

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of basal-like breast carcinoma (BBC)	A new mouse model could be useful for identifying compounds to treat BBC. Female mice with mammary-specific <i>breast cancer 1 (BRCA1)</i> , <i>BRCA1-associated RING domain 1 (BARD1)</i> or both <i>BARD1</i> and <i>BRCA1</i> mutations developed tumors that closely resembled the breast tumors in human <i>BRCA1</i> mutation carriers. Tumors from the different mutant strains showed a common phenotype, which suggests that the <i>BRCA1</i> and <i>BARD1</i> heterodimer could play a central role in tumor suppression pathways. Next steps include using mutation studies to produce improved BBC models and characterizing additional pathways dependent on the <i>BRCA1</i> and <i>BARD1</i> heterodimer.	Not patented; <i>BARD1</i> , <i>BRCA1</i> , and both <i>BRCA1</i> and <i>BARD1</i> mutants available for licensing through Columbia University	Shakya, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online April 28, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0711032105 Contact: Thomas Ludwig, Columbia University Medical Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: tl54@columbia.edu