

Generation of diverse neural cell types through direct conversion

Gayle F Petersen, Padraig M Strappe

Gayle F Petersen, Padraig M Strappe, School of Biomedical Sciences, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia

Author contributions: Petersen GF prepared the manuscript; Strappe PM critically evaluated the manuscript.

Supported by The Charles Sturt University Writing Up Award.

Conflict-of-interest statement: The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

Open-Access: This article is an open-access article which was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution Non Commercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Correspondence to: Padraig M Strappe, PhD, School of Biomedical Sciences, Charles Sturt University, Boorooma Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia. pstrappe@csu.edu.au
Telephone: +61-2-69332968
Fax: +61-2-69332958

Received: July 3, 2015

Peer-review started: August 1, 2015

First decision: November 3, 2015

Revised: November 18, 2015

Accepted: December 29, 2015

Article in press: January 4, 2016

Published online: February 26, 2016

Abstract

A characteristic of neurological disorders is the loss of critical populations of cells that the body is unable to replace, thus there has been much interest in identifying

methods of generating clinically relevant numbers of cells to replace those that have been damaged or lost. The process of neural direct conversion, in which cells of one lineage are converted into cells of a neural lineage without first inducing pluripotency, shows great potential, with evidence of the generation of a range of functional neural cell types both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, through viral and non-viral delivery of exogenous factors, as well as chemical induction methods. Induced neural cells have been proposed as an attractive alternative to neural cells derived from embryonic or induced pluripotent stem cells, with prospective roles in the investigation of neurological disorders, including neurodegenerative disease modelling, drug screening, and cellular replacement for regenerative medicine applications, however further investigations into improving the efficacy and safety of these methods need to be performed before neural direct conversion becomes a clinically viable option. In this review, we describe the generation of diverse neural cell types *via* direct conversion of somatic cells, with comparison against stem cell-based approaches, as well as discussion of their potential research and clinical applications.

Key words: Adult stem cells; Embryonic stem cells; Generation of neural cells; Induced pluripotent stem cells; *In vitro* differentiation; *In vivo* differentiation; Clinical applications; Direct conversion; Induced neural cells

© **The Author(s) 2016.** Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Core tip: The process of neural direct conversion, in which cells of one lineage are converted into cells of a neural lineage without first inducing pluripotency, shows great potential for the generation of a range of neural cell types, providing an attractive alternative to neural cells derived from embryonic or induced pluripotent stem cells. In this review, we describe the generation of diverse neural cell types *via* direct conversion of somatic cells, with comparison against stem cell-based

approaches, as well as discussion of their potential research and clinical applications.

Petersen GF, Strappe PM. Generation of diverse neural cell types through direct conversion. *World J Stem Cells* 2016; 8(2): 32-46 Available from: URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1948-0210/full/v8/i2/32.htm> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4252/wjsc.v8.i2.32>

INTRODUCTION

While the ability of the mammalian peripheral nervous system to undergo axonal regeneration following injury has been well documented^[1-3], the mammalian central nervous system is largely incapable of regeneration and repair^[4-6]. A variety of factors are believed to contribute to this lack of recovery, including limited and location restricted neurogenesis, cell death, astrocytic glial scarring, oligodendrocytic myelin inhibition, insufficient growth factor support, and lack of substrates suitable for axonal growth^[7-11]. Combined with a lack of effective treatments, these factors lead to the severity of neurological disorders, including spinal cord injury, brain damage, and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, and Alzheimer's disease, which often result in major disability^[12].

Neurological disorders often result from the loss of critical populations of cells that the body is unable to replace^[13], thus there has been much interest in identifying methods of generating clinically relevant numbers of functional cells to replace those that have been damaged or lost^[14]. Stem cells possess great potential for treatment of neurological disorders, providing a theoretically inexhaustible supply of cells for transplantation^[15]. Similarly, the process of neural direct conversion, in which cells of one lineage are converted into cells of a neural lineage without first inducing pluripotency^[16], also shows great promise. In this review, we describe the generation of diverse neural cell types *via* direct conversion of somatic cells, with comparison against stem cell-based approaches, as well as discussion of their potential research and clinical applications.

GENERATION OF NEURAL CELL TYPES THROUGH STEM CELL-BASED APPROACHES

Stem cell-based approaches provide a number of therapeutic advantages, through their ability to offer cellular replacement by transplantation of exogenous stem cells and stem cell-derived neural cell types, or mobilisation and induction of endogenous stem cells to generate new neural cell types, as well as their ability to release neuroprotective and inflammation modulating molecules, creating an enriched environment for minimisation of neurodegeneration^[17,18]. Current stem cell-based methods

of generating neural cell types utilise embryonic, induced pluripotent, or adult stem cells, with each exhibiting a range of advantages and disadvantages.

Embryonic stem cells

Embryonic stem cells (ESC) are pluripotent, and as such have the capacity to form all tissues in the body^[15] (Figure 1), thus they show great promise for the *in vitro* generation and subsequent study of specific cell lineages^[19], with evidence of ectodermal neural progenitor^[20,21], neuronal^[22,23], astrocytic, and oligodendrocytic^[24] cells derived from both mouse and human ESC lines. ESC also have great therapeutic potential, in particular for treatment of neurological disorders^[25]. ESC have been shown to differentiate into a range of neural cell types, with noted improvements in function following implantation, with examples in models of Parkinson's disease^[26,27], motor neuron disease^[28,29], stroke^[30,31], and spinal cord injury^[32,33].

Despite the research and clinical potential of ESC, their use is surrounded by much debate, due to technical obstacles, as well as legal and ethical issues regarding their isolation^[34]. Prior to implantation of ESC-derived differentiated cells, it is necessary to ensure that the implant consists of a pure cell population, due to the risk of teratoma formation or disruption to normal tissue function if undifferentiated ESC or inappropriate cell types are implanted^[15]. Another risk includes host rejection of allogeneic ESC-derived differentiated cells, as while immunogenicity can be contained through the use of immunosuppressive drugs, they are associated with numerous side effects that can result in patient susceptibility to infection^[15]. Furthermore, the use of ESC is highly controversial due to the fact that they are derived from pre-implantation embryos, with considerable differences in opinion in regards to their ontological and moral status^[35].

Induced pluripotent stem cells

Since the seminal discovery that ectopic expression of a set of four pluripotency reprogramming factors (Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc) could induce the generation of pluripotent cells from murine fibroblasts under ESC-like conditions^[36] (Figure 1), induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) have been proposed as a replacement for ESC, as they not only avoid the use of embryonic material, but can also be patient-derived^[37], minimising the potential for immune rejection, and allowing for the production of a variety of somatic cells with the same genetic information as the patient from which the iPSC were derived^[38]. iPSC have been utilised in the investigation of a variety of diseases of the central and peripheral nervous systems, including Parkinson's disease^[39], amyotrophic lateral sclerosis^[40], schizophrenia^[41], and Huntington's disease^[42]. iPSC have also been utilised in toxicology and drug screening studies, with examples of iPSC-derived models of familial dysautonomia^[43], Rett syndrome^[44], and Alzheimer's disease^[45]. Additionally, a number of studies have investigated the therapeutic potential of

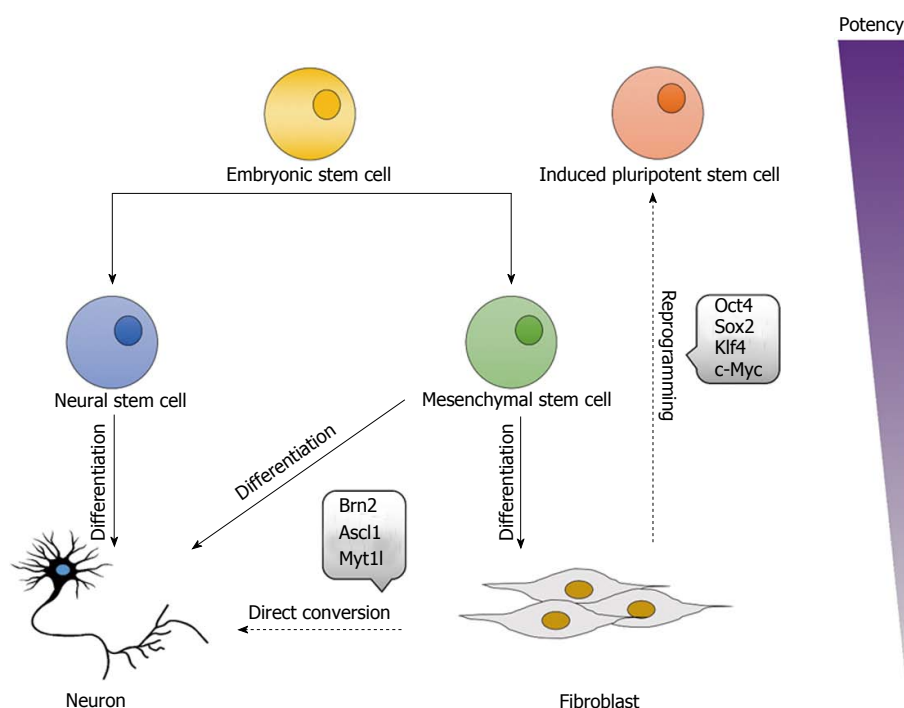


Figure 1 Overview of cellular differentiation, direct conversion, and reprogramming. Embryonic stem cells are pluripotent, and thus capable of differentiating into cells of any lineage. Reprogramming reverses this process, with forced expression of Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc shown to induce pluripotency in fibroblasts, generating induced pluripotent stem cells. Cells are also capable of switching lineages during direct conversion, with forced expression of Brn2, Ascl1, and Myt11 shown to convert fibroblasts into induced neuronal cells.

iPSC in animal models of neurological disorders, with evidence of locomotor function recovery in an injured mouse spinal cord^[46], functional peripheral nerve regeneration in transected rat sciatic nerves^[47], and improved motor behaviour in rat models of Parkinson's disease^[48,49]. Significantly, the first therapeutic use of iPSC has been approved for human trials in Japan, with cells from the skin of a patient suffering from age-related macular degeneration reprogrammed into iPSC and subsequently differentiated into retinal pigment epithelium cells, prior to implantation into the eye^[50].

Despite the successful therapeutic applications and reduced ethical concerns regarding their use, iPSC are similarly associated with a number of issues, from technical obstacles to safety concerns such as potential tumourigenicity^[51]. Technically, the process of reprogramming somatic cells into iPSC can be quite lengthy, taking between 10 d^[52] to 8 wk^[53], without accounting for extra time required for subsequent differentiation of iPSC into the desired somatic cell type. Reprogramming also occurs at extremely low efficiencies, which can make it difficult to generate sufficient iPSC when working with small cell numbers from the source^[54]. There have also been reported differences between iPSC based on their cell source, with gene expression profile studies showing persistent gene expression of donor cell specific markers following reprogramming into iPSC^[55,56], and further studies demonstrating not only distinct transcriptional and epigenetic differences, but also that cell source influences their *in vitro* differentiation potential, suggesting a retained epigenetic memory of their somatic cell of origin, however these differences did appear to be attenuated following continuous pass-

aging^[57,58]. Additionally, the reprogramming factors Klf4 and c-Myc are known oncogenes, thus their residual expression has the potential to induce cancer^[51], with evidence of tumour formation due to c-Myc reactivation following transplantation of mouse fibroblast-derived iPSC into nude mice^[59].

Adult stem cells

The numerous limitations associated with the use of ESC and iPSC has led to investigations into alternative sources of stem cells, such as progenitor cells residing within the adult organism^[34], with reports of mesenchymal stem cells differentiating into neural-like cells under specific experimental conditions (Figure 1), such as supplementation with a range of chemicals including β -mercaptoethanol, butylated hydroxyanisole, dimethylsulphoxide, isobutylmethylxanthine, dibutyl cyclic AMP, epidermal growth factor, and brain-derived neurotrophic factor^[60-66]. However, assessment of neuronal functionality is varied between studies, with some reporting a lack of action potential generating voltage-gated ion channels in induced neuronal cells^[65], and others demonstrating formation of synaptic vesicles, with electrophysiological evidence of functional synaptic transmission^[66], thus further investigations are required before the use of adult stem cells can become a viable alternative.

