

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Behavioral screen in <i>Drosophila</i> for potential analgesic targets	<p>A genomewide <i>Drosophila</i> screen for genes that regulate sensitivity to thermal pain could help identify new therapeutic targets. In a <i>Drosophila</i> behavioral assay, neuronal-specific knockdown of 580 different genes led to less heat sensitivity than neuronal-specific knockdown of about 11,000 other genes. In mice, deficiency in a homolog of one of the identified genes—calcium channel voltage-dependent $\alpha 2 \delta$-subunit 3 (<i>Cacna2d3</i>)—decreased responses to acute heat pain compared with those in wild-type controls. Next steps include investigating the other genes identified in the screen.</p> <p>SciBX 3(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1459 Published online Dec. 16, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Neely, G.G. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Nov. 12, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.09.047 Contact: Josef M. Penninger, Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria e-mail: josef.penninger@imba.oeaw.ac.at Contact: Clifford J. Woolf, Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: clifford.woolf@childrens.harvard.edu</p>