This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Brain organoids to model microencephaly <i>in vitro</i>	Cell culture studies suggest induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived brain tissue could aid the discovery of therapeutics for neurodevelopmental disorders. In a 3D cell culture system, iPS cells treated with neural differentiation factors formed small organoids with distinct cell layers and gross morphology analogous to those of adult human brains. Brain organoids derived from iPS cells of patients with microcephaly were smaller and less complex than organoids derived from healthy individuals. Next steps include growing and characterizing brain organoids from iPS cells of patients with other neurological diseases.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Lancaster, M.A. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Aug. 28, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature12517 Contact: Jürgen A. Knoblich, Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria e-mail: juergen.knoblich@imba.oeaw.ac.at
	SciBX 6(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.1042 Published online Sept. 26, 2013		