



At the moment the company is focusing on RAS inhibitors and infectious diseases, with hopes of moving onto other 'undruggable' illnesses | Photo source National Cancer Institute

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## TREATING INCURABLE DISEASES WITH BACTERIA-GENERATED MOLECULES

 HEALTH & WELLBEING

**A new approach to developing treatments for 'undruggable' diseases uses bacteria to produce naturally occurring molecules**

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**Takeaway:**

current era of rapid and affordable genome sequencing, it is still extremely difficult to develop novel treatments for disease. This year, Terrapeutics [signed an agreement](#) with Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS) to co-develop novel treatments for incurable cancers. Terrapeutics will use its technology to screen and select microorganisms that produce small molecule inhibitors targeted against resistant bacteria and oncogenic RAS – proteins that are frequently mutated in human cancers. HIPS will then use its expertise to isolate, characterise, and optimise the novel molecules for their use in humans. If successful, the strategy could pave the way for a whole new category of treatments for currently undruggable diseases.