This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Cell-free biodegradable elastomeric grafts to promote artery formation	Grafts made of a biodegradable elastomeric material could be useful for promoting artery formation. The grafts consisted of a heparin-coated porous tube made of poly(glycerol sebacate) sheathed in a polycaprolactone mesh. In rats, degradation of the graft led to the formation of new arteries that integrated with surrounding host tissue over three months. Those arteries were structurally and functionally similar to native aortic arteries. Next steps include optimizing and standardizing the graft fabrication processes and evaluating the graft in large animal models. <i>SciBX</i> 5(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.714 Published online July 12, 2012	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the University of Pittsburgh Office of Technology Management	Wu, W. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online June 24, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2821 Contact: Yadong Wang, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. e-mail: yaw20@pitt.edu