



# Revolutionizing Protein Synthesis: Emerging Technologies and Innovations

Peter Luk

3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD student

Joint Graduate Seminar

Supervisor: Dr Siaw Shi Boon

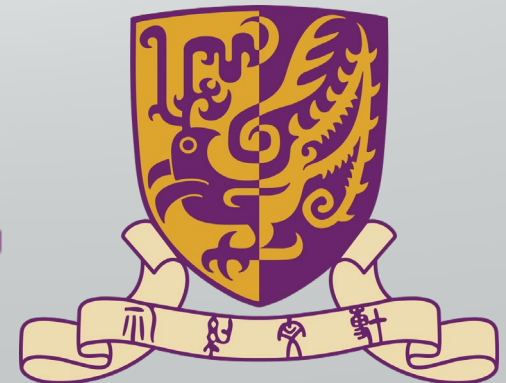
Co-supervisor: Prof. Paul Chan



香港中文大學醫學院

**Faculty of Medicine**

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# Outline

Introduction

Basics of Protein Synthesis

Advancements in Synthesis Techniques

Challenges and Future Directions







# Outline

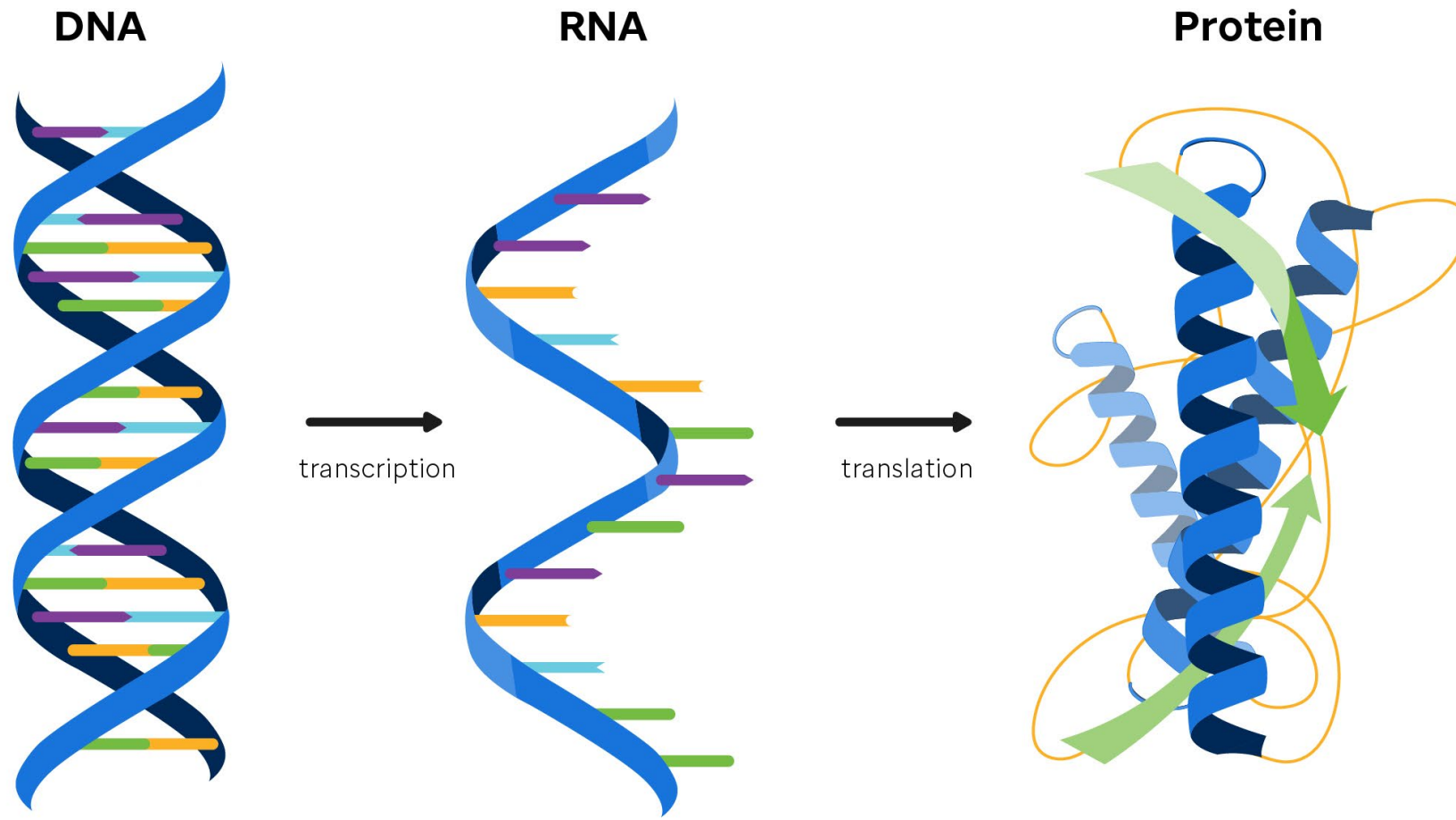
Introduction

Basics of Protein Synthesis

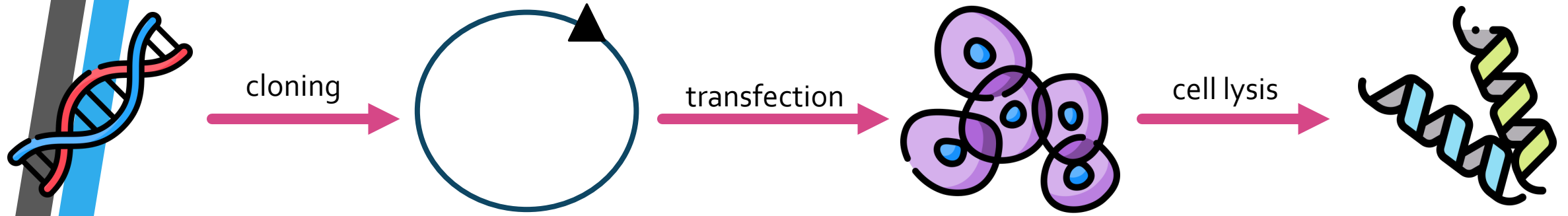
Advancements in Synthesis Techniques

Challenges and Future Directions

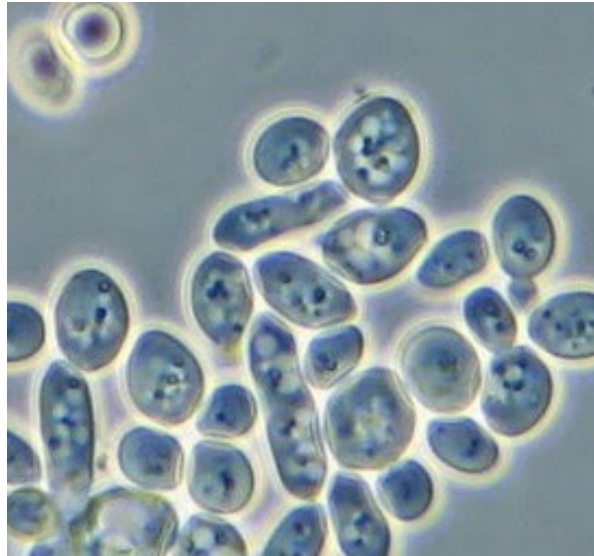
