This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>Interferon regulatory factor 4 (Irf4)</i> -deficient mouse models of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	<p><i>Irf4</i>-deficient mice could be used to study CLL pathogenesis. In the New Zealand Black mouse strain, heterozygous deletion of <i>Irf4</i> increased the number of animals that developed CLL within 12 months compared with wild-type <i>Irf4</i> expression. In a different mouse strain, animals with homozygous deletion of <i>Irf4</i> and knock-in of the IgG heavy chain <i>Vh11</i> developed CLL with 100% penetrance within 10 months, whereas <i>Vh11</i> knock-in models with heterozygous <i>Irf4</i> deletion or normal <i>Irf4</i> expression did not. Ongoing work includes using the models to elucidate how <i>IRF4</i> contributes to the development of CLL.</p> <p>SciBX 6(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1076 Published online Oct. 3, 2013</p>	Findings from both studies unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Ma, S. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online July 29, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.475913</p> <p>Shukla, V. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Aug. 7, 2013; doi:10.1182/blood-2013-03-492769</p> <p>Contact: Runqing Lu, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb. e-mail: rlu@unmc.edu</p>