This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Double infection for genetic dissection of motor neuron circuits in nonhuman primates	Simultaneous delivery of two gene vectors to the brain could help map motor neuron circuits and be useful for developing nonhuman primate models of neurological diseases. The technique involved injection of a lentiviral vector encoding a tetanus neurotoxin light chain and injection of an adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector encoding a variant of a reverse tetracycline transactivator. In nonhuman primates receiving injections of the two vectors into different parts of a motor neuron circuit, expression of vector-encoded genes inhibited the pathway and led to reversible impairment of arm reaching and grasping movements. Next steps include using the method to study additional neural circuits in animal models.	Patent application filed covering lentiviral vector; available for licensing from the Japan Science and Technology Agency	Kinoshita, M. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online June 17, 2012; doi:10.1038/nature11206 Contact: Tasashi Isa, National Institute for Physiological Sciences, Okazaki, Japan e-mail: tisa@nips.ac.jp
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