This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for absence seizures	<p>Mice with a phospholipase C_{β4} (PLCB4; PLCβ4) deficiency could help identify new treatments for absence seizures, a type of nonconvulsive epileptic seizure. <i>PLCB4</i>-deficient mice had spontaneous cortical neural discharges in thalamocortical neurons that were accompanied by behavioral arrest that is characteristic of epileptic absence seizures in humans. In the mice, T-type calcium channels on thalamocortical neurons were responsible for generating the spontaneous discharges. Next steps could include using the mouse model to identify and evaluate antiseizure compounds.</p> <p>SciBX 2(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1777 Published online Dec. 17, 2009</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Cheong, E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 30, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0912204106</p> <p>Contact: Hee-Sup Shin, Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information, Seoul, South Korea e-mail: shin@kist.re.kr</p>