This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Pharmacogenomic screening to identify new antibiotics and their target molecules	<p>A study in <i>Escherichia coli</i> identified compounds that could help treat Gram-negative bacterial infections. A high throughput screen of about 50,000 compounds identified MAC23243 as a small molecule <i>E. coli</i> growth inhibitor. In a panel of <i>E. coli</i> strains that separately overexpress each gene in the bacterial genome, only the strain overexpressing the lipoprotein transporter subunit <i>LolA</i> was resistant to MAC23243, suggesting MAC23243 targets <i>LolA</i>. Next steps include <i>in vivo</i> testing of MAC23243 in animal models of infection by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and other Gram-negative pathogens.</p> <p>SciBX 2(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1488 Published online Oct. 8, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Pathania, R. <i>et al. Nat. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Sept. 27, 2009; doi:10.1038/nchembio.221</p> <p>Contact: Eric D. Brown, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada e-mail: ebrown@mcmaster.ca</p>