This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Ex vivo expansion of human hematopoietic stem cells in purine-containing culture	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that culture of hematopoietic stem cells with the purine derivative StemRegen1 (SR1) could improve the proliferative capacity of the cells for clinical applications. In cultured human progenitor cells, SR1 plus cytokines increased expansion of hematopoietic progenitors compared with cytokines plus vehicle control. In immunodeficient mice, cells from the human SR1-containing culture engrafted into mice and maintained their multilineage potential better than cultured cells lacking SR1. Next steps include developing a GMP protocol to test the method in the clinic. SR1 is in preclinical testing at Novartis AG for hematopoietic stem cell therapy to treat a variety of lymphomas and leukemias. *SciBX* 3(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1024 Published online Aug. 26, 2010	Patent application filed in the U.S.; exclusively licensed by Novartis	Boitano, A.E. *et al. Science*; published online Aug. 5, 2010; doi:10.1126/science.1191536 **Contact:** Peter G. Schultz, The Scripps Research Institute, Torrey Pines, Calif. e-mail: schultz@scripps.edu **Contact:** Michael P. Cooke, Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation, San Diego, Calif. e-mail: mcooke@gnf.org