This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Glial Schwann cell precursors as a source for dental stem cells	<p>Mouse studies suggest glia cell precursors could be developed as a source for tooth-regenerating stem cells. In a mouse model of tooth development, glial Schwann cell precursors associated with nerves at tooth sites showed migration into tooth pulp and differentiated into mesenchymal dental stem cells known as odontoblasts. In a mouse model of tooth injury, odontoblasts derived from glial cells were present at injury sites, and isolated odontoblasts deposited a mineralized matrix in osteogenic assays. Next steps could include developing strategies that promote glia cell conversion into odontoblasts.</p> <p>SciBX 7(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1027 Published online Sept. 4, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing information unavailable	<p>Kaukua, N. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 27, 2014; doi:10.1038/nature13536 Contact: Igor Adameyko, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: igor.adameyko@ki.se Contact: Kaj Fried, same affiliation as above e-mail: kaj.fried@ki.se</p>