This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Relaxin-based stem cell gene therapy to treat breast cancer	Relaxin-based stem cell gene therapy could be useful for treating breast cancer. Relaxin can degrade tumor stroma that prevent therapeutics and tumor-infiltrating immune cells from reaching cancer cells. Hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) were transduced with relaxin-expressing lentivirus vectors and transplanted into mice with breast cancer. Doxycycline-induced production of relaxin lowered tumor growth compared with that seen in controls. Next steps include restricting relaxin expression to tumor-associated macrophages and using self-inactivating lentiviral vectors to decrease the risk of insertional mutagenesis.	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Li, Z. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online March 27, 2009; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-10-187237 Contact: Andre Lieber, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: lieber00@u.washington.edu
	SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.602 Published online April 9, 2009		