This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Immunocompetent, humanized mouse model for HCV infection	An immunocompetent, humanized mouse model of HCV could help evaluate potential HCV entry inhibitors and HCV vaccines. In the livers of live mice, adenoviral expression of human CD81, scavenger receptor class B member 1 (SCARB1), claudin 1 (CLDN1) and occludin (OCLN) allowed a single cycle of HCV infection. In the same mice, immunization with a vaccinia virus vector expressing HCV proteins led to production of HCV antibodies and partial protection against HCV challenge compared with no immunization. Next steps include testing transgenic mice with only human CD81 and OCLN expression in the liver. <i>SciBX</i> 4(24); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.696 Published online June 16, 2011	Patent application filed; licensing discussions started with an undisclosed company	Dorner, M. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 8, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10168 Contact: Alexander Ploss, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: aploss@rockefeller.edu