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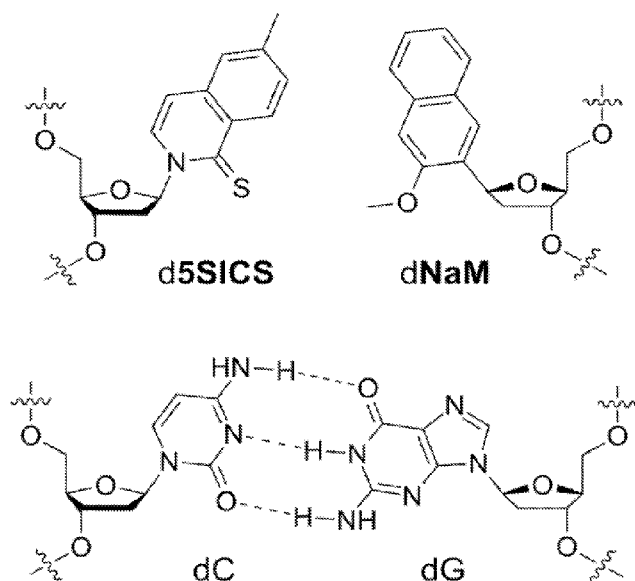
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(54) **Title:** IMPORT OF UNNATURAL OR MODIFIED NUCLEOSIDE TRIPHOSPHATES INTO CELLS VIA NUCLEIC ACID
TRIPHOSPHATE TRANSPORTERS

FIG. 1



(57) **Abstract:** A recombinantly expressed nucleotide triphosphate transporter efficiently imports the triphosphates of unnatural nucleotides into cells, and the endogenous cellular machinery incorporates those nucleotides into cellular nucleic acids. UBPs can therefore form within the cell's nucleic acids. Moreover, neither the presence of the unnatural triphosphates nor the replication of the UBP represents a significant growth burden. The UBP is not efficiently excised by nucleic acid repair pathways, and therefore can be retained as long as the unnatural triphosphates are available in the growth medium. Thus, the resulting cell is the first organism to stably propagate an expanded genetic alphabet.



— *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*

IMPORT OF UNNATURAL OR MODIFIED NUCLEOSIDE TRIPHOSPHATES INTO CELLS VIA NUCLEIC ACID TRIPHOSPHATE TRANSPORTERS

CROSS-REFERENCE

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/977,439, filed April 9, 2014, and U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 61/977,430, filed April 9, 2014, which are all incorporated by reference in their entirety.

STATEMENT AS TO FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

[0002] This invention was made with government support under GM060005 awarded by National Institutes of Health. The government has certain rights in the invention.

REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING

[0003] The instant application contains a Sequence Listing which has been submitted in ASCII format via EFS-Web and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Said ASCII copy, created on April 9, 2015, is named 46085_701_601_Seqlist_ST25.txt and is 96KB in size.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Large amounts of genetic information essential for vital activities of living organisms are recorded as sequences comprised of nucleic acid nucleobases. Unlike proteins which are composed of 20 types of amino acids, the chemical and physical diversity of nucleic acids is limited by only 4 bases (2 base pairs) in natural nucleic acids. Such nucleic acids allow self-replication using itself as a template and transmission of genetic information from DNA to DNA, from DNA to RNA, and/or from RNA to protein. Natural nucleotides pair through two or three hydrogen bonds (A:T/U, G:C) and this pairing enables replication and transmission of the genetic information. *In vitro*, the natural two-letter genetic alphabet has been expanded with chemically synthesized unnatural nucleotides that form unnatural base pairs (UBPs).

[0005] To create an organism with an expanded genetic alphabet, the unnatural nucleoside triphosphates must first be available inside the cell. It has been suggested that this might be accomplished by passive diffusion of free nucleosides into the cytoplasm followed by their conversion to the corresponding triphosphate via the nucleoside salvage pathway. Some unnatural nucleic acids are phosphorylated by the nucleoside kinase from *D. melanogaster*, and monophosphate kinases appear to be more specific. However, *E. coli* over-expression of endogenous nucleoside diphosphate kinase results in poor cellular growth.

[0006] Benner et al. have designed novel base pairs based on different hydrogen-bonding combinations from natural base pairs, e.g., isoG:isoC and κ :X base pairs (Piccirilli et al., 1990; Piccirilli et al., 1991; Switzer et al., 1993). However, isoG forms a base pair with T through keto-enol tautomerism between 1- and 2-positions; isoC and K are not substrates of polymerases

due to an amino group substitution at the 2-position; and nucleoside derivatives of isoC are chemically unstable.

[0007] Base pairs that have hydrogen-bonding patterns different from those of natural base pairing and that are capable of eliminating base pairing with natural bases by steric hindrance have also been developed. For example, Ohtsuki et al. (2001) and Hirao et al. (2002) designed 2-amino-6-dimethylaminopurine (**X**), 2-amino-6-thienylpurine (**S**), and pyridin-2-one (**Y**).

However, the incorporation of **Y** opposite **X** showed low selectivity.

[0008] Kool et al. synthesized **A** and **T** derivatives (4-methylbenzimidazole (**Z**) and 9-methyl-1-H-imidazo[(4,5)-b]pyridine (**Q**), respectively) lacking hydrogen bonding,. These base pairs were found to be incorporated into DNA in a complementary manner by the Klenow fragment of *E. coli*-derived DNA polymerase I. Other base pairs including **A:F**, **Q:T** and **Z:T** are also shown to be incorporated [Morales & Kool, 1999]. Other examples include 7-(2-thienyl)-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine (**Ds**) and pyrrole-2-carbaldehyde (**Pa**).

[0009] In an effort to develop an orthogonal third base pair, over 100 hydrophobic bases have been designed, synthesized as the triphosphate and phosphoramidite, and characterized in Floyd Romesberg's laboratory. A large number of hydrophobic base pairs have also been generated, including pyrrolopyridine (**PP**) and C3-methylisocarbostyryl (**MICS**) (Wu et al., 2000).

However, these bases paired with each other independently of shape fitting, resulting in **PP:PP** and **MICS:MICS** incorporation into DNA; and elongation did not substantially proceed after incorporation of such base combinations formed without any shape fitting. Neither H-bonding nor a large aromatic surface area was found to be required for base pair stability in duplex DNA or polymerase mediated replication for some UBPs, *e.g.*, a 3-fluorobenzene (**3FB**) self-pair.

[0010] The development of a third, unnatural DNA base pair, and an expanded genetic alphabet, is a central goal of synthetic and chemical biology and would increase the functional diversity of nucleic acids, provide tools for their site-specific labeling, increase the information potential of DNA, and lay the foundation of a semi-synthetic organism. Described herein is a newly developed class of UBPs that is formed between nucleotides bearing hydrophobic nucleobases (exemplified by the pair formed between d**5SICS** and d**NaM** (d**5SICS**-d**NaM**)), which is efficiently PCR amplified and transcribed, and whose unique mechanism of replication has been thoroughly characterized through kinetic (Lavergne et al., Chem. Eur. J. (2012) 18:1231-1239; Seo et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. (2009) 131:3246-3252) and structural studies (Betz et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. (2013) 135:18637-18643; Malyshevet al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (2012) 109:12005-12010). Until now, no living organisms capable of incorporation and propagation of unnatural information existed.

[0011] The limitation of having only four different base components (nucleotides) in standard nucleic acids restricts their functions and potential, as compared to the 20 different amino acids in natural proteins. The UBPs and cells stably incorporating the UBPs described herein offer numerous advantages and can be applied to a broad range of biotechnologies. Having a third base pair that replicates in the ranges of natural ones could significantly increase the information density in the same length of DNA and make DNA a more attractive alternative for information storage. More importantly, a third UBP could expand coding of DNA for unnatural amino acids, providing access to proteins (including protein therapeutics) with unique properties not available using the 20 natural ones.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Provided herein, is a cell comprising a first unnatural nucleic acid, wherein the first unnatural nucleic acid is an imported unnatural nucleic acid.

[0013] In some embodiments, the cell further comprises an unnatural base pair (UBP), wherein the UBP is formed within the cell.

[0014] In some embodiments, the UBP comprises the first unnatural nucleic acid.

[0015] In some embodiments, the cell comprises an expanded genetic alphabet.

[0016] In some embodiments, the expanded genetic alphabet comprises the UBP.

[0017] In some embodiments, the UBP is incorporated into a nucleic acid of the cell.

[0018] In some embodiments, the UBP is stably incorporated into a nucleic acid of the cell.

[0019] In some embodiments, the UBP is not efficiently recognized by a DNA repair pathway of the cell.

[0020] In some embodiments, the UBP comprises the first unnatural nucleic acid.

[0021] In some embodiments, the cell further comprises a heterologous nucleic acid.

[0022] In some embodiments, the heterologous nucleic acid encodes for a nucleotide triphosphate transporter (NTT), a polymerase, or a combination thereof.

[0023] In some embodiments, the heterologous nucleic acid encodes for an NTT.

[0024] In some embodiments, the cell further comprises at least one template UBP comprising a first unnatural template nucleic acid.

[0025] In some embodiments, the first unnatural template nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the first unnatural nucleic acid.

[0026] In some embodiments, the base pairing comprises hydrophobic base pairing.

[0027] In some embodiments, the base pairing does not comprise hydrogen bonding.

[0028] In some embodiments, the cell imports the first unnatural nucleic acid.

[0029] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT transports the first unnatural nucleic acid into the cell.

[0030] In some embodiments, the cell comprises enhanced import of an unnatural nucleotide, enhanced incorporation of an unnatural nucleotide into a nucleic acid of the cell, or decreased degradation of an unnatural nucleic acid in comparison to a respective wild type cell.

[0031] In some embodiments, the cell comprises enhanced import of the first unnatural nucleic acid in comparison to a cell without the heterologous NTT.

[0032] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT is bound to the first unnatural nucleic acid

[0033] In some embodiments, the cell further comprises a second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0034] In some embodiments, the cell imports the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0035] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT transports the second unnatural nucleic acid into the cell.

[0036] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP further comprises a second unnatural template nucleic acid.

[0037] In some embodiments, the second unnatural template nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0038] In some embodiments, the first unnatural template nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the second unnatural template nucleic acid.

[0039] In some embodiments, the first unnatural nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0040] In some embodiments, the first unnatural nucleic acid is different from the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0041] In some embodiments, the first unnatural nucleic acid is the same as the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0042] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP comprises at least about 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, or 1000 template UBPs.

[0043] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP is present in at least one heterologous nucleic acid.

[0044] In some embodiments, the at least one heterologous nucleic acid comprises at least about 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, or 1000 heterologous nucleic acids.

[0045] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP is introduced into the cell by transfection, lipofection, injection, viral vector, or electroporation.

[0046] In some embodiments, the UBP comprises the first unnatural template nucleic acid.

[0047] In some embodiments, the UBP comprises the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[0048] In some embodiments, the UBP comprising the second unnatural nucleic acid comprises the second unnatural template nucleic acid.

[0049] In some embodiments, the UBP comprises at least 2 UBPs.

[0050] In some embodiments, the at least 2 UBPs comprise at least 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, or 1000 UBPs.

[0051] In some embodiments, the at least 2 UBPs comprise a first UBP and a second UBP, wherein the first UBP comprises: the first unnatural nucleic acid and the first unnatural template nucleic acid or the first unnatural nucleic acid and the second unnatural template nucleic acid; and wherein the second UBP comprises: the second unnatural nucleic acid and the second unnatural template nucleic acid, or the second unnatural nucleic acid and the first unnatural template nucleic acid; or any combination thereof.

[0052] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP is formed outside of the cell.

[0053] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is a deoxyribonucleoside.

[0054] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is a ribonucleoside.

[0055] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is a nucleoside triphosphate.

[0056] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid comprises a modified sugar group

[0057] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of any one of those listed in Appendix A, and any combination thereof.

[0058] In some embodiments, the cell comprises at least one genetic modification.

[0059] In some embodiments, the at least one genetic modification comprises a heterologous polymerase, a mutant polymerase, a disruption in a nucleotidase of the cell, a disruption of a phosphatase of the cell, or a combination thereof.

[0060] In some embodiments, the cell is in contact with a phosphatase inhibitor or a nucleotidase inhibitor.

[0061] In some embodiments, the cell is a prokaryotic cell.

[0062] In some embodiments, the cell is from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, *Thalassiosira pseudonana* or *Protochlamydia amoebophila*.

[0063] In some embodiments, the cell is a eukaryotic cell.

[0064] In some embodiments, the cell is *E. coli*.

[0065] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT is from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (Pt) NTT2, *Thalassiosira pseudonana* (Tp) NTT2, *Protochlamydia amoebophila* (Pam) NTT2, *Protochlamydia amoebophila* (Pam) NTT5, or a combination thereof.

[0066] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT is a nucleotide transporter 1 (NTT1), nucleotide transporter 2 (NTT2), nucleotide transporter 3 (NTT3), nucleotide transporter 4 (NTT4), nucleotide transporter 5 (NTT5), nucleotide transporter 6 (NTT6), nucleotide transporter 7 (NTT7), nucleotide transporter 8 (NTT8), or a combination thereof.

[0067] In some embodiments, the UBP is not efficiently removed by the cell.

[0068] In some embodiments, the removal comprises 3'-5' nuclease activity.

[0069] In some embodiments, the removal comprises nucleotide excision by the cell.

[0070] In some embodiments, the UBP is not efficiently removed from the cell after growth for about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, or 50 or more duplications.

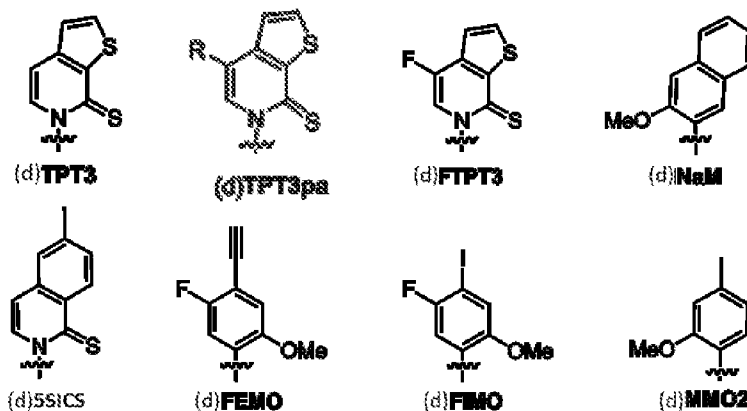
[0071] In some embodiments, the UBP is not efficiently removed from the cell after growth for about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24 hours; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31 days; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 months; or 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50 years of growth.

[0072] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid comprises an unnatural base.

[0073] In some embodiments, the unnatural base is selected from the group consisting of 2-aminoadenin-9-yl, 2-aminoadenine, 2-F-adenine, 2-thiouracil, 2-thio-thymine, 2-thiocytosine, 2-propyl and alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-amino-adenine, 2-amino-propyl-adenine, 2-aminopyridine, 2-pyridone, 2'-deoxyuridine, 2-amino-2'-deoxyadenosine 3-deazaguanine, 3-deazaadenine, 4-thio-uracil, 4-thio-thymine, uracil-5-yl, hypoxanthin-9-yl (I), 5-methyl-cytosine, 5-hydroxymethyl cytosine, xanthine, hypoxanthine, 5-bromo, and 5-trifluoromethyl uracils and cytosines; 5-halouracil, 5-halocytosine, 5-propynyl-uracil, 5-propynyl cytosine, 5-uracil, 5-substituted, 5-halo, 5-substituted pyrimidines, 5-hydroxycytosine, 5-bromocytosine, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorocytosine, chlorinated cytosine, cyclocytosine, cytosine arabinoside, 5-fluorocytosine, fluoropyrimidine, fluorouracil, 5,6-dihydrocytosine, 5-iodocytosine, hydroxyurea, iodouracil, 5-nitrocytosine, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-fluorouracil, and 5-iodouracil, 6-alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 6-azapyrimidines, 6-azo-uracil, 6-azocytosine, azacytosine, 6-azo-thymine, 6-thio-guanine, 7-methylguanine, 7-methyladenine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deazaguanosine, 7-deaza-adenine, 7-deaza-8-azaguanine, 8-azaguanine, 8-azaadenine, 8-halo, 8-amino, 8-thiol, 8-thioalkyl, and 8-hydroxyl substituted adenines and guanines; N4-ethylcytosine, N-2 substituted purines, N-6 substituted purines, O-6 substituted purines, those that increase the stability of duplex formation, universal nucleic acids,

hydrophobic nucleic acids, promiscuous nucleic acids, size-expanded nucleic acids, fluorinated nucleic acids, tricyclic pyrimidines, phenoxazine cytidine([5,4-b][1,4]benzoxazin-2(3H)-one), phenothiazine cytidine (1H- pyrimido[5,4-b][1,4]benzothiazin-2(3H)-one), G-clamps, phenoxazine cytidine (9-(2-aminoethoxy)-H-pyrimido[5,4-b][1,4]benzoxazin-2(3H)-one), carbazole cytidine (2H-pyrimido[4,5- b]indol-2-one), pyridoindole cytidine (H-pyrido [3',2':4,5]pyrrolo [2,3-d]pyrimidin-2-one), 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-iodouracil, hypoxanthine, xanthine, 4-acetylcytosine, 5-(carboxyhydroxymethyl) uracil, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyl-2-thiouridine, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyluracil, dihydrouracil, beta-D-galactosylqueosine, inosine, N6-isopentenyladenine, 1-methylguanine, 1-methylinosine, 2,2-dimethylguanine, 2-methyladenine, 2-methylguanine, 3-methylcytosine, 5-methylcytosine, N6-adenine, 7-methylguanine, 5-methylaminomethyluracil, 5-methoxyaminomethyl-2-thiouracil, beta-D-mannosylqueosine, 5'-methoxycarboxymethyluracil, 5-methoxyuracil, 2-methylthio-N6-isopentenyladenine, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid, wybutosine, pseudouracil, queosine, 2-thiocytosine, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, 5-methyluracil, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid methylester, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 3-(3-amino-3-N-2-carboxypropyl) uracil, (acp3)w, and 2,6-diaminopurine and those in which the purine or pyrimidine base is replaced with a heterocycle.

[0074] In some embodiments, the unnatural base is selected from the group consisting of



wherein R is a functional group.

[0075] In some embodiments, the functional group is selected from the group consisting of an affinity tag such as biotin, fluorophore, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, halo, hydroxyl, carbonyl, aldehyde, haloformyl, carbonate ester, carboxylate, carboxyl, ester, methoxy, hydroperoxy, peroxy, ether, hemiacetal, hemiketal, acetal, ketal, orthoester, methylenedioxy, orthocarbonate ester, carboxamide, primary amine, secondary amine, tertiary amine, primary ketamine, secondary ketamine, primary aldimine, secondary aldimine, imide, azide, azo, cyanate, isocyanate, nitrate, nitrile, isonitrile, nitrosooxy, nitro, nitroso, pyridyl, sulfhydryl,

sulfide, disulfide, sulfinyl, sulfinio, sulfo, thiocyanate, isothiocyanate, carbonothioyl, phosino, phosphono, phosphate, borono, boronate, borino, borinate, and combinations thereof.

[0076] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid comprises an unnatural sugar moiety.

[0077] In some embodiments, the unnatural sugar moiety is selected from the group consisting of a modification at the 2' position: OH; substituted lower alkyl, alkaryl, aralkyl, O-alkaryl or O-aralkyl, SH, SCH₃, OCN, Cl, Br, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, SOCH₃, SO₂CH₃, ONO₂, NO₂, N₃, NH₂F; O-alkyl, S-alkyl, N-alkyl; O-alkenyl, S-alkenyl, N-alkenyl; O-alkynyl, S-alkynyl, N-alkynyl; O-alkyl-O-alkyl, 2'-F, 2'-OCH₃, 2'-O(CH₂)₂OCH₃ wherein the alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl may be substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀, alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, -O[(CH₂)_nO]_mCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nOCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nNH₂, -O(CH₂)_nCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nONH₂, and -O(CH₂)_nON[(CH₂)_nCH₃]₂, where n and m are from 1 to about 10; and/or a modification at the 5' position: 5'-vinyl, 5'-methyl (R or S), a modification at the 4' position, 4'-S, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkaryl, aminoalkylamino, polyalkylamino, substituted silyl, an RNA cleaving group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a group for improving the pharmacokinetic properties of an oligonucleotide, or a group for improving the pharmacodynamic properties of an oligonucleotide, and any combination thereof.

[0078] In some embodiments, the unnatural nucleic acid comprises an unnatural backbone.

[0079] In some embodiments, the unnatural backbone is selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, chiral phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, phosphotriester, aminoalkylphosphotriester, C₁-C₁₀ phosphonates, 3'-alkylene phosphonate, chiral phosphonates, phosphinates, phosphoramidates, 3'-amino phosphoramidate, aminoalkylphosphoramidates, thionophosphoramidates, thionoalkylphosphonates, thionoalkylphosphotriesters, and boranophosphates.

[0080] In some embodiments, the cell is in contact with a natural nucleic acid.

[0081] In some embodiments, the natural nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of ATP, UTP, CTP, GTP, ADP, UDP, CDP, GDP, AMP, UMP, CMP, GMP, dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP, dADP, dTDP, dCDP, dGDP, dAMP, dTMP, dCMP, dGMP, dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP, dADP, dTDP, dCDP, dGDP, dAMP, dTMP, dCMP, dGMP, and any combination thereof.

[0082] In some embodiments, the natural nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of ATP, UTP, CTP, GTP, and any combination thereof.

[0083] In some embodiments, the NTT is from a bacterium.

[0084] In some embodiments, the bacterium is *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, *Thalassiosira pseudonana*, or *Protochlamydia amoebophila*.

[0085] In some embodiments, the NTT comprises an amino acid sequence with at least about 60% identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 24.

[0086] In some embodiments, the NTT is encoded by a nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence with at least about 60% identity to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 24.

[0087] In some embodiments, the NTT is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence with at least about 60% identical to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, or 28.

[0088] In some embodiments, the cell comprises a vector comprising the heterologous nucleic acid.

[0089] In some embodiments, the heterologous nucleic acid is incorporated into the genome of the cell.

[0090] In some embodiments, the heterologous nucleic acid encodes for a polymerase.

[0091] In some embodiments, the polymerase is a mesophilic polymerase or a thermophilic polymerase.

[0092] In some embodiments, the polymerase is altered.

[0093] In some embodiments, the polymerase is 3'-5' exonuclease-deficient.

[0094] In some embodiments, the polymerase is selected from the group consisting DNA polymerase, RNA polymerase, and reverse transcriptase.

[0095] In some embodiments, the polymerase is selected from the group consisting of Φ 29, B103, GA-1, PZA, Φ 15, BS32, M2Y, Nf, G1, Cp-1, PRD1, PZE, SF5, Cp-5, Cp-7, PR4, PR5, PR722, L17, ThermoSequenase®, 9°Nm™, Terminator™, Tne, Tma, Tfl, Tth, Tli, Stoffel fragment, Vent™ and Deep Vent™ DNA polymerase, KOD DNA polymerase, Tgo, JDF-3, Pfu, Taq, T7 DNA polymerase, PGB-D, UITma DNA polymerase, *E. coli* DNA polymerase I, archaeal DP11/DP2 DNA polymerase II, 9°N DNA Polymerase, Taq DNA polymerase, Phusion® DNA polymerase, Pfu DNA polymerase, and RB69 DNA polymerase.

[0096] In some embodiments, the polymerase is a reverse transcriptase from a retrovirus.

[0097] In some embodiments, the retrovirus is from HIV, HTLV-I, HTLV-II, FeLV, FIV, SIV, AMV, MMTV, or MoMuLV.

[0098] In some embodiments, the alteration comprises an alteration arising from directed evolution.

[0099] In some embodiments, the cell further comprises an alteration in a homologous nucleic acid.

[00100] In some embodiments, the homologous nucleic acid encodes for a nucleotidase, a nucleotide phosphatase, or a combination thereof.

[00101] In some embodiments, the homologous nucleic acid comprises a gene that encodes for a nucleotide phosphatase, and wherein the nucleotide phosphatase is selected from the group consisting of: polynucleotide phosphatase; nucleotide phosphatase activity, acting on free nucleotides; nucleotide triphosphatase apyrase; ATP-diphosphatase; adenosine diphosphatase; ADPase; ATP diphosphohydrolase nucleoside diphosphate phosphatase; nucleoside-diphosphatase; thiaminpyrophosphatase; UDPase; inosine diphosphatase; adenosine diphosphatase; IDPase; ADPase; adenosinepyrophosphatase; guanosine diphosphatase; guanosine 5'-diphosphatase; inosine 5'-diphosphatase; uridine diphosphatase; uridine 5'-diphosphatase; type B nucleoside diphosphatase; GDPase; CDPase; nucleoside 5'-diphosphatase; type L nucleoside diphosphatase; NDPase; nucleoside diphosphate phosphohydrolase; and any combination thereof.

[00102] In some embodiments, the homologous nucleic acid encodes for a nucleotide phosphatase, and wherein the nucleotide phosphatase is selected from the group consisting of any of those listed in Table 4 or 5.

[00103] In some embodiments, the homologous nucleic acid encodes for a nucleotidase, and wherein the nucleotidase, is selected from the group consisting of a 5'-nucleotidase, 3'-nucleotidase, or a combination thereof.

[00104] In some embodiments, the homologous nucleic acid encodes for a nucleotidase, and wherein the nucleotidase, is selected from the group consisting of any of those listed in Table 2 or 3.

[00105] In some embodiments, the alteration comprises a loss or decrease of function of a gene encoded by the homologous nucleic acid.

[00106] In some embodiments, the alteration comprises an alteration arising from directed evolution.

[00107] In some embodiments, the cell is in contact with a phosphatase or a nucleotidase inhibitor.

[00108] In some embodiments, the phosphatase or nucleotidase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of Sodium Fluoride, Sodium Orthovanadate, beta-Glycerophosphate, pyrophosphate and salts thereof, potassium phosphate (KPi), Phosphate (Pi), Oligomycin, pyrophosphate (PPi) anions, ammonium ions inositol hexaphosphate, and combinations thereof.

[00109] In some embodiments, the phosphatase or nucleotidase inhibitor is present at a concentration of from 0.1 μ M to 500 mM, 0.1 mM to 500 mM, 0.2 mM to 250 mM, 0.25 mM to 200 mM, 1.0 mM to 150 mM, 2.5 mM to 125 mM, 5 mM to 100 mM, 25 mM to 75 mM, or 40 mM to 60 mM.

[00110] In some aspects, provided herein is a method for producing a genetically modified cell comprising: providing a cell exhibiting a wild type level of import of a first unnatural nucleotide; and introducing a heterologous NTT into the cell, thereby enhancing the level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide in comparison the level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide into the cell that exhibits a wild type level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide.

[00111] In some embodiments, the cell that exhibits a wild type level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide does not comprise the heterologous NTT.

[00112] In some embodiments, the method further comprises contacting the cell comprising a heterologous NTT with the first unnatural nucleotide.

[00113] In some aspects, provided herein is a method incorporating an unnatural nucleic acid into a cell, comprising contacting a cell comprising a heterologous NTT with a first unnatural nucleic acid; and cultivating the cell for a period of time; wherein the heterologous NTT transports the first unnatural nucleic acid into the cell

[00114] In some aspects, provided herein is a method for genetically engineering a cell comprising: contacting a cell comprising a heterologous NTT with a liquid, the liquid comprising a concentration of an unnatural nucleic acid, and a concentration of a natural nucleic acid; cultivating the cell for a period of time; increasing the ratio of the concentration of the unnatural nucleic acid to the concentration of the natural nucleic acid; and repeating (b) and (c) one or more times.

[00115] In some embodiments, after one or more repeats of (b) and (c), the cell comprises enhanced import of an unnatural nucleotide, enhanced incorporation of an unnatural nucleotide into a nucleic acid of the cell, or decreased degradation of an unnatural nucleic acid in comparison to the respective wild type cell.

[00116] In some embodiments, the cell comprising the heterologous NTT further comprises at least one template UBP comprising a first unnatural template nucleic acid.

[00117] In some embodiments, the first unnatural template nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the first unnatural nucleic acid.

[00118] In some aspects, provided herein is a method of making a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet, comprising: contacting a first unnatural nucleic acid to a cell, the cell comprising a heterologous NTT, and at least one template UBP comprising an unnatural template nucleic acid; and cultivating the cell for a period of time, wherein the unnatural template nucleic acid base is capable of base pairing with the first unnatural nucleic acid.

[00119] In some embodiments, the cell comprising the heterologous NTT comprises enhanced import of the first unnatural nucleic acid in comparison to a cell without the heterologous NTT.

[00120] In some embodiments, a UBP is formed within the cell comprising the heterologous NTT.

[00121] In some embodiments, the UBP formed within the cell comprises the imported first unnatural nucleic acid.

[00122] In some embodiments, the method further comprises determining the presence of the UBP comprising the imported first unnatural nucleic acid.

[00123] In some embodiments, the method further comprises isolating the UBP comprising the first unnatural nucleic acid from the cell.

[00124] In some embodiments, the method further comprises determining the amount of the first unnatural nucleic acid present inside the cell.

[00125] In some embodiments, the method further comprises comparing the amount of the first unnatural nucleic acid present inside the cell to the amount of the first unnatural nucleic acid present inside a corresponding wild type cell.

[00126] In some embodiments, the contacting comprises contacting a liquid containing the first unnatural nucleic acid to the cell and wherein the method further comprises determining the amount of the first unnatural nucleic acid present in the liquid after the period of time in comparison to the respective wild type.

[00127] In some embodiments, the period of time is 1 hour or more.

[00128] In some embodiments, the cell comprises at least one genetic modification.

[00129] In some embodiments, the at least one genetic modification comprises a heterologous polymerase, a mutant polymerase, a disruption in a nucleotidase of the cell, a disruption of a phosphatase of the cell, or a combination thereof.

[00130] In some embodiments, the method further comprises adding a phosphatase or a nucleotidase inhibitor.

[00131] In some embodiments, the cell is a prokaryotic cell.

[00132] In some embodiments, the cell is from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, *Thalassiosira pseudonana* or *Protochlamydia amoebophila*.

[00133] In some embodiments, the cell is a eukaryotic cell.

[00134] In some embodiments, the cell is *E. coli*.

[00135] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT is from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (Pt) NTT2, *Thalassiosira pseudonana* (Tp) NTT2, *Protochlamydia amoebophila* (Pam) NTT2, *Protochlamydia amoebophila* (Pam) NTT5, or a combination thereof.

[00136] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT is a nucleotide transporter 1 (NTT1), nucleotide transporter 2 (NTT2), nucleotide transporter 3 (NTT3), nucleotide transporter 4

(NTT4), nucleotide transporter 5 (NTT5), nucleotide transporter 6 (NTT6), nucleotide transporter 7 (NTT7), nucleotide transporter 8 (NTT8), or a combination thereof.

[00137] In some embodiments, the method further comprises contacting the cell with a second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00138] In some embodiments, the heterologous NTT transports the second unnatural nucleic acid into the cell.

[00139] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP further comprises a second unnatural template nucleic acid.

[00140] In some embodiments, the first unnatural template nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the second unnatural template nucleic acid.

[00141] In some embodiments, the second unnatural template nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00142] In some embodiments, the first unnatural nucleic acid is capable of base pairing with the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00143] In some embodiments, the first unnatural nucleic acid is different from the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00144] In some embodiments, the first unnatural nucleic acid is the same as the second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00145] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP comprises at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, or 1000 template UBPs.

[00146] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP is present in the cell prior to the contacting with the first or second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00147] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP is present in at least one heterologous nucleic acid.

[00148] In some embodiments, the at least one heterologous nucleic acid comprises at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, or 1000 heterologous nucleic acids.

[00149] In some embodiments, the at least one template UBP is introduced into the cell by transfection, lipofection, injection, viral vector, or electroporation.

[00150] In some embodiments, the cell forms a UBP comprising the imported first unnatural nucleic acid.

[00151] In some embodiments, the UBP comprising the imported second unnatural nucleic acid further comprises the first unnatural template nucleic acid.

[00152] In some embodiments, the cell forms a UBP comprising the imported second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00153] In some embodiments, the UBP comprising the imported second unnatural nucleic acid further comprises the second unnatural template nucleic acid.

[00154] In some embodiments, the cell forms a UBP comprising the imported first unnatural nucleic acid and the imported second unnatural nucleic acid.

[00155] In some embodiments, the UBP is formed within the cell.

[00156] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is a deoxyribonucleoside.

[00157] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is a ribonucleoside.

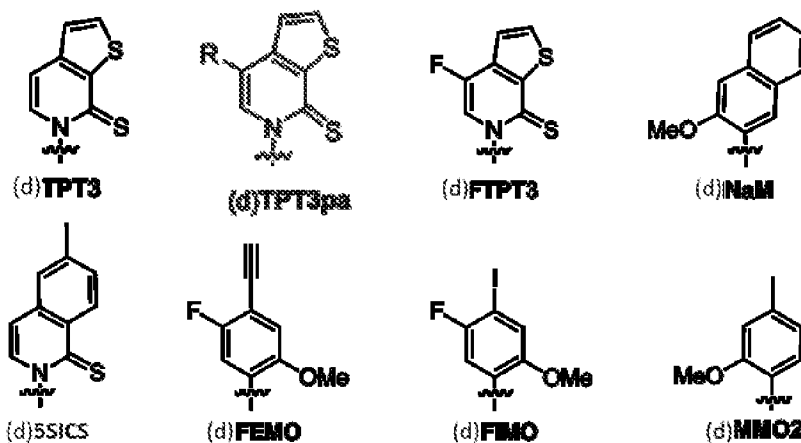
[00158] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is a nucleoside triphosphate.

[00159] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid comprises a modified sugar group.

[00160] In some embodiments, the unnatural sugar moiety is selected from the group consisting of a modification at the 2' position: OH; substituted lower alkyl, alkaryl, aralkyl, O-alkaryl or O-aralkyl, SH, SCH₃, OCN, Cl, Br, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, SOCH₃, SO₂CH₃, ONO₂, NO₂, N₃, NH₂F; O-alkyl, S-alkyl, N-alkyl; O-alkenyl, S-alkenyl, N-alkenyl; O-alkynyl, S-alkynyl, N-alkynyl; O-alkyl-O-alkyl, 2'-F, 2'-OCH₃, 2'-O(CH₂)₂OCH₃ wherein the alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl may be substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀, alkyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl, -O[(CH₂)_nO]_mCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nOCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nNH₂, -O(CH₂)_nCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nONH₂, and -O(CH₂)_nON[(CH₂)_nCH₃]₂, where n and m are from 1 to about 10; and/or a modification at the 5' position: 5'-vinyl, 5'-methyl (R or S), a modification at the 4' position, 4'-S, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkaryl, aminoalkylamino, polyalkylamino, substituted silyl, an RNA cleaving group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a group for improving the pharmacokinetic properties of an oligonucleotide, or a group for improving the pharmacodynamic properties of an oligonucleotide, and any combination thereof.

[00161] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid comprises a modified base group.

[00162] In some embodiments, the modified base group is selected from the group consisting of



wherein R is a functional group.

[00163] In some embodiments, the functional group is selected from the group consisting of an affinity tag such as biotin, flourophore, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benyl, halo, hydroxyl, carbonyl, aldehyde, haloformyl, carbonate ester, carboxylate, carboxyl, ester, methoxy, hydroperoxy, peroxy, ether, hemiacetal, hemiketal, acetal, ketal, orthoester, methylenedioxy, orthocarbonate ester, carboxamide, primary amine, secondary amine, tertiary amine, primary ketamine, secondary ketamine, primary aldimine, secondary aldimine, imide, azide, azo, cyanate, isocyanate, nitrate, nitrile, isonitrile, nitrosooxy, nitro, nitroso, pyridyl, sulfhydryl, sulfide, disulfide, sulfinyl, sulfino, sulfo, thiocyanate, isothiocyanate, carbonothioyl, phoshino, phosphono, phosphate, borono, boronate, borino, borinate, and combinations thereof.

[00164] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid comprises an unnatural backbone.

[00165] In some embodiments, the unnatural backbone is selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate, chiral phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, phosphotriester, aminoalkylphosphotriester, C₁-C₁₀ phosphonates, 3'-alkylene phosphonate, chiral phosphonates, phosphinates, phosphoramidates, 3'-amino phosphoramidate, aminoalkylphosphoramidates, thionophosphoramidates, thionoalkylphosphonates, thionoalkylphosphotriesters, and boranophosphates.

[00166] In some embodiments, the method further comprises contacting the cell with one or more natural nucleotide triphosphates.

[00167] In some embodiments, the one or more natural nucleotide triphosphates comprise dATP, dTTP, ATP, TTP, UTP, or any mixture thereof.

[00168] In some embodiments, the first or second unnatural nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of any one of those listed in Appendix A, and any combination thereof.

[00169] In some aspects, provided herein is an isolated nucleic acid comprising a UBP, wherein the UBP was formed within a cell.

[00170] In some embodiments, the UBP is selected from the group consisting of any one of those listed in Appendix A, and any combination thereof.

[00171] In some aspects, provided herein is an isolated heterologous NTT protein comprising an unnatural nucleic acid bound thereto.

[00172] In some embodiments, the unnatural nucleic acid bound thereto is selected from the group consisting of any one of those listed in Appendix A.

[00173] The details of one or more inventive embodiments are set forth in the accompanying drawings, the claims, and in the description herein. Other features, objects, and advantages of inventive embodiments disclosed and contemplated herein will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

[00174] All publications, patents, and patent applications mentioned in this specification are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication, patent, or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[00175] **Figure 1** shows the structure of d5SICS-dNaM with a natural (dC-dG) base pair shown for comparison.

[00176] **Figure 2** depicts data relating to nucleoside triphosphate stability and import; and a composition analysis of d5SICS, and dNaM nucleotides in the media and cytoplasmic fractions of cells expressing *PtNTT2*. 3P, 2P, 1P and 0P correspond to triphosphate, diphosphate, monophosphate and nucleoside, respectively. [3P] = the total intracellular concentration of triphosphate.

[00177] **Figure 3A** depicts an exemplary pINF construction and scheme of an *in vivo* replication experiment. Regions of homology are depicted by shading. (Y=5SICS and X=NaM). B = biotin.

[00178] **Figure 3B** depicts a growth curve of cells harboring pINF to which d5SICSTP and dNaMTTP have been added. EP = electroporation.

[00179] **Figure 3C** depicts an LC-MS/MS total ion chromatogram of global nucleoside content in pINF and pUC19 recorded in Dynamic Multiple Reaction Monitoring (DMRM) mode. pINF and pUC19 (control) were propagated in *E. coli* in the presence or absence of unnatural triphosphates, and with or without *PtNTT2* induction. The inset shows a 100x expansion of the mass count axis in the d5SICS region.

[00180] **Figure 3D** depicts a gel shift analysis of PCR fragments demonstrating biotinylation in the presence of the UBP, unnatural triphosphates, and transporter induction. B = biotin. SA = streptavidin. A 50 bp DNA ladder is shown to the left.

[00181] **Figure 3E** depicts a Sanger sequencing analysis demonstrating retention of the UBP, as evidenced by an abrupt termination in the sequencing reaction at the position of UBP incorporation (indicated with arrow).

[00182] **Figure 4** depicts data relating to the intracellular stability of the UBP. *E. coli* C41(DE3)-pACS was transformed with pINF and grown after a single dose of d5SICSTP and dNaMTP was provided in the media. UBP retention (squares), OD₆₀₀ (diamonds), and relative amount of d5SICSTP and dNaMTP in the media (*open and closed circles, respectively*; 100% = 0.25 mM), were determined as a function of time.

[00183] **Figure 5** depicts that *PtNTT2* is significantly more active in the uptake of [α -³²P]-dATP compared to other nucleotide transporters. Raw (left) and processed (right) data are shown. Relative radioactivity corresponds to the total number of counts produced by each sample.

[00184] **Figure 6A** depicts HPLC of unnatural triphosphates (3P) of dNaM and d5SICS from growing bacterial culture in the presence or absence of potassium phosphate (KPi).

[00185] **Figure 6B** depicts composition profiles of unnatural triphosphates of dNaM and d5SICS from growing bacterial culture in the presence or absence of KPi.

[00186] **Figure 7A** depicts raw (left) and processed (right) data inhibits the uptake of [α -³²P]-dATP uptake into cells in the presence of the indicated KPi concentrations. The NTT from *Rickettsia prowazekii* (*RpNTT2*) was used as a negative control: its background signal was subtracted from those of *PtNTT2* (black bars) and *TpNTT2* (white bars). Relative radioactivity corresponds to the total number of counts produced by each sample.

[00187] **Figure 7B** depicts a graph showing the % composition of [α -³²P]-dATP in the presence or absence of 50 mM KPi in media from cells expressing the indicated NTTs.

[00188] **Figure 8A** depicts a graph of the total uptake of radioactive substrate (left) and total intracellular triphosphate content (right) at the indicated time points as a function of IPTG concentration. Relative radioactivity corresponds to the total number of counts produced by each sample.

[00189] **Figure 8B** depicts growth curves and [α -³²P]-dATP uptake by bacterial cells transformed with pCDF-1b-*PtNTT2* (pACS) plasmid as a function of IPTG concentration.

[00190] **Figure 9 A** depicts TLC images (bottom) [α -³²P]-dATP in the media as a function of time and their quantifications (top). M refers to a mixture of all three compounds [3P, 2P and 1P] that was used as a TLC standard. The position labeled “Start” corresponds to the position of sample spotting on the TLC plate.

[00191] **Figure 9B** depicts TLC images (bottom) [α -P]-dATP in cell lysates as a function of time and their quantifications (top). M refers to a mixture of all three compounds [3P, 2P and

1P] that was used as a TLC standard. The position labeled “Start” corresponds to the position of sample spotting on the TLC plate.

[00192] **Figure 10** shows schematic representations of the plasmid pINF, constructed from pUC19 by replacing dT₅₀₅ with dNaM, and of the pCDF-1b plasmid encoding *PtNTT2* (pACS). dX and dY correspond to dNaM and a d5SICS analog. cloDF = origin of replication of pCDF-1b plasmid; Sm = streptomycin resistance gene; AmpR = ampicillin resistance gene; ori = ColE1 origin of replication; MCS = multiple cloning site; lacZα = β-galactosidase fragment gene.

[00193] **Figure 11A** illustrates a calibration graph of the streptavidin shift (SAS) as a function of the fraction of template containing the UBP.

[00194] **Figure 11B** illustrates and representative raw data from SAS samples run in triplicate. SA = streptavidin.

[00195] **Figure 12A** depicts graphs of the % of the 3P (black), 2P (dark grey), 1P (light grey), and 0P (white) phosphorylation states of the indicated unnatural nucleoside triphosphates in the composition. The composition at the end of the 1 h recovery is shown at the right of each graph.

[00196] **Figure 12B** depicts a restriction analysis of pINF and pACS plasmids purified from *E. coli*, linearized with NdeI restriction endonuclease, and separated on a 1% agarose gel. For each time point, triplicate data are shown in three lanes with untransformed control shown in the fourth, rightmost lane. Molar ratios of pINF/pACS plasmids are shown at the top of each lane.

[00197] **Figure 12C** depicts a graph showing the number of pINF doublings as a function of time. The decrease starting at ~50 h is due to the loss of the pINF plasmid that also results in increased error.

[00198] **Figures 13 A-H** depict raw sequencing traces for PCR fragments generated from pINF plasmid propagated in *E. coli* at different time points. Triplicate data are shown. The position of the unnatural nucleotide is indicated with an arrow.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[00199] As illustrated herein, d5SICSTP and dNaMTP can be efficiently imported into *E. coli* by the transporter 2 from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (*PtNTT2*), and *E. coli* replication machinery can efficiently incorporate these unnatural triphosphates into DNA within the cellular environment to form unnatural DNA base pairs.

[00200] The present invention is based, in part, on the discovery that particular unnatural base pairs (UBPs) including but not limited to (d)5SICS-(d)NaM and (d)TPT3-(d)NaM can be amplified with natural base pair-like efficiency and fidelity (Malyshev et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA (2012) 109:12005-12010; Li et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. (2014) 136:826-829). Thus, provided herein are methods, compositions, and kits, for increasing the genetic alphabet of cell or an organism. Also, provided herein are compositions, e.g., cells, comprising an expanded

genetic alphabet, *e.g.*, cells that stably propagate an expanded genetic alphabet. Also, provided herein are compositions, *e.g.*, cells, comprising an expanded genetic alphabet, wherein neither the presence of unnatural triphosphates nor the replication of the UBP represents a significant growth burden on the cells.

