This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Transgenic miniature pig model for hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis	<p>A transgenic miniature pig model for hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis could aid the development of imaging technologies, intravascular devices and therapeutics. Yucatan miniature pigs were engineered to express a gain-of-function mutant of human <i>proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9</i> (PCSK9) in the liver, which causes hypercholesterolemia and accelerates atherosclerosis in humans. Transgenic pigs fed a high-fat, high-cholesterol diet had severe hypercholesterolemia and key pathophysiological features of human atherosclerosis, and faster development of atherosclerotic lesions compared with wild-type pigs fed the same diet. Ongoing studies include validating some of the imaging techniques used for clinical atherosclerosis studies.</p> <p>SciBX 6(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.99 Published online Jan. 31, 2013</p>	Patent application filed by Aarhus University; licensed to PixieGene A/S	<p>Al-Mashhadi, R.H. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Jan. 2, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3004853</p> <p>Contact: Jacob F. Bentzon, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark e-mail: jben@ki.au.dk</p>