This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Improved Sleeping Beauty transposon system	<p>A hyperactive Sleeping Beauty transposase dubbed SB100X could help speed up both functional genomics studies and the development of nonviral gene therapies. A genetic screen in HeLa cells identified SB100X, which increased gene insertion efficiency by more than 100-fold compared with that of first-generation Sleeping Beauty transposases. In a proof-of-concept study, the new transposase was used to generate transgenic mice and human CD34⁺ hematopoietic stem cells. Next steps could include a structural analysis of the transposase-DNA complex to better understand the mechanism for the increased activity of SB100X.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.846 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Mátés, L. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online May 3, 2009; doi:10.1038/ng.343 Contact: Thierry VandenDriessche, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium e-mail: thierry.vandendriessche@med.kuleuven.be</p>