

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Myocardin (Myocd)-deficient mice as a model for heart failure	Mice with a cardiomyocyte-specific deficiency in myocardin could aid in the development of apoptosis-blocking therapies for heart failure. Myocd-deficient hearts from adult mice were enlarged and had impaired cardiac pumping output compared with control hearts expressing functional <i>Myocd</i> . The Myocd-deficient hearts showed widespread cardiomyocyte apoptosis. Next steps include determining the contribution of apoptosis to various types of heart failure.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Huang, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Oct. 19, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0910749106 Contact: Michael S. Parmacek, Penn Cardiovascular Institute, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: michael.parmacek@uphs.upenn.edu
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