This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
MicroRNA-145 to control human embryonic stem cell (hESC) pluripotency and differentiation	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that targeting miRNA-145 could help control the pluripotency and differentiation of hESCs for therapy or research. In wild-type hESCs, endogenous miRNA-145 inhibited pluripotency and caused lineage-restricted differentiation. In hESCs lacking miRNA-145, differentiation was impaired. Thus, miRNA-145 promoted differentiation while repressing pluripotency. Next steps could include determining how miRNA-145 expression is altered when de-differentiating or reprogramming somatic cells.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Xu, N. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online April 30, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.02.038 Contact: Kenneth S. Kosik, University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif. e-mail: kosik@lifesci.ucsb.edu
	SciBX 2(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.813 Published online May 14, 2009		