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1 **LyGo: A platform for rapid screening of lytic polysaccharide monoxygenase production**

2

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28

29 **Author contributions:**

30 CHR established the LyGo cloning protocol and cloned, established, and performed experiments, and
31 processed data for proteins produced in the periplasm of *E. coli*. KBF cloned, established, and performed
32 experiments, and processed data for proteins produced in *B. subtilis* and performed experiments and
33 processed data for proteins produced in *K. phaffii*. ABB cloned, established, and performed experiments,
34 and processed data for proteins produced in the cytoplasm of *E. coli*. MR cloned, established, and
35 performed experiments, and processed data for proteins produced on the surface of *E. coli* and cloned
36 and established experiments for proteins produced in *K. phaffii*. ABB and JØI performed gel filtration of
37 the cytoplasmically produced samples and JØI performed the subsequent activity assays and processed
38 the associated data. All authors read and approved the content of the manuscript.

39

40 †These authors contributed equally

41

42 Keywords: Protein production, Expression vector, Cloning, Lytic Polysaccharide Monooxygenase,
43 LPMO.

44 **Abstract**

45 Environmentally friendly sources of energy and chemicals are essential constituents of a sustainable
46 society. An important step towards this goal is the utilization of non-edible biomass as supply of building
47 blocks for future biorefineries. Lytic polysaccharide monoxygenases (LPMOs) are enzymes that play a
48 critical role in breaking the chemical bonds in the most abundant polymers found in recalcitrant biomass,
49 such as cellulose and chitin. Predicting optimal strategies for producing LPMOs is often non-trivial, and
50 methods allowing for screening several strategies simultaneously are therefore needed. Here, we present
51 a standardized platform for cloning LPMOs. The platform allows users to combine gene fragments with
52 different expression vectors in a simple 15-minute reaction, thus enabling rapid exploration of several
53 gene contexts, hosts and expression strategies in parallel. The open-source LyGo platform is
54 accompanied by easy-to-follow online protocols for both cloning and expression. As a demonstration,
55 we utilize the LyGo platform to explore different strategies for expressing several different LPMOs in
56 *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Komagataella phaffii*.

57

58 **Introduction**

59 Transforming society from being dependent on fossil resources, to relying on sustainable resources is
60 one of the most important challenges of the 21st century. Overcoming this challenge is highly dependent
61 on the displacement of petrochemicals with renewable biochemicals such as bioethanol, polylactic acid,
62 and biosuccinic acid^{1,2}. Currently, the majority of biorefineries in the EU utilize food crops, which gives
63 rise to the food versus fuel debate and ultimately limits the implementation of these types of
64 biorefineries^{3,4}. This issue is mitigated by 2nd generation biorefineries that rely on non-edible biomass as

65 a resource, although depolymerization of this type of biomass constitutes a significant technical
66 challenge^{5,6}.

67 Lytic Polysaccharide Monooxygenases (LPMOs) are carbohydrate active enzymes that
68 oxidize α and β -(1,4) glycosidic bonds in recalcitrant biopolymers, such as chitin and cellulose^{7,8,9}. Due to
69 the chemistry and architecture of the substrate binding surface, LPMOs generally act more readily on
70 crystalline substrates compared to glycoside hydrolases (GHs)^{7,10}. LPMO-induced cleavage weakens the
71 structure of the biomass, and facilitates attack by other enzymes in a cascading mechanism^{11,12}.
72 Consequently, addition of LPMOs has been shown to increase the saccharification efficiency of
73 commercially available cellulose cocktails^{9,13}. Furthermore, LPMOs and LPMO-like proteins are involved
74 in the virulence of plant¹⁴ and animal (including human) pathogens¹⁵. These factors make LPMOs highly
75 interesting from both an industrial and academic perspective.

76 Heterologous expression of LPMOs is essential for characterization and industrial
77 production of LPMOs. LPMOs have been produced in a range of organisms¹⁶. However, multiple
78 expression strategies for the same enzymes are rarely explored or compared and previous efforts to
79 standardize cloning into expression vectors in the LPMO field have been limited¹⁷. Ideally, a
80 comprehensive strategy for heterologous expression of LPMOs enables simultaneous exploration of
81 several strategies including e.g. different production hosts, gene sequence variants, signal peptides for
82 secretion, localization within the hosts, solubility- and affinity tags, etc. Such a workflow would benefit
83 from a simple standardized DNA editing approach and a diverse and accessible vector collection, which
84 in addition would facilitate collaborations, automation, and data comparison.

85 Here, we describe an open-source platform, called “LyGo” (Lytic polysaccharide
86 monoxygenase Golden gate cloning). The platform includes functionally validated expression vectors
87 for three widely used protein production host: *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Komagataella phaffii*
88 (formerly known as *Pichia pastoris*) and is accompanied by easy-to-follow online protocols for cloning
89 and expression in each of the included organisms. It is our hope that the community will embrace, share,
90 and expand the collection in the future. To demonstrate how the LyGo platform can be utilized, we
91 explore a variety of expression strategies in the three production hosts. In all cases, the expression
92 strategies show significant differences in performance, thus underlining why this type of synthetic
93 biology resource is useful for improving production yields and for enabling sustainable biotech.

94

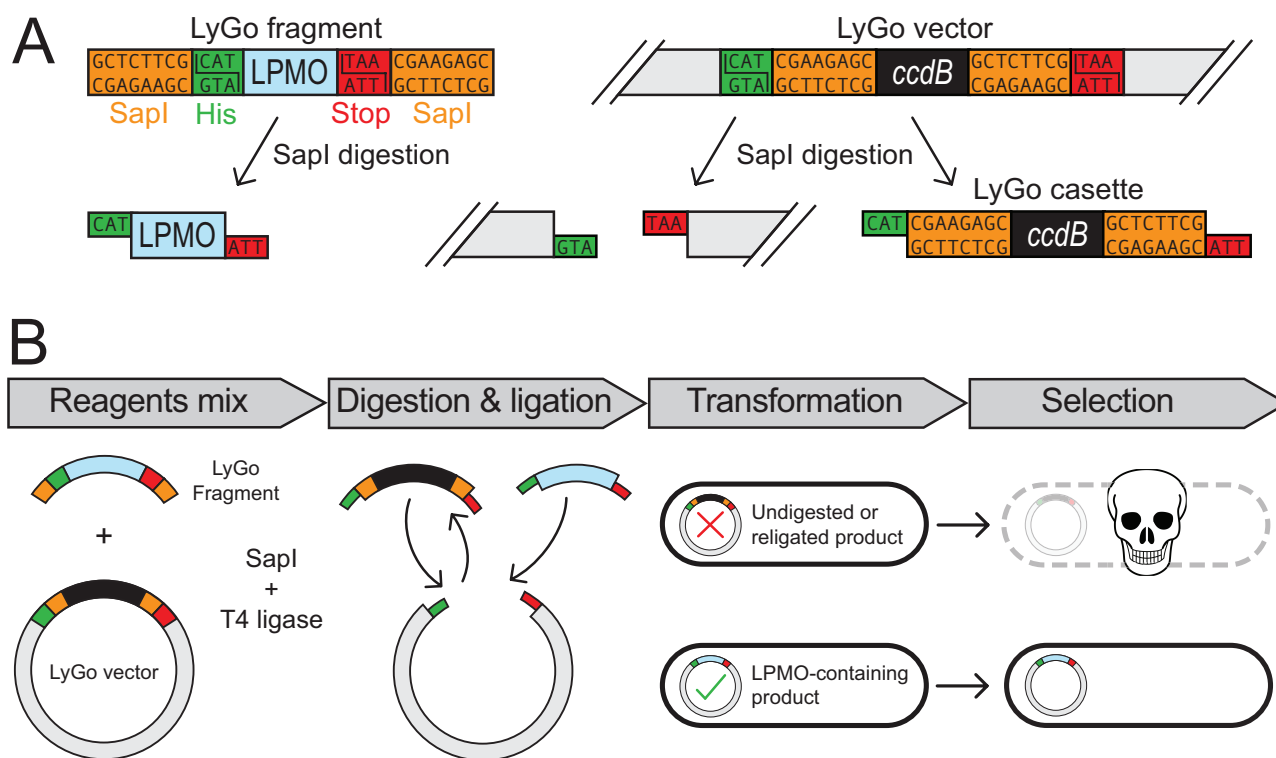
95 **Results**

96 **LyGo cloning enables efficient and scarless assembly of expression vectors**

