

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Disease models</b>			
<i>Shank3</i> mutant mice as a model for autism	Mice with a gain-of-function mutation in <i>SH3 and multiple ankyrin repeat domains 3 (Shank3; Prosap2; Spank-2)</i> could be useful for testing autism therapies. In mouse brain slices, expression of mutated <i>Shank3</i> decreased glutamate signaling and learning-related neuronal activity compared with expression of wild-type <i>Shank3</i> . Mice with the mutation had aberrant social behavior compared with wild-type animals. Next steps could include testing therapeutics that modulate glutamate signaling in these mice. <a href="#">Seaside Therapeutics Inc's STX110</a> , an antagonist of metabotropic glutamate receptor subtype 5 (mGluR5; GRM5), is in preclinical development for autism and fragile X syndrome.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Bangash, M.A. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online May 12, 2011; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2011.03.052 <b>Contact:</b> Paul F. Worley, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: <a href="mailto:pworley@jhmi.edu">pworley@jhmi.edu</a>
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