

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Microscale HCV-infected primary human hepatocyte cultures for drug screening	<p>A microscale model of human liver tissue that recapitulates the complete HCV life cycle could help screen for new HCV therapeutics. The miniaturized model used lithography techniques to micropattern wells containing primary human hepatocytes and functional liver stromal cells. Addition of anti-HCV antibodies or other HCV therapeutics to the microscale cultures led to dose-dependent decreases in HCV replication. Next steps could include improving the HCV infection efficiency of the model and using the microscale cultures to screen for new anti-HCV therapeutics.</p> <p>SciBX 3(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.166 Published online Feb. 4, 2010</p>	Patent application filed; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Ploss, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 25, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0915130107</p> <p>Contact: Sangeeta N. Bhatia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: sbhatia@mit.edu</p> <p>Contact: Charles M. Rice, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ricec@rockefeller.edu</p>