

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Using sugar to improve aminoglycoside killing of persistent bacterial infections	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest sugars could help increase the efficacy of aminoglycoside-based antibiotics. <i>In vitro</i> , the sugars glucose and mannitol improved uptake of the generic aminoglycoside gentamicin by <i>Escherichia coli</i> and enhanced killing of persistent <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> 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 <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> .	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Allison, K.R. <i>et al. Nature</i> ; published online May 11, 2011; doi:10.1038/nature10069 Contact: James J. Collins, Boston University, Boston, Mass. e-mail: jjcollins@bu.edu
	SciBX 4(22); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.645 Published online June 2, 2011		