This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived hepatocyte-like cells in micropatterned coculture (MPCC) to model HBV infection	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest an MPCC system using iPS cell-derived hepatocyte-like cells and fibroblasts can be used to model HBV infection. In an MPCC with primary human hepatocytes and fibroblasts, infection with HBV from human serum was possible for at least three weeks, but results showed substantial variation for hepatocytes derived from different donors. In an MPCC with iPS cell-derived hepatocyte-like cells and fibroblasts, HBV infection was possible for at least three weeks. In both systems, drugs that inhibit the innate immune response increased infectivity compared with vehicle. Next steps could include using the system to screen for antiviral compounds or identify host factors required for infection.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Shlomai, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2014; doi:10.1073/pnas.1412631111 Contact: Charles M. Rice, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ricec@rockefeller.edu Contact: Sangeeta N. Bhatia, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: sbhatia@mit.edu
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