This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for creatine transporter deficiency (CTD)	<p>A mouse model of CTD could be useful for testing therapeutic candidates for the condition, which is caused by mutations in <i>solute carrier family 6 neurotransmitter transporter creatine member 8</i> (SLC6A8; CRT). Mice with brain-specific knockout of <i>Slc6a8</i> had lower creatine levels in the brain than wild-type controls and showed cognitive impairments. In the model, the membrane-permeating analog of creatine, called cyclocreatine, decreased these symptoms compared with creatine or placebo. Next steps include conducting dose-ranging studies and testing the effect of cyclocreatine on early brain development.</p> <p>Lumos Pharma Inc. has an undisclosed creatine analog in preclinical development for CTD.</p> <p>SciBX 5(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.770 Published online July 26, 2012</p>	Patented; licensed to Lumos Pharma	<p>Kurosawa, Y. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online July 2, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI59373</p> <p>Contact: Joseph F. Clark, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio</p> <p>e-mail: clarkjf@gmail.com</p>