This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell models of neurological disorders	Neural cell lines generated from patient-derived iPS cells could serve as models of familial dysautonomia (FD) and other neurological disorders. iPS cells derived from fibroblasts of FD patients were programmed to form neural crest precursor cells, which showed multiple features of FD, including higher levels of disease-related mutant protein and less neuronal differentiation than cells from healthy controls. Ongoing studies will use the cell lines to compare the efficacy of FD therapeutics and extend the model to Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and other neural crest disorders. <i>SciBX</i> 2(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1291 Published online Aug. 27, 2009	Differentiation techniques patented by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; available for licensing	Lee, G. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Aug. 19, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08320 Contact: Lorenz Studer, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y. e-mail: studerl@mskcc.org