This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
<i>Ex vivo</i> IL-10 gene therapy for functional repair of human donor lungs	<i>Ex vivo</i> IL-10 gene therapy to repair damaged donor human lungs could expand the supply of organs available for transplant. More than 80% of donor lungs become injured during brain death or from complications in the intensive care unit and are unusable for transplant due to inflammation and disruption of the blood alveolar barrier. In pigs, lung transplants pretreated with adenovirus-mediated human IL-10 gene therapy had less inflammation and better lung function than lungs pretreated with vehicle. In an <i>ex vivo</i> perfusion system using injured human lungs, IL-10 gene therapy lowered the production of inflammatory cytokines and improved lung function compared with vehicle. Next steps include evaluating survival and rejection rates of treated lungs in large animal models.	Multiple patents filed covering gene therapy approach and diagnostic biomarkers for predicting lung transplant viability; available for licensing from the University Health Network	Cypel, M. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Oct. 28, 2009; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000266 Contact: Shaf Keshavjee, University Health Network, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: shaf.keshavjee@uhn.on.ca
	SciBX 2(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1645 Published online Nov. 12, 2009		