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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Functional bioengineered tooth replacement as a model for organ replacement therapy	The growth and transplantation of a functional bioengineered tooth could become a useful model for developing organ replacement therapies. In an earlier study, engineered tooth germ cells grew into teeth within an implanted capsule, but it was unclear whether these teeth were functional. In the new study, tooth germ cells implanted into the oral cavity developed into a functional tooth with properties comparable to those of normal teeth. The nerve fibers innervating the pulp and periodontal ligaments of the implanted tooth were responsive to stimuli. Next steps could include evaluating the growth and functionality of other organ germ cells in the mouse model.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Ikeda, E. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online Aug. 3, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0902944106 **Contact:** Takashi Tsuji, Tokyo University of Science, Chiba, Japan e-mail: t-tsuji@rs.noda.tus.ac.jp

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