This week in techniques

<table>
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<th>Drug platforms</th>
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| Using sugar to improve aminoglycoside killing of persistent bacterial infections | *In vitro* and mouse studies suggest sugars could help increase the efficacy of aminoglycoside-based antibiotics. *In vitro*, the sugars glucose and mannitol improved uptake of the generic aminoglycoside gentamicin by *Escherichia coli* and enhanced killing of persistent *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* compared with gentamicin alone. In a mouse model of chronic urinary tract infection, gentamicin plus mannitol decreased bacterial burden and increased survival compared with gentamicin alone. Next steps include testing metabolite-induced killing of other bacteria including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. | Patent application filed; available for licensing | Allison, K.R. et al. *Nature*; published online May 11, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10069  
*Contact:* James J. Collins, Boston University, Boston, Mass.  
e-mail: jcollins@bu.edu |

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