This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Patient-specific cell culture model of cystic fibrosis (CF)	Human cell culture studies suggest <i>in vitro</i> -differentiated patient-derived stem cells could be useful for screening CF therapeutics. Patient-derived induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells treated with a series of growth factors <i>in vitro</i> differentiated into airway epithelial cells. These cells expressed mutant <i>cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator</i> (CFTR) and showed lower ion flux than epithelial cells derived from healthy controls. Next steps include optimizing the differentiation procedure to improve yield and minimize generation of other cell types. SciBX 5(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1094 Published online Oct. 18, 2012	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Wong, A.P. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Aug. 26, 2012; doi:10.1038/nbt.2328 Contact: James Ellis, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: jellis@sickkids.ca Contact: Janet Rossant, same affiliation as above e-mail: janet.rossant@sickkids.ca