This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Automated control of blood glucose with insulin-glucagon infusion pumps	<p>An automated insulin-glucagon infusion pump system could help treat type 1 diabetes. The system uses a sensor to read blood glucose concentrations every five minutes and a computer algorithm then directs the infusion pump to deliver an appropriate amount of Humalog insulin lispro or glucagon. Optimization of the algorithm's pharmacokinetic parameters in human trials allowed the device to prevent hypoglycemia and resulted in a mean blood glucose level of 164 mg/dl in all subjects studied. Next steps include running a second clinical trial in both pediatric and adult patients. Eli Lilly and Co. markets Humalog to treat diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 3(17); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.538 Published online April 29, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Boston University Office of Technology Transfer for licensing details	<p>El-Khatib, F.H. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online April 14, 2010; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3000619</p> <p>Contact: Steven J. Russell, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: sjrussell@partners.org</p> <p>Contact: Edward R. Damiano, Boston University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: edamiano@bu.edu</p>