This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Microarray-based identification of metabolic enzymes and their functions	<p>A microarray-based technology could help identify metabolic enzymes in microorganisms that produce therapeutically active compounds.</p> <p>The microarray consists of 2,500 dye-linked substrates representing central metabolic pathways. As proof of principle, the microarray, in combination with mass spectrometry and a purification step, identified and isolated multiple metabolic enzymes from the cellular extracts of two model bacterial strains, <i>Pseudomonas putida</i> and <i>Streptomyces coelicor</i>. Next steps include extending the approach to eukaryotes, including transgenic plants.</p> <p>SciBX 2(41); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1544 Published online Oct. 22, 2009</p>	Patented by the Spanish National Research Council and the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research; available for licensing	<p>Beloqui, A. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Oct. 8, 2009; doi:10.1126/science.1174094</p> <p>Contact: Peter N. Golyshin, Bangor University, Gwynedd, U.K. e-mail: p.golyshin@bangor.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact: Manuel Ferrer, Spanish National Research Council, Madrid, Spain e-mail: mferrer@icp.csic.es</p>