

## This week in techniques

| Approach   | Summary   | Licensing status                                | Publication and contact information   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Disease models</b>  |   |   |   |
| Rat model for identifying and characterizing pain therapeutics | A rat model of inflammatory pain may be useful for identifying compounds that treat chronic peripheral pain without inducing long-term tolerance. In addition, the model should reduce discrepancies between models of tolerance, which previously did not include inflammatory pain, and clinical studies of pain and tolerance. In rats with complete Freund's adjuvant-induced hind-paw inflammation, endogenous opioids from inflamed tissue preserved $\mu$ -opioid receptor signaling in sensory neurons and consequently prevented peripheral opioid tolerance. Next steps include studying the mechanism of $\mu$ -opioid receptor signaling in the rat model. No fewer than 11 companies market $\mu$ -opioid receptor agonists for multiple pain indications. | Rat model is patented; licensing status unknown | Zöllner, C. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i> ; published online Feb. 1, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI25911<br><b>Contact:</b> Christian Zöllner, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Campus Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, Germany<br>e-mail: <a href="mailto:christian.zoellner@charite.de">christian.zoellner@charite.de</a> |