This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>Dj-1</i> (<i>Park7</i>)-deficient mice as models for Parkinson's disease (PD)-associated neurodegeneration	<i>Dj-1</i> -deficient mice could be useful models for PD. The <i>Dj-1</i> -deficient animals were generated by backcrossing <i>Dj-1</i> -null mice with C57BL/6J mice. The resulting <i>Dj-1</i> -deficient mice showed unilateral loss of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra pars compacta region of the brain starting as early as eight weeks that gradually progressed to bilateral degeneration as the animals aged. Whole-exome sequencing identified five coding regions that could be potent modifiers of the observed model phenotype. Next steps include refining the model and using it to identify and evaluate therapeutic targets.	Unpatented; model available for licensing	Rousseaux, M.W.C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 10, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1205102109 Contact: David S. Park, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada e-mail: dpark@uottawa.ca
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