

Unleashing the Power of Cell-Free:

PUREfrex® for Protein Engineering and Discovery



Takashi (Ebi) Ebihara, Ph.D.
COO
GeneFrontier Corporation



GeneFrontier

PEGS-Europe
11-13 of Nov, 2025

Corporate Summary

Founded: ***Oct 13th, 2010 (renewed)***

Shareholder: ***KANEKA Corporation (100%)***

People: ***17 (Ph.D. 8, MS 1)***

Place: ***Chiba, Japan***

Mission: ***Rebuilding and Manipulating Biological system
for Inspiring the world!***



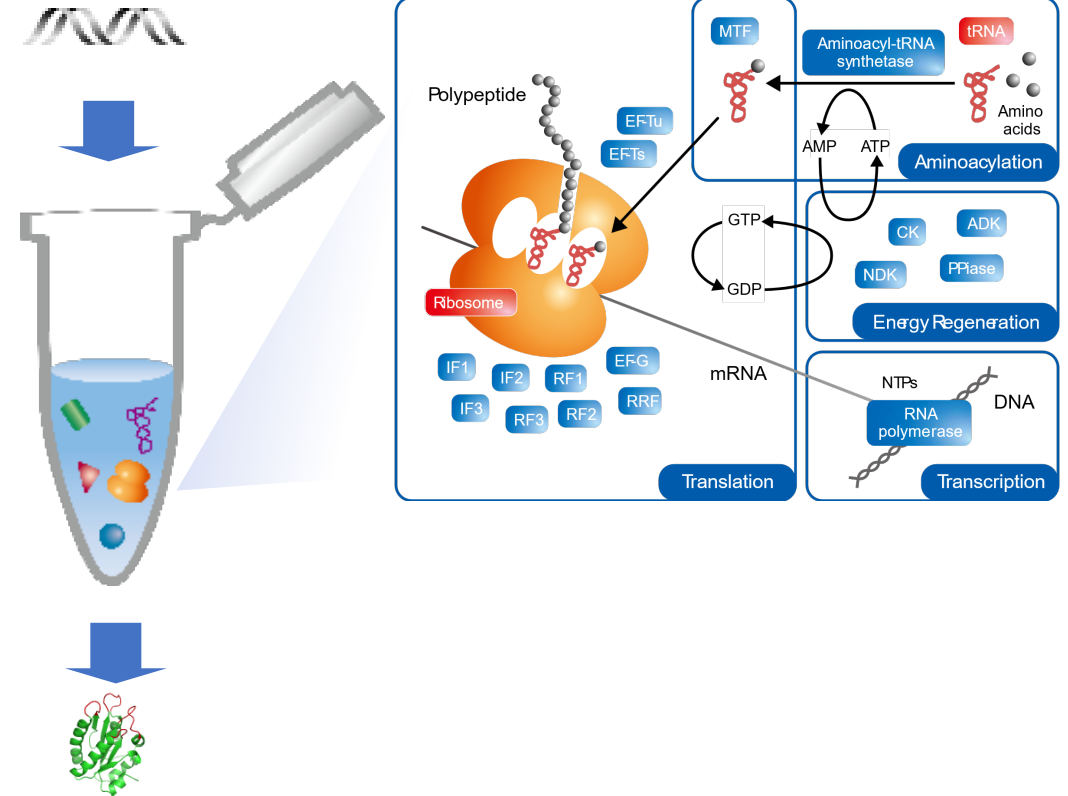
*Only necessary molecules
for transcription/translation*

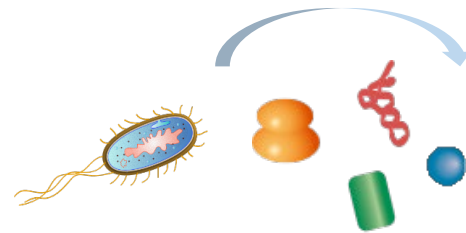
=Breaking down & Building up

PURE system

(Protein synthesis Using Recombinant Elements)

*Shimizu Y. et al. Nature Biotechnology
vol 19, p751–755 (2001)*





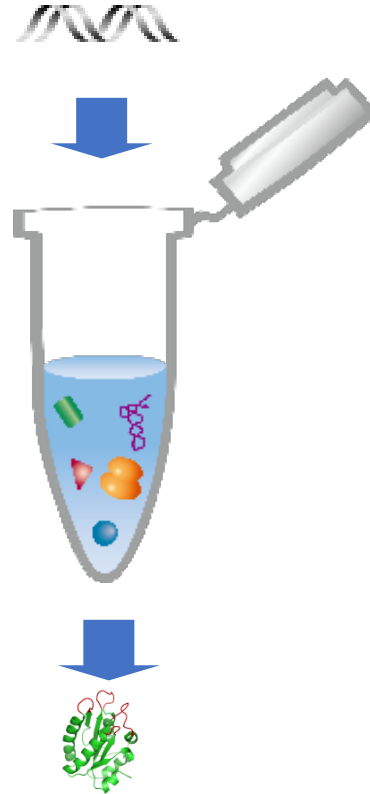
PURE system



Reconstituted cell-free protein synthesis kit

PUREfrex[®]

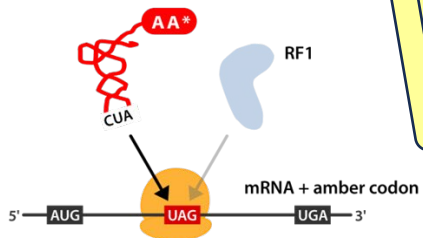
For Designing Central Dogma



<Ex, Non-natural AA introduction>

Translation - RF1

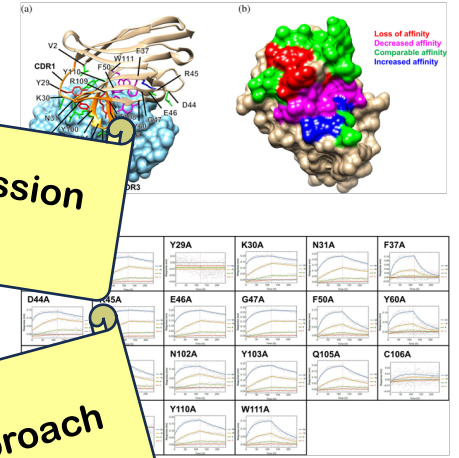
suppressor tRNA + non-natural amino acid



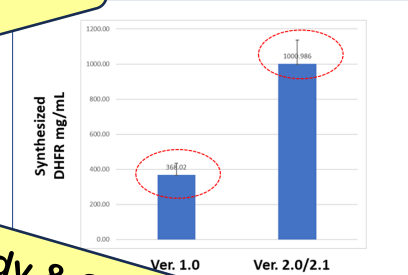
Flexibility to
Non canonical amino acid

Ready-made kit is coming soon!

