This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Human stem cell-derived models of cortical networks	<p>Human stem cell-derived models of cortical networks could aid the development of new treatments for neurological diseases. Human stem cells were differentiated into a population of cortical stem and progenitor cells and underwent an extended period of cortical neurogenesis and neuronal terminal differentiation. The resulting neurons acquired mature electrophysiological properties and formed functional excitatory synapses. Next steps include using the approach to model a cortical disease, such as Alzheimer's disease.</p> <p>SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.189 Published online Feb. 16, 2012</p>	<p>Patent application filed covering use in undisclosed indications; available for licensing from Cambridge Enterprise Ltd., the technology transfer arm of the University of Cambridge</p>	<p>Shi, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Neurosci.</i>; published online Feb. 5, 2012; doi:10.1038/nn.3041 Contact: Frederick J. Livesey, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: rick@gurdon.cam.ac.uk</p>