This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Engineered <i>Escherichia coli</i> strains to sense and kill bacterial pathogens	<p><i>E. coli</i> strains genetically modified to detect and kill bacterial pathogens could be useful antimicrobial therapeutics. A nonpathogenic strain of <i>E. coli</i> was engineered to detect <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> quorum-sensing molecules and respond by secreting an antibacterial peptide. <i>In vitro</i>, coculture of <i>P. aeruginosa</i> and the engineered <i>E. coli</i> strain lowered biofilm formation compared with coculture using control <i>E. coli</i> strains. Next steps include testing the effectiveness and safety of the modified <i>E. coli</i> in animal models.</p> <p>SciBX 4(36); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1028 Published online Sept. 15, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Saeidi, N. <i>et al. Mol. Syst. Biol.</i>; published online Aug. 16, 2011; doi:10.1038/msb.2011.55 Contact: Matthew Wook Chang, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Singapore e-mail: matthewchang@ntu.edu.sg Contact: Chueh Loo Poh, same affiliation as above e-mail: clpoh@ntu.edu.sg</p>