# Central Dogma of Molecular Biology



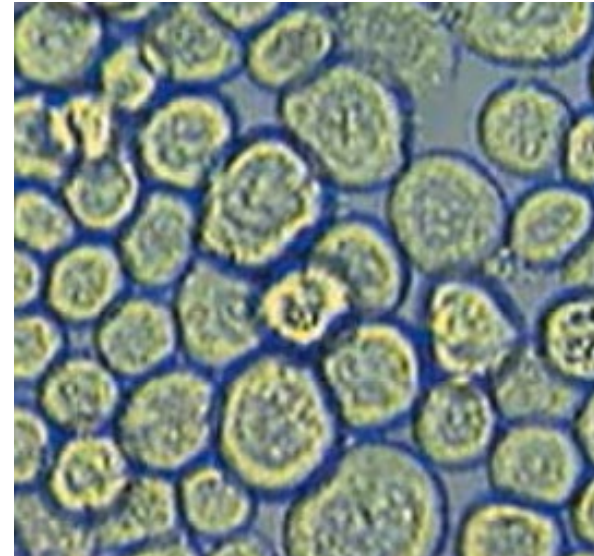
# Recombinant protein expression systems



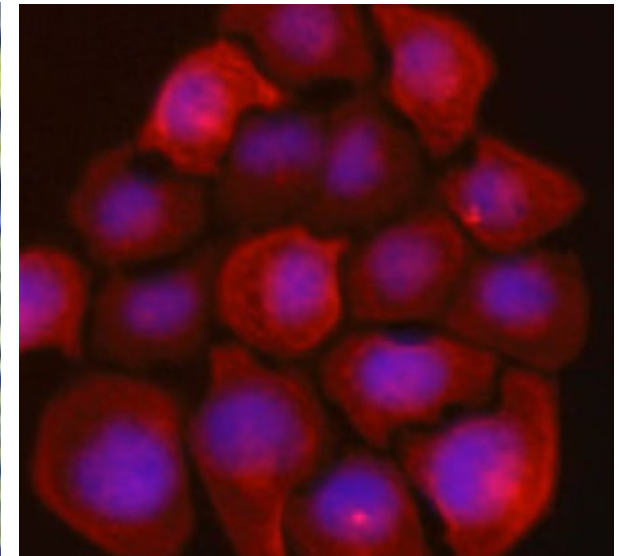
Bacteria  
(10mg/L)



Yeast  
(10g/L)



Insect  
(900mg/L)



Mammalian  
(1g/L)

Simple proteins

complex proteins

# Cell-free Protein Synthesis (CFPS)

Rapid protein production

\$\$\$\$\$

Open System

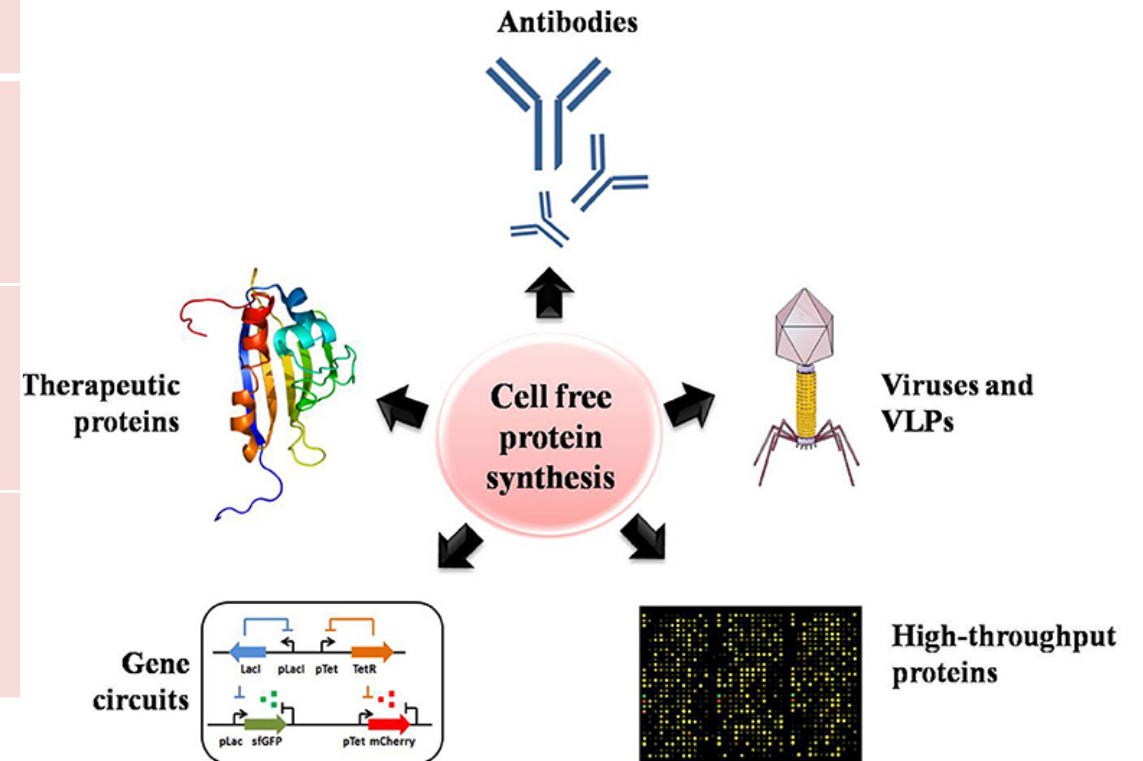
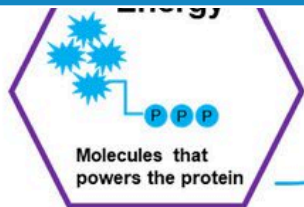
Low yield  
(50 µg/mL)

Easy to optimise

Lack of PTM

Express Toxic protein

Limited protein complexity







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ARTICLE

# Cell-free production of a therapeutic protein: Expression, purification, and characterization of recombinant streptokinase using a CHO lysate