GENERATION OF NEURAL CELL TYPES VIA DIRECT CONVERSION

Lineage restriction was once one of the core principles of

developmental biology, with the concept that cells cannot cross germ layer boundaries and are thus restricted in their ability to differentiate into cells of only the germ layer from which they originate^[12]. However, these principles have since been challenged, with evidence that forced expression of specific transcription factors could directly convert cells of one lineage into another without first inducing pluripotency, in a process known as direct conversion^[67]. Early studies demonstrated the neural direct conversion of astrocytes into neuron-like cells *via* forced expression of the neurogenic transcription factors Pax6, Ascl1, Ngn2, and Dlx2^[68-70], however investigations into neural direct conversion really gained momentum following reports by Vierbuchen *et al.*^[16] of the conversion of fibroblasts into neuron-like cells (Figure 1).

The beginnings of neural direct conversion

Based on what had previously been reported in direct conversion studies generating other cell types, Vierbuchen *et al.*^[16] hypothesised that multiple transcription factors would be required to induce direct conversion of fibroblasts into neural cells, and as such, they first identified candidate genes that were known to express in neural tissues and play key roles in neural development. Starting from a pool of 19 factors, they elucidated that forced expression of the neuronal transcription factors Brn2, Ascl1, and Myt1l (BAM) could rapidly and efficiently convert mouse embryonic and postnatal fibroblasts into neuron-like cells (termed induced neuronal cells), with a conversion efficiency of 19.5%. Induced neuronal cells demonstrated expression of the pan-neuronal markers beta III tubulin, NeuN, MAP2, and synapsin, as well as the neurotransmitter phenotype markers vGLUT1 and GABA, with the majority of induced neuronal cells described as excitatory, expressing markers of cortical identity. Furthermore, induced neuronal cells exhibited spontaneous action potential generation, ligand-gated ion channels, and the ability to synaptically integrate into pre-existing neural networks, thus indicating that induced cells were of a mature and functional phenotype^[16] (Figure 2).

Pang *et al.*^[71] subsequently furthered this work, with evidence that human foetal and postnatal fibroblasts could be directly converted into induced neuronal cells *via* forced expression of BAM in addition to the neuronal transcription factor NeuroD1, following screening of a pool of 20 additional factors. Similarly, induced neuronal cells were predominantly excitatory, demonstrating expression of the pan-neuronal markers beta III tubulin, NeuN, MAP2, NCAM, and synapsin, as well as spontaneous action potential generation, and synaptic integration into pre-existing neural networks. Compared to those derived from mouse fibroblasts^[16], human fibroblast-derived induced neuronal cells required longer culture periods to develop synaptic activity, with lower reported conversion efficiencies, ranging from 2%-4%^[71].

Generation of induced neuronal cells

Following these initial studies, neural direct conversion

was investigated with great interest. Along with the numerous studies demonstrating generation of induced neuronal cells from mouse and human fibroblasts, induced neuronal cells have also been generated from common marmoset fibroblasts using the neuronal transcription factors BAM and NeuroD1, however with a conversion efficiency of < 1%^[72]. In addition to fibroblasts, induced neuronal cells have been generated from hepatocytes^[73], cord blood-derived stem cells^[74,75], pericytes^[76], glioma cells^[77], adipocyte progenitor cells^[78], and astrocytes^[79], *via* forced expression of BAM and variations of BAM, as well as a variety of new transcription factor combinations, as summarised in Table 1.

Conversion efficiencies of various studies ranged from < 0.1% up to 85%, with the more efficient methods incorporating additional factors, such as small molecules inhibiting GSK-3 and SMAD signalling^[74], retinoic acid receptor and nuclear receptor signalling^[80], delaying transgene activation after transduction^[81], and blocking cellular senescence through depletion of p16^{Ink4a}/p19^{Arf} or expression of human telomerase reverse transcriptase^[79,82]. Other studies have also investigated the use of microRNA in conjunction with neuronal specific transcription factors, including expression of microRNA-9/9* and microRNA-124^[83,84], as well as repression of a single RNA binding polypyrimidine-tract-binding protein, a key target and negative regulator of microRNA-124^[85]. microRNA-9/9* and microRNA-124 are known to act on critical target genes that regulate neuronal differentiation and function^[83,84], with microRNA-9* and microRNA-124 found to instruct compositional changes of SWI/SNF-like BAF chromatin remodelling complexes in a process that is important for neuronal differentiation and function^[83,85]. However, this particular method of neural direct conversion appears less successful than others, with conversion efficiencies in mouse and human fibroblast studies ranging from 1.5%-14%. Throughout all reported studies, induced neuronal cell functionality has been confirmed by electrophysiological analysis. Interestingly, a recent in-depth examination of the electrophysiological profiles of human induced neuronal cells generated by lentiviral vector expression of BAM, Olig2, and Zic1 has revealed that the conversion of fibroblasts to neuron-like cells is incomplete, with passive membrane properties comparable to that of highly immature neurons^[86]. However, the induced neuronal cells used in this study were sourced from research that has since been retracted, thus questioning the validity of these results.

Generation of induced neuronal subtypes

Investigations have also expanded into generation of induced neuronal subtypes. Numerous studies have reported the generation of induced dopaminergic neurons, directly converted from both fibroblasts^[81,87-91] and astrocytes^[92] using transcription factors involved in the specification of dopaminergic neurons, such as Lmx1a, Lmx1b, Nurr1, and FoxA2. Induced dopaminergic neurons were shown to display uptake and

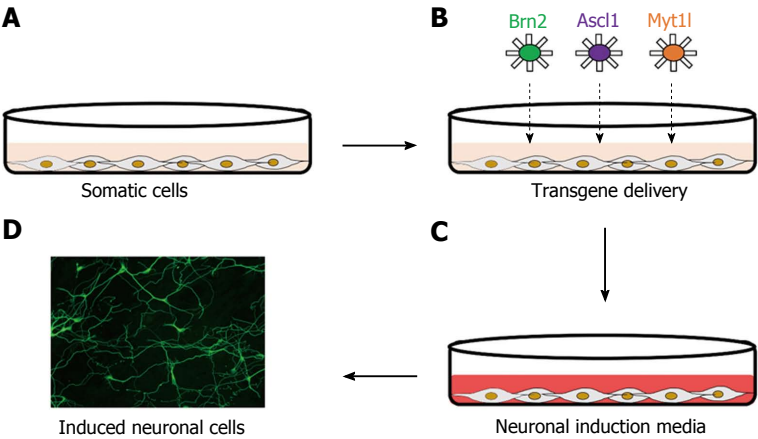


Figure 2 The process of neural direct conversion, as first described by Vierbuchen *et al.*^[16]. Somatic cells (A) are transduced with inducible lentiviral vectors expressing the neuronal transcription factors Brn2, Ascl1, and Myt1l (B), and cultured in a defined neuronal induction media (C). Following culture, induced neuronal cells can be identified by positive beta III tubulin staining (D), prior to further characterisation.

Table 1 Summary of studies demonstrating generation of functional induced neuronal cells by direct conversion

Species	Original cell	Transgenes	Method	End cell	Ref.
Mouse	Fibroblast	BAM	iLV	iN	[16]
Human	Fibroblast	BAM, NeuroD1	iLV	iN	[71]
Human	Fibroblast	miR-9/9*-124, Ascl1, Myt1l, NeuroD2	LV	iN	[83]
Human	Fibroblast	BAM	iLV	iN	[153]
Human	Fibroblast	miR-124, Brn2, Myt1l	iLV	iN	[84]
Mouse	Hepatocyte	BAM	iLV	iN	[73]
Human	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Ngn2	iLV	iN	[74]
Human	Pericyte	Ascl1, Sox2	RV	iN	[76]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn2, Ascl1, Ngn2	AV	iN	[144]
Human	Cord blood cell	Sox2	RV	iN	[75]
Human	Cord blood cell	Sox2, c-Myc	RV	iN	[75]
Human	Glioma cell	Brn2, Ascl1, Ngn2	LV	iN	[77]
Mouse	Fibroblast	BAM	NV	iN	[147]
Mouse	Adipocyte progenitor cell	BAM	iLV	iN	[78]
Mouse	Fibroblast	shR-PTB	LV	iN	[85]
Human	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Myt1l, Sox2	LV	iN	[154]
Common marmoset	Fibroblast	BAM, NeuroD1	iLV	iN	[72]
Human	Fibroblast	BAM	iLV	iN	[81]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Ascl1	iLV	iN	[155]
Human	Fibroblast	Ascl1	iLV	iN	[155]
Mouse	Astroglia	Ink4a/Arf ^{-/-} , Dlx2	iLV	iN	[79]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Ink4a/Arf ^{-/-} , BAM	iLV	iN	[79]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn2, Ascl1, Ngn2, Rarg, Nr5a2	AV	iN	[80]
Human	Fibroblast	Brn2, Ascl1, Ngn2, Rarg, Nr5a2	AV	iN	[80]
Human	Fibroblast	shR-p16-19	LV	iN	[82]
Human	Fibroblast	hTERT	LV	iN	[82]

BAM: Brn2, Ascl1, and Myt1l; miR: MicroRNA; shR: Small hairpin RNA; PTB: Polypyrimidine-tract-binding protein; iLV: Inducible lentiviral vector; LV: Lentiviral vector; RV: Retroviral vector; AV: Adenoviral vector; NV: Non-viral; iN: Induced neuron.

production of dopamine and spontaneous pacemaking activity consistent with dopaminergic neurons of the brain, as well as provide symptomatic relief in rat and mouse models of Parkinson’s disease. There have also been reports of the generation of induced motor neurons, directly converted from fibroblasts using BAM in addition to transcription factors that participate in different stages of motor neuron specification^[93], as well as the transcription factor Ngn2 supplemented with the small molecules forskolin and dorsomorphin^[94]. Induced motor neurons exhibited motor neuron-like features, such as morphology, gene expression, and mature

electrophysiological properties, as well as the formation of functional neuromuscular junctions. Similarly, recent studies have also demonstrated the generation of induced medium spiny neurons^[95], sensory neurons^[96], and astrocytes^[97], using transcription factors required for appropriate differentiation of these specific cell types, as summarised in Table 2.

Generation of induced neural stem and progenitor cells
The generation of induced neuronal cells and subtypes is often associated with low conversion efficiencies and yields, resulting in difficulties obtaining sufficient cells

Table 2 Summary of studies demonstrating generation of functional induced neuronal subtypes by direct conversion

Species	Original cell	Transgenes	Method	End cell	Ref.
Human	Fibroblast	BAM, Lmx1a, FoxA2	iLV	iDN	[87]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Nurr1, Lmx1a	iLV	iDN	[88]
Human	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Nurr1, Lmx1a	iLV	iDN	[88]
Mouse	Fibroblast	BAM, Lhx3, Hb9, Isl1, Ngn2	RV	iMN	[93]
Human	Fibroblast	BAM, Lhx3, Hb9, Isl1, Ngn2, NeuroD1	RV	iMN	[93]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Pitx3, Lmx1a, Nurr1, FoxA2, EN1	iLV	iDN	[89]
Mouse	Astrocyte	Ascl1, Lmx1b, Nurr1	iLV	iDN	[92]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Lmx1b, Nurr1	iLV	iDN	[92]
Mouse	Cord blood-derived stem cell	Ascl1, Lmx1b, Nurr1	iLV	iDN	[92]
Human	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Ngn2, Sox2, Nurr1, Pitx3	LV	iDN	[90]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn2, Ascl1, Lmx1b, Nurr1, Otx2	RV	iDN	[91]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn2, Ascl1, Ngn2, Pax6, Hes1, Id1, c-Myc, Klf4	RV	iNPC → iDN	[91]
Human	Fibroblast	Ngn2	RV	iMN	[94]
Human	Fibroblast	BAM, Lmx1a, Lmx1b, FoxA2, Otx2	iLV	iDN	[81]
Human	Fibroblast	Ascl1, Ngn2, Sox2, Nurr1, Pitx3, p53-DN	LV	iDN	[156]
Human	Fibroblast	miR-9/9*-124, Myt1l, Bcl11b, Dlx1, Dlx2	iLV	iMSN	[95]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn3a, Ngn1/2	iLV	iSN	[96]
Human	Fibroblast	Brn3a, Ngn1/2	iLV	iSN	[96]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Nfia, Nfib, Sox9	iLV	iA	[97]
Human	Fibroblast	Nfia, Nfib, Sox9	iLV	iA	[97]

BAM: Brn2, Ascl1, and Myt1l; miR: MicroRNA; shR: Small hairpin RNA; iLV: Inducible lentiviral vector; LV: Lentiviral vector; iN: Induced neuron; iNPC: Induced neural progenitor cell; iDN: Induced dopaminergic neuron; iMN: Induced motor neuron; iMSN: Induced medium spiny neuron; iSN: Induced sensory neuron; iA: Induced astrocyte.

for therapeutic applications. This may be in part due to the post-mitotic state of the target cell type (neuron-like cells), with the conversion procedure including a halt in proliferation, thus limiting the ability of these cells to expand once reprogrammed^[98-100]. In addition to determining methods of increasing conversion efficiency, studies have expanded into investigating whether similar methods could be utilised for generation of proliferative neural stem and progenitor cells, which are both expandable *in vitro* and capable of generating multiple neural cell types^[101], with initial studies demonstrating the generation of induced neural progenitor^[101] and crest^[102] cells.

