This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Cord blood–derived induced neuronal cells (CB-iNCs)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest human CB-iNCs could be used to treat and study neuronal disorders. In isolated prominin 1 (PROM1; CD133)-expressing human cord blood cells, retrovirus-mediated expression of SOX2 and c-Myc (MYC) led to neuronal marker expression and differentiation into mature neuronal-like cells that could fire action potentials. In mice, fluorescently labeled CB-iNCs transplanted into the hippocampus integrated into host tissue and differentiated into functional neurons. Next steps include developing a protocol to create homogeneous neuronal populations.</p> <p>SciBX 5(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.798 Published online Aug. 2, 2012</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Giorgetti, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 18, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1209523109</p> <p>Contact: Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: belmonte@salk.edu</p> <p>Contact: Fred H. Gage, same affiliation as above e-mail: gage@salk.edu</p>