This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model of sympathetic nervous system activation in metabolic syndrome	A new mouse model could help guide development of therapies that target the sympathetic nervous system in metabolic syndrome. In mice, knockout of the *vav 3 oncogene* (*Vav3*) guanine nucleotide exchange factor–encoding gene led to liver steatosis and diabetes under a normal diet but protected from obesity and diabetes under a high-fat diet. *Vav3* knockout mice showed chronic activation of the noradrenergic system, and pharmacological inhibition of adrenergic receptors prevented the onset of metabolic symptoms. Next steps could include using the mouse model to study the interdependence between diet and chronic activation of the sympathetic nervous system. *SciBX* **6**(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.940 Published online Sept. 5, 2013	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Menacho-Márquez, M. *et al. Cell Metab.*; published online Aug. 6, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.cmet.2013.07.001 **Contact:** Xosé R. Bustelo, University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain e-mail: xbustelo@usal.es