This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Microtubule-associated protein- τ (MAPT; TAU; FTDP-17)-staining PET reagent for imaging Alzheimer's disease (AD) pathology	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest PET compounds could be useful for imaging TAU neurofibrillary tangles in AD and other tauopathies. In brain tissue samples from patients with AD and a mouse model of TAU neurofibrillary tangle formation, <i>in vitro</i> delivery of fluorescently labeled phenyl, pyridinyl-butadienyl-benzothiazole or benzothiazolium compounds led to detection of TAU-containing neurofibrillary tangles. In the same mice and in patients with AD, PET imaging with radiolabeled versions of the compounds detected TAU accumulation in the neocortical and limbic regions of the brain. Next steps include correlating the distribution and degree of PET staining with postmortem TAU histopathology and evaluating the agents in patients who have mild cognitive impairment.</p> <p>SciBX 6(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1147 Published online Oct. 17, 2013</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Maruyama, M. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Sept. 18, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2013.07.037 Contact: Makoto Higuchi, National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Chiba, Japan e-mail: mhiguchi@nirs.go.jp</p>