This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Generation of transplantable, vascularized liver buds from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells	Human vascularized liver buds grown in culture could be used to regenerate human livers and model liver disease. Liver endoderm cells generated from human iPS cells were co-cultured with human endothelial cells and mesenchymal stem cells to form vascularized liver buds. In mice, implanted liver buds integrated with the host vasculature, matured and performed human liver-specific metabolic reactions. In mice with chemically induced liver failure, transplanted liver buds prolonged survival compared with transplanted hepatocytes. Next steps include scaling up the process to establish larger tissue segments and testing functionality in larger animal models.	Patent application filed; available for licensing through Yokohama City University	Takebe, T. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online July 3, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12271 Contact: Takanori Takebe, Yokohoma City University, Yokohama, Japan e-mail: ttakebe@yokohama-cu.ac.jp Contact: Hideki Taniguchi, same affiliation as above e-mail: rtanigu@yokohama-cu.ac.jp
	SciBX 6(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.843 Published online Aug. 15, 2013		