Claims

1. A method for making an aggregate of cells, said method comprising exposing multipotent adult progenitor cells (MAPCs), wherein said MAPCs are characterised in that they are not embryonic stem cells, embryonic germ cells, or germ cells, express the transcription factors oct 3/4, REX-1 and ROX-1 and can differentiate into cell types of at least two of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal embryonic lineages to conditions under which said MAPCs aggregate, wherein the conditions comprise an oxygen concentration of 1-10%.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising disaggregating the aggregate to produce cells derived from the aggregate.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the cells derived from the aggregate are exposed to conditions whereby the cells derived from the aggregate differentiate.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the cells in the aggregate are exposed to conditions whereby the cells in the aggregate differentiate.

5. The method of any claims 1-4, wherein cells in the aggregate and cells derived from the aggregate express one or more of telomerase, nanog, GATA6 and sox-2.

6. The method of any claims 1-5, wherein cells in the aggregate and cells derived from the aggregate can differentiate into cell types of all three of the endodermal, ectodermal and mesodermal embryonic lineages.

7. The method of any claims 1-6, wherein the aggregate contains about 10 cells to about 50,000 cells or more including about 1000 cells to about 5000 cells.

8. The method of any of claims 1-7, wherein cells are aggregated by the hanging drop method or forced aggregation method.