This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Endothelial, colony-forming cell (ECFC) transplants for gene therapy	*In vitro* and mouse studies suggest genetically engineered ECFC transplants could be used for gene therapy. In mice, vascular implantation of mesenchymal stem cells plus ECFCs engineered to express erythropoietin (EPO) led to higher EPO levels in the blood than implantation plus wild-type ECFCs. In mouse models of anemia, the EPO-expressing implants increased hematocrit and EPO levels and red blood cell and hemoglobin concentrations compared with control implants. Next steps include optimizing cell sources and the vascularization process of the implants.	U.S. patent application pending; available for licensing worldwide	Lin, R.Z. *et al. Blood*; published online Sept. 21, 2011; doi:10.1182/blood-2011-08-372946 **Contact:** Juan M. Melero-Martin, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Mass. e-mail: juan.meleromartin@childrens.harvard.edu

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