This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) caused by partial loss of TAR DNA binding protein 43 (Tdp-43; Tardbp) function	<p>Mice with partial loss of Tdp-43 function could be useful as models to study and screen for new compounds to treat ALS. TDP-43 aggregation is associated with ALS. Mice were engineered to express artificial microRNA to knock down expression of <i>Tdp-43</i>. The engineered mice recapitulated ALS-like pathophysiology including progressive neuromuscular impairments that eventually led to paralysis and death, and neurodegeneration in the forebrain and spinal cord. Next steps could include using the mouse model to evaluate therapeutic candidates for ALS.</p> <p>SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.412 Published online April 10, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Yang, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 10, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1322641111 Contact: Zuoshang Xu, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. e-mail: zuoshang.xu@umassmed.edu</p>