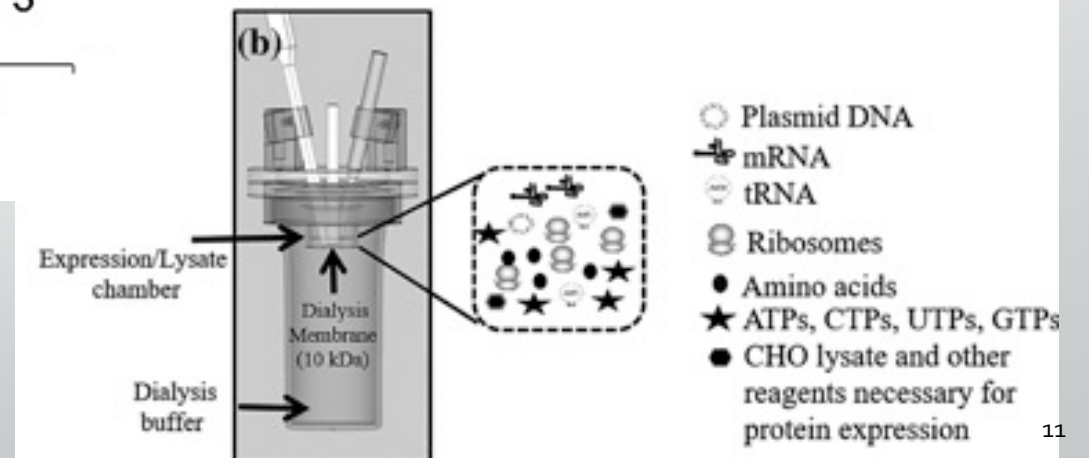
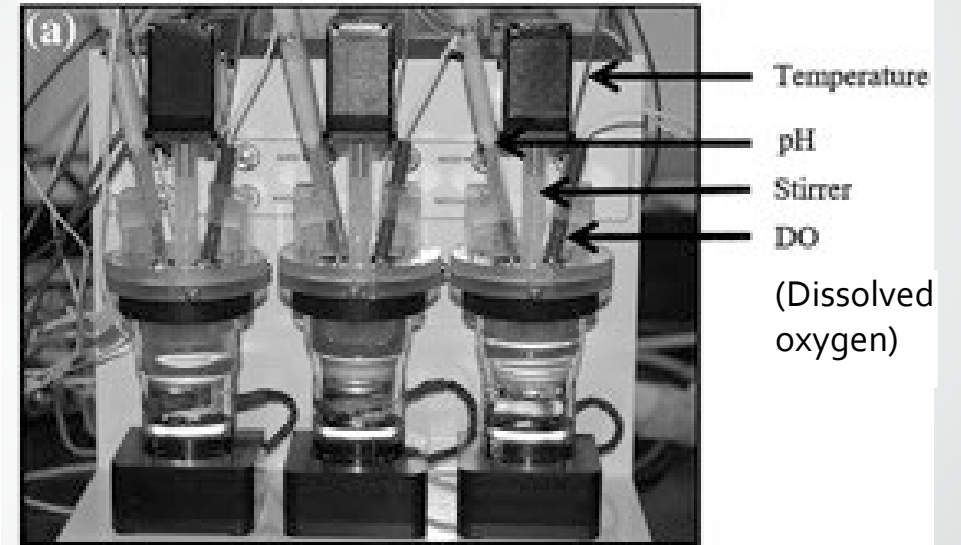
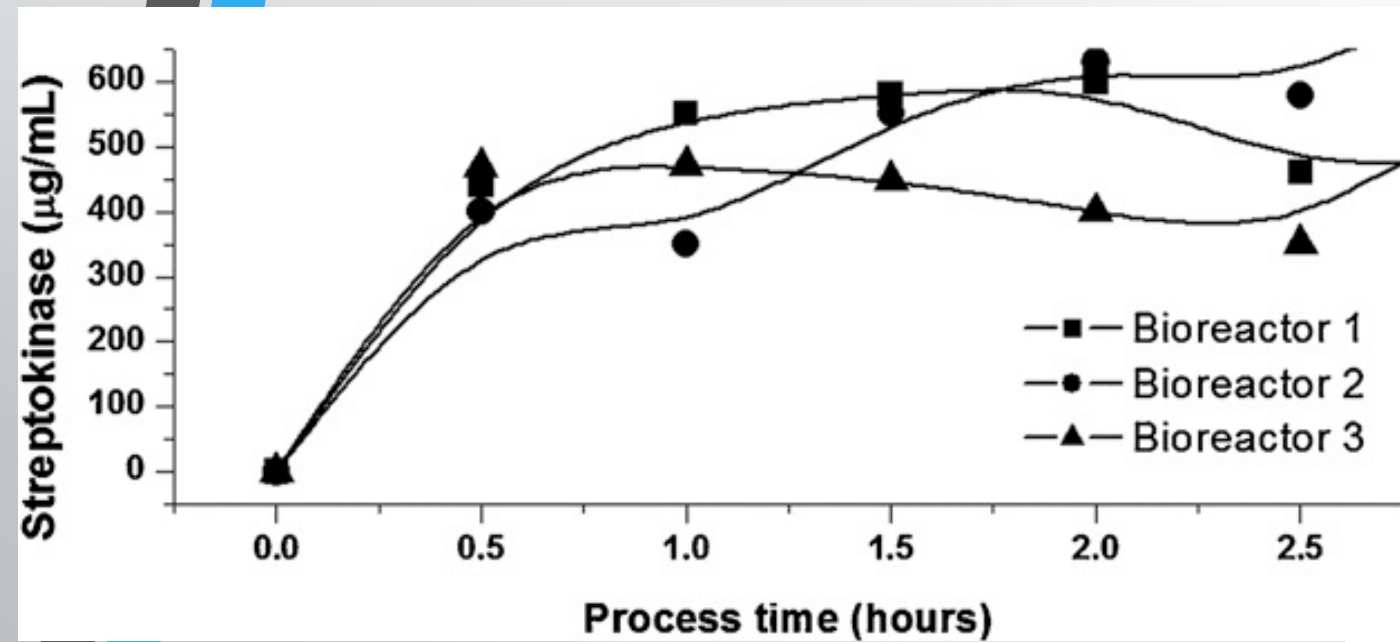
(SK)

(Chinese hamster ovary)

Kevin Tran, Chandrasekhar Gurramkonda, Merideth A. Cooper, Manohar Pilli, Joseph E. Taris, Nicholas Selock, Tzu-Chiang Han, Michael Tolosa, Adil Zuber, Chariz Peñalber-Johnstone, Christina Dinkins, Niloufar Pezeshk, Yordan Kostov, Douglas D. Frey, Leah Tolosa, David W. Wood, Govind Rao ✉ ... See fewer authors ^

First published: 26 August 2017 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/bit.26439> | Citations: 32

Kevin Tran, Chandrasekhar Gurramkonda, and Merideth A. Cooper contributed equally to this work.





