This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Protocol for promoting hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) self-renewal and expansion to improve transplant outcomes	<p>A method for increasing self-renewal and expansion of HSCs could help improve transplant outcomes. In murine HSCs, activation of Pten (Mmac1; Tep1) and β-catenin (Ctnnb1) signaling pathways increased and prolonged expansion in culture compared with activation of Pten alone. In lethally irradiated mice, transplantation of these HSCs improved survival compared with transplantation of HSCs with activation of Pten alone. Next steps include confirming the viability of the culture method in human cells.</p> <p>SciBX 4(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1029 Published online Sept. 15, 2011</p>	<p>Patent applications filed; available for licensing from BioMed Valley Discoveries Inc., a translational research organization established and funded by the Stowers Institute for Medical Research</p> <p>Contact: Saurabh Saha, BioMed Valley Discoveries Inc., Kansas City, Mo. e-mail: ssaha@biomed-valley.com</p>	<p>Perry, J.M. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online Sept. 2, 2011; doi:10.1101/gad.17421911</p> <p>Contact: Linheng Li, Stowers Institute for Medical Research, Kansas City, Mo. e-mail: lil@stowers.org</p>