This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse models of idiopathic basal ganglia calcification (IBGC)	<p>Mouse models of IBGC could be useful for studying associations between brain lesions and cognitive, motor and psychiatric symptoms. In human samples, exome sequencing revealed that <i>platelet derived growth factor B</i> (<i>PDGFB</i>; <i>PDGF2</i>) mutations co-segregated with IBGC. In three different mouse models with reduced expression of <i>Pdgfb</i>, which have known defects in the blood brain barrier (BBB), calcified lesions similar to those in humans were detected and brain calcification was shown to progress with age. Next steps include performing behavioral tests on these mice and evaluating the BBB in humans who have <i>PDGFB</i> mutations.</p> <p>SciBX 6(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.908 Published online Aug. 29, 2013</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Keller, A. <i>et al. Nat. Genet.</i>; published online Aug. 4, 2013; doi:10.1038/ng.2723 Contact: Christine Klein, University of Luebeck, Luebeck, Germany e-mail: christine.klein@neuro.uni-luebeck.de Contact: Christer Betsholtz, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden e-mail: christer.betsholtz@ki.se Contact: Maria J. Sobrido, Clinical University Hospital, Santiago de Compostela, Spain e-mail: ssobrido@telefonica.net Contact: Annika Keller, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland e-mail: annika.keller@usz.ch</p>