This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Protocol for generating optic cups and storable neural retina from human embryonic stem cells (ESCs)	A protocol for generating optic cups and neural retina from human ESCs could increase the supply of tissue available for retinal transplant procedures. In cultured human ESCs, the protocol triggered the self-formation of 3D optic cup structures and retinal pigment epithelium. The optic cup structures contained neural retina tissues and were amenable to cryopreservation and thawing. Next steps include developing a protocol to transplant the ESC-derived retina into animal models and using the generated tissues as disease models.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Nakano, T. <i>et al. Cell Stem Cell</i> ; published online June 14, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.stem.2012.05.009 Contact: Yoshiki Sasai, RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Kobe, Japan e-mail: yoshikisasai@cdb.riken.jp
	SciBX 5(26); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.693 Published online June 28, 2012		