

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
<i>In vitro</i> transmigration assay to model the blood brain barrier (BBB)	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> transmigration assay could be a useful BBB model to help identify new targets and compounds to treat CNS disorders like multiple sclerosis (MS). The assay measures the transmigration of peripheral blood mononuclear cells, while the cells are under shear forces to mimic blood flow, across a layer of human brain microvascular endothelial cells cultured on a filter. In the model, an anti-CXC chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4; NPY3R) antibody blocked chemokine CXC motif ligand 12 (CXCL12; SDF-1)-induced cell transmigration compared with an IgG isotype control. Next steps could include looking for chemokines and chemokine receptors involved in mediating immune cell invasion of the CNS in MS.</p> <p>SciBX 5(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.165 Published online Feb. 9, 2012</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Man, S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003197 Contact: Richard M. Ransohoff, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio e-mail: ransohr@ccf.org</p>