This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Screening for diabetic cardiomyopathy (DCM) therapies in induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived cardiomyocytes	<p>iPS cell-derived cardiomyocytes could be used to screen for therapies to treat DCM. The approach utilized two types of iPS cell-derived cardiomyocytes: one generated using fibroblasts taken from healthy individuals and cultured in medium designed to mimic diabetic conditions (DM-treated cells) and another generated using fibroblasts taken from patients with diabetes. Both types of cardiomyocytes exhibited loss of sarcomeric integrity and reduced calcium transients and other features of DCM. In the DM-treated cardiomyocytes, initial library screening identified several compounds that reversed the DCM phenotype, and subsequent screening of a subset of those initial hits in the patient-derived cardiomyocytes confirmed the compounds' effects. Next steps include investigating differentiation conditions for generating cardiomyocytes that resemble ventricular cardiomyocytes of patients with diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 7(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1360 Published online Dec. 4, 2014</p>	Patent status undisclosed; unavailable for licensing	<p>Drawnel, F.M. <i>et al. Cell Rep.</i>; published online Oct. 30, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.celrep.2014.09.055 Contact: Roberto Iacone, Roche Pharma Research and Early Development, Basel, Switzerland e-mail: roberto.iacone@roche.com</p>