This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Reprogramming human neural stem cells into induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells using <i>Oct4</i> alone	Generating human iPS cells using the single transcription factor <i>Oct4</i> could be safer than current iPS cell induction methods that require four transcription factors, including <i>c-Myc</i> , a known oncogene. In human neural stem cells, retroviral-mediated induction using only <i>Oct4</i> generated iPS cells. The reprogramming efficiency was lower than with the usual four factors. Next steps could include evaluating the feasibility of only using small molecules or recombinant <i>OCT4</i> protein rather than retroviral vectors to reprogram cells into iPS cells.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Kim, J.B. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Aug. 28, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature08436 Contact: Hans Scholer, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, Munster, Germany e-mail: office@mpi-muenster.mpg.de
	SciBX 2(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1393 Published online Sept. 17, 2009		