This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug delivery			
Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived astrocytes from patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	<p>Astrocytes derived from patient iPS cells could be useful for evaluating therapeutic candidates to treat ALS. Astrocytes carrying an ALS-causing mutation in TAR DNA binding protein 43 (TDP-43; TARDBP) were generated from an iPS cell line derived from a patient with familial ALS. In culture, the astrocytes showed mislocalization of the protein in the cytoplasm and increased TDP-43 levels and decreased survival compared with astrocytes generated from control iPS cell lines. Next steps could include using the cell model to evaluate therapeutic candidates for ALS.</p> <p>SciBX 6(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.203 Published online Feb. 28, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Serio, A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1300398110 Contact: Siddharthan Chandran, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, U.K. e-mail: siddharthan.chandran@ed.ac.uk Contact: Tom Maniatis, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: tm2472@columbia.edu</p>