Kim *et al.*^[101] first demonstrated the direct conversion of mouse embryonic fibroblasts into induced neural progenitor cells, through transient expression of the iPSC reprogramming factors Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc, followed by incubation in a defined neural reprogramming media. Treatment resulted in the rapid and highly efficient formation of colonies containing cells expressing the rosette neural stem cell marker PLZF and the early neural transcription factor Pax6, without transiting through a pluripotent intermediate stage. Induced cells were both proliferative and functional, capable of differentiating into functional neurons and glial cells^[101]. Similarly, Zabierowski *et al.*^[102] demonstrated the direct conversion of human melanocytes into induced neural crest cells, driving a cascade of dedifferentiation through forced expression of the intracellular domain of the transmembrane protein Notch1. Induced cells displayed biological attributes consistent with native neural crest cells, including spherical proliferation under stem cell culture conditions, expression of neural crest stem cell-related genes, and differentiation into multiple

mesenchymal and neuronal lineages, as well as *in vitro* and *in vivo* migration potential^[102].

These initial studies led to further investigation of direct conversion into neural stem and progenitor cells, with additional reports of the generation of induced neural crest^[103] and progenitor^[104] cells, as well as generation of induced neural stem cells^[105]. Furthermore, a number of studies also demonstrated the generation of induced neuroblasts^[106], and induced oligodendrocyte^[107,108] and dopaminergic neuron^[109] progenitor cells. While the majority of studies utilised fibroblasts as the starting cell type, there have also been reports of the direct conversion of astrocytes^[106,110], Sertoli cells^[111], epithelial-like cells in urine^[112], cord blood-derived stem cells^[113], bone marrow-derived stem cells^[114], liver cells, and B lymphocytes^[99] into induced neural stem and progenitor cells, as summarised in Table 3.

Generation of induced neural stem and progenitor cells has been achieved using a variety of approaches. One such approach, the cell activation and signalling-directed (CASD) method, combines transient overexpression of pluripotency reprogramming factors and/or small molecules (cell activation) with soluble lineage-specific signals (signalling-directed) to reprogram somatic cells into lineage-specific cell types while bypassing the pluripotent state^[115]. CASD induced neural stem and progenitor cells have been generated using a range of pluripotency reprogramming factors and microRNAs, such as Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc, SV40LT, and microRNA-302-367, in conjunction with neural stem/progenitor cell permissive culture conditions^[101,109,112,116-120]. Other approaches involve overexpression of lineage-specific transcription factors, with examples of induced cells generated using individual factors, such as Oct4^[121],

Table 3 Summary of studies demonstrating generation of functional induced neural stem and progenitor cells by direct conversion

Species	Original cell	Transgenes	Method	End cell	Ref.
Mouse	Fibroblast	OSKM	iLV	iNPC	[101]
Human	Melanocyte	Notch1	LV	iNCC	[102]
Human	Astrocyte	4-Oct	LV	iNSC	[110]
Human	Astrocyte	Sox2	LV	iNSC	[110]
Human	Astrocyte	Nanog	LV	iNSC	[110]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc, E47	RV	iNSC	[105]
Human	Fibroblast	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, Zic3	RV	iNPC	[104]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn2, Sox2, FoxG1	iLV	iNPC	[123]
Mouse	Fibroblast	OSKM	RV	iNSC	[116]
Human	Fibroblast	OSKM	RV	iNSC	[116]
Human	Fibroblast	Sox2, Pax6	NV	iNPC	[98]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Sox2	RV	iNSC	[122]
Human	Fibroblast	Sox2	RV	iNSC	[122]
Mouse	Sertoli cell	Ascl1, Ngn2, Hes1, Id1, Pax6, Brn2, Sox2, c-Myc, Klf4	RV	iNSC	[111]
Mouse	Fibroblast	OSKM	RV/iLV	iNSC	[117]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Brn2, Nr2e1, Sox2, c-Myc, Bmi1	RV	iNPC	[157]
Human	Fibroblast	OSKM	SV	iNPC	[118]
Monkey	Fibroblast	OSKM	SV	iNPC	[118]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Sox10, Olig2, Nkx6.2	LV	iOPC	[107]
Human	Urine cells	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, SV40LT, miR-302-367	NV	iNPC	[112]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Sox10, Olig2, Zfp536	iLV	iOPC	[108]
Rat	Fibroblast	Sox10, Olig2, Zfp536	iLV	iOPC	[108]
Human	Fibroblast	Oct3, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc	RV	iNPC	[125]
Mouse	Fibroblasts	Brn2, Hes1, Hes3, Klf4, c-Myc, Plagl1, Notch1 (NICD), Rfx4	NV	iNSC	[99]
Mouse	Liver cells	Brn2, Hes1, Hes3, Klf4, c-Myc, Plagl1, Notch1 (NICD), Rfx4	NV	iNSC	[99]
Mouse	Blymphocytes	Brn2, Hes1, Hes3, Klf4, c-Myc, Plagl1, Notch1 (NICD), Rfx4	NV	iNSC	[99]
Mouse	Fibroblast	OSKM	iLV	iDNPC	[109]
Rat	Bone marrow-derived stem cell	Ngn2	LV	iNPC	[114]
Mouse	Fibroblast	Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc, Brn4	RV	iNSC	[158]
Human	Fibroblast	Sox10	iLV	iNCC	[103]
Human	Fibroblast	4-Oct	LV	iNPC	[121]
Pig	Fibroblast	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, Lin28, L-Myc	NV	iNPC	[120]
Human	Fibroblast	4-Oct	LV	iNSC	[119]
Human	Fibroblast	Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, shR-p53	NV	iNSC	[119]
Human	Fibroblast	Sox2, c-Myc, Brn2	LV	iNPC	[159]
Human	Fibroblast	Sox2, c-Myc, Brn4	LV	iNPC	[159]
Human	Astrocyte	miR-302/367	LV	iNB	[106]
Human	Fibroblast	Sox2, HMGA2	RV	iNSC	[113]
Human	Cord blood-derived stem cell	Sox2, HMGA2	RV	iNSC	[113]

OSKM: Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc; miR: MicroRNA; shR: Small hairpin RNA; NICD: Notch intracellular domain; HMGA2: High-mobility group A2; iLV: Inducible lentiviral vector; LV: Lentiviral vector; RV: Retroviral vector; SV: Sendai virus vector; NV: Non-viral; iNCC: Induced neural crest cell; iNSC: Induced neural stem cell; iNPC: Induced neural progenitor cell; iOPC: Induced oligodendrocyte progenitor cell; iDNPC: Induced dopaminergic neuronal progenitor cell; iNB: Induced neuroblast.

Sox2^[122], Sox10^[103], and Nanog^[110], as well as different sets of factors^[111,123]. Additionally, a number of studies have also incorporated the use of small molecules such as TGF- β ^[118], GSK-3^[119], MEK^[112], ROCK^[112], BMP^[112], JAK^[109], and histone deacetylase^[103,120] inhibitors to enhance direct conversion. Making comparisons between different methods of generating neural stem and precursor cells is difficult, particularly as many studies do not report conversion efficiency values, however research has shown that neural direct conversion using lineage-specific factors results in greater chromosomal stability than neural direct conversion using pluripotency reprogramming factors^[124], thus suggesting a preference towards this particular method for future clinical applications.

Significantly, Meyer *et al.*^[125] also reported the direct conversion of fibroblasts from patients with both familial and sporadic forms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)

into induced neural progenitor cells. Induced cells were subsequently differentiated into astrocytes, a key cell type involved in the degeneration of motor neurons in ALS, which demonstrated toxicity toward motor neurons as similarly demonstrated by autopsy spinal cord-derived astrocytes. These findings not only enable personalised modelling of ALS and potentially other neurodegenerative diseases, but could also lead to high-throughput testing of therapeutics for individual patients^[125].

Generation of induced neural cells *in vivo*

Generation of neural cell types through direct conversion has been studied extensively *in vitro*, with confirmed long-term survival and functional integration following transplantation^[126]. As such, investigations have expanded into generation of neural cells through direct conversion *in vivo*, in which cells are directly converted

within their native physiological environment^[127]. Preliminary research described the transplantation of fibroblasts and astrocytes transduced with inducible forms of neural reprogramming genes into the adult rat brain, with conversion into induced neuronal and dopaminergic neuronal cells following gene activation *in vivo*^[128]. Further studies demonstrated the direct conversion of endogenous glial cells into induced neural cells, with BAM expression converting resident astrocytes into induced neurons in the mouse striatum^[128], Fezf2 expression converting resident embryonic and early postnatal callosal projection neurons into induced corticofugal projection neurons in the mouse neocortex^[129], and Sox2 expression converting resident astrocytes into induced neuroblasts in the mouse striatum, with subsequent differentiation into mature and functional neurons^[130].

Neural direct conversion *in vivo* has also been demonstrated in a number of injury models. Ngn2 expression in addition to growth factor exposure has been shown to convert non-neuronal cells into induced neurons in the rat neocortex and striatum following stab wound injury^[131]. Similarly, induced neurons have been generated from endogenous NG2 glia by Sox2 expression in the mouse cerebral cortex following stab wound injury^[132], as well as from endogenous reactive glial cells by NeuroD1 expression in the mouse cortex following stab wound injury and in an Alzheimer's disease model^[133]. Sox2 expression has also been reported to convert resident astrocytes into induced neuroblasts in an injured mouse spinal cord, with subsequent differentiation into mature and functional neurons^[134]. While induced cells were determined to be functional throughout these studies, there was no evidence that they had any significant impact on behavioural recovery following injury, thus further investigation is required to fully elucidate the potential of endogenous cells for neurological repair.

Methods of neural direct conversion

As evident in the summaries of neural direct conversion studies (Tables 1-3), transgene delivery methods vary greatly throughout. Primarily, transgenes are delivered using viral vectors, due to their intrinsic ability to efficiently express their genome in the nucleus of target cells^[135], however safety concerns regarding clinical translation have resulted in investigations into non-viral methods of transgene delivery, as well as methods of chemically-induced neural direct conversion.

Integrating viral vector transgene delivery: The majority of neural direct conversion studies to date have utilised retroviral vectors (RV) and lentiviral vectors (LV) for transgene delivery, due to their comparatively higher efficiency and ability to integrate into the target cell genome, thus ensuring sustained transgene expression^[136]. However as a result of genomic integration by these vectors, there is an associated risk of spontaneous transgene reactivation, as well as tumour formation due

to insertional mutagenesis^[59], as previously observed with proto-oncogene activation in four out of ten patients following retrovirus-mediated gene therapy for X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency disorder^[137]. LV are often preferable to RV, as while RV require passage through mitosis for transduction, LV do not, and as such are capable of transducing both dividing and non-dividing cells^[138]. Additionally, LV are generally considered a safer alternative to RV, as they are designed without the majority of the viral genes, retaining only the *cis*-acting sequence elements necessary for nuclear export of the RNA, RNA dimerisation, packaging, and reverse transcription^[139]. Furthermore, innovations in LV design have led to the creation of self-inactivating LV, knocking out viral long terminal repeat (LTR) enhancer-promoter activity^[140], as well as non-integrating lentiviral vectors, with mutations in their integrase or LTRs to inhibit integrase binding^[141], thus reducing the risk of integration and vector-related pathologies^[139]. LV have also been used in conjunction with drug-based induction systems, in which transgene expression is dependent upon the delivery of a specific drug (e.g., tetracycline, ecdysone, mifepristone), thus allowing for tightly regulated conditional transgene expression, an appealing prospect for a number of potential gene therapy applications^[142].

