

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Assays &amp; screens</b>			
Small molecule fruit fly screening platform for regulators of sleep	<p>A small molecule fruit fly screening platform could be useful for identifying new candidates to treat insomnia. Adult fruit flies are placed in tubes with food containing 20 <math>\mu</math>M of a test compound and then loaded into an activity monitoring system. The screening system was applied to a library of 1,280 bioactive small molecules and identified reserpine, a small molecule inhibitor of vesicular monoamine transporters (VMATs), as a compound that increased sleep in the flies. Follow-up validation studies showed that <i>Vmat</i>-null flies slept longer than wild-type controls. Next steps include using the screen to study how different neurotransmitter systems affect sleep behavior.</p> <p>Reserpine is a generic antipsychotic and antihypertensive drug.</p> <p><b>SciBX 6(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.528</b> Published online May 30, 2013</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Nall, A.H. & Sehgal, A. <i>J. Neurosci.</i> ; published online May 8, 2013; doi:10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0253-13.2013 <b>Contact:</b> Amita Sehgal, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: <a href="mailto:amita@mail.med.upenn.edu">amita@mail.med.upenn.edu</a>