

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Direct reprogramming of human fibroblasts to striatal medium spiny neurons (MSNs)	<p>Direct reprogramming of human fibroblasts to human striatal neurons could help generate new cellular therapies and models of neurological disease. Expression of microRNA-9 (miR-9), miR-9* and miR-124 plus four striatum-enriched transcription factors directly reprogrammed prenatal and adult fibroblasts into cells expressing markers of striatal MSNs. In mice, transplanted fibroblast-derived adult human MSNs persisted in the brain for over six months, had membrane properties similar to those of endogenous MSNs and formed normal axonal projections. Next steps could include using these cells to study human diseases.</p> <p>SciBX 7(45); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.1329 Published online Nov. 20, 2014</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Victor, M.B. <i>et al. Neuron</i>; published online Oct. 22, 2014; doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2014.10.016 Contact: Andrew S. Yoo, Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. e-mail: yooa@wustl.edu</p>