This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Implantable hydrogel scaffold for simulating the bone marrow microenvironment	<p>An implantable hydrogel that simulates the bone marrow microenvironment could help the development of new therapies to treat hematological malignancies. An acrylamide-based hydrogel scaffold was manufactured and seeded with human bone marrow stromal cells and subcutaneously implanted into mice. The scaffolds attracted endogenous hematopoietic stem cells and intravenously injected human leukemic cells that were imaged via intravital confocal microscopy. Next steps include using the system to model the development of blood and tissue cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1215 Published online Nov. 29, 2012</p>	Unpatented; available for collaboration	<p>Lee, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 12, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1208384109 Contact: Biju Parekkadan, Harvard Medical School and Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston, Mass. e-mail: biju_parekkadan@hms.harvard.edu</p>