This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Human-mouse chimeric livers for modeling hepatitis infection	<p>Mice with greater numbers of human hepatocytes in their livers could aid the development of new treatments for HBV and HCV infection. Because HBV and HCV do not infect mouse hepatocytes, mouse livers were repopulated with human hepatocytes, achieving repopulation rates that were 10–100 times higher than those in previously generated human-mouse chimeric livers. Both HBV and HCV infected the livers and achieved sustained propagation in the human hepatocytes. In infected chimeric mice, HCV and HBV therapies reduced serum levels of HCV and HBV RNA compared with vehicle control. Next steps could include optimizing the repopulation procedure to achieve more consistent human hepatocyte repopulation and using the chimeric mice to evaluate the efficacy of new HBV and HCV therapies.</p> <p>SciBX 3(11); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.356 Published online March 18, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bissig, K.-D. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online Feb. 22, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI40094</p> <p>Contact: Inder M. Verma, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: verma@salk.edu</p>