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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Mouse model for *collagen type VI α3* (*COL6A3*)-related muscular dystrophies	A mouse model for *COL6A3*-related muscular dystrophies could help identify new treatments. In mice, a *Col6a3* mutation that caused low expression of a nonfunctional collagen chain variant resulted in collagen VI microfibril deficiency, and led to decreased muscle mass and contractions compared with what was seen in wild-type mice. In the mouse model, the collagen VI pathology was specific to tendons. Next steps include identifying signaling pathways altered in the mutant mice. *SciBX* 6(16); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.396 Published online April 25, 2013	Findings unpatented; frozen sperm and breeding pairs of the mutant mice available for licensing	Pan, T.-C. *et al. J. Biol. Chem.*; published online April 5, 2013; doi:10.1074/jbc.M112.433078 **Contact:** Mon-Li Chu, Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: mon-li.chu@jefferson.edu