Non-integrating viral vector transgene delivery:

The use of genome integrating RV and LV poses a number of limitations due to the increased risk of gene mutations and insertional mutagenesis, thus studies have investigated transgene delivery *via* non-integrating adenoviral vectors (AV) and Sendai virus vectors (SV) for safer generation of induced neural cells. Similarly to LV, AV are able to transduce both dividing and non-dividing cells, with transient expression in dividing cells, and long-term expression in non-dividing cells^[136]. Importantly, AV demonstrate little to no integration into the target cell genome, instead being maintained episomally as linear or circular DNA molecules^[139]. However, AV have been shown to induce several classes of innate immune responses, thus despite minimal genomic integration, AV still have the risk of host immune response to overcome^[143]. Furthermore, AV have been associated with a comparatively lower neuronal conversion efficiency than using LV systems^[144], and as such it is critical to identify other factors or chemical compounds to obtain neurons with a higher efficiency, as evident in the addition of Rarg and Nr5a2 to the neuronal transcription factor combination of Brn2, Ascl1, and Ngn2, with a demonstrated increase in conversion efficiency from 2.9%^[144] to 46.2%^[80]. SV are non-integrating viral vectors, capable of transient but strong gene expression in a wide range of dividing and non-dividing cells^[145]. Significantly, SV pose no potential pathogenicity towards humans, with temperature-sensitive variants of SV allowing temperature-specific activation/inactivation of gene expression, further alleviating some of the safety concerns associated with their use clinically^[146]. SV have

been utilised in the generation of highly proliferative induced neural progenitor cells from primate species, with conversion efficiencies ranging from 0.03%-0.19%, and subsequent temperature-mediated removal of viral genomes^[118]. Despite the relatively low conversion efficiency, the many favourable safety attributes of SV promotes further investigation into their use in the generation of induced neural cell types.

Non-viral methods of transgene delivery: Neural direct conversion using non-viral transgene delivery methods is becoming an increasingly attractive alternative to viral vector-based methods^[136], with a number of studies reporting generation of induced neuronal and neural stem and progenitor cells *via* non-viral methods. The first example of non-viral neural direct conversion described the generation of induced neuronal cells from mouse embryonic fibroblasts through repeated delivery of plasmids encoding BAM with a bioreducible linear poly(amido amine) polymer, resulting in mature, electrophysiologically functional neuron-like cells with a conversion efficiency of 7.6%^[147]. Following the confirmed feasibility of non-viral neural direct conversion, studies expanded into investigating non-viral methods of generating induced neural stem and progenitor cells, capable of differentiating into multiple mature and functional neuronal subtypes. Non-viral delivery of Sox2 and Pax6 by plasmid transfection or protein transduction was initially shown to convert adult human fibroblasts into induced neural progenitor cells, with a conversion efficiency of 0.05%^[98]. Following this, non-integrative episomal vectors were utilised for non-viral direct conversion, with induced neural progenitor cells generated from epithelial-like cells in human urine following episomal vector delivery of Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, SV40LT, and microRNA-302-367 in combination with a cocktail of small molecules, with a conversion efficiency of 0.2%^[112]. Similarly, episomal vector delivery of Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, Lin28, and L-Myc in combination with histone deacetylase inhibitor treatment has converted pig fibroblasts into induced neural progenitor cells^[120], and Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and small hairpin RNA-p53 with a cocktail of small molecules has converted human fibroblasts into induced neural stem cells^[119], however no conversion efficiencies were reported for either study. Interestingly, a secondary system enabling non-viral neural direct conversion has been reported, in which fibroblasts, liver cells, and B lymphocytes were isolated from chimeric mice carrying inducible vectors expressing Brn2, Hes1, Hes3, Klf4, c-Myc, Plagl1, Notch1 (NICD), and Rfx4, with subsequent conversion into induced neural stem cells following transgene induction, however again with no reported conversion efficiencies^[99]. Overall, while some non-viral methods achieve conversion efficiencies similar to studies utilising viral vectors^[147], others achieve considerably lower conversion efficiencies^[98,112] or have not reported them^[99,119,120], thus necessitating optimisation of non-viral methods in order for them to become a viable alternative.

Neural direct conversion by chemical induction:

An attractive alternative to neural direct conversion *via* introduction of exogenous genes is chemical induction, with the discovery that iPSC could be generated by small molecules alone^[148] prompting investigations into generation of induced neural cell types using similar methods. Initial studies demonstrated the generation of induced neural progenitor cells using a defined chemical cocktail and hypoxic conditions^[149]. Induced neural progenitor cells were converted from mouse embryonic fibroblasts, mouse tail tip fibroblasts, and epithelial-like cells in human urine using a two-step induction strategy, with an initial intermediary transition of a chemical cocktail of small molecules inhibiting TGF- β , GSK-3, and histone deacetylation pathways under 5% oxygen, followed by lineage-specific induction in neural expansion media. Chemically induced neural progenitor cells resembled endogenous neural progenitor cells in terms of their proliferation, self-renewability, ability to differentiate into multiple mature and functional neuronal subtypes *in vitro* and *in vivo*, and gene expression profile, however induced cells generated from mouse fibroblasts were shown to have retained some fibroblastic epigenetic memory^[149]. Similarly, postnatal human fibroblasts have been converted into induced neuronal cells, using a specific cocktail of small molecules consisting of forskolin, and inhibitors of TGF- β , BMP, GSK-3, MEK-ERK, and p53 pathways^[150]. Chemically induced neuronal cells displayed a mature neuronal morphology, with positive immunostaining of functional neuronal markers synapsin, vGLUT1, GABA, and tyrosine hydroxylase, however no electrophysiological studies were performed to confirm functionality. Induced cells were generated with a conversion efficiency of > 80%, with efficiency reportedly unaffected by donor age and cellular senescence, thus providing a novel and efficient method of generating transgene-free induced neuronal cells with great clinical potential^[150].

Clinical applications of induced neural cell types

Induced neural cell types generated by direct conversion have long been suggested as a source of cells for clinical applications, however their true therapeutic potential has not yet been fully investigated. Studies have recently addressed this gap within the literature, reporting the restorative effects of induced neural stem cells in models of spinal cord injury and Parkinson's disease. In one study, mouse embryonic fibroblast-derived induced neural stem cells were transplanted into the contused thoracic spinal cord of rats^[151]. Following transplantation, induced neural stem cells lost their stem cell identity and differentiated into neurons, astrocytes, and oligodendrocytes, with synaptic formation observed between host and transplanted neurons. Both lesion and cavity size decreased following transplantation of induced cells, with increased myelin production and angiogenesis in the injured area, as well as promotion of axonal regeneration, motor function, and electrophysiological activity. In addition to cellular replacement, transplanted induced

cells were shown to exert their therapeutic effect through neuroprotective and immunomodulatory mechanisms, as well as promotion of endogenous regeneration, as evident by decreased expression of apoptotic and inflammatory markers^[151]. Similarly, mouse Sertoli cell-derived induced neural stem cells exogenously expressing the dopaminergic neuron-specific factor Lmx1a were transplanted into the striatum of Parkinson's disease model mice^[152]. While transplantation of induced neural stem cells was shown to improve the motor performance of mouse models, with greater tyrosine hydroxylase signal abundance in the lesioned area, only few transplanted cells survived over time, thus suggesting that the therapeutic effects may have occurred in a non-autonomous manner through enhancement of the functions of remaining endogenous cells^[152]. Interestingly, induced neural cell types generated *via* direct conversion with lineage-specific factors have been shown to possess greater chromosomal stability than neural cells derived from pluripotent or adult stem cells^[124], further promoting the clinical potential of neural cell types generated *via* direct conversion.

CONCLUSION

Neurological disorders often result from the loss of critical populations of cells that the body is unable to replace, thus methods of generating clinically relevant numbers of cells to replace those that have been damaged or lost are sought^[13,14]. The process of neural direct conversion has been demonstrated to generate a range of functional neural cell types both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, through viral and non-viral delivery of exogenous factors, as well as chemical induction methods. Induced neural cells have been proposed as an attractive alternative to neural cells derived from embryonic or induced pluripotent stem cells, with prospective roles in the investigation of neurological disorders, including neurodegenerative disease modelling, drug screening, and cellular replacement for regenerative medicine applications, however further investigations into improving the efficacy and safety of these methods need to be performed before neural direct conversion becomes a clinically viable option.

REFERENCES

- 1 Zochodne DW. The microenvironment of injured and regenerating peripheral nerves. *Muscle Nerve Suppl* 2000; **9**: S33-S38 [PMID: 11135282 DOI: 10.1002/1097-4598(2000)999:9<::AID-MUS7>3.0.CO;2-F]
- 2 Stoll G, Jander S, Myers RR. Degeneration and regeneration of the peripheral nervous system: from Augustus Waller's observations to neuroinflammation. *J Peripher Nerv Syst* 2002; **7**: 13-27 [PMID: 11939348 DOI: 10.1046/j.1529-8027.2002.02002.x]
- 3 Fawcett JW, Keynes RJ. Peripheral nerve regeneration. *Annu Rev Neurosci* 1990; **13**: 43-60 [PMID: 2183684 DOI: 10.1146/annurev.ne.13.030190.000355]
- 4 Aguayo AJ. Axonal regeneration from injured neurons in the adult mammalian central nervous system. In: Cotman CW. Synaptic Plasticity. New York: The Guilford Press, 1985: 457-484
- 5 Fawcett JW, Asher RA. The glial scar and central nervous system repair. *Brain Res Bull* 1999; **49**: 377-391 [PMID: 10483914 DOI: 10.1016/S0361-9230(99)00072-6]
- 6 Davies SJ, Fitch MT, Memberg SP, Hall AK, Raisman G, Silver J. Regeneration of adult axons in white matter tracts of the central nervous system. *Nature* 1997; **390**: 680-683 [PMID: 9414159 DOI: 10.1038/37776]
- 7 Dezawa M, Kawana K, Negishi H, Adachi-Usami E. Glial cells in degenerating and regenerating optic nerve of the adult rat. *Brain Res Bull* 1999; **48**: 573-579 [PMID: 10386837 DOI: 10.1016/S0361-9230(99)00035-0]
- 8 Schwartz M, Moalem G, Leibowitz-Amit R, Cohen IR. Innate and adaptive immune responses can be beneficial for CNS repair. *Trends Neurosci* 1999; **22**: 295-299 [PMID: 10370250 DOI: 10.1016/S0166-2236(99)01405-8]
- 9 Lacroix S, Tuszynski MH. Neurotrophic factors and gene therapy in spinal cord injury. *Neurorehabil Neural Repair* 2000; **14**: 265-275 [PMID: 11402877 DOI: 10.1177/154596830001400403]
- 10 Asher RA, Morgenstern DA, Moon LD, Fawcett JW. Chondroitin sulphate proteoglycans: inhibitory components of the glial scar. *Prog Brain Res* 2001; **132**: 611-619 [PMID: 11545024 DOI: 10.1016/S0079-6123(01)32106-4]
- 11 Fournier AE, Strittmatter SM. Repulsive factors and axon regeneration in the CNS. *Curr Opin Neurobiol* 2001; **11**: 89-94 [PMID: 11179877 DOI: 10.1016/S0959-4388(00)00178-1]
- 12 Hess DC, Borlongan CV. Stem cells and neurological diseases. *Cell Prolif* 2008; **41** Suppl 1: 94-114 [PMID: 18181951 DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2184.2008.00486.x]
- 13 Murry CE, Keller G. Differentiation of embryonic stem cells to clinically relevant populations: lessons from embryonic development. *Cell* 2008; **132**: 661-680 [PMID: 18295582 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2008.02.008]
- 14 Jopling C, Boue S, Izpisua Belmonte JC. Dedifferentiation, transdifferentiation and reprogramming: three routes to regeneration. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 2011; **12**: 79-89 [PMID: 21252997 DOI: 10.1038/nrm3043]
- 15 Rippon HJ, Bishop AE. Embryonic stem cells. *Cell Prolif* 2004; **37**: 23-34 [PMID: 14871235 DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2184.2004.00298.x]
- 16 Vierbuchen T, Ostermeier A, Pang ZP, Kokubu Y, Südhof TC, Wernig M. Direct conversion of fibroblasts to functional neurons by defined factors. *Nature* 2010; **463**: 1035-1041 [PMID: 20107439 DOI: 10.1038/nature08797]
- 17 Lindvall O, Kokaia Z. Stem cells in human neurodegenerative disorders--time for clinical translation? *J Clin Invest* 2010; **120**: 29-40 [PMID: 20051634 DOI: 10.1172/JCI40543]
- 18 Lunn JS, Sakowski SA, Hur J, Feldman EL. Stem cell technology for neurodegenerative diseases. *Ann Neurol* 2011; **70**: 353-361 [PMID: 21905078 DOI: 10.1002/ana.22487]
- 19 Bishop AE, Buttery LD, Polak JM. Embryonic stem cells. *J Pathol* 2002; **197**: 424-429 [PMID: 12115859 DOI: 10.1002/path.1154]
- 20 Uemura M, Refaat MM, Shinoyama M, Hayashi H, Hashimoto N, Takahashi J. Matrigel supports survival and neuronal differentiation of grafted embryonic stem cell-derived neural precursor cells. *J Neurosci Res* 2010; **88**: 542-551 [PMID: 19774667 DOI: 10.1002/jnr.22223]
- 21 Ma W, Tavakoli T, Derby E, Serebryakova Y, Rao MS, Mattson MP. Cell-extracellular matrix interactions regulate neural differentiation of human embryonic stem cells. *BMC Dev Biol* 2008; **8**: 90 [PMID: 18808690 DOI: 10.1186/1471-213X-8-90]
- 22 Bain G, Kitchens D, Yao M, Huettner JE, Gottlieb DI. Embryonic stem cells express neuronal properties *in vitro*. *Dev Biol* 1995; **168**: 342-357 [PMID: 7729574 DOI: 10.1006/dbio.1995.1085]
- 23 Strübing C, Ahnert-Hilger G, Shan J, Wiedenmann B, Hescheler J, Wobus AM. Differentiation of pluripotent embryonic stem cells into the neuronal lineage *in vitro* gives rise to mature inhibitory and excitatory neurons. *Mech Dev* 1995; **53**: 275-287 [PMID: 8562428 DOI: 10.1016/0925-4773(95)00446-8]
- 24 Fraichard A, Chassande O, Bilbaut G, Dehay C, Savatier P, Samarut J. *In vitro* differentiation of embryonic stem cells into glial cells and functional neurons. *J Cell Sci* 1995; **108** (Pt 10): 3181-3188 [PMID: 7593279]
- 25 Dantuma E, Merchant S, Sugaya K. Stem cells for the treatment

