What is claimed is:

1. A method to produce pluripotent stem cells from somatic cells without the use of a feeder-cell layer or an agent that increases efficiency of retroviral transfection.

2. A population of pluripotent stem cells derived from amniotic fluid-derived cells using a method that does not require the use of a feeder-cell layer or an agent that increases efficiency of retroviral transfection.

What is claimed is:

1. A method to produce pluripotent stem cells from somatic cells without the use of a feeder-cell layer or an agent that increases efficiency of retroviral transfection.