This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Transplants of porcine embryonic pancreatic tissue to treat type 1 diabetes	<p>Studies in nonhuman primates suggest that transplants of porcine embryonic pancreatic tissue could treat type 1 diabetes in end-stage patients. In <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> models of diabetes, grafts of pancreatic tissue from pig embryos plus immunosuppressants produced porcine insulin that controlled the monkeys' blood glucose levels. At five months postsurgery, the monkeys were independent of insulin therapy. <i>Ex vivo</i> analyses showed no transplant rejection and showed that the grafts had used host vasculature for growth and survival. Ongoing studies in monkeys are determining the minimum immunosuppressive therapy required for successful transplantation.</p> <p>MicroIslet Inc.'s MicroIslet-P microencapsulated porcine islet cell implant is in preclinical development to treat diabetes. Senesco Technologies Inc.'s <i>eukaryotic initiation factor 5A</i> (<i>eIF5A</i>) gene technology is in preclinical development to increase islet cell survival during transplants.</p> <p>SciBX 2(20); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.855 Published online May 21, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Hecht, G. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 11, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0812253106 Contact: Yair Reisner, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel e-mail: yair.reisner@weizmann.ac.il</p>