

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Engineered wheat for celiac disease	<p>A cell culture study suggests that a genetically engineered strain of wheat could be useful for creating foods that are tolerated by celiac disease patients. In cultured T cells from celiac patients, extracts of wheat that expressed small hairpin RNAs against gliadin proteins led to lower proliferation of proinflammatory cells than wild-type wheat extracts. Next steps include identifying and knocking down additional wheat antigens that activate T cells in celiac disease and testing the transgenic wheat in celiac disease patients.</p> <p>Alba Therapeutics Corp.'s AT-1001, a zonulin receptor antagonist, is in Phase II testing for celiac disease.</p> <p>Alvine Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s ALV003, a protease that degrades gluten, is in Phase II testing for celiac disease.</p> <p>SciBX 3(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1133 Published online Sept. 23, 2010</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing	<p>Gil-Humanes, J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 9, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1007773107</p> <p>Contact: Francisco Barro, Spanish National Research Council, Madrid, Spain e-mail: fbarro@ias.csic.es</p>