This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Medial ganglionic eminence (MGE)-like progenitor cell transplantation to treat memory and learning deficits	Cell culture and mouse studies suggest transplantation of MGE-like progenitor cells could help treat learning and memory deficits. Human embryonic stem cells were induced into MGE-like progenitor cells that could differentiate into basal forebrain cholinergic neurons and γ-aminobutyric acid (GABA) interneurons. In mice with immunotoxin-mediated destruction of hippocampal basal forebrain cholinergic neurons and GABA neurons, hippocampal transplantation of the human MGE progenitor cells increased memory, learning and spatial cognition compared with transplantation of human spinal progenitor cells. Next steps could include testing the procedure in animal models for neurodegeneration or neurological disease. *SciBX* 6(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.448 Published online May 9, 2013	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Liu, Y. *et al. Nat. Biotechnol.*; published online April 21, 2013; doi:10.1038/nbt.2565 **Contact:** Su-Chun Zhang, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wis. e-mail: zhang@waisman.wisc.edu