Treatgut

Q: What factors do you think limit the development in bacterial therapeutics of your company?
A: Bacterial therapeutics, this field is a very active, energetic, promising one. However, at this stage, there remains some factors negative for its development. One is policy, there have not been any regulations or documents issued by legislature to support the development of bacterial therapeutics. Another one is that the ideas of doctors and patients on bacterial therapeutics are quite primitive. Well, for example, when it comes to FMT, some people may reject it just because of its name. We have done some work to increase acceptance of the public about it. The third reason, I think, is that the researches are still at the surface level. Every new technique emerges with people's misunderstanding and fear, leading their unwilling or afraid about this technique and bacterial therapeutics is not the except. How can we solve this problem? How can we persuade the public? More further researches which focus on the mechanism behind FMT, not only the relevance, must been done. With the data, whether with animal testing or clinical experiments, accumulating, this problem may be solved.

Q: How do you collaborate with hospitals? In what way are your products promoted?
A: We don't contact patients, the one who can decide the apply of FMT is doctor. Their suggestions count a lot. When doctors consider that some patients can be cured with FMT, they contact us and we supply products as well as technical assistance.

Q: Is employing gene editing to engineered bacteria to develop new medicine on your schedule?
A: We do have this kind of plan but it won't be carried out in eight or ten years. It is not a short-term planning.

Q: What your opinion about applying synthetic biology to develop bacteria therapeutics?
A: When use synthetic biology, it refer to gene editing whose safety must be taken into consider. We are conservative about it unless there exists persuasive statistics. What we are concerning about is that the influence remains unknown. With more data to prove its efficacy, we do not exclude. There do exist many foreign companies who have done a lot of job and develop favorably. We know the gap but we can't narrow it in the short term. One reason is that any medicine needs permission to get into the market, however, relevant laws in this field remains blank in our country.

Q: Do you have any questions about our safe platform for bacterial therapeutics?
A: One is universality. Whether your safe platform can only function in *E.coli* or it can be used in different kinds of bacteria? Can some proteins expressed in this system be well express in others? The second point is efficacy, the efficacy of the procedure of suicide. Have you measure and evaluate the escape frequency? The third one is that how will you present your products? If we want to change parts of this circuit to design medicine, will it affect the efficacy of temperature-sensitive system?