This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Implantable, bioartificial pancreas for type 1 diabetes	<p>An implantable, bioartificial pancreas system could help treat type 1 diabetes. The two-chamber device consists of a module that houses islet cells in an alginate slab and a module that supplies the islets with oxygen. In a rat model of type 1 diabetes, the device restored normal blood glucose levels until the implant was removed at day 90. Rats that received implants containing islet cells pretreated with the growth hormone-releasing hormone (GHRH) agonist JJ-36 had better glycemic control and required fewer islets than rats with implants containing untreated islets. Beta-O2 Technologies Ltd. is developing the bioartificial pancreas system and has ongoing studies evaluating the implant in large animal models of type 1 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 5(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.318 Published online March 22, 2012</p>	<p>Use of GHRH agonists in diabetes applications patented by the University of Miami; bioartificial pancreas system patented by Beta-O2 Technologies; both available for licensing</p>	<p>Ludwig, B. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 5, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1201868109 Contact: Andrew V. Schally, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Fla. e-mail: andrew.schally@va.gov</p>