[00201] In addition, the present invention relates to genetic constructs, modified cells and methods of importing and incorporating natural and unnatural nucleotides into nucleic acids of a living cell. Aspects of the invention facilitate labeling and modification of living cells. Unnatural nucleotides imported into cells by the modified cells and methods described herein can form UBPs *in vivo* and these UBPs can be replicated through one or more replication cycles of the cell. For the first time, a cell that stably incorporates within its cellular nucleic acids, nucleotides other than A, G, T, and C, *e.g.*, (d)5SICS and (d)NaM, is described. Also provided herein are methods of incorporating an unnatural nucleotide into a nucleic acid by using, as a template, a nucleic acid containing a first unnatural nucleotide so that a second unnatural nucleic acid is incorporated at a site complementary to the first unnatural nucleotide. For example, such methods of incorporating an unnatural nucleotide into a nucleic acid can comprise effecting transcription, replication, reverse transcription or translation of unnatural nucleotides into unnatural amino acids.

[00202] Also, provided herein are compositions, *e.g.*, cells, that retain a UBP, *e.g.*, when unnatural triphosphates are available in a growth medium of the cells. The methods, compositions, and kits, can utilize enhanced cellular uptake of nucleic acids, *e.g.*, via enhanced cellular import of nucleic acids. The nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake can be one or more unnatural nucleotides. In some embodiments, nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake can be one or more unnatural nucleotides, and not a natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake can be one or more unnatural nucleotide and one or more natural nucleotides. In some embodiments, nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake can be one or more unnatural nucleotide and one or more first natural nucleotides, but not one or more second natural nucleotides. In some embodiments, nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake can be one or more first unnatural nucleotide and one or more natural nucleotides, but not one or more second unnatural nucleotides.

[00203] The methods, compositions, and kits, can utilize one or more endogenous or exogenous enzymes to stably integrate unnatural nucleic acids, *e.g.*, unnatural nucleoside triphosphates. The methods, compositions, and kits, can utilize one or more endogenous or exogenous enzymes to copy a homologous nucleic acid to form a nucleic acid comprising an unnatural nucleic acid. For example, endogenous or exogenous enzymes, *e.g.*, endogenous or exogenous polymerases, can be utilized to replicate genomic DNA to form a containing a UBP

within a cell. The methods, compositions, and kits, can utilize one or more endogenous or exogenous enzymes to copy a cellular nucleic acid comprising a UBP to form a nucleic acid copy comprising an unnatural nucleic acid. For example, endogenous or exogenous polymerases can be utilized to replicate genomic DNA containing a UBP within a cell. The methods, compositions, and kits, can also utilize a UBP that is not efficiently excised by DNA repair pathways.

Nucleic Acids

[00204] A nucleic acid (*e.g.*, also referred to herein as target nucleic acid, target nucleotide sequence, nucleic acid sequence of interest or nucleic acid region of interest) can be from any source or composition, such as DNA, cDNA, gDNA (genomic DNA), RNA, siRNA (short inhibitory RNA), RNAi, tRNA or mRNA, for example, and can be in any form (*e.g.*, linear, circular, supercoiled, single-stranded, double-stranded, and the like). Nucleic acids can comprise nucleotides, nucleosides, or polynucleotides. Nucleic acids can comprise natural and unnatural nucleic acids. A nucleic acid can also comprise unnatural nucleic acids, such as DNA or RNA analogs (*e.g.*, containing base analogs, sugar analogs and/or a non-native backbone and the like). It is understood that the term “nucleic acid” does not refer to or infer a specific length of the polynucleotide chain, thus polynucleotides and oligonucleotides are also included in the definition. Exemplary natural nucleotides include, without limitation, ATP, UTP, CTP, GTP, ADP, UDP, CDP, GDP, AMP, UMP, CMP, GMP, dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP, dADP, dTDP, dCDP, dGDP, dAMP, dTMP, dCMP, and dGMP. Exemplary natural deoxyribonucleotides include dATP, dTTP, dCTP, dGTP, dADP, dTDP, dCDP, dGDP, dAMP, dTMP, dCMP, and dGMP. Exemplary natural ribonucleotides include ATP, UTP, CTP, GTP, ADP, UDP, CDP, GDP, AMP, UMP, CMP, and GMP. For RNA, the uracil base is uridine. A nucleic acid sometimes is a vector, plasmid, phage, autonomously replicating sequence (ARS), centromere, artificial chromosome, yeast artificial chromosome (*e.g.*, YAC) or other nucleic acid able to replicate or be replicated in a host cell. An unnatural nucleic acid can be a nucleic acid analogue. An unnatural nucleic acid can be from an extracellular source. An unnatural nucleic acid can be available to the intracellular space of an organism provided herein, *e.g.*, a genetically modified organism.

Unnatural Nucleic Acids

[00205] A nucleotide analog, or unnatural nucleotide, comprises a nucleotide which contains some type of modification to either the base, sugar, or phosphate moieties. A modification can comprise a chemical modification. Modifications may be, for example, of the 3'OH or 5'OH group, of the backbone, of the sugar component, or of the nucleotide base. Modifications may include addition of non-naturally occurring linker molecules and/or of interstrand or intrastrand

cross links. In one aspect, the modified nucleic acid comprises modification of one or more of the 3'OH or 5'OH group, the backbone, the sugar component, or the nucleotide base, and /or addition of non-naturally occurring linker molecules. In one aspect a modified backbone comprises a backbone other than a phosphodiester backbone. In one aspect a modified sugar comprises a sugar other than deoxyribose (in modified DNA) or other than ribose (modified RNA). In one aspect a modified base comprises a base other than adenine, guanine, cytosine or thymine (in modified DNA) or a base other than adenine, guanine, cytosine or uracil (in modified RNA).

[00206] The nucleic acid may comprise at least one modified base. Modifications to the base moiety would include natural and synthetic modifications of A, C, G, and T/U as well as different purine or pyrimidine bases. In some embodiments, a modification is to a modified form of adenine, guanine cytosine or thymine (in modified DNA) or a modified form of adenine, guanine cytosine or uracil (modified RNA).

[00207] A modified base of a unnatural nucleic acid includes but is not limited to uracil-5-yl, hypoxanthin-9-yl (I), 2-aminoadenin-9-yl, 5-methylcytosine (5-me-C), 5-hydroxymethyl cytosine, xanthine, hypoxanthine, 2-aminoadenine, 6-methyl and other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-propyl and other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-thiouracil, 2-thiothymine and 2-thiocytosine, 5-halouracil and cytosine, 5-propynyl uracil and cytosine, 6-azo uracil, cytosine and thymine, 5-uracil (pseudouracil), 4-thiouracil, 8-halo, 8-amino, 8-thiol, 8-thioalkyl, 8-hydroxyl and other 8-substituted adenines and guanines, 5-halo particularly 5-bromo, 5-trifluoromethyl and other 5-substituted uracils and cytosines, 7-methylguanine and 7-methyladenine, 8-azaguanine and 8-azaadenine, 7-deazaguanine and 7-deazaadenine and 3-deazaguanine and 3-deazaadenine. Certain unnatural nucleic acids, such as 5-substituted pyrimidines, 6-azapyrimidines and N-2 substituted purines, N-6 substituted purines, O-6 substituted purines, 2-aminopropyladenine, 5-propynyluracil, 5-propynylcytosine, 5-methylcytosine, those that increase the stability of duplex formation, universal nucleic acids, hydrophobic nucleic acids, promiscuous nucleic acids, size-expanded nucleic acids, fluorinated nucleic acids, 5-substituted pyrimidines, 6-azapyrimidines and N-2, N-6 and O-6 substituted purines, including 2-aminopropyladenine, 5-propynyluracil and 5-propynylcytosine. 5-methylcytosine (5-me-C), 5- hydroxymethyl cytosine, xanthine, hypoxanthine, 2-aminoadenine, 6-methyl, other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-propyl and other alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-thiouracil, 2-thiothymine and 2-thiocytosine, 5-halouracil, 5-halocytosine, 5-propynyl ($-C\equiv C-Cl^{1/4}$) uracil, 5-propynyl cytosine, other alkynyl derivatives of pyrimidine nucleic acids, 6-azo uracil, 6-azo cytosine, 6-azo thymine, 5-uracil (pseudouracil), 4-thiouracil, 8-halo, 8-amino, 8-thiol, 8-thioalkyl, 8-hydroxyl and other 8-substituted adenines and

guanines, 5-halo particularly 5-bromo, 5-trifluoromethyl, other 5-substituted uracils and cytosines, 7-methylguanine, 7-methyladenine, 2-F-adenine, 2-amino-adenine, 8-azaguanine, 8-azaadenine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deazaadenine, 3-deazaguanine, 3-deazaadenine, tricyclic pyrimidines, phenoxazine cytidine ([5,4-b][1,4]benzoxazin-2(3H)-one), phenothiazine cytidine (1H-pyrimido[5,4-b][1,4]benzothiazin-2(3H)-one), G-clamps, phenoxazine cytidine (e.g. 9-(2-aminoethoxy)-H-pyrimido[5,4-b][1,4]benzoxazin-2(3H)-one), carbazole cytidine (2H-pyrimido[4,5-b]indol-2-one), pyridoindole cytidine (H-pyrido[3',2':4,5]pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidin-2-one), those in which the purine or pyrimidine base is replaced with other heterocycles, 7-deaza-adenine, 7-deazaguanosine, 2-aminopyridine, 2-pyridone, azacytosine, 5-bromocytosine, bromouracil, 5-chlorocytosine, chlorinated cytosine, cyclocytosine, cytosine arabinoside, 5-fluorocytosine, fluoropyrimidine, fluorouracil, 5,6-dihydrocytosine, 5-iodocytosine, hydroxyurea, iodouracil, 5-nitrocytosine, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-fluorouracil, and 5-iodouracil, 2-amino-adenine, 6-thio-guanine, 2-thio-thymine, 4-thio-thymine, 5-propynyl-uracil, 4-thio-uracil, N4-ethylcytosine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deaza-8-azaguanine, 5-hydroxycytosine, 2'-deoxyuridine, 2-amino-2'-deoxyadenosine, and those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,687,808; 4,845,205; 4,910,300; 4,948,882; 5,093,232; 5,130,302; 5,134,066; 5,175,273; 5,367,066; 5,432,272; 5,457,187; 5,459,255; 5,484,908; 5,502,177; 5,525,711; 5,552,540; 5,587,469; 5,594,121; 5,596,091; 5,614,617; 5,645,985; 5,681,941; 5,750,692; 5,763,588; 5,830,653 and 6,005,096; WO 99/62923; Kandimalla et al., (2001) Bioorg. Med. Chem. 9:807-813; The Concise Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering, Kroschwitz, J.I., Ed., John Wiley & Sons, 1990, 858-859; Englisch et al., Angewandte Chemie, International Edition, 1991, 30, 613; and Sanghvi, Chapter 15, Antisense Research and Applications, Crooke and Lebleu Eds., CRC Press, 1993, 273-288. Additional base modifications can be found, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 3,687,808; Englisch et al., Angewandte Chemie, International Edition, 1991, 30, 613; and Sanghvi, Chapter 15, Antisense Research and Applications, pages 289-302, Crooke and Lebleu ed., CRC Press, 1993.

[00208] Unnatural nucleic acids comprising various heterocyclic bases and various sugar moieties (and sugar analogs) are available in the art, and the nucleic acid can include one or several heterocyclic bases other than the principal five base components of naturally-occurring nucleic acids. For example, the heterocyclic base may include uracil-5-yl, cytosin-5-yl, adenin-7-yl, adenin-8-yl, guanin-7-yl, guanin-8-yl, 4-aminopyrrolo [2.3-d] pyrimidin-5-yl, 2-amino-4-oxopyrrolo [2, 3-d] pyrimidin-5-yl, 2-amino-4-oxopyrrolo [2.3-d] pyrimidin-3-yl groups, where the purines are attached to the sugar moiety of the nucleic acid via the 9-position, the pyrimidines via the 1-position, the pyrrolopyrimidines via the 7-position and the pyrazolopyrimidines via the 1-position.

[00209] Nucleotide analogs can also be modified at the phosphate moiety. Modified phosphate moieties include but are not limited to those that can be modified so that the linkage between two nucleotides contains a phosphorothioate, chiral phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, phosphotriester, aminoalkylphosphotriester, methyl and other alkyl phosphonates including 3'-alkylene phosphonate and chiral phosphonates, phosphinates, phosphoramidates including 3'-amino phosphoramidate and aminoalkylphosphoramidates, thionophosphoramidates, thionoalkylphosphonates, thionoalkylphosphotriesters, and boranophosphates. It is understood that these phosphate or modified phosphate linkage between two nucleotides can be through a 3'-5' linkage or a 2'-5' linkage, and the linkage can contain inverted polarity such as 3'-5' to 5'-3' or 2'-5' to 5'-2'. Various salts, mixed salts and free acid forms are also included. Numerous United States patents teach how to make and use nucleotides containing modified phosphates and include but are not limited to, 3,687,808; 4,469,863; 4,476,301; 5,023,243; 5,177,196; 5,188,897; 5,264,423; 5,276,019; 5,278,302; 5,286,717; 5,321,131; 5,399,676; 5,405,939; 5,453,496; 5,455,233; 5,466,677; 5,476,925; 5,519,126; 5,536,821; 5,541,306; 5,550,111; 5,563,253; 5,571,799; 5,587,361; and 5,625,050, each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

[00210] Unnatural nucleic acids can include 2',3'-dideoxy-2',3'-didehydro-nucleosides (PCT/US2002/006460), 5'-substituted DNA and RNA derivatives (PCT/US2011/033961; Saha et al., *J. Org Chem.*, 1995, 60, 788-789; Wang et al., *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, 1999, 9, 885-890; and Mikhailov et al., *Nucleosides & Nucleotides*, 1991, 10(1-3), 339-343; Leonid et al., 1995, 14(3-5), 901-905; and Eppacher et al., *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, 2004, 87, 3004-3020; PCT/JP2000/004720; PCT/JP2003/002342; PCT/JP2004/013216; PCT/JP2005/020435; PCT/JP2006/315479; PCT/JP2006/324484; PCT/JP2009/056718; PCT/JP2010/067560), or 5'-substituted monomers made as the monophosphate with modified bases (Wang et al., *Nucleosides Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids*, 2004, 23 (1 & 2), 317-337).

[00211] Unnatural nucleic acids can include modifications at the 5'-position and the 2'-position of the sugar ring (PCT/US94/02993), such as 5'-CH₂-substituted 2'-O-protected nucleosides (Wu et al., *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, 2000, 83, 1127-1143 and Wu et al., *Bioconjugate Chem.* 1999, 10, 921-924). Unnatural nucleic acids can include amide linked nucleoside dimers have been prepared for incorporation into oligonucleotides wherein the 3' linked nucleoside in the dimer (5' to 3') comprises a 2'-OCH₃ and a 5'-(S)-CH₃ (Mesmaeker et al., *Synlett*, 1997, 1287-1290). Unnatural nucleic acids can include 2'-substituted 5'-CH₂ (or O) modified nucleosides (PCT/US92/01020). Unnatural nucleic acids can include 5'-methylenephosphonate DNA and RNA monomers, and dimers (Bohringer et al., *Tet. Lett.*, 1993, 34, 2723-2726; Collingwood et al., *Synlett*, 1995, 7, 703-705; and Hutter et al., *Helvetica Chimica Acta*, 2002, 85, 2777-2806).

Unnatural nucleic acids can include 5'-phosphonate monomers having a 2'-substitution (US2006/0074035) and other modified 5'-phosphonate monomers (WO1997/35869). Unnatural nucleic acids can include 5'-modified methylenephosphonate monomers (EP614907 and EP629633). Unnatural nucleic acids can include analogs of 5' or 6'-phosphonate ribonucleosides comprising a hydroxyl group at the 5' and/or 6'-position (Chen et al., Phosphorus, Sulfur and Silicon, 2002, 777, 1783-1786; Jung et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem., 2000, 8, 2501-2509; Gallier et al., Eur. J. Org. Chem., 2007, 925-933; and Hampton et al., J. Med. Chem., 1976, 19(8), 1029-1033). Unnatural nucleic acids can include 5'-phosphonate deoxyribonucleoside monomers and dimers having a 5'-phosphate group (Nawrot et al., Oligonucleotides, 2006, 16(1), 68-82). Unnatural nucleic acids can include nucleosides having a 6'-phosphonate group wherein the 5' or/and 6'-position is unsubstituted or substituted with a thio-tert-butyl group ($\text{SC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$) (and analogs thereof); a methyleneamino group (CH_2NH_2) (and analogs thereof) or a cyano group (CN) (and analogs thereof) (Fairhurst et al., Synlett, 2001, 4, 467-472; Kappler et al., J. Med. Chem., 1986, 29, 1030-1038; Kappler et al., J. Med. Chem., 1982, 25, 1179-1184; Vrudhula et al., J. Med. Chem., 1987, 30, 888-894; Hampton et al., J. Med. Chem., 1976, 19, 1371-1377; Geze et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1983, 105(26), 7638-7640; and Hampton et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1973, 95(13), 4404-4414).

[00212] Unnatural nucleic acids can also include modifications of the sugar moiety. Nucleic acids of the invention can optionally contain one or more nucleosides wherein the sugar group has been modified. Such sugar modified nucleosides may impart enhanced nuclease stability, increased binding affinity, or some other beneficial biological property. In certain embodiments, nucleic acids comprise a chemically modified ribofuranose ring moiety. Examples of chemically modified ribofuranose rings include, without limitation, addition of substituent groups (including 5' and/or 2' substituent groups; bridging of two ring atoms to form bicyclic nucleic acids (BNA); replacement of the ribosyl ring oxygen atom with S, N(R), or C(R₁)(R₂) (R = H, C₁-C₁₂ alkyl or a protecting group); and combinations thereof. Examples of chemically modified sugars can be found in WO2008/101157, US2005/0130923, and WO2007/134181.

[00213] A modified nucleic acid may comprise modified sugars or sugar analogs. Thus, in addition to ribose and deoxyribose, the sugar moiety can be pentose, deoxypentose, hexose, deoxyhexose, glucose, arabinose, xylose, lyxose, or a sugar "analog" cyclopentyl group. The sugar can be in a pyranosyl or furanosyl form. The sugar moiety may be the furanoside of ribose, deoxyribose, arabinose or 2'-O-alkylribose, and the sugar can be attached to the respective heterocyclic bases either in [alpha] or [beta] anomeric configuration. Sugar modifications include, but are not limited to, 2'-alkoxy-RNA analogs, 2'-amino-RNA analogs, 2'-fluoro-DNA, and 2'-alkoxy- or amino-RNA/DNA chimeras. For example, a sugar

modification may include 2'-O-methyl-uridine or 2'-O-methyl-cytidine. Sugar modifications include 2'-O-alkyl-substituted deoxyribonucleosides and 2'-O-ethyleneglycol like ribonucleosides. The preparation of these sugars or sugar analogs and the respective "nucleosides" wherein such sugars or analogs are attached to a heterocyclic base (nucleic acid base) is known. Sugar modifications may also be made and combined with other modifications.

[00214] Modifications to the sugar moiety include natural modifications of the ribose and deoxy ribose as well as unnatural modifications. Sugar modifications include but are not limited to the following modifications at the 2' position: OH; F; O-, S-, or N-alkyl; O-, S-, or N-alkenyl; O-, S- or N-alkynyl; or O-alkyl-O-alkyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl may be substituted or unsubstituted C₁ to C₁₀, alkyl or C₂ to C₁₀ alkenyl and alkynyl. 2' sugar modifications also include but are not limited to -O[(CH₂)_nO]_m CH₃, -O(CH₂)_nOCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nNH₂, -O(CH₂)_nCH₃, -O(CH₂)_nONH₂, and -O(CH₂)_nON[(CH₂)_n CH₃]₂, where n and m are from 1 to about 10.

[00215] Other modifications at the 2' position include but are not limited to: C₁ to C₁₀ lower alkyl, substituted lower alkyl, alkaryl, aralkyl, O-alkaryl, O-aralkyl, SH, SCH₃, OCN, Cl, Br, CN, CF₃, OCF₃, SOCH₃, SO₂ CH₃, ONO₂, NO₂, N₃, NH₂, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkaryl, aminoalkylamino, polyalkylamino, substituted silyl, an RNA cleaving group, a reporter group, an intercalator, a group for improving the pharmacokinetic properties of an oligonucleotide, or a group for improving the pharmacodynamic properties of an oligonucleotide, and other substituents having similar properties. Similar modifications may also be made at other positions on the sugar, particularly the 3' position of the sugar on the 3' terminal nucleotide or in 2'-5' linked oligonucleotides and the 5' position of the 5' terminal nucleotide. Modified sugars also include those that contain modifications at the bridging ring oxygen, such as CH₂ and S.

Nucleotide sugar analogs may also have sugar mimetics such as cyclobutyl moieties in place of the pentofuranosyl sugar. There are numerous United States patents that teach the preparation of such modified sugar structures and which detail and describe a range of base modifications, such as U.S. Patent Nos. 4,981,957; 5,118,800; 5,319,080; 5,359,044; 5,393,878; 5,446,137; 5,466,786; 5,514,785; 5,519,134; 5,567,811; 5,576,427; 5,591,722; 5,597,909; 5,610,300; 5,627,053; 5,639,873; 5,646,265; 5,658,873; 5,670,633; 4,845,205; 5,130,302; 5,134,066; 5,175,273; 5,367,066; 5,432,272; 5,457,187; 5,459,255; 5,484,908; 5,502,177; 5,525,711; 5,552,540; 5,587,469; 5,594,121; 5,596,091; 5,614,617; 5,681,941; and 5,700,920, each of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[00216] Examples of nucleic acids having modified sugar moieties include, without limitation, nucleic acids comprising 5'-vinyl, 5'-methyl (R or S), 4'-S, 2'-F, 2'-OCH₃, and 2'-O(CH₂)₂OCH₃ substituent groups. The substituent at the 2' position can also be selected from

allyl, amino, azido, thio, O-allyl, O-(C₁-C₁₀ alkyl), OCF₃, O(CH₂)₂SCH₃, O(CH₂)₂-O-N(R_m)(R_n), and O-CH₂-C(=O)-N(R_m)(R_n), where each R_m and R_n is, independently, H or substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl.

[00217] In certain embodiments, nucleic acids of the present invention include one or more bicyclic nucleic acids. In certain such embodiments, the bicyclic nucleic acid comprises a bridge between the 4' and the 2' ribosyl ring atoms. In certain embodiments, nucleic acids provided herein include one or more bicyclic nucleic acids wherein the bridge comprises a 4' to 2' bicyclic nucleic acid. Examples of such 4' to 2' bicyclic nucleic acids include, but are not limited to, one of the formulae: 4'-(CH₂)-O-2' (LNA); 4'-(CH₂)-S-2'; 4'-(CH₂)₂-O-2' (ENA); 4'-CH(CH₃)-O-2' and 4'-CH(CH₂OCH₃)-O-2', and analogs thereof (see, U.S. Patent No. 7,399,845); 4'-C(CH₃)(CH₃)-O-2' and analogs thereof, (see WO2009/006478, WO2008/150729, US2004/0171570, U.S. Patent No. 7,427,672, Chattopadhyaya et al., J. Org. Chem., 209, 74, 118-134, and WO2008/154401). Also see, for example: Singh et al., Chem. Commun., 1998, 4, 455-456; Koshkin et al., Tetrahedron, 1998, 54, 3607-3630; Wahlestedt et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A., 2000, 97, 5633-5638; Kumar et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 1998, 8, 2219-2222; Singh et al., J. Org. Chem., 1998, 63, 10035-10039; Srivastava et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., 2007, 129(26) 8362-8379; Elayadi et al., Curr. Opinion Invens. Drugs, 2001, 2, 558-561; Braasch et al., Chem. Biol, 2001, 8, 1-7; Oram et al., Curr. Opinion Mol. Ther., 2001, 3, 239-243; U.S. Patent Nos. 4,849,513; 5,015,733; 5,118,800; 5,118,802; 7,053,207; 6,268,490; 6,770,748; 6,794,499; 7,034,133; 6,525,191; 6,670,461; and 7,399,845; International Publication Nos. WO2004/106356, WO1994/14226, WO2005/021570, WO2007/090071, and WO2007/134181; U.S. Patent Publication Nos. US2004/0171570, US2007/0287831, and US2008/0039618; U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/989,574, 61/026,995, 61/026,998, 61/056,564, 61/086,231, 61/097,787, and 61/099,844; and International Applications Nos. PCT/US2008/064591, PCT US2008/066154, PCT US2008/068922, and PCT/DK98/00393.

[00218] In certain embodiments, nucleic acids can comprise linked nucleic acids. Nucleic acids can be linked together using any inter nucleic acid linkage. The two main classes of inter nucleic acid linking groups are defined by the presence or absence of a phosphorus atom. Representative phosphorus containing inter nucleic acid linkages include, but are not limited to, phosphodiester, phosphotriester, methylphosphonates, phosphoramidate, and phosphorothioates (P=S). Representative non-phosphorus containing inter nucleic acid linking groups include, but are not limited to, methylenemethylimino (-CH₂-N(CH₃)-O-CH₂-), thiodiester (-O-C(O)-S-), thionocarbamate (-O-C(O)(NH)-S-); siloxane (-O-Si(H)₂-O-); and N,N*-dimethylhydrazine (-CH₂-N(CH₃)-N(CH₃)). In certain embodiments, inter nucleic acid linkages having a chiral atom can be prepared as a racemic mixture, as separate enantiomers,

e.g., alkylphosphonates and phosphorothioates. Unnatural nucleic acids can contain a single modification. Unnatural nucleic acids can contain multiple modifications within one of the moieties or between different moieties.

[00219] Backbone phosphate modifications to nucleic acid include, but are not limited to, methyl phosphonate, phosphorothioate, phosphoramidate (bridging or non-bridging), phosphotriester, phosphorodithioate, phosphodithioate, and boranophosphate, and may be used in any combination. Other non- phosphate linkages may also be used.

[00220] In some embodiments, backbone modifications (*e.g.*, methylphosphonate, phosphorothioate, phosphoroamidate and phosphorodithioate internucleotide linkages) can confer immunomodulatory activity on the modified nucleic acid and/or enhance their stability *in vivo*.

[00221] A phosphorous derivative (or modified phosphate group) can be attached to the sugar or sugar analog moiety in and can be a monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, alkylphosphonate, phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, phosphoramidate or the like.

Exemplary polynucleotides containing modified phosphate linkages or non-phosphate linkages can be found in Peyrottes et al., 1996, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24: 1841-1848; Chaturvedi et al., 1996, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24:2318-2323; and Schultz et al., (1996) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24:2966-2973; Matteucci, 1997, "Oligonucleotide Analogs: an Overview" in *Oligonucleotides as Therapeutic Agents*, (Chadwick and Cardew, ed.) John Wiley and Sons, New York, NY; Zon, 1993, "Oligonucleoside Phosphorothioates" in *Protocols for Oligonucleotides and Analogs, Synthesis and Properties*, Humana Press, pp. 165-190; Miller et al., 1971, *JACS* 93:6657-6665; Jager et al., 1988, *Biochem.* 27:7247-7246; Nelson et al., 1997, *JOC* 62:7278-7287; U.S. Patent No. 5,453,496; and Micklefield, 2001, *Curr. Med. Chem.* 8: 1157-1179.

[00222] Backbone modification may comprise replacing the phosphodiester linkage with an alternative moiety such as an anionic, neutral or cationic group. Examples of such modifications include: anionic internucleoside linkage; N3' to P5' phosphoramidate modification; boranophosphate DNA; prooligonucleotides; neutral internucleoside linkages such as methylphosphonates; amide linked DNA; methylene(methylimino) linkages; formacetal and thioformacetal linkages; backbones containing sulfonyl groups; morpholino oligos; peptide nucleic acids (PNA); and positively charged deoxyribonucleic guanine (DNG) oligos (Micklefield, 2001, *Current Medicinal Chemistry* 8: 1157-1179). A modified nucleic acid may comprise a chimeric or mixed backbone comprising one or more modifications, *e.g.* a combination of phosphate linkages such as a combination of phosphodiester and phosphorothioate linkages.

[00223] Substitutes for the phosphate can be for example, short chain alkyl or cycloalkyl internucleoside linkages, mixed heteroatom and alkyl or cycloalkyl internucleoside linkages, or one or more short chain heteroatomic or heterocyclic internucleoside linkages. These include those having morpholino linkages (formed in part from the sugar portion of a nucleoside); siloxane backbones; sulfide, sulfoxide and sulfone backbones; formacetyl and thioformacetyl backbones; methylene formacetyl and thioformacetyl backbones; alkene containing backbones; sulfamate backbones; methyleneimino and methylenehydrazino backbones; sulfonate and sulfonamide backbones; amide backbones; and others having mixed N, O, S and CH₂ component parts. Numerous United States patents disclose how to make and use these types of phosphate replacements and include but are not limited to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,034,506; 5,166,315; 5,185,444; 5,214,134; 5,216,141; 5,235,033; 5,264,562; 5,264,564; 5,405,938; 5,434,257; 5,466,677; 5,470,967; 5,489,677; 5,541,307; 5,561,225; 5,596,086; 5,602,240; 5,610,289; 5,602,240; 5,608,046; 5,610,289; 5,618,704; 5,623,070; 5,663,312; 5,633,360; 5,677,437; and 5,677,439, each of which is herein incorporated by reference. It is also understood in a nucleotide substitute that both the sugar and the phosphate moieties of the nucleotide can be replaced, by for example an amide type linkage (aminoethylglycine) (PNA). United States Patent Nos. 5,539,082; 5,714,331; and 5,719,262 teach how to make and use PNA molecules, each of which is herein incorporated by reference. See also Nielsen et al., Science, 1991, 254, 1497-1500. It is also possible to link other types of molecules (conjugates) to nucleotides or nucleotide analogs to enhance for example, cellular uptake. Conjugates can be chemically linked to the nucleotide or nucleotide analogs. Such conjugates include but are not limited to lipid moieties such as a cholesterol moiety (Letsinger et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1989, 86, 6553-6556), cholic acid (Manoharan et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 1994, 4, 1053-1060), a thioether, *e.g.*, hexyl-S-tritylthiol (Manoharan et al., Ann. NY. Acad. Sci., 1992, 660, 306-309; Manoharan et al., Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett., 1993, 3, 2765-2770), a thiocholesterol (Oberhauser et al., Nucl. Acids Res., 1992, 20, 533-538), an aliphatic chain, *e.g.*, dodecandiol or undecyl residues (Saison-Behmoaras et al., EMBOJ, 1991, 10, 1111-1118; Kabanov et al., FEBS Lett., 1990, 259, 327-330; Svinarchuk et al., Biochimie, 1993, 75, 49-54), a phospholipid, *e.g.*, di-hexadecyl-rac-glycerol or triethylammonium l-di-O-hexadecyl-rac-glycero-S-H-phosphonate (Manoharan et al., Tetrahedron Lett., 1995, 36, 3651-3654; Shea et al., Nucl. Acids Res., 1990, 18, 3777-3783), a polyamine or a polyethylene glycol chain (Manoharan et al., Nucleosides & Nucleotides, 1995, 14, 969-973), or adamantane acetic acid (Manoharan et al., Tetrahedron Lett., 1995, 36, 3651-3654), a palmityl moiety (Mishra et al., Biochem. Biophys. Acta, 1995, 1264, 229-237), or an octadecylamine or hexylamino-carbonyl-oxycholesterol moiety (Crooke et al., J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 1996, 277, 923-937). Numerous

United States patents teach the preparation of such conjugates and include, but are not limited to U.S. Patent Nos. 4,828,979; 4,948,882; 5,218,105; 5,525,465; 5,541,313; 5,545,730; 5,552,538; 5,578,717; 5,580,731; 5,580,731; 5,591,584; 5,109,124; 5,118,802; 5,138,045; 5,414,077; 5,486,603; 5,512,439; 5,578,718; 5,608,046; 4,587,044; 4,605,735; 4,667,025; 4,762,779; 4,789,737; 4,824,941; 4,835,263; 4,876,335; 4,904,582; 4,958,013; 5,082,830; 5,112,963; 5,214,136; 5,082,830; 5,112,963; 5,214,136; 5,245,022; 5,254,469; 5,258,506; 5,262,536; 5,272,250; 5,292,873; 5,317,098; 5,371,241; 5,391,723; 5,416,203; 5,451,463; 5,510,475; 5,512,667; 5,514,785; 5,565,552; 5,567,810; 5,574,142; 5,585,481; 5,587,371; 5,595,726; 5,597,696; 5,599,923; 5,599,928 and 5,688,941, each of which is herein incorporated by reference.

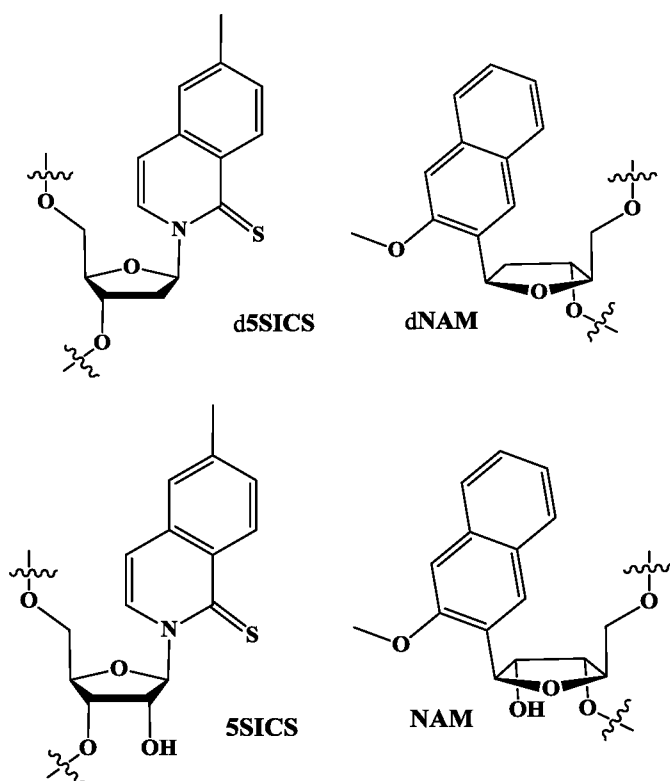
Nucleic Acids for Cellular Import

[00224] In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake comprise nucleotide triphosphates. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake comprise nucleotide diphosphates. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake comprise nucleotide monophosphates. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake comprise nucleosides. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake do not comprise nucleotide diphosphates. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake do not comprise nucleotide monophosphates. In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake do not comprise nucleosides.

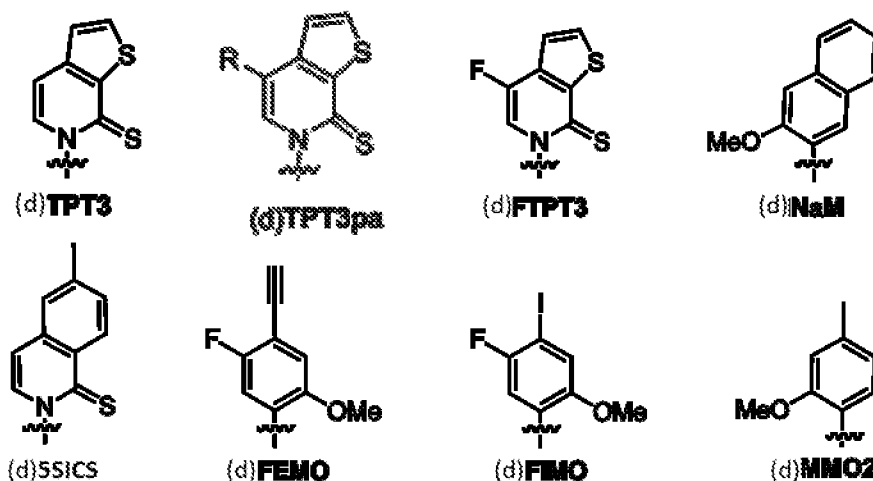
[00225] In some embodiments, the nucleic acids undergoing enhanced cellular uptake comprise nucleic acid analogs *e.g.*, unnatural nucleic acids. In some embodiments enhanced uptake of active transport of nucleic acids utilizes nucleotide triphosphate transporters (NTTs), *e.g.*, from obligate intracellular bacteria or algal plastids. In some embodiments, the methods, compositions, and kits incorporate natural and/or unnatural nucleotides into an organism or cell.

[00226] A variety of natural and unnatural nucleotides can be imported into cells. One example of a pair of unnatural nucleotide triphosphates that can be transported into cells and that can base pair to form an UBP when incorporated into nucleic acids with the cells, includes a triphosphate of (d)**5SICS** ((d)**5SICSTP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**). One example of a pair of unnatural nucleotide triphosphates that can be transported into cells and that can base pair to form an UBP when incorporated into nucleic acids with the cells, includes a triphosphate of (d)**TPT3** ((d)**TPT3TP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**), which can be PCR amplified with a natural base pair-like efficiency and fidelity. In some embodiments, (d)**TPT3** comprises a propargyl amine linker (**TPT3^{PA}**). One example of a pair of unnatural nucleotide triphosphates that can be transported into cells and that can base pair to form an UBP when

incorporated into nucleic acids with the cells, includes a triphosphate of (d)**TPT3^{PA}** and a triphosphate of **NaM^A**-**dNaM** pair which can be PCR amplified with a natural base pair-like efficiency and fidelity. Such unnatural nucleotides can have a ribose or deoxyribose sugar moiety. The structures of **5SICS**, **d5SICS**, **NAM**, and **dNaM**, unnatural nucleotides are shown below.



[00227] Other types of unnatural nucleotides can be imported into the cells by the nucleotide triphosphate transporter, such as (d)**TPT3**, (d)**TPT3^{PA}**, (d)**FTPT3**, (d)**NaM**, (d)**5SICS**, (d)**FEMO**, (d)**FIMO**, (d)**MMO2** and combinations thereof, wherein (d) means that the nucleobase can be attached to a deoxyribose or a ribose. The structures of the nucleobases of these unnatural nucleotide triphosphates are shown below.

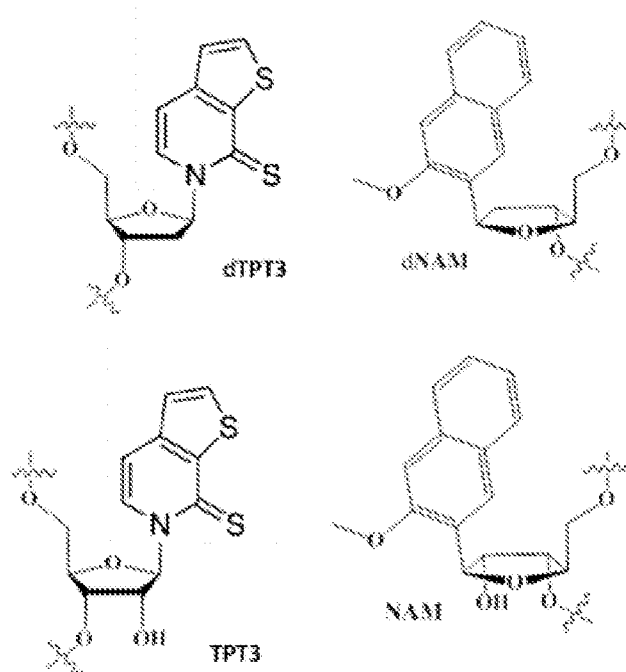


wherein the wavy line identifies a point of attachment to the (deoxy)ribose or ribose sugar and R indicates a propargyl amine linker. The sugar can be phosphorylated (i.e., to form a nucleotide triphosphate).

[00228] A variety of naturally-occurring nucleotide triphosphates can also be transported by the methods described herein. Naturally-occurring nucleotide triphosphates include the ribose or deoxyribose nucleotide triphosphates having adenosine, guanine, cytosine, thymine or uracil.

[00229] Examples of other types of modified or unnatural nucleotide triphosphates that can also be transported into cells include those with 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-iodouracil, hypoxanthine, xanthine, 4-acetylcytosine, 5-(carboxyhydroxymethyl) uracil, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyl-2-thiouridine, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyluracil, dihydrouracil, beta-D-galactosylqueosine, inosine, N6-isopentenyladenine, 1-methylguanine, 1-methylinosine, 2,2-dimethylguanine, 2-methyladenine, 2-methylguanine, 3-methylcytosine, 5-methylcytosine, N6-adenine, 7-methylguanine, 5-methylaminomethyluracil, 5-methoxyaminomethyl-2-thiouracil, beta-D-mannosylqueosine, 5'-methoxycarboxymethyluracil, 5-methoxyuracil, 2-methylthio-N6-isopentenyladenine, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid, wybutosine, pseudouracil, queosine, 2-thiocytosine, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, 5-methyluracil, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid methylester, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 3-(3-amino-3-N-2-carboxypropyl) uracil, (acp3)w, and 2,6-diaminopurine.

[00230] The structures of **TPT3**, **dTPT3**, **NAM**, and **dNaM**, unnatural nucleotides are shown below.



[00231] Exemplary nucleic acids (or UDPs) that can be used, *e.g.*, for importation into cells, can also include any one or more of the nucleic acid structures depicted in **Appendix A**, wherein the wavy line identifies a point of attachment to the sugar moiety, such as a (deoxy)ribose or ribose.

[00232] A variety of naturally-occurring nucleotides as well other modified or unnatural nucleotides can also be transported into cells via the methods described herein.

[00233] In some embodiments, the imported nucleic acids may locate within a region of a cell or a cellular compartment. In some embodiments, the region or compartment of a cell may include a membrane, an organelle and/or the cytosol. For example, the membranes may include, but are not limited to, nuclear membrane, plasma membrane, endoplasmic reticulum membrane, cell wall, cell membrane and/or mitochondrial membrane. In some embodiments, the membranes may include a complete membrane or a fragment of a membrane. For example, the organelles may include, but are not limited to, the nucleolus, nucleus, chloroplast, plastid, endoplasmic reticulum, rough endoplasmic reticulum, smooth endoplasmic reticulum, centrosome, golgi apparatus, mitochondria, vacuole, acrosome, autophagosome, centriole, cilium, eyespot apparatus, glycosome, glyoxysome, hydrogenosome, lysosome, melanosome, mitosome, myofibril, peroxisome, proteasome, ribosome, vesicle, carboxysome, chlorosome, flagellum, magnetosome, nucleoid, plasmid, thylakoid, mesosomes, cytoskeleton, and/or vesicles. In some embodiments, the organelles may include a complete membrane or a fragment of a membrane. For example, the cytosol may be encapsulated by the plasma membrane, cell membrane and/or the cell wall.

Nucleic Acid Base Pairing Properties

[00234] An unnatural nucleic acid can form a base pair with another nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid is an unnatural nucleic acid that can form a base pair with another nucleic acid, *e.g.*, a natural or unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid is an unnatural nucleic acid that can form a base pair with another unnatural nucleic acid (unnatural nucleic acid base pair (UBP)). For example, a first unnatural nucleic acid can form a base pair with a second unnatural nucleic acid. For example, one pair of unnatural nucleotide triphosphates that can base pair when incorporated into nucleic acids include a triphosphate of (d)**5SICS** ((d)**5SICSTP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**). For example, one pair of unnatural nucleotide triphosphates that can base pair when incorporated into nucleic acids include a triphosphate of (d)**TPT3** ((d)**TPT3TP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**). Such unnatural nucleotides can have a ribose or deoxyribose sugar moiety. In some embodiments, an unnatural nucleic acid does not substantially form a base pair with a natural nucleic acid (A, T, G, C). In some embodiments, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid can form a base pair with a natural nucleic acid.

[00235] In some embodiments, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid is an unnatural nucleic acid that can form a UBP, but does not substantially form a base pair with each of the four natural nucleic acids. In some embodiments, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid is an unnatural nucleic acid that can form a UBP, but does not substantially form a base pair with one or more natural nucleic acids. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with A, T, and, C, but can form a base pair with G. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with A, T, and, G, but can form a base pair with C. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with C, G, and, A, but can form a base pair with T. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with C, G, and, T, but can form a base pair with A. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with A and T, but can form a base pair with C and G. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with A and C, but can form a base pair with T and G. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with A and G, but can form a base pair with C and T. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with C and T, but can form a base pair with A and G. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with C and G, but can form a base pair with T and G. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially

form a base pair with T and G, but can form a base pair with A and G. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with, G, but can form a base pair with A, T, and, C. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with, A, but can form a base pair with G, T, and, C. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with, T, but can form a base pair with G, A, and, C. For example, a stably integrated unnatural nucleic acid may not substantially form a base pair with, C, but can form a base pair with G, T, and, A.

