This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for <i>partner and localizer of Brca2</i> (<i>Palb2</i>)-deficient breast cancer	<p>A mouse model for <i>Palb2</i>-deficient breast cancer could be useful for evaluating new therapies. Mutations in <i>PALB2</i> are associated with increased risk of breast cancer, but genetically engineered mouse models to study the gene's function were unavailable because <i>Palb2</i> deletion causes embryonic lethality. In the new model, mice were engineered to carry <i>Palb2</i> that could be conditionally inactivated. In this model, <i>Palb2</i> was shown to synergize with <i>p53</i> to suppress breast tumor formation. Next steps could include using the mouse model to evaluate therapies to treat <i>PALB2</i> mutant breast cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 6(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.558 Published online June 6, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bowman-Colin, C. <i>et al.</i> <i>Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 8, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1305362110 Contact: David M. Livingston, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Mass. e-mail: david_livingston@dfci.harvard.edu Contact: Chryssa Kanellopoulou, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: chrysi.kanellopoulou@nih.gov</p>