This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Small molecule cocktail for generating pluripotent stem cells from somatic cells	A cocktail of small molecules could be used to reprogram fibroblasts into pluripotent stem cells. In mouse embryonic fibroblasts, a cocktail of 7 small molecules reprogrammed up to 0.2% of the somatic cells into cells with an embryonic stem cell-like morphology. In mice, injected reprogrammed cells differentiated into tissues from all three germ layers. In mouse eight-cell embryos and blastocysts, injected reprogrammed cells integrated into all three germ layers and could be transmitted to subsequent generations. Next steps include developing a similar small molecule cocktail for use with human somatic cells.	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Peking University Office of Science and Technology Development	Hou, P. <i>et al. Science</i> ; published online July 18, 2013; doi:10.1126/science.1239278 Contact: Hongkui Deng, Peking University, Beijing, China e-mail: hongkui_deng@pku.edu.cn Contact: Yang Zhao, same affiliation as above e-mail: yangzhao@pku.edu.cn
	<i>SciBX</i> 6(32); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.877 Published online Aug. 22, 2013		