

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Lister mutant mouse model for neurodegenerative diseases, including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	The lister mouse model may be useful for identifying compounds to treat ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases. Homozygous <i>lister</i> mutant mice showed an age-dependent decrease in neurological and motor dysfunction and body weight, and an increase in mortality compared with what was seen in wild-type littermates. Histological analysis of <i>lister</i> mouse tissues revealed general neuropathies seen in human neurodegenerative diseases, including gliosis, dystrophic neurites, vacuolated mitochondria and expression of soluble hyperphosphorylated τ . Next steps include studying the developmental function of the gene <i>LISTER</i> and its encoded protein LISTERIN.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Chu, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Feb. 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812819106 Contact: Steve A. Kay, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: skay@ucsd.edu
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