This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Tissue-engineered discs for degenerative disc disease	Tissue-engineered discs may be useful for replacing damaged discs in the lumbar or cervical spine of patients with degenerative disc disease. Imaging methods determined proper disc dimensions, and a mold was then constructed of collagen and alginate and seeded with disc cells. In rats, an engineered disc implanted into the caudal spine maintained disc space height and had mechanical properties similar to those of a normal disc. Next steps include testing the method in a larger animal model. SciBX 4(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.951 Published online Aug. 25, 2011	Work covered by patent applications and issued patents; available for licensing	Bowles, R.D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 1, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1107094108 Contact: Lawrence J. Bonassar, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. e-mail: lb244@cornell.edu