This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Sheep model for load-bearing long bone defects	Aged sheep with defects in their long bones could be useful for evaluating bone repair and regeneration treatments. The model was used to evaluate marketed polycaprolactone-tricalcium phosphate scaffolds alone or in combination with either autologous bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) or recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein 7 (BMP7; OP-1). In the model, scaffold plus BMP7 led to better repair of bone defects than scaffold plus MSCs and scaffold alone. Clinical trials to evaluate the scaffold plus BMP7 are under way, and the aged sheep model is being used to test a modified strategy using the scaffold plus MSCs.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Reichert, J.C. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online July 4, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003720 Contact: Dietmar W. Hutmacher, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia e-mail: dietmar.hutmacher@qut.edu.au
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