SciBX
Science-Business eXchange

THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Improved mouse model for studying Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	An improved mouse model could help guide the development of treatments for DMD. In the standard *mdx* mouse model of DMD, a mutation that eliminates dystrophin protein expression fails to generate the severity of DMD seen in humans. In the new mouse model, the additional deletion of *cytidine monophosphate–sialic acid hydroxylase* (*Cmah*), a gene expressed in mice but not in humans, decreased motor function and survival compared with those in control *mdx* mice. Next steps include further study of how *Cmah* deletion increases disease severity. *SciBX* 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.931 Published online Aug. 5, 2010	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	Chandrasekharan, K. *et al. Sci. Transl. Med.*; published online July 28, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000692 **Contact:** Paul T. Martin, The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio e-mail: Paul.Martin@nationwidechildrens.org