FASTIA: Fast Interaction Analysis



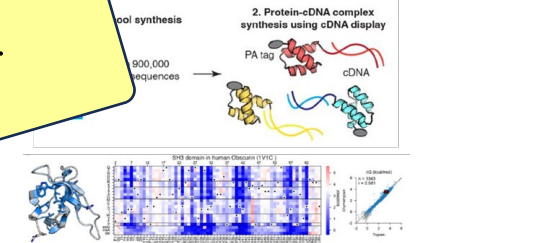
Suitable for AI/ML approach



Speedy & Scalable
& Reproducible
reaction

$\mu\text{L} \sim \text{L scale}$

In vitro display screening for
Directed evolution/molecular
evolution engineering

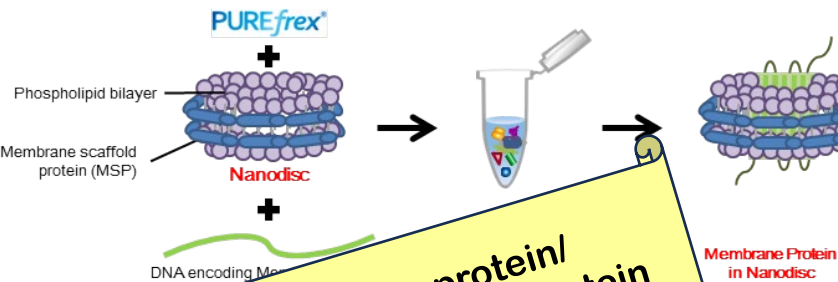


et al. (2024) ACS Sens, 9(6):2846-2857.

Tsuboyama et al. (2023) Nature, 620, p434.

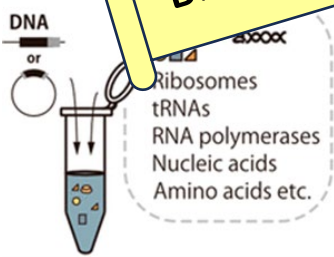
Reconstituted cell-free protein synthesis kit
PUREfrex[®]
For Designing Central Dogma

Membrane protein/
Difficult-to-express protein



Artificial cell

Cell-free synthesis of
peptide β -barrel

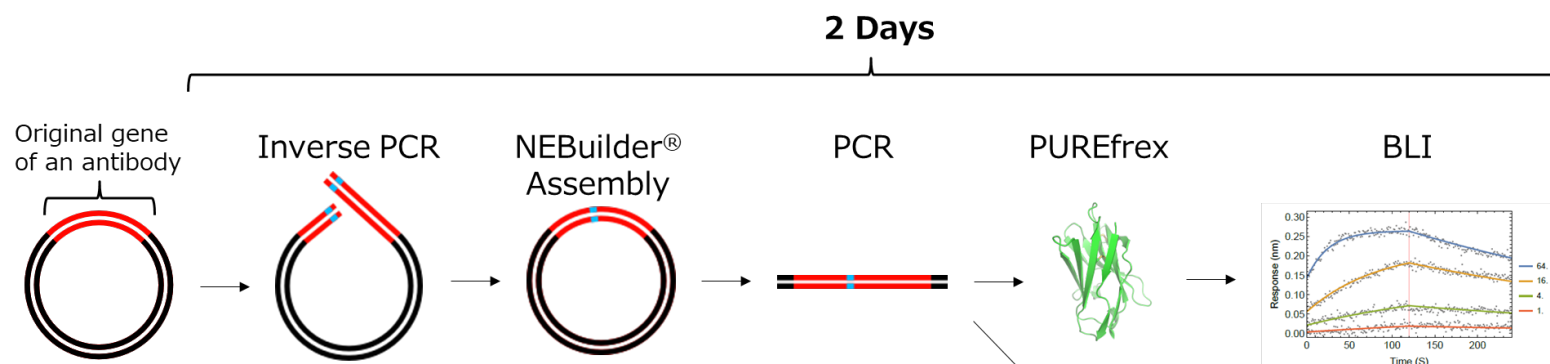


Sugii et al. (2023) Synth. Biol. vol.8, p1

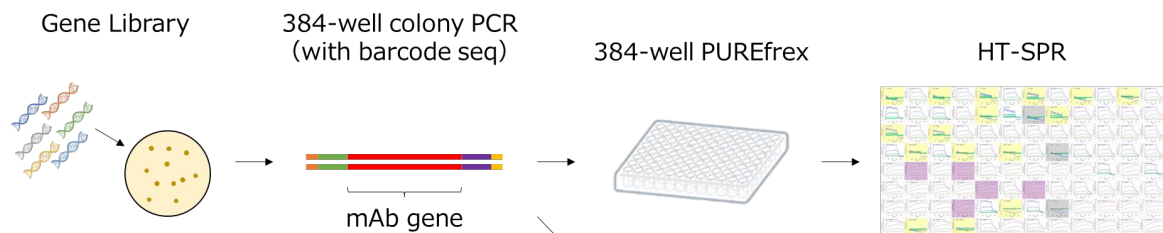
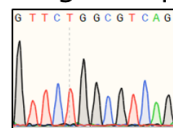
Fujita et al. (2023) ACS Nano. vol.17(4), p.3358.

