This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
BL0033 sugar ABC transporter solute-binding protein (BL0033) as a marker for probiotic bacteria	Carbohydrate transporters could help identify probiotic bacteria that prevent gastrointestinal infection. In germ-free mice, cocolonization with a pathogenic <i>Escherichia coli</i> strain and a <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> strain expressing BL0033 led to higher survival rates than cocolonization with pathogenic <i>E. coli</i> and a <i>B. longum</i> strain lacking BL0033. Next steps include using genomic and metabolomic analysis to identify additional bacterial components that affect host physiology and pathology. SciBX 4(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.210 Published online Feb. 17, 2011	Patent application filed covering the use of BL0033-like transporters as a marker of probiotic bacteria; licensing status undisclosed	Fukuda, S. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online Jan. 26, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature09646 Contact: Hiroshi Ohno, RIKEN, Kanagawa, Japan e-mail: ohno@rcai.riken.jp