[00236] Exemplary, unnatural nucleotides capable of forming an unnatural DNA or RNA base pair (UBP) under conditions *in vivo* can include 5SICS, d5SICS, NAM, dNaM, and combinations thereof.

TARGET SEQUENCES/ACTIVITIES

[00237] A nucleotide reagent sometimes can comprise a target nucleotide sequence. A “target nucleic acid” sequence as used herein encodes a nucleic acid, peptide, polypeptide or protein of interest, and may be a ribonucleotide sequence or a deoxyribonucleotide sequence. A target nucleic acid sometimes is an untranslated ribonucleic acid and sometimes is a translated ribonucleic acid. An untranslated ribonucleic acid may include, but is not limited to, a small interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA), a short hairpin ribonucleic acid (shRNA), other ribonucleic acid capable of RNA interference (RNAi), an antisense ribonucleic acid, or a ribozyme. A translatable target nucleotide sequence (*e.g.*, a target ribonucleotide sequence) sometimes encodes a peptide, polypeptide or protein, which are sometimes referred to herein as “target peptides,” “target polypeptides” or “target proteins.”

[00238] A translatable nucleotide sequence generally is located between a start codon (AUG in ribonucleic acids and ATG in deoxyribonucleic acids) and a stop codon (*e.g.*, UAA (ochre), UAG (amber) or UGA (opal) in ribonucleic acids and TAA, TAG or TGA in deoxyribonucleic acids), and sometimes is referred to herein as an “open reading frame” (ORF). A translatable nucleotide sequence (*e.g.*, ORF) sometimes is encoded differently in one organism (*e.g.*, most organisms encode CTG as leucine) than in another organism (*e.g.*, *C. tropicalis* encodes CTG as serine). In some embodiments, a translatable nucleotide sequence is altered to correct alternate genetic code (*e.g.*, codon usage) differences between a nucleotide donor organism and a nucleotide recipient organism (*e.g.*, engineered organism). In certain embodiments, a translatable nucleotide sequence is altered to improve; (i) codon usage, (ii) transcriptional efficiency, (iii) translational efficiency, (iv) the like, and combinations thereof.

[00239] Any peptides, polypeptides or proteins, or an activity catalyzed by one or more peptides, polypeptides or proteins may be encoded by a target nucleotide sequence and may be selected by a user. Representative proteins include transporters (*e.g.*, nucleotide triphosphate

transporters), enzymes (*e.g.*, polymerases, replication machinery, and the like, for example) and membrane bound proteins, and include both naturally occurring and exogenously expressed polypeptides.

[00240] Representative activities (*e.g.*, enzymes or combinations of enzymes which are functionally associated to provide an activity) include nucleotide triphosphate transporter activity and polymerase activity,

[00241] Specific polypeptides (*e.g.*, enzymes) useful for embodiments described herein are listed herein. A protein or polypeptide sometimes is of intracellular origin (*e.g.*, located in the nucleus, cytosol, or interstitial space of host cells *in vivo*) and sometimes is a cell membrane protein *in vivo*. In some embodiments (described above, and in further detail hereafter), a genetic modification can result in a modification (*e.g.*, increase, substantially increase, decrease or substantially decrease) of a target activity.

Nucleotide Triphosphate Transporter Activity

[00242] Chloroplasts are characteristic organelles of plants, possess an envelope of two membranes and arose by a primary endosymbiosis between a protozoan host and a cyanobacterium (higher plant, green algae, red algae and glaucophyta). However, the engulfment of a red or a green alga by a non-photosynthetic host through a process called secondary endosymbiosis gave rise to further groups of complex chimeric eukaryotes (chlorarachaeans, chromalveolates). The resulting photosynthetic organelle accordingly exhibits four bounding membranes. Until now the knowledge on metabolic fluxes across the membranes of complex plastids is limited. Biochemical characterization of plastidial carrier proteins involved in energy provision (nucleotide transporters, NTTs) and in the transport of intermediates of starch metabolism provided insights into the cellular communication across the envelope membranes of primary and complex plastids.

[00243] Apart from plastidial nucleotide transporters (NTTs), which mediate the transport of ATP in counter exchange with ADP and other deoxyribonucleotides and ribonucleotides, structurally related proteins are also present in some intracellular living bacterial species. The different biochemical characteristics of specialized NTTs enable these intracellular bacteria to exploit metabolic intermediates of the host cell. The endosymbiotic bacterium *Protochlamydia amoebophila* for example possesses five NTTs essential not only for energy provision by ATP/ADP counter exchange, but also for uptake of DNA and RNA components and nucleotide derivatives from the host cell. Furthermore, in *Protochlamydia amoebophila* corresponding biosynthetic pathways were eliminated during evolution.

[00244] A cell can contain, or can be modified to contain, a nucleotide triphosphate transporter that facilitates transport of the unnatural nucleotides through cellular and other membranes so

that the unnatural nucleotides are available to the cellular machinery for incorporation into the cell's nucleic acids. UBPs can therefore form within the cell's nucleic acids. Moreover, neither the presence of the unnatural triphosphates nor the replication of the UBP represents a significant growth burden. The UBPs are not efficiently excised by nucleic acid repair pathways, and therefore can be retained as long as the unnatural triphosphates are available in the growth medium. Thus, the resulting cell is the first organism to stably propagate an expanded genetic alphabet.

[00245] Certain types of nucleotide triphosphate transporters are more effective than others. For example, nucleotide triphosphate transporters from some types of diatoms or algae are useful for transporting natural and/or unnatural nucleotide triphosphates into cells without degradation or loss of the nucleotide triphosphates, particularly when the cells and nucleotide triphosphates are maintained in the presence of potassium phosphate.

[00246] The unnatural nucleotides are transported into cells by a nucleotide triphosphate transporter. As illustrated herein, a variety of nucleotide triphosphate transporters can be employed to transport the unnatural nucleotides into cells. Examples of nucleotide triphosphate transporters that can be employed include those from diatoms such as *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*, *Thalassiosira pseudonana* and/or *Protochlamydia amoebophila*.

[00247] Diatom plastids rely on nucleotide uptake by a specialized import system in their membranes that interconnects cytosolic nucleotide formation and nucleotide consumption in the organelle. Because diatom plastids are surrounded by four membranes, whereas primary plastids possess only two, diatoms have extra transporters in the additional membranes.

[00248] Examples of nucleotide triphosphate transporters that can be employed include those from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* with NCBI accession numbers EEC44449.1 (GI:217404502, protein NTT1, PHATRDRAFT_49533); EEC49227.1 (GI:217409295, protein NTT2, PHATRDRAFT_45145); EEC43534.1 (GI:217403582, protein NTT3, PHATRDRAFT_50189); ACI65362.1 (GI:209582741, protein NTT4, PHATR_46794); EEC50831.1 (GI:217410902, protein NTT5, PHATRDRAFT_54110); XP_002182967.1 (GI:219125393, protein NTT6, PHATRDRAFT_54907).

[00249] A nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (PtNTT2; EEC49227.1, GI:217409295) that has the following sequence SEQ ID NO: 1

```

1  MRPYPTIALI  SVFLSAATRI  SATSSHQASA  LPVKKGTHVP
41 DSPKLSKLYI  MAKTKSVSSS  FDPGRGGSTV  APTTPLATGG
81 ALRKVRQAVF  PIYGNQEVTK  FLLIGSIKFF  IILALTLTRD
121 TKDTLIVTQC  GAEAI AFLKI  YGVLP AATAF  IALYSKMSNA
161 MGKKMLFYST  CIPFFTFFGL  FDVFIYPNAE  RLHPSLEAVQ
201 AILPGGAASG  GMAVLAKIAT  HWTSALFYVM  AEIYSSVSVG
241 LLFWQFANDV  VNVDQAKRFY  PLFAQMSGLA  PVL AQYVVR

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281 FASKAVNFEA SMHRLTAAVT FAGIMICIFY QLSSSYVERT
 321 ESAKPAADNE QSIKPKKKKP KMSMVESGKF LASSQYLRLI
 361 AMLVLGYGLS INFTEIMWKS LVKKQYPDPL DYQRFMGNFS
 401 SAVGLSTCIV IFFGVHVIRL LGWKVGALAT PGIMAILALP
 441 FFACILLGLD SPARLEIAVI FGTIQSLLSK TSKYALFDPT
 481 TQMAYIPLDD ESKVKGKAAI DVLGSRIGKS GGS LIQQGLV
 521 FVFGNIINAA PVVGVVYYSV LVAWMSAAGR LSGLFQAQTE
 561 MDKADKMEAK TNKEK

[00250] A nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* with SEQ ID

NO:1 is encoded by a nucleic acid with the following cDNA sequence SEQ ID NO:2

1 ATGAGACCAT ATCCGACGAT TGCCTTGATT TCGGTTTTTC
 41 TTTTCGGCGGC GACTCGTATT TCGGCCACTT CCTCTCATCA
 81 AGCAAGTGCA CTTCTGTCA AAAAGGGAAC GCATGTCCCCG
 121 GACTCTCCGA AGTTGTCAAA GCTATATATC ATGGCCAAAA
 161 CCAAGAGTGT ATCCTCGTCC TTCGACCCCC CTCGGGGAGG
 201 CAGTACTGTT GCGCCAACTA CACCGTTGGC AACCGGCGGT
 241 GCGCTCCGCA AAGTGCGACA AGCCGTCTTT CCCATCTACG
 281 GAAACCAAGA AGTCACCAAA TTTCTGCTCA TCGGATCCAT
 321 TAAATTCTTT ATAATCTTGG CACTCACGCT CACGCGTGAT
 361 ACCAAGGACA CGTTGATTGT CACGCAATGT GGTGCCGAAG
 401 CGATTGCCTT TCTCAAAATA TACGGGGTGC TACCCGCAGC
 441 GACCGCATTT ATCGCGCTCT ATTCCAAAAT GTCCAACGCC
 481 ATGGGCAAAA AAATGCTATT TTATTCCACT TGCATTCCTT
 521 TCTTTACCTT TTTTCGGGCTG TTTGATGTTT TCATTTACCC
 561 GAACGCGGAG CGACTGCACC CTAGTTTGGA AGCCGTGCAG
 601 GCAATTCTCC CGGGCGGTGC CGCATCTGGC GGCATGGCGG
 641 TTCTGGCCAA GATTGCGACA CACTGGACAT CCGCCTTATT
 681 TTACGTCATG GCGGAAATAT ATTCTTCCGT ATCGGTGGGG
 721 CTATTGTTTT GGCAGTTTGC GAACGACGTC GTCAACGTGG
 761 ATCAGGCCAA GCGCTTTTAT CCATTATTTG CTCAAATGAG
 801 TGGCCTCGCT CCAGTTTTAG CGGGCCAGTA TGTGGTACGG
 841 TTTGCCAGCA AAGCGGTCAA CTTTGAGGCA TCCATGCATC
 881 GACTCACGGC GGCCGTAACA TTTGCTGGTA TTATGATTTG
 921 CATCTTTTAC CAACTCAGTT CGTCATATGT GGAGCGAACG
 961 GAATCAGCAA AGCCAGCGGC AGATAACGAG CAGTCTATCA
 1001 AACCGAAAAA GAAGAAACCC AAAATGTCCA TGGTTGAATC
 1041 GGGGAAATTT CTCGCGTCAA GTCAGTACCT GCGTCTAATT
 1081 GCCATGCTGG TGCTGGGATA CGGCCTCAGT ATTAACTTTA
 1121 CCGAAATCAT GTGGAAAAGC TTGGTGAAGA AACAATATCC
 1161 AGACCCGCTA GATTATCAAC GATTTATGGG TAACTTCTCG
 1201 TCAGCGGTTG GTTTGAGCAC ATGCATTGTT ATTTTCTTCG
 1241 GTGTGCACGT GATCCGTTTG TTGGGGTGGA AAGTCGGAGC
 1281 GTTGGCTACA CCTGGGATCA TGGCCATTCT AGCGTTACCC
 1321 TTTTTTGCTT GCATTTTGTT GGGTTTGAT AGTCCAGCAC
 1361 GATTGGAGAT CGCCGTAATC TTTGGAACAA TTCAGAGTTT
 1401 GCTGAGCAAA ACCTCCAAGT ATGCCCTTTT CGACCCTACC
 1441 ACACAAATGG CTTATATTCC TCTGGACGAC GAATCAAAGG
 1481 TCAAAGGAAA AGCGGCAATT GATGTTTTGG GATCGCGGAT
 1521 TGGAAGAGT GGAGGCTCAC TGATCCAGCA GGGCTTGGTC
 1561 TTTGTTTTTG GAAATATCAT TAATGCCGCA CCTGTAGTAG
 1601 GGGTTGTCTA CTACAGTGTC CTTGTTGCGT GGATGAGCGC
 1641 AGCTGGCCGA CTAAGTGGGC TTTTTC AAGC ACAAACAGAA

1681 ATGGATAAGG CCGACAAAAT GGAGGCAAAG ACCAACAAAG

1721 AAAAGTAG

[00251] A nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 from *Protochlamydia amoebophila* (strain UWE25), is referred to as *PamTTT2*, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:3

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1 MSQQESEFGK LRAFFWPIHG HEVKKVLPMM LMLFLICFNY
41 SILRNVKDAI VVTAKASGAE VIPFIKVWVL LPTAVLFTLI
81 FTKLSNRFSQ EKVFYIVIST FLLFFGSFTY IFYPLRDVLH
121 PHQLCDYLET ILPAGFKGLI AMFRNWSFTL FYVICELWGS
161 IVLTVLFWGF ANEITKMTEA RRFYSMLGVI ASFAATIAGI
201 IANLLSNDQS WEQTLNILMV AVIVSGTIAM VIFRWMNKNV
241 NGPEFQEFH EAKRIQKMKK RLSIRESFTY LANSKYLICI
281 AVLVISYNLV INLVEIVWKD QLRQLYSSAL DYNRYMNNMT
321 SAVGIIATIT SLFMSTMTR FGWTRTALVT PTIMLVTSVG
361 FFAFMLFRND LADPVYILTG TTPLTIAVFF GAAQVCMSKA
401 CKYSVFDSTK EMAFIPLDYE SKLKGKAAID GVGSRLGKSG
441 GSLIHQSLLM IFATVSSSAP YVAVILIGVI IVWMLCVRSL
481 GKQFAAIIGE KAREDIGEST PRTSEEQVLH PLKAAS

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[00252] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *PamTTT2* protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:4

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1 ATGTCTCAAC AAGAATCAGA GTTTGGTAAA TTGAGGGCAT
41 TTTTTTGGCC TATTCACGGC CATGAAGTCA AAAAAGTGCT
81 GCCGATGATG TTGATGCTAT TTTTGATTTG TTTCAACTAT
121 AGTATTTTAC GCAATGTAA AGATGCTATT GTTGTGACTG
161 CTAAGGCTTC AGGGGCTGAA GTTATTCCAT TTATTAAAGT
201 ATGGGTGCTG TTACCCACGG CAGTCTTATT TACTTTAATT
241 TTTACTAAGT TGTCTAACCG TTTTAGCCAA GAAAAAGTTT
281 TTTATATTGT CATTTCTACA TTTTGCTAT TTTTGTTT
321 GTTTACTTAT ATTTTTTATC CTTTACGTGA CGTACTACAT
361 CCTCATCAAC TATGCGATTA CTTAGAAACG ATTTTACCAG
401 CGGGATTTAA AGGATTAATT GCCATGTTCC GTAATTGGTC
441 ATTTACTTTG TTTTATGTAA TTTGTGAACT TTGGGGCAGT
481 ATTGTTTTAA CTGTCCTTTT TTGGGGATTT GCGAATGAAA
521 TCACAAAAAT GACTGAAGCT CGTCGTTTTT ATAGTATGCT
561 TGGTGTCATT GCAAGTTTTG CCGCGACGAT AGCAGGAATC
601 ATAGCCAATC TTCTTTCTAA TGATCAAAGT TGGGAACAGA
641 CTTTAAATAT TCTCATGGTT GCTGTAATTG TAAGTGAAC
681 GATAGCCATG GTTATTTTTC GTTGGATGAA TAAAAATGTA
721 CTCAATGGCC CAGAATTCCA AGAATTCCAT GAAGCAAAAC
761 GCATTCAAAA AATGAAAAAA AGATTATCGA TCCGAGAAAG
801 TTTTACCTAT CTCGCTAATT CTAAATATCT TATTTGTATT
841 GCAGTTTTAG TTATTTCTTA TAATCTTGTC ATTAAGTTAG
881 TTGAAATTGT ATGGAAAGAC CAGCTTCGCC AACTTTATTC
921 GTCAGCCCTT GATTATAATC GCTATATGAA TAACATGACA
961 TCAGCAGTCG GAATTATTGC CACAATCACA TCCTTATTTA
1001 TGTCTACAAT GATTACTCGG TTTGGATGGA CACGGACAGC
1041 TCTAGTAACA CCGACTATTA TGCTTGTCAC AAGTGTGGGA
1081 TTTTTTGCTT TTATGCTATT TCGAAATGAT TTGGCTGATC
1121 CTGTTTATAT ATTAACAGGA ACGACACCTT TAACTATAGC
1161 CGTCTTTTTT GGTGCAGCTC AAGTCTGCAT GAGTAAAGCC
1201 TGTAAGTATT CTGTTTTTGA TTCTACAAAA GAAATGGCTT
1241 TTATCCCTCT GGATTATGAA AGTAAATTGA AAGGAAAAGC

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1281 TGCGATTGAT GGTGTGGG**TT** CTCGTCTTGG TAAATCGGGC
 1321 GGTTCCCTTAA TTCATCAAAG TTTATTGATG ATTTTTCGAA
 1361 CTGTTAGCTC CAGCGCTCCT TATGTAGCTG TGATCTTAAT
 1401 TGGCGTTATC ATTGTTTGGG TGCTCTGCGT ACGTTCATTA
 1441 GGTAAGCAAT TTGCTGCTAT TATTGGGGAA AAGGCTCGAG
 1481 AAGATATTGG TGAATCTACT CCAAGAACGA GTGAAGAGCA
 1521 AGTTTTACAT CCCTTAAAG CTGCATCTTAA

[00253] An example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 from *Protochlamydia*

amoebophila (strain UWE25), is referred to as *PamTTT3*, and has the following sequence SEQ

ID NO:5

1 MSQTPTGSRE FSPWRSNLWP VHRYELKKLI PMLLIFFFI
 41 FDYNILRTLK DSSLITAKSS GAEVIPFVKV WAMFPGAILM
 81 TLLFTWLSNR LSREIVFYLI TSLFLSYFFI FTFILYPIRD
 121 IIHPHATADY LETILPIGFK GLVAMFRYWT FTIFYVMSEL
 161 WGSTVLFVLF WGFANQVTKI SEAKRFYGLF GVGANLSGIF
 201 AGQASVYCCQ FNKQNDLGIL GSDPWYQSLV MMVSLILLSG
 241 ALVLALFRWM NVEVLTDKRF YDPSSVKTEG EAKGKLSLKQ
 281 SFSYLLRSNY LLCIALIVIS YNLVINLTEV LWKHQVRELY
 321 PDPNDYTYLM NHIVSIIGVV ATLSSLFVSG NAIRKFGWTT
 361 TALITPIILA VTSLGFFSFF FLKKASPEIF LSFSGVTPLV
 401 LVVFFGTAQN ILSRGAKYSV FDATEKMSFV PLNPESKLVG
 441 KAAIDGVCSR LGKSGGSVVH QSLLLLFSTI NASAPYVAIV
 481 LFAVILVWAM AIRVLGKQFN ELTSQVENNE TSGTLMTPIR
 521 AVNILSDTIL KEQKAV

[00254] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *PamTTT3* protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:6

1 ATGTCACAGA CACCAACAGG GTCCCGTGAA TTTAGTCCAT
 41 GGCGGAGCAA TCTTTGGCCC GTTCATCGCT ATGAGCTTAA
 81 AAAACTCATC CCAATGTTGT TAATATTCTT TTTTATTTCT
 121 TTTGATTACA ACATATTACG TACTTTAAAA GACTCACTAC
 161 TTATAACTGC AAAATCTTCA GGTGCTGAGG TCATTCCTTT
 201 TGTAAAGGTT TGGGCTATGT TCCCTGGAGC TATTTTAATG
 241 ACCCTTTTGT TCACTTGGTT GTCTAATCGC CTGTCAAGAG
 281 AAATCGTTTT TTACCTTATC ACTTCTCTTT TTTTATCTTA
 321 TTTTTTTTATT TTCACTTTTA TTCTCTATCC TATTCGAGAT
 361 ATTATCCATC CTCACGCAAC TGCTGACTAT CTTGAAACAA
 401 TTTTACCGAT TGGATTTAAA GGGCTAGTTG CGATGTTTCG
 441 TTAATGGAAGT TTTACTATTT TCTATGTGAT GTCAGAACTT
 481 TGGGGAAGTA CTGTTTTTATT TGTCTTATTT TGGGGTTTTG
 521 CTAATCAAGT GACTAAAATT AGTGAGGCAA AAAGATTTTA
 561 CGGTCTGTTT GGGGTAGGTG CTAATCTTTC GGGTATTTTC
 601 GCAGGACAAG CTTCTGTGTA CTGTTGTCAA TTTAATAAGC
 641 AGAACGATTT GGAATCCTT GGTAGTGATC CATGGTATCA
 681 ATCATTAGTG ATGATGGTTT CTTTAATTTT ATTATCGGGT
 721 GCTTTAGTTT TAGCTTTATT TCGTTGGATG AATGTAGAAG
 761 TCTTAACCGA TAAACGTTTT TATGATCCTT CTTCCGTTAA
 801 AACAGAAGGA GAAGCTAAAG GTAAGCTTTC TCTAAAGCAA
 841 AGCTTTTCCT ATCTTCTTCG CTCTAATTAC TTACTTTGTA
 881 TTGCTCTTAT TGTTATTTCT TATAACCTAG TTATTAACCT
 921 CACAGAAGTT TTATGGAAAC ATCAAGTCCG AGAGCTATAT

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961 CCTGATCCTA ATGATTATAC TTTATATATG AATCATATCG
1001 TATCCATTAT TGGGGTAGTA GCGACCTTAA GTTCCCTTTT
1041 CGTATCAGGA AATGCGATTC GCAAATTTGG GTGGACCACT
1081 ACTGCTTTAA TTACACCTAT CATTTTAGCT GTAACAAGTT
1121 TGGGCTTTTT CTCCTTTTTC TTCCTTAAAA AGGCATCTCC
1161 CGAAATTTTC TTATCTTTTT CCGGAGTAAC TCCTTTGGTT
1201 TTAGTGGTTT TCTTTGGAAC TGCTCAAAAC ATATTGAGTC
1241 GAGGAGCTAA ATACTCTGTA TTTGATGCCA CTAAAGAAAT
1281 GAGTTTTTGT CTTTTAAATC CTGAATCCAA ACTCGTTGGA
1321 AAAGCGGCGA TTGATGGAGT TTGTTCTCGC CTCGGAAAT
1361 CGGGTGGATC TGTGGTTCAT CAGAGCCTTC TACTTTTGT
1401 TTCTACAATT AATGCAAGTG CCCCTTATGT AGCTATCGTC
1441 TTGTTGCGCG TAATTCTAGT CTGGGCAATG GCAATTCGCG
1481 TTTTAGGTAA ACAATTTAAT GAATTGACAA GTCAGGTAGA
1521 AAACAATGAA ACTTCTGGGA CATTGATGAC TCCTATTCGA
1561 GCTGTTAATA TTCTTTCAGA CACAATTTTG AAAGAACAGA
1601 AAGCTGTATA A

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[00255] An example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter 5 from *Protochlamydia*

amoebophila (strain UWE25), is referred to as *PamTTT5*, and has the following sequence SEQ

ID NO:7

```

1 MKNQQNSVSS TLLILKKRSL ILFQFFLI II VYHTLKDLKD
41 TIVITASDAG AEIIPFIKIW GMLPLAICAS YFFAKFYNKF
81 GREKTFYIFS SFLLVNYLFF AFVLYPFRKF FYLENVADYL
121 HMILPVGAKG FVAMVSYWHY TLFYLTAE LW SMLILSILFW
161 GYVSDTTS LV EAKKFYPLCM FVGNMAGI IS GQLSHFLCQH
201 LSDFMSWERT LQWMIGIVCV CGLLIMI INR RLALTDFSA
241 IKQKVKKQIA PSSFKDNVMD VLRTGPLLCI AVL VVGFGFLT
281 TNLIEVIWKE NIRQLHPTPQ AYNAYINQLT SLIGTGAVCI
321 ALLSSWIFRK FTWTQIALTT PLCLLITSSA FFSSLLMPKE
361 LLAEIASFFQ FSPTQLIVTL GSICYVFSMS AKYTIFDTSK
401 EIAFLSIETE KRTYAKSVID SIGSRLGKSG ASCFYQFLLI
441 AFGIASEHIL LIGVVSII MI GISIFATKKL GGQLSGKNEN
481 HRFIEASHG

```

[00256] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *PamTTT5* protein is provided

below as SEQ ID NO:8

```

1 ATGAAAAATC AACAAAATTC TGTATCTTCT ACCTTACTAA
41 TCTTAAAAAA GCGTAGCTTG ATCCTATTTT AATTTTTTCT
81 AATTATCATT GTTTATCATA CATTAAAAGA CCTCAAAGAT
121 ACGATTGTTA TCACAGCAAG TGATGCAGGT GCAGAGATCA
161 TTCCTTTTAT TAAAATTTGG GGAATGCTTC CTCTTGCCAT
201 TTGTGCTAGT TATTTTTTTG CTAAATTTTA TAATAAATTT
241 GGAAGAGAAA AAACATTTTA TATTTTTAGC TCTTTCTTAC
281 TAGTTAACTA TCTTTTCTTT GCTTTTGTAT TATATCCATT
321 CCGCAAGTTT TTTTATTTAG AAAATGTTGC AGATTATTTA
361 CATATGATTT TACCTGTTGG AGCGAAAGGG TTTGTTGCCA
401 TGGTAAGCTA TTGGCATTAC ACTCTATTTT ATTTAACGGC
441 AGAATTATGG TCGATGCTCA TTCTATCTAT CCTTTTTTGG
481 GGTATGTGA GTGATACGAC TTCTTTAGTA GAAGCCAAAA
521 AATTTTACCC CCTCTGTATG TTCGTTGGAA ATATGGCAGG
561 AATTATTTCT GGTCAGCTCT CTCATTTCTT ATGTCAACAT

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601 TTGTCTGATT TCATGTCATG GGAAAGAACC CTGCAATGGA
641 TGATTGGTAT TGTCTGTGTT TGCGGCCTTT TAATTATGAT
681 TATTAATAGA CGGCTGGCTC TTACAACTGA TTTTTCGGCA
721 ATTAAACAAA AAGTAAAAAA ACAATAGCT CCCTCTTCTT
761 TCAAAGATAA TGTTATGGAT GTTTTAAGAA CAGGTCCCTT
801 ACTTTGTATA GCTGTATTGG TAGTGGGGTT TGGACTGACA
841 ACGAATCTAA TTGAAGTTAT TTGGAAAGAA AATATTAGGC
881 AACTACACCC GACACCTCAA GCCTACAATG CTTATATTAA
921 TCAATTGACT TCTTTAATTG GGACTGGTGC TGTTTGTATA
961 GCCTTGTTAT CAAGCTGGAT TTTTAGAAAG TTTACTTGGA
1001 CGCAAATTGC CCTCACAACC CTTTATGTT TATTAATCAC
1041 AAGCTCTGCT TTTTTTTCAT CGCTTCTTAT GCCTAAAGAG
1081 CTGTTAGCGG AAATTGCTTC TTTTTTTCAG TTTTCCCCAA
1121 CTCAATTGAT AGTGACACTA GGATCTATTT GCTATGTTTT
1161 TAGCATGTCT GCGAAGTACA CAATTTTGA TACTAGTAAA
1201 GAAATAGCTT TTCTTTCTAT TGAAACAGAA AAAAGAACGT
1241 ATGCTAAATC TGTAATTGAT AGCATTGGCT CTCGTTTGGG
1281 AAAATCTGGC GCTTCTTGTT TTTATCAATT TCTTCTTATT
1321 GCCTTTGGAA TTGCTTCCGA ACATATTTTA TTAATTGGAG
1361 TTGTATCCAT TATAATGATT GGAATTTTCA TTTTGTCTAC
1401 GAAAAAATTG GGTGGGCAGC TGTCTGGTAA AAATGAAAC
1441 CATCGCTTTA TAGAAGCTTC CCATGGATAA

```

[00257] An example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 from *Thalassiosira pseudonana*, is referred to as *TpTTT2*, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:9

```

1 MKTSCTIQRR VKSISSKHSI IDTHHSTSRR LSVILLFFLL
41 HSSAEMLFAS ATGNHNANTS PPPANIPMIS TNNKSCMMRR
81 TRSQSRDSS RSPDSVASAN VVGRGGDGGT IMGAKSVFQT
121 ASKALPPNTV SSTASGSVSK ASRLRTVLFP IQNDEMKKFL
161 LIGSIKFFVI LALTLTRDNK DTMVVTECGA EAIAFLKIYG
201 VLPSATLFIA LYSKMATIFD KKTIFYATCI PFFAFFFLFD
241 AIIYPNRNVI QPSLESVQRV MRITADSSGA MSIFAKLFAN
281 WTSALFYIVA EVYSSVSVGI LFWQYANDVV SVSQAKRFYP
321 LFAQMSGLAP IVAGQYVVRY ASRANDFEES LHRLTWMVSF
361 SGVMICLFYK WSNEYNDQTS GGLNGGIEDG VKETKVVKKK
401 KAKMSMRDSA KFLASSEYLR LIAALVVGYG LSINFTDIMW
441 KSIVKRQYPD PLDYQRFMGN FSSVVGLSTC IVIFLGVHAI
481 RILGWRMGAL ATPAVMAILA FPYFSSILVG LDSPGSLRIA
521 VIFGTIQCLL SKTAKYALFD PTTQMAYIPL DDESKIKGKA
561 AIEVLGSRIG KSGGSLIQQG LVLVFGNIIN AAPALVVLYY
601 SVLAWWVYSA NRLGSLFLAK TAMQEETKEH QK

```

[00258] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *TpTTT2* protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:10

```

1 ATGAAAACAT CTTGTACAAT CCAACGTCGT GTCAAATCCA
41 TCTCATCCAA ACACAGTATC ATCGACACAC ACCACTCTAC
81 TTCTCGCCGT TTAAGTGTCA TCCTACTCTT CTTTCTACTA
121 CACTCCTCGG CAGAGATGCT ATTTGCTTCC GCCACGGGCA
161 ATCACAACGC CAATACATCA CCACCACCTG CGAATATTCC
201 CATGATTAGC ACTAACAACA AATCATGTAT GATGCGACGA
241 ACCAGGAGTC AATCACGACG AGATAGCAGC CGTTCGCCTG
281 ATTCGGTGGC CTCGGCCAAT GTTGTGGGA GGGGCGGCGA
321 TGGGGGTACC ATTATGGGTG CCAAGAGTGT CTTCCAGACT

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361 GCTTCGAAAG CATTACCTCC CAACACTGTG TCGTCCACAG
401 CAAGCGGCAG TGTATCCAAA GCATCGCGCC TACGAACGGT
441 CCTCTTCCCC ATTCAAAATG ACGAGATGAA GAAGTTTCTC
481 TTGATTGGAA GTATCAAGTT CTTTGTAAAT CTAGCGTTGA
521 CACTCACGAG AGATAATAAG GATACAATGG TGGTTACCGA
561 GTGTGGAGCT GAGGCCATCG CTTTTCTAAA GATCTACGGA
601 GTACTACCAT CCGCCACACT CTTCATAGCA CTCTACTCGA
641 AAATGGCCAC TATCTTTGAC AAAAAGACCT TATTCTACGC
681 CACGTGCATT CCATTCTTTG CATTCCTTCT CTTATTCGAT
721 GCAATCATCT ATCCTAACCG GAATGTCATT CAGCCTTCCT
761 TAGAGAGTGT TCAGCGTGTC ATGAGAATCA CAGCCGATTC
801 ATCGGGTGCC ATGTCCATCT TTGCAAAGTT GTTCGCCAAT
841 TGGACGTCGG CCTTGTTTTA TATTGTAGCA GAGGTATACT
881 CGTCTGTTTC AGTGGGGATA TTGTTCTGGC AGTATGCCAA
921 TGATGTGGTG TCTGTCTCGC AAGCAAAACG ATTTTACCCA
961 CTCTTTGCAC AGATGAGTGG ACTTGCCCCC ATTGTGGCTG
1001 GACAGTATGT GGTACGATAT GCTAGTAGAG CCAATGACTT
1041 TGAAGAATCA TTGCATAGGT TGACGTGGAT GGTATCCTTT
1081 TCGGGAGTGA TGATTTGTCT GTTTTACAAG TGGAGCAATG
1121 AGTACAATGA TCAGACGTCT GGAGGGTTAA ATGGGGGAAT
1161 TGAGGATGGA GTAAAAGAGA CGAAGGTGGT GAAGAAAAAG
1201 AAAGCCAAAA TGTCAATGAG GGATTCAGCC AAGTTTTTGG
1241 CTTTCATCCGA GTATTTGAGA CTGATTGCTG CTTTGGTTGT
1281 GGGATATGGT CTGTCGATCA ACTTTACAGA TATAATGTGG
1321 AAATCAATCG TCAAGAGACA ATATCCCGAT CCTCTCGACT
1361 ATCAACGTTT CATGGGGAAC TTTTCATCAG TAGTTGGATT
1401 GTCTACGTGC ATCGTTATCT TTCTCGGTGT ACATGCTATT
1441 CGTATACTAG GCTGGCGAAT GGGTGCCCTA GCGACTCCAG
1481 CCGTCATGGC AATCTTGGA TTCCCTTACT TCTCGAGCAT
1521 TCTCGTTGGG TTGGACAGTC CAGGTAGTTT ACGAATTGCA
1561 GTGATCTTTG GTACTATTCA ATGCCTGCTT AGTAAGACAG
1601 CAAAGTATGC CCTGTTCGAT CCGACAAC TC AAATGGCCTA
1641 CATTCCTTTG GATGACGAAT CAAAGATCAA GGGAAAGGCA
1681 GCAATAGAAG TACTTGGTTC TCGGATTGGA AAAAGTGGTG
1721 GTTCGTTGAT ACAACAAGGT CTTGTGTTGG TGTTTGGGAA
1761 CATTATCAAT GCTGCTCCCG CGTTGGTTGT TCTTTACTAC
1801 TCAGTGTTGG CGTGGTGGGT GTACTCAGCA AATCGGCTCG
1841 GATCATTGTT CTTGGCAAAG ACAGCTATGC AAGAGGAAAC
1881 AAAAGAGCAC CAGAAGTAG

```

[00259] An example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 from *Simkania negevensis*, is referred to as *SnTTT3*, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:11

```

1 MSSTEYEKST WTQKIWPIRR FELKKVLPLL ILKFLVSMVY
41 ATLTLIKDPL VVTAKHSGAE VIPVLKGWIV FPLSILCAIG
81 YSKLSNHFKR STLFYGIITA FLAIVLIYGF VLYPNMGILT
121 PSDSANLLTA KFGEKYTHWI AVYRNWIHSL FFVTTTELWGQ
161 VVIFLLYWGF ANHICQVKEA KRSYTLFIAA GDLATILAGP
201 LTYYYGKKFL GQSYALTLQS LLGYVLVCGL LIMAVYWMN
241 RYVLTDKRY DPSTVKQTVN QKTKLSLRDS IRHIFSSKYL
281 LAIAVLVVG ALTINMVEVT WKAHLKMQYP TTADYQMFMG
321 RVTTIVGVVA LITVFFLGGN FLRRFGWHFS AQITPWAIGI
361 TGGVFFLLCL LKPYLGSFAH YVGLTPLMMI VIFGAFQNIT
401 SKVVKYSSFD STKEMAYIPL DPESKVKGKA AIDMVGSRLG

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441 KSSSSWLQIG LIELVGTGSV ISITPYLLPI VLGAALYWSY

481 SVRYLNKELS VREETLLEEE EAKKRAGELQ PEPEPAT

[00260] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Simkania negevensis* SnTTT3 protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:12

```

1  ATGAGTAGTA  CCGAATATGA  GAAGTCCACA  TGGACTCAAA
41 AAATCTGGCC  AATAAGGCGC  TTTGAACTTA  AGAAAAGTCCT
81 TCCTCTTTTA  ATCCTTAAAT  TTCTAGTCTC  TATGGTTTAT
121 GCCACTCTCA  CCTTAATCAA  GGATCCCCTT  GTGGTGACGG
161 CAAAACATTC  TGGAGCAGAA  GTCATTCCAG  TTCTAAAAGG
201 TTGGATTGTT  TTCCCCTTAT  CGATTCTTTG  TGCTATTGGT
241 TACTCAAAGT  TAAGCAACCA  CTTCAAACGT  TCCACCCTCT
281 TTTACGGAAT  CATTACAGCT  TTCCTAGCTA  TTGTTCTTAT
321 CTACGGCTTC  GTTTTGTATC  CCAATATGGG  AATTCTCACA
361 CCAAGCGACT  CTGCAAACTT  GTTAACAGCT  AAATTTGGGG
401 AAAAATACAC  ACACTGGATT  GCAGTTTATC  GGAATTGGAT
441 CCATTCTCTC  TTTTTCGTCA  CCACAGAGCT  TTGGGGGCAA
481 GTTGTCAATTT  TCCTCCTCTA  CTGGGGATTT  GCCAACCACA
521 TTTGCCAAGT  GAAAGAAGCT  AAAAGATCTT  ACACTCTTTT
561 CATCGCTGCA  GGCGATTTAG  CAACGATCTT  GGCTGGTCCA
601 CTTACCTATT  ACTACGGAAA  AAAGTTTCTA  GGACAAAGCT
641 ATGCTCTCAC  TCTTCAATCC  CTACTAGGAT  ATGTCTTAGT
681 CTGCGGGCTA  CTCATCATGG  CAGTCTATTG  GTGGATGAAT
721 CGATATGTCC  TAACAGACAA  ACGGTACTAC  GATCCATCAG
761 TGACGAAGCA  AACAGTCAAC  CAAAAGACCA  AACTCTCTCT
801 GCGTGATAGT  ATCCGGCATA  TCTTTTCATC  AAAGTATCTC
841 CTTGCTATTG  CGGTCCTCGT  TGTCGGTTGC  GCTCTCACCA
881 TCAACATGGT  AGAAGTCACC  TGGAAAGCTC  ACTTAAAGAT
921 GCAATACCCA  ACAACTGCTG  ATTACCAAAT  GTTCATGGGG
961 CGAGTCACAA  CTATTGTTGG  AGTTGTTGCC  CTCATCACTG
1001 TATTCTTCTT  AGGAGGAAAC  TTCCTGAGAC  GGTTTGGATG
1041 GCACTTCAGT  GCTCAAATCA  CCCCATGGGC  GATTGGAATC
1081 ACAGGTGGTG  TTTTCTTTTT  ACTCTGCCTT  TTGAAGCCCT
1121 ATCTCGGGTC  TTTCGCTCAT  TATGTTGGAC  TCACCCCTCT
1161 TATGATGATT  GTCATCTTTG  GAGCCTTCCA  AAATATCACT
1201 AGTAAAGTCG  TCAAATACTC  GTTCTTTGAT  TCGACGAAAG
1241 AAATGGCTTA  TATTCCACTA  GACCCTGAAT  CTAAAGTGAA
1281 AGGAAAAGCA  GCCATCGACA  TGGTCGGTTC  AAGATTGGGT
1321 AAGTCGAGCT  CCTCCTGGCT  ACAAATTGGC  TTGATTGAAC
1361 TAGTTGGGAC  TGGTTCGGTG  ATCTCAATCA  CTCCTTATCT
1401 ACTGCCTATC  GTTCTAGGTG  CCGCCCTCTA  TTGGAGCTAC
1441 TCTGTACGCT  ACCTCAATAA  AGAGCTTTCT  GTGCGTGAAG
1481 AAACACTCCT  CGAGGAAGAA  GAAGCTAAGA  AAAGAGCGGG
1521 AGAGCTTCAG  CCTGAACCTG  AGCCTGCCAC  TTGA

```

[00261] A single nucleotide mismatch resulted in an amino acid substitution at position 248 of the SEQ ID NO:11 sequence where arginine (R), which is a basic amino acid, is replaced with a tryptophan (W), which is a nonpolar/hydrophobic amino acid. This mutant nucleotide

triphosphate transporter 3 from *Simkania negevensis* has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:13

```

1  MSSTEYEKST  WTQKIWPIRR  FELKKVLPLL  ILKFLVSMVY
41 ATLTLIKDPL  VVTAKHSGAE  VIPVLKGWIV  FPLSILCAIG
81 YSKLSNHFKR  STLFYGIITA  FLAIVLIYGF  VLYPNMGILT

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121 PSDSANLLTA KFGEKYTHWI AVYRNWIHSL FFVTTTELWGQ
161 VVIFLLYWGF ANHICQVKEA KRSYTLFIAA GDLATILAGP
201 LTYYYGKKFL GQSYALTLQS LLGYVLVCGL LIMAVYWWMN
241 RYVLTDKWYY DPSVTKQTVN QKTKLSLRDS IRHIFSSSKYL
281 LAIAVLVVGC ALTINMVEVT WKAHLKMQYP TTADYQMFMG
321 RVTITVGVVA LITVFFLGGN FLRRFGWHFS AQITPWAIGI
361 TGGVFLLCL LKPYLGSFAH YVGLTPLMMI VIFGAFQINIT
401 SKVVKYSSFD STKEMAYIPL DPESKVKGKA AIDMVGSRLG
441 KSSSSWLQIG LIELVGTGSV ISITPYLLPI VLGAALYWSY
481 SVRYLNKELS VREETLLEEE EAKKRAGELQ PEPEPAT

```

[00262] An example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 from *Simkania negevensis*, is referred to as *SnTTT2*, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:14

```

1 MSTQTDVSFS KWRSFLWPIQ GREIKKFLPL LLIYALICLN
41 YSVLKVAKDT LVITAPGSGA EAIPFIKVWV ILPMALLVTY
81 LFTRLFNRF S QEQVFYIMIG SFISFFALFA FVLYPLRDFL
121 HPHDTADKLQ AMLPQGFQGL IAIFRNWSYT LFYVMSELWG
161 TAIMSVLFWG FTNEIISVGE AKRYYGILSV GANIATIFSG
201 YITTFLSLQV IDMSFIFGPD RWGQSLGLVT CVVVAAGLLI
241 MALFRWYNKR VINRDAVLLK MKQDHTETKK TMKMGMRKNF
281 AYLAKSKYLI CIAVLVVAFN VGINMVEIIW KDQIKELYPN
321 PNDFIVYMGK VMSAIGWVAT FVGLFLSSNL IRRLGWTVSA
361 LITPVALLVT GVFFFGFILF KNNPTLVGWT AAIGFTPLAL
401 GVLFGTIQNV MSRACKYTLF DSTKEIAFIP LSPESKLKKG
441 AAIDGVGSRV GKSGGSIVHG GLLMLFGSVS LSAPYVGLIL
481 LAVVFGWIGA ARSLGRQFNL LTHHEKLEI NEEAQPSEKK
521 PLLESV

