This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived immortalized megakaryocyte progenitor cell lines as a self-renewing source for human platelets	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest iPS cell-derived platelets could be used for clinical applications. Stable, immortalized megakaryocyte progenitor cell lines were generated from iPS cells by overexpression of BMI1 polycomb ring finger oncogene (BMI1), Bcl-x _L and c-Myc (MYC), and the cells produced platelets when transgene expression was turned off. <i>In vitro</i> , aggregation of immortalized megakaryocyte progenitor cell line-derived platelets was lower than that of fresh human platelets but comparable to that of other iPS cell-derived platelets or pooled human endogenous platelets. In a mouse model of thrombocytopenia, the platelets adhered to laser-exposed vessel walls and contributed to thrombus formation. Next steps could include optimizing megakaryocyte maturation, efficiency of platelet release into liquid culture systems and platelet yield per megakaryocyte.	Patent application filed; in negotiations for licensing to an undisclosed company; unavailable for licensing	Nakamura, S. <i>et al. Cell Stem Cell</i> ; published online Feb. 13, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.stem.2014.01.011 Contact: Koji Eto, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan e-mail: kojiето@cira.kyoto-u.ac.jp
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