-Improve Validation from Weeks to Days-

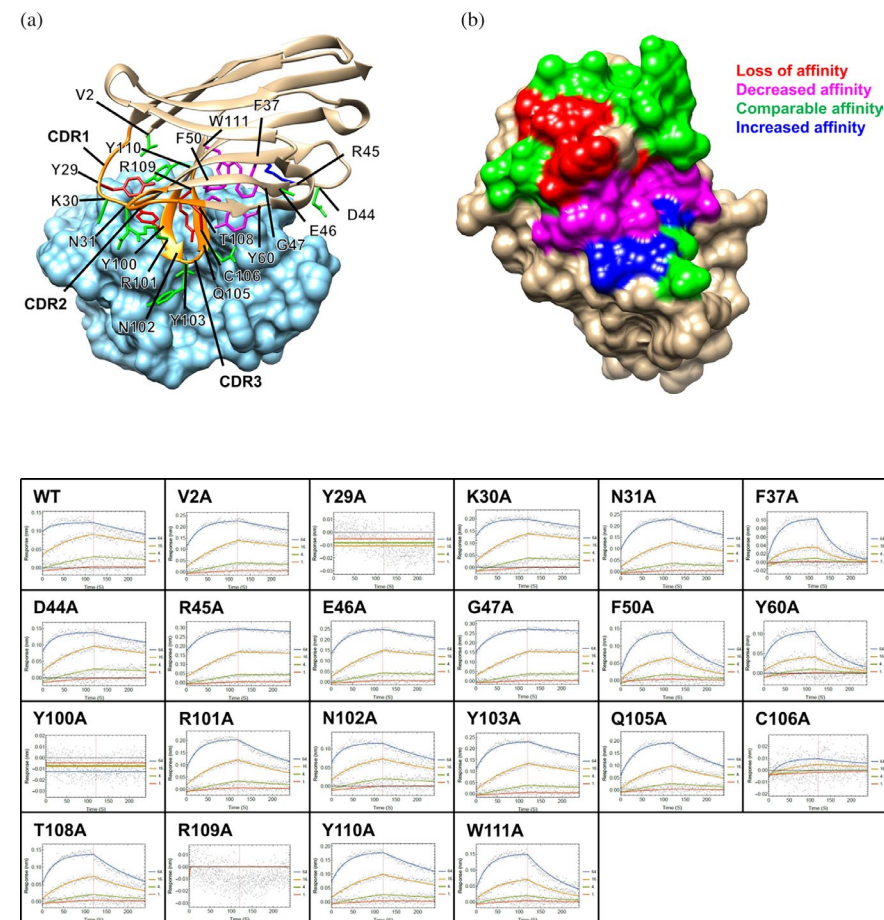
FASTIA: Fast Interaction Analysis



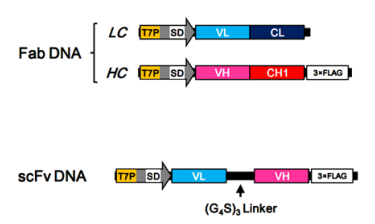
Sanger sequencing



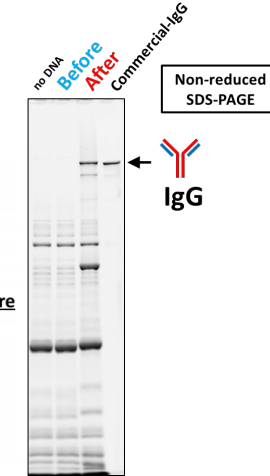
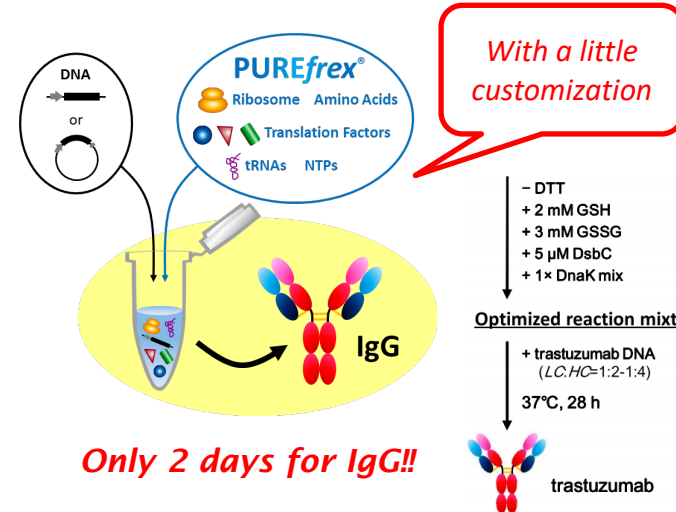
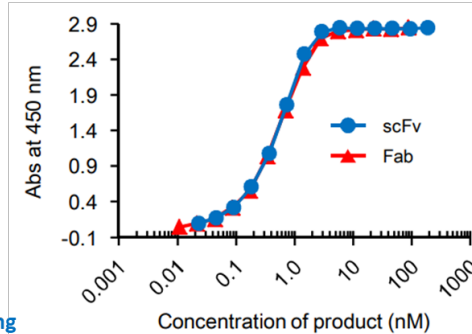
NGS (384-well×3 or more)


[Matsunaga et al. \(2025\) Protein Sci. Mar;34\(3\):e70065. doi: 10.1002/pro.70065.](https://doi.org/10.1002/pro.70065)

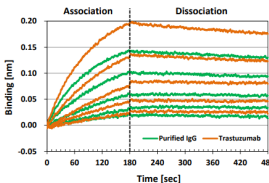
-Expression of scFv, Fab, IgG and more-



Activity



Binding kinetics analysis

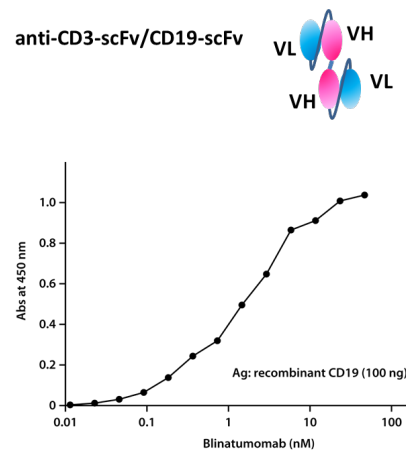


	K_D [M]	k_{on} [1/Ms]	k_{off} [1/s]
Purified IgG	4.24E-10	6.38E+05	2.70E-04
Trastuzumab	4.03E-10	6.29E+05	2.53E-04

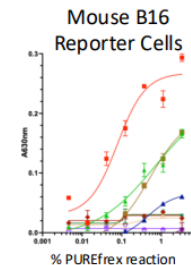
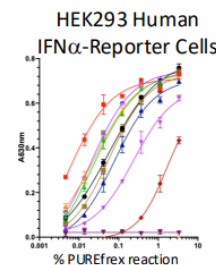
System: Octet RED96 System (Pall ForteBio)
Biosensor: Anti-Human IgG Fc Capture (AHC) biosensor (Pall ForteBio)
Buffer: Kinetics Buffer 10X (Pall ForteBio)
Ligand: "Purified IgG" or "Trastuzumab"
Analyte: 17.6, 8.8, 4.4, 2.2 and 1.1 nM of Extracellular domain of Human ErbB2/HER2 (Sino Biological)
 K_D : Measured affinity of interaction; k_{on} : Association rate constant; k_{off} : Dissociation rate constant.

[Murakami et al. \(2019\) Sci. Rep. vol.9, p.671. \(Supplementary Information\)](#)

[Murakami et al. \(2019\) Sci. Rep. vol.9, p.671.](#)

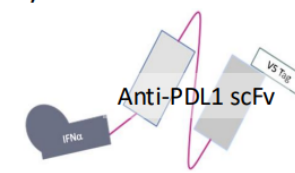


Round 1: IFN-α variants tested by in vitro transcription/translation



- Universal IFN-α
- hIFN α _L152F
- R121K
- R121K_Q125R
- R121K_Q125R_K132T
- Y86C_R121K_Q125R
- Y86C_R121K_Q125R_K132T
- mIFN2
- IFN α 2b
- scFv control
- Human IFN α 2b (starts at 1nM)
- No DNA

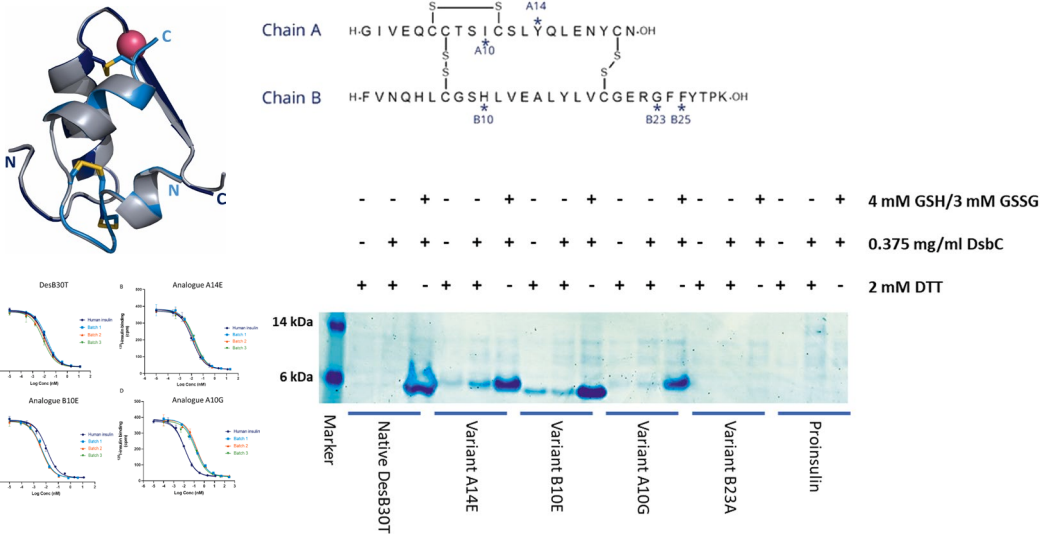
IFN-α variants were generated as IFNα-scFv fusions to identify mutations affecting activity in mouse and human cells



