This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Biodegradable hydrogel to prevent postsurgery seromas	<p>A study in rats suggests that a hydrogel consisting of polyethylene glycol (PEG) and polycarbonate of dihydroxyacetone (MPEG-pDHA) could help prevent seromas, which are collections of serous fluid in tissue that often occur following ablative and reconstructive surgeries. In a rat mastectomy model, injection of the MPEG-pDHA hydrogel reduced mean seroma volume compared with no treatment ($p < 0.01$). The hydrogel degraded into inert components that were well tolerated by the tissue. Next steps include finalizing the biocompatibility of the biomaterial.</p> <p>SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.714 Published online June 10, 2010</p>	Multiple patents issued covering composition and use in clinical applications; available for licensing	<p>Zawaneh, P.N. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 31, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811529107</p> <p>Contact: David Putnam, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. e-mail: dap43@cornell.edu</p>