This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Noninvasive, two-photon fluorescence imaging to detect retinoid condensations in age-related macular degeneration (AMD)	<p>Mouse studies suggest two-photon fluorescence imaging can detect retinoid condensations that can help diagnose retinal degeneration or aid the discovery of therapeutic agents that protect the retina. Retinoids are intrinsically fluorescent molecules that accumulate in the retinal pigmented epithelium (RPE) during aging and have been associated with AMD. In a mouse model of light-induced retinal degeneration, <i>ex vivo</i> eye imaging revealed accumulation of fluorescent granules in the RPE, whereas no granules were detected in mice receiving retinylamine, which has been shown to protect the retina from light-induced degeneration. In a mouse model of AMD, <i>in vivo</i> eye imaging detected fluorescent granules in the RPE, whereas no granules were detected in healthy mice. Next steps include applying the technology for the detection of retinal pathology and the development of new therapies to preserve vision in humans.</p> <p>SciBX 7(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.846 Published online July 24, 2014</p>	Patented; additional patent applications filed; licensing negotiations ongoing	<p>Palczewska, G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online June 22, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3590 Contact: Krzysztof Palczewski, Polgenix Inc., Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: kxp65@case.edu</p>