This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Protocol for reprogramming fibroblasts into neural progenitor cells	<p>Cell culture studies suggest that temporary induction of four transcription factors could be used to directly reprogram fibroblasts into neural progenitor cells for use in disease models and cell-based therapies. In cultured mouse embryonic fibroblasts, temporary induction of the <i>Oct4</i>, <i>Sox2</i>, <i>Klf4</i> and <i>c-Myc</i> transcription factors followed by transfer to neural reprogramming media led to the generation of neural progenitor cells. Next steps include developing a pharmacological approach to deliver reprogramming factors into cells.</p> <p>Fate Therapeutics Inc. is developing cellular reprogramming and induction technologies.</p> <p>SciBX 4(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.556 Published online May 12, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; licensed to Fate Therapeutics	<p>Kim, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online April 26, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1103113108</p> <p>Contact: Sheng Ding, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: sheng.ding@gladstone.ucsf.edu</p>