IFNα-scFv protein was generated with an anti-PDL1 antibody by in vitro transcription/translation using the PUREfres[®] system (CosmoBIO USA). Protein mixture was serially diluted and protein was captured via an anti-V5 tag coated to the wells of the plate. Proteins were assayed for PD-L1 binding to assess expression (data not shown) or the ability to stimulate an IFN-α response in receptor reporter cell lines

[Killebrew et al. \(2024\) SITC 2024 Annual Meeting \(Poster, BONUMTX.com\).](#)

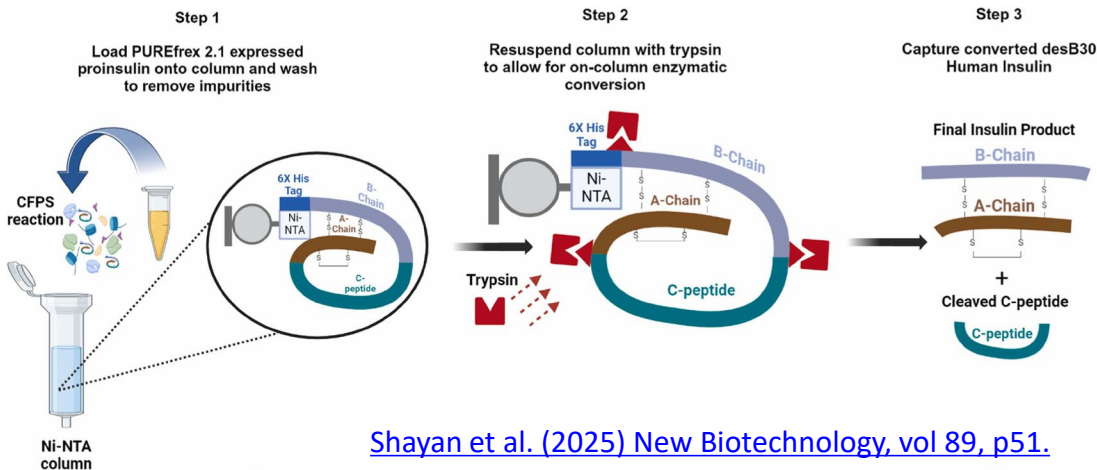
-Application for complex molecule-



Jensen et al. (2021) Protein Expr. Purif., 186, 105910.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Proinsulin Aspart	Proinsulin Lispro	Proinsulin Glargine	Regular Proinsulin	Insulin A Chain	Insulin B Chain	Insulin A Chain Heterodimer	Insulin B Chain Heterodimer	Oxytocin	Glucagon
PURE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clm24	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
BL21	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
759	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Glucagon Like Peptide 1 mutant (GLP-1 mut)	Glucagon Like Peptide 1 (GLP-1)	Insulin Like Growth Factor	Growth Hormone (GH)	Leptin	Vaso-pressin	Angiotensin II	Parathyroid Hormone (PTH)	Somato-statin	Leuprolide
PURE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clm24	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BL21	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
759	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

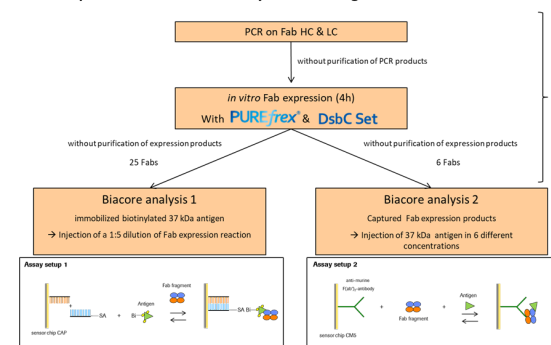
DeWinter et al. (2023) ACS Synth. Biol. vol.12, 4, p1216. (Supplementary Information)



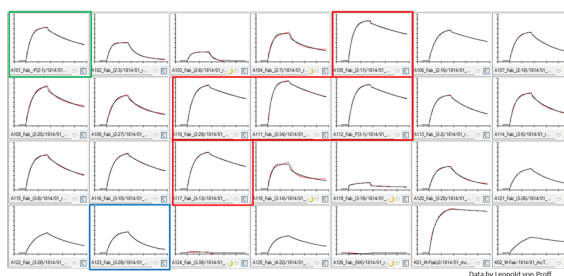
Shayan et al. (2025) New Biotechnology, vol 89, p51.



