This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Peptide hydrogels for delivery of cells as therapeutics	<p>Peptide hydrogels could be useful for delivering cell therapies for a variety of diseases. Peptides containing a matrix metalloproteinase 2 (MMP2) motif and a cell adhesion motif were engineered to self-assemble and form a hydrogel. Cleavage of the peptides at the MMP2 site led to degradation of the gel matrix, which would allow host cells to migrate into the hydrogel, whereas the cell adhesion motif increased attachment of host cells to the matrix. Human mesenchymal stem cells cultured on the peptide hydrogels had better viability and migration than cells cultured on a peptide hydrogel that lacked both motifs. Ongoing studies include evaluating the hydrogels in mice.</p> <p>SciBX 3(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.291 Published online March 4, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Galler, K.M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i>; published online Feb. 16, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja910481t</p> <p>Contact: Jeffrey D. Hartgerink, Rice University, Houston, Texas e-mail: jdh@rice.edu</p>