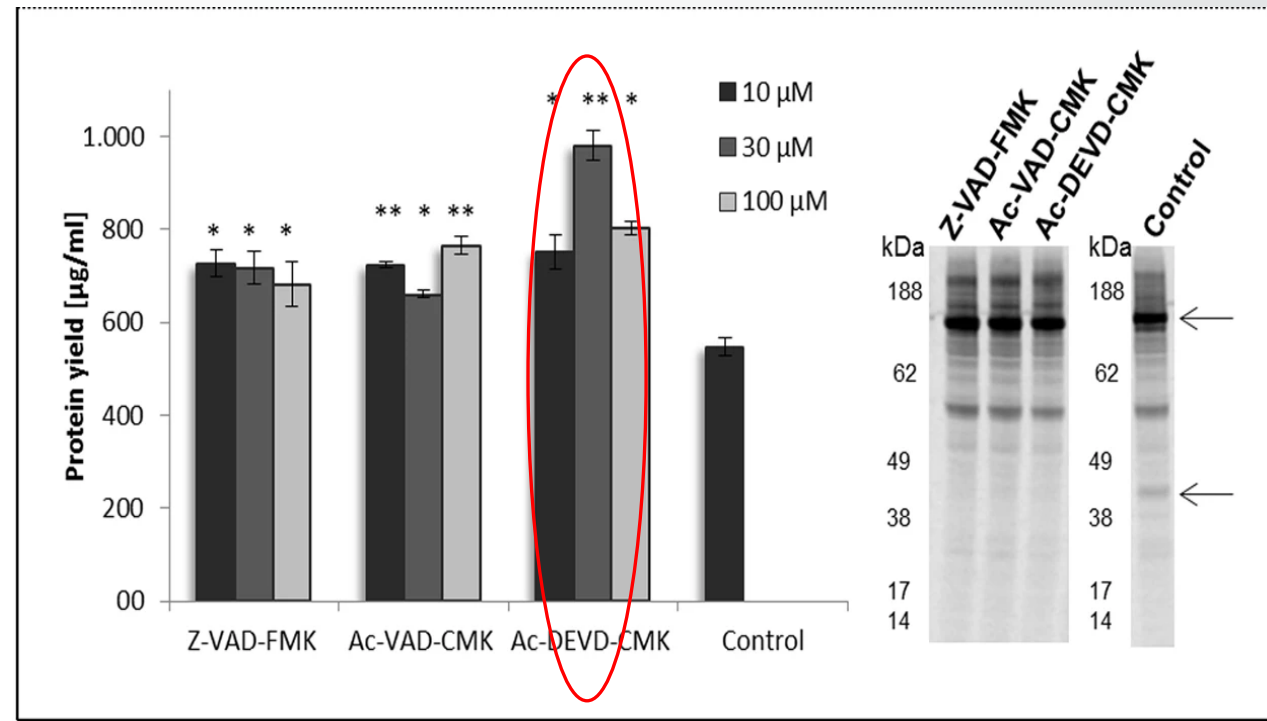
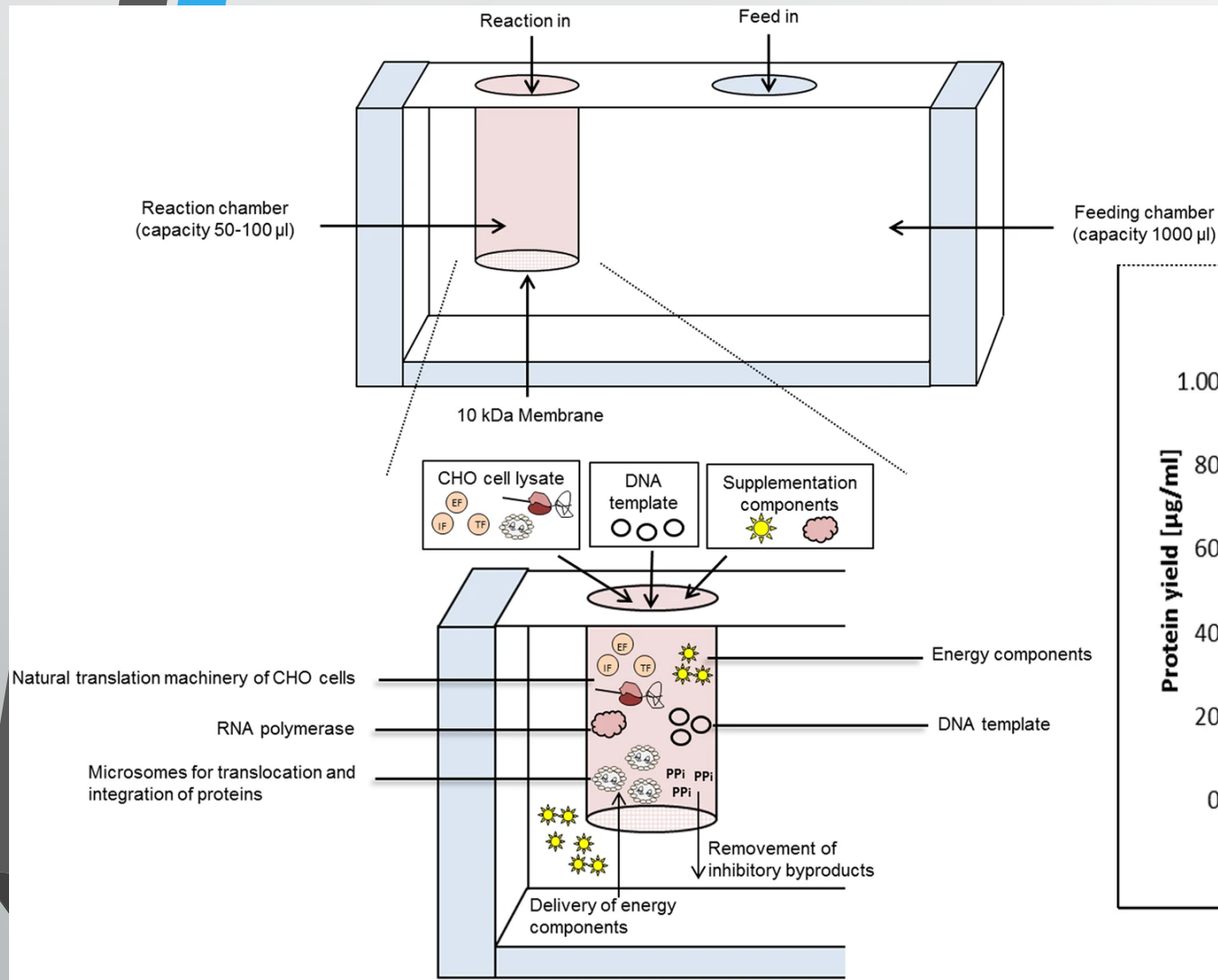
Article | [Open access](#) | [Published: 15 September 2017](#)

# High-yield production of “difficult-to-express” proteins in a continuous exchange cell-free system based on CHO cell lysates

[Lena Thoring](#), [Srujan K. Dondapati](#), [Marlitt Stech](#), [Doreen A. Wüstenhagen](#) & [Stefan Kubick](#) 

[Scientific Reports](#) **7**, Article number: 11710 (2017) | [Cite this article](#)

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Z-VAD-FMK: general caspase inhibitor  
 Ac-VAD-CMK: casp-1 inhibitor  
 Ac-DEVD-CMK: casp-3 inhibitor



Article | [Open access](#) | [Published: 03 July 2023](#)

