This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Disease models			
Organoid model for colon cancer derived from primary intestinal epithelial cells	Primary intestinal epithelial cells modified to form tumorigenic organoids in 3D cell culture could provide an <i>in vitro</i> model for colon cancer. In 3D cultures of primary intestinal epithelial cells, lentiviral-mediated small hairpin RNA knockdown of <i>adenomatous polyposis coli</i> (<i>APC</i>) led to the production of organoids with genetic features comparable to those in <i>APC</i> -deficient adenomas. In nude mice, injection of <i>APC</i> -deficient organoids led to intestinal cancer-like tumors with cancer stem cell-like properties. Next steps include testing knockdown of additional colon cancer genes in the model.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Onuma, K. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online June 17, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1221926110 Contact: Yoshitaka Hippo, National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: yhippo@ncc.go.jp
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