This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of medulloblastoma subtypes	<p>Mouse models of medulloblastoma subtypes could guide the development of therapies specific for different forms of the disease. In patients, MRI studies showed that <i>wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT)</i> pathway-driven medulloblastomas occurred in the fourth brain ventricle and infiltrated the dorsal brainstem, whereas <i>sonic hedgehog homolog (SHH)</i> pathway-driven medulloblastomas occurred in the cerebellar hemispheres and did not infiltrate the dorsal brainstem. In mice expressing a mutation in the <i>Wnt</i> pathway, medulloblastomas mimicked anatomical and genetic features of <i>WNT</i> pathway-driven medulloblastomas in humans. Next steps include using the mutant model to screen for compounds that are effective against <i>WNT</i>-driven medulloblastomas.</p> <p>SciBX 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.85 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing from the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Office of Technology Licensing	<p>Gibson, P. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Dec. 8, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09587</p> <p>Contact: Richard J. Gilbertson, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. e-mail: richard.gilbertson@stjude.org</p>