This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Macroporous ferrogel scaffold for magnetic field-inducible drug or cell delivery	<p>Macroporous ferrogels could be useful for externally controlled drug release. <i>In vitro</i>, macroporous ferrogels loaded with mitoxantrone, plasmid DNA or a chemokine showed greater release of the test compound in the presence of an external magnetic field than when no magnetic field was used. In mice given subcutaneously implanted mesenchymal stem cell-loaded ferrogels, magnetic stimulation induced a large release of cells from the scaffold compared with no magnetic stimulation, which led to almost no cell release. Next steps could include testing the efficacy of the scaffold for <i>in vivo</i> therapeutic drug delivery.</p> <p>SciBX 4(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.86 Published online Jan. 20, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhao, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 13, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1007862108 Contact: David J. Mooney, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: mooneyd@seas.harvard.edu</p>