

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Locust model of cortical spreading depression	The locust (<i>Locusta migratoria</i>) could provide a model of cortical spreading depression, a depolarization of cortical neurons associated with stroke, migraine and head trauma. Electrophysiological measurements showed that injection of potassium or a sodium-potassium pump inhibitor into the meta-thoracic ganglion of locusts mimicked a spreading depression-like event that occurs in response to heat or anoxic stress. Inhibition of nitric oxide (NO) or protein kinase G (PKG) accelerated the insects' recovery from the spreading depression-like events. Future studies in locusts will examine the role of signaling events downstream of NO and PKG in spreading depression-like events.	Patented; available for licensing	Armstrong, G. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online June 24, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1652-09.2009 Contact: R. Meldrum Robertson, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada e-mail: robertrm@queensu.ca
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