- of neurodegenerative diseases. *Stem Cell Res Ther* 2010; **1**: 37 [PMID: 21144012 DOI: 10.1186/scrt37]
- 26 **Rodríguez-Gómez JA**, Lu JQ, Velasco I, Rivera S, Zoghbi SS, Liow JS, Musachio JL, Chin FT, Toyama H, Seidel J, Green MV, Thanos PK, Ichise M, Pike VW, Innis RB, McKay RD. Persistent dopamine functions of neurons derived from embryonic stem cells in a rodent model of Parkinson disease. *Stem Cells* 2007; **25**: 918-928 [PMID: 17170065 DOI: 10.1634/stemcells.2006-0386]
- 27 **Takagi Y**, Takahashi J, Saiki H, Morizane A, Hayashi T, Kishi Y, Fukuda H, Okamoto Y, Koyanagi M, Ideguchi M, Hayashi H, Imazato T, Kawasaki H, Suemori H, Omachi S, Iida H, Itoh N, Nakatsuji N, Sasai Y, Hashimoto N. Dopaminergic neurons generated from monkey embryonic stem cells function in a Parkinson primate model. *J Clin Invest* 2005; **115**: 102-109 [PMID: 15630449 DOI: 10.1172/JCI21137]
- 28 **Harper JM**, Krishnan C, Darman JS, Deshpande DM, Peck S, Shats I, Backovic S, Rothstein JD, Kerr DA. Axonal growth of embryonic stem cell-derived motoneurons in vitro and in motoneuron-injured adult rats. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2004; **101**: 7123-7128 [PMID: 15118094 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0401103101]
- 29 **Lee H**, Shamy GA, Elkabetz Y, Schofield CM, Harrision NL, Panagiotakos G, Socci ND, Tabar V, Studer L. Directed differentiation and transplantation of human embryonic stem cell-derived motoneurons. *Stem Cells* 2007; **25**: 1931-1939 [PMID: 17478583 DOI: 10.1634/stemcells.2007-0097]
- 30 **Daadi MM**, Maag AL, Steinberg GK. Adherent self-renewable human embryonic stem cell-derived neural stem cell line: functional engraftment in experimental stroke model. *PLoS One* 2008; **3**: e1644 [PMID: 18286199 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0001644]
- 31 **Daadi MM**, Li Z, Arac A, Grueter BA, Sofilos M, Malenka RC, Wu JC, Steinberg GK. Molecular and magnetic resonance imaging of human embryonic stem cell-derived neural stem cell grafts in ischemic rat brain. *Mol Ther* 2009; **17**: 1282-1291 [PMID: 19436269 DOI: 10.1038/mt.2009.104]
- 32 **Nistor GI**, Totoiu MO, Haque N, Carpenter MK, Keirstead HS. Human embryonic stem cells differentiate into oligodendrocytes in high purity and myelinate after spinal cord transplantation. *Glia* 2005; **49**: 385-396 [PMID: 15538751 DOI: 10.1002/glia.20127]
- 33 **Keirstead HS**, Nistor G, Bernal G, Totoiu M, Cloutier F, Sharp K, Steward O. Human embryonic stem cell-derived oligodendrocyte progenitor cell transplants remyelinate and restore locomotion after spinal cord injury. *J Neurosci* 2005; **25**: 4694-4705 [PMID: 15888645 DOI: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0311-05.2005]
- 34 **Tuan RS**, Boland G, Tuli R. Adult mesenchymal stem cells and cell-based tissue engineering. *Arthritis Res Ther* 2003; **5**: 32-45 [PMID: 12716446 DOI: 10.1186/ar614]
- 35 **de Wert G**, Mummery C. Human embryonic stem cells: research, ethics and policy. *Hum Reprod* 2003; **18**: 672-682 [PMID: 12660256 DOI: 10.1093/humrep/deg143]
- 36 **Takahashi K**, Yamanaka S. Induction of pluripotent stem cells from mouse embryonic and adult fibroblast cultures by defined factors. *Cell* 2006; **126**: 663-676 [PMID: 16904174 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2006.07.024]
- 37 **Hirshi KK**, Li S, Roy K. Induced pluripotent stem cells for regenerative medicine. *Annu Rev Biomed Eng* 2014; **16**: 277-294 [PMID: 24905879 DOI: 10.1146/annurev-bioeng-071813-105108]
- 38 **Yamanaka S**. A fresh look at iPS cells. *Cell* 2009; **137**: 13-17 [PMID: 19345179 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2009.03.034]
- 39 **Soldner F**, Hockemeyer D, Beard C, Gao Q, Bell GW, Cook EG, Hargus G, Blak A, Cooper O, Mitalipova M, Isacson O, Jaenisch R. Parkinson's disease patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells free of viral reprogramming factors. *Cell* 2009; **136**: 964-977 [PMID: 19269371 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2009.02.013]
- 40 **Dimos JT**, Rodolfa KT, Niakan KK, Weisenthal LM, Mitsumoto H, Chung W, Croft GF, Saphier G, Leibel R, Goland R, Wichterle H, Henderson CE, Eggan K. Induced pluripotent stem cells generated from patients with ALS can be differentiated into motor neurons. *Science* 2008; **321**: 1218-1221 [PMID: 18669821 DOI: 10.1126/science.1158799]
- 41 **Brennand KJ**, Simone A, Jou J, Gelboin-Burkhart C, Tran N, Sangar S, Li Y, Mu Y, Chen G, Yu D, McCarthy S, Sebat J, Gage FH. Modelling schizophrenia using human induced pluripotent stem cells. *Nature* 2011; **473**: 221-225 [PMID: 21490598 DOI: 10.1038/nature09915]
- 42 **Park IH**, Arora N, Huo H, Maherali N, Ahfeldt T, Shimamura A, Lensch MW, Cowan C, Hochedlinger K, Daley GQ. Disease-specific induced pluripotent stem cells. *Cell* 2008; **134**: 877-886 [PMID: 18691744 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2008.07.041]
- 43 **Lee G**, Papapetrou EP, Kim H, Chambers SM, Tomishima MJ, Fasano CA, Ganat YM, Menon J, Shimizu F, Viale A, Tabar V, Sadelain M, Studer L. Modelling pathogenesis and treatment of familial dysautonomia using patient-specific iPSCs. *Nature* 2009; **461**: 402-406 [PMID: 19693009 DOI: 10.1038/nature08320]
- 44 **Marchetto MC**, Carromeu C, Acab A, Yu D, Yeo GW, Mu Y, Chen G, Gage FH, Muotri AR. A model for neural development and treatment of Rett syndrome using human induced pluripotent stem cells. *Cell* 2010; **143**: 527-539 [PMID: 21074045 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2010.10.016]
- 45 **Yahata N**, Asai M, Kitaoka S, Takahashi K, Asaka I, Hioki H, Kaneko T, Maruyama K, Saido TC, Nakahata T, Asada T, Yamanaka S, Iwata N, Inoue H. Anti-Aβ drug screening platform using human iPS cell-derived neurons for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. *PLoS One* 2011; **6**: e25788 [PMID: 21984949 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0025788]
- 46 **Tsuji O**, Miura K, Okada Y, Fujiyoshi K, Mukaino M, Nagoshi N, Kitamura K, Kumagai G, Nishino M, Tomisato S, Higashi H, Nagai T, Katoh H, Kohda K, Matsuzaki Y, Yuzaki M, Ikeda E, Toyama Y, Nakamura M, Yamanaka S, Okano H. Therapeutic potential of appropriately evaluated safe-induced pluripotent stem cells for spinal cord injury. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2010; **107**: 12704-12709 [PMID: 20615974 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0910106107]
- 47 **Wang A**, Tang Z, Park IH, Zhu Y, Patel S, Daley GQ, Li S. Induced pluripotent stem cells for neural tissue engineering. *Biomaterials* 2011; **32**: 5023-5032 [PMID: 21514663 DOI: 10.1016/j.biomaterials.2011.03.070]
- 48 **Wernig M**, Zhao JP, Pruszak J, Hedlund E, Fu D, Soldner F, Broccoli V, Constantine-Paton M, Isacson O, Jaenisch R. Neurons derived from reprogrammed fibroblasts functionally integrate into the fetal brain and improve symptoms of rats with Parkinson's disease. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2008; **105**: 5856-5861 [PMID: 18391196 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0801677105]
- 49 **Doi D**, Samata B, Katsukawa M, Kikuchi T, Morizane A, Ono Y, Sekiguchi K, Nakagawa M, Parmar M, Takahashi J. Isolation of human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived dopaminergic progenitors by cell sorting for successful transplantation. *Stem Cell Reports* 2014; **2**: 337-350 [PMID: 24672756 DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.01.013]
- 50 **Hoag H**. Invasive-species control: Bounty hunters. *Nature* 2014; **513**: 294-295 [PMID: 25230629 DOI: 10.1038/513294a]
- 51 **Sun N**, Longaker MT, Wu JC. Human iPS cell-based therapy: considerations before clinical applications. *Cell Cycle* 2010; **9**: 880-885 [PMID: 20160515 DOI: 10.4161/cc.9.5.10827]
- 52 **Uttikal J**, Maherali N, Kulalert W, Hochedlinger K. Sox2 is dispensable for the reprogramming of melanocytes and melanoma cells into induced pluripotent stem cells. *J Cell Sci* 2009; **122**: 3502-3510 [PMID: 19723802 DOI: 10.1242/jcs.054783]
- 53 **Kim JB**, Greber B, Araúzo-Bravo MJ, Meyer J, Park KI, Zaehres H, Schöler HR. Direct reprogramming of human neural stem cells by OCT4. *Nature* 2009; **461**: 649-643 [PMID: 19718018 DOI: 10.1038/nature08436]
- 54 **Liu SP**, Fu RH, Huang YC, Chen SY, Chien YJ, Hsu CY, Tsai CH, Shyu WC, Lin SZ. Induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell research overview. *Cell Transplant* 2011; **20**: 15-19 [PMID: 20887681 DOI: 10.3727/096368910X532828]
- 55 **Marchetto MC**, Yeo GW, Kainohana O, Marsala M, Gage FH, Muotri AR. Transcriptional signature and memory retention of human-induced pluripotent stem cells. *PLoS One* 2009; **4**: e7076 [PMID: 19763270 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0007076]
- 56 **Ghosh Z**, Wilson KD, Wu Y, Hu S, Quertermous T, Wu JC. Per-