# A rapid cell-free expression and screening platform for antibody discovery

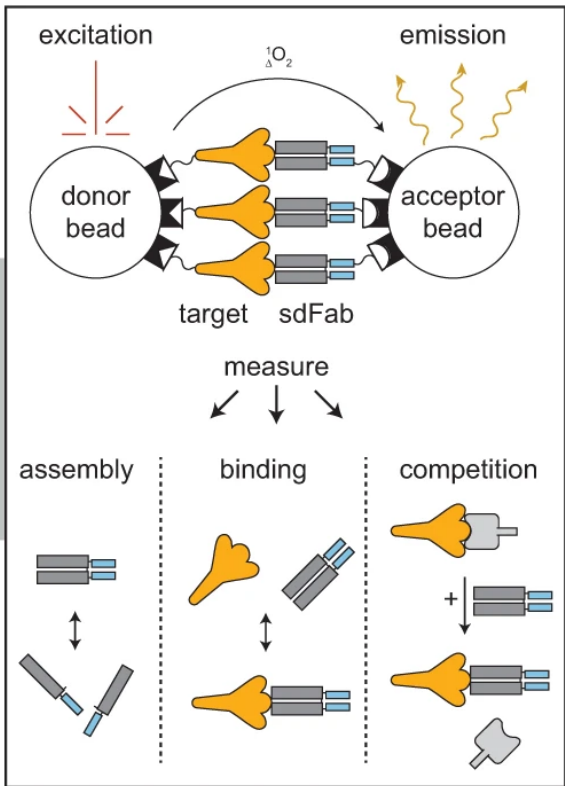
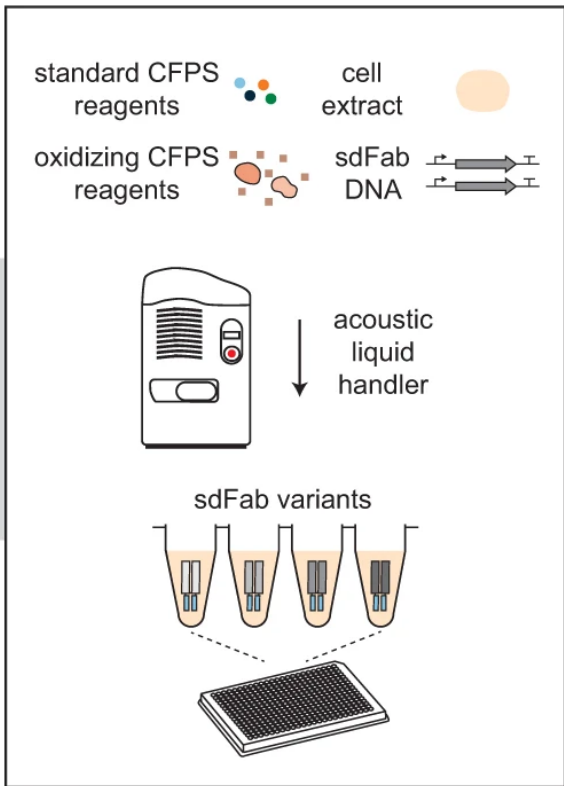
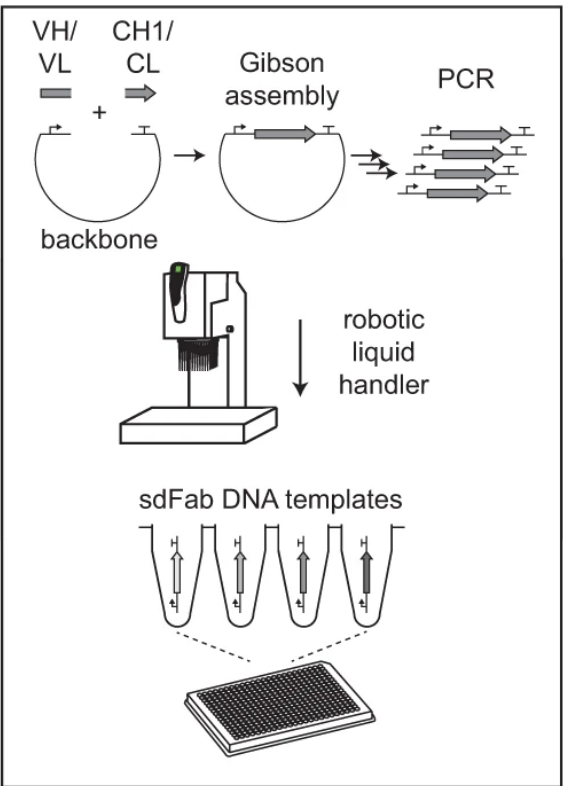
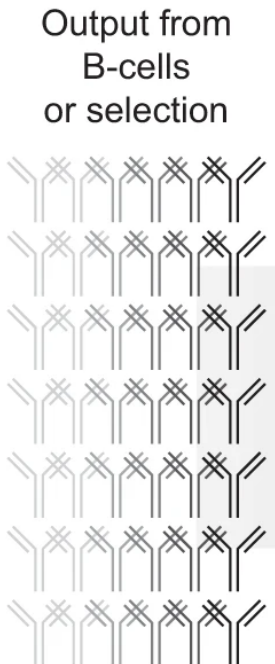
[Andrew C. Hunt](#), [Bastian Vögeli](#), [Ahmed O. Hassan](#), [Laura Guerrero](#), [Weston Kightlinger](#),  
[Danielle J. Yoesep](#), [Antje Krüger](#), [Madison DeWinter](#), [Michael S. Diamond](#), [Ashty S. Karim](#) &  
[Michael C. Jewett](#) 

[Nature Communications](#) **14**, Article number: 3897 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

