This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived adipocytes to screen for obesity and diabetes therapeutics	Human iPS cell-derived adipocytes could be used to identify therapeutics for obesity and diabetes. Human iPS cell lines were differentiated into mesenchymal progenitor cells, then transduced with <i>peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor-γ</i> (PPARG; PPARγ) either alone or in combination with <i>CCAAT enhancer binding protein-β</i> (CEBPB; CRP2) and <i>PR domain containing 16</i> (PRDM16) to produce white or brown adipocytes, respectively. In mice, implantation of these adipocytes led to the formation of white or brown adipose tissue. Next steps include collaborating with Roche to identify compounds that modulate the insulin sensitivity of white adipocytes or that activate brown adipocytes.	Patent applications filed; licensed nonexclusively to Roche; available for additional licensing	Ahfeldt, T. <i>et al. Nat. Cell Biol.</i> ; published online Jan. 15, 2012; doi:10.1038/ncb2411 Contact: Chad A. Cowan, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: ccowan@fas.harvard.edu
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