This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Generation of induced dopaminergic (iDA) cells from skin fibroblasts	<p>A method for generating iDA cells from skin fibroblasts could provide a cell-based therapy for Parkinson's disease (PD). Skin fibroblasts from healthy individuals and PD patients that were transduced with three genes—<i>achaete-scute complex homolog 1</i> (<i>ASCL1</i>; <i>MASH1</i>), <i>nuclear receptor subfamily 4 group A member 2</i> (<i>NR4A2</i>; <i>NURR1</i>) and <i>LIM homeobox transcription factor 1α</i> (<i>LMX1A</i>; <i>LMX1</i>)—were reprogrammed to have functional features of dopaminergic neurons. Next steps include transplanting iDA neuronal cells into an animal model of PD and developing methods to increase the efficiency of the conversion process.</p> <p>SciBX 4(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.838 Published online July 28, 2011</p>	Patented; available for licensing	<p>Caiazzo, M. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online July 3, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10284 Contact: Vania Broccoli, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy e-mail: broccoli.vania@hsr.it</p>