This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Protein misfolding cyclic amplification (PMCA) technique to create α -synuclein (SNCA) aggregates for drug screening	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest SNCA aggregates formed using PMCA could be used to screen antiaggregating agents for Parkinson's disease (PD). The technique uses cycles of incubation to grow fibrils and cycles of sonication to break fibrils. The method resulted in faster formation of SNCA aggregates than traditional techniques, and drugs known to block aggregation were effective in the assay. Next steps could include using the approach to develop a cellular assay for screening.</p> <p>SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.410 Published online April 10, 2014</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing and partnerships	<p>Herva, M.E. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online Feb. 28, 2014; doi:10.1074/jbc.M113.542340 Contact: Maria Grazia Spillantini, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: mgs11@cam.ac.uk Contact: Maria Eugenia Herva, same affiliation as above e-mail: meh67@cam.ac.uk</p>