This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Phenotypic neuronal assays to screen for small molecules that decrease β -amyloid ($A\beta$)	Phenotypic screening of embryonic stem cell (ESC)-derived neurons could help identify small molecules that decrease $A\beta$ to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD). The assays used ESC-derived neurons generated from the Tg2576 mouse model of AD and allowed the monitoring of the synthesis and synaptic activity of $A\beta$. The assay was used to screen a library of 446 small molecules and yielded 4 hits that inhibited $A\beta$ synthesis with single-digit micromolar and submicromolar IC_{50} values. Next steps include integrating the assay into an automated high throughput screening platform that operates in a 384-well format.	Patent application filed; available for licensing from Columbia Technology Ventures	McIntire, L.B.J. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i> ; published online July 25, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2013.06.005 Contact: Tae-Wan Kim, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: twk16@columbia.edu
	SciBX 6(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.904 Published online Aug. 29, 2013		