This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Cell or tissue transplantation to restore organ functions	<p>Mouse studies suggest transplantation of cells into lymph nodes could rescue organ function. In a mouse model of lethal metabolic liver failure, transplantation of allogeneic hepatocytes to lymph nodes led to engraftment, which rescued the animals from liver failure. In athymic nude mice, transplantation of minced thymus tissue to lymph nodes led to engraftment, production of T cells that were present in the peripheral blood and immune responses against tumor cell transplants. In a mouse model of diabetes, transplantation of islets to lymph nodes led to engraftment and production of C-peptide and glucagon, and it restored blood glucose levels to those of normal mice. Next steps include testing the method in swine.</p> <p>SciBX 5(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1065 Published online Oct. 11, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Komori, J. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Sept. 23, 2012; doi:10.1038/nbt.2379</p> <p>Contact: Eric Lagasse, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: lagasse@pitt.edu</p>