This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Increasing somatic cell reprogramming by inhibiting microRNA-34 (miR-34) variants	<p>An <i>in vitro</i> study suggests inhibiting miR-34 variants could improve the efficiency of reprogramming to induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. In embryonic fibroblasts from mice lacking <i>miR-34a</i>, <i>miR-34b</i> and/or <i>miR-34c</i>, the efficiency of reprogramming to iPS cells was better than that for cells from wild-type mice. Next steps include identifying an miR-34 inhibitor.</p> <p>SciBX 4(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1250 Published online Nov. 10, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Choi, Y.J. <i>et al. Nat. Cell Biol.</i>; published online Oct. 23, 2011; doi:10.1038/ncb2366 Contact: Lin He, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. e-mail: lhe@berkeley.edu</p>