In vitro expression and Biacore analysis of Fab fragments



Kinetic analysis of 25 Fab binders

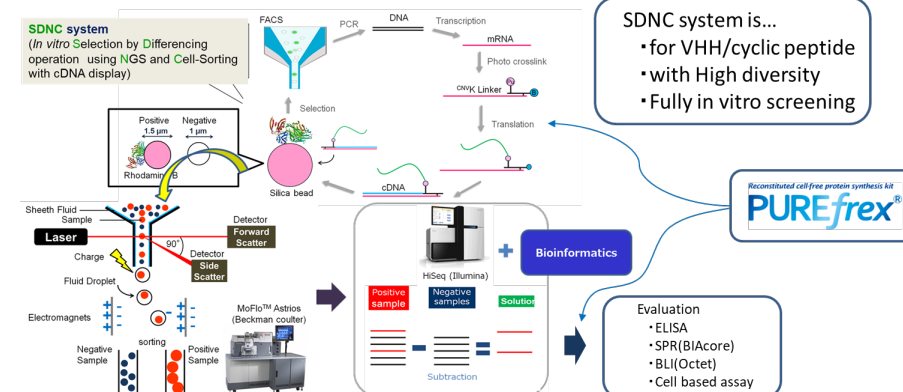


→ Selection of Fabs for further kinetic analysis



Epsilon Molecular Engineering

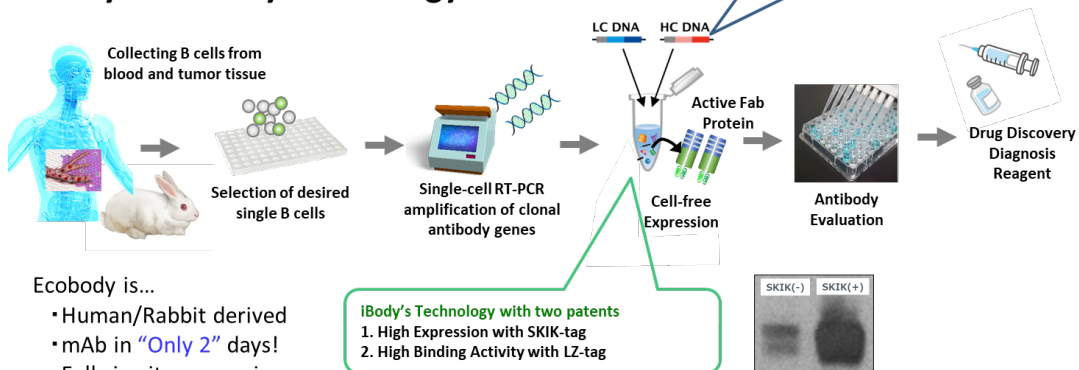
Molecular Design for Human Life



<https://www.epsilon-mol.co.jp/eng/>



iBody's Ecobody Technology



<https://www.ibody.co.jp/en/>

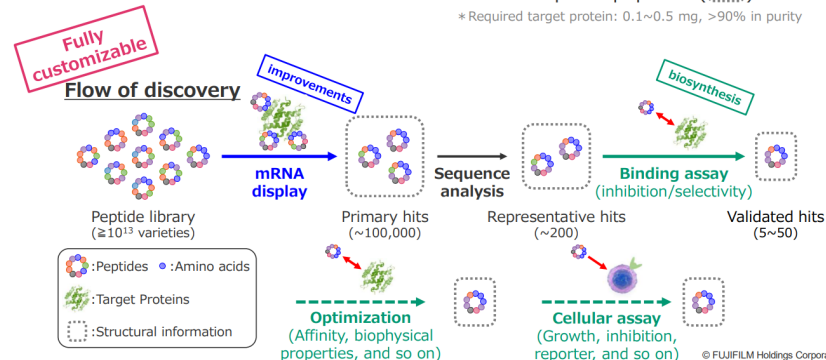
FUJIFILM peptide discovery services

collaborated with PUREfrex®

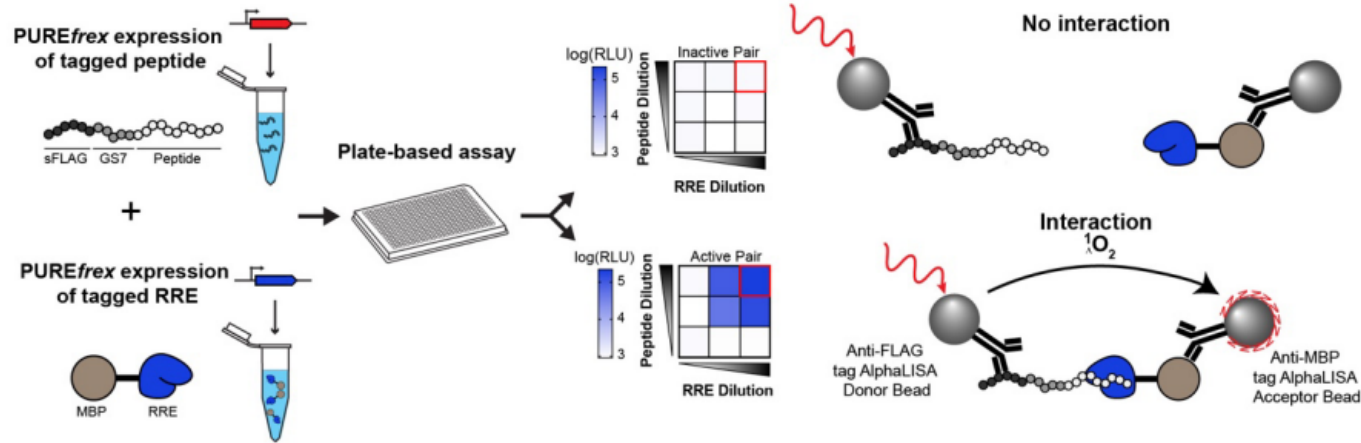
- ✓ **Innovative improvements** in mRNA display enable screening from $>10^{13}$ peptides
 - ✓ **Practical biosynthesis & assays** enable rapid selection and activity explorations.
- Peptides hits with **wide varieties** and **high-affinities** can be obtained.

We provide a CRO service, in which we receive target (🌿) from the customer* and return the structural information of the acquired peptides (📄).

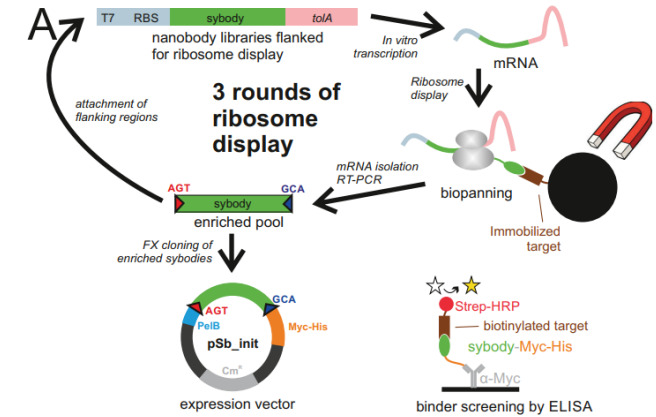
* Required target protein: 0.1~0.5 mg, >90% in purity



-Broad applications, yet to come!-

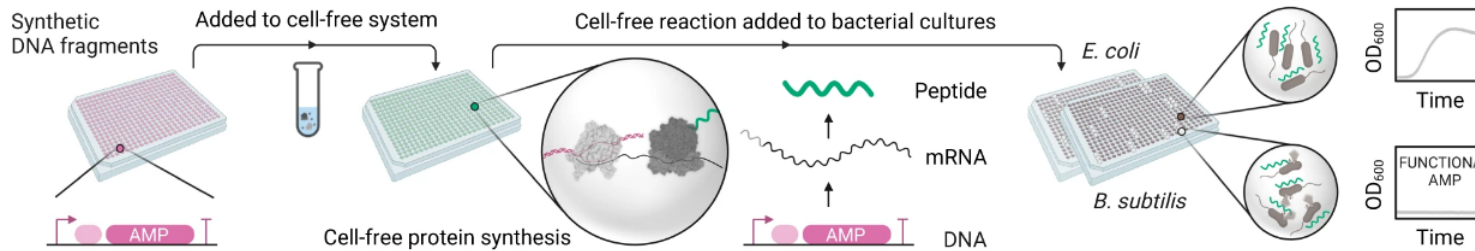


[Wong et al. \(2025\) Nat Communications. vol.16\(7215\).](#)

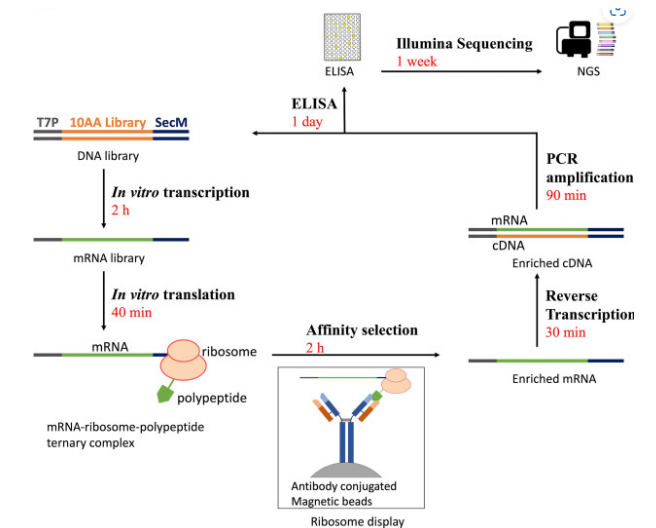


[Zimmermann I. et al. \(2018\) eLife, 7, e34317.](#)

WET LAB EXPERIMENT: cell-free production and activity test of AMPs (24 hr)

