

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
RNAi screen for new influenza targets	<p>An RNAi screen of the <i>Drosophila</i> genome could yield new targets for influenza vaccines and therapeutics. Cultured <i>Drosophila</i> cells infected with modified influenza virus were screened against a commercial <i>Drosophila</i> RNAi library. Viral replication was monitored using a <i>Renilla</i> luciferase expressed from an influenza vector. The screen identified 110 host genes required for influenza survival and replication. Cell-culture experiments on human homologs of three such genes identified specific roles for these host factors in the viral life cycle. Next steps include confirming that the other host factors identified in the screen are also required for viral survival and replication and identifying new potential viral targets that interact with these host factors.</p> <p>Many companies are developing vaccines and drugs that target viral proteins to prevent and/or treat influenza infection.</p>	Patent application submitted; will be made available for licensing	<p>Hao, L. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 9, 2008; doi:10.1038/nature07151</p> <p>Contact: Yoshihiro Kawaoka, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: kawaokay@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu</p>