This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Protocol for generating functional cardiomyocytes from human pluripotent stem cells	<p>A protocol to generate cardiomyocytes from human pluripotent stem cells could be useful for producing cell replacement therapies. The cardiomyocyte-generating protocol involves treating human pluripotent stem cells with small molecule inhibitors of glycogen synthase kinase 3β (GSK3B) prior to differentiation and small molecule inhibitors of wingless-type MMTV integration site (WNT) signaling during differentiation. The protocol generated functional cardiomyocytes at yields of up to 98%. Next steps include optimizing the protocol to generate cardiomyocytes with mature, adult-like phenotypes and scaling up the approach.</p> <p>SciBX 5(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.614 Published online June 7, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Lian, X. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online May 28, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1200250109</p> <p>Contact: Sean Palecek, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: palecek@engr.wisc.edu</p>