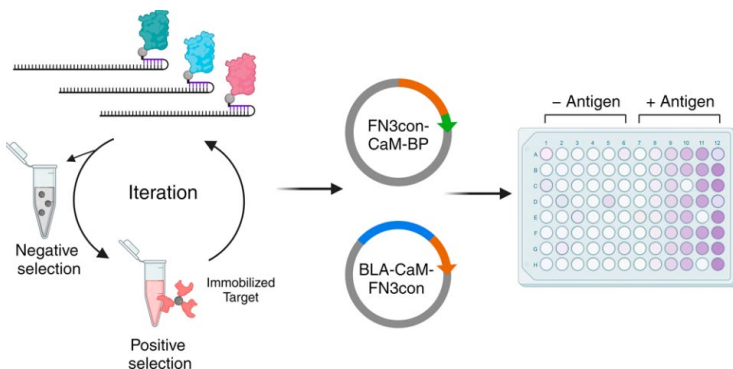


[Pandi et al. \(2023\) Nat Communications. vol.14\(7197\).](#)



[Jia B. et al. \(2024\) J Biosci Bioeng, 137\(4\):321-328.](#)

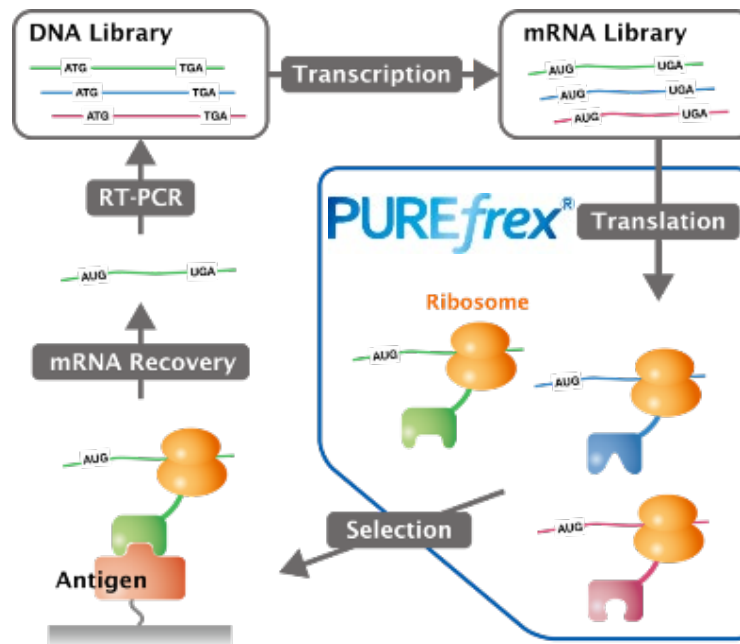
-Broad applications, yet to come!-



[Chui Z. et al. \(2024\) ACS Sens, 9\(6\):2846-2857.](#)

in vitro protein selection technology

PUREfrex[®] RD



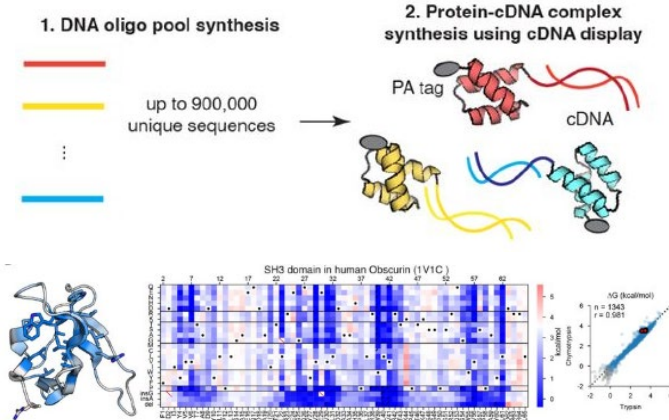
Licensed technology under JP4931135 etc.

◆ Advanced screening system for Biologics

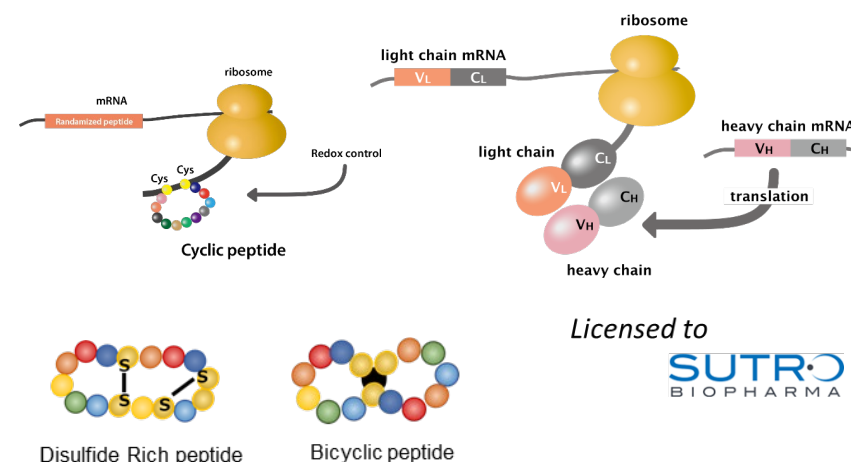
- **mAb (scFv / Fab)**
- **VHH**
- **Cyclic peptide**

◆ High Selection Efficiency

- **Completely molecular based system**
- **>10¹² diversity**



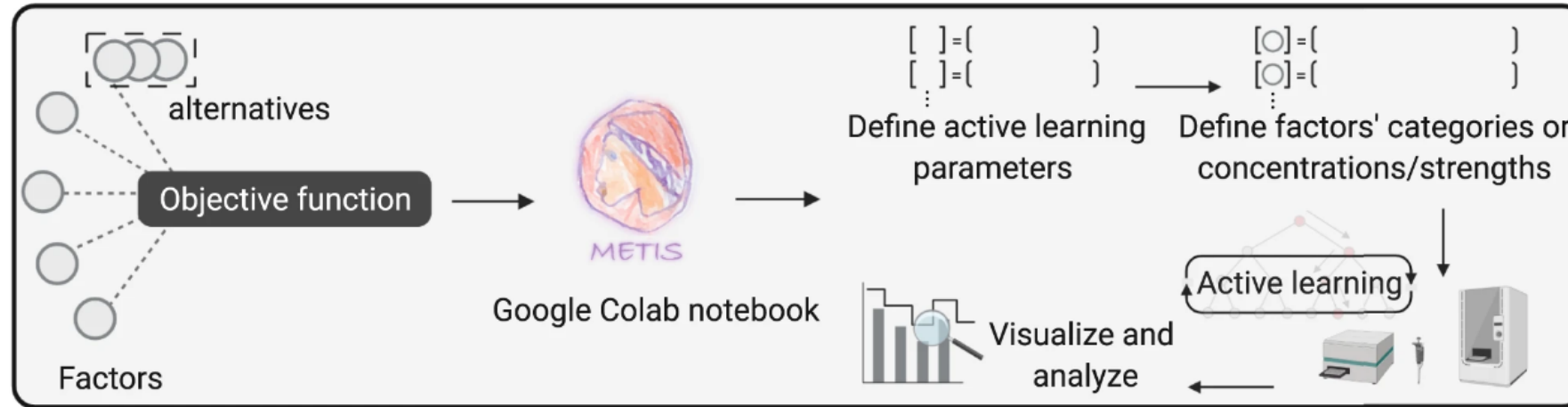
[Tsuboyama et al. \(2023\) Nature, 620, p434.](#)



