This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Functionalized, methacrylated hyaluronic acid hydrogels for cartilage repair	Methacrylated hyaluronic acid hydrogels functionalized with N-cadherin mimetic peptides could be useful for cartilage repair. An *in vitro* cartilage formation assay using methacrylated hyaluronic acid hydrogels containing N-cadherin mimetic peptides increased human mesenchymal stem cell (MSC)-mediated chondrogenesis compared with the same hydrogel containing scrambled peptides. In immunodeficient mice, implantation of human MSC-seeded hydrogel disks containing N-cadherin mimetic peptides increased chondrogenesis compared with implantation of hydrogel disks containing scrambled peptides. Next steps include improving the cellular response to the hydrogel and analyzing the system in a large animal model. *SciBX* 6(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.638 Published online June 27, 2013	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Bian, L. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online June 3, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1214100110 **Contact:** Jason A. Burdick, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. e-mail: burdick2@seas.upenn.edu