This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells derived from patients with Huntington's disease (HD)	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest iPS cell lines generated from patients with HD could help identify new therapeutics. Neural stem cells (NSCs) generated from 14 iPS cell lines derived from patients with HD had HD-associated CAG repeats in the <i>huntingtin</i> (<i>HTT</i>) gene. The NSCs also captured the physiological features of the disease including greater alterations in the actin cytoskeleton, decreased bioenergetics and increased cell death in response to growth factor withdrawal compared with NSCs generated from healthy control-derived iPS cells. Next steps could include using the cells to look for disease biomarkers and to screen for therapeutic candidates.</p> <p>SciBX 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.742 Published online July 19, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>The HD iPSC Consortium. <i>Cell Stem Cell</i>; published online June 28, 2012; doi:10.1016/j.stem.2012.04.027</p> <p>Contact: Clive Svendsen, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: clive.svendsen@cshs.org</p>