This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Overexpression of yes-associated protein 1 (YAP1) reprograms hepatocytes to progenitors that promote liver regeneration	<p>Cell culture and mouse studies suggest hepatocytes reprogrammed to progenitor cells via YAP1 overexpression could help promote liver regeneration. In mice, adeno-associated viral vector-mediated overexpression of <i>Yap1</i> in hepatocytes increased liver growth compared with no alteration and led to the formation of progenitor-like cells. <i>Ex vivo</i>, the <i>Yap1</i>-overexpressing livers formed more organoids in culture than livers with normal <i>Yap1</i> expression. In a mouse model of liver failure, intrasplenic injection of cells from <i>Yap1</i>-overexpressing organoids led to repopulation of the liver in three of four animals. Next steps include repeating the experiments in human cells and developing a method to transiently activate YAP1.</p> <p>SciBX 7(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.780 Published online July 10, 2014</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Yimlamai, D. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online June 5, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.03.060 Contact: Fernando D. Camargo, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: fernando.camargo@childrens.harvard.edu</p>