

Acid bath turns adult cells into stem cells

In 2006, Japanese researchers reported a technique for creating cells that have the embryonic ability to turn into almost any cell type in the mammalian body — the now-famous induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. In papers published this week in *Nature*, another Japanese team says that it has come up with a surprisingly simple method — exposure to stress, including a low pH — that can make cells that are even more malleable than iPS cells, and do it faster and more efficiently.

“It’s amazing. I would have never thought external stress could have this effect,” says Yoshiki Sasai, a stem-cell researcher at the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, Japan, and a co-author of the latest studies.

Read the full, original story: [Acid bath offers easy path to stem cells](#)

Additional Resources:

- [Stem cell timeline: The history of a medical sensation](#), New Scientist
- [A Little Acid Turns Mouse Blood Into Brain, Heart And Stem Cells](#), NPR
- Groundbreaking: Embryonic Stem Cells Made With Acid, Discovery