This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Antibiotics produced by transformed plastids	<p><i>In vitro</i> studies suggest that plant plastids could be engineered to produce antibiotic proteins such as lysins. In tobacco plants, two different lysins—Pal and Cpl-1—were produced using plastid expression cassettes that included a bacterial transcription termination sequence upstream of the gene of interest, thereby allowing high lysin levels in tobacco. Protein extracts from the tobacco plants killed <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> bacteria <i>in vitro</i> compared with what was seen using protein extracts from nontransformed tobacco. Next steps include optimizing the purification of the antibiotics from plants and testing the extracts in animals.</p> <p>SciBX 2(14); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.601 Published online April 9, 2009</p>	Unpatented; unlicensed	<p>Oey, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 30, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0813146106</p> <p>Contact: Ralph Bock, Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Potsdam-Golm, Germany e-mail: rbock@mpimp-golm.mpg.de</p>