

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Autologous, gel-based cartilage engineering	<p>A study in rabbits suggests that gel-based cartilage engineering could be used to create an autologous tissue source for repairing cartilage defects. In rabbits, injection of an agarose gel into the outer surface of bones triggered the formation of cartilage without the need to introduce cells or pro-growth factors. The cartilage was then extracted and used to repair a cartilage defect in the rabbits' knees. Animals that received the implant showed substantially better cartilage repair than nonimplanted controls. Next steps include designing clinical trials.</p> <p>SciBX 3(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.201 Published online Feb. 11, 2010</p>	<p>Patent pending covering use of gels for engineering cartilage at an ectopic site; available for licensing Contact: V. Prasad Shastri, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: prasad.shastri@bioss.uni-freiburg.de</p>	<p>Emans, P. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 1, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0907774107 Contact: V. Prasad Shastri, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany e-mail: prasad.shastri@gmail.com or prasad.shastri@bioss.uni-freiburg.de Contact: Pieter J. Emans, Maastricht University Medical Centre, Maastricht, the Netherlands e-mail: Pj.Emans@orthop.unimaas.nl</p>