This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Reprogramming cardiac fibroblasts to produce cardiomyocytes for cardiac regeneration	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that the transcription factors GATA binding protein 4 (GATA4), myocyte enhancing factor 2C (MEF2C) and T-box 5 (TBX5) could reprogram cardiac fibroblasts to generate cardiomyocytes for cardiac tissue regeneration. In cultured cardiac fibroblasts, expression of GATA4, MEF2C and TBX5 induced the display of cardiomyocyte-like genes and cell contractility compared with expression of other transcription factors. Reprogrammed cardiac fibroblasts injected into the hearts of mice differentiated into cardiomyocyte-like cells compared with fibroblasts that were not reprogrammed. Next steps could include testing the strategy in disease models.</p> <p>SciBX 3(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.999 Published online Aug. 19, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Ieda, M. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Aug. 5, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2010.07.002 Contact: Deepak Srivastava, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: dsrivastava@gladstone.ucsf.edu Contact: Masaki Ieda, same affiliation as above e-mail: ieda@cpnet.med.keio.ac.jp</p>