This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Dedifferentiation and restoration of islet β cells in diabetes	<p>Diabetic mice show dedifferentiation of pancreatic islet β cells and could be used to screen compounds to restore islet β cells. In multiple mouse models of type 1 and type 2 diabetes, pancreases showed lower β cell mass but higher levels of α cells and undifferentiated β cell precursors than healthy control pancreases. Lineage-tracing studies showed that the undifferentiated cells were derived from β cells. Next steps include testing whether dedifferentiated β cells are present in human diabetes patients and screening for compounds to reverse dedifferentiation.</p> <p>SciBX 5(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1013 Published online Sept. 27, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Talchai, C. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online Sept. 14, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2012.07.029 Contact: Domenico Accili, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: da230@columbia.edu</p>