This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Adapted <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> parasites that infect cultured human red blood cells	<p>Culture of modified <i>P. knowlesi</i> strains could help identify new malaria therapies. Wild-type <i>P. knowlesi</i> survive and replicate in macaque but not human red blood cells. The parasites were adapted to infect human red blood cells by culturing them in a 4:1 mixture of human and macaque cells. After eight months of continuous coculture, the adapted parasites infected and replicated in cultured human red blood cells. Next steps include using the adapted parasite to screen for therapeutics and vaccines against <i>P. knowlesi</i> and related parasites.</p> <p>SciBX 6(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.65 Published online Jan. 24, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Moon, R.W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 24, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1216457110 Contact: Michael J. Blackman, Medical Research Council National Institute for Medical Research, London, U.K. e-mail: mblackm@nimr.mrc.ac.uk Contact: Anthony A. Holder, same affiliation as above e-mail: aholder@nimr.mrc.ac.uk Contact: Robert W. Moon, same affiliation as above e-mail: rmoon@nimr.mrc.ac.uk</p>