This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of familial dysautonomia (FD) with neural crest lineage-specific knockout of <i>inhibitor of κ-light polypeptide gene enhancer in B-cells kinase complex-associated protein (Ikbkap)</i>	A mouse model of FD with conditional knockout of <i>Ikbkap</i> in neural crest cells could help identify new therapeutics to treat the disease. FD causes peripheral nervous system dysfunction and is caused by mutations in the <i>Ikbkap</i> gene that disrupt normal splicing. In mice, conditional knockout of <i>Ikbkap</i> in the neural crest caused early death and decreased the number of neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor 1 (Ntrk1; TrkA)-expressing nociceptive and thermoreceptive neurons compared with no alteration. Primary neural crest migration and development of sympathetic and dorsal root ganglia were not altered by knockout. Next steps could include using the model to test therapeutic candidates.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	George, L. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Oct. 30, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1308596110 Contact: Frances Lefcort, Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont. e-mail: lefcort@montana.edu
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