This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Prostaglandin E ₂ (PGE ₂) treatment to induce expansion of short-term hematopoietic stem cells	<p>Studies in mice suggest that PGE₂ could help increase the levels of donor hematopoietic stem cells used in adoptive cell transfer to treat hematopoietic disease and bone marrow injury. In mice, PGE₂ increased a subset of bone marrow stem cells. Mice receiving bone marrow transplants from the PGE₂-treated mice showed better reconstruction of bone marrow over 16 weeks than mice given transplants from vehicle-treated animals, suggesting that PEG₂ increases levels of short-term hematopoietic stem cells. Next steps include studies on the therapeutic applications of the technique, which could include adoptive cell therapy to treat hematopoietic diseases, transplant applications and cell culture production.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1392 Published online Sept. 17, 2009</p>	Patent application filed for method and indications; unavailable for licensing	<p>Frisch, B. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Sept. 2, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-03-205823</p> <p>Contact: Laura M. Calvi, University of Rochester School of Medicine, Rochester, N.Y. e-mail: laura_calvi@urmc.rochester.edu</p>