This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	<p>Mouse studies suggest that loss of TAR DNA binding protein 43 (TDP-43; TARDBP) function could contribute to ALS. TDP-43 aggregation is associated with ALS. Mice with motor neuron-specific deletion of Tdp-43 showed accumulation of astrocytes and ubiquitinated protein in the spinal cord and had ALS-like muscle weakness and weight loss similar to another ALS model in which disease is caused by Tdp-43 aggregation. Next steps include screening for compounds that increase soluble TDP-43 levels.</p> <p>SciBX 5(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.768 Published online July 26, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Wu, L.-S. <i>et al. J. Biol. Chem.</i>; published online June 20, 2012; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.359000 Contact: C.-K. Shen, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan e-mail: ckshen@imb.sinica.edu.tw</p>