```

[00263] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Simkania negevensis SnTTT2* protein with SEQ ID NO:13 is provided below as SEQ ID NO:15.

```

1 ATGTCAACAC AGACTGATGT GAGTTTCAGT AAATGGCGCT
41 CATTTTTGTG GCCAATTCAA GGAAGAGAAA TAAAAAATT
81 TCTTCCTCTT CTCCTGATTT ACGCTCTCAT TTGTCTTAAC
121 TATAGCGTCT TAAAAGTCGC AAAAGACACA CTTGTCATTA
161 CAGCCCCTGG ATCAGGCGCA GAAGCAATCC CGTTTATCAA
201 GGTCTGGGTC ATTCTCCCCA TGGCACTCCT CGTAACTTAT
241 CTCTTTACTC GCCTCTTCAA TCGATTTAGC CAAGAACAAG
281 TGTTTTTACAT CATGATCGGG AGCTTCATTT CGTTTTTTCGC
321 TCTATTTGCA TTTGTCTCTT ACCCCTTGCG AGATTTTCTT
361 CATCCTCATG ACACAGCTGA TAAATTACAA GCCATGCTTC
401 CACAGGGATT CCAAGGGCTC ATAGCCATTT TCCGTAAGTG
441 GTCCTATACC CTCTTTTATG TGATGTCTGA GCTATGGGGA
481 ACCGCTATTA TGTCTGTCCT CTTTGGGGA TTCACAAATG
521 AAATTATTTT TGTAGGTGAG GCCAAAAGGT ATTATGGAAT
561 TCTCAGTGTA GGGGCCAATA TTGCAACTAT TTTTTCAGGG
601 TACATCACCA CCTTCTCTC TTTGCAAGTG ATTGACATGT
641 CATTCAATTT TGGACCTGAC CGCTGGGGAC AATCATTAGG
681 TCTTGTGACA TGTGTTGTTG TTGCAGCAGG TCTCCTTATT
721 ATGGCCCTTT TCAGATGGTA CAACAAGCGA GTCATTAATC
761 GTGATGCAGT ACTATTAAAA ATGAAACAAG ACCACACAGA
801 AACGAAGAAG ACCATGAAAA TGGGAATGCG TAAGAATTTT
841 GCTTACCTTG CAAAATCAAA GTATTTAATT TGCATTGCAG
881 TTCTGGTTGT TGCATTCAAT GTTGAATCA ACATGGTCA

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921 AATTATCTGG AAAGATCAAA TCAAAGAACT GTATCCCAAT
961 CCCAACGATT TTATTGTTTA TATGGGGAAG GTCATGAGTG
1001 CAATTGGTTG GGTTGCAACA TTTGTCGGAC TATTTCTCAG
1041 TAGTAATTTA ATCAGGCGCT TAGGATGGAC TGTCAGCGCC
1081 TTAATCACTC CTGTTGCTCT CCTCGTAACA GGTGTTTTCT
1121 TTTTCGGATT CATTCTCTTT AAAAACAACC CTACATTAGT
1161 GGGTTGGACA GCCGCCATAG GATTTACACC TCTTGCACTA
1201 GGGGTTCTCT TTGGGACAAT CCAAATGTG ATGTCTCGAG
1241 CATGTAAATA CACCTTATTT GACTCTACAA AAGAAATAGC
1281 GTTTATCCCC CTTAGCCCTG AGTCCAAGCT AAAAGGAAAA
1321 GCTGCAATTG ATGGAGTAGG CTCTCGCGTT GGAAAGTCCG
1361 GAGGGTCGAT TGTTTCATGGT GGACTACTGA TGCTCTTCGG
1401 CTCCGTTTCT CTCAGCGCAC CTTACGTCGG CTTGATCTTA
1441 CTCGCCGTTG TTTTCGGTTG GATTGGTGCA GCTCGTTCAC
1481 TCGGGAGACA ATTTAATCTC CTTACGACGC ATCATGAAAA
1521 ACTCGAGATT AACGAGGAGG CACAGCCCTC CGAAAAAAG
1561 CCCTTACTTG AATCCGTTTA A

```

[00264] An example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter from *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is referred to as RPTlc1, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:16

```

1  MSTSKSENYL SELRKIIWPI EQYENKKFLP LAFMMFCILL
41 NYSTLRSIKD GFVVTDIGTE SISFLKTYIV LPSAVIAMII
81 YVKLCDILKQ ENVFYVITSF FLGYFALFAF VLYPPYDLVH
121 PDHKTIESLS LAYPNFKWFI KIVGKWSFAS FYTIAELWGT
161 MMLSLLFWQF ANQITKIAEA KRFYSMFGLL ANLALPVTST
201 VIGYFLHEKT QIVAHLKFV PLFVIMITSS FLIILTYRWM
241 NKNVLTDPR L YDPALVKEKK TKAKLSFIES LKMIFTSKYV
281 GYIALLI IAY GVS VNLVEGV WSKSVKELYP TKEAYTIYMG
321 QFQFYQGWVA IAFMLIGSNI LRKVS WLTA MITPLMMFIT
361 GAAFFSFIFF DSVIAMNLTG ILASSPLTLA VMIGMIQNVL
401 SKGVKYS LFD ATKNMAYIPL DKDLRVKGQA AVEVIGGRLG
441 KSGGAI IQST FFILFPVFGF IEATPYFASI FFIIVILWIF
481 AVKGLNKEYQ VLVNKNEK

```

[00265] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Rickettsia prowazekii* RPTlc1 protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:17

```

1  ATGAGTACTT CCAAAGTGA AAATTATCTT TCAGAACTAA
41 GAAAGATAAT TTGGCCTATA GAACAATATG AAAATAAGAA
81 GTTTTTGCCA CTTGCATTTA TGATGTTCTG TATTTTATTA
121 AACTACTCAA CTCTTCGTTC AATTAAAGAC GGTTTTGTAG
161 TAACAGATAT AGGTACAGAA TCGATAAGTT TTTTAAAAAC
201 ATATATAGTA CTACCTTCTG CTGTAATTGC TATGATAATT
241 TATGTTAAGC TATGTGATAT TTAAAGCAA GAAAACGTAT
281 TTTATGTTAT TACTTCATTT TTTTATAGGT ATTTTGCATT
321 ATTTGCCTTT GTTCTTTACC CATATCCTGA TTTAGTCCAC
361 CCTGATCATA AAACATAGA ATCTTTAAGT TTAGCTTATC
401 CTAATTTCAA ATGGTTTATA AAAATAGTTG GTAAATGGAG
441 TTTTGCATCT TTTTATACTA TTGCCGAGCT TTGGGGAACA
481 ATGATGCTTA GTTTATTATT TTGGCAATTT GCTAATCAAA
521 TTAATAAAAT CGCTGAAGCT AAACGTTTCT ACTCAATGTT
561 TGGTTTACTT GCGAATTTAG CATTGCCTGT AACATCAGTG
601 GTTATTGGAT ATTTTCTACA CGAAAAAAGT CAAATAGTTG
641 CAGAACATTT AAAATTTGTA CCTTTATTTG TTATAATGAT

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681 AACAAAGTAGT TTCTTAATAA TATTAACATA TAGATGGATG
721 AATAAAAATG TTCTAACTGA TCCTAGACTA TATGATCCAG
761 CATTAGTAAA AGAAAAAATAA ACTAAAGCTA AATTGTCGTT
801 CATAGAAAGT TTAATAAATGA TCTTTACTTC GAAATATGTA
841 GGTTATATTG CATTATTAAT TATTGCTTAT GGTGTTTCAG
881 TAAATTTAGT TGAAGGTGTT TGGAAATCCA AAGTAAAAGA
921 ATTATATCCG ACAAAGGAGG CTTATACCAT ATATATGGGT
961 CAGTTCCAAT TTTATCAGGG TTGGGTGCA ATTGCTTTTA
1001 TGCTGATAGG TAGTAATATT TTAAGAAAAG TATCATGGCT
1041 AACTGCAGCT ATGATCACTC CATTAAATGAT GTTCATAACA
1081 GGTGCGGCAT TTTTTTCATT TATATTTTTT GATAGCGTTA
1121 TTGCAATGAA TTTAACCGGC ATCCTTGCTT CAAGTCCTTT
1161 AACACTTGCT GTTATGATCG GTATGATTCA AAATGTTTTA
1201 AGTAAAGGTG TGAAATATTC TTTATTTGAT GCAACTAAAA
1241 ATATGGCGTA TATTCACCTT GATAAGGATT TACGAGTCAA
1281 AGGGCAAGCT GCCGTTGAAG TTATCGGAGG AAGGCTCGGT
1321 AAATCAGGCG GTGCTATTAT TCAATCTACA TTCTTTATTT
1361 TATTTCTGT ATTTGGTTTT ATAGAGGCGA CTCCTTATTT
1401 TGCTTCTATA TTCTTTATAA TAGTAATATT ATGGATATTT
1441 GCAGTTAAAG GTTTAAATAA AGAGTATCAA GTTTTGGTAA
1481 ATAAAAATGA AAAATAG

```

[00266] Another example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter from *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is referred to as RPTlc2, and has the following sequence

SEQ ID NO:18

```

1 MNIVDSNCTI WHKARNKSKFR HIVWPIRSYE LTKFIPMTLL
41 MFFILLNQN L VRSIKDSFVV TLISSEVLSF IKLWGEMPMG
81 VLFVILYSKL CNIMTTEQVF RIITSTFLFF FAIFGFILFP
121 YKEFFHPNPE LINQYIIIVLP HLKWFLIIWG QWSLVLFYIM
161 GELWPVIVFT LLYWQLANKI TKVEEAPRFY SFTTLFGQTN
201 LLFSGTVIIY FAKSEHFLLP LFAHLNDTNE ILLKSFITVI
241 LISGLICLAL HKLIDKSVE ADKNIKFKNQ RTDILKLSLL
281 ESAKIILTSR YLGFICLLVM SYSMSINLIE GLWMSKVQQL
321 YPATKDFISY HGEVLFWTGV LTLVSAFLGS SLIRIYGWFW
361 GAIITPIMMF VAGVMFFSFT IFEQHLGNIV NTLGYSSPLV
401 IIVFIGGLWH VFAKSVKYSL FDATEKEMVYI PLDNEIKTKG
441 KAAVDVMGAK IGKSIGAI IQ FISFSIFPNA VHNDIAGLLM
481 VTFIIVCILW LYGVKVL SQN YNKMIKR

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[00267] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Rickettsia prowazekii* RPTlc2 protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:19

```

1 ATGAATATAG TAGATTCTAA CTGTACAATT TGGCATAAAG
41 CAAGAAATAG TAAATTTAGG CATATAGTAT GGCCAATTAG
81 ATCGTATGAA TTAACAAAAT TCATCCCGAT GACTTTATTA
121 ATGTTTTTTA TTTTACTTAA TCAAAATTTA GTGCGTAGTA
161 TTAAAGATAG TTTTGTTGTT ACATTAAATTA GTTCAGAAGT
201 ATTAAGTTTT ATAAAACCTT GGGGTGAAAT GCCGATGGGG
241 GTTTTATTTG TTATTCTTTA TTCTAAACTC TGTAATATTA
281 TGACCACAGA GCAAGTTTTT AGGATAATTA CCAGTACCTT
321 TTTATTTTTT TTTGCAATTT TTGGTTTTAT TTTATTCCCA
361 TACAAAGAGT TTTTTCATCC TAACCCTGAA TTAATTAATC
401 AATATATCAT TGTTCTGCCT CACTTAAAGT GGTTTTTAAT

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441 AATTTGGGGA CAATGGAGTT TAGTATTATT TTATATAATG
481 GGTGAGTTAT GGCCTGTTAT AGTTTTTACT CTTTTATATT
521 GGCAGCTTGC AAATAAAATC ACCAAAGTCG AAGAAGCACC
561 AAGATTTTAC TCATTTTTTA CTTTATTTGG ACAAACTAAT
601 TTGCTCTTCT CAGGCACTGT AATTATTTAT TTTGCTAAGA
641 GCGAACATTT TTTATTACCT TTATTTGCTC ATTTAAATGA
681 CACAAATGAA ATTCTTTTAA AATCATTCAT CACAGTTATT
721 TTAATATCAG GATTAATTTG TTTAGCTCTC CATAAGCTAA
761 TTGATAAATC AGTTGTAGAA GCTGATAAAA ATATAAAATT
801 TAAAAACCAA AGAACAGATA TATTAAAATT AAGCTTGCTC
841 GAAAGTGCAA AAATAATCTT AACGTCTAGA TATCTTGTTT
881 TTATTTGTCT TCTCGTAATG TCTTATTCTA TGAGTATTAA
921 CCTAATAGAA GGATTGTGGA TGTCAAAAGT AAAACAATCTC
961 TATCCTGCTA CAAAGGATTT TATATCATAT CACGGTGAAG
1001 TATTGTTTTG GACTGGAGTG TTAACTTTAG TTAGTGCATT
1041 TTTAGGCAGT AGTTTAATTA GAATTTATGG CTGGTTTTTG
1081 GGGGCTATTA TAACACCGAT TATGATGTTT GTAGCAGGGG
1121 TTATGTTTTT TTCATTCACA ATTTTGAAC AACACTTAGG
1161 AAATATAGTA AATACTCTTG GCTATAGTTC TCCACTTGTC
1201 ATTATAGTTT TTATTGGTGG ACTTTGGCAT GTATTTGCTA
1241 AATCTGTAAA GTATTCCCTT TTCGATGCTA CTAAAGAAAT
1281 GGTGTATATT CCACTAGATA ATGAAATTAA GACTAAAGGT
1321 AAAGCAGCAG TTGATGTTAT GGGTGCTAAA ATTGGTAAGT
1361 CAATAGGTGC TATTATTCAA TTCATATCCT TTAGTATCTT
1401 TCCAAATGCT GTACATAACG ACATAGCAGG CTTATTGATG
1441 GTTACTTTTA TTATCGTATG TATATTATGG CTATATGGAG
1481 TGAAAGTTTT ATCACAAAAT TATAATAAAA TGATAAAACG
1501 TTAA

```

[00268] Another example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter from *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is referred to as RPTlc3, and has the following sequence

SEQ ID NO:20

```

1 MLPPKIFFEK VKEIIWPIER KELKLFIPMA LMMLCILFNF
41 GALRSIKDSL VVPSMGAELI SFLKLWLVLV SCVIFTILYV
81 KLSNKLNFY IFYSIVGTFL LFFLLFAYII YPNQDIYHPN
121 DAMINNLIAS YPNLKWFIKI GSKWSYALMY IFSELWSAVV
161 INLMFWQFAN HIFDTAKAKR FYPVLGMVGN IGLIIAGSVL
201 VFFSSGQYII DSELLTDSYN SSSNNSIMLQ PIISIIVTAG
241 IIAMFLFRII NKFILTNSIN VLDVKKVAAK TKTKLALIES
281 IKLIIHSKYI GRIALLIICY GLLINIVEGP WKAKIKELHP
321 NTVDYVNFMG MFNIWMGISC VTFMIIGSNI LRRLGWLISA
361 LLTPIMLSIT GFMFFIFIIF IEEIGTCFGD FNLLYVAIIV
401 GAIQNILSKS SKYSLFDSTK EMAYIPLSLE LRTKGKAAVE
441 VIGTKFGKSL GAFIQSLIFI IIPATFDSI IYLLVIFIV
481 MMNLWIWNII KLNKEYIKLC Q

```

[00269] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Rickettsia prowazekii* RPTlc3 protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:21

```

1 ATGTTACCGC CTAAAATTTT CTTTGAAAAA GTTAAAGAAA
41 TAATTTGGCC TATAGAAAGG AAAGAATTAA AGCTATTTAT
81 ACCAATGGCT TTAATGATGT TATGTATCCT GTTTAATTTT
121 GGGGCTTTAA GATCTATTAA AGATAGTTTA GTAGTACCCT

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161 CTATGGGGGC TGAAATTATT AGTTTCTTAA AATTATGGTT
201 AGTGCTACCC TCGTGC GTAA TTTTACGAT ACTTTACGTT
241 AAACCTAGTA ATAAATTAAA TTTTGAATAT ATTTTCTATA
281 GTATAGTCGG TACTTTTTTTA CTATTTTCTT TATTATTTGC
321 CTATATTATT TATCCAAATC AAGATATTTA TCATCCTAAT
361 GATGCAATGA TAAATAATTT AATTGCTTCA TACCCTAATT
401 TAAAGTGGTT TATTAAAATA GGTAGTAAAT GGAGTTATGC
441 GCTAATGTAT ATTTTCTCAG AATTATGGAG TGCAGTAGTT
481 ATAAACTTAA TGTTTTGGCA ATTTGCTAAT CACATTTTTG
521 ATACTGCTAA AGCTAAACGA TTTTATCCTG TTCTTGGGAT
561 GGTGGTAAT ATCGGTCTTA TAATAGCAGG CAGCGTACTT
601 GTTTTTTTTT CAAGTGGGCA GTACATCATT GATTCAGAAT
641 TATTAACGGA TTCTTATAAT TCATCTTCTA ACAATTCTAT
681 CATGCTTCAG CCAATCATAT CAATTATTGT TACTGCAGGA
721 ATAATTGCTA TGTTTTTATT TAGAATAATA AATAAATTTA
761 TTTTAACTAA TTCTATAAAT GTTTTAGATG TAAAAAAGT
801 TGCTGCTAAA ACAAAAACAA AACTTGCATT AATTGAAAGT
841 ATAAAATTAA TAATTCATTC AAAATATATA GGTCGTATTG
881 CATTATTAAT AATCTGTTAT GGATTACTAA TAAATATAGT
921 TGAAGGACCT TGGAAAGCGA AAATAAAAGA ATTACATCCA
961 AATACTGTAG ATTATGTTAA TTTTATGGGC ATGTTTAATA
1001 TTTGGATGGG GATCTCATGT GTTACTTTCA TGATAATAGG
1041 TAGTAATATT CTTAGAAGGC TTGGTTGGCT CATTTCTGCA
1081 TTATTAACCTC CTATTATGTT ATCTATTACA GGCTTCATGT
1121 TTTTATCTT TATAATTTTT ATTGAAGAAA TAGGTACATG
1161 TTTTGGTGAT TTTAATCTTC TATATGTAGC GATTATTGTC
1201 GGAGCAATTC AGAATATACT TAGTAAATCG TCTAAATATT
1241 CATTATTCGA TTCAACAAAA GAAATGGCAT ATATTCCTTT
1281 ATCTTTAGAA CTGAGAACTA AGGGAAAAGC CGCTGTAGAG
1321 GTAATAGGAA CGAAATTTGG TAAATCACTT GGAGCATTTA
1361 TCCAGTCTTT GATATTTATT ATTATTCCAA CGGCTACCTT
1401 TGATTCTATT ATAATATATT TACTAGTAAT TTTTATAGTG
1441 ATGATGAATT TATGGATTTG GAATATTATA AAATTAAATA
1481 AGGAATATAT AAAGCTGTGT CAATAA

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[00270] Another example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter from *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is referred to as RPTlc4, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:22

```

1 MTINASNIEN SFSKINSHFS KLTDYIWPIK RHEISKFLFI
41 TLLMFCILFI QNLIRALKDS IVTTMIGAET ISFLKFWGVM
81 PSAFLITVIY VKLVNRMKAE NIFYLIISIF LTFFALFAYV
121 IFPNHEMLHL RPVTVHNLTA SLPNLKWFIL LLSKWSFSLF
161 YIIAELWPNV VFALLFWQFV NNITTVEESK RFYPLFGLLS
201 QTGIYLAGHF LENLSNINYY VTNKFALQSS FHTLSIQIIL
241 TIVLILGIVS IKTFWLLNHK VLDKKHMALL RFKTKNKSIT
281 IAKSFQMILS SRHIRLIATL LICYGIAINL VEGPWKAAAT
321 KIYKTPTEYA AFIGSYLSYT GVFTIFFVLL GSNIVRRMGW
361 FTSAVITPSI VFITGILFFA VNNFEGFAGL IIANFILTDP
401 ALVAITIGAI QNVLSKSSKY TLF DSTKEMA YVPLEPEIKI
441 SGKAAADVIG TKLGKSGSAF LQSLIFIILP SASYQISISIC
481 LMIIFILTCV TWIWATKELN KEYKNSIKFS QK

```

[00271] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Rickettsia prowazekii* RPTlc4 protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:23

```

1  ATGACGATTA ACGCCAGTAA TATAGAAAAT TCTTTTTCTA
41 AAATCAATAG CCATTTTTCT AAGCTTACAG ATTATATCTG
81 GCCTATAAAA CGCCACGAAA TTTCTAAGTT TTTATTCATT
121 ACATTATTAA TGTTCTGTAT TTTATTTATT CAAAATCTCA
161 TCAGAGCTTT AAAAGATAGT ATTGTTACTA CTATGATAGG
201 TGCTGAGACT ATATCATTTT TGAAATTTTG GGGCGTGATG
241 CCGTCAGCAT TCTTAATAAC TGTTATATAT GTTAAACTTG
281 TCAATAGGAT GAAAGCAGAA AATATATTTT ATCTTATTAT
321 ATCAATTTTT TTAACATTCT TTGCTTTGTT TGCATACGTT
361 ATTTTCCCAA ATCATGAAAT GCTGCATTTA AGGCCTGTAA
401 CCGTGCATAA TTTAACGGCA AGTTTACCGA ATTTAAAATG
441 GTTTATACTT CTTTTATCAA AATGGAGTTT TTCACTATTT
481 TATATAATAG CCGAATTATG GCCAAATGTA GTTTTTGCAT
521 TACTGTTTTG GCAGTTTGTG AATAATATTA CTACAGTAGA
561 AGAATCGAAA AGATTTTATC CATTATTTGG TTTACTTAGT
601 CAAACAGGTA TTTATTTAGC AGGACATTTT TTAGAAAATC
641 TAAGTAATAT AAATTATTAT GTCACTAATA AATTTGCATT
681 GCAATCGTCT TTTCATACAC TTTCTATACA AATTATACTA
721 ACTATAGTAT TAATTTTAGG CATAGTATCG ATAAAAACTT
761 TTTGGTTACT TAATCATAAA GTACTAGACA AAAAGCATAT
801 GGCATTACTC AGGTTCAAAA CAAAAAATAA ATCTATTACT
841 ATTGCTAAAA GTTTTCAGAT GATTCTATCG TCAAGACACA
881 TTAGATTAAT TGCAACTTTG CTTATCTGCT ATGGCATTGC
921 AATTAATTTA GTAGAAGGCC CTTGGAAAGC AGCAGCAACT
961 AAAATTTATA AAAC TCCAAC CGAATATGCA GCTTTTATAG
1001 GAAGTTATTT AAGCTACACT GGAGTATTTA CTATTTTCTT
1041 TGTTCTACTT GGTTCCAATA TAGTTAGAAG AATGGGCTGG
1081 TTTACTTCAG CTGTGATCAC ACCTTCAATA GTTTTTATTA
1121 CCGGTATATT ATTTTTTGCT GTTAATAATT TTGAAGGCTT
1201 TGCTGGCTTA ATAATAGCAA ATTTTATTTT GACCGATCCT
1241 GCTTTAGTTG CTATAACAAT AGGTGCTATT CAAAATGTAC
1281 TTAGTAAATC AAGCAAATAT ACTTTATTTG ATTCTACAAA
1321 AGAAATGGCT TATGTTCCCT TAGAACCAGA AATCAAATAA
1361 AGTGGTAAGG CTGCTGCCGA CGTTATAGGT ACAAACCTCG
1401 GTAAATCCGG TAGTGCATTT TTACAATCAT TAATATTTAT
1441 AATATTACCT TCTGCTAGTT ATCAATCTAT TTCAATCTGT
1481 TTAATGATTA TATTTATCCT CACTTGCGTA ACTTGATTT
1521 GGGCTACTAA AGAACTAAAT AAAGAATATA AAAATTCTAT
1561 TAAATTTTCT CAAAAATAA

```

[00272] Another example of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter from *Rickettsia prowazekii*, is referred to as RPTlc5, and has the following sequence SEQ ID NO:24

```

1  MLSTSPSRSF KNKFRAAFWP VHNYELGKFI PISALMFCIL
41 FNQNILRILK DSILISEISA EIAGFAKVYC VTPVAALFVI
81 IYAKMINHLT FEKIFYYL SA FFISCFILFA FVIYPNIHIF
121 HVHPDTLSDW MNKYPHFKWY ISLVGNWGYI VYYS LAELWP
161 NIFYVLLFWQ FTNELTTTEE AKRFYTLFSL FGNSSLILVG
201 FLMMNLSSD TIIKKFISIS DSKITLVQVS TTIIAIVAI
241 CCLLVRFISK YIFTNPLFYH KTKSSRSTAQ RMGLIKSFKY
281 IVKSKYLWLL LICSAAFGFA INLVEAVWKA KIKELYPTVN
321 TYAEFNSLYI LWTGVAIIVM TIIGNNVMRM HNW FVAAVIS
361 PVIIMVTGVL FFGLIVFDQQ ILSLFDGAIL MSPLALAVSI
401 GGIQNILAKG TKYSIWDTSR EMLYIPLDDE LKTKGKAAVD

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441 VISAKVGKSS SGLVQSIIFT LVPNATFTSI SPILMVVFTE

481 VCFAWIYAVR KIYFEYQKIA

[00273] An example of a nucleotide sequence for the above *Rickettsia prowazekii* RPTlc5 protein is provided below as SEQ ID NO:25

```

1  ATGCTAAGTA CCTCACCGTC ACGATCGTTT AAAAACAAAT
41  TTAGAGCAGC ATTTTGGCCT GTGCATAATT ATGAACTTGG
81  GAAATTTTATT CCGATCAGCG CCTTAATGTT TTGTATTTTA
121 TTTAATCAAA ATATTTTTCG AATCTTAAAG GATAGTATTT
161 TAATCTCTGA GATTAGTGCA GAAATAGCAG GATTTGCTAA
201 AGTTTACTGC GTTACACCTG TAGCTGCTTT GTTTGTTATT
241 ATTTATGCTA AAATGATCAA TCATTTGACA TTTGAAAAAA
281 TCTTTTATTA TTTAAGTGCA TTTTATATA GCTGTTTTAT
321 TTTATTTGCC TTTGTGATTT ATCCTAATAT TCATATTTTT
361 CATGTACATC CTGATACACT ATCAGACTGG ATGAACAAAT
401 ATCCTCATTT TAAGTGGTAT ATCTCATTAG TAGGTAATTG
441 GGGTTATATA GTATATTATA GTCTTGCCGA GCTTTGGCCT
481 AATATTTTTT ACGTATTATT ATTTTGGCAG TTTACTAATG
521 AACTTACTAC TACCGAAGAA GCAAAAAGAT TTTATACTCT
561 CTTTTCGCTA TTCGGTAATT CTCCTTAAT ATTAGTCGGC
601 TTTTAAATGA TGAATTTATC ATCGGAAGAT ACTATTATTA
641 AGAAATTTAT AAGTATTTCA GATAGTAAAA TCACTTTAGT
681 TCAAGTATCA ACGACGATTA TAGCAATTGT TGCAATCATT
721 TGTTGTTTGT TAGTTAGGTT TATTAGCAAG TACATTTTTA
761 CTAATCCATT ATTTTATCAT AAAACAAAAA GCAGTAGATC
801 AACTGCACAA CGGATGGGAC TAATTAAAAG CTTTAAATAT
841 ATTGTGAAAT CAAAATATTT ATGGCTACTT TTAATTTGTT
881 CTGCAGCTTT CGGATTTGCT ATAACTTAG TCGAAGCAGT
921 ATGGAAAGCA AAAATTAAGG AATTATATCC GACTGTAAAT
961 ACCTACGCTG AATTCAATAG TCTGTATATA CTTTGGACAG
1001 GCGTTGCGAT AATTGTTATG ACAATTATCG GTAATAACGT
1041 CATGCGTATG CATAATTGGT TTGTAGCCGC AGTTATTTCC
1081 CCAGTGATAA TAATGGTGAC AGGTGTTTTG TTCTTTGGAC
1121 TAATTGTATT TGATCAACAA ATTTTATCAT TATTTGATGG
1161 CGCGATTTTA ATGTCACCTC TTGCACTTGC TGTTTCTATT
1201 GGCGGTATTC AGAATATTTT AGCCAAAGGC ACTAAATATT
1241 CTATATGGGA TACTTCAAGA GAAATGTTAT ATATAACACT
1281 TGATGATGAA CTTAAAACAA AGGGTAAAGC AGCAGTTGAT
1321 GTTATAAGTG CAAAAGTTGG AAAATCCTCT AGTGGTCTTG
1361 TACAATCCAT TATTTTACT TTAGTGCCAA ATGCGACCTT
1401 TACCTCAATC TCGCCGATTT TAATGGTAGT ATTTACGTTT
1441 GTATGCTTTG CTTGGATTTA TGCAGTAAGA AAAATATATT
1481 TTGAATATCA AAAAATAGCC TGA

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[00274] Examples of nucleotide triphosphate transporters that can be employed include those in

Table 1:

Table 1 - Exemplary nucleotide triphosphate transporters

Host Organism	NTT	Amino Acid Seq ID	Nucleic Seq ID
<i>Phaeodactylum tricornutum</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 <i>PtNTT2</i> EEC49227.1	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2

	GI:217409295		
<i>Protochlamydia amoebophila</i> (strain UWE25)	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 PamTTT2	SEQ ID NO:3	SEQ ID NO:4
<i>Protochlamydia amoebophila</i> (strain UWE25)	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 PamTTT3	SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:6
<i>Protochlamydia amoebophila</i> (strain UWE25)	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 5 PamTTT5	SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:8
<i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 <i>Tp</i> TTT2	SEQ ID NO:9	SEQ ID NO:10
<i>Simkania negevensis</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 SnTTT3	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:12
<i>Simkania negevensis</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 SnTTT3(R248W)	SEQ ID NO:13	SEQ ID NO:15
<i>Simkania negevensis</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 SnTTT3	SEQ ID NO:14	
<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 1 RPTlc1	SEQ ID NO:16	SEQ ID NO:17
<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 2 RPTlc2	SEQ ID NO:18	SEQ ID NO:19
<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 RPTlc3	SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:21
<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 RPTlc4	SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:23
<i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i>	nucleotide triphosphate transporter 3 RPTlc5	SEQ ID NO:24	SEQ ID NO:25

[00275] A sequence of a pACS plasmid with a *Pt*NTT2 gene sequence (pACS_*Pt*NTT2) corresponds to SEQ ID NO:28.

[00276] Sequence of the pACS plasmid with the *Pt*NTT2 gene sequence capitalized (SEQ ID NO:28) >pACS_*Pt*NTT2:

ggggaattgtgagcggataacaattcccctgtagaaataattttgtttaactttaataaggagatataccATGAGACCATTTCCG
ACGATTGCCTTGATTTTCGGTTTTTCTTTTCGGCGGCGACTCGCATTTTCGGCAACTTCCT
CTCATCAAGCAAGTGCACTTCCTCTCAAAAAGGGAACGCATGTCCCGGACTCTCCG
AAGTTGTCAAAGCTATATATCATGGCCAAAACCAAGAGTGTATCCTCGTCCTTCGAC
CCCCCTCGGGGAGGCAGTACTGTTGCACCAACTACACCGTTGGCAACCGGCGGTGC
GCTCCGCAAAGTGCGACAAGCCGTCTTTCCCATCTACGGAAACCAAGAAGTCACCA
AATTTCTGCTCATCGGATCCATTAAATTCTTTATAATCTTGGCACTCACGCTCACGCG
TGATACCAAGGACACGTTGATTGTACGCAATGTGGTGCCGAAGCGATTGCCTTTCT

CAAAATATACGGGGTGCTACCCGCAGCGACCGCATTTATCGCGCTCTATTCCAAAAT
GTCCAACGCCATGGGCAAAAAAATGCTATTTTATTCCACTTGCATTCTTTCTTTACC
TTTTTCGGGCTGTTTGATGTTTTTCATTTACCCGAACGCGGAGCGACTGCACCCTAGTT
TGGAAGCCGTGCAGGCAATTCTCCCGGGCGGTGCCGCATCTGGCGGCATGGCGGTT
CTGGCCAAGATTGCGACACACTGGACATCGGCCTTATTTTACGTCATGGCGGAAAT
ATATTCTTCCGTATCGGTGGGGCTATTGTTTTGGCAGTTTGCGAACGACGTCGTCAA
CGTGGATCAGGCCAAGCGCTTTTATCCATTATTTGCTCAAATGAGTGGCCTCGCTCC
AGTTTTAGCGGGCCAGTATGTGGTACGGTTTGCCAGCAAAGCGGTCAACTTTGAGG
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CCTACCACACAAATGGCTTATATTCCTCTGGACGACGAATCAAAGGTCAAAGGAAA
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tcgttggcaaccagcatcgcaagtgggaacgatgccctcattcagcatttgcattggtttgtgaaaaccggacatggcactccagtcgccttcc
cgttccgctatcggtgaatttgattgcgagtgagatatttatgccagccagccagacgcagacgcgcggagacagaacttaattgggcccg
ctaacagcgcgatttgcgtgtgacccaatgcgaccagatgtccacgcccagtcgcgtaccgtcttcatgggagaaaaataactgttgatg
ggtgtctggtcagagacatcaagaaataacgccggaacattagtgaggcagcttccacagcaatggcatcctggtcatccagcggatagt
taatgatcagcccactgacgcgttgcgcgagaagattgtgcaccgccgctttacaggcttcgacgccgcttcgttctaccatcgacaccacc
acgctggcaccagttgatcggcgcgagatttaatcgccgcgacaatttgcgacggcgcgtgcagggccagactggaggtggcaacgc
caatcagcaacgactgtttgccgccagttgttgccacgcggttgggaatgtaattcagctccgccatcgccgcttccacttttccgcgt
tttcgcagaaacgtggctggcctggttaccacgcgggaaacggtctgataagagacaccggcatactctgcgacatcgataacgttact
ggtttcacattcaccacctgaattgactcttccgggcgctatcatgccataccgcgaaagggtttgcgccattcgatggtgtccgggatct
cgacgctctcccttatgcgactcctgcattaggaaattaacgactcactata

[00277] In some embodiments, a nucleotide triphosphate transporter is from bacteria, plant, or algae. In some embodiments, a nucleotide triphosphate transporter is *TpNTT1*, *TpNTT2*, *TpNTT3*, *TpNTT4*, *TpNTT5*, *TpNTT6*, *TpNTT7*, *TpNTT8* (*T. pseudonana*), *PtNTT1*, *PtNTT2*, *PtNTT3*, *PtNTT4*, *PtNTT5*, *PtNTT6* (*P. tricornutum*), *GsNTT* (*Galdieria sulphuraria*), *AtNTT1*, *AtNTT2* (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), *CtNTT1*, *CtNTT2* (*Chlamydia trachomatis*), *PamNTT1*, *PamNTT2* (*Protochlamydia amoebophila*), *CcNTT* (*Caedibacter caryophilus*), *RpNTT1* (*Rickettsia prowazekii*).

[00278] As used herein, the term “transporter” refers to a large group of membrane transport proteins which transport nucleotides (and particularly unnatural or modified nucleotides) across the membranes of cells and/or vesicle. Nucleoside transporters can encompass, but are not

limited to, equilibrate nucleoside transporters (ENT) and concentrate nucleoside transporters (CNT). According to the invention, the term also encompasses the organic anion transporters (OAT) and the organic cation transporters (OCT). According to the invention, the nucleoside transporter may for example be selected in the group comprising, but not limited to, CNT1, CNT2, CNT3, ENT1, ENT2, OAT1, OAT3 and OCT1.

[00279] A nucleotide triphosphate transporter can have at least 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.9% sequence identity to any one of amino acid sequences SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 24, or fragments thereof. A nucleotide triphosphate transporter can also have one or more amino acid substitutions, so that they are not identical to those with any of amino acid sequence SEQ ID NOs:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 24.

[00280] One or more nucleic acids can encode for one or more nucleotide triphosphate transporters having at least about 40, 50%, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.9% sequence identity to any of nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 24. The One or more nucleic acids that encode for the one or more nucleotide triphosphate transporters can also have one or more nucleotide substitutions, so that they are not identical to those with any of nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, or 24. Despite such nucleotide substitutions, the nucleotide triphosphate transporters can encode any of the nucleotide triphosphate transporter proteins described herein.

[00281] One or more nucleic acids encoding one or more nucleotide triphosphate transporter can have at least 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.9% sequence identity to any of nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NOs:2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, or 28. The nucleotide triphosphate transporters can also have one or more nucleotide substitutions, so that they are not identical to those with any of nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, or 28. Despite such nucleotide substitutions, the nucleotide triphosphate transporters can encode any of the nucleotide triphosphate transporter proteins described herein.

[00282] The invention includes NTTs that import unnatural nucleic acids into cell. In some embodiments, NTTs can be modified such that the nucleotide binding site of the NTT is modified to reduce steric entry inhibition of the unnatural nucleic acid into the nucleotide binding site. In some embodiments, NTTs can be modified to provide increased interaction with one or more unnatural features of the unnatural nucleic acids. Such NTTs can be expressed or engineered in cells for stably importing a UBP into the cells. Accordingly, the invention includes compositions that include a heterologous or recombinant NTT and methods of use thereof.

[00283] NTTs can be modified using methods pertaining to protein engineering. For example, molecular modeling can be carried out based on crystal structures to identify the locations of the NTTs where mutations can be made to modify a target activity or binding site. A residue identified as a target for replacement can be replaced with a residue selected using energy minimization modeling, homology modeling, and/or conservative amino acid substitutions, such as described in Bordo et al., *J. Mol. Biol.* 217: 721-729 (1991) and Hayes et al., *Proc Natl Acad Sci, USA* 99: 15926- 15931 (2002).

[00284] Any of a variety of NTTs can be used in a method or composition set forth herein including, for example, protein-based enzymes isolated from biological systems and functional variants thereof. Reference to a particular NTT, such as those exemplified below, will be understood to include functional variants thereof unless indicated otherwise. In some embodiments, a NTT is a wild type NTT. In some embodiments, a NTT is a modified, or mutant, NTT.

[00285] NTTs, with features for improving entry of unnatural nucleic acids into cells and for coordinating with unnatural nucleotides in the nucleotide binding region, can also be used. In some embodiments, a modified NTT has a modified nucleotide binding site. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type NTT has a relaxed specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid.

[00286] Polymerases, with features for improving entry of unnatural nucleic acids into active site regions and for coordinating with unnatural nucleotides in the active site region, can also be used. In some embodiments, a modified polymerase has a modified nucleotide binding site.

[00287] In some embodiments, a modified NTT has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward the unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type NTT has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified sugar that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward a natural nucleic acid and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the modified sugar. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type NTT has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified base that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward a natural nucleic acid and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the modified base. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward a

nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the triphosphate. For example, a modified or wild type NTT can have a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward the unnatural nucleic acid with a diphosphate or monophosphate, or no phosphate, or a combination thereof.

[00288] In some embodiments, a modified or wild type NTT has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type NTT has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified sugar and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type NTT has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified base and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type NTT toward the natural nucleic acid.

[00289] NTTs can be characterized according to their rate of dissociation from nucleic acids. In some embodiments a NTT has a relatively low dissociation rate for one or more natural and unnatural nucleic acids. In some embodiments a NTT has a relatively high dissociation rate for one or more natural and unnatural nucleic acids. The dissociation rate is an activity of a NTT that can be adjusted to tune reaction rates in methods set forth herein.

[00290] NTTs from native sources or variants thereof can be screened using an assay that detects importation of an unnatural nucleic acid having a particular structure. For example, NTTs can be screened for the ability to import an unnatural nucleic acid or UBP; *e.g.*, (d)5SICSTP, (d)NaMTP, (d)TPT3TP, (d)TPT3TP-(d)NaMTP UBP, or (d)5SICSTP-(d)NaMTP UBP. A NTT, *e.g.*, a heterologous NTT, can be used that displays a modified property for the unnatural nucleic acid as compared to the wild-type NTT. For example, the modified property can be, *e.g.*, K_m , k_{cat} , V_{max} , NTT importation in the presence of an unnatural nucleic acid (or of a naturally occurring nucleotide), average template read-length by a cell with the NTT in the presence of an unnatural nucleic acid, specificity of the NTT for an unnatural nucleic acid, rate of binding of an unnatural nucleic acid, or rate of product release, or any combination thereof. In one embodiment, the modified property is a reduced K_m for an unnatural nucleic acid and/or an increased k_{cat}/K_m or V_{max}/K_m for an unnatural nucleic acid. Similarly, the

NTT optionally has an increased rate of binding of an unnatural nucleic acid, an increased rate of product release, and/or an increased cell importation rate, as compared to a wild-type NTT.

[00291] At the same time, a NTT can import natural nucleic acids, *e.g.*, A, C, G, and T, into cell. For example, a NTT optionally displays a specific importation activity for a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 5% as high (*e.g.*, 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% or higher), as a corresponding wild-type NTT. Optionally, the NTT displays a k_{cat}/K_m or V_{max}/K_m for a naturally occurring nucleotide that is at least about 5% as high (*e.g.*, about 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% or higher) as the wild-type NTT.

[00292] NTTs used herein that can have the ability to import an unnatural nucleic acid of a particular structure can also be produced using a directed evolution approach. A nucleic acid synthesis assay can be used to screen for NTT variants having specificity for any of a variety of unnatural nucleic acids. For example, NTT variants can be screened for the ability to import an unnatural nucleic acid or UBP; *e.g.*, (d)5SICSTP, (d)NaMTP, (d)TPT3TP, (d)TPT3TP-(d)NaMTP UBP, or (d)5SICSTP-(d)NaMTP UBP into nucleic acids. In some embodiments, such an assay is an in vitro assay, *e.g.*, using a recombinant NTT variant. In some embodiments, such an assay is an in vivo assay, *e.g.*, expressing a NTT variant in a cell. Such directed evolution techniques can be used to screen variants of any suitable NTT for activity toward any of the unnatural nucleic acids set forth herein.

Polymerase Activity

[00293] A particularly useful function of a polymerase is to catalyze the polymerization of a nucleic acid strand using an existing nucleic acid as a template. Other functions that are useful are described elsewhere herein. Examples of useful polymerases include DNA polymerases and RNA polymerases.

[00294] The ability to improve specificity, processivity, or other features of polymerases unnatural nucleic acids would be highly desirable in a variety of contexts where, *e.g.*, unnatural nucleic acid incorporation is desired, including amplification, sequencing, labeling, detection, cloning, and many others. The present invention provides polymerases with modified properties for unnatural nucleic acids, methods of making such polymerases, methods of using such polymerases, and many other features that will become apparent upon a complete review of the following.

[00295] The invention includes polymerases that incorporate unnatural nucleic acids into a growing template copy, *e.g.*, during DNA amplification. In some embodiments, polymerases can be modified such that the active site of the polymerase is modified to reduce steric entry inhibition of the unnatural nucleic acid into the active site. In some embodiments, polymerases can be modified to provide complementarity with one or more unnatural features of the

unnatural nucleic acids. Such polymerases can be expressed or engineered in cells for stably incorporating a UBP into the cells. Accordingly, the invention includes compositions that include a heterologous or recombinant polymerase and methods of use thereof.

[00296] Polymerases can be modified using methods pertaining to protein engineering. For example, molecular modeling can be carried out based on crystal structures to identify the locations of the polymerases where mutations can be made to modify a target activity. A residue identified as a target for replacement can be replaced with a residue selected using energy minimization modeling, homology modeling, and/or conservative amino acid substitutions, such as described in Bordo et al., J. Mol. Biol. 217: 721-729 (1991) and Hayes et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci, USA 99: 15926- 15931 (2002).

[00297] Any of a variety of polymerases can be used in a method or composition set forth herein including, for example, protein-based enzymes isolated from biological systems and functional variants thereof. Reference to a particular polymerase, such as those exemplified below, will be understood to include functional variants thereof unless indicated otherwise. In some embodiments, a polymerase is a wild type polymerase. In some embodiments, a polymerase is a modified, or mutant, polymerase.

[00298] Polymerases, with features for improving entry of unnatural nucleic acids into active site regions and for coordinating with unnatural nucleotides in the active site region, can also be used. In some embodiments, a modified polymerase has a modified nucleotide binding site.

[00299] In some embodiments, a modified polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward the unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified sugar that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward a natural nucleic acid and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the modified sugar. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified base that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward a natural nucleic acid and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the modified base. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward a nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the triphosphate. For example, a modified or wild type polymerase can have a

specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward the unnatural nucleic acid with a diphosphate or monophosphate, or no phosphate, or a combination thereof.

[00300] In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a relaxed specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified sugar and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified base and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type polymerase toward the natural nucleic acid.

[00301] Absence of exonuclease activity can be a wild type characteristic or a characteristic imparted by a variant or engineered polymerase. For example, an *exo minus* Klenow fragment is a mutated version of Klenow fragment that lacks 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity.

[00302] The method of the invention may be used to expand the substrate range of any DNA polymerase which lacks an intrinsic 3' to 5' exonuclease proofreading activity or where a 3' to 5' exonuclease proofreading activity has been disabled, *e.g.* through mutation. Examples of DNA polymerases include polA, polB (see *e.g.* Parrel & Loeb, Nat. Struc. Biol. 2001) polC, polD, polY, polX and reverse transcriptases (RT) but preferably are processive, high-fidelity polymerases (PCT/GB2004/004643). In some embodiments a modified or wild type polymerase substantially lacks 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity. In some embodiments a modified or wild type polymerase substantially lacks 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for an unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type polymerase has a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for a natural nucleic acid and substantially lacks 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for an unnatural nucleic acid.

