

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell model for Timothy syndrome	<p>A study in cell culture suggests patient-derived iPS cells could help identify therapies for Timothy syndrome, a form of autism spectrum disorder. Neuronal precursor cells derived from iPS cells from patients with Timothy syndrome displayed abnormal gene expression including higher levels of the dopamine-synthesizing enzyme tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) compared with neurons derived from healthy control iPS cells. In the precursors, the racemic form of roscovitine, an inhibitor with multiple targets, decreased TH expression compared with vehicle. Next steps could include screening for additional compounds that modify Timothy syndrome-associated biomarkers.</p> <p>Cyclacel Pharmaceuticals Inc. has Seliciclib (R-roscovitine) in Phase II testing for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and nasopharyngeal cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.85 Published online Jan. 19, 2012</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Paşca, S.P. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Nov. 27, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2576</p> <p>Contact: Ricardo E. Dolmetsch, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: ricardo.dolmetsch@stanford.edu</p>