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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Generation of vector-free induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells	A method to generate vector-free iPS cells could improve the clinical utility of the cells. Human foreskin fibroblasts were transfected with Epstein-Barr virus–based vectors carrying the reprogramming factors *OCT4*, *SOX2*, *NANOG*, *LIN28*, *c-Myc* and *KLF4*. Following transformation, the vectors were lost during cell proliferation, resulting in daughter iPS cells free of residual exogenous DNA material. Several of the generated cell lines had morphology and gene expression profiles typical of human embryonic stem cells. Additional experiments on those cell lines confirmed the absence of vector and reprogramming factor sequences. Ongoing work includes comparative analysis with iPS cells produced by this method from different cell sources and also with embryonic stem cells.	Patented; licensing status undisclosed	Yu, J. *et al. Science*; published online March 26, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1172482 **Contact:** James A. Thomson, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: thomson@primate.wisc.edu

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