[00303] In some embodiments, a modified polymerase has a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity that is at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the proofreading exonuclease activity of the wild type polymerase. In some embodiments, a

modified polymerase has a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for an unnatural nucleic acid that is at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the proofreading exonuclease activity of the wild type polymerase to a natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified polymerase has a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for an unnatural nucleic acid and a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the proofreading exonuclease activity of the wild type polymerase to a natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified polymerase has a 3' to 5' proofreading exonuclease activity for a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the proofreading exonuclease activity of the wild type polymerase to the natural nucleic acid.

[00304] In a related aspect, the invention provides methods of making a modified polymerase that include structurally modeling a parental polymerase, *e.g.*, a DNA polymerase, identifying one or more complex stability or nucleotide interaction feature affecting complex stability or nucleotide access or binding in the active site or a complementarity feature for a nucleotide analog at the active site, and mutating the parental polymerase to include or remove these features. For example, the polymerase can be mutated to improve steric access of the unnatural nucleotide to the active site or to improve charge-charge or hydrophobic interactions between the unnatural nucleotide and the polymerase. The methods also include determining whether the resulting modified polymerase displays an increased incorporation of a nucleotide or unnatural nucleotide into a growing nucleic acid copy as compared to the parental polymerase.

[00305] Polymerases can be characterized according to their rate of dissociation from nucleic acids. In some embodiments a polymerase has a relatively low dissociation rate for one or more natural and unnatural nucleic acids. In some embodiments a polymerase has a relatively high dissociation rate for one or more natural and unnatural nucleic acids. The dissociation rate is an activity of a polymerase that can be adjusted to tune reaction rates in methods set forth herein.

[00306] Polymerases can be characterized according to their fidelity when used with a particular natural and/or unnatural nucleic acid or collections of natural and/or unnatural nucleic acid. Fidelity generally refers to the accuracy with which a polymerase incorporates correct nucleic acids into a growing nucleic acid chain when making a copy of a nucleic acid template. DNA polymerase fidelity can be measured as the ratio of correct to incorrect natural and unnatural nucleic acid incorporations when the natural and unnatural nucleic acid are present, *e.g.*, at equal concentrations, to compete for strand synthesis at the same site in the polymerase-strand-template nucleic acid binary complex. DNA polymerase fidelity can be calculated as the ratio of (k_{cat}/K_m) for the natural and unnatural nucleic acid and (k_{cat}/K_m) for the incorrect natural

and unnatural nucleic acid; where k_{cat} and K_m are Michaelis-Menten parameters in steady state enzyme kinetics (Fersht, (1985) Enzyme Structure and Mechanism, 2nd ed., p 350, W. H. Freeman & Co., New York., incorporated herein by reference). In some embodiments, a polymerase has a fidelity value of at least about 100, 1000, 10,000, 100,000, or 1×10^6 , with or without a proofreading activity.

[00307] Polymerases from native sources or variants thereof can be screened using an assay that detects incorporation of an unnatural nucleic acid having a particular structure. In one example, polymerases can be screened for the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid or UBP; *e.g.*, (d)5SICSTP, (d)NaMTP, (d)TPT3TP, (d)TPT3TP-(d)NaMTP UBP, or (d)5SICSTP-(d)NaMTP UBP. A polymerase, *e.g.*, a heterologous polymerase, can be used that displays a modified property for the unnatural nucleic acid as compared to the wild-type polymerase. For example, the modified property can be, *e.g.*, K_m , k_{cat} , V_{max} , polymerase processivity in the presence of an unnatural nucleic acid (or of a naturally occurring nucleotide), average template read-length by the polymerase in the presence of an unnatural nucleic acid, specificity of the polymerase for an unnatural nucleic acid, rate of binding of an unnatural nucleic acid, rate of product (pyrophosphate, triphosphate, etc.) release, branching rate, or any combination thereof. In one embodiment, the modified property is a reduced K_m for an unnatural nucleic acid and/or an increased k_{cat}/K_m or V_{max}/K_m for an unnatural nucleic acid. Similarly, the polymerase optionally has an increased rate of binding of an unnatural nucleic acid, an increased rate of product release, and/or a decreased branching rate, as compared to a wild-type polymerase.

[00308] At the same time, a polymerase can incorporate natural nucleic acids, *e.g.*, A, C, G, and T, into a growing nucleic acid copy. For example, a polymerase optionally displays a specific activity for a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 5% as high (*e.g.*, 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% or higher), as a corresponding wild-type polymerase and a processivity with natural nucleic acids in the presence of a template that is at least 5% as high (*e.g.*, 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% or higher) as the wild-type polymerase in the presence of the natural nucleic acid. Optionally, the polymerase displays a k_{cat}/K_m or V_{max}/K_m for a naturally occurring nucleotide that is at least about 5% as high (*e.g.*, about 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% or higher) as the wild-type polymerase.

[00309] Polymerases used herein that can have the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid of a particular structure can also be produced using a directed evolution approach. A nucleic acid synthesis assay can be used to screen for polymerase variants having specificity for any of a variety of unnatural nucleic acids. For example, polymerase variants can be screened for the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid or UBP; *e.g.*, (d)5SICSTP, (d)NaMTP,

(d)TPT3TP, (d)TPT3TP-(d)NaMTP UBP, or (d)5SICSTP-(d)NaMTP UBP into nucleic acids.

In some embodiments, such an assay is an in vitro assay, *e.g.*, using a recombinant polymerase variant. In some embodiments, such an assay is an in vivo assay, *e.g.*, expressing a polymerase variant in a cell. Such directed evolution techniques can be used to screen variants of any suitable polymerase for activity toward any of the unnatural nucleic acids set forth herein.

[00310] Modified polymerases of the compositions described can optionally be a modified and/or recombinant Φ 29-type DNA polymerase. Optionally, the polymerase can be a modified and/or recombinant Φ 29, B103, GA-1, PZA, Φ 15, BS32, M2Y, Nf, G1, Cp-1, PRD1, PZE, SF5, Cp-5, Cp-7, PR4, PR5, PR722, or L17 polymerase.

[00311] Nucleic acid polymerases generally useful in the invention include DNA polymerases, RNA polymerases, reverse transcriptases, and mutant or altered forms thereof. DNA polymerases and their properties are described in detail in, among other places, DNA Replication 2nd edition, Kornberg and Baker, W. H. Freeman, New York, N. Y. (1991). Known conventional DNA polymerases useful in the invention include, but are not limited to, *Pyrococcus furiosus* (Pfu) DNA polymerase (Lundberg et al., 1991, Gene, 108: 1, Stratagene), *Pyrococcus woesei* (Pwo) DNA polymerase (Hinnisdaels et al., 1996, Biotechniques, 20:186-8, Boehringer Mannheim), *Thermus thermophilus* (Tth) DNA polymerase (Myers and Gelfand 1991, Biochemistry 30:7661), *Bacillus stearothermophilus* DNA polymerase (Stenesh and McGowan, 1977, Biochim Biophys Acta 475:32), *Thermococcus litoralis* (Tli) DNA polymerase (also referred to as VentTM DNA polymerase, Cariello et al., 1991, Polynucleotides Res, 19: 4193, New England Biolabs), 9^oNmTM DNA polymerase (New England Biolabs), Stoffel fragment, Thermo Sequenase[®] (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech UK), TerminatorTM (New England Biolabs), *Thermotoga maritima* (Tma) DNA polymerase (Diaz and Sabino, 1998 Braz J Med. Res, 31 :1239), *Thermus aquaticus* (Taq) DNA polymerase (Chien et al., 1976, J. Bacteriol, 127: 1550), DNA polymerase, *Pyrococcus kodakaraensis* KOD DNA polymerase (Takagi et al., 1997, Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 63:4504), JDF-3 DNA polymerase (from *thermococcus sp.* JDF-3, Patent application WO/0132887), *Pyrococcus* GB-D (PGB-D) DNA polymerase (also referred as Deep VentTM DNA polymerase, Juncosa-Ginesta et al., 1994, Biotechniques, 16:820, New England Biolabs), UITma DNA polymerase (from thermophile *Thermotoga maritima*; Diaz and Sabino, 1998 Braz J. Med. Res, 31 :1239; PE Applied Biosystems), Tgo DNA polymerase (from *thermococcus gorgonarius*, Roche Molecular Biochemicals), *E. coli* DNA polymerase I (Lecomte and Doubleday, 1983, Polynucleotides Res. 11 :7505), T7 DNA polymerase (Nordstrom et al., 1981, J. Biol. Chem. 256:3112), and archaeal DP1I/DP2 DNA polymerase II (Cann et al., 1998, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 95:14250). Both mesophilic polymerases and thermophilic polymerases are contemplated. Thermophilic DNA

polymerases include, but are not limited to, ThermoSequenase[®], 9°Nm[™], Therminator[™], Taq, Tne, Tma, Pfu, Tfi, Tth, Tli, Stoffel fragment, Vent[™] and Deep Vent[™] DNA polymerase, KOD DNA polymerase, Tgo, JDF-3, and mutants, variants and derivatives thereof. A polymerase that is a 3' exonuclease-deficient mutant is also contemplated. Reverse transcriptases useful in the invention include, but are not limited to, reverse transcriptases from HIV, HTLV-I, HTLV-II, FeLV, FIV, SIV, AMV, MMTV, MoMuLV and other retroviruses (see Levin, Cell 88:5-8 (1997); Verma, Biochim Biophys Acta. 473:1-38 (1977); Wu et al., CRC Crit Rev Biochem. 3:289- 347(1975)). Further examples of polymerases include, but are not limited to 9°N DNA Polymerase, Taq DNA polymerase, Phusion[®] DNA polymerase, Pfu DNA polymerase, RB69 DNA polymerase, KOD DNA polymerase, and VentR[®] DNA polymerase (Gardner et al. (2004) "Comparative Kinetics of Nucleotide Analog Incorporation by Vent DNA Polymerase, J. Biol. Chem., 279(12), 11834-11842; Gardner and Jack "Determinants of nucleotide sugar recognition in an archaeon DNA polymerase" Nucleic Acids Research, 27(12) 2545-2553). Polymerases isolated from non-thermophilic organisms can be heat inactivatable. Examples are DNA polymerases from phage. It will be understood that polymerases from any of a variety of sources can be modified to increase or decrease their tolerance to high temperature conditions. In some embodiments, a polymerase can be thermophilic. In some embodiments, a thermophilic polymerase can be heat inactivatable. Thermophilic polymerases are typically useful for high temperature conditions or in thermocycling conditions such as those employed for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques.

[00312] Additionally, such polymerases can be used for DNA amplification and/or sequencing applications, including real-time applications, *e.g.*, in the context of amplification or sequencing that include incorporation of unnatural nucleic acid residues into DNA by the polymerase. In other embodiments, the unnatural nucleic acid that is incorporated can be the same as a natural residue, *e.g.*, where a label or other moiety of the unnatural nucleic acid is removed by action of the polymerase during incorporation, or the unnatural nucleic acid can have one or more feature that distinguishes it from a natural nucleic acid.

Ribonucleotide reductase activity

[00313] A particularly useful function of a ribonucleotide reductase (RNR), also known as (ribonucleoside diphosphate reductase) is to catalyze the formation of deoxyribonucleotides from ribonucleotides. Deoxyribonucleotides can then be, *e.g.*, used in the synthesis of DNA polymerization of a nucleic acid strand using an existing nucleic acid as a template. Other functions that are useful are described elsewhere herein. Natural substrates for RNR can include ADP, GDP, CDP and UDP. The natural activity catalyzes the conversion of 2'-deoxyribonucleoside diphosphate to ribonucleoside diphosphate.

[00314] Examples of useful ribonucleotide reductases include CDP reductase; ribonucleoside diphosphate reductase; UDP reductase; ADP reductase; nucleoside diphosphate reductase; ribonucleoside 5'-diphosphate reductase; ribonucleotide diphosphate reductase; and 2'-deoxyribonucleoside-diphosphate:oxidized-thioredoxin 2'-oxidoreductase.

[00315] The ability to improve specificity, processivity, or other features of ribonucleotide reductases unnatural nucleic acids would be highly desirable in a variety of contexts where, *e.g.*, unnatural nucleic acid incorporation is desired, including amplification, sequencing, labeling, detection, cloning, and many others. The present invention provides ribonucleotide reductases with modified properties for unnatural nucleic acids, methods of making such ribonucleotide reductases, methods of using such ribonucleotide reductases, and many other features that will become apparent upon a complete review of the following.

[00316] The invention includes ribonucleotide reductases that catalyze the formation of deoxyribonucleotides from ribonucleotides, *e.g.*, for use during DNA synthesis or amplification. In some embodiments, ribonucleotide reductases can be modified such that the active site of the ribonucleotide reductases is modified to reduce steric entry inhibition of the unnatural nucleic acid into the active site. In some embodiments, ribonucleotide reductases can be modified to provide complementarity with one or more unnatural features of an unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, ribonucleotide reductases can be modified to provide complementarity with one or more natural features of an unnatural nucleic acid. Such ribonucleotide reductases can be expressed or engineered in cells for stably incorporating a UBP into the cells. Accordingly, the invention includes compositions that include a heterologous or recombinant ribonucleotide reductases and methods of use thereof.

[00317] Ribonucleotide reductases can be modified using methods pertaining to protein engineering. For example, molecular modeling can be carried out based on crystal structures to identify the locations of the ribonucleotide reductases where mutations can be made to modify a target activity. A residue identified as a target for replacement can be replaced with a residue selected using energy minimization modeling, homology modeling, and/or conservative amino acid substitutions, such as described in Bordo et al., J Mol Biol 217: 721-729 (1991) and Hayes et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci, USA 99: 15926- 15931 (2002).

[00318] Any of a variety of ribonucleotide reductases can be used in a method or composition set forth herein including, for example, protein-based enzymes isolated from biological systems and functional variants thereof. Reference to a particular ribonucleotide reductase, such as those exemplified below, will be understood to include functional variants thereof unless indicated otherwise. In some embodiments, a ribonucleotide reductase is a wild type polymerase. In some embodiments, a ribonucleotide reductase is a modified, or mutant, ribonucleotide reductase.

[00319] Ribonucleotide reductases, with features for improving conversion of natural and/or unnatural deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate nucleic acids to natural and/or unnatural ribonucleotide triphosphates. Ribonucleotide reductases, with features for coordinating with unnatural nucleotides in the active site region, can also be used. In some embodiments, a modified ribonucleotide reductase has a modified nucleotide binding site. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a relaxed specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid.

[00320] In some embodiments, a modified ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward the unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified sugar that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward a natural nucleic acid and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the modified sugar. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified base that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward a natural nucleic acid and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the modified base. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward a nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate and/or the unnatural nucleic acid without the triphosphate. For example, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase can have a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward the unnatural nucleic acid with a diphosphate or monophosphate, or no phosphate, or a combination thereof

[00321] In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified sugar and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%,

99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a modified base and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward the natural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a modified or wild type ribonucleotide reductase has a specificity for an unnatural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate and a specificity to a natural nucleic acid comprising a triphosphate that is at least about 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5%, 99.99% the specificity of the wild type ribonucleotide reductase toward the natural nucleic acid triphosphate.

[00322] In a related aspect, the invention provides methods of making a modified ribonucleotide reductase that include structurally modeling a parental ribonucleotide reductase, *e.g.*, a DNA ribonucleotide reductase, identifying one or more complex stability or nucleotide interaction feature affecting complex stability or nucleotide access or binding in the active site or a complementarity feature for a nucleotide analog at the active site, and mutating the parental ribonucleotide reductase to include or remove these features. For example, the ribonucleotide reductase can be mutated to improve steric access of the unnatural nucleotide to the active site or to improve charge-charge or hydrophobic interactions between the unnatural nucleotide and the ribonucleotide reductase. The methods also include determining whether the resulting modified ribonucleotide reductase displays an increased incorporation of a nucleotide or unnatural nucleotide into a growing nucleic acid copy as compared to the parental ribonucleotide reductase.

[00323] Ribonucleotide reductases can be characterized according to their rate of dissociation from nucleic acids. In some embodiments a ribonucleotide reductase has a relatively low dissociation rate for one or more natural and unnatural nucleic acids. In some embodiments a ribonucleotide reductase has a relatively high dissociation rate for one or more natural and unnatural nucleic acids. The dissociation rate is an activity of a ribonucleotide reductase that can be adjusted to tune reaction rates in methods set forth herein.

[00324] Ribonucleotide reductases from native sources or variants thereof can be screened using an assay that detects incorporation of an unnatural nucleic acid having a particular structure. In one example, ribonucleotide reductases can be screened for the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid or UBP; *e.g.*, (d)**5SICSTP**, (d)**NaMTP**, (d)**TPT3TP**, (d)**TPT3TP**-(d)**NaMTP** UBP, or (d)**5SICSTP**-(d)**NaMTP** UBP. A ribonucleotide reductase, *e.g.*, a heterologous ribonucleotide reductase, can be used that displays a modified property for the unnatural nucleic acid as compared to the wild-type ribonucleotide reductase. For example,

the modified property can be, *e.g.*, K_m , k_{cat} , V_{max} , ribonucleotide reductase processivity in the presence of an unnatural nucleic acid (or of a naturally occurring nucleotide), turnover rate by the ribonucleotide reductase in the presence of an unnatural nucleic acid, specificity of the ribonucleotide reductase for an unnatural nucleic acid, rate of binding of an unnatural nucleic acid, rate of product (pyrophosphate, triphosphate, etc.), or any combination thereof. In one embodiment, the modified property is a reduced K_m for an unnatural nucleic acid and/or an increased k_{cat}/K_m or V_{max}/K_m for an unnatural nucleic acid. Similarly, the ribonucleotide reductase optionally has an increased rate of binding of an unnatural nucleic acid and/or an increased rate of product release, as compared to a wild-type ribonucleotide reductase.

[00325] At the same time, a ribonucleotide reductase can process natural deoxyribonucleic acids, *e.g.*, dA, dC, and dG, into natural deoxyribonucleic acids. For example, a ribonucleotide reductase optionally displays a specific activity for a natural nucleic acid that is at least about 5% as high (*e.g.*, 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% or higher), as a corresponding wild-type ribonucleotide reductase and a k_{cat} that is at least 5% as high (*e.g.*, 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100% or higher) as the wild-type ribonucleotide reductase in the presence of the natural nucleic acid. Optionally, the ribonucleotide reductase displays a k_{cat}/K_m or V_{max}/K_m for a naturally occurring nucleotide that is at least about 5% as high (*e.g.*, about 5%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% or higher) as the wild-type ribonucleotide reductase.

[00326] Ribonucleotide reductases used herein that can have the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid of a particular structure can also be produced using a directed evolution approach. A nucleic acid synthesis assay can be used to screen for ribonucleotide reductase variants having specificity for any of a variety of unnatural nucleic acids. For example, ribonucleotide reductase variants can be screened for the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid or UBP; *e.g.*, (d)**5SICSTP**, (d)**NaMTP**, (d)**TPT3TP**, (d)**TPT3TP**-(d)**NaMTP** UBP, or (d)**5SICSTP**-(d)**NaMTP** UBP into nucleic acids. In some embodiments, such an assay is an *in vitro* assay, *e.g.*, using a recombinant ribonucleotide reductase variant. In some embodiments, such an assay is an *in vivo* assay, *e.g.*, expressing a ribonucleotide reductase variant in a cell. Such directed evolution techniques can be used to screen variants of any suitable ribonucleotide reductase for activity toward any of the unnatural nucleic acids set forth herein.

ENGINEERED CELLS

[00327] Methods and compositions (*e.g.*, nucleic acids and reagents) described herein can be used to generate engineered microorganisms, *e.g.*, a living cell that incorporates and replicates at least one unnatural nucleotide or at least one UBP within its cellular environment. The cell employed can be genetically transformed with an expression cassette encoding a heterologous

protein, *e.g.*, a nucleotide triphosphate transporter capable of transporting unnatural nucleotide triphosphates into the cell and/or a polymerase with high fidelity for an unnatural nucleic acid, so that the unnatural nucleotides can be incorporated into cellular nucleic acids and can, *e.g.*, form UBPs under *in vivo* conditions. Cells can comprise enhanced activity for unnatural nucleic acid uptake. Cells can comprise enhanced activity for unnatural nucleic acid import. Cells can comprise enhanced polymerase activity for unnatural nucleic acids.

[00328] Accordingly, by practice of a method of the invention, a living cell is generated that incorporates within its nucleic acids at least one unnatural nucleotide and/or at least one UBP. The UBP can include a pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides capable of forming the UBP under *in vivo* conditions, when the unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides, as their respective triphosphates, are taken up into the cell by action of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter. The cell can be genetically transformed by an expression cassette encoding a nucleotide triphosphate transporter so that the nucleotide triphosphate transporter is expressed and is available to transport the unnatural nucleotides into the cell. The cell can be genetically transformed by an expression cassette encoding a polymerase so that the polymerase is expressed and is available to incorporate unnatural nucleotides into the cell's nucleic acids. The cell can be a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. The pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides, as their respective triphosphates, can be a triphosphate of (d)**5SICS** ((d)**5SICSTP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**). The pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides, as their respective triphosphates, can be a triphosphate of (d)**TPT3** ((d)**TPT3TP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**).

[00329] The cell can comprise a template UBP. A template UBP can be a UBP present on a nucleic acid inside the cell that comprises a first and a second unnatural template nucleic acid. The unnatural template nucleic acids can base pair with the imported unnatural nucleic acids. For example, an imported nucleic acid can form a UBP by base pairing with an unnatural template nucleic acid present in the cell. In some embodiments, the template UBP is formed outside of the cell. In some embodiments, the template UBP is introduced into the cell, such as by transfection, electroporation, or the like.

[00330] Cells can be genetically transformed cells with a nucleic acid, *e.g.*, an expression cassette encoding a nucleotide triphosphate transporter capable of transporting such unnatural nucleotides into the cell. A cell can comprise a heterologous nucleotide triphosphate transporter, where the heterologous nucleotide triphosphate transporter can transport natural and unnatural nucleotide triphosphates into the cell. A cell can comprise a heterologous polymerase, where the heterologous polymerase has activity for an unnatural nucleic acid.

[00331] A method can also include contacting a genetically transformed cell with the respective triphosphate forms unnatural nucleotides, in the presence of potassium phosphate and/or an inhibitor of phosphatases or nucleotidases. During or after such contact, the cell can be placed within a life-supporting medium suitable for growth and replication of the cell. The cell can be maintained in the life-supporting medium so that the respective triphosphate forms of unnatural nucleotides are incorporated into nucleic acids within the cells, and through at least one replication cycle of the cell. The pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides as a respective triphosphate, can comprise a triphosphate of (d)**5SICS** ((d)**5SICSTP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**). The pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides as a respective triphosphate, can comprise a triphosphate of (d)**TPT3** ((d)**TPT3TP**) and a triphosphate of (d)**NaM** ((d)**NaMTP**). The cell can be *E. coli*, and the (d)**5SICSTP** and (d)**NaMTP** or (d)**TPT3TP** and (d)**NaMTP** can be efficiently imported into *E. coli* by, for example, the transporter *PtNTT2*, wherein an *E. coli* polymerase, such as Pol I, can efficiently use the unnatural triphosphates to replicate DNA, thereby incorporating unnatural nucleotides and/or UBPs into cellular nucleic acids within the cellular environment.

[00332] By practice of a method of the invention, the person of ordinary skill can obtain a population of a living and propagating cells that has at least one unnatural nucleotide and/or at least one UBP within at least one nucleic acid maintained within at least some of the individual cells, wherein the at least one nucleic acid is stably propagated within the cell, and wherein the cell expresses a nucleotide triphosphate transporter suitable for providing cellular uptake of triphosphate forms of one or more unnatural nucleotides when contacted with (*e.g.*, grown in the presence of) the unnatural nucleotide(s) in a life-supporting medium suitable for growth and replication of the organism.

[00333] After transport into the cell by the nucleotide triphosphate transporter, the unnatural base-pairing nucleotides are incorporated into nucleic acids within the cell by cellular machinery, *e.g.*, the cell's own DNA and/or RNA polymerases, a heterologous polymerase, or a polymerase that has been evolved using directed evolution (Chen and Romesberg, *FEBS Lett.* (2014) 588(2):219-29). The unnatural nucleotides can be incorporated into cellular nucleic acids such as genomic DNA, genomic RNA, mRNA, structural RNA, microRNA, and autonomously replicating nucleic acids (*e.g.*, plasmids, viruses, or vectors).

[00334] Genetically engineered cells can be generated by introduction of nucleic acids, *e.g.*, heterologous nucleic acids, into cells. Any cell described herein can be a host cell and can comprise an expression vector. In one embodiment, the host cell is a prokaryotic cell. In another embodiment, the host cell is *E. coli*. In some embodiments, a cell comprises one or more heterologous polynucleotides. Nucleic acid reagents can be introduced into microorganisms

using various techniques. Non-limiting examples of methods used to introduce heterologous nucleic acids into various organisms include; transformation, transfection, transduction, electroporation, ultrasound-mediated transformation, particle bombardment and the like. In some instances the addition of carrier molecules (*e.g.*, bis-benzimidazolyl compounds, for example, see U.S. Patent. No. 5,595,899) can increase the uptake of DNA in cells typically though to be difficult to transform by conventional methods. Conventional methods of transformation are readily available to the artisan and can be found in Maniatis et al., (1982) *Molecular Cloning: a Laboratory Manual*; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.

[00335] Genetic transformation can be obtained using direct transfer of an expression cassette, in but not limited to, plasmids, viral vectors, viral nucleic acids, phage nucleic acids, phages, cosmids, and artificial chromosomes, or via transfer of genetic material in cells or carriers such as cationic liposomes. Such methods are available in the art and readily adaptable for use in the method described herein. Transfer vectors can be any nucleotide construction used to deliver genes into cells (*e.g.*, a plasmid), or as part of a general strategy to deliver genes, *e.g.*, as part of recombinant retrovirus or adenovirus (Ram et al. *Cancer Res.* 53:83-88, (1993)). Appropriate means for transfection, including viral vectors, chemical transfectants, or physico-mechanical methods such as electroporation and direct diffusion of DNA, are described by, for example, Wolff et al., *Science*, 247, 1465-1468, (1990); and Wolff, *Nature*, 352, 815-818, (1991).

[00336] For example, a nucleotide triphosphate transporter or polymerase nucleic acid molecule, expression cassette and/or vector can be introduced to a cell by any method including, but not limited to, calcium-mediated transformation, electroporation, microinjection, lipofection, particle bombardment and the like.

[00337] A cell can comprise unnatural nucleotide triphosphates incorporated into one or more nucleic acids within the cell. For example, the cell can be a living cell capable of incorporating at least one unnatural nucleotide within DNA or RNA maintained within the cell. The cell can also incorporate at least one UBP comprising a pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides into nucleic acids within the cell under *in vivo* conditions, wherein the unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides, *e.g.*, their respective triphosphates, are taken up into the cell by action of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter, the gene for which is present (*e.g.*, was introduced) into the cell by genetic transformation. For example, upon incorporation into the nucleic acid maintained within a cell, (d)**5SICS** and (d)**NaM** can form a stable UBP that can be stably propagated by the DNA replication machinery of an organism, *e.g.*, when grown in a life-supporting medium comprising (d)**5SICS** and (d)**NaM**. For example, upon incorporation into the nucleic acid maintained within a cell, (d)**TPT3** and (d)**NaM** can form a stable UBP that can

be stably propagated by the DNA replication machinery of an organism, *e.g.*, when grown in a life-supporting medium comprising (d)**TPT3** and (d)**NaM**.

[00338] Cells can be capable of replicating an unnatural nucleic acid. Provided herein, is a method of generating a living cell with nucleic acids that incorporate and/or replicate at least one unnatural nucleotide and/or at least one UBP comprising a pair of unnatural mutually base-pairing nucleotides, into the cell's nucleic acids under *in vivo* conditions. Such methods can include genetically transforming the cell with an expression cassette encoding a nucleotide triphosphate transporter capable of transporting into the cell, as a respective triphosphate, one or more unnatural nucleotides under *in vivo* conditions. Alternatively, a cell can be employed that has previously been genetically transformed with an expression cassette that can express an encoded nucleotide triphosphate transporter. The method can also include contacting or exposing the genetically transformed cell to potassium phosphate and the respective triphosphate forms of at least one unnatural nucleotide (*e.g.*, two mutually base-pairing nucleotides capable of forming the UBP) in a life-supporting medium suitable for growth and replication of the cell, and maintaining the transformed cell in the life-supporting medium in the presence of the respective triphosphate forms of at least one unnatural nucleotide (*e.g.*, two mutually base-pairing nucleotides capable of forming the UBP) under *in vivo* conditions, through at least one replication cycle of the cell.

[00339] Cells can comprise a stably propagated unnatural nucleic acid. Provided herein is a population of a living and propagating cells, comprising within the nucleic acids of at least some of the individual cells of the population at least one unnatural nucleotide (*e.g.*, two mutually base-pairing nucleotides capable of forming the UBP) or at least one UBP, as a stably propagated component of the DNA of the cell, wherein the cell is genetically transformed with a nucleotide triphosphate transporter suitable for providing cellular uptake of triphosphate forms of the pair of unnatural nucleotides. The population of cells can be grown in the presence of the respective triphosphate forms of the pair of unnatural nucleotides, in a life-supporting medium suitable for growth and replication of the organism.

[00340] A cell can comprise a stably incorporated unnatural nucleic acid. Some embodiments comprise a cell (*e.g.*, as *E. coli*) that stably incorporates nucleotides other than A, G, T, and C within nucleic acids maintained within the cell. For example, the nucleotides other than A, G, T, and C can be (d)**5SICS**, (d)**TPT3** and (d)**NaM**, which upon incorporation into nucleic acids of the cell, can form a stable UBP within the nucleic acids. In one aspect, unnatural nucleotides and UBPs can be stably propagated by the replication apparatus of the organism, when an organism transformed with the gene for the triphosphate transporter, is grown in a life-supporting medium

that includes potassium phosphate and the triphosphate forms of (d)5SICS, (d)TPT3 and (d)NaM.

[00341] A cell can comprise an expanded genetic alphabet. A cell can comprise a stably incorporated unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet comprises an unnatural nucleic acid that can form a base pair (bp) with another nucleic acid, *e.g.*, a natural or unnatural nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet comprises an unnatural nucleic acid that is hydrogen bonded to another nucleic acid. In some embodiments, a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet comprises an unnatural nucleic acid that is not hydrogen bonded to another nucleic acid to which it is base paired. In some embodiments, a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet comprises an unnatural nucleic acid that base pairs to another nucleic acid via hydrophobic interactions. In some embodiments, a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet comprises an unnatural nucleic acid that base pairs to another nucleic acid via non-hydrogen bonding interactions. A cell with an expanded genetic alphabet can be a cell that can copy a homologous nucleic acid to form a nucleic acid comprising an unnatural nucleic acid. A cell with an expanded genetic alphabet can be a cell comprising an unnatural nucleic acid base paired with another unnatural nucleic acid (UBP).

[00342] Cells can form UBPs from the imported unnatural nucleotides under *in vivo* conditions. In some embodiments potassium phosphate and/or inhibitors of phosphatase and/or nucleotidase activities can facilitate transport of unnatural nucleic acids. The methods include use of a cell that expresses a heterologous nucleotide triphosphate transporter. When such a cell is contacted with one or more nucleotide triphosphates, the nucleotide triphosphates are transported into the cell. The cell can be in the presence of potassium phosphate and/or inhibitors of phosphatase and nucleotidase. Unnatural nucleotide triphosphates can be incorporated into nucleic acids within the cell by the cell's natural machinery and, for example, can mutually base-pair to form UBPs within the nucleic acids of the cell.

In some embodiments a UBP can be incorporated into a cell or population of cells when exposed to unnatural triphosphates. In some embodiments a UBP can be incorporated into a cell or population of cells when substantially consistently exposed to unnatural triphosphates. In some embodiments, replication of a UBP does not result in a substantially reduced growth rate. In some embodiments, replication expression of a heterologous protein, *e.g.*, a nucleotide triphosphate transport does not result in a substantially reduced growth rate.

[00343] In some embodiments, induction of expression of a heterologous gene, *e.g.*, an NTT, in a cell can result in slower cell growth and increased natural and/or unnatural nucleic acid uptake compared to the growth and uptake of a cell without induction of expression of the heterologous gene. In some embodiments, induction of expression of a heterologous gene, *e.g.*, an NTT, in a

cell can result in increased cell growth and increased natural and/or unnatural nucleic acid uptake compared to the growth and uptake of a cell without induction of expression of the heterologous gene.

[00344] In some embodiments, induction of expression of a heterologous gene, *e.g.*, an NTT, in a cell treated with a first concentration of an induction reagent can result in slower cell growth and increased natural and/or unnatural nucleic acid uptake compared to the growth and uptake of a cell without induction of expression of the heterologous gene. In some embodiments, induction of expression of a heterologous gene, *e.g.*, an NTT, can result in increased cell growth and increased natural and/or unnatural nucleic acid uptake compared to the growth and uptake of a cell treated with a first concentration of an induction reagent.

[00345] In some embodiments, a UBP is incorporated during a log growth phase. In some embodiments, a UBP is incorporated during a non-log growth phase. In some embodiments, a UBP is incorporated during a substantially linear growth phase. In some embodiments a UBP is stably incorporated into a cell or population of cells after growth for a time period. For example, a UBP can be stably incorporated into a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, or 50 or more duplications. For example, a UBP can be stably incorporated into a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24 hours of growth. For example, a UBP can be stably incorporated into a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31 days of growth. For example, a UBP can be stably incorporated into a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 months of growth. For example, a UBP can be stably incorporated into a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50 years of growth.

[00346] In some embodiments a UBP is not efficiently recognized by DNA repair pathways of a cell. In some embodiments a UBP is not efficiently removed by a cell. In some embodiments a UBP is not efficiently excised by a cell. In some embodiments a UBP is not efficiently removed from a cell or population of cells after a time period. For example, a UBP cannot be efficiently removed from a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, or 50 or more duplications. For example, a UBP cannot be efficiently removed from a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24 hours of growth. For example, a UBP cannot be efficiently removed from a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, or 31 days of growth. For example, a UBP cannot be efficiently removed from a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 months of growth. For example, a UBP cannot be efficiently removed from a cell or population of cells after growth for at least about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 50 years of growth.

[00347] Thus an organism can be generated that stably harbors an expanded genetic alphabet.

Cell Types

[00348] Many types of cells/microorganisms can be used, *e.g.*, for transforming or genetically engineering. A cell can be a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. For example, the cell can be a microorganism such as a bacterial cell, fungal cell, yeast, or unicellular protozoan. Alternatively, the cell can be a eukaryotic cell, such as a cultured animal, plant, or human cell. The cell can be present in an organism such as a plant or animal.

[00349] In some embodiments an engineered microorganism is a single cell organism, often capable of dividing and proliferating. A microorganism can include one or more of the following features: aerobe, anaerobe, filamentous, non-filamentous, monoploid, diploid, auxotrophic and/or non-auxotrophic. In certain embodiments, an engineered microorganism is a prokaryotic microorganism (*e.g.*, bacterium), and in certain embodiments, an engineered microorganism is a non-prokaryotic microorganism. In some embodiments, an engineered microorganism is a eukaryotic microorganism (*e.g.*, yeast, fungi, amoeba). In some embodiments, an engineered microorganism is a fungus. In some embodiments, an engineered organism is yeast.

[00350] Any suitable yeast may be selected as a host microorganism, engineered microorganism, genetically modified organism or source for a heterologous or modified polynucleotide. Yeast include, but are not limited to, *Yarrowia* yeast (*e.g.*, *Y. lipolytica* (formerly classified as *Candida lipolytica*)), *Candida* yeast (*e.g.*, *C. revkaufi*, *C. viswanathii*, *C. pulcherrima*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. utilis*), *Rhodotorula* yeast (*e.g.*, *R. glutinus*, *R. graminis*), *Rhodospiridium* yeast (*e.g.*, *R. toruloides*), *Saccharomyces* yeast (*e.g.*, *S. cerevisiae*, *S. bayanus*, *S. pastorianus*, *S. carlsbergensis*), *Cryptococcus* yeast, *Trichosporon* yeast (*e.g.*, *T. pullans*, *T. cutaneum*), *Pichia* yeast (*e.g.*, *P. pastoris*) and *Lipomyces* yeast (*e.g.*, *L. starkeyii*, *L. lipoferus*). In some embodiments, a suitable yeast is of the genus *Arachniotus*, *Aspergillus*, *Aureobasidium*, *Auxarthron*, *Blastomyces*, *Candida*, *Chrysosporium*, *Chrysosporium Debaryomyces*, *Coccidiodes*, *Cryptococcus*, *Gymnoascus*, *Hansenula*, *Histoplasma*, *Issatchenkia*,

Kluyveromyces, *Lipomyces*, *Lssatchenkia*, *Microsporum*, *Myxotrichum*, *Myxozyma*, *Oidiodendron*, *Pachysolen*, *Penicillium*, *Pichia*, *Rhodospiridium*, *Rhodotorula*, *Rhodotorula*, *Saccharomyces*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Scopulariopsis*, *Sepedonium*, *Trichosporon*, or *Yarrowia*. In some embodiments, a suitable yeast is of the species *Arachniotus flavoluteus*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Auxarthron thaxteri*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida dubliniensis*, *Candida famata*, *Candida glabrata*, *Candida guilliermondii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida krusei*, *Candida lambica*, *Candida lipolytica*, *Candida lusitanae*, *Candida parapsilosis*, *Candida pulcherrima*, *Candida revkaufi*, *Candida rugosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida utilis*, *Candida viswanathii*, *Candida xestobii*, *Chrysosporium keratinophilum*, *Coccidioides immitis*, *Cryptococcus albidus* var. *diffluens*, *Cryptococcus laurentii*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Debaryomyces hansenii*, *Gymnoascus dugwayensis*, *Hansenula anomala*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Issatchenkia occidentalis*, *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Kluyveromyces waltii*, *Lipomyces lipoferus*, *Lipomyces starkeyii*, *Microsporum gypseum*, *Myxotrichum deflexum*, *Oidiodendron echinulatum*, *Pachysolen tannophilis*, *Penicillium notatum*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia pastoris*, *Pichia stipitis*, *Rhodospiridium toruloides*, *Rhodotorula glutinus*, *Rhodotorula graminis*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces kluyveri*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, *Scopulariopsis acremonium*, *Sepedonium chrysospermum*, *Trichosporon cutaneum*, *Trichosporon pullans*, *Yarrowia lipolytica*, or *Yarrowia lipolytica* (formerly classified as *Candida lipolytica*). In some embodiments, a yeast is a *Y. lipolytica* strain that includes, but is not limited to, ATCC20362, ATCC8862, ATCC18944, ATCC20228, ATCC76982 and LGAM S(7)1 strains (Papanikolaou S., and Aggelis G., Bioresour. Technol. 82(1):43-9 (2002)). In certain embodiments, a yeast is a *Candida* species (i.e., *Candida* spp.) yeast. Any suitable *Candida* species can be used and/or genetically modified for production of a fatty dicarboxylic acid (e.g., octanedioic acid, decanedioic acid, dodecanedioic acid, tetradecanedioic acid, hexadecanedioic acid, octadecanedioic acid, eicosanedioic acid). In some embodiments, suitable *Candida* species include, but are not limited to *Candida albicans*, *Candida dubliniensis*, *Candida famata*, *Candida glabrata*, *Candida guilliermondii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida krusei*, *Candida lambica*, *Candida lipolytica*, *Candida lusitanae*, *Candida parapsilosis*, *Candida pulcherrima*, *Candida revkaufi*, *Candida rugosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida utilis*, *Candida viswanathii*, *Candida xestobii* and any other *Candida* spp. yeast described herein. Non-limiting examples of *Candida* spp. strains include, but are not limited to, sAA001 (ATCC20336), sAA002 (ATCC20913), sAA003 (ATCC20962), sAA496 (US2012/0077252), sAA106 (US2012/0077252), SU-2 (ura3-/ura3-), H5343 (beta oxidation blocked; U.S. Patent No.

5648247) strains. Any suitable strains from *Candida* spp. yeast may be utilized as parental strains for genetic modification.

[00351] Yeast genera, species and strains are often so closely related in genetic content that they can be difficult to distinguish, classify and/or name. In some cases strains of *C. lipolytica* and *Y. lipolytica* can be difficult to distinguish, classify and/or name and can be, in some cases, considered the same organism. In some cases, various strains of *C. tropicalis* and *C. viswanathii* can be difficult to distinguish, classify and/or name (for example see Arie et al., J. Gen. Appl. Microbiol., 46, 257-262 (2000)). Some *C. tropicalis* and *C. viswanathii* strains obtained from ATCC as well as from other commercial or academic sources can be considered equivalent and equally suitable for the embodiments described herein. In some embodiments, some parental strains of *C. tropicalis* and *C. viswanathii* are considered to differ in name only.

[00352] Any suitable fungus may be selected as a host microorganism, engineered microorganism or source for a heterologous polynucleotide. Non-limiting examples of fungi include, but are not limited to, *Aspergillus* fungi (e.g., *A. parasiticus*, *A. nidulans*), *Thraustochytrium* fungi, *Schizochytrium* fungi and *Rhizopus* fungi (e.g., *R. arrhizus*, *R. oryzae*, *R. nigricans*). In some embodiments, a fungus is an *A. parasiticus* strain that includes, but is not limited to, strain ATCC24690, and in certain embodiments, a fungus is an *A. nidulans* strain that includes, but is not limited to, strain ATCC38163.

[00353] Any suitable prokaryote may be selected as a host microorganism, engineered microorganism or source for a heterologous polynucleotide. A Gram negative or Gram positive bacteria may be selected. Examples of bacteria include, but are not limited to, *Bacillus* bacteria (e.g., *B. subtilis*, *B. megaterium*), *Acinetobacter* bacteria, *Nocardia* bacteria, *Xanthobacter* bacteria, *Escherichia* bacteria (e.g., *E. coli* (e.g., strains DH10B, Stbl2, DH5-alpha, DB3, DB3.1), DB4, DB5, JDP682 and ccdA-over (e.g., U.S. Application No. 09/518,188))), *Streptomyces* bacteria, *Erwinia* bacteria, *Klebsiella* bacteria, *Serratia* bacteria (e.g., *S. marcescans*), *Pseudomonas* bacteria (e.g., *P. aeruginosa*), *Salmonella* bacteria (e.g., *S. typhimurium*, *S. typhi*), *Megasphaera* bacteria (e.g., *Megasphaera elsdenii*). Bacteria also include, but are not limited to, photosynthetic bacteria (e.g., green non-sulfur bacteria (e.g., *Chloroflexus* bacteria (e.g., *C. aurantiacus*), *Chloronema* bacteria (e.g., *C. gigateum*)), green sulfur bacteria (e.g., *Chlorobium* bacteria (e.g., *C. limicola*), *Pelodictyon* bacteria (e.g., *P. luteolum*)), purple sulfur bacteria (e.g., *Chromatium* bacteria (e.g., *C. okenii*)), and purple non-sulfur bacteria (e.g., *Rhodospirillum* bacteria (e.g., *R. rubrum*), *Rhodobacter* bacteria (e.g., *R. sphaeroides*, *R. capsulatus*), and *Rhodomicrobium* bacteria (e.g., *R. vanellii*)).

