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Hydrangea macrophylla is a flowering plant that changes color of the bloom in response to soil pH. Ferdoush et al. demonstrate a metaphorical mimicry of such a phenomenon at the level of gene activation, where the activator in budding yeast functionally alternates between coactivators, SAGA and NuA4, in response to inorganic phosphate in the growth medium to promote transcription of a high-affinity inorganic phosphate transporter gene, PHO84. Image courtesy of Arpan Roy. See Ferdoush *et al.* 208: 191–205 in the January issue.

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