97 Inspired by Golden Gate cloning¹⁸ and the Electra Vector System[®] (ATUM, Newark, CA, USA), the LyGo
98 platform utilizes the type IIS restriction endonuclease SapI to generate compatible DNA fragments.
99 Because SapI cuts outside its recognition sequence, this allows for scarless assembly of DNA fragments
100 containing LPMO-coding sequences (called “LyGo fragments”) into compatible expression vectors
101 (called a “LyGo vectors”). SapI-treatment of a LyGo fragment creates three-nucleotide single stranded
102 overhangs corresponding to the codon of the N-terminal histidine (essential for the activity of LPMOs¹⁹)
103 and a stop codon in the 3’ end (Figure 1A). LyGo vectors contain a cloning cassette containing a *ccdB*
104 counter selection marker²⁰ flanked by SapI recognition sites (called a “LyGo cassette”). Upon SapI
105 digestion, the LyGo cassette is released from a LyGo vector, leaving single stranded overhangs

106 complementary to the digested LyGo fragments. This design ensures that any LPMO gene-of-interest,
107 upon treatment with SapI and T4 ligase, can replace the cloning cassette without leaving cloning scars in
108 the final vector. When a LyGo vector is combined with a LyGo fragment the SapI recognition sites are
109 eliminated, and *in vitro* the correct assembly reaction is therefore favored over re-ligation of the LyGo
110 cassette. Should any background vectors persist, the resulting transformants are selected against *in vivo*
111 by the presence of the *ccdB* gene (Figure 1B, and Supplementary Figure S1A).

112 Digestion and ligation are performed in a one-pot reaction at room temperature and can be
113 completed in 15 minutes with high assembly efficiencies (Supplementary Figure S1B). The assembled
114 DNA can be transformed directly into *E. coli*, following routine protocols²¹. The assembly is not
115 dependent on DNA amplification or purification, which can be time-consuming, error-prone, and
116 inefficient. A clear strength of this vector design is that any vector can be “LyGo-fied”, simply by
117 removing unwanted SapI recognition sites and inserting the LyGo cassette. This allows users to utilize
118 their favorite vectors and to contribute to the collection.



119

120 **Figure 1:** Schematic overview of LyGo cloning. **(A)** SapI recognition sites (orange), conserved histidine-
 121 (green), and stop codons (red) are shown in the LyGo-fragment, -cassette, and -vector before and after
 122 SapI digestion. **(B)** In the cloning procedure, LyGo fragment and vector are mixed with SapI restriction
 123 enzyme and T4 ligase, digested, and ligated in a 15-minute reaction, and subsequently transformed into
 124 a *ccdB* sensitive *E. coli* strain. This way, undigested or religated products are eliminated by *ccdB* counter
 125 selection.

126

127 Nomenclature for LyGo vectors

128 The current vector collection consists of 14 vectors in total (Table 1), and we established a simple
 129 abstraction and nomenclature, in order to easily recognize plasmids and translate their names into
 130 meaningful concepts. LyGo vectors are designated: “pLyGo” followed by two letters indicating the

131 expression host (*Ec* for *E. coli*, *Bs* for *B. subtilis*, and *Kp* for *K. phaffii*), as well as a number that refers to
 132 information about the features of the plasmid. Any modules inserted by LyGo cloning of LyGo fragments
 133 are appended to the name separated by hyphens. For instance, pLyGo-*Ec*-2 is a LyGo vector for
 134 expression in *E. coli* that includes the T7 promoter and the signal peptide MalE^{SP} targeting LPMOs-of-
 135 interest to the periplasm. Cloning of a LyGo fragment encoding the LPMO LsAA9A into pLyGo-*Ec*-2,
 136 would be named pLyGo-*Ec*-2-LsAA9A.

137

138 **Table 1:** LyGo vectors constructed in this study. These vectors are available through plasmid repositories.

139 TEV* denotes that the last codon of the TEV sequence was modified to a histidine codon.

LyGo nomenclature	Classical nomenclature	Description
<i>E. coli</i> vectors		
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -1	pET39b-Ub(his10)-TEV*- <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding Ubiquitin with an internal His10-tag and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -2	pET28a(+)-MalE ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the MalE signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -3	pET28a(+)-OmpA ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the OmpA signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -4	pET28a(+)-PhoA ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the PhoA signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -5	pET28a(+)-DsbA ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the DsbA signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -6	pET28a(+)-PelB ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the PelB signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -7	pBAD42-PelB ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i> -TEV-NB-C-IgAP	Vector encoding the C-IgAP surface expression anchor, nanobody, and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
pLyGo- <i>Ec</i> -8	pBAD42-Lpp ^{SP} -OmpA-TEV*- <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the Lpp ^{SP} -OmpA surface expression anchor and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R
<i>B. subtilis</i> vectors		

pLyGo-Bs-1	pBS293C-amyE-P _{3P} -AmyL ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the AmyL signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R (<i>E. coli</i>), Cm ^R (<i>B. subtilis</i>)
pLyGo-Bs-2	pBS293C-amyE-P _{3P} -AmyQ ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the AmyQ signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R (<i>E. coli</i>), Cm ^R (<i>B. subtilis</i>)
pLyGo-Bs-3	pBS293C-amyE-P _{3P} -AprE ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the AprE signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R (<i>E. coli</i>), Cm ^R (<i>B. subtilis</i>)
pLyGo-Bs-4	pBS293C-amyE-P _{3P} -BatLPMO10 ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the BatLPMO10 signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Km ^R (<i>E. coli</i>), Cm ^R (<i>B. subtilis</i>)
<i>K. phaffii</i> vectors		
pLyGo-Kp-1	pPIC9K- α -MF ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the α -MF pre-sequence and the LyGo cassette, Amp ^R (<i>E. coli</i>), Km ^R , <i>HIS4</i> (<i>K. phaffii</i>)
pLyGo-Kp-2	pPIC9K-Amy ^{SP} - <i>ccdB</i>	Vector encoding the α -amylase signal peptide and the LyGo cassette, Amp ^R (<i>E. coli</i>), Km ^R , <i>HIS4</i> (<i>K. phaffii</i>)

140

141 Exploring protein localization strategies in *E. coli* using LyGo

142 *E. coli* is an important model organism in molecular biology, and a popular expression host for bacterial
 143 LPMOs¹⁶. Proteins can be produced in different cellular compartments in *E. coli*, each strategy with its
 144 own advantages and disadvantages. In order to explore different approaches, we developed a range of
 145 vectors for producing LPMOs in three different cellular compartments of *E. coli*: The cytoplasm, the
 146 periplasm, and attached to the surface of the cell. The LyGo vectors were tested with four different
 147 LPMOs: *Thermobifida fusca* TfLPMO10A²², *Streptomyces coelicolor* ScLPMO10B²³, BatLPMO10 from *Bacillus*
 148 *atrophaeus*²⁴, and LsAA9A from *Lentinus similis*²⁵. TfLPMO10A, ScLPMO10B, and BatLPMO10 were
 149 chosen because they previously were produced successfully in *E. coli*^{22,23,24}. LsAA9A was chosen as an
 150 example of a fungal enzyme and because it had the added benefit of being compatible with a simple
 151 chromogenic assay (based on AZCL-HEC) available²⁶. All sequences were codon optimized for *E. coli*,

152 except for BatLPMO10 because the native sequence previously was expressed in *E. coli*²⁴ at relatively high
153 titers.

154

155 *Cytoplasmic expression*

156 We based a pLyGo-*Ec* cytoplasmic vector (pLyGo-*Ec*-1) on the pET39b backbone encoding an N-terminal
157 ubiquitin solubility tag, a poly His-tag, and a TEV cleavage site²⁷, which together has the potential to
158 facilitate soluble expression, purification, and cleavage to release the N-terminal histidine
159 (Supplementary Figure S2A).

160 The four different LPMO genes were inserted into pLyGo-*Ec*-1, transformed into *E. coli*
161 BL21(DE3), and expression induced in late exponential phase by the addition of IPTG followed by
162 incubation for 20 hours at 18 °C with shaking. Since TfLPMO10A, ScLPMO10B, and LsAA9A all contain
163 disulfide bonds, we expressed them in parallel in the disulfide-bond enhancing strain *E. coli* SHuffle²⁸.
164 Using this setup, we observed that the different LPMOs were produced at titers ranging from
165 approximately 100 to 800 mg/L (Figure 2B and Supplementary Figure S3), and that the disulfide
166 containing LPMOs expressed considerably better in the SHuffle strain. However, the SHuffle strain grew
167 to lower density, which reduced the difference in volumetric titers produced by the two strains.