[00354] Cells from non-microbial organisms can be utilized as a host microorganism, engineered microorganism or source for a heterologous polynucleotide. Examples of such cells,

include, but are not limited to, insect cells (e.g., *Drosophila* (e.g., *D. melanogaster*), *Spodoptera* (e.g., *S. frugiperda* Sf9 or Sf21 cells) and *Trichoplusa* (e.g., High-Five cells); nematode cells (e.g., *C. elegans* cells); avian cells; amphibian cells (e.g., *Xenopus laevis* cells); reptilian cells; mammalian cells (e.g., NIH3T3, 293, CHO, COS, VERO, C127, BHK, Per-C6, Bowes melanoma and HeLa cells); and plant cells (e.g., *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Cuphea acinifolia*, *Cuphea aequipetala*, *Cuphea angustifolia*, *Cuphea appendiculata*, *Cuphea avigera*, *Cuphea avigera* var. *pulcherrima*, *Cuphea axilliflora*, *Cuphea bahiensis*, *Cuphea baillonis*, *Cuphea brachypoda*, *Cuphea bustamanta*, *Cuphea calcarata*, *Cuphea calophylla*, *Cuphea calophylla* subsp. *mesostemon*, *Cuphea carthagenensis*, *Cuphea circaeoides*, *Cuphea confertiflora*, *Cuphea cordata*, *Cuphea crassiflora*, *Cuphea cyanea*, *Cuphea decandra*, *Cuphea denticulata*, *Cuphea disperma*, *Cuphea epilobiifolia*, *Cuphea ericoides*, *Cuphea flava*, *Cuphea flavisetula*, *Cuphea fuchsiifolia*, *Cuphea gaumeri*, *Cuphea glutinosa*, *Cuphea heterophylla*, *Cuphea hookeriana*, *Cuphea hyssopifolia* (Mexican-heather), *Cuphea hyssopoides*, *Cuphea ignea*, *Cuphea ingrata*, *Cuphea jorullensis*, *Cuphea lanceolata*, *Cuphea linarioides*, *Cuphea llavea*, *Cuphea lophostoma*, *Cuphea lutea*, *Cuphea lutescens*, *Cuphea melanium*, *Cuphea melvilla*, *Cuphea micrantha*, *Cuphea micropetala*, *Cuphea mimuloides*, *Cuphea nitidula*, *Cuphea palustris*, *Cuphea parsonsia*, *Cuphea pascuorum*, *Cuphea paucipetala*, *Cuphea procumbens*, *Cuphea pseudosilene*, *Cuphea pseudovaccinium*, *Cuphea pulchra*, *Cuphea racemosa*, *Cuphea repens*, *Cuphea salicifolia*, *Cuphea salvadorensis*, *Cuphea schumannii*, *Cuphea sessiliflora*, *Cuphea sessilifolia*, *Cuphea setosa*, *Cuphea spectabilis*, *Cuphea spermacoce*, *Cuphea splendida*, *Cuphea splendida* var. *viridiflava*, *Cuphea strigulosa*, *Cuphea subuligera*, *Cuphea teleandra*, *Cuphea thymoides*, *Cuphea toluhana*, *Cuphea urens*, *Cuphea utriculosa*, *Cuphea viscosissima*, *Cuphea watsoniana*, *Cuphea wrightii*, and *Cuphea lanceolata*).

[00355] Microorganisms or cells used as host organisms or source for a heterologous polynucleotide are commercially available. Microorganisms and cells described herein, and other suitable microorganisms and cells are available, for example, from Invitrogen Corporation, (Carlsbad, CA), American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, Virginia), and Agricultural Research Culture Collection (NRRL; Peoria, Illinois). Host microorganisms and engineered microorganisms may be provided in any suitable form. For example, such microorganisms may be provided in liquid culture or solid culture (e.g., agar-based medium), which may be a primary culture or may have been passaged (e.g., diluted and cultured) one or more times. Microorganisms also may be provided in frozen form or dry form (e.g., lyophilized). Microorganisms may be provided at any suitable concentration.

Stabilization of nucleic acids for cellular import

[00356] Active transport via a nucleotide triphosphate transporter has been discovered to be optimal when the transported unnatural nucleotide triphosphates are sufficiently stable, *e.g.*, stable in culture media. Preliminary characterization of unnatural nucleic acids, *e.g.*, d5SICSTP and dNaMTP, indicated that they are degraded in the presence of actively growing *E. coli* (Figure 6B). Similar behavior was observed with $[\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]$ -dATP, and the dephosphorylation products detected by thin layer chromatography for $[\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]$ -dATP or by HPLC and MALDI for d5SICSTP and dNaMTP (Figure 6A), suggested that decomposition was mediated by phosphatases. Minimal to negligent degradation was observed in spent media, suggesting that decomposition may occur within the periplasm. No improvement in stability was observed in cultures of single-gene deletion mutants of *E. coli* BW25113 lacking a specific periplasmic phosphatase (as identified by the presence of a Sec-type N-terminal leader sequence), including *phoA*, *ushA*, *appA*, *aphA*, *yjjX*, *surE*, *yfbR*, *yjjG*, *yfaO*, *mutT*, *nagD*, *yggV*, *yrfG*, or *ymfB*, suggesting that decomposition may occur as a result of the activity of multiple phosphatases.

[00357] The cells that express the nucleotide triphosphate transporter can be modified in a variety of other ways to facilitate nucleotide triphosphate importation and/or improve the stability of nucleotide triphosphates. For example, the cells can be modified by deletion or disruption, *e.g.*, mutation, of one or more genes that encode a phosphatase or a nucleotidase. Such modifications can increase the stability of nucleotide triphosphates that can be imported by the nucleotide triphosphate transporter. Cells can be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode phosphatases such as a 5' or 3' nucleotidase.

[00358] A nucleotidase is a hydrolytic enzyme that catalyzes the hydrolysis of a nucleotide into a nucleoside and a phosphate. For example, it converts adenosine monophosphate to adenosine, and guanosine monophosphate to guanosine. The nucleotidase that is modified or deleted from the cell can be a 5'-nucleotidase (such as EC 3.1.3.5) or a 3'-nucleotidase (such as EC 3.1.3.6). In some embodiments, it can be more useful to modify or eliminate a gene encoding a 5'-nucleotidase to improve the stability of nucleotide triphosphates that can be imported by the nucleotide triphosphate transporter.

[00359] Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode a 5'-nucleotidase (ENZYME entry: EC 3.1.3.5), such as one or more genes in Table 2.

Table 2 - 5'-Nucleotidases

Q7ZWS2, 5N3BA_XENLA;	Q7ZWS2, 5N3BA_XENLA;	Q7ZWS2, 5N3BA_XENLA;
Q2TAG6, 5N3BB_XENLA;	Q2TAG6, 5N3BB_XENLA;	Q2TAG6, 5N3BB_XENLA;
Q9BXI3, 5NT1A_HUMAN;	Q9BXI3, 5NT1A_HUMAN;	Q9BXI3, 5NT1A_HUMAN;
A3KFX0, 5NT1A_MOUSE;	A3KFX0, 5NT1A_MOUSE;	A3KFX0, 5NT1A_MOUSE;
Q96P26, 5NT1B_HUMAN;	Q96P26, 5NT1B_HUMAN;	Q96P26, 5NT1B_HUMAN;
Q91YE9, 5NT1B_MOUSE;	Q91YE9, 5NT1B_MOUSE;	Q91YE9, 5NT1B_MOUSE;

Q5ZID6, 5NT3A_CHICK;	Q5ZID6, 5NT3A_CHICK;	Q5ZID6, 5NT3A_CHICK;
Q9H0P0, 5NT3A_HUMAN;	Q9H0P0, 5NT3A_HUMAN;	Q9H0P0, 5NT3A_HUMAN;
Q9D020, 5NT3A_MOUSE;	Q9D020, 5NT3A_MOUSE;	Q9D020, 5NT3A_MOUSE;
Q5ZKF6, 5NT3B_CHICK;	Q5ZKF6, 5NT3B_CHICK;	Q5ZKF6, 5NT3B_CHICK;
Q9W197, 5NT3B_DROME;	Q9W197, 5NT3B_DROME;	Q9W197, 5NT3B_DROME;
Q969T7, 5NT3B_HUMAN;	Q969T7, 5NT3B_HUMAN;	Q969T7, 5NT3B_HUMAN;
Q3UFY7, 5NT3B_MOUSE;	Q3UFY7, 5NT3B_MOUSE;	Q3UFY7, 5NT3B_MOUSE;
Q6AYP7, 5NT3B_RAT;	Q6AYP7, 5NT3B_RAT;	Q6AYP7, 5NT3B_RAT;
Q09315, 5NT3_CAEEL;	Q09315, 5NT3_CAEEL;	Q09315, 5NT3_CAEEL;
Q7SYN4, 5NT3_DANRE;	Q7SYN4, 5NT3_DANRE;	Q7SYN4, 5NT3_DANRE;
O46411, 5NTC_BOVIN;	O46411, 5NTC_BOVIN;	O46411, 5NTC_BOVIN;
Q5ZIZ4, 5NTC_CHICK;	Q5ZIZ4, 5NTC_CHICK;	Q5ZIZ4, 5NTC_CHICK;
Q54XC1, 5NTC_DICDI;	Q54XC1, 5NTC_DICDI;	Q54XC1, 5NTC_DICDI;
P49902, 5NTC_HUMAN;	P49902, 5NTC_HUMAN;	P49902, 5NTC_HUMAN;
Q3V1L4, 5NTC_MOUSE;	Q3V1L4, 5NTC_MOUSE;	Q3V1L4, 5NTC_MOUSE;
Q5RA22, 5NTC_PONAB;	Q5RA22, 5NTC_PONAB;	Q5RA22, 5NTC_PONAB;
Q6DKB0, 5NTC_XENLA;	Q6DKB0, 5NTC_XENLA;	Q6DKB0, 5NTC_XENLA;
Q5EBF1, 5NTC_XENTR;	Q5EBF1, 5NTC_XENTR;	Q5EBF1, 5NTC_XENTR;
Q05927, 5NTD_BOVIN;	Q05927, 5NTD_BOVIN;	Q05927, 5NTD_BOVIN;
P29240, 5NTD_DIPOM;	P29240, 5NTD_DIPOM;	P29240, 5NTD_DIPOM;
P44569, 5NTD_HAEIN;	P44569, 5NTD_HAEIN;	P44569, 5NTD_HAEIN;
P21589, 5NTD_HUMAN;	P21589, 5NTD_HUMAN;	P21589, 5NTD_HUMAN;
Q9XZ43, 5NTD_LUTLO;	Q9XZ43, 5NTD_LUTLO;	Q9XZ43, 5NTD_LUTLO;
Q61503, 5NTD_MOUSE;	Q61503, 5NTD_MOUSE;	Q61503, 5NTD_MOUSE;
Q9I767, 5NTD_PSEAE;	Q9I767, 5NTD_PSEAE;	Q9I767, 5NTD_PSEAE;
P21588, 5NTD_RAT;	P21588, 5NTD_RAT;	P21588, 5NTD_RAT;
P52307, 5NTD_RHIMP;	P52307, 5NTD_RHIMP;	P52307, 5NTD_RHIMP;
O83142, 5NTD_TREPA;	O83142, 5NTD_TREPA;	O83142, 5NTD_TREPA;
Q9KQ30, 5NTD_VIBCH;	Q9KQ30, 5NTD_VIBCH;	Q9KQ30, 5NTD_VIBCH;
P22848, 5NTD_VIBPA;	P22848, 5NTD_VIBPA;	P22848, 5NTD_VIBPA;
Q8DFG4, 5NTD_VIBVU;	Q8DFG4, 5NTD_VIBVU;	Q8DFG4, 5NTD_VIBVU;
P0AF25, NAGD_ECO57;	P0AF25, NAGD_ECO57;	P0AF25, NAGD_ECO57;
P0AF24, NAGD_ECOLI;	P0AF24, NAGD_ECOLI;	P0AF24, NAGD_ECOLI;
O34313, NTPES_BACSU;	O34313, NTPES_BACSU;	O34313, NTPES_BACSU;
P15309, PPAP_HUMAN;	P15309, PPAP_HUMAN;	P15309, PPAP_HUMAN;
Q8CE08, PPAP_MOUSE;	Q8CE08, PPAP_MOUSE;	Q8CE08, PPAP_MOUSE;
P20646, PPAP_RAT;	P20646, PPAP_RAT;	P20646, PPAP_RAT;
Q390V3, SURE1_BURS3;	Q390V3, SURE1_BURS3;	Q390V3, SURE1_BURS3;
Q823A6, SURE1_CHLCV;	Q823A6, SURE1_CHLCV;	Q823A6, SURE1_CHLCV;
Q8ZU79, SURE1_PYRAE;	Q8ZU79, SURE1_PYRAE;	Q8ZU79, SURE1_PYRAE;
Q72H70, SURE1_THET2;	Q72H70, SURE1_THET2;	Q72H70, SURE1_THET2;
Q39FP8, SURE2_BURS3;	Q39FP8, SURE2_BURS3;	Q39FP8, SURE2_BURS3;
Q823A7, SURE2_CHLCV;	Q823A7, SURE2_CHLCV;	Q823A7, SURE2_CHLCV;
Q8ZSY4, SURE2_PYRAE;	Q8ZSY4, SURE2_PYRAE;	Q8ZSY4, SURE2_PYRAE;
Q746M5, SURE2_THET2;	Q746M5, SURE2_THET2;	Q746M5, SURE2_THET2;
B0C6V3, SURE_ACAM1;	B0C6V3, SURE_ACAM1;	B0C6V3, SURE_ACAM1;
Q6FCV6, SURE_ACIAD;	Q6FCV6, SURE_ACIAD;	Q6FCV6, SURE_ACIAD;
B7GZ27, SURE_ACIB3;	B7GZ27, SURE_ACIB3;	B7GZ27, SURE_ACIB3;
B7I4K2, SURE_ACIB5;	B7I4K2, SURE_ACIB5;	B7I4K2, SURE_ACIB5;
B2HVM9, SURE_ACIBC;	B2HVM9, SURE_ACIBC;	B2HVM9, SURE_ACIBC;
B0VUE2, SURE_ACIBS;	B0VUE2, SURE_ACIBS;	B0VUE2, SURE_ACIBS;
A3M7F7, SURE_ACIBT;	A3M7F7, SURE_ACIBT;	A3M7F7, SURE_ACIBT;
B0VBZ1, SURE_ACIBY;	B0VBZ1, SURE_ACIBY;	B0VBZ1, SURE_ACIBY;

B9MFW6, SURE_ACIET;	B9MFW6, SURE_ACIET;	B9MFW6, SURE_ACIET;
A3N3M1, SURE_ACTP2;	A3N3M1, SURE_ACTP2;	A3N3M1, SURE_ACTP2;
B3H2Z8, SURE_ACTP7;	B3H2Z8, SURE_ACTP7;	B3H2Z8, SURE_ACTP7;
B0BTK8, SURE_ACTPJ;	B0BTK8, SURE_ACTPJ;	B0BTK8, SURE_ACTPJ;
A6VLU0, SURE_ACTSZ;	A6VLU0, SURE_ACTSZ;	A6VLU0, SURE_ACTSZ;
A0KGH8, SURE_AERHH;	A0KGH8, SURE_AERHH;	A0KGH8, SURE_AERHH;
Q9YDW8, SURE_AERPE;	Q9YDW8, SURE_AERPE;	Q9YDW8, SURE_AERPE;
A4SRB6, SURE_AERS4;	A4SRB6, SURE_AERS4;	A4SRB6, SURE_AERS4;
B9JEH2, SURE_AGRRK;	B9JEH2, SURE_AGRRK;	B9JEH2, SURE_AGRRK;
Q8UEQ3, SURE_AGR5;	Q8UEQ3, SURE_AGR5;	Q8UEQ3, SURE_AGR5;
B9JXD7, SURE_AGRVS;	B9JXD7, SURE_AGRVS;	B9JXD7, SURE_AGRVS;
Q0A7L4, SURE_ALKEH;	Q0A7L4, SURE_ALKEH;	Q0A7L4, SURE_ALKEH;
A6TRH0, SURE_ALKMQ;	A6TRH0, SURE_ALKMQ;	A6TRH0, SURE_ALKMQ;
B8JDR1, SURE_ANAD2;	B8JDR1, SURE_ANAD2;	B8JDR1, SURE_ANAD2;
Q2INZ4, SURE_ANADE;	Q2INZ4, SURE_ANADE;	Q2INZ4, SURE_ANADE;
A7H8F6, SURE_ANADF;	A7H8F6, SURE_ANADF;	A7H8F6, SURE_ANADF;
B9KI89, SURE_ANAMF;	B9KI89, SURE_ANAMF;	B9KI89, SURE_ANAMF;
Q5PB34, SURE_ANAMM;	Q5PB34, SURE_ANAMM;	Q5PB34, SURE_ANAMM;
B4UE89, SURE_ANASK;	B4UE89, SURE_ANASK;	B4UE89, SURE_ANASK;
Q3MB98, SURE_ANAVT;	Q3MB98, SURE_ANAVT;	Q3MB98, SURE_ANAVT;
O67004, SURE_AQUAE;	O67004, SURE_AQUAE;	O67004, SURE_AQUAE;
A8EX03, SURE_ARCB4;	A8EX03, SURE_ARCB4;	A8EX03, SURE_ARCB4;
O29320, SURE_ARCFU;	O29320, SURE_ARCFU;	O29320, SURE_ARCFU;
Q5P832, SURE_AROAE;	Q5P832, SURE_AROAE;	Q5P832, SURE_AROAE;
A8I066, SURE_AZOC5;	A8I066, SURE_AZOC5;	A8I066, SURE_AZOC5;
A1K4E9, SURE_AZOSB;	A1K4E9, SURE_AZOSB;	A1K4E9, SURE_AZOSB;
C1DSR8, SURE_AZOVD;	C1DSR8, SURE_AZOVD;	C1DSR8, SURE_AZOVD;
Q5LHD7, SURE_BACFN;	Q5LHD7, SURE_BACFN;	Q5LHD7, SURE_BACFN;
Q64YA5, SURE_BACFR;	Q64YA5, SURE_BACFR;	Q64YA5, SURE_BACFR;
Q8A0L8, SURE_BACTN;	Q8A0L8, SURE_BACTN;	Q8A0L8, SURE_BACTN;
A6L1M6, SURE_BACV8;	A6L1M6, SURE_BACV8;	A6L1M6, SURE_BACV8;
B2IJG0, SURE_BEI9;	B2IJG0, SURE_BEI9;	B2IJG0, SURE_BEI9;
Q2L006, SURE_BORA1;	Q2L006, SURE_BORA1;	Q2L006, SURE_BORA1;
Q7WI36, SURE_BORBR;	Q7WI36, SURE_BORBR;	Q7WI36, SURE_BORBR;
Q7W670, SURE_BORPA;	Q7W670, SURE_BORPA;	Q7W670, SURE_BORPA;
A9IP06, SURE_BORPD;	A9IP06, SURE_BORPD;	A9IP06, SURE_BORPD;
Q7VXN2, SURE_BORPE;	Q7VXN2, SURE_BORPE;	Q7VXN2, SURE_BORPE;
Q89L02, SURE_BRADU;	Q89L02, SURE_BRADU;	Q89L02, SURE_BRADU;
A5EJV7, SURE_BRASB;	A5EJV7, SURE_BRASB;	A5EJV7, SURE_BRASB;
A4YV68, SURE_BRASO;	A4YV68, SURE_BRASO;	A4YV68, SURE_BRASO;
C0ZGV3, SURE_BREBN;	C0ZGV3, SURE_BREBN;	C0ZGV3, SURE_BREBN;
B2S5B9, SURE_BRUA1;	B2S5B9, SURE_BRUA1;	B2S5B9, SURE_BRUA1;
Q2YNM5, SURE_BRUA2;	Q2YNM5, SURE_BRUA2;	Q2YNM5, SURE_BRUA2;
Q57DM1, SURE_BRUAB;	Q57DM1, SURE_BRUAB;	Q57DM1, SURE_BRUAB;
A9MAQ9, SURE_BRUC2;	A9MAQ9, SURE_BRUC2;	A9MAQ9, SURE_BRUC2;
C0RIL9, SURE_BRUMB;	C0RIL9, SURE_BRUMB;	C0RIL9, SURE_BRUMB;
P66879, SURE_BRUME;	P66879, SURE_BRUME;	P66879, SURE_BRUME;
A5VQ63, SURE_BRUO2;	A5VQ63, SURE_BRUO2;	A5VQ63, SURE_BRUO2;
B0CLL1, SURE_BRUSI;	B0CLL1, SURE_BRUSI;	B0CLL1, SURE_BRUSI;
P66880, SURE_BRUSU;	P66880, SURE_BRUSU;	P66880, SURE_BRUSU;
A3MK87, SURE_BURM7;	A3MK87, SURE_BURM7;	A3MK87, SURE_BURM7;
A2S290, SURE_BURM9;	A2S290, SURE_BURM9;	A2S290, SURE_BURM9;
Q62JV2, SURE_BURMA;	Q62JV2, SURE_BURMA;	Q62JV2, SURE_BURMA;

A1V4L3, SURE BURMS;	A1V4L3, SURE BURMS;	A1V4L3, SURE BURMS;
A3NVY2, SURE BURP0;	A3NVY2, SURE BURP0;	A3NVY2, SURE BURP0;
Q3JRP0, SURE BURP1;	Q3JRP0, SURE BURP1;	Q3JRP0, SURE BURP1;
A3NA65, SURE BURP6;	A3NA65, SURE BURP6;	A3NA65, SURE BURP6;
Q63UU4, SURE BURPS;	Q63UU4, SURE BURPS;	Q63UU4, SURE BURPS;
Q2SWF5, SURE BURTA;	Q2SWF5, SURE BURTA;	Q2SWF5, SURE BURTA;
A4JEQ1, SURE BURVG;	A4JEQ1, SURE BURVG;	A4JEQ1, SURE BURVG;
Q13Z72, SURE BURXL;	Q13Z72, SURE BURXL;	Q13Z72, SURE BURXL;
A8MBQ3, SURE CALMQ;	A8MBQ3, SURE CALMQ;	A8MBQ3, SURE CALMQ;
A7ZCD9, SURE CAMC1;	A7ZCD9, SURE CAMC1;	A7ZCD9, SURE CAMC1;
A7H0A1, SURE CAMC5;	A7H0A1, SURE CAMC5;	A7H0A1, SURE CAMC5;
A0RMU4, SURE CAMFF;	A0RMU4, SURE CAMFF;	A0RMU4, SURE CAMFF;
A7I2X3, SURE CAMHC;	A7I2X3, SURE CAMHC;	A7I2X3, SURE CAMHC;
A8FK82, SURE CAMJ8;	A8FK82, SURE CAMJ8;	A8FK82, SURE CAMJ8;
A7H578, SURE CAMJD;	A7H578, SURE CAMJD;	A7H578, SURE CAMJD;
Q9PIK6, SURE CAMJE;	Q9PIK6, SURE CAMJE;	Q9PIK6, SURE CAMJE;
A1VY14, SURE CAMJJ;	A1VY14, SURE CAMJJ;	A1VY14, SURE CAMJJ;
Q5HWH7, SURE CAMJR;	Q5HWH7, SURE CAMJR;	Q5HWH7, SURE CAMJR;
B9KQD8, SURE CAMLR;	B9KQD8, SURE CAMLR;	B9KQD8, SURE CAMLR;
Q3ADI0, SURE CARHZ;	Q3ADI0, SURE CARHZ;	Q3ADI0, SURE CARHZ;
B8GX52, SURE CAUCN;	B8GX52, SURE CAUCN;	B8GX52, SURE CAUCN;
Q9A6T5, SURE CAUCR;	Q9A6T5, SURE CAUCR;	Q9A6T5, SURE CAUCR;
B0T1Q2, SURE CAUSK;	B0T1Q2, SURE CAUSK;	B0T1Q2, SURE CAUSK;
Q5L5X3, SURE CHLAB;	Q5L5X3, SURE CHLAB;	Q5L5X3, SURE CHLAB;
B8G513, SURE CHLAD;	B8G513, SURE CHLAD;	B8G513, SURE CHLAD;
Q3ATV8, SURE CHLCH;	Q3ATV8, SURE CHLCH;	Q3ATV8, SURE CHLCH;
Q254M8, SURE CHLFF;	Q254M8, SURE CHLFF;	Q254M8, SURE CHLFF;
B3EFW1, SURE CHLL2;	B3EFW1, SURE CHLL2;	B3EFW1, SURE CHLL2;
Q9PKH4, SURE CHLMU;	Q9PKH4, SURE CHLMU;	Q9PKH4, SURE CHLMU;
A1BI19, SURE CHLPD;	A1BI19, SURE CHLPD;	A1BI19, SURE CHLPD;
Q9Z8S6, SURE CHLPN;	Q9Z8S6, SURE CHLPN;	Q9Z8S6, SURE CHLPN;
B0B9W8, SURE CHLT2;	B0B9W8, SURE CHLT2;	B0B9W8, SURE CHLT2;
Q3KME4, SURE CHLTA;	Q3KME4, SURE CHLTA;	Q3KME4, SURE CHLTA;
B0BBJ8, SURE CHLTB;	B0BBJ8, SURE CHLTB;	B0BBJ8, SURE CHLTB;
Q8KC69, SURE CHLTE;	Q8KC69, SURE CHLTE;	Q8KC69, SURE CHLTE;
O84220, SURE CHLTR;	O84220, SURE CHLTR;	O84220, SURE CHLTR;
Q1QU76, SURE CHRSD;	Q1QU76, SURE CHRSD;	Q1QU76, SURE CHRSD;
Q7NRV1, SURE CHRVO;	Q7NRV1, SURE CHRVO;	Q7NRV1, SURE CHRVO;
A8ANV8, SURE CITK8;	A8ANV8, SURE CITK8;	A8ANV8, SURE CITK8;
A7FQP3, SURE CLOB1;	A7FQP3, SURE CLOB1;	A7FQP3, SURE CLOB1;
C3KZ52, SURE CLOB6;	C3KZ52, SURE CLOB6;	C3KZ52, SURE CLOB6;
A6LS61, SURE CLOB8;	A6LS61, SURE CLOB8;	A6LS61, SURE CLOB8;
B2UXL6, SURE CLOBA;	B2UXL6, SURE CLOBA;	B2UXL6, SURE CLOBA;
B2TPM3, SURE CLOBB;	B2TPM3, SURE CLOBB;	B2TPM3, SURE CLOBB;
A5HYC6, SURE CLOBH;	A5HYC6, SURE CLOBH;	A5HYC6, SURE CLOBH;
C1FQW9, SURE CLOBJ;	C1FQW9, SURE CLOBJ;	C1FQW9, SURE CLOBJ;
B1IDC2, SURE CLOBK;	B1IDC2, SURE CLOBK;	B1IDC2, SURE CLOBK;
A7G9Y6, SURE CLOBL;	A7G9Y6, SURE CLOBL;	A7G9Y6, SURE CLOBL;
B1KTK1, SURE CLOBM;	B1KTK1, SURE CLOBM;	B1KTK1, SURE CLOBM;
B9E0C7, SURE CLOK1;	B9E0C7, SURE CLOK1;	B9E0C7, SURE CLOK1;
A5N6V8, SURE CLOK5;	A5N6V8, SURE CLOK5;	A5N6V8, SURE CLOK5;
Q899M5, SURE CLOTE;	Q899M5, SURE CLOTE;	Q899M5, SURE CLOTE;
Q487E6, SURE COLP3;	Q487E6, SURE COLP3;	Q487E6, SURE COLP3;

B6J4X6, SURE_COXB1;	B6J4X6, SURE_COXB1;	B6J4X6, SURE_COXB1;
B6J3X6, SURE_COXB2;	B6J3X6, SURE_COXB2;	B6J3X6, SURE_COXB2;
A9KDH9, SURE_COXBN;	A9KDH9, SURE_COXBN;	A9KDH9, SURE_COXBN;
A9N9U7, SURE_COXBR;	A9N9U7, SURE_COXBR;	A9N9U7, SURE_COXBR;
Q9KI21, SURE_COXBU;	Q9KI21, SURE_COXBU;	Q9KI21, SURE_COXBU;
A7MJ60, SURE_CROS8;	A7MJ60, SURE_CROS8;	A7MJ60, SURE_CROS8;
Q0K950, SURE_CUPNH;	Q0K950, SURE_CUPNH;	Q0K950, SURE_CUPNH;
Q46ZH1, SURE_CUPPJ;	Q46ZH1, SURE_CUPPJ;	Q46ZH1, SURE_CUPPJ;
B3R1L4, SURE_CUPTR;	B3R1L4, SURE_CUPTR;	B3R1L4, SURE_CUPTR;
B1WXT3, SURE_CYAA5;	B1WXT3, SURE_CYAA5;	B1WXT3, SURE_CYAA5;
B8HSQ9, SURE_CYAP4;	B8HSQ9, SURE_CYAP4;	B8HSQ9, SURE_CYAP4;
B7KB74, SURE_CYAP7;	B7KB74, SURE_CYAP7;	B7KB74, SURE_CYAP7;
Q11WK5, SURE_CYTH3;	Q11WK5, SURE_CYTH3;	Q11WK5, SURE_CYTH3;
Q47D24, SURE_DECAR;	Q47D24, SURE_DECAR;	Q47D24, SURE_DECAR;
Q3Z8C0, SURE_DEHE1;	Q3Z8C0, SURE_DEHE1;	Q3Z8C0, SURE_DEHE1;
A5FR64, SURE_DEHSB;	A5FR64, SURE_DEHSB;	A5FR64, SURE_DEHSB;
Q3ZXG5, SURE_DEHSC;	Q3ZXG5, SURE_DEHSC;	Q3ZXG5, SURE_DEHSC;
Q1J2E1, SURE_DEIGD;	Q1J2E1, SURE_DEIGD;	Q1J2E1, SURE_DEIGD;
Q9RRT8, SURE_DEIRA;	Q9RRT8, SURE_DEIRA;	Q9RRT8, SURE_DEIRA;
B8FC91, SURE_DESAA;	B8FC91, SURE_DESAA;	B8FC91, SURE_DESAA;
C6BUG4, SURE_DESAD;	C6BUG4, SURE_DESAD;	C6BUG4, SURE_DESAD;
B1I3V7, SURE_DESAP;	B1I3V7, SURE_DESAP;	B1I3V7, SURE_DESAP;

[00360] Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode a 3'-nucleotidase, such as one or more genes in **Table 3**.

Table 3 - 3'-Nucleotidases

P08331, CPDB_ECOLI;	P08331, CPDB_ECOLI;	P08331, CPDB_ECOLI;
P44764, CPDB_HAEIN;	P44764, CPDB_HAEIN;	P44764, CPDB_HAEIN;
P26265, CPDB_SALTY;	P26265, CPDB_SALTY;	P26265, CPDB_SALTY;
P53052, CPDB_YEREN;	P53052, CPDB_YEREN;	P53052, CPDB_YEREN;
O34313, NTPES_BACSU;	O34313, NTPES_BACSU;	O34313, NTPES_BACSU;
P24504, NUP3_PENSQ;	P24504, NUP3_PENSQ;	P24504, NUP3_PENSQ;
A8ANV8, SURE_CITK8;	A8ANV8, SURE_CITK8;	A8ANV8, SURE_CITK8;
A7MJ60, SURE_CROS8;	A7MJ60, SURE_CROS8;	A7MJ60, SURE_CROS8;
A7ZQI8, SURE_ECO24;	A7ZQI8, SURE_ECO24;	A7ZQI8, SURE_ECO24;
B7UHG3, SURE_ECO27;	B7UHG3, SURE_ECO27;	B7UHG3, SURE_ECO27;
B7MKL8, SURE_ECO45;	B7MKL8, SURE_ECO45;	B7MKL8, SURE_ECO45;
B7LEG2, SURE_ECO55;	B7LEG2, SURE_ECO55;	B7LEG2, SURE_ECO55;
P0A842, SURE_ECO57;	P0A842, SURE_ECO57;	P0A842, SURE_ECO57;
B5Z3A6, SURE_ECO5E;	B5Z3A6, SURE_ECO5E;	B5Z3A6, SURE_ECO5E;
B7NT88, SURE_ECO7I;	B7NT88, SURE_ECO7I;	B7NT88, SURE_ECO7I;
B7MZ45, SURE_ECO81;	B7MZ45, SURE_ECO81;	B7MZ45, SURE_ECO81;
B7LXF6, SURE_ECO8A;	B7LXF6, SURE_ECO8A;	B7LXF6, SURE_ECO8A;
C4ZZP8, SURE_ECOBW;	C4ZZP8, SURE_ECOBW;	C4ZZP8, SURE_ECOBW;
B1XCS0, SURE_ECODH;	B1XCS0, SURE_ECODH;	B1XCS0, SURE_ECODH;
A8A3M3, SURE_ECOHS;	A8A3M3, SURE_ECOHS;	A8A3M3, SURE_ECOHS;
A1AET8, SURE_ECOK1;	A1AET8, SURE_ECOK1;	A1AET8, SURE_ECOK1;
Q0TEB4, SURE_ECOL5;	Q0TEB4, SURE_ECOL5;	Q0TEB4, SURE_ECOL5;

[00361] A cell expressing a nucleotide triphosphate transporter can be modified to reduce or eliminate the activity of one or more phosphatases. Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode phosphatases such as alkaline phosphatase. Other examples of genes that can be modified to have loss of function include *phoA*, *ushA*, *appA*, *aphA*, *yjjX*, *surE*, *yfbR*, *yjjG*, *yfaO*, *mutT*, *nagD*, *yggV*, *yrfG*, *ymfB*, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the cells have loss of function mutations in more than one phosphatase gene.

[00362] Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode a polynucleotide phosphatase activity. Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode a Nucleotide phosphatase activity, acting on free nucleotides. Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode a nucleotide triphosphatase (NTPases), apyrase; ATP-diphosphatase; adenosine diphosphatase; ADPase; ATP diphosphohydrolase, or any combination thereof, such as one more genes in **Table 4**.

Table 4 - Polynucleotide phosphatases

ZMA:	100273224(TIDP3667) 100273583 100281594(pco140907) 100381419	HSA:	377841(ENTPD8) 953(ENTPD1) 956(ENTPD3)
SITA:	101757382 101764324 101769705 101772875 101775667 101786001	PTR:	100614135(ENTPD1) 460286(ENTPD3) 736974(ENTPD8)
SMO:	SELMODRAFT_233281(APY-1) SELMODRAFT_94922	PPS:	100971059(ENTPD1) 100983594(ENTPD3) 100995976(ENTPD8)
PPP:	PHYPADRAFT_175090 PHYPADRAFT_201168 PHYPADRAFT_31384	GGO:	101132716(ENTPD1) 101132747(ENTPD3)
CRE:	CHLREDRAFT_167044 CHLREDRAFT_170567	PON:	100442938(ENTPD8) 100447406(ENTPD3) 100453241(ENTPD1)
VCN:	VOLCADRAFT_120373 VOLCADRAFT_78871 VOLCADRAFT_91259	MCC:	703591(ENTPD1) 704424(ENTPD8) 718311(ENTPD3)
OLU:	OSTLU_36812	MCF:	102134382(ENTPD8) 102138702(ENTPD3)
OTA:	Ot04g01290	MMU:	12495(Entpd1) 215446(Entpd3) 72090(Entpd8)
MIS:	MICPUN_84198 MICPUN_87507	RNO:	316077(Entpd3) 613267(Entpd8) 64519(Entpd1)
MPP:	MICPUCDRAFT_32900	CGE:	100751964(Entpd8) 100762593 100772668
CSL:	COCSUDRAFT_28740	HGL:	101696417(Entpd3) 101708535(Entpd8) 101715301(Entpd1)
SCE:	YER005W(YND1)	CFA:	100688937(ENTPD8) 485604(ENTPD3) 486810(ENTPD1)
AGO:	AGOS_ADR006W	AML:	100468369 100473727(ENTPD3) 100474255
ERC:	Ecym_4478	FCA:	101085582(ENTPD8) 101096356(ENTPD1) 101098083(ENTPD3)
KLA:	KLLA0D13662g	BTA:	282223(ENTPD1) 506087(ENTPD3) 515532(ENTPD8)
LTH:	KLTH0F13178g	BOM:	102269229(ENTPD8) 102270483(ENTPD1) 102273587(ENTPD3)
PPA:	PAS_chr1-1_0063	PHD:	102321352(ENTPD1) 102338946(ENTPD3)
VPO:	Kpol_312p10	CHX:	102189182(ENTPD1) 102190080(ENTPD3)
ZRO:	ZYRO0D09570g	SSC:	100516719(ENTPD8) 100623360(ENTPD3) 397298(ENTPD1)
CGR:	CAGL0H09746g	ECB:	100058558(ENTPD8) 100068004(ENTPD3) 100070956(ENTPD1)

NCS:	NCAS_0I00760(NCAS0I00760)	MYB:	102255350(ENTPD3) 102256383(ENTPD1)
NDI:	NDAI_0A08280(NDAI0A08280)	MDO:	100022843(ENTPD8) 100022899(ENTPD1) 100023686 100025436(ENTPD3)
TPF:	TPHA_0L00770(TPHA0L00770)	SHR:	100914154(ENTPD1) 100919726 100926510(ENTPD3) 100932670(ENTPD8)
TBL:	TBLA_0A01060(TBLA0A01060)	OAA:	100078824(ENTPD3)
TDL:	TDEL_0H03120(TDEL0H03120)	GGA:	374095(ENTPD8) 417281(ENTPD8L) 423826(ENTPD1) 427778(ENTPD1) 428447(ENTPD3)
KAF:	KAFR_0L00600(KAFR0L00600)	MGP:	100543984(ENTPD1) 100546469 100547592 100550087
DHA:	DEHA2D16764g	TGU:	100218994(ENTPD1) 100221575(ENTPD3) 100229162
PIC:	PICST_75213(YND1)	FAB:	101806865(ENTPD3) 101809481 101809685 101817605(ENTPD1)
PGU:	PGUG_00627	PHI:	102099317(ENTPD3) 102105445 102107727(ENTPD8) 102110072(ENTPD1)
LEL:	LELG_04414	APLA:	101795263 101795762(ENTPD8) 101796222 101801191(ENTPD1) 101804288(ENTPD3)
CAL:	CaO19.10432(YND1) CaO19.2915(YND1)	FPG:	101912881(ENTPD3) 101915751(ENTPD1) 101918437
CTP:	CTRG_04045	FCH:	102048208 102054936(ENTPD3)
CDU:	CD36_45750	CLV:	102083509 102083693 102095399(ENTPD1) 102096210 102097422(ENTPD3)
COT:	CORT_0E01960	ACS:	100553564 100561052(entpd3)
YLI:	YALI0C19712g	ASN:	102373368(ENTPD1) 102373540(ENTPD3) 102380815 102381055 102381801
CLU:	CLUG_01050	XLA:	444164(entpd1)
MBR:	MONBRDRAFT_28117	XTR:	100125010(entpd3) 448501(entpd1) 733458(entpd8)
PFA:	PF14_0297	DRE:	100005551(entpd3) 436652(entpd8) 445151(entpd1)
TET:	TTHERM_00684480 TTHERM_01256510	TRU:	101068571 101070429
PTM:	GSPATT00035597001 GSPATT00037111001	MZE:	101473382 101487105
EHX:	EMIHUDDRAFT_52732 EMIHUDDRAFT_52751	OLA:	101165837 101166588
GTT:	GUITHDRAFT_95407	XMA:	102217482 102226175
TVA:	TVAG_167570	LCM:	102348651(ENTPD3) 102360392(ENTPD8)
LPN:	lp0971	BFO:	BRAFLDRAFT_124940
LPU:	LPE509_02235	TSP:	Tsp_07798
LPH:	LPV_1110	SMM:	Smp_042020.1
LPO:	LPO_1060	HMG:	100199550
LPM:	LP6_0959	AQU:	100640703
LPF:	lp11000	ATH:	AT1G14230 AT1G14240 AT1G14250 AT2G02970 AT3G04080(APY1) AT5G18280(APY2)
LPP:	lpp1033	ALY:	ARALYDRAFT_471586 ARALYDRAFT_477668 ARALYDRAFT_679147 ARALYDRAFT_904563 ARALYDRAFT_909838
LPC:	LPC_2316	GMX:	100780748 100781628 100786073 100807287
LPA:	lpa_01464	MTR:	MTR_5g040710 MTR_7g085090
LPE:	lp12_0993	CAM:	101497346 101498578
SLY:	101250072 101252471 101258050 101262543 101268182	FVE:	101293262 101304566
OSA:	4332967 4344315 4345665 4351367	CSV:	101203551 101224969

DOSA:	Os03t0378000-01(Os03g0378000) Os07t0682800-01(Os07g0682800) Os08t0436100-01(Os08g0436100) Os12t0123500-01(Os12g0123500)	RCU:	RCOM_0836420 RCOM_1122480
BDI:	100825383 100833921 100834806 100834835 100838315	POP:	POPTR_573883 POPTR_729947 POPTR_765739 POPTR_833712
SBI:	SORBI_01g034030(SORBIDRAFT_01g034030) SORBI_01g036510(SORBIDRAFT_01g036510) SORBI_07g021350(SORBIDRAFT_07g021350)	VVI:	100244785 100267968

[00363] Cells can also be modified by deletion of one or more genes that encode a nucleoside diphosphate phosphatase; nucleoside-diphosphatase; thiaminpyrophosphatase; UDPase; inosine diphosphatase; adenosine diphosphatase; IDPase; ADPase; adenosinepyrophosphatase; guanosine diphosphatase; guanosine 5'-diphosphatase; inosine 5'-diphosphatase; uridine diphosphatase; uridine 5'-diphosphatase; type B nucleoside diphosphatase; GDPase; CDPase; nucleoside 5'-diphosphatase; type L nucleoside diphosphatase; NDPase; nucleoside diphosphate phosphohydrolase, or any combination thereof, such as one or more of the genes listed in **Table 5**.

Table 5 - Nucleoside diphosphate phosphatases

HSA:	124583(CANT1) 955(ENTPD6) 957(ENTPD5) 9583(ENTPD4)	XTR:	394537(cant1) 677731(entpd4) 677734(entpd5) 677735(entpd6)
PTR:	453027(ENTPD5) 458146(ENTPD6) 464056(ENTPD4) 468345(CANT1)	DRE:	406558(cant1a) 436692(entpd4) 445201(cant1b) 550560(entpd6) 556849
PPS:	100969324(ENTPD4) 100971740 100974659(CANT1) 100975707(ENTPD5) 100985458(ENTPD6)	TRU:	101065382 101070342 101075790 101076188
GGO:	101126430(ENTPD6) 101142724(ENTPD5) 101148282(CANT1) 101148704(ENTPD4)	MZE:	101466916 101470512 101474178 101481315 101483235
PON:	100433776(ENTPD4) 100449249(ENTPD6) 100453014(ENTPD5) 100454763(CANT1)	OLA:	101158069 101165115 101171168 101172088 101173329
MCC:	698503(ENTPD5) 705663(ENTPD6) 710935(CANT1) 717197(ENTPD4)	XMA:	102222595 102222865 102222913 102236347
MCF:	102118635(ENTPD5) 102127579(CANT1) 102133506(ENTPD6) 102139183(ENTPD4)	LCM:	102345277(CANT1) 102354256(ENTPD6) 102364599(ENTPD4) 102364924(ENTPD5)
MMU:	100862375(Gm21685) 12497(Entpd6) 12499(Entpd5) 67464(Entpd4) 76025(Cant1)	BFO:	BRAFLDRAFT_57510 BRAFLDRAFT_79389
RNO:	246272(Cant1) 314312(Entpd5) 361063(Entpd4) 85260(Entpd6)	CIN:	100181442 100181727
CGE:	100751454(Entpd5) 100765414 100767250(Cant1) 100771637(Entpd4)	SPU:	576801 580175(entpd4) 587808
HGL:	101700645(Entpd4) 101703881(Entpd5) 101708374(Cant1) 101717001(Entpd6)	DME:	Dmel_CG5276

CFA:	480384(ENTPD5) 485564(ENTPD6) 486117(ENTPD4)	DPO:	Dpse_GA18779
AML:	100470325(ENTPD5) 100474095 100475785(ENTPD4) 100476810 100477887	DAN:	Dana_GF14909 Dana_GF16866
FCA:	101083380(CANT1) 101085117(ENTPD4) 101090270(ENTPD5) 101090852(ENTPD6)	DER:	Dere_GG18156 Dere_GG24477
BTA:	508097(ENTPD6) 518086(CANT1) 531411(ENTPD4) 533096(ENTPD5)	DPE:	Dper_GL12374 Dper_GL26295
BOM:	102264690(ENTPD6) 102272160(CANT1) 102278224(ENTPD5) 102283172(ENTPD4)	DSE:	Dsec_GM18184 Dsec_GM23945
PHD:	102316077(ENTPD6) 102317546(CANT1) 102321161(ENTPD4) 102323649(ENTPD5)	DSI:	Dsim_GD18755 Dsim_GD22791
CHX:	102174488(ENTPD6) 102177094(CANT1) 102177626(ENTPD4) 102187956(ENTPD5)	DWI:	Dwil_GK11295 Dwil_GK18683
SSC:	100154506(ENTPD5) 100155254(ENTPD4) 100620107(CANT1) 100626131(ENTPD6)	DYA:	Dyak_GE14979 Dyak_GE26097
ECB:	100053982(ENTPD4) 100056466(ENTPD5) 100057043(ENTPD6) 100057405(CANT1)	DGR:	Dgri_GH11050 Dgri_GH17322
MYB:	102243929(ENTPD6) 102251396(CANT1) 102251399(ENTPD4) 102262670(ENTPD5)	DMO:	Dmoj_GI10286 Dmoj_GI17567
MDO:	100021277(ENTPD4) 100024118 100026552(CANT1) 100033226(ENTPD6)	DVI:	Dvir_GJ11094 Dvir_GJ17910
SHR:	100914260(ENTPD4) 100934101(CANT1) 100934821(ENTPD5) 100935093(ENTPD6)	AGA:	AgaP_AGAP001217 AgaP_AGAP009265
OAA:	100075558(ENTPD4) 100088014 100088379	AAG:	AaeL_AAEL005662 AaeL_AAEL006659
GGA:	416708(ENTPD6) 419531(ENTPD4) 423343(ENTPD5) 430103(CANT1)	CQU:	CpipJ_CPIJ005468 CpipJ_CPIJ006723
MGP:	100539042 100541241 100550411(ENTPD4)	AME:	550987(GB18870) 551373
TGU:	100219260(CANT1) 100220000(ENTPD5) 100224923(ENTPD6)	NVI:	100120729
FAB:	101811604(CANT1) 101814014(ENTPD6) 101820141(ENTPD5)	TCA:	658576 662718
PHI:	102101855(ENTPD4) 102106545(ENTPD5) 102108288(CANT1) 102109632(ENTPD6)	BMOR:	101739670 101746124
APLA:	101790396(CANT1) 101794207(ENTPD5) 101795352(ENTPD4) 101798772(ENTPD6)	API:	100162387 100166504
FPG:	101910519(ENTPD4) 101911075(ENTPD5) 101912651(CANT1) 101920667(ENTPD6)	PHU:	Phum_PHUM421050 Phum_PHUM604210
FCH:	102047237(ENTPD6) 102056974(ENTPD5) 102057968(CANT1) 102058083(ENTPD4)	ISC:	IscW_ISCW018254

CLV:	102084705(ENTPD5) 102084729(CANT1) 102092438(ENTPD4) 102095170(ENTPD6)	CEL:	CELE_F08C6.6(apy-1) CELE_K08H10.4(uda-1) CELE_R07E4.4(mig-23)
ACS:	100555642 100561218 100562980(entpd4) 100563392	CBR:	CBG11542(Cbr-uda-1) CBG14198 CBG14784(Cbr-mig-23) CBG16731
ASN:	102377226(ENTPD5) 102382407(ENTPD4) 102384786(ENTPD6) 102387737(CANT1)	BMV:	Bml_34420
XLA:	379060(cant1) 495422(entpd4) 734187(entpd6)	LOA:	LOAG_01305
PTI:	PHATRDRAFT_14301	TSP:	Tsp_09215 Tsp_09582
TPS:	THAPSDRAFT_31247	SMM:	Smp_081450 Smp_166520
PIF:	PITG_20792	NVE:	NEMVE_v1g175561
EHX:	EMIHUDRAFT_43184	HMG:	100202807 100204155
TBR:	Tb927.7.1930(Tb07.43M14.370)	TAD:	TRIADDRAFT_21256 TRIADDRAFT_32564 TRIADDRAFT_61888
LMA:	LMJF_15_0030	AQU:	100640578
LIF:	LINJ_15_0030	CME:	CYME_CMQ456C
LDO:	LDBPK_150030	GSL:	Gasu_48820
LMI:	LMXM_15_0030	CCP:	CHC_T00001236001 CHC_T00003677001
LBZ:	LBRM_15_0030	MBR:	MONBRDRAFT_2652 MONBRDRAFT_28836
NGR:	NAEGRDRAFT_79292	EH1:	EH1_053610(59.t00033) EH1_104590(415.t00008) EH1_112890(17.t00006)
CPV:	cgd6_1570	EDI:	EDI_058390 EDI_125320 EDI_305410
CHO:	Chro.60194	ACAN:	ACA1_330420
TGO:	TGME49_110810	PFA:	PF14_0297

[00364] The extracellular stability of natural nucleic acids, *e.g.*, dATP, was discovered to be significantly increased in the presence of potassium phosphate (KPi) in the growth medium. KPi significantly inhibited the dephosphorylation of unnatural triphosphates (**Figure 6**). Such addition of potassium phosphate may suppress phosphatase expression or inhibit phosphatase activity (**Figure 7**). As with the natural triphosphate, the addition of potassium phosphate significantly increased the extracellular stability of d5SICSTP and dNaMTP (**Figure 6**) by more than 2-fold. The uptake of [α -³²P]-dATP from media containing 50 mM KPi as a function of transporter induction, *e.g.*, with IPTG, can also be determined (**Figure 8**). 1 mM IPTG induction resulted in maximal [α -³²P]-dATP uptake (**Figure 8A**).

