

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mice with epidermal-specific knockout of epidermal growth factor receptor (Egfr) to model skin toxicity associated with EGFR-targeted cancer therapy	Mice with epidermal-specific knockout of Egfr could help model skin rashes that develop in patients receiving EGFR inhibitors. In the mouse model, the number of inflammatory immune cells and the levels of proinflammatory cytokines in the skin were greater than those in <i>Egfr</i> -expressing animals, and defects in epidermal differentiation accumulated over time. In skin samples from patients undergoing EGFR-targeted therapy, comparable changes in inflammatory cell accumulation, levels of proinflammatory cytokines and skin barrier defects were observed. Next steps could include using the model to identify potential therapeutics that can target the inflammatory response in the skin.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Lichtenberger, B.M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Aug. 21, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005886 Contact: Maria Sibia, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria e-mail: maria.sibia@meduniwien.ac.at Contact: Bernhard Homey, Heinrich Heine University of Duesseldorf, Duesseldorf, Germany e-mail: bernhard.homey@uni-duesseldorf.de
	SciBX 6(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1044 Published online Sept. 26, 2013		