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## Sweet microarrays

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The functional importance of post-translational protein modifications, such as glycosylation, is underscored by the relatively small number of genes found within the human genome. In an Advanced Online Publication in *Nature Biotechnology* Shigeyuki Fukui and colleagues describe the production of nitrocellulose microarrays containing neoglycolipids (NGL), lipid-linked oligosaccharide probes

Using immobilized sugar arrays to screen for carbohydrate-recognizing protein ligands, the group showed that immobilized N-acetyllactosamine and chondroitin sulfate oligosaccharides were recognized by specific antibodies, and that cytokines and chemokines bound to a range of sulfated probes. This experimental tool brings us one step closer to surveying the entire 'glycome'.

## References

1. *Nature Biotechnology*, [<http://www.nature.com/nbt/>]
2. Progress in deciphering the information content of the 'glycome' - a crescendo in the closing years of the millennium.