This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of dominant Ullrich congenital muscular dystrophy (UCMD)	A mouse model of dominant UCMD with deletion of <i>collagen type VI α3 (Col6a3)</i> exon 16 could help identify treatments for the disease. In mice, heterozygous deletion of exon 16 of <i>Col6a3</i> resulted in production of both normal and mutant <i>Col6a3</i> mRNA, which prevented assembly of collagen microfibrils and mimicked the human condition. The mutant mice had myopathy, ultrastructural changes in muscle mitochondria and sarcoplasmic reticulum, abnormal collagen fibers in tendons and impaired muscle function and contractions. Next steps could include using the model to identify therapeutics.	Unpatented; available for licensing	Pan, T.-C. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i> ; published online Feb. 22, 2014; doi:10.1074/jbc.M114.549311 Contact: Mon-Li Chu, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: mon-li.chu@jefferson.edu
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