This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Two-component hydrogel-based cell encapsulation	Two-component hydrogels for encapsulating cells could be used as part of cell therapies for a variety of diseases. A mixture of tryptophan- and proline-rich peptides formed a nontoxic and injectable hydrogel that encapsulated multiple cell types, including stem cells. <i>In vitro</i> , the encapsulated cells self-renewed and differentiated, forming stable cell cultures. Next steps include using the hydrogels to implant cells in animal models of nervous system and cardiovascular diseases. SciBX 3(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.31 Published online Jan. 7, 2010	Patent application filed for the hydrogels in the U.S.; available for licensing through the Stanford University Office of Technology Licensing	Foo, C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Nov. 30, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0904851106 Contact: Sarah C. Heilshorn, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: heilshorn@stanford.edu