

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Graded osteoblast interfaces for tissue engineering	Retrovirus-directed cell differentiation may be useful for engineering tissues that better resemble native tissue. Fibroblasts were seeded onto a 3D collagen scaffold containing gradients of immobilized retrovirus encoding the osteogenic transcription factor Runx2. Fibroblasts transfected by the virus expressed Runx2, creating a graded interface of cells with osteoblast-like characteristics. Areas of the matrix with higher concentrations of virus contained higher numbers of osteoblast-like cells than areas with low viral titers. Next steps include assessing the biomechanical properties of the graded interfaces and expanding the technique to additional tissue types.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Phillips, J.E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 11, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0801988105 <b>Contact:</b> Andrés J. García, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: <a href="mailto:andres.garcia@me.gatech.edu">andres.garcia@me.gatech.edu</a>