This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
<i>In vitro</i> differentiation protocol to generate functional melanocytes	A culture method for generating melanocytes could be useful for treating skin disorders. Two human embryonic stem cell lines and one induced pluripotent stem cell line differentiated into pigment-producing melanocytes when cultured in stem cell media supplemented with bone morphogenetic protein 4 (BMP4). In an <i>ex vivo</i> multilayered epidermal construct, the melanocytes functionally integrated into the epidermis. Next steps include GMP production of the product and safety studies. <i>SciBX</i> 4(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.974 Published online Sept. 1, 2011	Patent application filed for method; available for licensing	Nissan, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 19, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1019070108 Contact: Christine Baldeschi, I-Stem, Évry, France e-mail: cbaldeschi@istem.fr