This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for autism spectrum disorder (ASD)	<p>Mice that express an Ala56 variant of the serotonin (5-HT) transporter (SLC6A4; SERT) could be useful models to study ASD. The mutant mice had higher levels of SERT phosphorylation in midbrain synaptosomes and greater 5-HT clearance and hyperserotonemia than wild-type controls. The mutant mice also showed abnormalities in socializing and communication and displayed spontaneous repetitive behaviors. Next steps could include using the mouse model to screen for compounds that inhibit the ASD-like behaviors.</p> <p>SciBX 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.377 Published online April 5, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Veenstra-VanderWeele, J. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 19, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1112345109 Contact: Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: j.vvw@vanderbilt.edu</p>