This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>Calmodulin binding transcription activator 1 (Camta1)</i> -deficient mice as a model of ataxia and neurodegenerative disease	<i>Camta1</i> -deficient mice could be useful for identifying and evaluating therapeutic candidates to treat ataxia and neurodegenerative diseases. Mice with nervous system-specific deletion of <i>Camta1</i> developed severe ataxia and showed loss of Purkinje neurons and progressive cerebellar atrophy. In cerebellum tissue samples from these mice, genomic profiling and gene ontology analysis identified 203 dysregulated genes with 84 of them associated with neuronal or neuroprotective functions. Next steps could include evaluating the effects of existing therapies for neurodegenerative diseases in the mouse model.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Long, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online July 21, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1411251111 Contact: Eric N. Olson, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas e-mail: eric.olson@utsouthwestern.edu
	SciBX 7(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.966 Published online Aug. 21, 2014		