[00365] Inhibitors of phosphatases can be employed to increase the stability of one or more unnatural and/or natural nucleic acids. In this manner, inhibitors of phosphatases can be employed to facilitate intracellular import and transport of nucleic acids. The uptake of [α -³²P]-dATP from media containing 50 mM KPi as a function of transporter induction, *e.g.*, with IPTG, can be determined (**Figure 8**).

[00366] Potassium phosphate can facilitate such transport. In some embodiments, a phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, facilitates intracellular import and transport of nucleic acids at a pH. In some embodiments, a phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, facilitates intracellular import and transport of nucleic acids at approximately neutral pH. Such a neutral pH can be between about pH 4.5 to pH 8.5, or between about pH 6.8 to about pH 7.6, or about pH 7.0 to about pH 7.4.

[00367] In some embodiments, a phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, facilitates intracellular import and transport of nucleic acids at a concentration. A variety of phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, concentrations can be employed. For example, the phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, can be present at a concentration of 0.1 mM to 500 mM, or 0.2 mM to 250 mM, or 0.25 mM to 200 mM, or 1.0 mM to 150 mM, or 2.5 mM to 125 mM, or 5 mM to 100 mM, or 25 mM to 75 mM, or 40 mM to 60 mM potassium phosphate. As illustrated, 50 mM phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, appears to be sufficient for initial contact of the cells and unnatural nucleotide triphosphates (**Figure 7B**). Inhibitors of phosphatases can be employed, either with addition of potassium phosphate or without addition of potassium phosphate.

[00368] In some embodiments, disruption of a nucleotidase or phosphatase, or addition of a phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, can be used to increase the half-life of a natural and unnatural nucleotide triphosphates. For example, disruption of a nucleotidase or phosphatase, or addition of a phosphatase inhibitor can be used to increase the half-life of a natural nucleic acid and/or an unnatural nucleic acid by at least about 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11.0, 11.5, 12.0, 12.5, 3.0, 13.5, 14.0, 14.5, 15.0, 15.5, 16.0, 16.5, 17.0, 17.5, 18.0, 18.5, 19.0, 19.5, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 or more hours.

[00369] In some embodiments, disruption of a nucleotidase or phosphatase, or addition of a phosphatase inhibitor, *e.g.*, KPi, can be used to increase the stability of a natural nucleic acid and/or an unnatural nucleic acid such that the natural or unnatural nucleic acid intracellular concentration is at least the K_M value of the natural or unnatural nucleic acid for a polymerase. For example, disruption of a nucleotidase or phosphatase, or addition of a phosphatase inhibitor can be used increase the stability of natural and unnatural nucleotide triphosphates such that their intracellular concentration is at least about 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11.0, 11.5, 12.0, 12.5, 3.0, 13.5, 14.0, 14.5, 15.0, 15.5, 16.0, 16.5, 17.0, 17.5, 18.0, 18.5, 19.0, 19.5, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 or more times the K_M value of the natural or unnatural nucleic acid for a polymerase.

Kits

[00370] Various combinations of the components set forth above in regard to exemplary reaction mixtures and reaction methods can be provided in a kit form. Such a kit can include individual components that are separated from each other, for example, being carried in separate vessels or packages. A kit can include one or more sub-combinations of the components set forth herein, the one or more sub-combinations being separated from other components of the kit. The sub-combinations can be combinable to create a reaction mixture set forth herein (or combined to perform a reaction set forth herein). In particular embodiments, a sub-combination of components that is present in an individual vessel or package is insufficient to perform a reaction set forth herein.

[00371] However, the kit as a whole can include a collection of vessels or packages the contents of which can be combined to perform a reaction set forth herein.

[00372] A kit can include a suitable packaging material to house the contents of the kit. The packaging material can be constructed by well-known methods, preferably to provide a sterile, contaminant-free environment. The packaging materials employed herein can include, for example, those customarily utilized in commercial kits sold for use with nucleic acid sequencing systems. Exemplary packaging materials include, without limitation, glass, plastic, paper, foil, and the like, capable of holding within fixed limits a component set forth herein.

[00373] The packaging material can include a label which indicates a particular use for the components. The use for the kit that is indicated by the label can be one or more of the methods set forth herein as appropriate for the particular combination of components present in the kit. For example, a label can indicate that the kit is useful for a method of synthesizing a polynucleotide or for a method of determining the sequence of a nucleic acid.

[00374] Instructions for use of the packaged reagents or components can also be included in a kit. The instructions will typically include a tangible expression describing reaction parameters, such as the relative amounts of kit components and sample to be admixed, maintenance time periods for reagent/sample admixtures, temperature, buffer conditions, and the like.

[00375] It will be understood that not all components necessary for a particular reaction need be present in a particular kit. Rather one or more additional components can be provided from other sources. The instructions provided with a kit can identify the additional component(s) that are to be provided and where they can be obtained.

[00376] According to an aspect of the present invention, a kit is provided that is useful for stably incorporating an unnatural nucleic acid into a cellular nucleic acid, *e.g.*, using the methods provided by the present invention for preparing genetically engineered cells. In one

embodiment, a kit of the invention includes a genetically engineered cell and one or more unnatural nucleic acids.

[00377] In another embodiment, a kit of the invention includes a primer that binds to a portion of a nucleic acid molecule containing an unnatural nucleic acid. In another embodiment, the kit includes a microarray that contains primers that binds to a portion of a nucleic acid molecule containing an unnatural nucleic acid and at least a fragment of a target gene of interest. In some embodiments, many reagents may be provided in a kit of the invention, only some of which should be used together in a particular reaction or procedure. For example, multiple primers may be provided, only two of which are needed for a particular application.

[00378] In another embodiment, the kit of the invention provides a cell and a nucleic acid molecule containing a heterologous gene for introduction into the cell to thereby provide a genetically engineered cell. For example, the invention provides expression vectors comprising the nucleic acid of any of the embodiments hereinabove described in this paragraph. In one embodiment, the expression vector of the foregoing further comprises a recombinant regulatory sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide sequence.

Nucleic Acid Reagents & Tools

[00379] A nucleic acid reagent sometimes comprises one or more ORFs. An ORF may be from any suitable source, sometimes from genomic DNA, mRNA, reverse transcribed RNA or complementary DNA (cDNA) or a nucleic acid library comprising one or more of the foregoing, and is from any organism species that contains a nucleic acid sequence of interest, protein of interest, or activity of interest. Non-limiting examples of organisms from which an ORF can be obtained include bacteria, yeast, fungi, human, insect, nematode, bovine, equine, canine, feline, rat or mouse, for example. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid reagent, protein reagent, protein fragment reagent or other reagent described herein is isolated or purified.

[00380] A nucleic acid reagent sometimes comprises a nucleotide sequence adjacent to an ORF that is translated in conjunction with the ORF and encodes an amino acid tag. The tag-encoding nucleotide sequence is located 3' and/or 5' of an ORF in the nucleic acid reagent, thereby encoding a tag at the C-terminus or N-terminus of the protein or peptide encoded by the ORF. Any tag that does not abrogate in vitro transcription and/or translation may be utilized and may be appropriately selected by the artisan. Tags may facilitate isolation and/or purification of the desired ORF product from culture or fermentation media.

[00381] A tag sometimes specifically binds a molecule or moiety of a solid phase or a detectable label, for example, thereby having utility for isolating, purifying and/or detecting a protein or peptide encoded by the ORF. In some embodiments, a tag comprises one or more of the following elements: FLAG (*e.g.*, DYKDDDDKG) (SEQ ID NO:42), V5 (*e.g.*,

GKPIPNPLLGLDST) (SEQ ID NO:43), c-MYC (*e.g.*, EQKLISEEDL) (SEQ ID NO: 44), HSV (*e.g.*, QPELAPEDPED) (SEQ ID NO: 45), influenza hemagglutinin, HA (*e.g.*, YPYDVPDYA) (SEQ ID NO: 46), VSV-G (*e.g.*, YTDIEMNRLGK) (SEQ ID NO: 47), bacterial glutathione-S-transferase, maltose binding protein, a streptavidin- or avidin-binding tag (*e.g.*, pcDNATM6 BioEaseTM Gateway® Biotinylation System (Invitrogen)), thioredoxin, β -galactosidase, VSV-glycoprotein, a fluorescent protein (*e.g.*, green fluorescent protein or one of its many color variants (*e.g.*, yellow, red, blue)), a polylysine or polyarginine sequence, a polyhistidine sequence (*e.g.*, His6) or other sequence that chelates a metal (*e.g.*, cobalt, zinc, copper), and/or a cysteine-rich sequence that binds to an arsenic-containing molecule. In certain embodiments, a cysteine-rich tag comprises the amino acid sequence CC-X_n-CC, wherein X is any amino acid and n is 1 to 3, and the cysteine-rich sequence sometimes is CCPGCC. In certain embodiments, the tag comprises a cysteine-rich element and a polyhistidine element (*e.g.*, CCPGCC (SEQ ID NO: 48), and His6).

[00382] A tag often conveniently binds to a binding partner. For example, some tags bind to an antibody (*e.g.*, FLAG) and sometimes specifically bind to a small molecule. For example, a polyhistidine tag specifically chelates a bivalent metal, such as nickel, copper, zinc and cobalt; a polylysine or polyarginine tag specifically binds to a zinc finger; a glutathione S-transferase tag binds to glutathione; and a cysteine-rich tag specifically binds to an arsenic-containing molecule. Arsenic-containing molecules include LUMIOTM agents (Invitrogen, California), such as FLAsHTM (EDT2[4',5'-bis(1,3,2-dithioarsolan-2-yl)fluorescein-(1,2-ethanedithiol)2]) and ReAsH reagents (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,932,474; 6,054,271; 6,451,569; and 6,008,378; U.S. Patent Publication No. US2003/0083373; and International Publication No. WO99/21013). Such antibodies and small molecules sometimes are linked to a solid phase for convenient isolation of the target protein or target peptide.

[00383] A tag sometimes comprises a signal sequence or localization signal sequence. A signal sequence can be incorporated at the N-terminus of a target protein or target peptide, and sometimes is incorporated at the C-terminus. Examples of signal sequences are known to the artisan, are readily incorporated into a nucleic acid reagent, and often are selected according to the organism in which expression of the nucleic acid reagent is performed. A signal sequence in some embodiments localizes a translated protein or peptide to a cell membrane. Examples of signal sequences include, but are not limited to, a nucleus targeting signal (*e.g.*, steroid receptor sequence and N-terminal sequence of SV40 virus large T antigen); mitochondrial targeting signal (*e.g.*, amino acid sequence that forms an amphipathic helix); peroxisome targeting signal (*e.g.*, C-terminal sequence in YFG from *S.cerevisiae*); and a secretion signal (*e.g.*, N-terminal sequences from invertase, mating factor alpha, PHO5 and SUC2 in *S.cerevisiae*; multiple N-

terminal sequences of *B. subtilis* proteins (*e.g.*, Tjalsma et al., Microbiol.Molec. Biol. Rev. 64: 515-547 (2000)); alpha amylase signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,288,302); pectate lyase signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,846,818); procollagen signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,712,114); OmpA signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,470,719); lam beta signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,389,529); *B. brevis* signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,232,841); and *P. pastoris* signal sequence (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,268,273).

[00384] A tag sometimes is directly adjacent to the amino acid sequence encoded by an ORF (*i.e.*, there is no intervening sequence) and sometimes a tag is substantially adjacent to an ORF encoded amino acid sequence (*e.g.*, an intervening sequence is present). An intervening sequence sometimes includes a recognition site for a protease, which is useful for cleaving a tag from a target protein or peptide. In some embodiments, the intervening sequence is cleaved by Factor Xa (*e.g.*, recognition site I (E/D)GR), thrombin (*e.g.*, recognition site LVPRGS), enterokinase (*e.g.*, recognition site DDDDK), TEV protease (*e.g.*, recognition site ENLYFQG) or PreScission™ protease (*e.g.*, recognition site LEVLFQGP), for example.

[00385] An intervening sequence sometimes is referred to herein as a “linker sequence,” and may be of any suitable length selected by the artisan. A linker sequence sometimes is about 1 to about 20 amino acids in length, and sometimes about 5 to about 10 amino acids in length. The artisan may select the linker length to substantially preserve target protein or peptide function (*e.g.*, a tag may reduce target protein or peptide function unless separated by a linker), to enhance disassociation of a tag from a target protein or peptide when a protease cleavage site is present (*e.g.*, cleavage may be enhanced when a linker is present), and to enhance interaction of a tag/target protein product with a solid phase. A linker can be of any suitable amino acid content, and often comprises a higher proportion of amino acids having relatively short side chains (*e.g.*, glycine, alanine, serine and threonine).

[00386] A nucleic acid reagent sometimes includes a stop codon between a tag element and an insertion element or ORF, which can be useful for translating an ORF with or without the tag. Mutant tRNA molecules that recognize stop codons (described above) suppress translation termination and thereby are designated “suppressor tRNAs.” Suppressor tRNAs can result in the insertion of amino acids and continuation of translation past stop codons (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 60/587,583; Eggertsson, et al., (1988) Microbiological Review 52(3):354-374, and Engleberg-Kukla, et al. (1996) in *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* Cellular and Molecular Biology, Chapter 60, pps 909-921, Neidhardt, et al. eds., ASM Press, Washington, DC). A number of suppressor tRNAs are known, including but not limited to, supE, supP, supD, supF and supZ suppressors, which suppress the termination of translation of the amber stop codon; supB, glT, supL, supN, supC and supM suppressors, which suppress the function of the ochre

stop codon and glyT, trpT and Su-9 suppressors, which suppress the function of the opal stop codon. In general, suppressor tRNAs contain one or more mutations in the anti-codon loop of the tRNA that allows the tRNA to base pair with a codon that ordinarily functions as a stop codon. The mutant tRNA is charged with its cognate amino acid residue and the cognate amino acid residue is inserted into the translating polypeptide when the stop codon is encountered. Mutations that enhance the efficiency of termination suppressors (i.e., increase stop codon read-through) have been identified. These include, but are not limited to, mutations in the uar gene (also known as the prfA gene), mutations in the ups gene, mutations in the sueA, sueB and sueC genes, mutations in the rpsD (ramA) and rpsE (spcA) genes and mutations in the rplL gene.

[00387] Thus, a nucleic acid reagent comprising a stop codon located between an ORF and a tag can yield a translated ORF alone when no suppressor tRNA is present in the translation system, and can yield a translated ORF-tag fusion when a suppressor tRNA is present in the system. Suppressor tRNA can be generated in cells transfected with a nucleic acid encoding the tRNA (*e.g.*, a replication incompetent adenovirus containing the human tRNA-Ser suppressor gene can be transfected into cells, or a YAC containing a yeast or bacterial tRNA suppressor gene can be transfected into yeast cells, for example). Vectors for synthesizing suppressor tRNA and for translating ORFs with or without a tag are available to the artisan (*e.g.*, Tag-On-Demand™ kit (Invitrogen Corporation, California); Tag-On-Demand™ Suppressor Supernatant Instruction Manual, Version B, 6 June 2003; Tag-On-Demand™ Gateway® Vector Instruction Manual, Version B, 20 June, 2003; and Capone et al., EMBO J., 4:213, 1985).

[00388] A nucleic acid or nucleic acid reagent can comprise certain elements, *e.g.*, regulatory elements, often selected according to the intended use of the nucleic acid. Any of the following elements can be included in or excluded from a nucleic acid reagent. A nucleic acid reagent, for example, may include one or more or all of the following nucleotide elements: one or more promoter elements, one or more 5' untranslated regions (5'UTRs), one or more regions into which a target nucleotide sequence may be inserted (an "insertion element"), one or more target nucleotide sequences, one or more 3' untranslated regions (3'UTRs), and one or more selection elements. A nucleic acid reagent can be provided with one or more of such elements and other elements may be inserted into the nucleic acid before the nucleic acid is introduced into the desired organism. In some embodiments, a provided nucleic acid reagent comprises a promoter, 5'UTR, optional 3'UTR and insertion element(s) by which a target nucleotide sequence is inserted (i.e., cloned) into the nucleotide acid reagent. In certain embodiments, a provided nucleic acid reagent comprises a promoter, insertion element(s) and optional 3'UTR, and a 5' UTR/target nucleotide sequence is inserted with an optional 3'UTR. The elements can be arranged in any order suitable for expression in the chosen expression system (*e.g.*, expression in

a chosen organism, or expression in a cell free system, for example), and in some embodiments a nucleic acid reagent comprises the following elements in the 5' to 3' direction: (1) promoter element, 5'UTR, and insertion element(s); (2) promoter element, 5'UTR, and target nucleotide sequence; (3) promoter element, 5'UTR, insertion element(s) and 3'UTR; and (4) promoter element, 5'UTR, target nucleotide sequence and 3'UTR.

[00389] Nucleic acid reagents, *e.g.*, expression cassettes and/or expression vectors, can include a variety of regulatory elements, including promoters, enhancers, translational initiation sequences, transcription termination sequences and other elements. A “promoter” is generally a sequence or sequences of DNA that function when in a relatively fixed location in regard to the transcription start site. For example, the promoter can be upstream of the nucleotide triphosphate transporter nucleic acid segment. A “promoter” contains core elements required for basic interaction of RNA polymerase and transcription factors and can contain upstream elements and response elements. “Enhancer” generally refers to a sequence of DNA that functions at no fixed distance from the transcription start site and can be either 5' or 3'' to the transcription unit. Furthermore, enhancers can be within an intron as well as within the coding sequence itself. They are usually between 10 and 300 by in length, and they function in *cis*. Enhancers function to increase transcription from nearby promoters. Enhancers, like promoters, also often contain response elements that mediate the regulation of transcription. Enhancers often determine the regulation of expression.

[00390] As noted above, nucleic acid reagents may also comprise one or more 5' UTR's, and one or more 3'UTR's. For example, expression vectors used in eukaryotic host cells (*e.g.*, yeast, fungi, insect, plant, animal, human or nucleated cells) and prokaryotic host cells (*e.g.*, virus, bacterium) can contain sequences that signal for the termination of transcription which can affect mRNA expression. These regions can be transcribed as polyadenylated segments in the untranslated portion of the mRNA encoding tissue factor protein. The 3'' untranslated regions also include transcription termination sites. In some preferred embodiments, a transcription unit comprises a polyadenylation region. One benefit of this region is that it increases the likelihood that the transcribed unit will be processed and transported like mRNA. The identification and use of polyadenylation signals in expression constructs is well established. In some preferred embodiments, homologous polyadenylation signals can be used in the transgene constructs.

[00391] A 5' UTR may comprise one or more elements endogenous to the nucleotide sequence from which it originates, and sometimes includes one or more exogenous elements. A 5' UTR can originate from any suitable nucleic acid, such as genomic DNA, plasmid DNA, RNA or mRNA, for example, from any suitable organism (*e.g.*, virus, bacterium, yeast, fungi, plant,

insect or mammal). The artisan may select appropriate elements for the 5' UTR based upon the chosen expression system (*e.g.*, expression in a chosen organism, or expression in a cell free system, for example). A 5' UTR sometimes comprises one or more of the following elements known to the artisan: enhancer sequences (*e.g.*, transcriptional or translational), transcription initiation site, transcription factor binding site, translation regulation site, translation initiation site, translation factor binding site, accessory protein binding site, feedback regulation agent binding sites, Pribnow box, TATA box, -35 element, E-box (helix-loop-helix binding element), ribosome binding site, replicon, internal ribosome entry site (IRES), silencer element and the like. In some embodiments, a promoter element may be isolated such that all 5' UTR elements necessary for proper conditional regulation are contained in the promoter element fragment, or within a functional subsequence of a promoter element fragment.

[00392] A 5' UTR in the nucleic acid reagent can comprise a translational enhancer nucleotide sequence. A translational enhancer nucleotide sequence often is located between the promoter and the target nucleotide sequence in a nucleic acid reagent. A translational enhancer sequence often binds to a ribosome, sometimes is an 18S rRNA-binding ribonucleotide sequence (*i.e.*, a 40S ribosome binding sequence) and sometimes is an internal ribosome entry sequence (IRES). An IRES generally forms an RNA scaffold with precisely placed RNA tertiary structures that contact a 40S ribosomal subunit via a number of specific intermolecular interactions. Examples of ribosomal enhancer sequences are known and can be identified by the artisan (*e.g.*, Mignone et al., *Nucleic Acids Research* 33: D141-D146 (2005); Paulous et al., *Nucleic Acids Research* 31: 722-733 (2003); Akbergenov et al., *Nucleic Acids Research* 32: 239-247 (2004); Mignone et al., *Genome Biology* 3(3): reviews0004.1-0001.10 (2002); Gallie, *Nucleic Acids Research* 30: 3401-3411 (2002); Shaloiko et al., DOI: 10.1002/bit.20267; and Gallie et al., *Nucleic Acids Research* 15: 3257-3273 (1987)).

[00393] A translational enhancer sequence sometimes is a eukaryotic sequence, such as a Kozak consensus sequence or other sequence (*e.g.*, hydroid polyp sequence, GenBank accession no. U07128). A translational enhancer sequence sometimes is a prokaryotic sequence, such as a Shine-Dalgarno consensus sequence. In certain embodiments, the translational enhancer sequence is a viral nucleotide sequence. A translational enhancer sequence sometimes is from a 5' UTR of a plant virus, such as Tobacco Mosaic Virus (TMV), Alfalfa Mosaic Virus (AMV); Tobacco Etch Virus (ETV); Potato Virus Y (PVY); Turnip Mosaic (poty) Virus and Pea Seed Borne Mosaic Virus, for example. In certain embodiments, an omega sequence about 67 bases in length from TMV is included in the nucleic acid reagent as a translational enhancer sequence (*e.g.*, devoid of guanosine nucleotides and includes a 25 nucleotide long poly (CAA) central region).

[00394] A 3' UTR may comprise one or more elements endogenous to the nucleotide sequence from which it originates and sometimes includes one or more exogenous elements. A 3' UTR may originate from any suitable nucleic acid, such as genomic DNA, plasmid DNA, RNA or mRNA, for example, from any suitable organism (*e.g.*, a virus, bacterium, yeast, fungi, plant, insect or mammal). The artisan can select appropriate elements for the 3' UTR based upon the chosen expression system (*e.g.*, expression in a chosen organism, for example). A 3' UTR sometimes comprises one or more of the following elements known to the artisan: transcription regulation site, transcription initiation site, transcription termination site, transcription factor binding site, translation regulation site, translation termination site, translation initiation site, translation factor binding site, ribosome binding site, replicon, enhancer element, silencer element and polyadenosine tail. A 3' UTR often includes a polyadenosine tail and sometimes does not, and if a polyadenosine tail is present, one or more adenosine moieties may be added or deleted from it (*e.g.*, about 5, about 10, about 15, about 20, about 25, about 30, about 35, about 40, about 45 or about 50 adenosine moieties may be added or subtracted).

[00395] In some embodiments, modification of a 5' UTR and/or a 3' UTR can be used to alter (*e.g.*, increase, add, decrease or substantially eliminate) the activity of a promoter. Alteration of the promoter activity can in turn alter the activity of a peptide, polypeptide or protein (*e.g.*, enzyme activity for example), by a change in transcription of the nucleotide sequence(s) of interest from an operably linked promoter element comprising the modified 5' or 3' UTR. For example, a microorganism can be engineered by genetic modification to express a nucleic acid reagent comprising a modified 5' or 3' UTR that can add a novel activity (*e.g.*, an activity not normally found in the host organism) or increase the expression of an existing activity by increasing transcription from a homologous or heterologous promoter operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of interest (*e.g.*, homologous or heterologous nucleotide sequence of interest), in certain embodiments. In some embodiments, a microorganism can be engineered by genetic modification to express a nucleic acid reagent comprising a modified 5' or 3' UTR that can decrease the expression of an activity by decreasing or substantially eliminating transcription from a homologous or heterologous promoter operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of interest, in certain embodiments.

[00396] Expression of a nucleotide triphosphate transporter from an expression cassette or expression vector can be controlled by any promoter capable of expression in prokaryotic cells or eukaryotic cells. A promoter element typically is required for DNA synthesis and/or RNA synthesis. A promoter element often comprises a region of DNA that can facilitate the transcription of a particular gene, by providing a start site for the synthesis of RNA corresponding to a gene. Promoters generally are located near the genes they regulate, are

located upstream of the gene (*e.g.*, 5' of the gene), and are on the same strand of DNA as the sense strand of the gene, in some embodiments. In some embodiments, a promoter element can be isolated from a gene or organism and inserted in functional connection with a polynucleotide sequence to allow altered and/or regulated expression. A non-native promoter (*e.g.*, promoter not normally associated with a given nucleic acid sequence) used for expression of a nucleic acid often is referred to as a heterologous promoter. In certain embodiments, a heterologous promoter and/or a 5'UTR can be inserted in functional connection with a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide having a desired activity as described herein. The terms "operably linked" and "in functional connection with" as used herein with respect to promoters, refer to a relationship between a coding sequence and a promoter element. The promoter is operably linked or in functional connection with the coding sequence when expression from the coding sequence via transcription is regulated, or controlled by, the promoter element. The terms "operably linked" and "in functional connection with" are utilized interchangeably herein with respect to promoter elements.

[00397] A promoter often interacts with a RNA polymerase. A polymerase is an enzyme that catalyzes synthesis of nucleic acids using a preexisting nucleic acid reagent. When the template is a DNA template, an RNA molecule is transcribed before protein is synthesized. Enzymes having polymerase activity suitable for use in the present methods include any polymerase that is active in the chosen system with the chosen template to synthesize protein. In some embodiments, a promoter (*e.g.*, a heterologous promoter) also referred to herein as a promoter element, can be operably linked to a nucleotide sequence or an open reading frame (ORF). Transcription from the promoter element can catalyze the synthesis of an RNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence or ORF sequence operably linked to the promoter, which in turn leads to synthesis of a desired peptide, polypeptide or protein.

[00398] Promoter elements sometimes exhibit responsiveness to regulatory control. Promoter elements also sometimes can be regulated by a selective agent. That is, transcription from promoter elements sometimes can be turned on, turned off, up-regulated or down-regulated, in response to a change in environmental, nutritional or internal conditions or signals (*e.g.*, heat inducible promoters, light regulated promoters, feedback regulated promoters, hormone influenced promoters, tissue specific promoters, oxygen and pH influenced promoters, promoters that are responsive to selective agents (*e.g.*, kanamycin) and the like, for example). Promoters influenced by environmental, nutritional or internal signals frequently are influenced by a signal (direct or indirect) that binds at or near the promoter and increases or decreases expression of the target sequence under certain conditions.

[00399] Non-limiting examples of selective or regulatory agents that can influence transcription from a promoter element used in embodiments described herein include, without limitation, (1) nucleic acid segments that encode products that provide resistance against otherwise toxic compounds (*e.g.*, antibiotics); (2) nucleic acid segments that encode products that are otherwise lacking in the recipient cell (*e.g.*, essential products, tRNA genes, auxotrophic markers); (3) nucleic acid segments that encode products that suppress the activity of a gene product; (4) nucleic acid segments that encode products that can be readily identified (*e.g.*, phenotypic markers such as antibiotics (*e.g.*, β -lactamase), β -galactosidase, green fluorescent protein (GFP), yellow fluorescent protein (YFP), red fluorescent protein (RFP), cyan fluorescent protein (CFP), and cell surface proteins); (5) nucleic acid segments that bind products that are otherwise detrimental to cell survival and/or function; (6) nucleic acid segments that otherwise inhibit the activity of any of the nucleic acid segments described in Nos. 1-5 above (*e.g.*, antisense oligonucleotides); (7) nucleic acid segments that bind products that modify a substrate (*e.g.*, restriction endonucleases); (8) nucleic acid segments that can be used to isolate or identify a desired molecule (*e.g.*, specific protein binding sites); (9) nucleic acid segments that encode a specific nucleotide sequence that can be otherwise non-functional (*e.g.*, for PCR amplification of subpopulations of molecules); (10) nucleic acid segments that, when absent, directly or indirectly confer resistance or sensitivity to particular compounds; (11) nucleic acid segments that encode products that either are toxic or convert a relatively non-toxic compound to a toxic compound (*e.g.*, Herpes simplex thymidine kinase, cytosine deaminase) in recipient cells; (12) nucleic acid segments that inhibit replication, partition or heritability of nucleic acid molecules that contain them; and/or (13) nucleic acid segments that encode conditional replication functions, *e.g.*, replication in certain hosts or host cell strains or under certain environmental conditions (*e.g.*, temperature, nutritional conditions, and the like). In some embodiments, the regulatory or selective agent can be added to change the existing growth conditions to which the organism is subjected (*e.g.*, growth in liquid culture, growth in a fermenter, growth on solid nutrient plates and the like for example).

[00400] In some embodiments, regulation of a promoter element can be used to alter (*e.g.*, increase, add, decrease or substantially eliminate) the activity of a peptide, polypeptide or protein (*e.g.*, enzyme activity for example). For example, a microorganism can be engineered by genetic modification to express a nucleic acid reagent that can add a novel activity (*e.g.*, an activity not normally found in the host organism) or increase the expression of an existing activity by increasing transcription from a homologous or heterologous promoter operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of interest (*e.g.*, homologous or heterologous nucleotide sequence of interest), in certain embodiments. In some embodiments, a microorganism can be

engineered by genetic modification to express a nucleic acid reagent that can decrease expression of an activity by decreasing or substantially eliminating transcription from a homologous or heterologous promoter operably linked to a nucleotide sequence of interest, in certain embodiments.

[00401] Nucleic acids encoding heterologous proteins, *e.g.*, nucleotide triphosphate transporters, can be inserted into or employed with any suitable expression system. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid reagent sometimes is stably integrated into the chromosome of the host organism, or a nucleic acid reagent can be a deletion of a portion of the host chromosome, in certain embodiments (*e.g.*, genetically modified organisms, where alteration of the host genome confers the ability to selectively or preferentially maintain the desired organism carrying the genetic modification). Such nucleic acid reagents (*e.g.*, nucleic acids or genetically modified organisms whose altered genome confers a selectable trait to the organism) can be selected for their ability to guide production of a desired protein or nucleic acid molecule. When desired, the nucleic acid reagent can be altered such that codons encode for (i) the same amino acid, using a different tRNA than that specified in the native sequence, or (ii) a different amino acid than is normal, including unconventional or unnatural amino acids (including detectably labeled amino acids).

[00402] Recombinant expression is usefully accomplished using an expression cassette that can be part of a vector, such as a plasmid. A vector can include a promoter operably linked to nucleic acid encoding a nucleotide triphosphate transporter. A vector can also include other elements required for transcription and translation as described herein. An expression cassette, expression vector, and sequences in a cassette or vector can be heterologous to the cell to which the unnatural nucleotides are contacted. For example, a nucleotide triphosphate transporter sequence can be heterologous to the cell.

[00403] A variety of prokaryotic and eukaryotic expression vectors suitable for carrying, encoding and/or expressing nucleotide triphosphate transporters can be produced. Such expression vectors include, for example, pET, pET3d, pCR2.1, pBAD, pUC, and yeast vectors. The vectors can be used, for example, in a variety of *in vivo* and *in vitro* situations. Non-limiting examples of prokaryotic promoters that can be used include SP6, T7, T5, *tac*, *bla*, *trp*, *gal*, *lac*, or maltose promoters. Non-limiting examples of eukaryotic promoters that can be used include constitutive promoters, *e.g.*, viral promoters such as CMV, SV40 and RSV promoters, as well as regulatable promoters, *e.g.*, an inducible or repressible promoter such as a *tet* promoter, a hsp70 promoter, and a synthetic promoter regulated by CRE. Vectors for bacterial expression include pGEX-5X-3, and for eukaryotic expression include pCIneo-CMV. Viral vectors that can be employed include those relating to lentivirus, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, herpes virus,

vaccinia virus, polio virus, AIDS virus, neuronal trophic virus, Sindbis and other viruses. Also useful are any viral families which share the properties of these viruses which make them suitable for use as vectors. Retroviral vectors that can be employed include those described in Verma, American Society for Microbiology, pp. 229-232, Washington, (1985). For example, such retroviral vectors can include Murine Moloney Leukemia virus, MMLV, and other retroviruses that express desirable properties. Typically, viral vectors contain, nonstructural early genes, structural late genes, an RNA polymerase III transcript, inverted terminal repeats necessary for replication and encapsidation, and promoters to control the transcription and replication of the viral genome. When engineered as vectors, viruses typically have one or more of the early genes removed and a gene or gene/promoter cassette is inserted into the viral genome in place of the removed viral nucleic acid

Cloning

[00404] Any convenient cloning strategy known in the art may be utilized to incorporate an element, such as an ORF, into a nucleic acid reagent. Known methods can be utilized to insert an element into the template independent of an insertion element, such as (1) cleaving the template at one or more existing restriction enzyme sites and ligating an element of interest and (2) adding restriction enzyme sites to the template by hybridizing oligonucleotide primers that include one or more suitable restriction enzyme sites and amplifying by polymerase chain reaction (described in greater detail herein). Other cloning strategies take advantage of one or more insertion sites present or inserted into the nucleic acid reagent, such as an oligonucleotide primer hybridization site for PCR, for example, and others described herein. In some embodiments, a cloning strategy can be combined with genetic manipulation such as recombination (*e.g.*, recombination of a nucleic acid reagent with a nucleic acid sequence of interest into the genome of the organism to be modified, as described further herein). In some embodiments, the cloned ORF(s) can produce (directly or indirectly) modified or wild type nucleotide triphosphate transporters and/or polymerases, by engineering a microorganism with one or more ORFs of interest, which microorganism comprises altered activities of nucleotide triphosphate transporter activity or polymerase activity.

[00405] A nucleic acid may be specifically cleaved by contacting the nucleic acid with one or more specific cleavage agents. Specific cleavage agents often will cleave specifically according to a particular nucleotide sequence at a particular site. Examples of enzyme specific cleavage agents include without limitation endonucleases (*e.g.*, DNase (*e.g.*, DNase I, II); RNase (*e.g.*, RNase E, F, H, P); Cleavase™ enzyme; Taq DNA polymerase; *E. coli* DNA polymerase I and eukaryotic structure-specific endonucleases; murine FEN-1 endonucleases; type I, II or III restriction endonucleases such as Acc I, Afl III, Alu I, Alw44 I, Apa I, Asn I, Ava I, Ava II,

BamH I, Ban II, Bcl I, Bgl I, Bgl II, Bln I, Bsm I, BssH II, BstE II, Cfo I, Cla I, Dde I, Dpn I, Dra I, EclX I, EcoR I, EcoR I, EcoR II, EcoR V, Hae II, Hae II, Hind II, Hind III, Hpa I, Hpa II, Kpn I, Ksp I, Mlu I, MluN I, Msp I, Nci I, Nco I, Nde I, Nde II, Nhe I, Not I, Nru I, Nsi I, Pst I, Pvu I, Pvu II, Rsa I, Sac I, Sal I, Sau3A I, Sca I, ScrF I, Sfi I, Sma I, Spe I, Sph I, Ssp I, Stu I, Sty I, Swa I, Taq I, Xba I, Xho I); glycosylases (*e.g.*, uracil-DNA glycosylase (UDG), 3-methyladenine DNA glycosylase, 3-methyladenine DNA glycosylase II, pyrimidine hydrate-DNA glycosylase, FaPy-DNA glycosylase, thymine mismatch-DNA glycosylase, hypoxanthine-DNA glycosylase, 5-Hydroxymethyluracil DNA glycosylase (HmUDG), 5-Hydroxymethylcytosine DNA glycosylase, or 1,N6-etheno-adenine DNA glycosylase); exonucleases (*e.g.*, exonuclease III); ribozymes, and DNazymes. Sample nucleic acid may be treated with a chemical agent, or synthesized using modified nucleotides, and the modified nucleic acid may be cleaved. In non-limiting examples, sample nucleic acid may be treated with (i) alkylating agents such as methylnitrosourea that generate several alkylated bases, including N3-methyladenine and N3-methylguanine, which are recognized and cleaved by alkyl purine DNA-glycosylase; (ii) sodium bisulfite, which causes deamination of cytosine residues in DNA to form uracil residues that can be cleaved by uracil N-glycosylase; and (iii) a chemical agent that converts guanine to its oxidized form, 8-hydroxyguanine, which can be cleaved by formamidopyrimidine DNA N-glycosylase. Examples of chemical cleavage processes include without limitation alkylation, (*e.g.*, alkylation of phosphorothioate-modified nucleic acid); cleavage of acid lability of P3'-N5'-phosphoroamidate-containing nucleic acid; and osmium tetroxide and piperidine treatment of nucleic acid.

[00406] In some embodiments, the nucleic acid reagent includes one or more recombinase insertion sites. A recombinase insertion site is a recognition sequence on a nucleic acid molecule that participates in an integration/recombination reaction by recombination proteins. For example, the recombination site for Cre recombinase is loxP, which is a 34 base pair sequence comprised of two 13 base pair inverted repeats (serving as the recombinase binding sites) flanking an 8 base pair core sequence (*e.g.*, Sauer, Curr. Opin. Biotech. 5:521-527 (1994)). Other examples of recombination sites include attB, attP, attL, and attR sequences, and mutants, fragments, variants and derivatives thereof, which are recognized by the recombination protein λ Int and by the auxiliary proteins integration host factor (IHF), FIS and excisionase (Xis) (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,888,732; 6,143,557; 6,171,861; 6,270,969; 6,277,608; and 6,720,140; U.S. Patent Appln. Nos. 09/517,466, and 09/732,914; U.S. Patent Publication No. US2002/0007051; and Landy, Curr. Opin. Biotech. 3:699-707 (1993)).

[00407] Examples of recombinase cloning nucleic acids are in Gateway® systems (Invitrogen, California), which include at least one recombination site for cloning desired nucleic acid

molecules in vivo or in vitro. In some embodiments, the system utilizes vectors that contain at least two different site-specific recombination sites, often based on the bacteriophage lambda system (*e.g.*, att1 and att2), and are mutated from the wild-type (att0) sites. Each mutated site has a unique specificity for its cognate partner att site (*i.e.*, its binding partner recombination site) of the same type (for example attB1 with attP1, or attL1 with attR1) and will not cross-react with recombination sites of the other mutant type or with the wild-type att0 site. Different site specificities allow directional cloning or linkage of desired molecules thus providing desired orientation of the cloned molecules. Nucleic acid fragments flanked by recombination sites are cloned and subcloned using the Gateway® system by replacing a selectable marker (for example, ccdB) flanked by att sites on the recipient plasmid molecule, sometimes termed the Destination Vector. Desired clones are then selected by transformation of a ccdB sensitive host strain and positive selection for a marker on the recipient molecule. Similar strategies for negative selection (*e.g.*, use of toxic genes) can be used in other organisms such as thymidine kinase (TK) in mammals and insects.

[00408] A nucleic acid reagent sometimes contains one or more origin of replication (ORI) elements. In some embodiments, a template comprises two or more ORIs, where one functions efficiently in one organism (*e.g.*, a bacterium) and another functions efficiently in another organism (*e.g.*, a eukaryote, like yeast for example). In some embodiments, an ORI may function efficiently in one species (*e.g.*, *S. cerevisiae*, for example) and another ORI may function efficiently in a different species (*e.g.*, *S. pombe*, for example). A nucleic acid reagent also sometimes includes one or more transcription regulation sites.

[00409] A nucleic acid reagent, *e.g.*, an expression cassette or vector, can include nucleic acid sequence encoding a marker product. A marker product is used to determine if a gene has been delivered to the cell and once delivered is being expressed. Example marker genes include the *E. coli* lacZ gene which encodes β -galactosidase and green fluorescent protein. In some embodiments the marker can be a selectable marker. When such selectable markers are successfully transferred into a host cell, the transformed host cell can survive if placed under selective pressure. There are two widely used distinct categories of selective regimes. The first category is based on a cell's metabolism and the use of a mutant cell line which lacks the ability to grow independent of a supplemented media. The second category is dominant selection which refers to a selection scheme used in any cell type and does not require the use of a mutant cell line. These schemes typically use a drug to arrest growth of a host cell. Those cells which have a novel gene would express a protein conveying drug resistance and would survive the selection. Examples of such dominant selection use the drugs neomycin (Southern *et al.*, J. Molec. Appl.

Genet. 1: 327 (1982)), mycophenolic acid, (Mulligan et al., Science 209: 1422 (1980)) or hygromycin, (Sugden, et al., Mol. Cell. Biol. 5: 410-413 (1985)).

