This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived motor neurons from patients with familial amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) for <i>in vitro</i> therapeutic screening	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest iPS cell-derived motor neurons from patients with familial ALS could be used to screen for new therapeutics. In cultured iPS cell-derived motor neurons from patients with familial ALS carrying TAR DNA binding protein 43 (TDP-43; TARDBP) mutations, levels of TDP-43 protein and cytosolic aggregates were greater than those in iPS cell-derived motor neurons from healthy controls. In the ALS patient-derived motor neurons, the histone acetyltransferase inhibitor anacardic acid reversed the disease phenotype. Next steps include testing the safety and efficacy of anacardic acid in additional cellular and animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 5(33); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.881 Published online Aug. 23, 2012</p>	Patent application filed covering prophylactic and therapeutic applications of anacardic acid; provisional application filed covering screening applications; available for licensing	<p>Egawa, N. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3004052 Contact: Haruhisa Inoue, Japan Science and Technology Agency, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: haruhisa@cira.kyoto-u.ac.jp</p>