This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>Microtubule-associated protein-τ</i> (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17) knockout model of Parkinson's disease (PD)	<p>Studies in mice suggest that loss of function of TAU could contribute to PD. Previous studies suggested that TAU forms aggregates in PD. Aged Tau knockout mice showed signs of PD including nigrostriatal iron accumulation, degeneration of dopaminergic neurons and decreased motor function compared with wild-type controls. Next steps include devising ways to increase levels of soluble TAU and decrease intracellular iron accumulation in PD.</p> <p>Prana Biotechnology Ltd. has the iron-sequestering agent PBT434 in preclinical development for PD.</p> <p>reMYND N.V. has ReS19-T, a small molecule that prevents TAU neurotoxicity, in preclinical development to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD).</p> <p>TauRx Pharmaceuticals Ltd.'s rember methylthioninium chloride, a TAU aggregation inhibitor, has completed Phase II trials to treat AD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.214 Published online Feb. 23, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Lei, P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 29, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2613</p> <p>Contact: Ashley I. Bush, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia e-mail: ashleyib@unimelb.edu.au</p>