

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Assays &amp; screens</b>			
A yeast functional screen for identifying amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) genes	A yeast functional screen could aid the discovery of candidate genes that cause ALS. The screen was designed to detect RNA-binding proteins that form cytoplasmic aggregates toxic to yeast and identified 38 candidate proteins, including RNA polymerase II TATA box binding protein associated factor (TAF-15). In humans, <i>TAF-15</i> missense mutations were associated with ALS. Next steps include determining the relative contribution of TAF-15 variants to ALS risk compared with other known genetic risk factors for ALS.	Covered by issued and pending patents; licensed to FoldRx Pharmaceuticals Inc. (now part of Pfizer Inc.)	Couthouis, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 7, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1109434108 <b>Contact:</b> Aaron D. Gitler, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: <a href="mailto:gitler@mail.med.upenn.edu">gitler@mail.med.upenn.edu</a>
	<b>SciBX 4(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1304</b> Published online Dec. 1, 2011		