

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Humanized mice to model chronic HBV infection	<p>Mice with humanized immune and liver cells could be used to model chronic HBV infection. In mice with engrafted human hepatocytes and leukocytes, inoculation with HBV⁺ patient serum caused chronic liver fibrosis and inflammation. In sera from 75% of the mice, detectable viral DNA persisted for 4 months. In the model, combined inoculation with the HBV⁺ sera and an anti-HBV antibody prevented infection. Next steps include using the model to identify HBV therapeutics.</p> <p>SciBX 7(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.472 Published online April 24, 2014</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering the humanized mouse models; licensing discussions under way</p>	<p>Bility, M.T. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online March 20, 2014; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1004032 Contact: Lishan Su, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, N.C. e-mail: lsu@med.unc.edu Contact: Moses T. Bility, same affiliation as above e-mail: moses_bility@med.unc.edu</p>