This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Zinc-finger nucleases (ZFNs) to mediate gene knockout in pigs	<p>A ZFN technology for knocking out genes in pigs may aid in advancing pig-to-human transplantation and help to establish new large animal disease models. ZFNs targeting <i>α-galactosyltransferase 1 glycoprotein (GGTA1)</i>, which encodes the enzyme responsible for the dominant antigen in pig-to-primate transplantation, were used to generate pigs that lacked the GGTA1 antigen. Next steps include testing porcine-to-primate xenografts using these knockout pigs and generating additional gene knockouts in pigs.</p> <p>Sangamo BioSciences Inc. has ZFN-based compounds in clinical and preclinical testing for multiple indications.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.839 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Hauschild, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 5, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1106422108</p> <p>Contact: Heiner Niemann, Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Mariensee, Neustadt am Ruebenberge, Germany e-mail: heiner.niemann@fli.bund.de</p> <p>Contact: Bjoern Petersen, same affiliation as above e-mail: bjoern.petersen@fli.bund.de</p>