

Induced pluripotent cells (iPS cells) are adult cells artificially modified to give rise to pluripotent capabilities. In other words, cells with a specialized function such as blood cells are 'reprogrammed' to be able to form all cell types of the body. They are set into a more primitive state similar to that of an embryonic stem cell.

IPS cells hold immense promise for disease-specific research. They serve to study causes of diseases and for testing drugs or developing new treatments by providing access to cells that would otherwise be impossible to access.