This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Small molecule–mediated *ex vivo* expansion of long-term repopulating progenitor cells in cord blood–derived hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs)	A small molecule could enhance the number of HSCs with long-term repopulating capacity in cord blood–derived HSC transplants. Current methods for expanding cord blood–derived HSCs preferentially enhance the number of short-term repopulating cells. Library screening, chemical synthesis and testing in a human cord blood cell culture identified a pyrimidoindole analog that increased the number of long-term repopulating HSCs by 13-fold compared with vehicle. In mice, transplantation of human cord blood–derived HSCs pretreated with the analog increased long-term repopulating HSCs in bone marrow at 30 weeks post-transplant compared with transplantation of HSCs pretreated with vehicle. Next steps could include testing analog-pretreated HSC transplants in animal models of hematological disease. *SciBX* 7(40); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1193 Published online Oct. 16, 2014	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Fares, I. *et al. Science*; published online Sept. 19, 2014; doi:10.1126/science.1256337 **Contact:** Guy Sauvageau, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada e-mail: guy.sauvageau@umontreal.ca