168 It was possible to isolate all LPMOs by immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC),
169 but only TfLPMO10A and ScLPMO10B showed the expected fragmentation pattern after treatment with
170 TEV protease (Supplementary Figure S4). The processed TfLPMO10A and ScLPMO10B were separated
171 from the ubiquitin tag and the TEV protease by reverse IMAC purification (Supplementary Figure S4).
172 Afterwards the enzymes were copper-loaded overnight and incubated with phosphoric acid swollen

173 cellulose (PASC) and ascorbate for 25 hours and analyzed using high performance liquid
174 chromatography with pulsed amperometric detection (HPLC-PAD). The assay showed a clear
175 appearance of peaks corresponding to soluble oligosaccharides as observed previously for active
176 LPMOs²⁹. Furthermore, these peaks were absent when incubating the substrate with CuCl₂ or with the
177 non-catalytic Cu(II) chaperone CopC from *Pseudomonas fluorescens* SBW25 (PfCopC)^{30,31} (Figure 2C). This
178 demonstrates cellulolytic activity from both LPMO-containing samples. Correct processing was
179 confirmed by quantitative amino acid analysis (data not shown). Together, these results show that this
180 expression system constitutes a viable strategy for producing active LPMOs in the cytoplasm of *E. coli*,
181 although the efficiency of the crucial TEV cleavage step varies depending on the specific LPMO.

182

183 *Periplasmic expression*

184 Different signal peptides are known to influence translocation and folding kinetics of different proteins
185 in an unpredictable manner^{32,33}. Thus, screening of several different signal peptides is often key for
186 optimizing expression and secretion into the periplasm. We based LyGo vectors for periplasmic
187 expression (pLyGo-*Ec*-2 to pLyGo-*Ec*-6) on a pET28a(+) vector³⁴ harboring sequences encoding the signal
188 peptides MalE^{SP}, OmpA^{SP}, PhoA^{SP}, and PelB^{SP} that target proteins to the periplasm post-translationally
189 via the Sec-pathway. In addition, we included the DsbA^{SP} signal peptide as a representative of the co-
190 translational SRP-pathway, as it previously has been shown to increase secretion of some proteins^{35,36}. In
191 an attempt to ensure high production titers, the translation initiation regions (TIRs) embedded in the
192 coding sequence of the signal peptides, were replaced with the optimized versions described by
193 Mirzadeh et al.³⁷ (Supplementary Figure S2B).

194 The four LPMO constructs were transformed into BL21(DE3) and expression induced in
195 late exponential phase by the addition of 1 mM IPTG and incubated for 20 hours at 18 °C with shaking,
196 except for BatLPMO10 because pilot experiments showed improved expression at 30 °C. All the LPMOs
197 were successfully expressed with titers of at least 40 mg/L culture (Figure 2E, 2F, and Supplementary
198 Figure S5 to S8). The different signal peptides varied in performance for the different LPMOs, although
199 PelB^{SP} showed the best overall performance. The periplasmic fractions collected from the expression of
200 LsAA9A were subjected to AZCL-HEC activity assay (Figure 2F), which showed that all constructs
201 produced functional versions of the enzyme with a good correlation between protein titer and enzymatic
202 activity. This provides a demonstration that a fungal LPMO can be produced in a functional state in a
203 bacterium using the LyGo platform.

204

205 *Surface display and shaving*

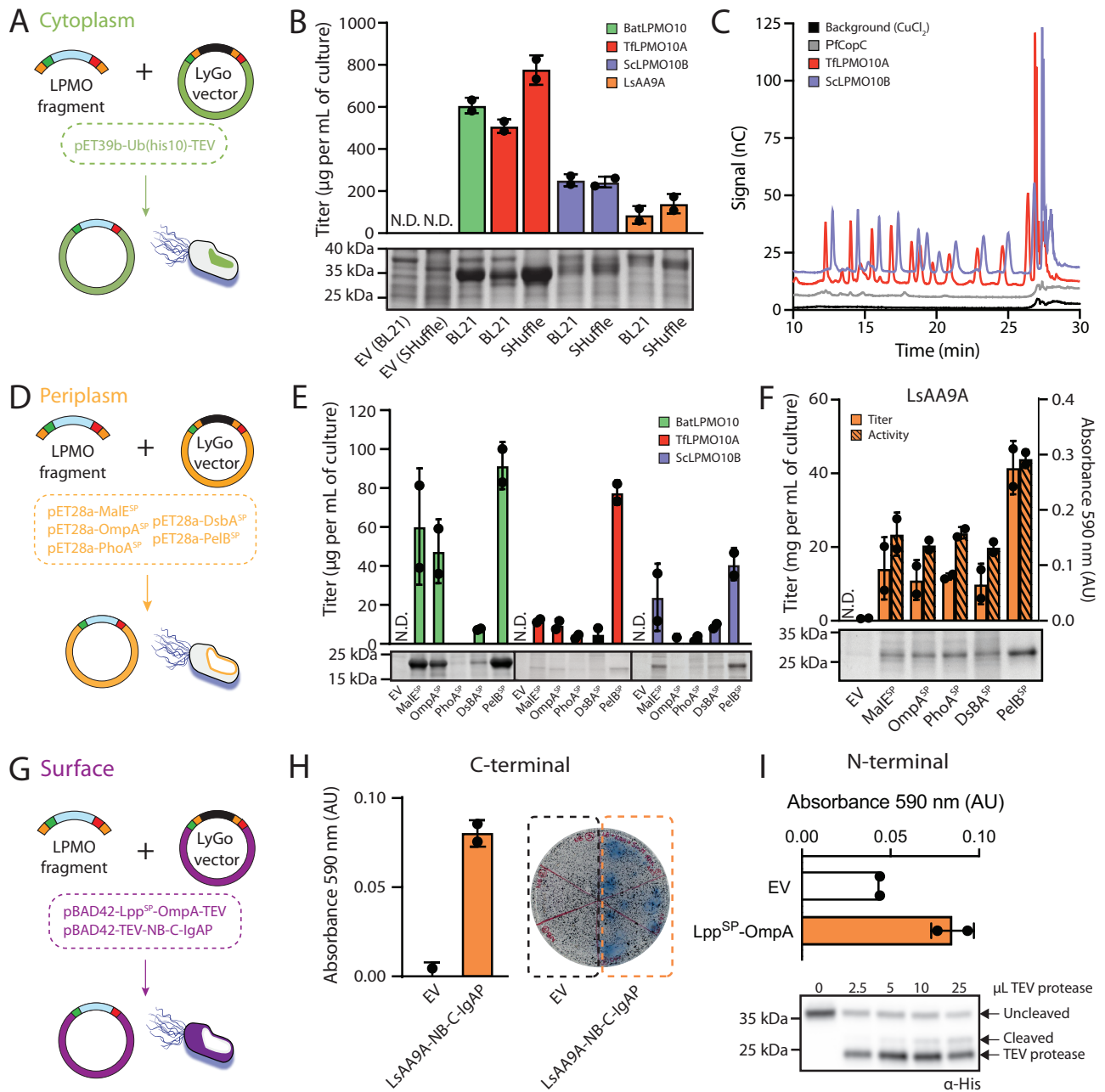
206 Surface display systems are useful tools for variant screening³⁸ and whole cell catalysis³⁹. Furthermore,
207 controlled release from the membrane, as presented by Ahan et al.⁴⁰, could be used as a method for
208 selectively purifying the protein of interest. These concepts were materialized into two different designs:
209 A C-terminal and an N-terminal fusion construct, which were both tested using LsAA9A. The pLyGo-*Ec*
210 surface display vectors were based on a pBAD expression vector, which had previously been used for
211 surface display⁴¹.

212 The C-terminal construct (pLyGo-*Ec*-7) uses the C-terminal translocation unit of the
213 *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* autotransporter IgA protease (C-IgAP) and a single domain antibody (nanobody,
214 NB), and should display active LPMOs (i.e. with the N-terminal histidine exposed) on the surface by

215 fusing the NB to the C-terminus of the LPMO⁴¹. The C-terminal tag is obviously not compatible with the
216 stop codon overhang in the standard LyGo design, so this overhang was changed to the first codon of a
217 TEV site (glutamate, GAA) (Supplementary Figure S2C). The LsAA9A-encoding DNA sequence was
218 cloned into this vector and transformed into BL21(DE3). Expression was induced with L-rhamnose in
219 mid-exponential phase and the LPMO produced for 24 hours followed by functional AZCL-HEC assays
220 in both liquid culture and agar plate format (Figure 2H). In both cases, activity was observed from the
221 surface displayed LsAA9A, confirming that this design has the potential to be used for variant screening
222 and whole-cell catalysis.