- sistent donor cell gene expression among human induced pluripotent stem cells contributes to differences with human embryonic stem cells. *PLoS One* 2010; **5**: e8975 [PMID: 20126639 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0008975]
- 57 **Polo JM**, Liu S, Figueroa ME, Kulalert W, Eminli S, Tan KY, Apostolou E, Stadtfeld M, Li Y, Shioda T, Natesan S, Wagers AJ, Melnick A, Evans T, Hochedlinger K. Cell type of origin influences the molecular and functional properties of mouse induced pluripotent stem cells. *Nat Biotechnol* 2010; **28**: 848-855 [PMID: 20644536 DOI: 10.1038/nbt.1667]
- 58 **Kim K**, Doi A, Wen B, Ng K, Zhao R, Cahan P, Kim J, Aryee MJ, Ji H, Ehrlich LI, Yabuuchi A, Takeuchi A, Cunniff KC, Hongguang H, McKinney-Freeman S, Naveiras O, Yoon TJ, Irizarry RA, Jung N, Seita J, Hanna J, Murakami P, Jaenisch R, Weissleder R, Orkin SH, Weissman IL, Feinberg AP, Daley GQ. Epigenetic memory in induced pluripotent stem cells. *Nature* 2010; **467**: 285-290 [PMID: 20644535 DOI: 10.1038/nature09342]
- 59 **Okita K**, Ichisaka T, Yamanaka S. Generation of germline-competent induced pluripotent stem cells. *Nature* 2007; **448**: 313-317 [PMID: 17554338 DOI: 10.1038/nature05934]
- 60 **Woodbury D**, Schwarz EJ, Prockop DJ, Black IB. Adult rat and human bone marrow stromal cells differentiate into neurons. *J Neurosci Res* 2000; **61**: 364-370 [PMID: 10931522 DOI: 10.1002/1097-4547(20000815)61:4<364::AID-JNR2>3.0.CO;2-C]
- 61 **Sanchez-Ramos J**, Song S, Cardozo-Pelaez F, Hazzi C, Stedford T, Willing A, Freeman TB, Saporta S, Janssen W, Patel N, Cooper DR, Sanberg PR. Adult bone marrow stromal cells differentiate into neural cells in vitro. *Exp Neurol* 2000; **164**: 247-256 [PMID: 10915564 DOI: 10.1006/exnr.2000.7389]
- 62 **Deng W**, Obrocka M, Fischer I, Prockop DJ. In vitro differentiation of human marrow stromal cells into early progenitors of neural cells by conditions that increase intracellular cyclic AMP. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 2001; **282**: 148-152 [PMID: 11263984 DOI: 10.1006/bbrc.2001.4570]
- 63 **Bossolasco P**, Cova L, Calzarossa C, Rimoldi SG, Borsotti C, Delilieri GL, Silani V, Soligo D, Polli E. Neuro-glial differentiation of human bone marrow stem cells in vitro. *Exp Neurol* 2005; **193**: 312-325 [PMID: 15869934 DOI: 10.1016/j.expneurol.2004.12.013]
- 64 **Guo L**, Yin F, Meng HQ, Ling L, Hu-He TN, Li P, Zhang CX, Yu S, Duan DS, Fan HX. Differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells into dopaminergic neuron-like cells in vitro. *Biomed Environ Sci* 2005; **18**: 36-42 [PMID: 15861776]
- 65 **Hofstetter CP**, Schwarz EJ, Hess D, Widenfalk J, El Manira A, Prockop DJ, Olson L. Marrow stromal cells form guiding strands in the injured spinal cord and promote recovery. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2002; **99**: 2199-2204 [PMID: 11854516 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.042678299]
- 66 **Cho KJ**, Trzaska KA, Greco SJ, McArdle J, Wang FS, Ye JH, Rameshwar P. Neurons derived from human mesenchymal stem cells show synaptic transmission and can be induced to produce the neurotransmitter substance P by interleukin-1 alpha. *Stem Cells* 2005; **23**: 383-391 [PMID: 15749933 DOI: 10.1634/stemcells.2004-0251]
- 67 **Graf T**. Historical origins of transdifferentiation and reprogramming. *Cell Stem Cell* 2011; **9**: 504-516 [PMID: 22136926 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2011.11.012]
- 68 **Heins N**, Malatesta P, Cecconi F, Nakafuku M, Tucker KL, Hack MA, Chapouton P, Barde YA, Götz M. Glial cells generate neurons: the role of the transcription factor Pax6. *Nat Neurosci* 2002; **5**: 308-315 [PMID: 11896398 DOI: 10.1038/nn828]
- 69 **Berninger B**, Costa MR, Koch U, Schroeder T, Sutor B, Grothe B, Götz M. Functional properties of neurons derived from in vitro reprogrammed postnatal astroglia. *J Neurosci* 2007; **27**: 8654-8664 [PMID: 17687043 DOI: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1615-07.2007]
- 70 **Heinrich C**, Blum R, Gascón S, Masserdotti G, Tripathi P, Sánchez R, Tiedt S, Schroeder T, Götz M, Berninger B. Directing astroglia from the cerebral cortex into subtype specific functional neurons. *PLoS Biol* 2010; **8**: e1000373 [PMID: 20502524 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pbio.1000373]
- 71 **Pang ZP**, Yang N, Vierbuchen T, Ostermeier A, Fuentes DR, Yang TQ, Citri A, Sebastiano V, Marro S, Südhof TC, Wernig M. Induction of human neuronal cells by defined transcription factors. *Nature* 2011; **476**: 220-223 [PMID: 21617644 DOI: 10.1038/nature10202]
- 72 **Zhou Z**, Kohda K, Ibata K, Kohyama J, Akamatsu W, Yuzaki M, Okano HJ, Sasaki E, Okano H. Reprogramming non-human primate somatic cells into functional neuronal cells by defined factors. *Mol Brain* 2014; **7**: 24 [PMID: 24694048 DOI: 10.1186/1756-6606-7-24]
- 73 **Marro S**, Pang ZP, Yang N, Tsai MC, Qu K, Chang HY, Südhof TC, Wernig M. Direct lineage conversion of terminally differentiated hepatocytes to functional neurons. *Cell Stem Cell* 2011; **9**: 374-382 [PMID: 21962918 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2011.09.002]
- 74 **Ladewig J**, Mertens J, Kesavan J, Doerr J, Poppe D, Glaue F, Herms S, Wernet P, Kögler G, Müller FJ, Koch P, Brüstle O. Small molecules enable highly efficient neuronal conversion of human fibroblasts. *Nat Methods* 2012; **9**: 575-578 [PMID: 22484851 DOI: 10.1038/nmeth.1972]
- 75 **Giorgetti A**, Marchetto MC, Li M, Yu D, Fazzina R, Mu Y, Adamo A, Paramonov I, Cardoso JC, Monasterio MB, Bardy C, Cassiani-Ingoni R, Liu GH, Gage FH, Izpisua Belmonte JC. Cord blood-derived neuronal cells by ectopic expression of Sox2 and c-Myc. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2012; **109**: 12556-12561 [PMID: 22814375 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1209523109]
- 76 **Karow M**, Sánchez R, Schichor C, Masserdotti G, Ortega F, Heinrich C, Gascón S, Khan MA, Lie DC, Dellavalle A, Cossu G, Goldbrunner R, Götz M, Berninger B. Reprogramming of pericyte-derived cells of the adult human brain into induced neuronal cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 2012; **11**: 471-476 [PMID: 23040476 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2012.07.007]
- 77 **Zhao J**, He H, Zhou K, Ren Y, Shi Z, Wu Z, Wang Y, Lu Y, Jiao J. Neuronal transcription factors induce conversion of human glioma cells to neurons and inhibit tumorigenesis. *PLoS One* 2012; **7**: e41506 [PMID: 22859994 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0041506]
- 78 **Yang Y**, Jiao J, Gao R, Yao H, Sun XF, Gao S. Direct conversion of adipocyte progenitors into functional neurons. *Cell Reprogram* 2013; **15**: 484-489 [PMID: 24182316 DOI: 10.1089/cell.2013.0013]
- 79 **Price JD**, Park KY, Chen J, Salinas RD, Cho MJ, Kriegstein AR, Lim DA. The Ink4a/Arf locus is a barrier to direct neuronal transdifferentiation. *J Neurosci* 2014; **34**: 12560-12567 [PMID: 25209293 DOI: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.3159-13.2014]
- 80 **Shi Z**, Shen T, Liu Y, Huang Y, Jiao J. Retinoic acid receptor γ (Rarg) and nuclear receptor subfamily 5, group A, member 2 (Nr5a2) promote conversion of fibroblasts to functional neurons. *J Biol Chem* 2014; **289**: 6415-6428 [PMID: 24459144 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M113.515601]
- 81 **Pereira M**, Pfisterer U, Rylander D, Torper O, Lau S, Lundblad M, Grealish S, Parmar M. Highly efficient generation of induced neurons from human fibroblasts that survive transplantation into the adult rat brain. *Sci Rep* 2014; **4**: 6330 [PMID: 25208484 DOI: 10.1038/srep06330]
- 82 **Sun CK**, Zhou D, Zhang Z, He L, Zhang F, Wang X, Yuan J, Chen Q, Wu LG, Yang Q. Senescence impairs direct conversion of human somatic cells to neurons. *Nat Commun* 2014; **5**: 4112 [PMID: 24934763 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms5112]
- 83 **Yoo AS**, Sun AX, Li L, Shcheglovitov A, Portmann T, Li Y, Lee-Messer C, Dolmetsch RE, Tsien RW, Crabtree GR. MicroRNA-mediated conversion of human fibroblasts to neurons. *Nature* 2011; **476**: 228-231 [PMID: 21753754 DOI: 10.1038/nature10323]
- 84 **Ambasudhan R**, Talantova M, Coleman R, Yuan X, Zhu S, Lipton SA, Ding S. Direct reprogramming of adult human fibroblasts to functional neurons under defined conditions. *Cell Stem Cell* 2011; **9**: 113-118 [PMID: 21802386 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2011.07.002]
- 85 **Xue Y**, Ouyang K, Huang J, Zhou Y, Ouyang H, Li H, Wang G, Wu Q, Wei C, Bi Y, Jiang L, Cai Z, Sun H, Zhang K, Zhang Y, Chen J, Fu XD. Direct conversion of fibroblasts to neurons by reprogramming PTB-regulated microRNA circuits. *Cell* 2013; **152**: 82-96 [PMID: 23313552 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2012.11.045]
- 86 **Koppensteiner P**, Boehm S, Arancio O. Electrophysiological profiles of induced neurons converted directly from adult human fibroblasts indicate incomplete neuronal conversion. *Cell Reprogram* 2014; **16**:

