This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Chemistry			
Biofilm-resistant polymers	<p>Mouse and <i>in vitro</i> studies suggest methacrylate polymer coatings could help prevent biofilm formation in implantable medical devices. A microarray-based screen identified a class of methacrylates that resisted colonization by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i>. In a mouse model of biofilm formation, subcutaneously implanted catheters coated with the lead methacrylates showed less bacterial colonization than control catheters. Next steps include toxicology studies and preclinical testing of coated urinary and venous catheters.</p> <p>Semprus BioSciences Corp. has biofilm-resistant polymer coatings for a range of biomedical devices in preclinical development.</p> <p>SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.878 Published online Aug. 23, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Hook, A.L. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Aug. 12, 2012; doi:10.1038/nbt.2316</p> <p>Contact: Morgan R. Alexander, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, U.K. e-mail: morgan.alexander@nottingham.ac.uk</p>