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This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Direct reprogramming of fibroblasts into induced hepatic stem cells (iHSCs) for liver regeneration	iHSCs derived directly from fibroblasts could help treat liver diseases. In culture, iHSCs generated from mouse embryonic fibroblasts by expression of the HNF1 homeobox B (Hnf1b) and forkhead box A3 (Foxa3) transcription factors were capable of self-renewal and differentiation into both hepatocytes and cholangiocytes. In a mouse model of liver failure, intrasplenic transplantation of the iHSCs improved liver function and survival compared with transplantation of mouse embryonic fibroblasts. Next steps could include translating the method to human cells. *SciBX* 6(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.842 Published online Aug. 15, 2013	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Yu, B. *et al. Cell Stem Cell*; published online July 18, 2013; doi:10.1016/j.stem.2013.06.017 **Contact:** Yi-Ping Hu, Second Military Medical University, Shanghai, China e-mail: yphu@smmu.edu.cn **Contact:** Xin Wang, Inner Mongolia University, Huhhot, China e-mail: wangxin_cn@imu.edu.cn