This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
<i>In vitro</i> generation of insulin-producing cells from human pluripotent stem cells to treat type 1 diabetes	An <i>in vitro</i> protocol to generate insulin-producing cells from human pluripotent stem cells could be useful for developing cellular therapies to treat type 1 diabetes. A seven-stage <i>in vitro</i> protocol was used to differentiate human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells into insulin-producing cells that showed glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (GSIS) and resembled cadaveric human β cells. In a mouse model of type 1 diabetes, transplants containing the generated cells exhibited GSIS within two weeks after transplant. Next steps could include identifying a cell encapsulation system to use with insulin-producing cells generated via the described protocol. SciBX 7(42); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1251 Published online Oct. 30, 2014	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Pagliuca, F.W. <i>et al. Cell</i> ; published online Oct. 9, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2014.09.040 Contact: Douglas A. Melton, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. e-mail: dmelton@harvard.edu