

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Long-term monolayer culture protocol of human stem cells using human recombinant laminin-511	A protocol for culturing monolayers of human stem cells using laminin-511 could help generate a variety of stem cell-based therapies. Unlike standard stem cell generation protocols, the new protocol does not require potentially immunogenic animal proteins or feeder cell lines. In the presence of laminin-511, 3 human embryonic stem cell (hESC) lines proliferated and maintained their self-renewal capacity through at least 20 passages or 4 months. In mice, a graft of the resulting hESCs led to formation of teratomas containing cells derived from all three embryonic germ tissue layers, confirming that the new protocol increased the differentiation capacity of the hESCs. Next steps include evaluating the use of the other 14 human laminin isoforms in differentiation pathways for human stem cells.	Production and use of laminin-511 for stem cell applications covered by patents assigned to BioLamina AB; licensing enquiries should be directed to BioLamina	Rodin, S. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online May 30, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1620 Contact: Karl Tryggvason, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: karl.tryggvason@ki.se
	SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.716 Published online June 10, 2010		