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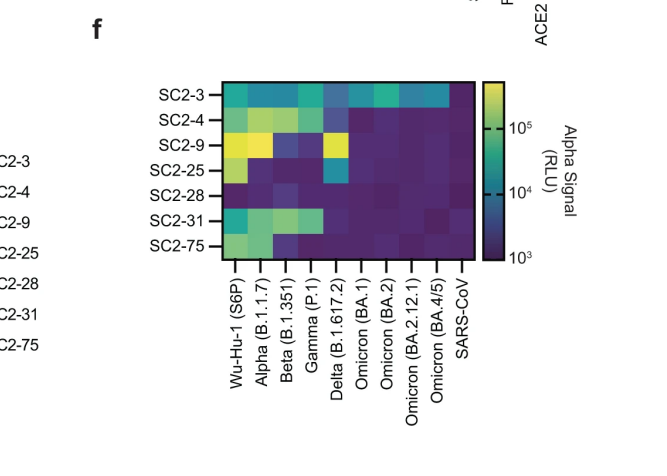
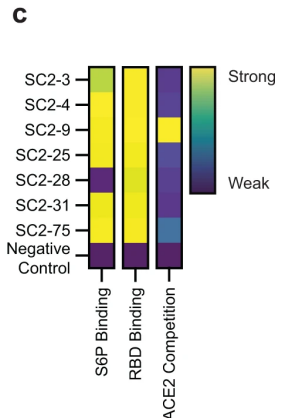
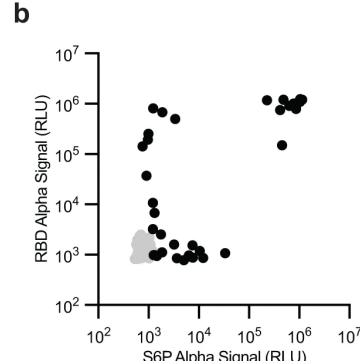
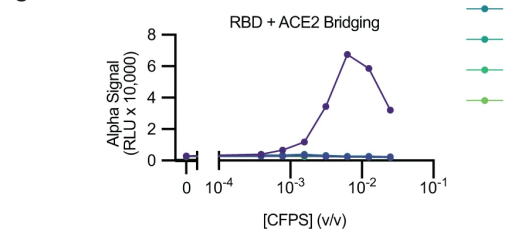
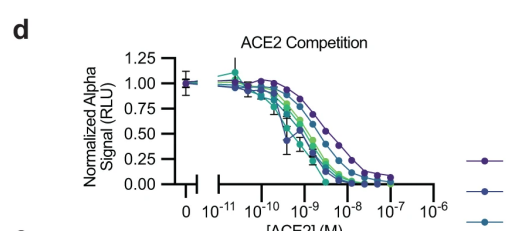
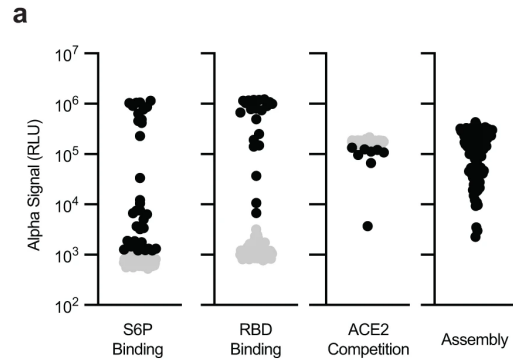
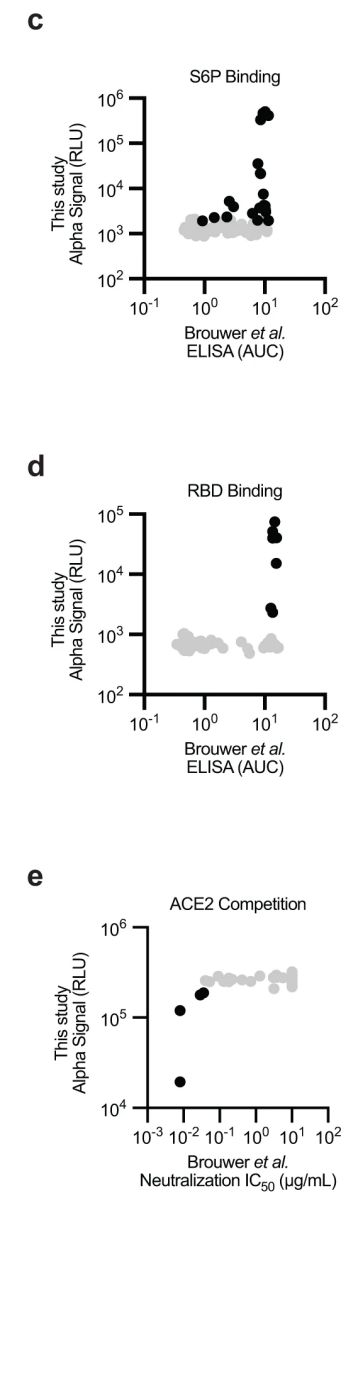
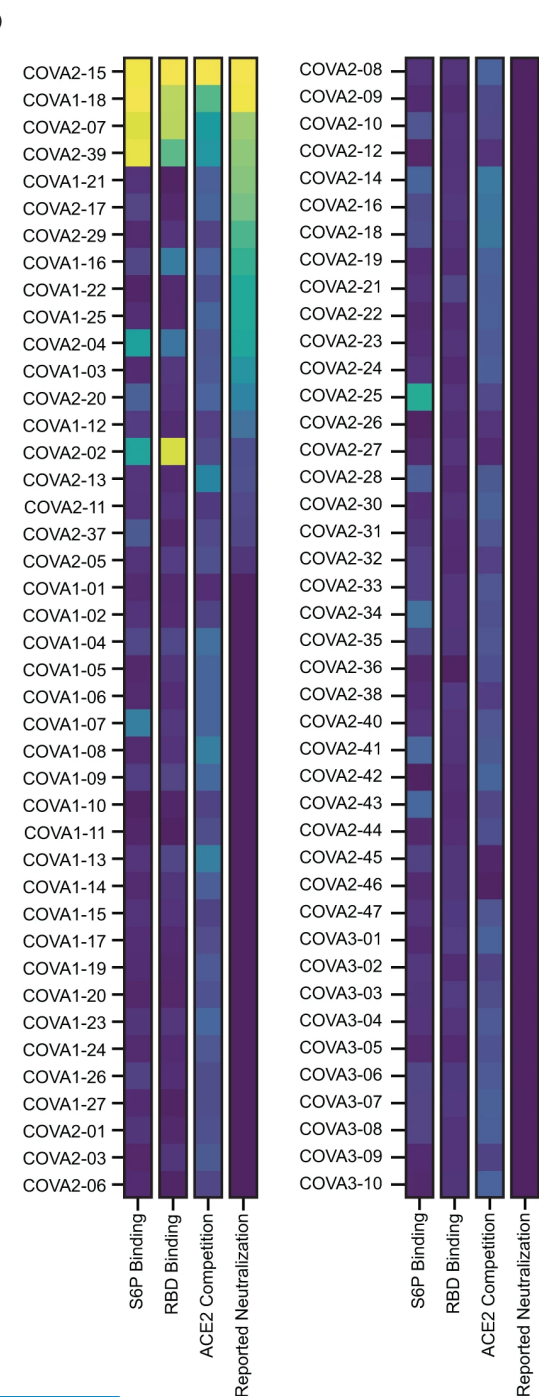
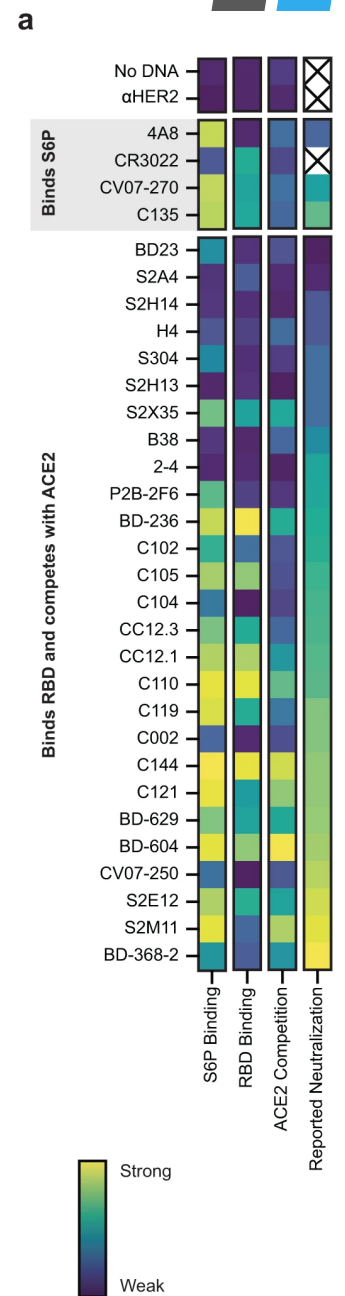


Cell-free DNA assembly via Gibson assembly and amplification via PCR

Protein expression via CFPS

PPI characterization via AlphaLISA

VH: variable heavy chain  
VL: variable light chain  
CH1: Heavy chain constant  
CL: Light chain constant  
sdFab: synthetically dimerized antigen-binding fragment



