This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
<i>In vitro</i> microvasculature network model	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> model of organ microvasculature could be useful for identifying compounds that target the vasculature to treat cardiovascular diseases. An <i>in vitro</i> microvasculature network that modeled the <i>in vivo</i> morphology and stability of live vasculature was formed by using soft lithography to seed endothelial cells on type I collagen. In the model, provasculature stimulators led to angiogenic sprouting from the vessels. Also in the model, blood flowed through the vessels without adhering to the endothelial surface or causing thrombosis, whereas with prothrombotic stimulation of the vessels, platelets adhered to the endothelial surface and aggregated. Next steps include large-scale production of the microvessels.</p> <p>SciBX 5(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.665 Published online June 21, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; unlicensed	<p>Zheng, Y. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 29, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1201240109 Contact: Abraham D. Stroock, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. e-mail: ads10@cornell.edu Contact: Ying Zheng, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: yingzy@uw.edu</p>