mutant mice, restoring <i>Ox2r</i> expression in the posterior hypothalamus, which is populated with histaminergic neurons, improved wakefulness compared with that in animals receiving a control vector. Next steps include using the model to test whether sleepiness can be improved with compounds that increase histamine signaling.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.293 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Work unpatented; model available for licensing from the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Technology Ventures Office	<p>Mochizuki, T. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 21, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1012456108 Contact: Thomas E. Scammell, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: tscammel@bidmc.harvard.edu</p>