This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Dextran-based hydrogel scaffold for burn wound skin regeneration	<p>Mouse studies suggest dextran-based hydrogels could be used as scaffolds to improve burn wound healing. In a mouse burn wound model, removal and replacement of damaged tissues with a dextran-based hydrogel scaffold plus an artificial skin dressing increased neovascularization, skin regeneration and survival compared with a marketed scaffold plus artificial skin dressing. Next steps include large animal testing and clinical trials.</p> <p>SciBX 5(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.55 Published online Jan. 12, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Sun, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 14, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1115973108 Contact: Sharon Gerecht, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: gerecht@jhu.edu</p>