

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Elafin-secreting lactic acid bacteria for treating inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	Elafin-secreting lactic acid bacteria could be useful for treating IBD. Two food-grade strains of lactic acid bacteria were engineered to express the protease inhibitor elafin, which is downregulated in the colons of patients with IBD. In a mouse model of chemically induced colitis, oral delivery of the engineered bacterial strain restored intestinal homeostasis and decreased gut inflammation compared with wild-type bacteria. Next steps include evaluating the safety of the engineered bacteria. ViThera Pharmaceuticals Inc. is developing the engineered bacteria for use in IBD.	Patented; licensed to ViThera Pharmaceuticals	Motta, J.-P. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Oct. 31, 2012; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3004212 <b>Contact:</b> Nathalie Vergnolle, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Toulouse, France e-mail: <a href="mailto:nathalie.vergnolle@inserm.fr">nathalie.vergnolle@inserm.fr</a>
	<b>SciBX 5(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1174</b> Published online Nov. 8, 2012		