This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Stem cell therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	<p>A study in mice suggests patient-derived, genetically engineered stem cells could be useful for treating DMD. Blood vessel stem cells were isolated from a mouse model of DMD and transfected with a human artificial chromosome expressing wild-type dystrophin (DMD), which is mutated in DMD. In mice, intra-arterial implantation of the cells led to vessel migration and growth in muscle tissue and expression of wild-type dystrophin, which increased mouse motor function compared with no treatment. Next steps include engineering transgenic human blood vessel stem cells.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.978 Published online Sept. 1, 2011</p>	Method for isolating blood vessel stem cells patented; available for licensing	<p>Tedesco, F.S. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 17, 2011; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3002342</p> <p>Contact: Giulio Cossu, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy e-mail: cossu.giulio@hsr.it</p>