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## This week in techniques

| Approach | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Drug platforms** | | | |
| *In vitro* generation of cancer stem cells (CSCs) and selection based on fucosyltransferase 4 α1,3-fucosyltransferase myeloid-specific (FUT4; CD15; SSEA-1) | Differentiation of CSCs from somatic cells could help identify new markers and therapeutics for cancer. CSCs were generated by expression of human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT), H-RasV12, simian virus 40 large T (SV40 LT) and small T (SV40 ST) antigens in human fibroblasts and purified based on *SSEA-1* expression. In culture, the CSCs differentiated into heterogeneous cell types and were able to self-renew. Next steps include using the *in vitro*–generated CSCs to identify new CSC-specific markers and therapeutic targets. | Findings unpatented; unavailable for licensing | Scaffidi, P. & Misteli, T. *Nat. Cell Biol.*; published online Aug. 21, 2011; doi:10.1038/ncb2308 **Contact:** Paola Scaffidi, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md. e-mail: scaffidp@mail.nih.gov |

*SciBX* 4(35); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1000
Published online Sept. 8, 2011