Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does Kyoto University decide whether it will provide the iPS cells?

Kyoto University will generally provide the iPS cells to any non-profit institution upon request, if the recipient institution accepts and agrees to the terms and conditions as stated in the Material Transfer Agreement and receives the "Approval Form" duly authorized by Kyoto University.

Q: Does the transfer of iPS cells require fees?

Kyoto University will not charge any fee for the transfer of iPS cells to non-profit institutions and will not receive any payment.

Although RIKEN BioResource Center operates non-profit basis, they require handling fees of 24,000 yen per tube (for academic institutions) plus shipping fees.   The fee requested is for recovering the cost to prepare the requested material (e.g. culturing, examining or maintaining the cells).   The handling fee for non-academic institutions is 31,200 yen per tube plus shipping fees.

Q: Does Kyoto University provide a company with iPS cells?

We are discussing this matter.   However, we have not come to a conclusion yet.

Q: When does Kyoto University make human iPS cells available?

We are now in a process of discussing details with RIKEN.   We hope that we will be able to make the human iPS cells available as soon as possible.

Q: Where can I obtain feeder cells from?

Dr. Yamanaka's laboratory uses SNL76/7 cells as feeder cells.   Instead of SNL76/7 cells, MEF (mouse embryonic fibroblasts) cells with addition of LIF (Leukemia inhibitory factor) can also be used as feeder cells.

The SNL76/7 cells are available from Dr. Allan Bradley's laboratory of the Sanger Institute or the European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC).

Dr. Allan Bladley's laboratory:
http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Teams/Team82

ECACC:
http://www.ecacc.org.uk/

Q: Is there any reference material on iPS cell culturing techniques?

Please refer to the following paper;
Takahashi, K., et al.
Induction of Pluripotent Stem Cells from Fibroblast Cultures.
Nature Protocols 2 (12): 3081-3089 (2007)