This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Rat model of TAR DNA binding protein 43 (TDP-43; TARDBP)-driven amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	<p>Rats engineered to express an ALS-associated mutant form of TDP-43 could be used to identify new treatments for the disease. In rats, neuron- and skeletal muscle-specific expression of mutant TDP-43 led to progressive loss of motor neurons and paralysis. Shutting off expression of mutant TDP-43 prevented further motor neuron loss and allowed partial recovery of motor function. Next steps include developing neuroprotective strategies to prevent ALS progression.</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.54 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Huang, C. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Dec. 12, 2011; doi:10.1172/JCI59130 Contact: Hongxia Zhou, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: Hongxia.zhou@jefferson.edu Contact: Xu-Gang Xia, same affiliation as above e-mail: xugang.xia@jefferson.edu</p>