

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Method for converting vascular endothelial cells into multipotent stem cell-like cells	A method for converting vascular endothelial cells into multipotent stem cell-like cells could enable the engineering of patient-specific tissue for transplantation-based therapies. Endothelial cell lines cultured in the presence of transforming growth factor- β 2 (TGFB2) or bone morphogenetic protein 4 (BMP4) differentiated into osteoblasts, chondrocytes or adipocytes depending on culture media conditions. In nude mice implanted with TGFB2- or BMP4-treated endothelial cells, local injection of the cell culture media induced bone, cartilage or fat formation depending on media composition. Next steps include further investigating the differentiation potential of these stem cell-like cells.	Patent application filed; available for licensing from the Harvard Medical School Office of Technology Development	Medici, D. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Nov. 21, 2010; doi:10.1038/nm.2252 Contact: Bjorn R. Olsen, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bjorn_olsen@hms.harvard.edu Contact: Damian Medici, same affiliation as above e-mail: dmedici@bidmc.harvard.edu
	<i>SciBX</i> 3(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1461 Published online Dec. 16, 2010		