This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>Xenopus</i> model of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS)	Modified <i>Xenopus laevis</i> frogs could be models of AIS, a form of scoliosis that has an unknown pathogenesis. In <i>Xenopus</i> tadpoles, surgical removal of nerves that sense spatial orientation resulted in adult animals that had several features of human AIS, including severe curvature of the spine and damage to vertebrae. Future studies could include testing whether disease severity correlates with the extent of surgical modification in the <i>Xenopus</i> models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Lambert, F. <i>et al. J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online Oct. 7, 2009; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2583-09.2009 Contact: Hans Straka, Paris Descartes University, Paris, France e-mail: hans.straka@univ-paris5.fr
	SciBX 2(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1518 Published online Oct. 15, 2009		