- 439-446 [PMID: 25437871 DOI: 10.1089/cell.2014.0054]
- 87 **Pfisterer U**, Kirkeby A, Torper O, Wood J, Nelander J, Dufour A, Björklund A, Lindvall O, Jakobsson J, Parmar M. Direct conversion of human fibroblasts to dopaminergic neurons. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2011; **108**: 10343-10348 [PMID: 21646515 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1105135108]
- 88 **Caiazzo M**, Dell'Anno MT, Dvoretzskova E, Lazarevic D, Taverna S, Leo D, Sotnikova TD, Menegon A, Roncaglia P, Colciago G, Russo G, Carninci P, Pezzoli G, Gainetdinov RR, Gustinich S, Dityatev A, Broccoli V. Direct generation of functional dopaminergic neurons from mouse and human fibroblasts. *Nature* 2011; **476**: 224-227 [PMID: 21725324 DOI: 10.1038/nature10284]
- 89 **Kim J**, Su SC, Wang H, Cheng AW, Cassady JP, Lodato MA, Lengner CJ, Chung CY, Dawlaty MM, Tsai LH, Jaenisch R. Functional integration of dopaminergic neurons directly converted from mouse fibroblasts. *Cell Stem Cell* 2011; **9**: 413-419 [PMID: 22019014 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2011.09.011]
- 90 **Liu X**, Li F, Stubblefield EA, Blanchard B, Richards TL, Larson GA, He Y, Huang Q, Tan AC, Zhang D, Benke TA, Sladek JR, Zahniser NR, Li CY. Direct reprogramming of human fibroblasts into dopaminergic neuron-like cells. *Cell Res* 2012; **22**: 321-332 [PMID: 22105488 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2011.181]
- 91 **Sheng C**, Zheng Q, Wu J, Xu Z, Sang L, Wang L, Guo C, Zhu W, Tong M, Liu L, Li W, Liu ZH, Zhao XY, Wang L, Chen Z, Zhou Q. Generation of dopaminergic neurons directly from mouse fibroblasts and fibroblast-derived neural progenitors. *Cell Res* 2012; **22**: 769-772 [PMID: 22370632 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2012.32]
- 92 **Addis RC**, Hsu FC, Wright RL, Dichter MA, Coulter DA, Gearhart JD. Efficient conversion of astrocytes to functional midbrain dopaminergic neurons using a single polycistronic vector. *PLoS One* 2011; **6**: e28719 [PMID: 22174877 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0028719]
- 93 **Son EY**, Ichida JK, Wainger BJ, Toma JS, Rafuse VF, Woolf CJ, Egan K. Conversion of mouse and human fibroblasts into functional spinal motor neurons. *Cell Stem Cell* 2011; **9**: 205-218 [PMID: 21852222 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2011.07.014]
- 94 **Liu ML**, Zang T, Zou Y, Chang JC, Gibson JR, Huber KM, Zhang CL. Small molecules enable neurogenin 2 to efficiently convert human fibroblasts into cholinergic neurons. *Nat Commun* 2013; **4**: 2183 [PMID: 23873306 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms3183]
- 95 **Victor MB**, Richner M, Hermansynte TO, Ransdell JL, Sobieski C, Deng PY, Klyachko VA, Nerbonne JM, Yoo AS. Generation of human striatal neurons by microRNA-dependent direct conversion of fibroblasts. *Neuron* 2014; **84**: 311-323 [PMID: 25374357 DOI: 10.1016/j.neuron.2014.10.016]
- 96 **Blanchard JW**, Eade KT, Szűcs A, Lo Sardo V, Tsunemoto RK, Williams D, Sanna PP, Baldwin KK. Selective conversion of fibroblasts into peripheral sensory neurons. *Nat Neurosci* 2015; **18**: 25-35 [PMID: 25420069 DOI: 10.1038/nn.3887]
- 97 **Caiazzo M**, Giannelli S, Valente P, Lignani G, Carissimo A, Sessa A, Colasante G, Bartolomeo R, Massimino L, Ferroni S, Settembre C, Benfenati F, Broccoli V. Direct conversion of fibroblasts into functional astrocytes by defined transcription factors. *Stem Cell Reports* 2015; **4**: 25-36 [PMID: 25556566 DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.12.002]
- 98 **Maucksch C**, Firmin E, Butler-Munro C, Montgomery J, Dottori M, Connor B. Non-Viral Generation of Neural Precursor-like Cells from Adult Human Fibroblasts. *J Stem Cells Regen Med* 2012; **8**: 162-170 [PMID: 24693194]
- 99 **Cassady JP**, D'Alessio AC, Sarkar S, Dani VS, Fan ZP, Ganz K, Roessler R, Sur M, Young RA, Jaenisch R. Direct lineage conversion of adult mouse liver cells and B lymphocytes to neural stem cells. *Stem Cell Reports* 2014; **3**: 948-956 [PMID: 25454632 DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.10.001]
- 100 **Thoma EC**, Merkl C, Heckel T, Haab R, Knoflach F, Nowaczyk C, Flint N, Jagasia R, Jensen ZS, Truong HH, Petitjean P, Jessberger S, Graf M, Iacone R. Chemical conversion of human fibroblasts into functional Schwann cells. *Stem Cell Reports* 2014; **3**: 539-547 [DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.07.014]
- 101 **Kim J**, Efe JA, Zhu S, Talantova M, Yuan X, Wang S, Lipton SA, Zhang K, Ding S. Direct reprogramming of mouse fibroblasts to neural progenitors. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2011; **108**: 7838-7843 [PMID: 21521790 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1103113108]
- 102 **Zabierowski SE**, Baubet V, Himes B, Li L, Fukunaga-Kalabis M, Patel S, McDaid R, Guerra M, Gimotty P, Dahmane N, Herlyn M. Direct reprogramming of melanocytes to neural crest stem-like cells by one defined factor. *Stem Cells* 2011; **29**: 1752-1762 [PMID: 21948558 DOI: 10.1002/stem.740]
- 103 **Kim YJ**, Lim H, Li Z, Oh Y, Kovlyagina I, Choi IY, Dong X, Lee G. Generation of multipotent induced neural crest by direct reprogramming of human postnatal fibroblasts with a single transcription factor. *Cell Stem Cell* 2014; **15**: 497-506 [PMID: 25158936 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2014.07.013]
- 104 **Kumar A**, Declercq J, Eggermont K, Agirre X, Prosper F, Verfaillie CM. Zic3 induces conversion of human fibroblasts to stable neural progenitor-like cells. *J Mol Cell Biol* 2012; **4**: 252-255 [PMID: 22508949 DOI: 10.1093/jmcb/mjs015]
- 105 **Han DW**, Tapia N, Hermann A, Hemmer K, Höing S, Araújo-Bravo MJ, Zaehres H, Wu G, Frank S, Moritz S, Greber B, Yang JH, Lee HT, Schwamborn JC, Storch A, Schöler HR. Direct reprogramming of fibroblasts into neural stem cells by defined factors. *Cell Stem Cell* 2012; **10**: 465-472 [PMID: 22445517 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2012.02.021]
- 106 **Ghasemi-Kasman M**, Hajikaram M, Baharvand H, Javan M. MicroRNA-Mediated In Vitro and In Vivo Direct Conversion of Astrocytes to Neuroblasts. *PLoS One* 2015; **10**: e0127878 [PMID: 26030913 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0127878]
- 107 **Najm FJ**, Lager AM, Zaremba A, Wyatt K, Caprariello AV, Factor DC, Karl RT, Maeda T, Miller RH, Tesar PJ. Transcription factor-mediated reprogramming of fibroblasts to expandable, myelinogenic oligodendrocyte progenitor cells. *Nat Biotechnol* 2013; **31**: 426-433 [PMID: 23584611 DOI: 10.1038/nbt.2561]
- 108 **Yang N**, Zuchero JB, Ahlenius H, Marro S, Ng YH, Vierbuchen T, Hawkins JS, Geissler R, Barres BA, Wernig M. Generation of oligodendroglial cells by direct lineage conversion. *Nat Biotechnol* 2013; **31**: 434-439 [PMID: 23584610 DOI: 10.1038/nbt.2564]
- 109 **Kim HS**, Kim J, Jo Y, Jeon D, Cho YS. Direct lineage reprogramming of mouse fibroblasts to functional midbrain dopaminergic neuronal progenitors. *Stem Cell Res* 2014; **12**: 60-68 [PMID: 24145188 DOI: 10.1016/j.scr.2013.09.007]
- 110 **Corti S**, Nizzardo M, Simone C, Falcone M, Donadoni C, Salani S, Rizzo F, Nardini M, Riboldi G, Magri F, Zanetta C, Faravelli I, Bresolin N, Comi GP. Direct reprogramming of human astrocytes into neural stem cells and neurons. *Exp Cell Res* 2012; **318**: 1528-1541 [PMID: 22426197 DOI: 10.1016/j.yexcr.2012.02.040]
- 111 **Sheng C**, Zheng Q, Wu J, Xu Z, Wang L, Li W, Zhang H, Zhao XY, Liu L, Wang Z, Guo C, Wu HJ, Liu Z, Wang L, He S, Wang XJ, Chen Z, Zhou Q. Direct reprogramming of Sertoli cells into multipotent neural stem cells by defined factors. *Cell Res* 2012; **22**: 208-218 [PMID: 22064700 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2011.175]
- 112 **Wang L**, Wang L, Huang W, Su H, Xue Y, Su Z, Liao B, Wang H, Bao X, Qin D, He J, Wu W, So KF, Pan G, Pei D. Generation of integration-free neural progenitor cells from cells in human urine. *Nat Methods* 2013; **10**: 84-89 [PMID: 23223155 DOI: 10.1038/nmeth.2283]
- 113 **Yu KR**, Shin JH, Kim JJ, Koog MG, Lee JY, Choi SW, Kim HS, Seo Y, Lee S, Shin TH, Jee MK, Kim DW, Jung SJ, Shin S, Han DW, Kang KS. Rapid and Efficient Direct Conversion of Human Adult Somatic Cells into Neural Stem Cells by HMG2/let-7b. *Cell Rep* 2015; **10**: 441-452 [PMID: 25600877 DOI: 10.1016/j.celrep.2014.12.038]
- 114 **Cheng F**, Lu XC, Hao HY, Dai XL, Qian TD, Huang BS, Tang LJ, Yu W, Li LX. Neurogenin 2 converts mesenchymal stem cells into a neural precursor fate and improves functional recovery after experimental stroke. *Cell Physiol Biochem* 2014; **33**: 847-858 [PMID: 24685606 DOI: 10.1159/000358657]
- 115 **Zhu S**, Wang H, Ding S. Reprogramming fibroblasts toward cardiomyocytes, neural stem cells and hepatocytes by cell activation and signaling-directed lineage conversion. *Nat Protoc* 2015; **10**: 959-973 [PMID: 26042385 DOI: 10.1038/nprot.2015.059]
- 116 **Matsui T**, Takano M, Yoshida K, Ono S, Fujisaki C, Matsuzaki Y,

