CLAIMS

1. A method of producing induced pluripotent stem cells, the method comprising introducing into a somatic cell one or more retroviral vectors encoding Oct-4, Sox-2, Klf-4 and Tbx3.

2. A method of identifying a candidate molecule capable of modulating the production of induced pluripotent stem cells from a somatic cell, comprising

performing a method according to Claim 1 in the presence of one or more candidate molecules;

performing a method according to Claim 1 in the absence of the one or more candidate molecules;

determining whether one or more activities of the somatic cell selected from the group consisting of: induction of pluripotency, reprogramming, and expression of one or more characteristics of a pluripotent cell, are modulated by the presence of the one or more candidate molecules; and

selecting a candidate molecule that modulates one or more of the activities of the somatic cell.

3. A method according to Claim 2, in which the selected candidate molecule increases one or more of the activities of the somatic cell.