Licensed to
SUTRO
BIOPHARMA

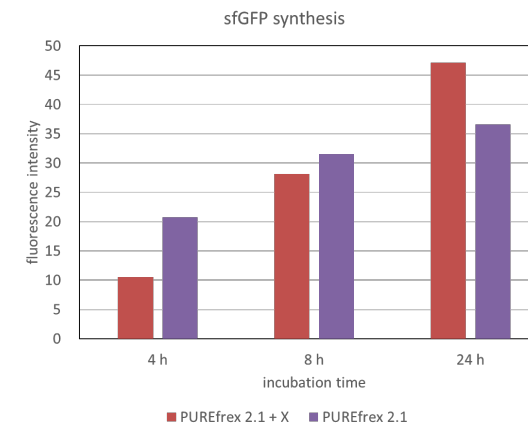
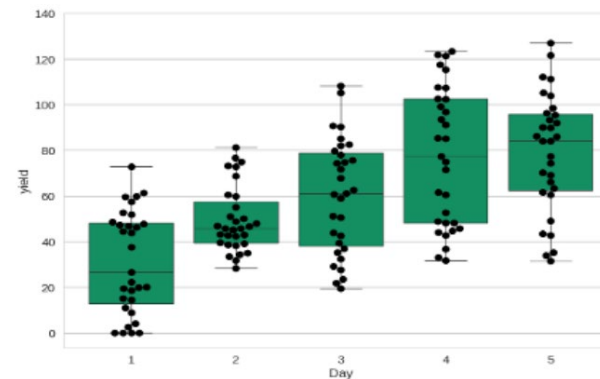


-Broad applications, yet to come!-



[Pandi A et al. \(2022\) Nature Communications, 13, 3876.](#)

Round	3			4			5			6		
Composition No.	2	21	27	4	13	14	2	8	29	1	7	8
K Glutamate												
Mg Acetate												
Spermidine												
Creatine Phosphate												
ATP												
GTP												
CTP/UTP												
tRNA												
IF2												
EF-G												
EF-Tu/EF-Ts												
T7 RNAP												
Ribosome												



- ✓ Perfect fit to AI/ML approach with great controllability & reproducibility.
- ✓ Unique expression platform will give you great advantage in R&D.



-KSF; AT rich codon on N-term-

Fab Heavy Chain (Herceptin)

Herceptin Fab HC

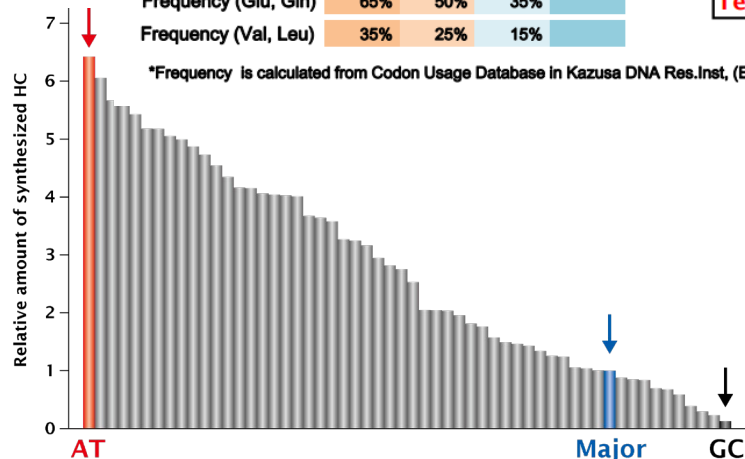
Met- **Glu-Val-Gln-Leu-Val-** FLAG

2		3		4		5		6	
Glu		Val		Gln		Leu		Val	
codon	freq (%)	codon	freq (%)	codon	freq (%)	codon	freq (%)	codon	freq (%)
gaa	70	gtt	25	caa	30	ttg	15	ggt	25
gag	30	gtc	18	cag	70	tta	12	gtc	18
		gta	17			ctt	12	gta	17
		gtg	40			ctc	10	gtg	40
						cta	5		
						ctg	46		

Frequency (Glu, Gln)	65%	50%	35%
Frequency (Val, Leu)	35%	25%	15%

All clones; 384
Tested clones; 56

*Frequency is calculated from Codon Usage Database in Kazusa DNA Res.Inst. (E. coli K-12 strain)



Design of DNA template is important.

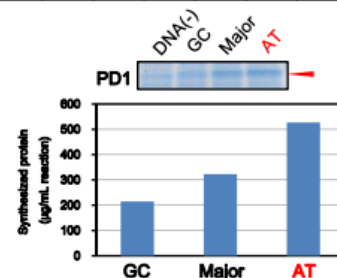
Manual is Free to download from our Web site here.



PD1

Organism: *Homo sapiens*
Synthesized region: 36Thr-150Glu-(Hisx8)
Length: 124 a.a.
Molecular weight: 14,148 Da

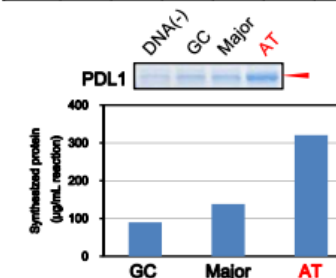
N-term type	1	2(38)	3(37)	4(38)	5(39)	6(40)	GC(%)
	Met	Thr	Phe	Ser	Pro	Ala	1-6 a.a.
GC	atg	acc	ttc	tcc	cgc	gcg	67%
major	atg	acc	ttt	tct	cgc	gcg	56%
AT	atg	act	ttt	tca	cgc	gct	39%



PDL1

Organism: *Homo sapiens*
Synthesized region: 18Ala-239Thr-(Hisx8)
Length: 231 a.a.
Molecular weight: 26,593 Da

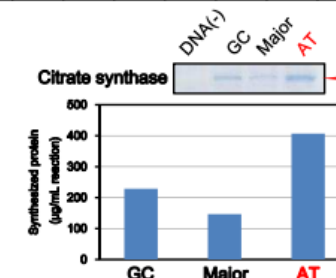
N-term type	1	2(18)	3(19)	4(20)	5(21)	6(22)	GC(%)
	Met	Ala	Phe	Thr	Val	Thr	1-6 a.a.
GC	atg	gcg	tcc	acc	gtg	acc	61%
major	atg	gcg	ttt	acc	gtg	acc	56%
AT	atg	gct	ttt	act	gta	aca	33%



Citrate Synthase

Organism: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
Synthesized region: 38Ser-479Asn
Length: 443 a.a.
Molecular weight: 49,346 Da

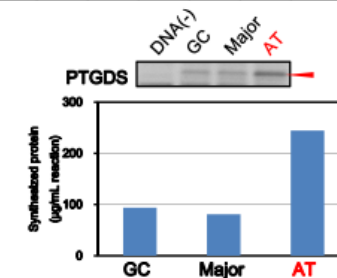
N-term type	1	2(38)	3(39)	4(40)	5(41)	6(42)	GC(%)
	Met	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu	1-6 a.a.
GC	atg	tcc	tcc	gcg	tcc	gag	67%
major	atg	tct	tct	gcg	tct	gaa	44%
AT	atg	tca	tca	gct	tca	gaa	39%



