This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Mice overexpressing <i>kidney injury molecule 1 (Kim-1)</i> to model chronic kidney disease (CKD)	<p>Mice that chronically overexpress <i>Kim-1</i> in renal epithelial cells could be used to model human CKD pathology. In patients with injured kidneys, <i>KIM-1</i> is strongly overexpressed and serves as a negative prognostic marker.</p> <p>Mice overexpressing <i>Kim-1</i> in renal epithelial cells developed interstitial inflammation followed by progressive fibrotic renal disease, cardiac remodeling and malfunction. In a mouse model of renal fibrosis caused by unilateral ureteral obstruction, mice expressing a mutant form of <i>Kim-1</i> did not develop renal fibroids, whereas mice with normal <i>Kim-1</i> did. Next steps include using the model in preclinical studies focused on preventing loss of glomerular filtration rates and secondary complications.</p> <p>SciBX 6(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1080 Published online Oct. 3, 2013</p>	Patent applications filed; available for licensing	<p>Humphreys, B.D. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Aug. 27, 2013; doi:10.1172/JCI45361</p> <p>Contact: Benjamin D. Humphreys, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bhumphreys@partners.org</p>