This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Instrumentation			
Poly(carboxybetaine methacrylate) (PCBMA), zwitterionic hydrogels to coat implantable devices	<p>Mouse studies identified PCBMA hydrogels that could be applied to implantable devices to prevent foreign body reactions. Foreign body reactions cause encapsulation of implanted devices in collagen capsules. In mice, collagen density around implanted PCBMA hydrogels was only 30%–40%, whereas around clinically available poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate) (PHEMA) it was higher than 90% and accompanied by increased inflammation. Next steps could include testing the zwitterionic hydrogels as device coatings.</p> <p>SciBX 6(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.562 Published online June 6, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Zhang, L. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i>; published online March 12, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2580 Contact: Shaoyi Jiang, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: sjiang@uw.edu</p>