- Toyama Y, Nakamura M, Okano H, Akamatsu W. Neural stem cells directly differentiated from partially reprogrammed fibroblasts rapidly acquire gliogenic competency. *Stem Cells* 2012; **30**: 1109-1119 [PMID: 22467474 DOI: 10.1002/stem.1091]
- 117 **Thier M**, Wörsdörfer P, Lakes YB, Gorris R, Herms S, Opitz T, Seiferling D, Quandel T, Hoffmann P, Nöthen MM, Brüstle O, Edenhofer F. Direct conversion of fibroblasts into stably expandable neural stem cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 2012; **10**: 473-479 [PMID: 22445518 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2012.03.003]
- 118 **Lu J**, Liu H, Huang CT, Chen H, Du Z, Liu Y, Sherafat MA, Zhang SC. Generation of integration-free and region-specific neural progenitors from primate fibroblasts. *Cell Rep* 2013; **3**: 1580-1591 [PMID: 23643533 DOI: 10.1016/j.celrep.2013.04.004]
- 119 **Zhu S**, Ambasudhan R, Sun W, Kim HJ, Talantova M, Wang X, Zhang M, Zhang Y, Laurent T, Parker J, Kim HS, Zaremba JD, Saleem S, Sanz-Blasco S, Masliah E, McKercher SR, Cho YS, Lipton SA, Kim J, Ding S. Small molecules enable OCT4-mediated direct reprogramming into expandable human neural stem cells. *Cell Res* 2014; **24**: 126-129 [PMID: 24296783 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2013.156]
- 120 **Xu XL**, Yang JP, Fu LN, Ren RT, Yi F, Suzuki K, Liu K, Ding ZC, Qu J, Zhang WQ, Li Y, Yuan TT, Yuan GH, Sui LN, Guan D, Duan SL, Pan HZ, Wang P, Zhu XP, Montserrat N, Li M, Bai RJ, Liu L, Izpisua Belmonte JC, Liu GH. Direct reprogramming of porcine fibroblasts to neural progenitor cells. *Protein Cell* 2014; **5**: 4-7 [PMID: 24492924 DOI: 10.1007/s13238-013-0015-y]
- 121 **Mitchell RR**, Szabo E, Benoit YD, Case DT, Michael R, Alamilla J, Lee JH, Fiebig-Comyn A, Gillespie DC, Bhatia M. Activation of neural cell fate programs toward direct conversion of adult human fibroblasts into tri-potent neural progenitors using OCT-4. *Stem Cells Dev* 2014; **23**: 1937-1946 [PMID: 24694094 DOI: 10.1089/scd.2014.0023]
- 122 **Ring KL**, Tong LM, Balestra ME, Javier R, Andrews-Zwilling Y, Li G, Walker D, Zhang WR, Kreitzer AC, Huang Y. Direct reprogramming of mouse and human fibroblasts into multipotent neural stem cells with a single factor. *Cell Stem Cell* 2012; **11**: 100-109 [PMID: 22683203 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2012.05.018]
- 123 **Lujan E**, Chanda S, Ahlenius H, Südhof TC, Wernig M. Direct conversion of mouse fibroblasts to self-renewing, tripotent neural precursor cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2012; **109**: 2527-2532 [PMID: 22308465 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1121003109]
- 124 **Weissbein U**, Ben-David U, Benvenisty N. Virtual karyotyping reveals greater chromosomal stability in neural cells derived by transdifferentiation than those from stem cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 2014; **15**: 687-691 [PMID: 25479746 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2014.10.018]
- 125 **Meyer K**, Ferraiuolo L, Miranda CJ, Likhite S, McElroy S, Renusch S, Ditsworth D, Lagier-Tourenne C, Smith RA, Ravits J, Burghes AH, Shaw PJ, Cleveland DW, Kolb SJ, Kaspar BK. Direct conversion of patient fibroblasts demonstrates non-cell autonomous toxicity of astrocytes to motor neurons in familial and sporadic ALS. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2014; **111**: 829-832 [PMID: 24379375 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1314085111]
- 126 **Hemmer K**, Zhang M, van Wüllen T, Sakalem M, Tapia N, Baumuratov A, Kaltschmidt C, Kaltschmidt B, Schöler HR, Zhang W, Schwaborn JC. Induced neural stem cells achieve long-term survival and functional integration in the adult mouse brain. *Stem Cell Reports* 2014; **3**: 423-431 [PMID: 25241741 DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.06.017]
- 127 **Fu L**, Zhu X, Yi F, Liu GH, Izpisua Belmonte JC. Regenerative medicine: transdifferentiation in vivo. *Cell Res* 2014; **24**: 141-142 [PMID: 24343579 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2013.165]
- 128 **Torper O**, Pfisterer U, Wolf DA, Pereira M, Lau S, Jakobsson J, Björklund A, Grealish S, Parmar M. Generation of induced neurons via direct conversion in vivo. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2013; **110**: 7038-7043 [PMID: 23530235 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1303829110]
- 129 **Rouaux C**, Arlotta P. Direct lineage reprogramming of post-mitotic callosal neurons into corticofugal neurons in vivo. *Nat Cell Biol* 2013; **15**: 214-221 [PMID: 23334497 DOI: 10.1038/ncb2660]
- 130 **Niu W**, Zang T, Zou Y, Fang S, Smith DK, Bachoo R, Zhang CL. In vivo reprogramming of astrocytes to neuroblasts in the adult brain. *Nat Cell Biol* 2013; **15**: 1164-1175 [PMID: 24056302 DOI: 10.1038/ncb2843]
- 131 **Grande A**, Sumiyoshi K, López-Juárez A, Howard J, Sakthivel B, Aronow B, Campbell K, Nakafuku M. Environmental impact on direct neuronal reprogramming in vivo in the adult brain. *Nat Commun* 2013; **4**: 2373 [PMID: 23974433 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms3373]
- 132 **Heinrich C**, Bergami M, Gascón S, Lepier A, Viganò F, Dimou L, Sutor B, Berninger B, Götz M. Sox2-mediated conversion of NG2 glia into induced neurons in the injured adult cerebral cortex. *Stem Cell Reports* 2014; **3**: 1000-1014 [PMID: 25458895 DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.10.007]
- 133 **Guo Z**, Zhang L, Wu Z, Chen Y, Wang F, Chen G. In vivo direct reprogramming of reactive glial cells into functional neurons after brain injury and in an Alzheimer's disease model. *Cell Stem Cell* 2014; **14**: 188-202 [PMID: 24360883 DOI: 10.1016/j.stem.2013.12.001]
- 134 **Su Z**, Niu W, Liu ML, Zou Y, Zhang CL. In vivo conversion of astrocytes to neurons in the injured adult spinal cord. *Nat Commun* 2014; **5**: 3338 [PMID: 24569435 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms4338]
- 135 **Droplić B**. Lentiviral vectors: their molecular design, safety, and use in laboratory and preclinical research. *Hum Gene Ther* 2011; **22**: 649-657 [PMID: 21486177 DOI: 10.1089/hum.2011.058]
- 136 **Wyse RD**, Dunbar GL, Rossignol J. Use of genetically modified mesenchymal stem cells to treat neurodegenerative diseases. *Int J Mol Sci* 2014; **15**: 1719-1745 [PMID: 24463293 DOI: 10.3390/ijms15021719]
- 137 **Hacein-Bey-Abina S**, Garrigue A, Wang GP, Soulier J, Lim A, Morillon E, Clappier E, Caccavelli L, Delabesse E, Beldjord K, Asnafi V, MacIntyre E, Dal Cortivo L, Radford I, Brousse N, Sigaux F, Moshous D, Hauer J, Borkhardt A, Belohradsky BH, Wintergerst U, Velez MC, Leiva L, Sorensen R, Wulffraat N, Blanche S, Bushman FD, Fischer A, Cavazzana-Calvo M. Insertional oncogenesis in 4 patients after retrovirus-mediated gene therapy of SCID-X1. *J Clin Invest* 2008; **118**: 3132-3142 [PMID: 18688285 DOI: 10.1172/JCI35700]
- 138 **Lewis PF**, Emerman M. Passage through mitosis is required for oncoretroviruses but not for the human immunodeficiency virus. *J Virol* 1994; **68**: 510-516 [PMID: 8254763]
- 139 **Lentz TB**, Gray SJ, Samulski RJ. Viral vectors for gene delivery to the central nervous system. *Neurobiol Dis* 2012; **48**: 179-188 [PMID: 22001604 DOI: 10.1016/j.nbd.2011.09.014]
- 140 **Miyoshi H**, Blömer U, Takahashi M, Gage FH, Verma IM. Development of a self-inactivating lentivirus vector. *J Virol* 1998; **72**: 8150-8157 [PMID: 9733856]
- 141 **Philippe S**, Sarkis C, Barkats M, Mammeri H, Ladroue C, Petit C, Mallet J, Serguera C. Lentiviral vectors with a defective integrase allow efficient and sustained transgene expression in vitro and in vivo. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2006; **103**: 17684-17689 [PMID: 17095605 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0606197103]
- 142 **Escors D**, Breckpot K. Lentiviral vectors in gene therapy: their current status and future potential. *Arch Immunol Ther Exp (Warsz)* 2010; **58**: 107-119 [PMID: 20143172 DOI: 10.1007/s00005-010-0063-4]
- 143 **Muruve DA**. The innate immune response to adenovirus vectors. *Hum Gene Ther* 2004; **15**: 1157-1166 [PMID: 15684693 DOI: 10.1089/hum.2004.15.1157]
- 144 **Meng F**, Chen S, Miao Q, Zhou K, Lao Q, Zhang X, Guo W, Jiao J. Induction of fibroblasts to neurons through adenoviral gene delivery. *Cell Res* 2012; **22**: 436-440 [PMID: 22105483 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2011.185]
- 145 **Griesenbach U**, Inoue M, Hasegawa M, Alton EW. Sendai virus for gene therapy and vaccination. *Curr Opin Mol Ther* 2005; **7**: 346-352 [PMID: 16121700]
- 146 **Iida A**, Inoue M. Concept and technology underlying Sendai virus (SeV) vector development. In: Nagai Y. Sendai Virus Vector. Japan: Springer, 2013: 69-89
- 147 **Adler AF**, Grigsby CL, Kulangara K, Wang H, Yasuda R, Leong KW. Nonviral direct conversion of primary mouse embryonic fibroblasts to neuronal cells. *Mol Ther Nucleic Acids* 2012; **1**: e32 [PMID: 23344148 DOI: 10.1038/mtna.2012.25]

- 148 **Hou P**, Li Y, Zhang X, Liu C, Guan J, Li H, Zhao T, Ye J, Yang W, Liu K, Ge J, Xu J, Zhang Q, Zhao Y, Deng H. Pluripotent stem cells induced from mouse somatic cells by small-molecule compounds. *Science* 2013; **341**: 651-654 [PMID: 23868920 DOI: 10.1126/science.1239278]
- 149 **Cheng L**, Hu W, Qiu B, Zhao J, Yu Y, Guan W, Wang M, Yang W, Pei G. Generation of neural progenitor cells by chemical cocktails and hypoxia. *Cell Res* 2014; **24**: 665-679 [PMID: 24638034 DOI: 10.1038/cr.2014.32]
- 150 **Dai P**, Harada Y, Takamatsu T. Highly efficient direct conversion of human fibroblasts to neuronal cells by chemical compounds. *J Clin Biochem Nutr* 2015; **56**: 166-170 [PMID: 26060345 DOI: 10.3164/jcbr.15-39]
- 151 **Hong JY**, Lee SH, Lee SC, Kim JW, Kim KP, Kim SM, Tapia N, Lim KT, Kim J, Ahn HS, Ko K, Shin CY, Lee HT, Schöler HR, Hyun JK, Han DW. Therapeutic potential of induced neural stem cells for spinal cord injury. *J Biol Chem* 2014; **289**: 32512-32525 [PMID: 25294882 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M114.588871]
- 152 **Wu J**, Sheng C, Liu Z, Jia W, Wang B, Li M, Fu L, Ren Z, An J, Sang L, Song G, Wu Y, Xu Y, Wang S, Chen Z, Zhou Q, Zhang YA. Lmx1a enhances the effect of iNSCs in a PD model. *Stem Cell Res* 2015; **14**: 1-9 [PMID: 25460246 DOI: 10.1016/j.scr.2014.10.004]
- 153 **Pfisterer U**, Wood J, Nihlberg K, Hallgren O, Bjerner L, Westergren-Thorsson G, Lindvall O, Parmar M. Efficient induction of functional neurons from adult human fibroblasts. *Cell Cycle* 2011; **10**: 3311-3316 [PMID: 21934358 DOI: 10.4161/cc.10.19.17584]
- 154 **Wang P**, Zhang HL, Li W, Sha H, Xu C, Yao L, Tang Q, Tang H, Chen L, Zhu J. Generation of patient-specific induced neuronal cells using a direct reprogramming strategy. *Stem Cells Dev* 2014; **23**: 16-23 [PMID: 23947933 DOI: 10.1089/scd.2013.0131]
- 155 **Chanda S**, Ang CE, Davila J, Pak C, Mall M, Lee QY, Ahlenius H, Jung SW, Südhof TC, Wernig M. Generation of induced neuronal cells by the single reprogramming factor ASCL1. *Stem Cell Reports* 2014; **3**: 282-296 [PMID: 25254342 DOI: 10.1016/j.stemcr.2014.05.020]
- 156 **Liu X**, Huang Q, Li F, Li CY. Enhancing the efficiency of direct reprogramming of human primary fibroblasts into dopaminergic neuron-like cells through p53 suppression. *Sci China Life Sci* 2014; **57**: 867-875 [PMID: 25129808 DOI: 10.1007/s11427-014-4730-2]
- 157 **Tian C**, Ambroz RJ, Sun L, Wang Y, Ma K, Chen Q, Zhu B, Zheng JC. Direct conversion of dermal fibroblasts into neural progenitor cells by a novel cocktail of defined factors. *Curr Mol Med* 2012; **12**: 126-137 [PMID: 22172100 DOI: 10.2174/156652412798889018]
- 158 **Kim SM**, Flaßkamp H, Hermann A, Araújo-Bravo MJ, Lee SC, Lee SH, Seo EH, Lee SH, Storch A, Lee HT, Schöler HR, Tapia N, Han DW. Direct conversion of mouse fibroblasts into induced neural stem cells. *Nat Protoc* 2014; **9**: 871-881 [PMID: 24651499 DOI: 10.1038/nprot.2014.056]
- 159 **Zou Q**, Yan Q, Zhong J, Wang K, Sun H, Yi X, Lai L. Direct conversion of human fibroblasts into neuronal restricted progenitors. *J Biol Chem* 2014; **289**: 5250-5260 [PMID: 24385434 DOI: 10.1074/jbc.M113.516112]

P- Reviewer: Liu L, Politi LE, Zou ZM
S- Editor: Qiu S **L- Editor:** A **E- Editor:** Li D





Published by **Baishideng Publishing Group Inc**

8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242

Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com

Help Desk: <http://www.wjgnet.com/esps/helpdesk.aspx>

<http://www.wjgnet.com>

