This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Long-term, prion-infected cultures of organotypic cerebellar slices to monitor neurodegeneration	Long-term, prion-infected organotypic cerebellar slices could be used to identify neuroprotective therapeutics more accurately than cell-based assays. In five-week-old, prion-infected murine organotypic cerebellar slices, progressive spongiform neurodegeneration developed, closely recapitulating prion disease. In the model, compounds known to suppress prion replication <i>in vivo</i> had neuroprotective effects, whereas those known to only suppress prion replication in cell culture did not. Next steps include using the system to screen for neuroprotective molecules.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Falsig, J. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i> ; published online Nov. 1, 2012; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1002985 Contact: Adriano Aguzzi, Institute of Neuropathology, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: adriano.aguzzi@usz.ch
	SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1216 Published online Nov. 29, 2012		