PTGDS

Organism: *Homo sapiens*
Synthesized region: 23Ala-190Gln
Length: 169 a.a.
Molecular weight: 18,829 Da

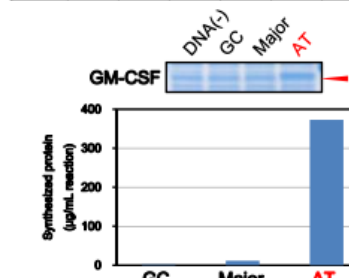
N-term type	1	2(23)	3(24)	4(25)	5(26)	6(27)	GC(%)
	Met	Ala	Pro	Glu	Ala	Gln	1-6 a.a.
GC	atg	gca	cgc	gaa	gca	cag	61%
major	atg	gcg	cgc	gaa	gca	cag	72%
AT	atg	gca	cct	gaa	gct	caa	50%



GM-CSF

Organism: *Homo sapiens*
Synthesized region: 18Ala-144Glu
Length: 128 a.a.
Molecular weight: 14,608 Da

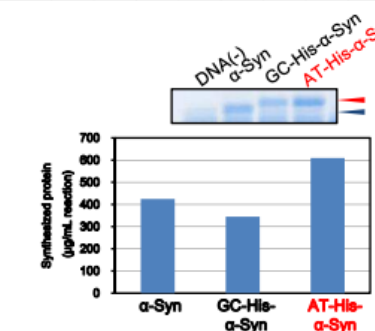
N-term type	1	2(18)	3(19)	4(20)	5(21)	6(22)	GC(%)
	Met	Ala	Pro	Ala	Arg	Ser	1-6 a.a.
GC	atg	gcg	cgc	gcg	cgc	tcc	83%
major	atg	gcg	cgc	gcg	cgc	tct	78%
AT	atg	gca	cct	gct	aga	tca	50%



His-α-Synuclein

Organism: *Homo sapiens*
Synthesized region: (Hisx6)-(Gly-Ser)-2(10)Asp-140(148)Ala
Length: 148 a.a.
Molecular weight: 15,427 Da

Tag	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	GC(%)
	Met	His	His	His	His	His	His	Gly	Ser	1-9 a.a.
GC	atg	cac	cac	cac	cac	cac	cac	ggt	tct	59%
AT	atg	cct	cct	cct	cct	cct	cct	ggt	tct	37%



-KSF; Quality of DNA-

#	Construct	Size (bp)	Elegen's ENFINIA DNA	Supplier B	Supplier C
			Format	Format	Format
1	HisTEV-sfGFP(G4Y)-PPG-FLAG	978	Linear dsDNA	N/A	Linear dsDNA
2	HisTEV-PPG-sfGFP(G4Y)-FLAG	978	Linear dsDNA	N/A	Linear dsDNA
3	HisTEV-sfGFP(G4Y)-FLAG	888	Linear dsDNA	Linear dsDNA	Linear dsDNA
4	sfGFP(G4Y)-FLAG	840	Linear dsDNA	Linear dsDNA	Linear dsDNA

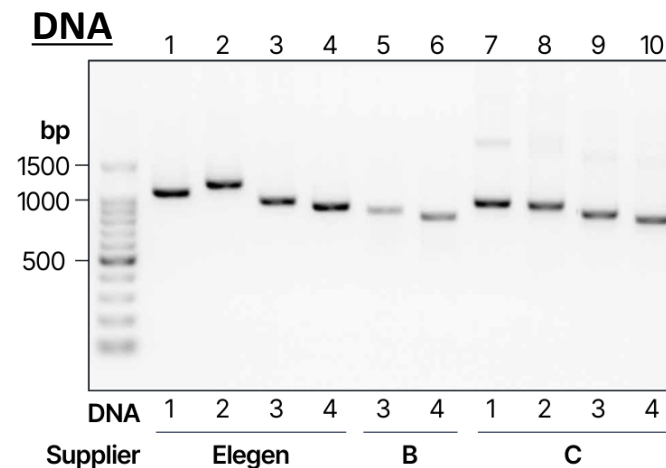
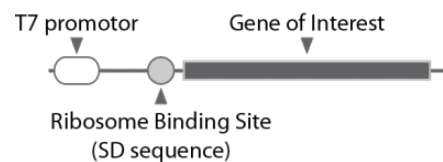
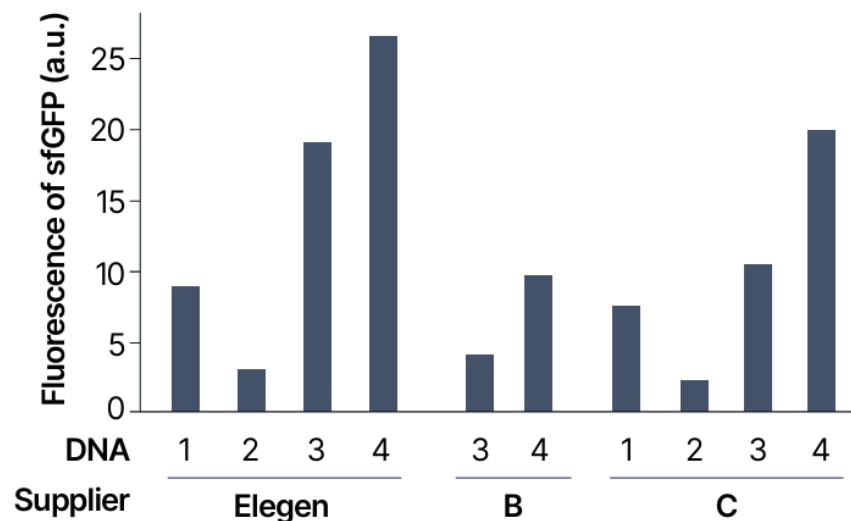
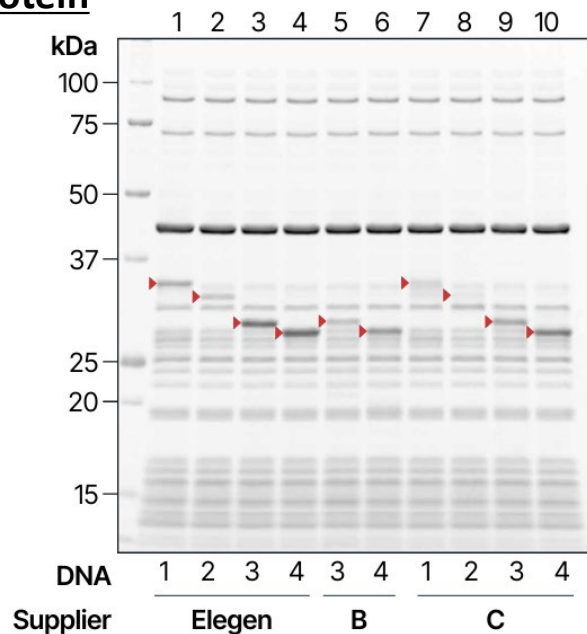


Figure 1. Analysis of DNA synthesized by three vendors. DNA synthesized by Elegen (Supplier A), Supplier B, and Supplier C was quantified using a Qubit Fluorometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis.

Protein



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