This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Generation of cardiomyocytes from epicardial progenitor cells after myocardial infarction (MI)	<p>Inducing the transdifferentiation of heart epicardial progenitor cells into cardiomyocytes could help improve recovery following MI. In a mouse model of MI, thymosin β4 induced epicardial progenitor cells to differentiate into cardiomyocytes that structurally and functionally integrated with surrounding cardiac tissues. Next steps include determining whether the results translate into human epicardial tissue and how thymosin β4 induces the transdifferentiation of epicardial progenitor cells into cardiomyocytes.</p> <p>RGN-352, an injectable formulation of thymosin β4 from RegeneRx Biopharmaceuticals Inc., is in a Phase II trial for MI but has been placed on clinical hold by the FDA.</p> <p>SciBX 4(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.748 Published online June 30, 2011</p>	<p>Patent application filed; available for licensing from University College London Business plc</p> <p>Contact: Chris Williams, University College London Business plc, London, U.K. phone: +44 (0)20 7679 9000 e-mail: c.williams@uclb.com</p>	<p>Smart, N. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online June 8, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10188</p> <p>Contact: Paul R. Riley, University College London, London, U.K. e-mail: p.riley@ich.ucl.ac.uk</p>