223 The N-terminal construct (pLyGo-*Ec-8*) uses a hybrid protein, consisting of the Lpp signal
224 peptide and residues 66 to 180 of the outer membrane protein OmpA, and displays the LPMO as a fusion
225 between the LPMO N-terminus and the OmpA C-terminus⁴¹. Furthermore, a sequence encoding a TEV
226 site was inserted between the LyGo cassette and the Lpp^{SP}-OmpA coding sequence, to allow for the
227 release of the LPMO and the N-terminal histidine from the fusion protein upon treatment with TEV
228 protease (Supplementary Figure S2C). LsAA9A was cloned into the construct, expressed (as described
229 above), and released into the medium by addition of TEV protease. Following a centrifugation step, the
230 supernatant was subjected to the AZCL-HEC assay. A small but significant increase in LPMO activity
231 was observed indicating some successful cleavage and release of the surface displayed LsAA9A (Figure
232 I top). However, due to the low signal observed in the assay, we speculate that TEV cleavage of LsAA9A
233 is inefficient, as observed for LsAA9A TEV fusions expressed in the cytoplasm. To more convincingly
234 demonstrate the surface “shaving”, we therefore decided to display and cleave a His-tagged version of
235 ScLPMO10B with the same approach. Cleavage was induced by different concentrations of purified TEV

236 protease (Figure 2I). Immunoblotting of the cleavage reaction mix with an anti-His tag antibody (α -His)
237 showed that the fraction of anchored ScLPMO10B decreased while the fraction of free ScLPMO10B
238 increased with increasing TEV concentrations. Together, this shows that LyGo vectors can facilitate
239 functional surface display of LPMOs and that these can be released from the surface in a simplistic
240 purification procedure.



241

242 **Figure 2: LPMO production in different compartments in *E. coli* using LyGo. EV = Empty vector, N.D. =**

243 **Not determined. (A) Illustration of LyGo cloning for production of LPMOs in the cytoplasm of *E. coli*. (B)**

244 **Results from cytoplasmic expression of four different LPMOs (see main text for further detail) in**

245 **BL21(DE3) and the SHuffle strain. Protein production normalized by cell density was analyzed by**

16

246 densitometry of InstantBlue stained protein bands on an SDS-PAGE gel from biological duplicates
247 (Supplementary Figure S3). A representative SDS-PAGE is shown in the lower panel. **(C)** Activities of
248 TEV-cleaved LPMOs on PASC using HPLC-PAD, compared with the catalytically inactive control
249 samples of PfCopC or 0.75 μ M CuCl₂. **(D)** Illustration of LyGo cloning for production of LPMOs in the
250 periplasm with a range of different signal peptides. **(E)** Results from periplasmic expressions of
251 BatLPMO10, TflLPMO10A, and ScLPMO10B. Production titers were quantified by densitometry of
252 InstantBlue stained protein bands on an SDS-PAGE gel from biological duplicates (Supplementary
253 Figure S5 to S7). A representative SDS-PAGE is shown in the bottom. **(F)** LsAA9A produced in the
254 periplasm of *E. coli* with different signal peptides quantified by densitometry of InstantBlue stained
255 protein bands on an SDS-PAGE gel from biological duplicates (Supplementary Figure S8), and activity
256 of LsAA9A extracts quantified by the AZCL-HEC assay from biological duplicates. A representative SDS-
257 PAGE from each construct is shown in the bottom. **(G)** Illustration of LyGo cloning for surface display
258 of LPMOs with two different strategies. **(H)** Activity of the NB-C-IgAP surface displayed LsAA9A in
259 liquid culture (left) and directly on LB agar plates using AZCL-HEC as a substrate (right). **(I)** LsAA9A
260 expressed on the surface of *E. coli* using the N-terminal construct (pLyGo-Ec-8). Activity of the cleaved
261 LsAA9A was analyzed by the AZCL-HEC assay (upper half). Western blot using an anti-His tag antibody
262 for a His-tagged ScLPMO10B expressed on the surface of *E. coli* (bottom half). TEV protease was titrated
263 to cleave the surface displayed protein.

264

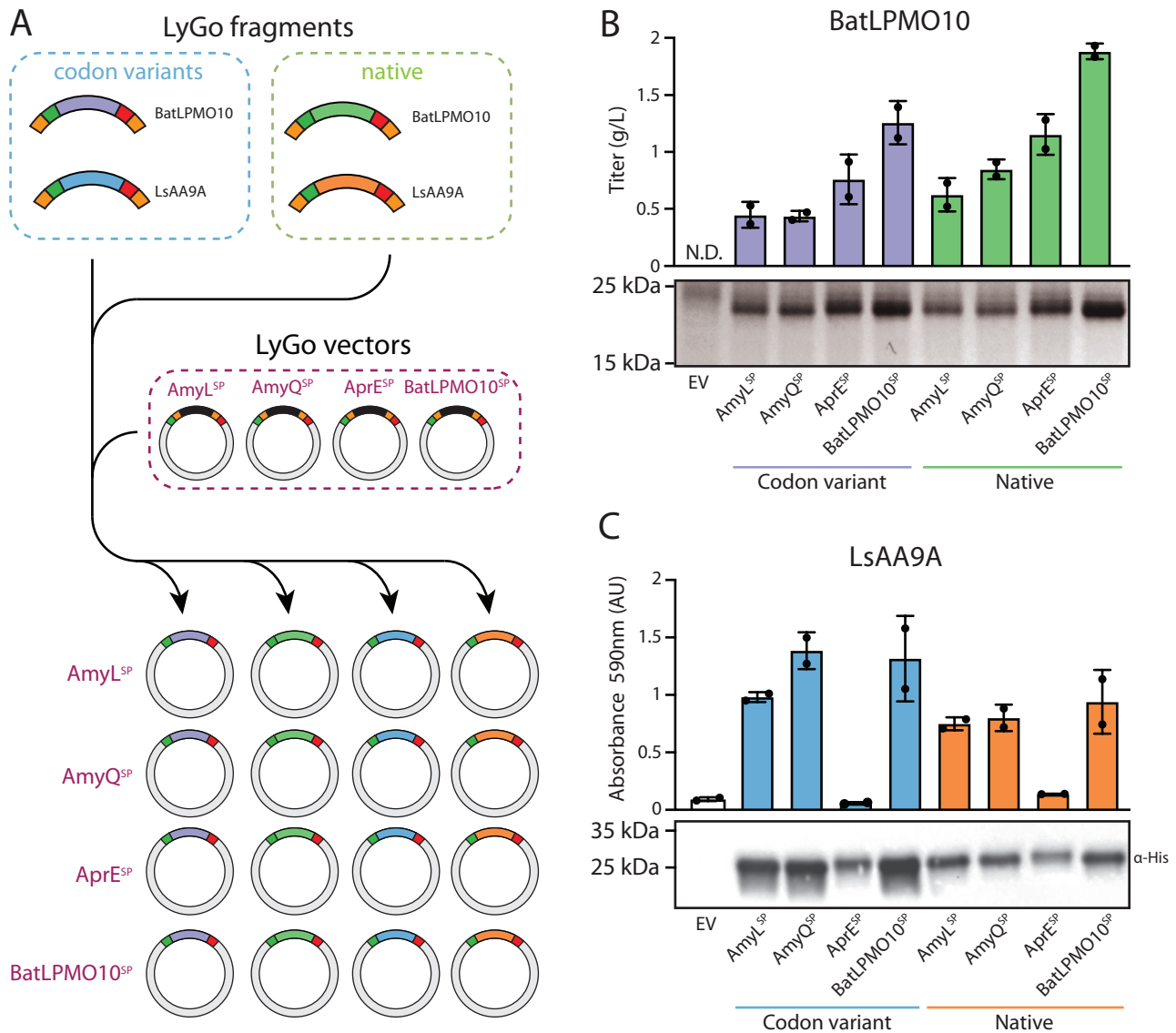
265 **Exploring the effects of signal peptides and DNA sequence variants in *B. subtilis***

266 Bacteria in the *Bacillus* genus are industrially relevant, due to desirable traits such as high capacity for
267 secreting proteins, ability to grow on cheap carbon sources, GRAS status, and robustness in industrial
268 settings^{42,43,44}. *B. subtilis* is widely used in both industry and academia, and the recent advances in
269 standardizing genetic parts and strain libraries^{45,46,47,48}, makes it an attractive protein production host.

