

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Induced neuronal (iN) cells from mouse embryonic fibroblasts to model neurological diseases	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest iN cells could be useful for developing neurological disease models. In culture with primary mouse neurons, iN cells created from wild-type or autism-associated, <i>neuroligin 3</i> (<i>Nlgn3</i>)-mutant mouse embryonic fibroblasts formed normal synaptic connections with neighboring neurons. In the <i>Nlgn3</i> -mutant iN cells, both GABA _A receptor- and AMPA-type glutamate receptor-mediated synaptic transmission was lower than that seen in iN cells from wild-type mice, which recapitulates the phenotype of hippocampal neurons in <i>Nlgn3</i> -mutant mice. Next steps could include using iN cells to model neurological diseases.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Chanda, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 17, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1316240110 Contact: Thomas C. Südhof, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: tcs1@stanford.edu Contact: Marius Wernig, same affiliation as above e-mail: wernig@stanford.edu
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