This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Pituitary ablation of estrogen receptor expression as a mouse model for ovarian cancer	<p>A genetic mouse model for estrogen-dependent ovarian cancer could be used to study disease progression and evaluate therapeutic candidates. In the mice, progesterone receptor-driven Cre recombinase was used to knock out estrogen receptor expression in the anterior pituitary. The resulting mice showed disruption of the hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian hormonal axis, elevated estrogen production in ovaries, emergence of ovarian tumors and oncogenic transformation of ovarian surface epithelial cells. In the ovarian tumor-bearing mice, treatment with the aromatase inhibitor letrozole over 3 months decreased tumor volume by 60% compared with a sham treatment. Next steps could include using the model to study drug interactions.</p> <p>SciBX 7(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.413 Published online April 10, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Laws, M.J. <i>et al. PLoS Genet.</i>; published online March 6, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1004230 Contact: Indrani C. Bagchi, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Ill. e-mail: ibagchi@illinois.edu Contact: Milan K. Bagchi, same affiliation as above e-mail: mbagchi@life.illinois.edu</p>