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In the December 18 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Morin *et al.* describe a gene-trap strategy that generates green fluorescent protein (GFP) fusions and allows the study of protein distribution and subcellular localization in living flies (*Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2001, **98:**15050-15055). They created a protein-trap transposon (PTT), a P element containing an artificial exon encoding GFP and flanked by splice acceptor and donor sequences. They derived over 600 fluorescent *Drosophila* lines and observed fusion proteins localized in a range of cellular organelles. Characterization of several of these revealed that in most cases splicing occurred correctly and fusions recapitulated endogenous expression of the trapped gene. Over 40% of characterized lines correspond to genes that were not predicted by the *Drosophila* Genome Project.

References

1. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, [http://www.pnas.org]

2. Green fluorescent protein as a marker for gene expression.