This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived keratinocytes to treat skin diseases	<i>In vitro</i> studies identified a protocol for differentiating iPS cells into keratinocytes that could be used to help treat skin diseases. In fibroblasts from three healthy individuals and two recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (RDEM) patients, iPS cells were produced using retroviral transduction of four reprogramming factors. Retinoic acid and bone morphogenetic protein 4 (BMP4) induced the iPS cells to differentiate into keratinocytes that matured and formed 3D skin equivalents. Next steps could include testing 3D skin equivalents in animal skin disease models.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Itoh, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online May 9, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1100332108 Contact: Angela M. Christiano, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: amc65@columbia.edu
	SciBX 4(21); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.612 Published online May 26, 2011		