This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
3D human neural progenitor cell model of persistent Varicella zoster virus (VZV) infection	<p>Tissue-like assemblies of human neural progenitor cells could be useful for studying VZV, which only infects human cells. In the model, normal human neural progenitor cells are organized in 3D, tissue-like assemblies and infected with fluorescently labeled VZV. In culture, the infected cells remained viable for three months, transcribed viral genes and released infectious VZV particles. Next steps could include using the model to screen for compounds that target reactivation of latent VZV particles and virus production.</p> <p>SciBX 6(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.973 Published online Sept. 12, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Goodwin, T.J. <i>et al. PLoS Pathog.</i>; published online Aug. 1, 2013; doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1003512 Contact: Benedikt B. Kaufer, Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany e-mail: b.kaufer@fu-berlin.de Contact: Randall J. Cohrs, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Aurora, Colo. e-mail: randall.cohrs@ucdenver.edu Contact: Thomas J. Goodwin, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas e-mail: thomas.j.goodwin@nasa.gov</p>