270 LyGo plasmids for *B. subtilis* (pLyGo-Bs-1 to pLyGo-Bs-4) were constructed based on the
271 integrative plasmid pBS293C-amyE from the *Bacillus* SEVA sibling collection⁴⁵. Two SapI sites were
272 removed from the backbone, and the LyGo cassette was inserted downstream of a triple promoter P_{amyL-}
273 P_{amyQ}-P_{cryIIIa}-cryIIIa_{stab}⁴⁹ and a predicted strong ribosome binding site (R0 from Guiziou et al.⁴⁸). Like *E.*
274 *coli*, signal peptide performance in *B. subtilis* is difficult to predict⁵⁰, so we decided to generate four
275 different plasmids with different signal peptides: AmyL^{SP} from *Bacillus licheniformis*, AmyQ^{SP} from
276 *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, AprE^{SP} from *Bacillus clausii*, and BatLPMO10^{SP} from *Bacillus atrophaeus*. Initially,
277 the plasmids were constructed similarly to the *E. coli* counterparts, but while assembling these we
278 observed an unusual high number of frame-shift mutations in *ccdB*, despite the use of a *ccdB*-tolerant *E.*
279 *coli* DB3.1. We hypothesized that this could be a result of toxicity caused by increased expression of *ccdB*
280 from P_{3P} or other upstream sequences in the cloning host. In order to mitigate this, a stop codon was
281 introduced in-frame with the signal peptide after the upstream SapI site, followed by a terminator from
282 the BioBrick collection (BBa_B1002)⁵¹ (Supplementary Figure S2D). This updated design allowed for
283 assembly of constructs with an intact *ccdB* gene in the LyGo cassette.

284 In addition to screening different signal peptides for, the pLyGo-Bs vectors were utilized
285 to assess the expression of two different sequence variants of each of the sequences encoding BatLPMO10
286 and LsAA9A (Figure 3A): The native sequence and a sequence codon-optimized for *B. subtilis*. The

287 resulting plasmids were transformed into the extracellular protease- and sporulation deficient *B. subtilis*
288 KO7-S strain, thereby integrating the expression cassettes into the *amyE* locus by homologous
289 recombination. The cells were grown in Cal18-2 media for 72 hours at 20 °C, the cells were harvested by
290 centrifugation, and the supernatants analyzed by SDS-PAGE. BatLPMO10 produced at concentrations
291 ranging from approximately 0.5 to 2 g/L in the supernatant (Figure 3B and Supplementary Figure S9).
292 The signal peptides caused significant variation in expression levels, with the native BatLPMO10 signal
293 peptide producing the highest amount of protein. The presence of LsAA9A in samples was barely
294 detectable on SDS-PAGE gels stained by InstantBlue (data not shown). Thus, a His-tag was added to the
295 sequences allowing for sensitive detection by Western blotting. Additionally, the activity of LsAA9A was
296 assayed using the AZCL-HEC assay. The codon optimized variant was expressed at higher levels than
297 the native sequence, roughly showing double the yield and activity compared to the native sequence
298 (Figure 3C). The different signal peptides only yielded minor differences in activity, except for AprE^{SP}
299 that performed poorly. Together, these results demonstrate that the pLyGo vectors can be utilized to
300 produce and optimize secretion of functional LPMOs from both fungal and bacterial origin in *B. subtilis*
301 and that industrially relevant (g/L) levels can be reached.



302

303 **Figure 3:** Exploration of sequence and signal peptide variants in *B. subtilis* using LyGo. EV = Empty
 304 vector, N.D. = Not determined. **(A)** Schematic overview of the combinatorial cloning strategy: Four
 305 different LyGo fragments encoding two sequence variants of two different LPMOs were cloned into four
 306 LyGo vectors encoding different signal peptides, resulting in a total of 16 expression vectors. **(B)** Analysis
 307 of expression of BatLPMO10 variants estimated by densitometry of InstantBlue stained protein bands on
 308 an SDS-PAGE gel from two biological replicates (Supplementary Figure S9). A representative gel picture

309 is shown below. (C) Activity of LsAA9A was quantified by AZCL-HEC assay from two biological
310 replicates. A representative Western-blot of each variant is shown below.

311

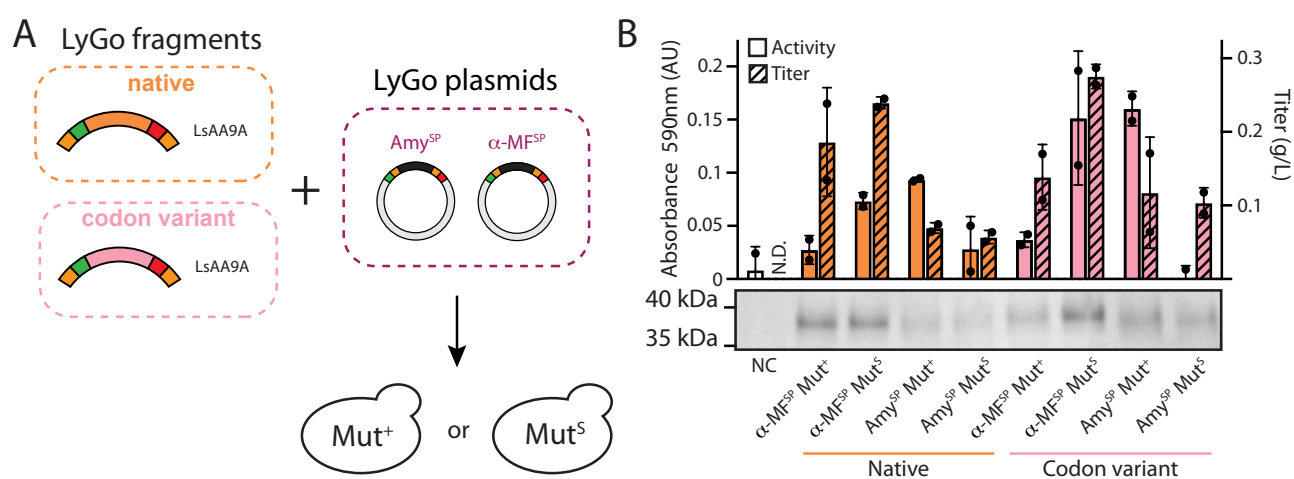
312 **Exploring the effects of signal peptides and sequence variants in *K. phaffii***

313 The methylotrophic yeast *K. phaffii* is the most frequently used yeast species for production of
314 recombinant proteins⁵². This is due to its ability to grow to high cell density, to express recombinant genes
315 in a tightly controlled manner, and to efficiently secrete proteins^{52,53,54,55}. Despite its biotechnological
316 importance and wide use in industry, relatively few genetic tools are readily available. However, *K. phaffii*
317 has proven to be a promising production host for carbohydrate active enzymes like LPMOs^{16,56,57,58,59} and
318 could be a valuable addition to the LyGo platform.

319 LyGo vectors for *K. phaffii* (pLyGo-Kp-1 and pLyGo-Kp-2) were created based on the pPIC9K
320 plasmid hosting the methanol-inducible P_{AOX1} promoter. A multiple cloning site downstream of the α -
321 mating factor pre-sequence (α -MF^{SP}) from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was replaced by the LyGo cassette and
322 a SapI site was removed from the backbone by site-directed mutagenesis. A second vector (pLyGo-Kp-
323 2) was designed, where α -MF^{SP} was replaced with the α -amylase signal peptide (Amy^{SP}) from *Aspergillus*
324 *niger* (PichiaPink™ Secretion Signal Kit, Thermo Fisher) (Supplementary Figure 2E).

325 Two sequence variants of the gene encoding LsAA9A were cloned into the two pLyGo-Kp
326 vectors: the native sequence and a sequence variant codon optimized for *K. phaffii*. The resulting plasmids
327 were linearized and integrated into *K. phaffii* GS115⁶⁰. This type of integration results in two distinct
328 phenotypes: Mut⁺ and Mut^S, which have shown to impact recombinant protein production⁶¹. In total, this
329 leads to eight different strain variants which were tested for activity on the AZCL-HEC substrate (Figure

330 4A). Protein production was performed over 4 days at 28 °C with daily addition of methanol, before the
 331 cells were harvested and the supernatants were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. LsAA9A was produced at
 332 concentrations up to approximately 0.3 g/L (Figure 4B). The expression was largely unaffected by codon
 333 variation and strain genotype, and a trend was that the α -MF^{SP} signal peptide produced at higher levels
 334 than Amy^{SP}. Protein amounts were found to correlate poorly with the cellulolytic activity measured by
 335 the AZCL-HEC assay (Figure 4B): despite the relatively low production titers from the Mut⁺ strain
 336 harboring LsAA9A with the Amy^{SP}, the sample showed the highest overall activity. In summary, the *K.*
 337 *phaffii* LyGo platform expands the possibilities of the LyGo platform to include screening of expression
 338 strategies in an eukaryotic host.



