This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Clustered, regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) RNA editing system to modify mammalian DNA	<p>A CRISPR-derived genome editing system could be used to modify mammalian DNA. CRISPR is a bacterial immune response system that uses host-expressed nucleases and RNA repeats to cleave foreign DNA. To adapt this system to cleave and edit mammalian genomes, two separate teams designed a DNA vector that expressed a bacteria-derived CRISPR-associated nuclease together with guide RNAs that contained CRISPR features and homology similar to mammalian genes. The system was used to induce site-specific insertions and deletions in multiple genomic loci in cultured mouse and human cells. Next steps include characterizing and optimizing the specificity of the approach.</p> <p>SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.101 Published online Jan. 31, 2013</p>	Patent applications filed for findings in both papers; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Cong, L. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 3, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1231143 Contact: Feng Zhang, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: zhang_f@mit.edu</p> <p>Mali, P. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Jan. 3, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1232033 Contact: George M. Church, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: gchurch@genetics.med.harvard.edu</p>