This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons from transgenic mice expressing human microtubule-associated protein- τ (MAPT; tau; FTDP-17) P301S recapitulate tau pathology <i>in vitro</i>	A cell culture model could be used to study human tau pathology and screen for drugs to treat tauopathies. In cultured DRG neurons isolated from five-month-old transgenic mice expressing human tau P301S, an antibody selective for disease-related conformations of tau reacted with the protein. In the neurons, tau was progressively hyperphosphorylated, and the hyperphosphorylated tau P301S-positive neurons preferentially died in long-term culture. Next steps could include using the model to screen for compounds that prevent neuronal cell death. SciBX 7(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.34 Published online Jan. 9, 2014	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Mellone, M. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Nov. 13, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4933-12.2013 Contact: Maria Grazia Spillantini, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: mgs11@cam.ac.uk Contact: Aviva M. Tolkovsky, same affiliation as above e-mail: amt1004@cam.ac.uk