This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Synthetic polymer matrix-based propagation of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)	<p>A synthetic polymer matrix-based method for propagating hESCs in the absence of nonhuman proteins could allow cellular expansion for therapeutic and research purposes. hESC lines propagated for at least 10 passages on plates coated with a synthetic methyl acrylate polymer had normal karyotypes, high markers of pluripotency and few markers of differentiation. The results were comparable to those seen for hESCs grown on the standard growth matrix Matrigel. Ongoing work includes propagating adult stem and induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells on the polymer matrix in commercially available media and testing the polymer in large-scale stem cell propagation.</p> <p>SciBX 3(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.690 Published online June 3, 2010</p>	Patent application filed by the University of Michigan; available for licensing	<p>Villa-Diaz, L. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online May 30, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1631</p> <p>Contact: Gary D. Smith, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: smithgd@umich.edu</p> <p>Contact: Joerg Lahann, same affiliation as above e-mail: lahann@umich.edu</p>