This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
In vitro model of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD)	A cell line derived from patients with ALS could be used to screen for new therapies to treat the condition. Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells were generated from fibroblasts isolated from a patient with ALS who harbored the *M337V* mutation of *TAR DNA binding protein 43* (*TDP-43*; *TARDBP*), which is associated with subtypes of ALS and FTD. Spinal motor neurons generated from these iPS cells had higher levels of TARDBP, shorter survival and greater sensitivity to phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) inhibitor–induced apoptosis than spinal motor neurons generated from control iPS cells. Future studies could include testing ALS therapies in the cell line. *SciBX* 5(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.376 Published online April 5, 2012	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Bilican, B. *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*; published online March 26, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1202922109 **Contact:** Siddharthan Chandran, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: siddharthan.chandran@ed.ac.uk **Contact:** Christopher E. Shaw, King's College London, London, U.K. e-mail: christopher.shaw@kcl.ac.uk **Contact:** Tom Maniatis, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: tm2472@columbia.edu