This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Self-assembling nanoparticles to treat chronic wounds	<p>Nanoparticles formed from a self-assembling fusion protein of keratinocyte growth factor (KGF) and elastin-like peptides (ELPs) could be useful for treating chronic wounds. In a mouse model of diabetic chronic wounds, a single application of a fibrin hydrogel containing the self-assembling KGF-ELP nanoparticles resulted in better wound healing than application of fibrin hydrogels that delivered KGF and ELP together or separately. Moreover, the KGF-ELP nanoparticles were produced in large quantities in bacteria without costly chromatographic and antibody-based protein purification steps. Next steps include using the platform to create and evaluate other fusion protein combinations.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.117 Published online Jan. 27, 2011</p>	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Koria, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 27, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1009881108 Contact: Martin L. Yarmush, Harvard Medical School and Shriners Hospitals for Children, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ireis@sbj.org</p>