**Whole workflow is completed in <24hours  
By one researcher**

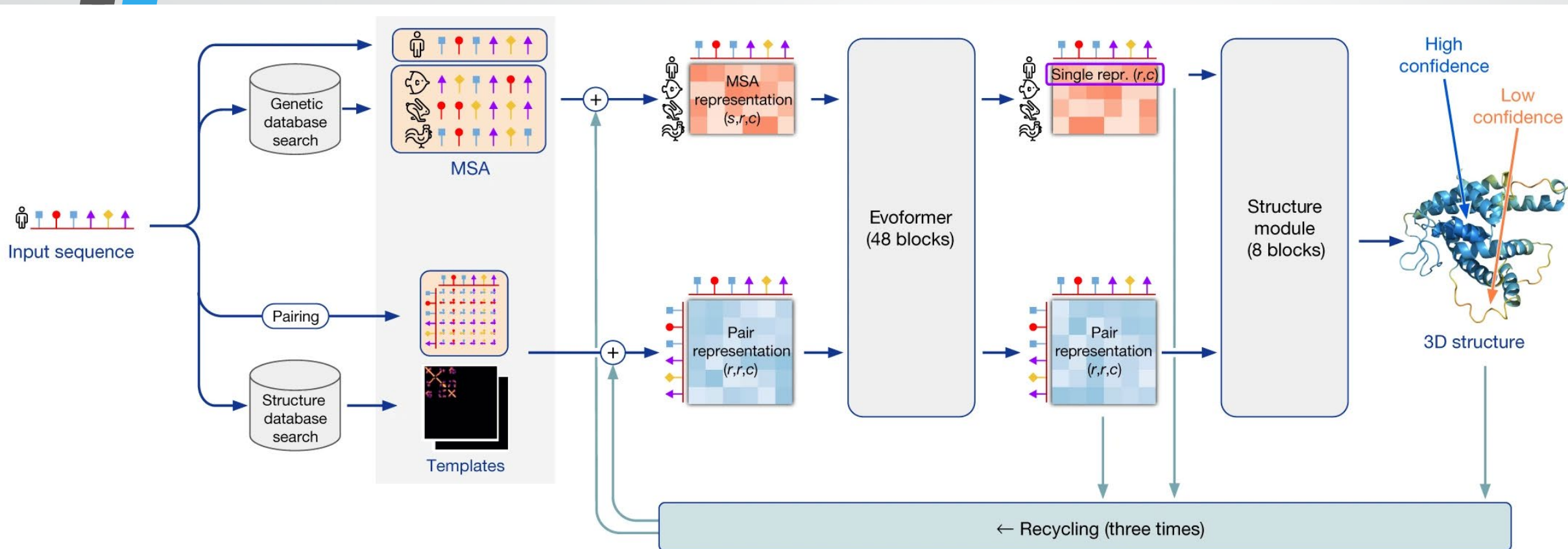
# AI and machine learning

- 3-D>Protein folding problem
- Structure determined experimentally by:
  - X-ray crystallography, cryo-EM, NMR
  - >Expensive and time-consuming
- AlphaFold
- -AI developed by Deepmind





## Multiple sequence alignments



# Application of AI in protein synthesis

- Impractical to synthesize all sequences or

investigate all functionally interesting variants

- Protein optimization to improve the efficiency of identifying desirable mutants through predictive modelling
- Machine learning can learn relationship between sequences and properties

1. Genomics
2. Protein structure and function
3. Protein design and evolution
4. Drug design



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Challenges and Future Directions





# Challenges and Future Direction

- CFPS Scalability and Cost-effectiveness
- Many proteins remain difficult to express
- AI focuses on protein designing

## Future Direction

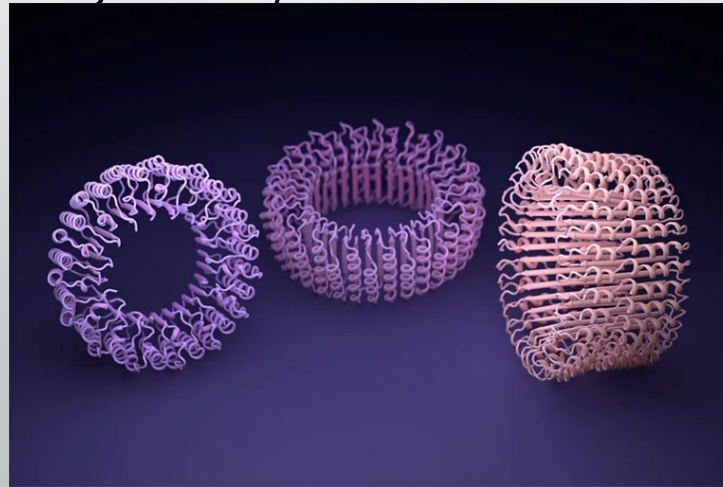
- ↑ cost-effectiveness
- Incorporate the AI-automated synthesiser to produce novel proteins
- Design and Synthesize of dream-up proteins

# Challenges and Future Direction

- CFPS Scalability and Cost effectiveness
- Many proteins remain difficult to express
- AI focuses on protein designing

## Future Direction

- ↑ cost effectiveness
- Incorporate the AI-automated synthesiser to produce novel proteins
- Design and Synthesize of dream-up proteins





Thank you!



