This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Synthetic, universal reversal agent for heparin anticoagulants	<p>Synthetic, universal heparin reversal agents could help reduce bleeding complications in patients who use the drug. The synthetic, universal reversal agents are composed of trivalent, cationic heparin-binding groups incorporated into hyperbranched dendritic polyglycerol scaffolds. In <i>in vitro</i> coagulation and biocompatibility assays, the lead reversal agent showed greater neutralization activity against the generic anticoagulant fondaparinux and other low molecular weight heparin therapies and better biocompatibility than protamine—the generic standard-of-care heparin reversal agent. In rodents, the lead reversal agent showed greater neutralization of low molecular weight heparin therapies and less toxicity than protamine. Next steps include optimizing the lead universal heparin reversal agent and evaluating it in rodent models of cardiopulmonary bypass surgery.</p> <p>SciBX 7(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1332 Published online Nov. 20, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing and partnering	<p>Shenoi, R.A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Oct. 29, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3009427 Contact: Jayachandran N. Kizhakkedathu, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: jay@pathology.ubc.ca</p>