This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of blast-induced neurotrauma	<p>A mouse model that mimics bomb blasts experienced by soldiers could be useful for identifying and testing compounds to treat chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a neurodegenerative disease associated with repeated concussions. In the model, wild-type mice were subjected to a single high-pressure blast of air that caused brief, rapid head accelerations without killing the mice or causing overt tissue damage. Immunohistological and microscopic studies of mouse brain tissue showed significant neuropathological damage following the single blast, including phosphorylated microtubule-associated protein-τ (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17) aggregates. The pathology also was associated with CTE-like learning and memory deficits in the mice. Next steps include using the model to identify therapies for CTE.</p> <p>SciBX 5(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.612 Published online June 7, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Goldstein, L.E. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 16, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003716 Contact: Lee E. Goldstein, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, Mass. e-mail: lgold@bu.edu Contact: Ann C. McKee, same affiliation as above e-mail: amckee@bu.edu</p>