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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Ras homolog family member T1 (*Rhot1*; *Miro1*)-deficient mouse models of motor neuron disease	*Miro1*-deficient mice could be useful as models of motor neuron diseases. *Miro1* knockout mice had defects in brain stem cranial motor neurons and developed impairments in neural respiratory control. Mice with neuron-specific *Miro1* deletions had a disease phenotype that mimicked symptoms in patients with upper motor neuron disease. The *Miro1*-deficient mice also showed defects in mitochondria distribution and movement within cells, but mitochondria function itself was not affected. Next steps could include using the *Miro1*-deficient mice in studies to identify compounds that decrease disease pathology.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Nguyen, T.T. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Aug. 18, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1402449111 **Contact:** Janet M. Shaw, The University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, Utah e-mail: shaw@biochem.utah.edu

SciBX 7(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1080
Published online Sept. 18, 2014