This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-based model of HCV infection	<p>iPS cells could be used to model the response of individual patients to HCV infection. Undifferentiated iPS cells were cultured in conditions to induce the production of liver-specific markers and hepatocyte-specific morphology. Hepatocyte-like cells derived from iPS cells supported HCV replication and developed an inflammatory response to infection. In the cells, Incivek telaprevir or an HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitor decreased viral replication compared with vehicle. Next steps include using iPS cell-derived hepatocytes from patients with distinct genetic backgrounds to understand how they respond differently to HCV infection and therapeutics. Incivek is a small molecule HCV NS3 protease inhibitor marketed by Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Johnson & Johnson to treat HCV infection.</p> <p>SciBX 5(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.190 Published online Feb. 16, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Schwartz, R.E. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Jan. 30, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1121400109 Contact: Sangeeta N. Bhatia, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: sbhatia@mit.edu Contact: Charles M. Rice, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ricec@rockefeller.edu</p>