This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Platform for maturation of human pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes	<p>A platform for generating mature cardiomyocytes from human pluripotent stem cells could aid the development of improved models of cardiovascular disease. Human pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes normally have a fetal phenotype rather than an adult phenotype. To induce an adult phenotype, human pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiomyocytes were arranged in a wire pattern within a 3D culture system and then subjected to electrical stimulation. In culture, cardiomyocytes subjected to electrical stimulation showed more adult-like qualities than nonstimulated cardiomyocytes. Next steps include using the generated cardiomyocytes in drug discovery and validation studies and incorporating both electrical and mechanical stimulation to help promote terminal differentiation of the cells.</p> <p>SciBX 6(29); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.774 Published online Aug. 1, 2013</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing and collaboration	<p>Nunes, S.S. <i>et al. Nat. Methods</i>; published online June 23, 2013; doi:10.1038/nmeth.2524</p> <p>Contact: Milica Radisic, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: m.radisic@utoronto.ca</p>