339
 340 **Figure 4:** Production and activity of LsAA9 with sequence and signal peptide variants in *K. phaffii* using
 341 LyGo. EV = Empty vector, N.D. = Not determined. **(A)** Schematic overview of the combinatorial cloning
 342 strategy: LyGo fragments encoding the native sequence and a codon variant of LsAA9A were cloned into
 343 two LyGo vectors encoding different signal peptides and the resulting constructs integrated in *K. phaffii*
 344 resulting in Mut⁺ and Mut^S phenotypes. **(B)** Expression was analyzed by densitometry of InstantBlue

345 stained protein bands on an SDS-PAGE gel, and activity quantified by AZCL-HEC assay from two
346 biological replicates (Supplementary Figure S10). A representative gel picture is shown in the lower
347 panel.

348

349 **Discussion**

350 Progress in the LPMO field ultimately depends on the availability and quality of the enzyme samples
351 used in different laboratories. Thus, failed or low titer expression is a limiting factor for advancement in
352 the field. Typically, most research groups will work with a limited number of expression strategies, and
353 may sometimes fail in expressing a specific gene or accept low-titer samples. The LyGo platform provides
354 easy access to a range of expression strategies that can be explored in parallel in order to increase the
355 likelihood of high-titer and high-quality expression. Furthermore, standardization of the cloning and
356 expression workflows may improve sample uniformity and comparability of results across different
357 laboratories. In order to facilitate the use of LyGo, the vectors are made available through plasmid
358 repositories such as Addgene, and detailed protocols are available at the online platform protocols.io
359 (Supplementary figure S11).

360 In this work we demonstrate that LyGo can be used for identifying an optimal expression
361 context for different LPMOs in three different organisms. For *E. coli*, we developed expression vectors
362 for cytoplasmic, periplasmic, and surface expression. Cytoplasmic expression is the most common
363 strategy for the production of heterologous proteins in *E. coli*⁶², and is often advantageous over other
364 expression strategies as it mitigates the need for screening signal peptides and has the potential to result
365 in product yields exceeding 50% of the total cellular protein amounts⁶³. Furthermore, cytoplasmic

366 expression supports the use of several genetic tools such as co-expression of chaperones⁶⁴ and folding
367 sensors⁶⁵, as demonstrated in this work using the *E. coli* SHuffle strain. However, cytoplasmic expression
368 is not the most obvious strategy for production of LPMOs for two reasons: (1) a functional LPMO requires
369 a free N-terminal histidine residue¹⁹, which is made impossible by the start-codon-encoded methionine
370 in standard cytoplasmic expression strategies. (2) LPMOs frequently contain disulfide bonds⁶⁶, which are
371 not readily formed in the cytoplasm of *E. coli* due to the reducing environment⁶⁷.

372 We mitigated the first issue by inserting an N-terminal tag, which can be removed by TEV
373 cleavage leaving an N-terminal histidine residue and demonstrated how this results in an untagged and
374 functionally active LPMO. Furthermore, an N-terminal tag has several potential advantages: It can
375 enhance expression and solubility of the fusion protein, and it can it can allow for purification by IMAC
376 purification for both initial separation prior to TEV cleavage and for subsequent removal of the tag and
377 the TEV protease. Finally, it could quench unwanted oxidations within the production host, which may
378 lead to production of reactive oxygen species⁶⁸. Similar methods have been used to express a range of
379 LPMOs^{69,70,71,72}, although none of these methods take advantage of a solubility tag. Unfortunately, we did
380 not observe any TEV cleavage for BatLPMO10 and LsAA9A, potentially due to steric hindrance at the
381 Ubiquitin/LPMO interface. Thus, this strategy is not a one-size-fits-all strategy for LPMOs. On the other
382 hand, we were able to express and effectively TEV-cleave TfLPMO10A and ScLPMO10A at significantly
383 increased titers compared to the same LPMOs expressed by the periplasmic expression strategy,
384 demonstrating that this is an attractive strategy for preparing high titer samples of LPMOs.

385 In order to facilitate formation of disulfides, we expressed LPMOs in the *E. coli* SHuffle
386 strain, which enhances the formation of disulfide bonds in the cytoplasm²⁸. This significantly improved

387 the overall titer of TfLPMO10A, but had little effect on the titers of ScLPMO10B and LsAA9A due to the
388 poorer growth of the Shuffle strain.

389 Periplasmic expression is a popular strategy for expressing LPMOs in *E. coli*¹⁶, as it naturally
390 provides the means for N-terminal processing and disulfide bond formation. However, secretion has
391 previously been shown to constitute a bottleneck resulting in low yields⁷³. Furthermore, this strategy
392 often requires laborious screening of different signal peptides in order to optimize performance³⁷. In
393 order to simplify such a workflow, we provide vectors for screening several signal peptides in parallel,
394 thereby reducing the time and effort required for this type of optimization. Of the tested signal peptides,
395 we found PelB^{SP} to consistently perform the best. It is unclear whether this is a prevalent property of
396 PelB^{SP}, or an anecdotal observation due to the small number of tested LPMOs.

397 Production of proteins on the surface generally suffers from similar bottlenecks as
398 periplasmic expression. A previous study has shown that different signal peptides affect the display
399 efficiency of the N-terminal surface display construct⁴¹. In the specific case of LPMOs, while the N-
400 terminal surface display construct ensures proper processing, the C-terminal surface display construct
401 requires cleavage by TEV protease for the LPMO to be active. Unfortunately, in line with our
402 observations from cytoplasmic production, TEV cleavage of LsAA9A was inefficient, providing a
403 cautionary tale that the C-terminal surface display construct might not be suitable for all LPMOs. While
404 TEV protease can be produced at low cost in *E. coli*, simultaneous production of a surface displayed TEV
405 protease might present an attractive extension of the system.

406 For *B. subtilis* and *K. phaffii* we both explored the effect of signal peptides and sequence
407 variants. As observed many times previously, the results from *B. subtilis* expression show that both signal

408 peptides and codon optimization efforts influence expression in a protein-dependent manner. This
409 underlines the usefulness of a simple and efficient platform for exploration of expression strategies and
410 importantly our pLyGo-Bs vectors showed capabilities to express functional LPMOs at industrially
411 relevant titers.

412 The *K. phaffii* LPMO production from pLyGo vectors also showed variations in performance
413 between signal peptides, codon variants, and phenotypes, but with complex interplay between these
414 factors. Furthermore, the production titers and measured activities were found to correlate poorly. One
415 explanation could be the promiscuity in the processing of the α -MF^{SP} signal peptide^{74,75}, leading to
416 inefficient release of the N-terminal histidine, but it is also possible that the high concentration of copper
417 sulphate used in the AZCL-based assay was suboptimal for a proper quantitative readout.

418 In addition to expressing LPMOs at different titers, different hosts can also give rise to
419 different protein modifications (such as methylation and glycosylation⁷⁶). The choice of organism(s) can
420 therefore be a strategy to optimize protein stability, solubility or activity⁷⁷ - or as a means to study the
421 importance of these modifications. Some fungal LPMOs have been found to be selectively methylated at
422 the N-terminal histidine⁹. This modification has been suggested to protect the enzymes from oxidative
423 inactivation⁷⁶, although this is still actively being investigated. The LyGo platform currently supports the
424 non-glycosylating and non-methylating hosts *E. coli* and *B. subtilis*, and the glycosylating and non-
425 methylating host *K. phaffii*. A methylating host would therefore be a valuable future addition to the
426 platform, as LyGo then would cover the most important modifications for LPMOs.

427 It is our hope that the community will adopt and expand the LyGo platform with vectors
428 and protocols for additional expression strategies. For this, careful design of the LyGo vectors is

429 necessary. During construction of the pLyGo vectors, we learned that building constructs with *ccdB* is
430 sensitive to the context of the LyGo cassette – possibly due to increased expression of *ccdB* facilitated by
431 upstream sequences. In one case, this was solved by inserting an in-frame stop codon and a terminator
432 in the pLyGo-*Bs* vectors (Supplementary Figure S2). Future additions to this or similar vector collections
433 should consider this potential issue early in the design phase.

