This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Human skin graft-based delivery of therapeutics	<p>A study in tissue culture and in mice suggests that engineered human skin grafts secreting soluble therapeutics could be useful drug delivery devices. Cultured keratinocytes and fibroblasts were used to generate skin-like tissue that secreted atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP), an antihypertensive. In mice, the ANP-secreting grafts prevented hypertension caused by a high-salt diet. The mice also had significantly lower levels of renin, an enzyme that stimulates production of hypertensive angiotensin, than mice that received a control graft ($p < 0.01$). Next steps include evaluating strategies to maximize the amount of therapeutic that the skin patches generate.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.169 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing from the NIH Office of Technology Transfer	<p>Therrien, J.-P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 11, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0908882107 Contact: Jonathan Vogel, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: jonvogel@mail.nih.gov</p>