This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Scavenger receptor class F member 1 (<i>Scarf1</i>)-deficient mouse model of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest <i>Scarf1</i> ^{-/-} mice could model SLE and aid the development of therapeutics for the disease. Impaired uptake of apoptotic cells by phagocytes contributes to inflammation and autoimmune diseases including SLE. In dendritic cells from <i>Scarf1</i> ^{-/-} mice, uptake of apoptotic cells by phagocytes was lower than that for dendritic cells from wild-type mice. In mice, <i>Scarf1</i> knockout caused accumulation of apoptotic cells in tissues and circulation, immune cell activation, generation of autoantibodies and establishment of an SLE-like disease. Next steps could include using the model to identify new therapeutics for SLE.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Ramirez-Ortiz, Z.G. <i>et al. Nat. Immunol.</i> ; published online July 28, 2013; doi:10.1038/ni.2670 Contact: Terry K. Means, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: tmeans@partners.org
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