This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Human hepatic cells derived from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells for liver regeneration	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest iPS cell-derived human hepatic cells could be used for liver regeneration. Human hepatocytes, liver fibroblasts or keratinocytes all generated iPS cells that could subsequently be differentiated into hepatocyte-like cells. In an immunodeficient mouse model of liver cirrhosis, 89% of mice receiving the hepatocyte-like cells survived and secreted liver proteins, whereas only 40% of untreated mice survived. Next steps include studying engraftment of iPS cell-derived hepatic cells obtained from a variety of liver disease patients.</p> <p>SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.611 Published online May 26, 2011</p>	Patent application filed for methods to make iPS cells and hepatic cells; available for licensing through Johns Hopkins University Technology Transfer	<p>Liu, H. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online May 11, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002376</p> <p>Contact: Yoon-Young Jang, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: yjang3@jhmi.edu</p>