This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Nonviral vector for induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that a nonviral DNA vector could be useful for delivering genes needed to transform somatic cells into iPS cells. <i>In vitro</i>, human adipose stem cells and fibroblasts were transfected with a single vector containing <i>Oct4</i>, <i>Sox2</i>, <i>Lin-28 homolog (LIN28)</i> and <i>Nanog homeobox (NANOG)</i>, four transcription factors sufficient to induce pluripotency. When injected into mice, the transfected cells formed teratomas encompassing the full spectrum of adult tissues, indicating that the cells were pluripotent. Next steps include confirming the safety and tolerability of the nonvirally produced iPS cells.</p> <p>SciBX 3(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.228 Published online Feb. 18, 2010</p>	Patents pending; available for licensing	<p>Jia, F. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i>; published online Feb. 7, 2010; doi:10.1038/nmeth.1426</p> <p>Contact: Joseph Wu, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: joewu@stanford.edu</p>