This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Integration-free induction of pluripotent stem cells by transfection with a single polycistronic vector	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a single polycistronic vector could induce pluripotency in embryonic fibroblasts for use in regenerative medicine. In mouse embryonic fibroblasts, transient expression of a single polycistronic construct containing four transcription factors necessary for pluripotency (<i>Oct4</i> , <i>Sox2</i> , <i>Klf4</i> and <i>c-Myc</i>) generated induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells with no evidence of genomic integration. <i>In vitro</i> , the cells differentiated and could produce ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm cells. Next steps could include applying the strategy to human cells.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Gonzalez, F. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 18, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901471106 Contact: Izpisua Belmonte, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: belmonte@salk.edu
	SciBX 2(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.927 Published online June 4, 2009		