This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Mice with human ectopic artificial livers (HEALs) to predict human drug metabolism and drug-drug interactions	<p>Mice with HEALs could be used to predict human drug metabolism and drug-drug interactions. HEALs consist of cocultured human hepatocytes and mouse fibroblasts that are encapsulated in a polyethylene glycol (PEG) scaffold with human liver endothelial cells. Mice implanted with HEALs were useful for monitoring drug metabolism, drug-drug interactions and drug-induced liver injury. Next steps include using the mice to characterize a panel of marketed drugs with known metabolic characteristics and drug-drug interactions.</p> <p>SciBX 4(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.808 Published online July 21, 2011</p>	Provisional patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Chen, A.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 11, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1101791108</p> <p>Contact: Sangeeta N. Bhatia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass. e-mail: sbhatia@mit.edu</p> <p>Contact: Alice A. Chen, same affiliation as above e-mail: aachen@mit.edu</p>