This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for identifying therapeutics to treat Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS)	Three single-gene knockout mice could be useful for identifying therapeutics to treat conditions associated with BBS, including obesity and hypertension. The mice were hyperphagic and had lower locomotor activity and higher circulating levels of leptin than wild-type mice. Knockout mice given exogenous leptin did not have reductions in body weight or appetite compared with wild-type animals, suggesting that leptin resistance contributes to obesity and hypertension in BBS. One of the knockout mouse models lacked accompanying hypertension, similar to what is seen in the human BBS genotype. Next steps include using the mice to screen for compounds that treat obesity and hypertension in BBS.	Mice will be made freely available to investigators who may want to use them in studies	Rahmouni, K. *et al. J. Clin. Invest.*; published online March 3, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI32357 **Contact:** Kamal Rahmouni, University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: kamal-rahmouni@uiowa.edu