This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Patient-derived induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells as models for long QT syndrome (LQTS)	<p>Patient-derived iPS cells could be useful for screening compounds to treat LQTS. Fibroblasts from an LQTS patient were reprogrammed into iPS cells and then differentiated into cardiomyocytes. In cell culture, the LQTS patient-derived cardiomyocytes had prolonged action potential duration and greater arrhythmogenicity, hallmarks of LQTS, than cardiomyocytes from healthy controls. In the same LQTS cell culture model, potassium channel blockers increased action potential duration and arrhythmogenicity compared with calcium and sodium channel blockers and an ATP-dependent potassium channel (KATP) opener, which decreased both. Next steps include using the same cell-based model to study other inherited cardiac disorders.</p> <p>SciBX 4(5); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.144 Published online Feb. 3, 2011</p>	Findings covered by patents; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Itzhaki, I. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 16, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09747</p> <p>Contact: Lior Gepstein, Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel e-mail: mdlior@tx.technion.ac.il</p>