This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Zinc finger nuclease (ZFN)-engineered human cell lines for probing the function of polypeptide N-acetylgalactosamine transferase (GalNAc) isoforms	ZFN-engineered human cell lines that express polypeptide GalNAc transferase isoforms could help identify the role those enzymes play in disease. A human cell line was engineered to express a GalNAc transferase 2 (GALNT2; GalNAc-T2) isoform associated with dyslipidemia. In that cell line, O-glycosylation mediated by the GalNAc-T2 isoform inhibited activation of angiopoietin-like 3 (ANGPTL3), which previous studies had linked to protecting against dyslipidemia. Next steps could include developing assays that probe the function of GalNAc transferases in other diseases. <i>SciBX</i> 5(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.584 Published online May 31, 2012	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Schjoldager, K.T.-B.G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 7, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1203563109 Contact: Henrik Clausen, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark e-mail: hclau@sund.ku.dk