434

435 **Materials and Methods**

436 **Strains**

437 The strains used in this study are listed in Supplementary Table 1. *E. coli* DB3.1 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad,
438 CA, USA) was used to construct and propagate *ccdB*-containing plasmids. *E. coli* NEB5 α (New England
439 Biolabs, Ipswich, MA, USA) was used to construct and propagate of LPMO-containing constructs.
440 Expression experiments were performed with *E. coli* BL21(DE3) (Novagen, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt,
441 Germany), *B. subtilis* KO7-S (The Bacillus Genetic Stock Center, Columbus, OH, USA), and *K. phaffii*
442 GS115 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Bacterial cells were routinely cultivated in
443 lysogeny broth (LB) at 37 °C with 250 RPM of shaking or on LB agar plates at 37 °C. When appropriate,
444 the media was supplemented with kanamycin (50 μ g/mL) for *E. coli* and chloramphenicol (5 μ g/mL) for
445 *B. subtilis*. Competent *E. coli* cells were obtained from (Invitrogen, California, United States) and
446 transformed following standard protocols. Competent *B. subtilis* cells were obtained as described
447 elsewhere⁷⁸, although without adding histidine to the SM1 and SM2 media and with at least 2 hours of
448 recovery. Competent *K. phaffii* cells were obtained using the Pichia EasyComp Kit (Invitrogen, Thermo
449 Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

450

451 **Vector construction**

452 DNA manipulations were performed using uracil excision cloning as described elsewhere⁷⁹. The
453 plasmids used and constructed in this work are listed in Table 1 and Supplementary Table 2. PCRs were
454 performed using Phusion U Hot Start polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA),
455 according to manufacturer's instructions. Primers were ordered from Integrated DNA technologies (IDT,
456 Coralville, IA, USA). The primers used in this work are listed in Supplementary Table 3. Plasmids
457 sequences were confirmed by sequencing (Eurofins MWG operon, Germany).

458

459 **LyGo cloning**

460 Inserts were either synthesized as gBlocks (IDT, Coralville, IA, USA) or Strings (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
461 Waltham, MA, USA), or amplified by PCR using Phusion Hot Start II DNA polymerase (Thermo Fisher
462 Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), according to manufacturer's instructions. The sequence of the codon
463 variants were obtained using IDT's Codon Optimization Tool or Thermo Fisher's GeneOptimizer Tool⁸⁰
464 LyGo cloning was performed by mixing vector and insert in molar ratios between 1:3 to 1:6, together
465 with 0.5 μ L FastDigest LguI (SapI) (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), 1 μ L FD buffer
466 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), 1 μ L T4 DNA Ligase (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham,
467 MA, USA), and 1 μ L T4 DNA Ligase buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). The reaction
468 volume was adjusted to 10 μ L using MilliQ water, incubated at room temperature for at least 15 minutes,
469 and subsequently used for transformation.

470

471 **Expression in *E. coli***

472 The expression of LPMOs in the periplasm and cytoplasm of *E. coli* performed similarly as in Hemsworth
473 et al.,⁸¹ a single colony of the desired strain was inoculated in 50 or 25 mL of LB medium supplemented
474 with kanamycin and grown O/N at 37 °C with 250 RPM. The O/N culture was back-diluted 1:100 in 50
475 mL of fresh LB medium with kanamycin and incubated at 37 °C with 250 RPM. When an OD₆₀₀ value
476 between 0.5 and 0.6 was reached, the cultures were transferred to an 18 °C incubator at 180 RPM (unless
477 otherwise stated) and grown until an OD₆₀₀ value between 0.8 and 1. At this point, the expression was
478 induced with 1 mM IPTG and the cultures were grown for 20 hours at 18 °C incubator at 180 RPM (unless
479 otherwise stated). Cultures were normalized to equal OD₆₀₀ values corresponding to 25 OD units (ODU)
480 using LB medium, spun down at 8000 g for 20 minutes at 4 °C, and the supernatant was discarded.

481 For surface expression the cultures were treated similarly, although the culture was induced
482 with 5 mM L-rhamnose once an OD₆₀₀ of 0.5 was reached. The culture was incubated at 30 °C at 250 RPM
483 for 20 hours, and the cells directly plated on LB agar plates containing the AZCL-HEC substrate or
484 harvested at 4000 g for 5 minutes, washed twice and resuspended in 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 (100 µL per
485 ODU) for activity assay in liquid culture. For cleavage of the surface displayed protein between 1 and 25
486 µL of purified TEV protease was added and the reaction incubated at room temperature overnight.
487 Subsequently, cells were pelleted at 5000 g for 10 minutes and the supernatant was collected for analysis
488 by SDS PAGE, western blot or activity assay.

489

490 **Whole-cell lysis**

491 For the screening of production conditions, extraction of the soluble fraction of the whole-cell lysate was
492 done by chemical lysis using Cellytic™ B (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA). Every ODU of cells
493 was lysed using 16 µl of Cellytic™ B in 50 mM tris pH 8, 10mM imidazole, 150 mM NaCl buffer
494 (supplemented with benzonase and lysozyme according to batch size). Following lysis, the insoluble
495 fraction was pelleted by centrifugation at 25,000 g for 25 min at 4 °C and the supernatant stored at 4 °C
496 until use. For the SDS-PAGE gels of whole-cell lysates, 0.046 ODU was loaded in each lane. For
497 expressions in 500 mL culture volume for production of TflPMO10A and ScLPMO10B for activity
498 testing, cells were lysed by freeze-thawing. The pelleted cultures were frozen at -80 °C for an hour before
499 the cells were thawed at RT and resuspended in 50 mL lysis buffer (50 mM tris pH 8, 10mM imidazole,
500 150 mM NaCl buffer). The lysis was now achieved by two cycles of at least 1 hour at -80 °C followed by
501 thawing at room temperature. Following lysis, the insoluble fraction was pelleted by centrifugation at
502 15,000 g for 25 min at 4 °C and the supernatant stored at 4 °C until use.

503

504 **Periplasmic protein extraction**

505 The periplasmic fraction was isolated following a modified version of an existing protocol⁸² by adding
506 12 µl of TSE buffer (200mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 500mM sucrose, 1mM EDTA) per ODU collected. The pellet
507 was resuspended by mild pipetting, and the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes.
508 Afterwards, the cultures were subjected to a cold shock by adding 12 µl of ice-cold water per ODU.
509 Finally, the mixture was subjected to a centrifugation step of 8000 g for 20 minutes at 4 °C and the pellet
510 was discarded. Supernatants containing the periplasmic fraction were kept at 4 °C for enzymatic assays.
511 Following this modified protocol, we were able to obtain substantially cleaner and purer periplasmic

512 fractions in which lysozyme was not added to the buffer mixture (Supplementary Figure S12). 0.16 ODU
513 was loaded in each lane of the gels for SDS-PAGE analysis.

514

515 **IMAC and reverse IMAC purification**

516 Initial small test purifications were performed using Ni-NTA Spin Column for His-Tagged proteins
517 (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) following the protocol for 6xHis-Tagged Proteins under Native Conditions
518 from *E. coli* Cell Lysates. Large batch purifications were performed using Ni-NTA Superflow (Qiagen,
519 Hilden, Germany). A volume of lysate equivalent to 10-20 mg of the target protein was mixed with lysis
520 buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 10 mM imidazole, 150 mM NaCl) to a final volume of 16 mL. This mixture
521 was added to 2 mL of equilibrated Ni-NTA Superflow beads and incubated at 4 °C for 25 min with slow
522 stirring. The flow-through was discarded, and the sample was washed twice with 15 mL wash buffer (50
523 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 20 mM imidazole, 150 mM NaCl). Finally, the target fusion protein was eluted from
524 the column with 5 mL elution buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 300 mM imidazole, 150 mM NaCl). The total
525 volume of lysate from where the protein was purified was 9, 12, and 48 mL for PfCopC, TfLPMO10A,
526 and ScLPMO10B, respectively. After TEV-cleavage, EDTA was removed by gel filtration on a 220 mL
527 Sephadex-G25 (Cytiva, São Paulo, Brazil) column setup to an ÄKTA pure chromatography system. 30
528 mL of TEV treated sample was loaded on the column, followed by elution with dialysis buffer (50 mM
529 tris pH 8, 200 mM NaCl). The protein content of the sample was collected between 70 to 110 mL retention
530 volume. Afterwards, the target protein was separated from the His-tagged ubiquitin and TEV protease
531 by running the sample over 5 mL equilibrated Ni-NTA Superflow beads and collecting the flow-through.
532 Effective removal of the Ub(his10)-tag and TEV protease was ensured by SDS-PAGE (Supplementary

533 Figure S4), and confirmed by amino acid analysis as described by Barkholt et al.⁸³ Subsequently, the
534 samples were concentrated using Amicon ultra spin filters (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA)
535 (10.000 MWC for TFLPMO10A and ScLPMO10B and 5.000 MWC for PfCopC).

