This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Chemical platform for generation of human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells	A cocktail of three small molecules may provide a chemical platform for optimizing the production of human iPS cells for cell-replacement therapies. An iPS cell-generating protocol that combined a transforming growth factor- β receptor 1 (TGFB β RI; ALK5) inhibitor, a mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase (MEK) inhibitor and thiazovivin, a compound that enhances cell survival, improved the generation of iPS cells by up to 200-fold compared with no treatment. Next steps include screening for other small molecules that could further increase the generation of human iPS cells. <i>SciBX</i> 2(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1584 Published online Oct. 29, 2009	Multiple patents filed covering use of proteins, small molecules and their combinations to generate iPSCs; exclusively licensed to Fate Therapeutics Inc.	Lin, T. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i> ; published online Oct. 18, 2009; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1393 Contact: Sheng Ding, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: sding@scripps.edu