This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	<p>An improved mouse model of DMD could aid the development of new treatments for the disease. The standard <i>mdx</i> mouse model of DMD lacks a functional dystrophin protein and generates mild DMD symptoms compared with those in patients. In the new mouse model, an additional deletion of the RNA component of telomerase led to greater disease severity than that in the <i>mdx</i> mouse. Also in the new model, muscle stem cell proliferation following tissue damage was lower than that in control <i>mdx</i> mice, suggesting that impaired muscle stem cell proliferation may drive disease progression. Next steps include using the new model to test DMD therapies.</p> <p>SciBX 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.84 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Sacco, A. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Dec. 9, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.11.039 Contact: Helen M. Blau, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: hblau2@stanford.edu Contact: Jason H. Pomerantz, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: jason.pomerantz@ucsfmedctr.org</p>