

## This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
<i>Escherichia coli</i> -based platform for erythromycin production	<p>An <i>E. coli</i>-based platform to generate erythromycin A could improve the large-scale production of the antibiotic and its analogs. <i>Saccharopolyspora erythraea</i> produces erythromycin A naturally but is a slow-growing bacterium and not easy to culture. Researchers transferred the set of genes needed for erythromycin A production into <i>E. coli</i>. A biosynthesis protocol using the modified <i>E. coli</i> generated 10 mg/L of erythromycin A. Next steps could include stabilizing the genetic components responsible for erythromycin production in <i>E. coli</i>.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(48); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1460</b> <b>Published online Dec. 16, 2010</b></p>	<p>Multiple patents filed and pending covering the production of erythromycin A and associated analogs using <i>E. coli</i> as a host; available for licensing from the Tufts University Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Collaboration</p>	<p>Zhang, H. <i>et al. Chem. Biol.</i>; published online Nov. 24, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.chembiol.2010.09.013 <b>Contact:</b> Blaine A. Pfeifer, Tufts University, Medford, Mass. e-mail: <a href="mailto:blaine.pfeifer@tufts.edu">blaine.pfeifer@tufts.edu</a></p>