This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Intramyocardial injection of synthetic modified RNA (modRNA) encoding VEGF-A to expand and direct differentiation of cardiac progenitor cells	<p>Mouse studies suggest pulse-like expression of VEGF-A from modRNA could help regenerate cardiac tissue. In a mouse model of myocardial infarction, modRNA- and DNA-mediated expression of VEGF-A increased capillary density and decreased apoptosis and infarct size compared with vehicle. In the model, modRNA-mediated expression of VEGF-A increased long-term survival compared with that seen using vehicle. In contrast, DNA-mediated expression of VEGF-A decreased short-term survival. Next steps include testing this approach in larger animal models and humans.</p> <p>SciBX 6(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1205 Published online Oct. 31, 2013</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Zangi, L. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online Sept. 8, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2682 Contact: Kenneth R. Chien, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: kenneth.chien@ki.se</p>