

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Bacterial biosynthesis of polyketides	<p>A bacterial platform for the biosynthesis of polyketides may help increase discovery and production of pharmaceutically relevant polyketides. Expression in <i>Escherichia coli</i> of a multicomponent fungal polyketide synthase engineered to produce linear rather than cyclic polyketides yielded a spectrum of basic polyketide backbones. Coexpression of the synthase with specific bacterial polyketide-tailoring enzymes resulted in the biosynthesis of the anthracycline SEK26. Current work is focused on optimizing yields and extending the approach to the biosynthesis of larger and non-natural polyketides.</p> <p><b>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.34</b>  <b>Published online Jan. 8, 2009</b></p>	Unpatented	<p>Zhang, W. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 15, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0809084105</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Yi Tang, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.            e-mail: <a href="mailto:yitang@ucla.edu">yitang@ucla.edu</a></p>