This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Blastocyst-derived rat embryonic stem cells (ESCs)	<p>Blastocyst-derived rat ESCs may be useful in the development of new rat-based models of human diseases. In two separate studies, rat blastocysts grown in culture media containing inhibitors of glycogen synthase kinase 3 (GSK3A; GSK3), mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 1 (MAP2K1; MEK1) and fibroblast growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase were shown to express key markers for stem cell pluripotency. Injection of the rat ESCs from one rat strain into blastocysts of another strain resulted in chimeric offspring. Next steps include using the rat ESCs to generate new models of human disease.</p> <p>SciBX 2(2); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.74 Published online Jan. 15, 2009</p>	Rat ESCs are patented; licensed exclusively to Stem Cell Sciences plc	<p>Li, P. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Dec. 24, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.12.006 Contact: Qi-Long Ying, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: qying@keck.usc.edu</p> <p>Buehr, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Dec. 24, 2008; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2008.12.007 Contact: Austin Smith, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: austin.smith@cscr.cam.ac.uk</p>