This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Virus-free induction of pluripotency in stem cells	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> and mouse study suggests that transfection of embryonic fibroblasts with plasmids could be a safer method to induce pluripotency in stem cells than using viral vector induction. Transfection of a single plasmid containing cDNA of <i>Oct3</i>, <i>Oct4</i>, <i>Sox2</i> and <i>Klf4</i> in combination with a <i>c-Myc</i> plasmid into mouse embryonic fibroblasts resulted in induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells without evidence of plasmid integration. Further studies are necessary to improve the efficacy of the technique for higher rates of transfection.</p> <p>SciBX 1(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.937 Published online: Oct. 23, 2008</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Okita, K. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 9, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1164270 Contact: Shinya Yamanaka, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: yamanaka@frontier.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>