This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Conditional <i>fukutin</i> (<i>Fktn</i>) knockout mice as a model for secondary dystroglycanopathies	Conditional <i>Fktn</i> knockout mice could be useful models for secondary dystroglycanopathies, a family of muscular dystrophies caused by mutations in multiple glycosyltransferase genes. In the mice, induced knockout of the glycosyltransferase gene <i>Fktn</i> led to loss of functionally glycosylated dystroglycan 1 (Dag1) within 18 days and development of dystrophic histopathology. In the mice, knocking out <i>Fktn</i> earlier in development led to a more severe disease phenotype compared with knocking out <i>Fktn</i> later in development. Next steps could include using the animals to test therapies for secondary dystroglycanopathies.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Beedle, A.M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Aug. 27, 2012; doi:10.1172/JCI63004 Contact: Kevin P. Campbell, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: kevin-campbell@uiowa.edu
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