# Reference

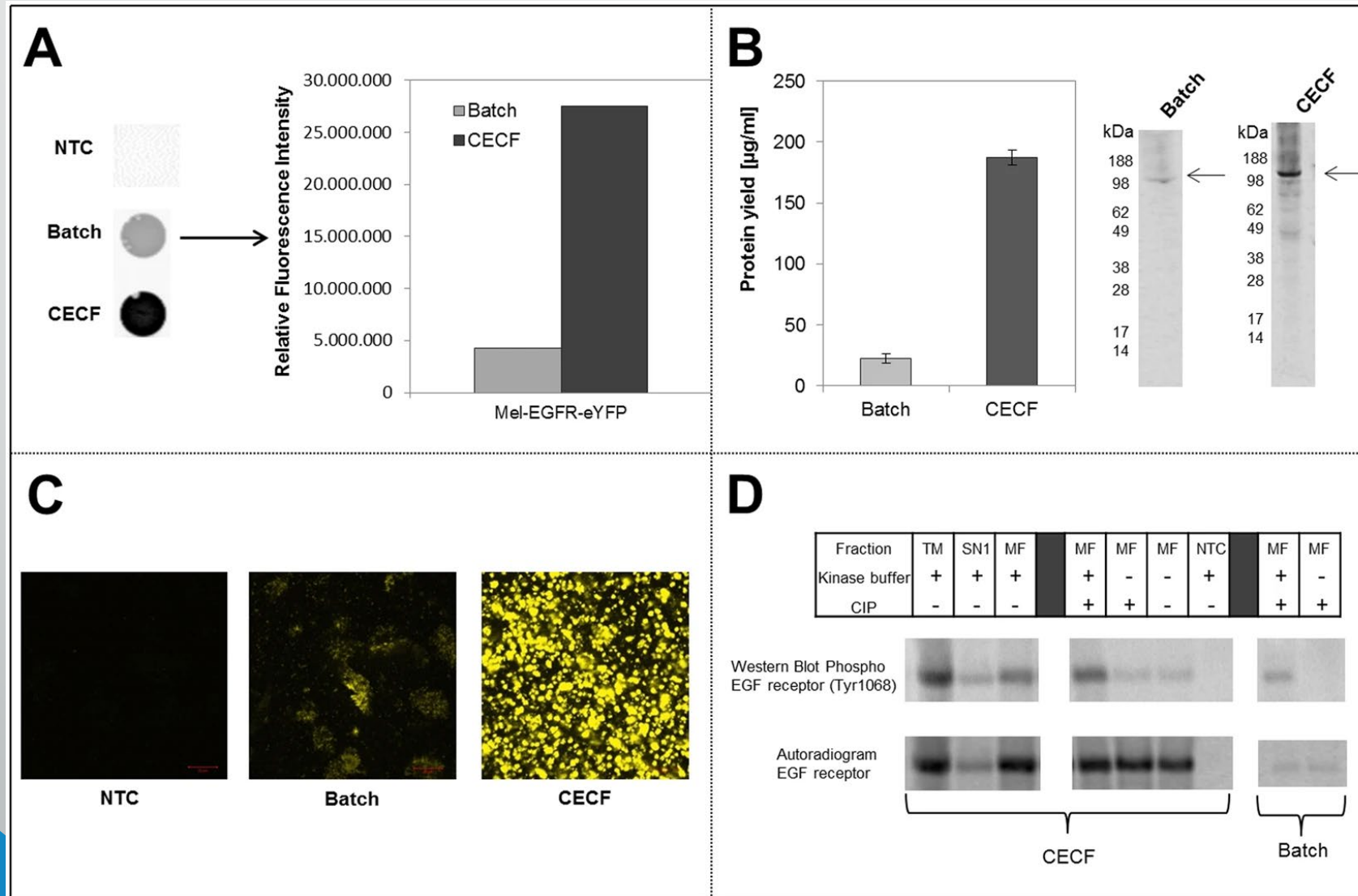
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# Supplementary (1)

Product	Cell extract	Titer (mg/mL)	Potential application	Reference
Single-chain antibody variable fragment against <i>Salmonella</i> O-antigen	Wheat Germ Extract	0.013	<i>In vivo</i> diagnostic and immunotherapeutic	Kawasaki et al., 2003
Urokinase protease	S30 extract ( <i>E. coli</i> K12)	0.04	Treatment of thrombus	Kim and Swartz, 2004
Variant of human tissue-type plasminogen activator	<i>E. coli</i>	0.06	Treatment of acute ischemic stroke	Yin and Swartz, 2004
38C13B lymphocyte Id scFv	<i>E. coli</i> (Cytomim system)	0.043**	Lymphoma immunotherapy	Yang et al., 2005
Insulin-like growth factor I	<i>E. coli</i>	0.4	Central nervous system disorders (e.g., PMS, Rett syndrome)	Swartz, 2006
Murine granulocyte macrophage-colony stimulating factor (mGM-CSF)	<i>E. coli</i> (KC6)	0.854 ± 0.054*	Stimulator of systemic anti-tumor immunity	Goerke and Swartz, 2008
hGM-CSF		0.823 ± 0.060*	Cancer immunotherapy, healing chronic wounds	
Human granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (hG-CSF)		0.619 ± 0.068*	Cancer therapy	
Human Interferon alpha 2b (hIFNα2b)		0.692 ± 0.046*	Anti-cancer agent	
Murine scFv (MvIvh)		0.519 ± 0.038*	Vaccines	
Human scFv (HvIvh)		0.455 ± 0.007*		
Fusion protein with [bacterial immunity protein (im9)] Im9-hvIvh		0.441 ± 0.021*		
mGM-Im9-mvIvh		0.628 ± 0.056*		
mGM-Im9-hvIvh		0.591 ± 0.048*		
Human consensus interferon-alpha	<i>E. coli</i> (S30)	0.4	Anti-viral and anti-tumor agents	El-Baky et al., 2011
Human granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (hGM-CSF)	<i>E. coli</i> (KGK10)	0.7	Cancer immunotherapy, healing chronic wounds	Zawada et al., 2011
Onconase	<i>E. coli</i> (PANOxSP system)	0.03 (>80% soluble)	Treatments of malignant mesothelioma	Salehi et al., 2016
Botulinum toxins	<i>E. coli</i> (RTS-100, RTS-500, and RTS-9000 HY kits)	1	Botulinum vaccine	Zichel et al., 2010
Streptokinase	HeLa and CHO cell lysates	0.50	Thrombolytic therapy	Tran et al., 2018
Crisantaspase	<i>E. coli</i> ClearColi	1	Cancer therapy	Wilding et al., 2019

\* Total titer, \*\* Soluble titer.

# Supplementary (2)



# Supplementary (3)

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## A Low-Cost, Thermostable, Cell-Free Protein Synthesis Platform for On-Demand Production of Conjugate Vaccines

Katherine F. Warfel, Asher Williams, Derek A. Wong, Sarah E. Sobol, Primit Desai, Jie Li, Yung-Fu Chang, Matthew P. DeLisa, Ashty S. Karim, and Michael C. Jewett\*

**Cite this:** *ACS Synth. Biol.* 2023, 12, 1, 95–107

Publication Date: December 22, 2022

<https://doi.org/10.1021/acssynbio.2c00392>

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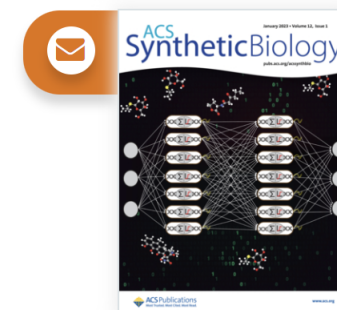
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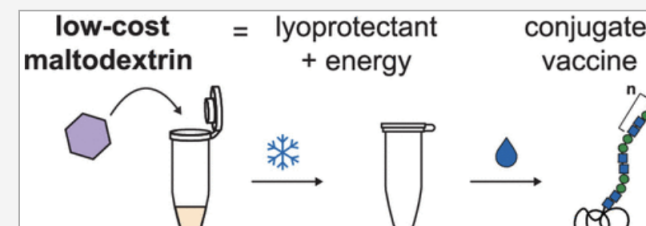
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**SUBJECTS:** Addition reactions, Carbohydrates, ▾

### Abstract

Cell-free protein synthesis systems that can be lyophilized for long-term, non-refrigerated storage and transportation have the potential to enable decentralized biomanufacturing. However, increased thermostability and decreased reaction cost are necessary for further technology adoption. Here, we identify maltodextrin as an additive to cell-free reactions that can act as both a lyoprotectant to increase thermostability and a low-cost energy substrate. As a model, we apply optimized formulations to produce conjugate vaccines for ~\$0.50 per dose after storage at room temperature.



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