This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Identification of synthetic peptides supporting pluripotent cell growth	A cell-based screen could help identify peptides that promote growth and proliferation of pluripotent cells for a variety of therapeutic uses. The method combined phage display with a cell-binding assay to identify 6 synthetic 12-mer peptides that bound human embryonic carcinoma cells, which served as proxies for human embryonic stem cells. Two of the peptides promoted long-term growth and proliferation of human embryonic stem cells on 2D surfaces without altering expression of cellular markers of pluripotency. Ongoing work includes optimizing the two lead peptides and testing them in 3D growth contexts. SciBX 3(4); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.130 Published online Jan. 28, 2010	Patented by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF); available for licensing Contact: Paulanne Chelf, WARF, Madison, Wisc. e-mail: pchelf@warf.org	Derda, R. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Am. Chem. Soc.</i> ; published online Jan. 12, 2010; doi:10.1021/ja906089g Contact: Laura L. Kiessling, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisc. e-mail: kiessling@chem.wisc.edu