## This week in techniques

| Approach | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Drug platforms** | | | |
| Genetically corrected induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell–derived mesoangioblasts for limb-girdle muscular dystrophy | Genetically corrected mesoangioblasts derived from iPS cells could be useful for treating limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, which is caused by mutations in the *sarcoglycan-α* (*SGCA*) gene. Fibroblasts and myoblasts were extracted from patients with limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, reprogrammed into iPS cells, differentiated into mesoangioblast-like cells and then genetically corrected *ex vivo* using a lentiviral vector encoding normal human *SGCA*. In a mouse model of limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, transplantation of the genetically corrected mesoangioblasts decreased markers of muscular dystrophy and improved motor performance compared with no transplantation. Next steps could include long-term safety and tumorigenicity studies of the cells in large animal models.<br><br>*SciBX* 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.745<br>Published online July 19, 2012 | Patent pending; available for licensing from San Raffaele Hospital<br>**Contact:** Paola Pozzi, San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy<br>e-mail: pozzi.paola@hsr.it | Tedesco, F.S. *et al. Sci. Transl. Med.*; published online June 27, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3003541<br>**Contact:** Francesco Saverio Tedesco, University College London, London, U.K.<br>e-mail: f.s.tedesco@ucl.ac.uk<br>**Contact:** Giulio Cossu, same affiliation as above<br>e-mail: g.cossu@ucl.ac.uk |