536

537 **Production and purification of TEV protease**

538 pTEVprotease was transformed into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells. A fresh colony was inoculated into LB
539 medium supplemented with ampicillin at 37 °C with 250 RPM shaking overnight. The next day, the
540 culture was diluted to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 and incubated at 37 °C with 250 RPM shaking until an OD₆₀₀ of 0.9
541 at which point the cells were induced with 1 mM IPTG and incubated overnight at 37 °C. The next day,
542 cultures were collected by centrifugation and the pellets resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl,
543 200 mM NaCl, 10 mM imidazole, pH 7.8). The resuspended pellets were subjected to sonication in order
544 to obtain the protein fraction (10 intervals of sonication for 10 seconds at the time with 30 seconds pause
545 in between) while maintaining the cell lysates on ice. Afterwards, the sonicated slurry was centrifuged
546 for 1 hour at 15,000 g at 4 °C and the supernatant containing the protein fraction was kept at 4 °C until
547 purification. TEV protease purification was performed by IMAC purification. The resulted in purified
548 TEV protease fractions which were loaded on SDS-PAGE to identify the fractions. The TEV protease was
549 buffer exchanged (50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl) and concentrated in Amicon ultra spin filters (Sigma-
550 Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA) (10.000 MWC) to an ABS₂₈₀ ≥ 3.0, before activity was confirmed and the
551 sample stored as aliquots with 50% glycerol at -80 °C.

552

553 **Cleavage with TEV protease**

554 Immediately before the cleavage, the TEV protease was reduced with 10 mM of 1,4-dithiothreitol (DTT,
555 Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA) at room temperature for 30 minutes. For the cytoplasmically
556 produced proteins, TEV protease was mixed with the target fusion protein in a 1:10 ratio based on Abs₂₈₀.
557 Before adding the protease to the reaction mixture, 2 mM EDTA was added to the reaction. The reaction
558 was incubated at 16 °C overnight. For the proteins expressed on the surface 5 µL of TEV protease were
559 mixed with 1 ODU of cell suspension (unless otherwise stated). The reaction was incubated at RT
560 overnight.

561

562 **HPLC-PAD-based cellulose degradation assay**

563 Proteins were preloaded at 4 °C overnight with CuCl₂ at 1:0.75 stoichiometry. The assay was performed
564 in 200 µL samples containing 50 mM citrate phosphate buffer pH 7.25, 0.25 % phosphoric acid swollen
565 cellulose (PASC), 1 mM ascorbic acid and 0.75 µM copper-loaded enzyme. The samples were prepared
566 in microtiter plates in technical triplicates. Samples were incubated for 25 hours in a thermomixer at 50
567 °C with 750 RPM shaking. Samples were filtered and analyzed by HPLC-PAD as described
568 by Westereng et al.⁸⁴.

569

570 **AZCL-HEC-based cellulose degradation assay**

571 Activity of LsAA9A samples was measured by mixing a reaction solution consisting of 1 mg/mL AZCL-
572 HEC substrate (Megazyme, County Wicklow, Bray, Ireland), 2 mM Ascorbic acid (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint
573 Louis, MO, USA), 200 µM Copper sulphate (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA), and adjusted to the
574 desired volume with 100 mM Sodium acetate (pH 5) (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA). 100 µL

575 sample was mixed with 400 μ L reaction mix and incubated at 50 °C with 1500 RPM shaking until a blue
576 color had developed in the samples with LsAA9A. The reactions were centrifuged at 17000 g for 5 min
577 and the absorbance of the supernatant was measured at 590 nm. Controls with the buffer or media the
578 enzymes were suspended in were included, and the absorbance values of these samples were subtracted
579 from the other measurements. For plate experiments, a 2x LB agar solution was mixed in a 1:1 ratio with
580 a 2x reaction buffer (final concentration as described above) and poured very thinly to assure that the
581 AZCL-HEC substrate was accessible from the surface.

582

583 **Expression in *B. subtilis***

584 *B. subtilis* transformants were streaked on LB agar plates supplemented with 1% starch, incubated at 37
585 °C for 24 hours, and a strain which had not produced a visible halo (indicating a correct double crossover
586 event) was selected. A single colony was inoculated in 3 mL of LB medium supplemented with
587 chloramphenicol and grown O/N at 37 °C with 250 RPM shaking in an Axygen 24-deepwell plate
588 (Corning Life Science, Corning, New York, USA). The O/N culture was back-diluted 1:300 in 3 mL fresh
589 Cal18-2 medium⁸⁵ (Glucidex 12 was exchanged for Maltodextrin DE 13-17 (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis,
590 MO, USA) supplemented with chloramphenicol also in an Axygen 24-deep well plate. The culture was
591 grown for 72 hours at 20 °C with 250 RPM shaking. The cells were harvested by centrifugation at 6000 g
592 for 5 minutes at 4 °C, and the pellet was discarded. The samples were stored at 4 °C before use. 10 μ L
593 were loaded on gels for SDS page and western blotting.

594

595 **Expression in *K. phaffii***

596 A single colony of the desired strain was inoculated in 25 mL pH 6 buffered Glycerol-complex (BMGY)
597 medium (*Pichia* Expression Kit, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) and grown at 28 °C with 250 RPM
598 shaking until saturation. The preculture was then diluted 1:40 into 100 mL of pH 6 buffered BMGY media
599 and grown O/N at 28 °C with 250 RPM shaking. Cells were pelleted, and resuspended in Buffered
600 Methanol-complex (BMMY) medium (*Pichia* Expression Kit, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) to a
601 final OD₆₀₀ of 50. This suspension was back-diluted 1:50 in a 500 mL baffled shake flask containing 100
602 mL BMMY medium. Expression was performed for 4 days at 28 °C with 250 RPM shaking. Induction
603 was maintained by addition of 1% methanol to the cultures once a day. The cells were harvested by
604 centrifugation at 4000 g for 20 minutes at 4 °C and the pellets were discarded. The samples were stored
605 at 4 °C before use. 10 µL were loaded on gels for SDS page.

606

607 **SDS-PAGE analysis**

608 Enzyme samples were mixed 1:1 with sample buffer (8 M urea, 0,0105 % (w/v) bromophenol blue, 5 mM
609 EDTA, 100mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 4 % (w/v) SDS, and 25% (v/v) glycerol), and heated to 98 °C for 10
610 minutes. Specific volumes of samples (described previously) were loaded on a 4–20 % Mini-PROTEAN-
611 TGX gel (BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA) and run at 180 V for 45 min. Gels were stained for at least 4 hours
612 using InstantBlue Protein Stain (Expedeon Inc., San Diego, CA, USA), and destained O/N using
613 demineralized water. Protein amounts were estimated by densitometry using the Fiji software⁸⁶ using a
614 dilution series of the *Thermoascus aurantiacus* LPMO TaAA9A with a known concentrations (unpublished
615 results). For *E. coli* expression, the protein titers were normalized by the culture volumes.

616

617 **Western blot analysis**

618 Enzyme samples were handled as described in “SDS-PAGE analysis”, although instead of staining the
619 gel the proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane using an iBlot Dry Blotting System
620 (Invitrogen, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) at 20V for 7 minutes. The membrane was
621 blocked with 2 % skim milk at 4 °C for at least 24 hours, washed three times for 5 minutes each in TBS-T
622 (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1 % (v/v) Tween-20), and the membrane was incubated with
623 primary antibody (anti-his tag, 1:1000, Merck Millipore, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) diluted in
624 2 % skim milk for 1 hour. The washing steps were repeated, and the membrane was incubated with the
625 secondary antibody (anti-Mouse-HRP IgG, 1:10,000, Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO, USA) diluted in
626 TBS-T for 1 hour. The washing steps were repeated again, and the protein:antibody complexes were
627 visualized using Amersham ECL Prime Western Blotting Detection Reagent (GE Healthcare, Chicago,
628 IL, USA).

629

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634

635 **Conflicts of interest**

636 The TIRs used in the vectors pLyGo-*Ec*-2 through pLyGo-*Ec*-6 are patent pending (2030038-0, 2030039-8
637 and 2030040-6). These patents are shared by CloneOpt AB and Xbrane Biosciences. DOD and MHHN are
638 shareholders in CloneOpt.

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