This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Titin-mimicking proteins as scaffolds for artificial muscles	<p>Titin-mimicking elastomeric proteins could guide the development of artificial muscle tissue. The titin protein is responsible for muscle elasticity. A titin-mimicking protein was created that consisted of repeating domains of the streptococcal IgB1-binding domain of protein G (GB1) and the <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> protein resilin. The titin mimics were then photochemically cross-linked and cast into solid biomaterials that showed elastic properties similar to those of muscle. Next steps include assessing the biocompatibility of the engineered biomaterials and fine-tuning the materials to ensure they do not cause an adverse immune response.</p> <p>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.603 Published online May 13, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Lv, S. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online May 5, 2010; doi:10.1038/nature09024 Contact: Hongbin Li, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: Hongbin@chem.ubc.ca</p>