[00410] A nucleic acid reagent can include one or more selection elements (*e.g.*, elements for selection of the presence of the nucleic acid reagent, and not for activation of a promoter element which can be selectively regulated). Selection elements often are utilized using known processes to determine whether a nucleic acid reagent is included in a cell. In some embodiments, a nucleic acid reagent includes two or more selection elements, where one functions efficiently in one organism, and another functions efficiently in another organism. Examples of selection elements include, but are not limited to, (1) nucleic acid segments that encode products that provide resistance against otherwise toxic compounds (*e.g.*, antibiotics); (2) nucleic acid segments that encode products that are otherwise lacking in the recipient cell (*e.g.*, essential products, tRNA genes, auxotrophic markers); (3) nucleic acid segments that encode products that suppress the activity of a gene product; (4) nucleic acid segments that encode products that can be readily identified (*e.g.*, phenotypic markers such as antibiotics (*e.g.*, β -lactamase), β -galactosidase, green fluorescent protein (GFP), yellow fluorescent protein (YFP), red fluorescent protein (RFP), cyan fluorescent protein (CFP), and cell surface proteins); (5) nucleic acid segments that bind products that are otherwise detrimental to cell survival and/or function; (6) nucleic acid segments that otherwise inhibit the activity of any of the nucleic acid segments described in Nos. 1-5 above (*e.g.*, antisense oligonucleotides); (7) nucleic acid segments that bind products that modify a substrate (*e.g.*, restriction endonucleases); (8) nucleic acid segments that can be used to isolate or identify a desired molecule (*e.g.*, specific protein binding sites); (9) nucleic acid segments that encode a specific nucleotide sequence that can be otherwise non-functional (*e.g.*, for PCR amplification of subpopulations of molecules); (10) nucleic acid segments that, when absent, directly or indirectly confer resistance or sensitivity to particular compounds; (11) nucleic acid segments that encode products that either are toxic or convert a relatively non-toxic compound to a toxic compound (*e.g.*, Herpes simplex thymidine kinase, cytosine deaminase) in recipient cells; (12) nucleic acid segments that inhibit replication, partition or heritability of nucleic acid molecules that contain them; and/or (13) nucleic acid segments that encode conditional replication functions, *e.g.*, replication in certain hosts or host cell strains or under certain environmental conditions (*e.g.*, temperature, nutritional conditions, and the like).

[00411] A nucleic acid reagent can be of any form useful for *in vivo* transcription and/or translation. A nucleic acid sometimes is a plasmid, such as a supercoiled plasmid, sometimes is a yeast artificial chromosome (*e.g.*, YAC), sometimes is a linear nucleic acid (*e.g.*, a linear nucleic acid produced by PCR or by restriction digest), sometimes is single-stranded and

sometimes is double-stranded. A nucleic acid reagent sometimes is prepared by an amplification process, such as a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) process or transcription-mediated amplification process (TMA). In TMA, two enzymes are used in an isothermal reaction to produce amplification products detected by light emission (*e.g.*, Biochemistry 1996 Jun 25;35(25):8429-38). Standard PCR processes are known (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,202; 4,683,195; 4,965,188; and 5,656,493), and generally are performed in cycles. Each cycle includes heat denaturation, in which hybrid nucleic acids dissociate; cooling, in which primer oligonucleotides hybridize; and extension of the oligonucleotides by a polymerase (*i.e.*, Taq polymerase). An example of a PCR cyclical process is treating the sample at 95°C for 5 minutes; repeating forty-five cycles of 95°C for 1 minute, 59°C for 1 minute, 10 seconds, and 72°C for 1 minute 30 seconds; and then treating the sample at 72°C for 5 minutes. Multiple cycles frequently are performed using a commercially available thermal cycler. PCR amplification products sometimes are stored for a time at a lower temperature (*e.g.*, at 4°C) and sometimes are frozen (*e.g.*, at -20°C) before analysis.

Nucleic Acid Fragmentation

[00412] In certain embodiments a nucleic acid can be from a library or can be obtained from enzymatically digested, sheared or sonicated genomic DNA (*e.g.*, fragmented) from an organism of interest. In some embodiments, nucleic acid subjected to fragmentation or cleavage may have a nominal, average or mean length of about 5 to about 10,000 base pairs, about 100 to about 1,000 base pairs, about 100 to about 500 base pairs, or about 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, 8000, 9000 or 10000 base pairs. Fragments can be generated by any suitable method in the art, and the average, mean or nominal length of nucleic acid fragments can be controlled by selecting an appropriate fragment-generating procedure by the person of ordinary skill. In some embodiments, the fragmented DNA can be size selected to obtain nucleic acid fragments of a particular size range.

[00413] Nucleic acid can be fragmented by various methods known to the person of ordinary skill, which include without limitation, physical, chemical and enzymatic processes. Examples of such processes are described in US2005/0112590. Certain processes can be selected by the person of ordinary skill to generate non-specifically cleaved fragments or specifically cleaved fragments. Examples of processes that can generate non-specifically cleaved fragment sample nucleic acid include, without limitation, contacting sample nucleic acid with apparatus that expose nucleic acid to shearing force (*e.g.*, passing nucleic acid through a syringe needle; use of a French press); exposing sample nucleic acid to irradiation (*e.g.*, gamma, x-ray, UV irradiation; fragment sizes can be controlled by irradiation intensity); boiling nucleic acid in water (*e.g.*,

yields about 500 base pair fragments) and exposing nucleic acid to an acid and base hydrolysis process.

Amplification

[00414] A nucleic acid suitable for use in the embodiments described herein sometimes is amplified by any amplification process known in the art (*e.g.*, PCR, RT-PCR and the like). Nucleic acid amplification may be particularly beneficial when using organisms that are typically difficult to culture (*e.g.*, slow growing, require specialize culture conditions and the like).

[00415] Exemplary methods for amplifying nucleic acids include the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Mullis et al., (1986) Cold Spring Harb. Symp. Quant. Biol. 51 pt. 1:263; Cleary et al., (2004) Nature Methods 1:241; and U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,683,202), anchor PCR, RACE PCR, ligation chain reaction (LCR) (Landegran et al., (1988) Science 241:1077- 1080; and Nakazawa et al., (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 91:360-364), self-sustained sequence replication (Guatelli et al., (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 87:1874), transcriptional amplification system (Kwoh et al., (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 86:1173), Q-Beta Replicase (Lizardi et al., (1988) BioTechnology 6:1197), recursive PCR (Jaffe et al., (2000) J. Biol. Chem. 275:2619; and Williams et al., (2002) J Biol. Chem. 277:7790), the amplification methods described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,391,544; 6,365,375; 6,294,323; 6,261,797; 6,124,090; and 5,612,199, isothermal amplification (*e.g.*, rolling circle amplification (RCA), hyperbranched rolling circle amplification (HRCA), strand displacement amplification (SDA), helicase-dependent amplification (HDA), PWGA, polymerase and/or ligase chain reactions, thermal cycling (PCR) or isothermally (*e.g.* RCA, hRCA, SDA, HDA, PWGA), or any other nucleic acid amplification method using techniques well known to those of skill in the art.

[00416] In some embodiments, a limited amplification reaction, also known as pre-amplification, can be performed. Pre-amplification is a method in which a limited amount of amplification occurs due to a small number of cycles, for example 10 cycles, being performed. Pre-amplification can allow some amplification, but stops amplification prior to the exponential phase, and typically produces about 500 copies of the desired nucleotide sequence(s). Use of pre-amplification may also limit inaccuracies associated with depleted reactants in standard PCR reactions.

Sequencing

[00417] Sequencing can be accomplished through classic Sanger sequencing methods, which are known in the art. In some embodiments sequencing can be performed using high-throughput sequencing methods some of which allow detection of a sequenced nucleotide immediately after or upon its incorporation into a growing strand, for example, detection of sequence in

substantially real time or real time. In some cases, high throughput sequencing generates at least 1,000, at least 5,000, at least 10,000, at least 20,000, at least 30,000, at least 40,000, at least 50,000, at least 100,000 or at least 500,000 sequence reads per hour; with each read being at least 50, at least 60, at least 70, at least 80, at least 90, at least 100, at least 120 or at least 150 bases per read (or 500 – 1,000 bases per read).

[00418] High-throughput sequencing methods can include but are not limited to, Massively Parallel Signature Sequencing (MPSS, Lynx Therapeutics), Polony sequencing, 454 pyrosequencing, Illumina (Solexa) sequencing, SOLiD sequencing, on semiconductor sequencing, DNA nanoball sequencing, Helioscope™ single molecule sequencing, Single Molecule SMRT™ sequencing, Single Molecule real time (RNAP) sequencing, Nanopore DNA sequencing, and/or sequencing by hybridization, for example, a non-enzymatic method that uses a DNA microarray, or microfluidic Sanger sequencing.

Homology and Identity

[00419] In addition to the regulated promoter sequences, regulatory sequences, and coding polynucleotides provided herein, a nucleic acid reagent may include a polynucleotide sequence 80% or more identical to the foregoing (or to the complementary sequences). That is, a nucleotide sequence that is at least 80% or more, 81% or more, 82% or more, 83% or more, 84% or more, 85% or more, 86% or more, 87% or more, 88% or more, 89% or more, 90% or more, 91% or more, 92% or more, 93% or more, 94% or more, 95% or more, 96% or more, 97% or more, 98% or more, or 99% or more identical to a nucleotide sequence described herein can be utilized. The term “identical” as used herein refers to two or more nucleotide sequences having substantially the same nucleotide sequence when compared to each other. One test for determining whether two nucleotide sequences or amino acids sequences are substantially identical is to determine the percent of identical nucleotide sequences or amino acid sequences shared.

[00420] Calculations of sequence identity can be performed as follows. Sequences are aligned for optimal comparison purposes (*e.g.*, gaps can be introduced in one or both of a first and a second amino acid or nucleic acid sequence for optimal alignment and non-homologous sequences can be disregarded for comparison purposes). The length of a reference sequence aligned for comparison purposes is sometimes 30% or more, 40% or more, 50% or more, often 60% or more, and more often 70% or more, 80% or more, 90% or more, or 100% of the length of the reference sequence. The nucleotides or amino acids at corresponding nucleotide or polypeptide positions, respectively, are then compared among the two sequences. When a position in the first sequence is occupied by the same nucleotide or amino acid as the corresponding position in the second sequence, the nucleotides or amino acids are deemed to be

identical at that position. The percent identity between the two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences, taking into account the number of gaps, and the length of each gap, introduced for optimal alignment of the two sequences.

[00421] Comparison of sequences and determination of percent identity between two sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. Percent identity between two amino acid or nucleotide sequences can be determined using the algorithm of Meyers & Miller, CABIOS 4: 11-17 (1989), which has been incorporated into the ALIGN program (version 2.0), using a PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12 and a gap penalty of 4. Also, percent identity between two amino acid sequences can be determined using the Needleman & Wunsch, J. Mol. Biol. 48: 444-453 (1970) algorithm which has been incorporated into the GAP program in the GCG software package (available at the http address www.gcg.com), using either a Blossum 62 matrix or a PAM250 matrix, and a gap weight of 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, or 4 and a length weight of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. Percent identity between two nucleotide sequences can be determined using the GAP program in the GCG software package (available at http address www.gcg.com), using a NWSgapdna.CMP matrix and a gap weight of 40, 50, 60, 70, or 80 and a length weight of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6. A set of parameters often used is a Blossum 62 scoring matrix with a gap open penalty of 12, a gap extend penalty of 4, and a frameshift gap penalty of 5.

[00422] Sequence identity can also be determined by hybridization assays conducted under stringent conditions. An example of stringent hybridization conditions is hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C. Another example of stringent hybridization conditions are hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55°C. A further example of stringent hybridization conditions is hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C. Often, stringent hybridization conditions are hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C. More often, stringency conditions are 0.5M sodium phosphate, 7% SDS at 65°C, followed by one or more washes at 0.2X SSC, 1% SDS at 65°C.

Definitions

[00423] As used herein, unless otherwise indicated, the article “a” means one or more unless explicitly otherwise provided for. As used herein, unless otherwise indicated, terms such as “contain,” “containing,” “include,” “including,” and the like mean “comprising.” As used herein, unless otherwise indicated, the term “or” can be conjunctive or disjunctive. As used

herein, unless otherwise indicated, any embodiment can be combined with any other embodiment. As used herein, unless otherwise indicated, some inventive embodiments herein contemplate numerical ranges. When ranges are present, the ranges include the range endpoints. Additionally, every sub-range and value within the range is present as if explicitly written out.

[00424] The terms “amplify”, “amplification”, “amplification reaction”, or “amplifying” as used herein refer to any in vitro processes for multiplying the copies of a target sequence of nucleic acid. Amplification sometimes refers to an “exponential” increase in target nucleic acid. However, “amplifying” as used herein can also refer to linear increases in the numbers of a select target sequence of nucleic acid, but is different than a one-time, single primer extension step.

[00425] As used herein, “bicyclic nucleoside” refers to a nucleoside having a sugar moiety comprising a sugar-ring (including, but not limited to, furanose) comprising a bridge connecting two carbon atoms of the sugar ring to form a second ring. In certain embodiments, the bridge connects the 4' carbon to the 2' carbon of a 5-membered sugar ring group at the position of the sugar ring.

[00426] As used herein, the term “complementary cleavage reactions” refers to cleavage reactions that are carried out on the same nucleic acid using different cleavage reagents or by altering the cleavage specificity of the same cleavage reagent such that alternate cleavage patterns of the same target or reference nucleic acid or protein are generated. In certain embodiments, nucleic acids of interest may be treated with one or more specific cleavage agents (*e.g.*, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more specific cleavage agents) in one or more reaction vessels (*e.g.*, nucleic acid of interest is treated with each specific cleavage agent in a separate vessel).

[00427] The term “DNA polymerase” as used herein includes DNA polymerases that have been modified by *e.g.* natural process such as posttranslational processing, or non-natural process such as chemical modification. Such modifications can occur on the peptide backbone, amino acid side chains, or the N- or C-terminus. Modifications include *e.g.* acetylations, acylations, ADP- ribosylations, amidations, covalent attachment of flavines, haem-groups, nucleotides or nucleotide derivatives, lipids or lipid derivatives, cyclizations, disulfide bridges, methylations and demethylations, cystine linkages, formylations, γ -carboxylations, glycosylations, hydroxylations, phosphorylations and the tRNA-mediated addition of amino acids.

[00428] The term “engineered” as used herein, when referring to a microorganism or cell, refers to a modified organism or cell that includes one or more activities distinct from an activity present in a microorganism or cell utilized as a starting point for modification (*e.g.*, host microorganism/cell or unmodified organism/cell). Engineered microorganisms typically arise as a result of a genetic modification, usually introduced or selected for, by one of skill in the art

using readily available techniques. Non-limiting examples of methods useful for generating an altered activity include, introducing a heterologous polynucleotide (*e.g.*, nucleic acid or gene integration, also referred to as “knock in”), removing an endogenous polynucleotide, altering the sequence of an existing endogenous nucleic acid sequence (*e.g.*, site-directed mutagenesis), disruption of an existing endogenous nucleic acid sequence (*e.g.*, knock outs and transposon or insertion element mediated mutagenesis), selection for an altered activity where the selection causes a change in a naturally occurring activity that can be stably inherited (*e.g.*, causes a change in a nucleic acid sequence in the genome of the organism or in an epigenetic nucleic acid that is replicated and passed on to daughter cells), PCR-based mutagenesis, and the like.

[00429] The term “genetic modification” as used herein refers to any suitable nucleic acid addition, removal or alteration that facilitates transport, *e.g.*, import, of a target nucleic acid in an engineered microorganism. Genetic modifications include, without limitation, insertion of one or more nucleotides in a native nucleic acid of a host organism in one or more locations, deletion of one or more nucleotides in a native nucleic acid of a host organism in one or more locations, modification or substitution of one or more nucleotides in a native nucleic acid of a host organism in one or more locations, insertion of a non-native nucleic acid into a host organism (*e.g.*, insertion of an autonomously replicating vector), and removal of a non-native nucleic acid in a host organism (*e.g.*, removal of a vector).

[00430] The term “heterologous” nucleic acid, as used herein, refers to a nucleic acid sequence not present in a host microorganism in some embodiments. In certain embodiments, a heterologous polynucleotide is present in a different amount (*e.g.*, different copy number) than in a host microorganism, which can be accomplished, for example, by introducing more copies of a particular nucleotide sequence to a host microorganism (*e.g.*, the particular nucleotide sequence may be in a nucleic acid autonomous of the host chromosome or may be inserted into a chromosome). A heterologous nucleic acid is from a different organism in some embodiments, and in certain embodiments, is from the same type of organism but from an outside source (*e.g.*, a recombinant source). As used herein, the term “heterologous” when used in reference to a protein, promoter, or nucleic acid refers to a protein, promoter, or nucleic acid that has been manipulated in some way. For example, a heterologous nucleic acid, heterologous coding region, or a heterologous promoter includes a nucleic acid, coding region, or promoter that is not normally in the species to which it has been introduced or that is not normally linked to the nucleic acids to which it is linked. A heterologous nucleic acid or protein therefore includes a nucleic acid or protein that is native to one type of organism but that has been altered in some way (*e.g.*, placed in a different chromosomal location, mutated, added in multiple copies, linked to a non-native promoter, or enhancer element, *etc.*). Heterologous genes include gene

sequences that comprise cDNA forms of a gene. Heterologous coding regions can be distinguished from endogenous coding regions, for example, when the heterologous coding regions are joined to nucleotide sequences comprising regulatory elements such as promoters that are not found naturally associated with the coding region, or when the heterologous coding regions are associated with portions of a chromosome not found in nature (*e.g.*, genes expressed in loci where the protein encoded by the coding region is not normally expressed). Similarly, heterologous promoters can be promoters that are linked to a coding region to which they are not linked in nature.

[00431] The term “isolated” as used herein refers to material removed from its original environment (*e.g.*, the natural environment if it is naturally occurring, or a host cell if expressed exogenously), and thus is altered “by the hand of man” from its original environment.

[00432] As used herein, “modified nucleoside” refers to a nucleoside comprising at least one modification compared to naturally occurring RNA or DNA nucleosides. Such modification may be at the sugar moiety and/or at the nucleobases.

[00433] The term “mutagenesis” as used herein refers to any modification to a nucleic acid (*e.g.*, nucleic acid reagent, or host chromosome, for example) that is subsequently used to generate a product in a host or modified organism. Non-limiting examples of mutagenesis include deletion, insertion, substitution, rearrangement, point mutations, suppressor mutations and the like. Mutagenesis methods are known in the art and are readily available to the artisan. Non-limiting examples of mutagenesis methods are described herein and can also be found in Maniatis et al., (1982) *Molecular Cloning: a Laboratory Manual*; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. Another non-limiting example of mutagenesis can be conducted using a Stratagene (San Diego, CA) “QuickChange” kit according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

[00434] The term “native sequence” as used herein refers to an unmodified nucleotide sequence as found in its natural setting (*e.g.*, a nucleotide sequence as found in an organism).

[00435] A “nucleic acid modification” as used herein refers to an alteration, typically a chemical alteration, which is present in the modified nucleic acid molecule compared to the commonly or naturally occurring nucleic acid molecule. A modification may have been made to any component of the nucleic acid, for example, to the backbone, sugar component, or base. By way of example, a modified nucleic acid may have a phosphorothioate backbone, instead of the naturally occurring phosphodiester backbone. Modifications of this kind are often made to nucleic acids which are to be used in therapy. Modifications and modified nucleic acids are described further herein.

[00436] As used herein, “nucleobase” refers to the heterocyclic base portion of a nucleoside. Nucleobases may be naturally occurring, may be modified, may bear no similarity to natural bases, and may be synthesized, *e.g.*, by organic synthesis. In certain embodiments, a nucleobase may comprise any atom or group of atoms capable of hydrogen bonding to a base of another nucleic acid or lacking hydrogen bonds altogether. In certain embodiments, an unnatural nucleobase may not be derived from a natural nucleobase. In certain embodiments, an unnatural nucleobase may be a synthetic nucleobase. It should be noted that unnatural nucleobases do not necessarily possess basic properties, however, are referred to as nucleobases for simplicity. When referring to a nucleobase, a “(d)” indicates that the nucleobase can be attached to a deoxyribose or a ribose.

[00437] As used herein, “nucleoside” refers to a compound comprising a nucleobase moiety and a sugar moiety. Nucleosides include, but are not limited to, naturally occurring nucleosides (as found in DNA and RNA), abasic nucleosides, modified nucleosides, and nucleosides having mimetic bases and/or sugar groups. Nucleosides may be modified with any of a variety of substituents. A nucleoside can be a glycoside compound formed through glycosidic linking between a nucleic acid base and a reducing group of a sugar. It should be noted that the term “nucleic acid base” is intended to encompass adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, uracil, and also derivatives thereof. The type of the above derivative is not limited in any way.

[00438] The term “nucleotide” refers to a compound in which the sugar moiety of the above nucleoside forms an ester with phosphoric acid, more preferably a mono-, di- or tri-phosphate ester. The sugar moiety of such a nucleoside or nucleotide may be ribofuranosyl, 2'-deoxyribofuranosyl, or 2'-substituted ribofuranosyl having a substituent at the 2'-position. Likewise, the phosphoric acid moiety may be thiophosphoric acid. Namely, the sugar and phosphoric acid moieties may be in the same form as found in known nucleosides, nucleotides, or derivatives thereof. A ribonucleotide whose sugar moiety is ribofuranosyl can be used as a member constituting RNA. A deoxyribonucleotide whose sugar moiety is deoxyribofuranosyl can be used as a member constituting DNA. A nucleotide can be a nucleoside further comprising a phosphate linking group. Nucleotides may include nucleosides containing a phosphate moiety. As used herein, “linked nucleosides” may or may not be linked by phosphate linkages and thus includes “linked nucleotides.”

[00439] The term “probes” or “primers” as used herein refer to oligonucleotides that hybridize in a base-specific manner to a complementary strand of a nucleic acid molecule. Probes can include primers, which can be a single-stranded oligonucleotide probe that can act as a point of initiation of template-directed DNA synthesis or amplification using methods including but not limited to, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and ligase chain reaction (LCR) for amplification of

a target sequence. Oligonucleotides, as described herein, can include segments or fragments of nucleic acid sequences, or their complements. In some embodiments, DNA segments can be between 5 and 10,000 contiguous bases, and can range from 5, 10, 12, 15, 20, or 25 nucleotides to 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000 or 10,000 nucleotides. In addition to DNA and RNA, probes and primers can include polypeptide nucleic acids (PNA), as described in Nielsen et al., Science 254: 1497-1500 (1991). A probe or primer can comprise a region of nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to at least about 15, typically about 20-25, and in certain embodiments about 40, 50, 60 or 75, consecutive nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule.

[00440] The term “protein” as used herein refers to a molecule having a sequence of amino acids linked by peptide bonds. This term includes fusion proteins, oligopeptides, peptides, cyclic peptides, polypeptides and polypeptide derivatives, whether native or recombinant, and also includes fragments, derivatives, homologs, and variants thereof.

[00441] The term “purified” as used herein with reference to molecules does not refer to absolute purity. Rather, “purified” refers to a substance in a composition that contains fewer substance species in the same class (*e.g.*, nucleic acid or protein species) other than the substance of interest in comparison to the sample from which it originated. “Purified,” if a nucleic acid or protein for example, refers to a substance in a composition that contains fewer nucleic acid species or protein species other than the nucleic acid or protein of interest in comparison to the sample from which it originated. Sometimes, a protein or nucleic acid is “substantially pure,” indicating that the protein or nucleic acid represents at least 50% of protein or nucleic acid on a mass basis of the composition. Often, a substantially pure protein or nucleic acid is at least 75% on a mass basis of the composition, and sometimes at least 95% on a mass basis of the composition.

[00442] As used herein, a “signal sequence” or “localization signal sequence” refers to a sequence that localizes a translated protein or peptide to a component in a system.

[00443] The term “specific cleavage agent” as used herein refers to an agent, sometimes a chemical or an enzyme that can cleave a nucleic acid at one or more specific sites.

[00444] As used herein, the term “stringent conditions” refers to conditions for hybridization and washing. Stringent conditions are known to those skilled in the art and can be found in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y., 6.3.1-6.3.6 (1989). Aqueous and non-aqueous methods are described in that reference and either can be used.

[00445] As used herein, “sugar moiety” means a natural or modified sugar ring.

As used herein, “vector” refers to any carrier containing exogenous DNA. Thus, vectors are agents that transport the exogenous nucleic acid into a cell without degradation and include a promoter yielding expression of the nucleic acid in the cells into which it is delivered. Vectors

include but are not limited to plasmids, viral nucleic acids, viruses, phage nucleic acids, phages, cosmids, and artificial chromosomes.

EXAMPLES

[00446] It should be understood that the following examples should not be construed as being limiting to the particular methodology, protocols, and compositions, etc., described herein and, as such, can vary. The following terms used herein are for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the embodiments disclosed herein.

Example 1:

Preparation of electrocompetent C41(DE3)-pACS

[00447] A single clone of freshly transformed *E. coli* C41(DE3)-pACS was grown overnight in 2×YT medium (3 ml) supplemented with streptomycin (50 µg/ml) and KPi (50 mM). After 100-fold dilution into the same medium (300 ml) and outgrowth at 37 °C to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.20, IPTG was added to a final concentration of 1 mM to induce the expression of *PtNTT2*. After 40 min, the cultures were rapidly cooled to 0 °C, washed with sterile water (3×150 ml), and resuspended in 10% glycerol (1.5 ml).

Electroporation and recovery

[00448] An aliquot of electrocompetent C41(DE3)-pACS cells (50 µL) was mixed with pINF (2 µL, 400 ng), and electroporated in a 0.2 cm gap cuvette. Pre-warmed 2×YT medium (0.95 ml, 50 µg/ml streptomycin, 1 mM IPTG, 50 mM KPi) was added, and after mixing, 45 µL was removed and combined with 105 µl of the same media (3.3× dilution) supplemented with 0.25 mM of dNaMTP and d5SICSTP. The resulting mixture was allowed to recover for 1 h at 37 °C with shaking (210 rpm).

Growth and analysis

[00449] After recovery, cells were centrifuged and spent media (0.15 ml) was removed and analyzed for nucleotide composition by HPLC (**Figure 12A**). The cells were resuspended in fresh 2×YT medium (1.5 ml, 50 µg/ml streptomycin, 100 µg/ml ampicillin, 1 mM IPTG, 50 mM KPi, 0.25 mM dNaMTP, 0.25 mM d5SICSTP) and grown at 37 °C with shaking (250 rpm). At defined time points, OD₆₀₀ was determined and aliquots (100 µl) were removed and centrifuged (8000 rfu for 5 min, 4 °C). Spent media was analyzed for nucleotide composition by HPLC and pINF was recovered by spin column purification (Zymo Research Corp.). Retention of the UBP was characterized by PCR amplification and gel electrophoresis or sequencing as described below. The data represents the average of three independent experiments. No PCR product was observed when pINF was added without electroporation, eliminating unamplified plasmid as a source of the PCR product (**Figure 12B**).

Materials

[00450] 2×YT, 2×YT-agar, IPTG, ampicillin and streptomycin were obtained from Fisher Scientific. Ampicillin and streptomycin were used at 100 µg/ml and 50 µg/ml, respectively. pET-16b constructs containing the nucleotide transporters, pET16b-*RpNTT2*, C41(DE3) *E. coli* strain. Plasmids pUC19 Thermo Scientific and pCDF-1b EMD Millipore. Plasmids were purified using the PureLink Quick Plasmid DNA Miniprep Kit (Life Technologies). OneTaq, DeepVent, Q5 Hot Start High-Fidelity DNA Polymerases, and all restriction endonucleases were obtained from New England Biolabs. In general, PCR reactions were divided into multiple aliquots with one followed in real time using 0.5× Sybr Green I (Life Technologies); following PCR, the aliquots were recombined, purified by spin column (DNA Clean and Concentrator-5; Zymo Research, Irvine, CA) with elution in 20 µl of water, then separated on an agarose gel, followed by band excision and recovery (Zymoclean Gel DNA Recovery Kit), eluting with 20 µl of water unless stated otherwise. PAGE gels were stained with 1× Sybr Gold (Life Technologies) for 30 min, agarose gels were cast with 1× Sybr Gold. Gels were visualized using a Molecular Imager Gel Doc XR+ equipped with 520DF30 filter (Bio-Rad) and quantified with Quantity One software (Bio-Rad). The sequences of exemplary DNA oligonucleotides used are shown in **Table 8**. Natural oligonucleotides were purchased from a commercial source. The concentration of dsDNA was measured by fluorescent dye binding (Quant-iT dsDNA HS Assay kit, Life Technologies) unless stated otherwise. The concentration of ssDNA was determined by UV absorption at 260 nm using a NanoDrop 1000 (Thermo Scientific). [α - ^{32} P]-dATP (25 µCi). Polyethyleneiminecellulose pre-coated Bakerflex[®] TLC plates (0.5 mm). dNaM phosphoramidite, dNaM and d5SICS nucleosides. Free nucleosides of dNaM and d5SICS were converted to the corresponding triphosphates under Ludwig conditions. After purification by anion exchange chromatography (DEAE Sephadex A-25) followed by reverse phase (C18) HPLC and elution through a Dowex 50WX2-sodium column, both triphosphates were lyophilized and kept at -20 °C until use. The d5SICSTP analog dTPT3TP and the biotinylated dNaMTP analog dMMO2^{SSBIO}TP⁴ were made as reported previously. MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry was performed.

Construction of NTT expression plasmids

[00451] The *PtNTT2* gene was amplified from plasmid pET-16b-*PtNTT2* using primers *PtNTT2*-fwd and *PtNTT2*-rev; the *TpNTT2* gene was amplified from plasmid pET-16b-*TpNTT2* using primers *TpNTT2*-fwd and *TpNTT2*-rev. A linear fragment of pCDF-1b was generated using primers pCDF-1b-fwd and pCDF-1b-rev. Fragments were purified. The pCDF-1b fragment (100 ng, 4.4×10^{-14} mol) and either the *PtNTT2* (78 ng, 4.4×10^{-14} mol) or *TpNTT2* (85 ng, 4.4×10^{-14} mol) fragment were then assembled together using restriction-free circular

polymerase extension cloning in 1× OneTaq reaction buffer, MgSO₄ adjusted to 3.0 mM, 0.2 mM of dNTP, and 0.02 U/μl of OneTaq DNA under the following thermal cycling conditions: Initial denaturation (96 °C, 1 min); 10 cycles of denaturation (96 °C, 30 s), touchdown annealing (54 °C to 49.5 °C for 30 s (-0.5°C per cycles)), extension of 68 °C for 5 min, and final extension (68 °C, 5 min). Upon completion, the samples were purified and used for heat-shock transformation of *E. coli* XL10. Individual colonies were selected on LB-agar containing streptomycin, and assayed by colony PCR with primers *PtNTT2*-fwd/rev or *TpNTT2*-fwd/rev. The presence of the NTT genes was confirmed by sequencing and double digestion with ApaI/EcoO109I restriction endonucleases with the following expected pattern: pCDF-1b-*PtNTT2* (2546/2605 bp), pCDF-1b-*TpNTT2* (2717/2605 bp), pCDF-1b (1016/2605 bp). The complete nucleotide sequence of the pCDF-1b/*PtNTT2* plasmid (*i.e.* pACS) is provided as SEQ ID NO:1.

Example 2: General protocol to quantify nucleoside triphosphate uptake

Growth conditions

[00452] *E. coli* C41(DE3) freshly transformed with pCDF-1b-*PtNTT2* was grown in 2×YT with streptomycin overnight, then diluted (1:100) into fresh 2×YT medium (1 ml of culture per uptake with [α -³²P]-dATP; 2 ml of culture per uptake with d5SICSTP or dNaMTP) supplemented with 50 mM potassium phosphate (KPi) and streptomycin. A negative control with the inactive transporter pET-16b-*RpNTT2*, was treated identically except ampicillin was used instead of streptomycin. Cells were grown to an OD₆₀₀ of ~0.6 and expression was induced by the addition of IPTG (1 mM). The culture was allowed to grow for another hour (final OD₆₀₀ ~1.2) and then assayed directly for uptake as described below using a method adapted from Haferkamp, *et al.*

Preparation of media fraction

[00453] dNaMTP or d5SICSTP (10 mM each) were added to media to a final concentration of 0.25 mM. Cells were incubated with the substrate with shaking at 37 °C for 30 min and then pelleted (8,000 rfu for 5 min, 4 °C). An aliquot of the media fraction (40 μl) was mixed with acetonitrile (80 μl) to precipitate proteins, and then incubated at RT for 30 min. Samples were either analyzed immediately by HPLC or stored at -80 °C until analysis. Analysis began with centrifugation (12,000 rfu for 10 min, RT), then the pellet was discarded, and the supernatant was reduced to ~20 μl, resuspended in 95% 0.1 M TEAB, pH 7.5; 5% acetonitrile, to a final volume of 50 μl, and analyzed by HPLC.

Preparation of cytoplasmic fraction

[00454] To analyze the intracellular dephosphorylation of unnatural nucleoside triphosphates, cell pellets were subjected to 3 × 100 μl washes of ice cold KPi (50 mM). Pellets were then

resuspended in 250 μ l of ice cold KPi (50 mM) and lysed with 250 μ l of Lysis buffer L7 of the PureLink Quick Plasmid DNA Miniprep Kit (200 mM NaOH, 1% w/v SDS), after which the resulting solution was incubated at RT for 5 min. Precipitation buffer N4 (350 μ l, 3.1 M potassium acetate, pH 5.5) was added, and the sample was mixed to homogeneity. Following centrifugation (>12,000 rfu for 10 min, RT) the supernatant containing the unnatural nucleotides was applied to a C18 solid phase extraction column prewashed with acetonitrile (1 ml) and 95% 0.1 M TEAB, pH 7.5; 5% acetonitrile (1 ml). The column was then washed with 95% 0.1 M TEAB, pH 7.5; 5% acetonitrile and nucleotides were eluted with 1 ml of 50% acetonitrile:50% triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB) 0.1 M (pH 7.5). The eluent was reduced to $\sim$ 50 μ l and its volume was adjusted to 100 μ l with 95% 0.1 M TEAB, pH 7.5; 5% acetonitrile before HPLC analysis.

HPLC

[00455] Samples were applied to a LC column (3 μ m C18 300 Å, 250 $\times$ 4.6 mm) and subjected to a linear gradient of 0–40% with 20% 0.1 M TEAB, pH 7.5; 80% acetonitrile over 40 min at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. **Quantification**

[00456] Injection series included two extra control samples containing 5 nmol of dNaMTP or d5SICSTP. The areas under the peaks that corresponded to triphosphate, diphosphate, monophosphate and free nucleoside (confirmed by MALDI-TOF) were integrated for both the control and the unknown samples. After peak integration, the ratio of the unknown peak to the control peak adjusted for the loss from the extraction step (62% and 70% loss for dNaM and d5SICS, respectively), provided a measure of the amount of each of the moieties in a sample. To determine the relative concentrations of unnatural nucleotide inside a cell, the amount of imported unnatural nucleotide was then divided by the volume of cells, which was calculated from the volume of a single *E. coli* cell of (1 μ m³) multiplied by the number of cells in each culture (OD₆₀₀ of 1.0 equal to 1 $\times$ 10⁹ cells per ml). An *RpNTT2* sample was used as a negative control and its signal was subtracted to account for any incomplete washing of nucleotide species from the media.

$$[dXTP] = \frac{dXTP(\mu\text{mol})}{\text{cell volume}(1 \times 10^{-9} \mu\text{l cell}^{-1}) \times \text{number of cells}(2.4 \times 10^9)}$$

dATP uptake

[00457] To analyze the intracellular dephosphorylation of dATP, after induction of an NTT, an uptake reaction was initiated by the addition of dATP (spiked with [α -³²P]-dATP) to a final concentration of 0.25 mM, followed by incubation at 37 °C with shaking for 30 min. A culture was then centrifuged (8,000 rfu for 5 min, RT). Supernatant was analyzed by thin layer chromatography (TLC), while cell pellets were washed 3 times with ice cold KPi (50 mM, 100

μl) to remove excess radioactive substrate, lysed with NaOH (0.2 M, 100 μl) and centrifuged (10,000 rfu for 5 min, RT) to pellet the cell debris, before the supernatant (1.5 μl) was analyzed by TLC.

TLC analysis

[00458] Samples (1 μl) were applied on a 0.5 mm polyethyleneimine cellulose TLC plate and eluted first by sodium formate (0.5 M, pH 3.0) for 30 sec, then by sodium formate (2.5 M, pH 3.0) for 2.5 min, and finally by sodium formate (4.0 M, pH 3.0) for 40 min. Plates were dried using a heat gun and quantified by phosphorimaging and imaging software.

Example 3: Methods developed for nucleotide extraction from cells for HPLC analysis

[00459] To minimize the effect of the lysis and triphosphate extraction protocols on the decomposition of nucleoside triphosphate within the cell, the following extraction procedure was discovered that led to an unexpectedly highest recovery with and low extent of decomposition (**Table 9**). Cells were grown, washed, and then 5 nmol of either dNaMTP or d5SICSTP was added to the pellets, which were then subjected to various types of extractions including boiling water, hot ethanol, cold methanol, freeze and thaw, lysozyme, glass beads, NaOH, trichloroacetic acid (TCA) with Freon, and perchloric acid (PCA) with KOH. The recovery and composition of the control was quantified by HPLC. Method 3, *i.e.* cell lysis with NaOH (**Table 6**), was found to be unexpectedly effective and reproducible. Pellets were resuspended in ice cold KPi (50 mM, 250 μl) before addition of NaOH to decrease dephosphorylation after cell lysis (Method 4).

Table 6 - Extraction methods

Method		Protocol summary	Total recovery, % ^a		Triphosphate stability, % ^b	
			dNaM	d5SICS	dNaM	d5SICS
1	TCA with Freon	Lyse with cold TCA Extract aqueous phase using Freon with trioctylaminesolution.	38	23	92	99
2	PCA w/KOH	Lyse with cold PCA Precipitate proteins with KOH and KPi	36	21	98	77
3	NaOH w/ KOAc	Lyse with NaOH and SDS Precipitate proteins with potassium acetate.	21	26	86	100
4	NaOH w/ KOAc supplemented w/ KPi (50 mM)	Suspend cells in KPi Lyse with NaOH and SDS Precipitate proteins with	38	30	99	100

		potassium acetate.				
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^a Recovery of all nucleotides (3P, 2P, 1P and nucleoside). ^b Calculated as a ratio of 3P composition (%) before and after the extraction.

Example 4: Construction of pINF

Preparation of the unnatural insert

[00460] The TK-1-dNaM oligonucleotide containing dNaM was prepared using solid phase DNA synthesis with ultra-mild DNA synthesis phosphoramidites on CPG ultramild supports (1 µmol) and a nucleic acid synthesizer. After the synthesis, the DMT-ON oligonucleotide was deprotected by treatment with concentrated ammonia hydroxide at 50 °C overnight, purified, and then subjected to 8 M urea 8% PAGE. The gel was visualized by UV shadowing, the band corresponding to a 75mer was excised, and DNA was recovered by crush and soak extraction, filtration (0.45 µm), and final desalting over Sephadex G-25. The concentration of single stranded oligonucleotide was determined by UV absorption at 260 nm (where extinction coefficient of dNaM at 260 nm assumed equal to that of dA.). TK-1-dNaM (4 ng) was next amplified by PCR under the following conditions: 1× OneTaq reaction buffer, MgSO₄ adjusted to 3.0 mM, 0.2 mM of dNTP, 0.1 mM of dNaMTP, 0.1 mM of the d5SICSTP analog dTPT3TP, 1 µM of each of the primers pUC19-fusion-fwd and pUC19-fusion-rev, and 0.02 U/µl of OneTaq DNA Polymerase (in a total of 4×50 µl reactions) under the following thermal cycling conditions: Initial denaturation (96 °C, 1 min) followed by 12 cycles of denaturation (96 °C, 10 s), annealing (60 °C, 15 s), and extension (68 °C, 2 min). A similar PCR without unnatural triphosphates was run to obtain fully natural insert under similar conditions for construction of natural control plasmid. Reactions were subjected to spin column purification and then the target PCR product (122 bp) was purified by a 4% agarose gel.

pUC19 linearization

[00461] pUC19 (20 ng) was amplified by PCR under the following conditions: 1× Q5 reaction buffer, MgSO₄ adjusted to 3.0 mM, 0.2 mM of dNTP, 1 µM of each primers pUC19-lin-fwd and pUC19-lin-rev, and 0.02 U/µl of Q5 Hot Start High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (in a total of 4×50 µl reactions with one reaction containing 0.5×Sybr Green I) under the following thermal cycling conditions: Initial denaturation (98 °C, 30 s); 20 cycles of denaturation (98°C, 10s), annealing (60 °C, 15 s), and extension (72 °C, 2 min); and final extension (72 °C, 5 min). The desired PCR product (2611 bp) was purified by a 4% agarose gel.

PCR assembly of pINF and the natural control plasmid

[00462] A linear fragment was amplified from pUC19 using primers pUC19-lin-fwd and pUC19-lin-rev. The resulting product (800 ng, 4.6×10^{-13} mol) was combined with either the

natural or unnatural insert (see above) (56 ng , $7.0 \times 10^{-13} \text{ mol}$) and assembled by circular overlap extension PCR under the following conditions: $1 \times$ OneTaq reaction buffer, MgSO_4 adjusted to 3.0 mM , 0.2 mM of dNTP, 0.1 mM of dNaMTP, 0.1 mM of the d5SICSTP analog dTPT3TP, and $0.02 \text{ U}/\mu\text{l}$ of OneTaq DNA Polymerase (in a total of $4 \times 50 \mu\text{l}$ reactions with one reaction containing $0.5 \times$ Sybr Green I) using the following thermal cycling conditions: Initial denaturation (96°C , 1 min); 12 cycles of denaturation (96°C , 30 s), annealing 62°C , 1 min), and extension (68°C , 5 min); final extension (68°C , 5 min); and slow cooling (68°C to 10°C at a rate of -0.1°C/s). The PCR product was analyzed by restriction digestion on 1% agarose and used directly for *E. coli* transformation. The d5SICS analog dTPT3 pairs with dNaM and dTPT3TP was used in place of d5SICSTP as DNA containing dTPT3-dNaM is better PCR amplified than DNA containing d5SICS-dNaM, and this facilitated the construction of high-quality pINF (UBP content $> 99\%$).

Example 5: pINF replication in *E. coli*

Preparation of electrocompetent cells

[00463] C41(DE3) cells were transformed by heat shock with 200 ng of pACS plasmid, and the transformants were selected overnight on $2 \times \text{YT}$ -agar supplemented with streptomycin. A single clone of freshly transformed C41(DE3)-pACS was grown overnight in $2 \times \text{YT}$ medium (3 ml) supplemented with streptomycin and KPi (50 mM). After 100-fold dilution into the same fresh $2 \times \text{YT}$ media (300 ml), the cells were grown at 37°C until they reached an OD_{600} of 0.20 at which time IPTG was added to a final concentration of 1 mM to induce the expression of PtNTT2. Cells were grown for another 40 min and then growth was stopped by rapid cooling in ice water with intensive shaking. After centrifugation in a prechilled centrifuge (2400 rfu for 10 min , 4°C), the spent media was removed, and the cells were prepared for electroporation by washing with ice-cold sterile water ($3 \times 150 \text{ ml}$). After washing, the cells were resuspended in ice cold 10% glycerol (1.5 ml) and split into $50 \mu\text{l}$ aliquots. Cells were frozen if to store for later use. Freshly prepared cells were used and frozen cells can be used.

Electroporation and recovery

[00464] The aliquot of cells was mixed with $2 \mu\text{l}$ of plasmid (400 ng), transferred to 0.2 cm gap electroporation cuvette and electroporated using a Bio-Rad Gene Pulser according to the manufacturer's recommendations (voltage 25 kV , capacitor $2.5 \mu\text{F}$, resistor 200Ω , time constant 4.8 ms). Pre-warmed $2 \times \text{YT}$ media (0.95 ml , streptomycin, 1 mM IPTG, 50 mM KPi) was added, and after mixing, $45 \mu\text{l}$ was taken and combined with $105 \mu\text{l}$ of the same media ($3.33 \times$ dilution) supplemented with 0.25 mM of dNaMTP and d5SICSTP.

Growth and analysis

[00465] After recovery, the cells were centrifuged (4000 rfu for 5 min, 4°C), spent media (0.15 ml) was removed and analyzed for nucleotide composition by HPLC. The cells were resuspended in fresh 2×YT media (1.5 ml, streptomycin, ampicillin, 1 mM IPTG, 50 mM KPi, 0.25 mM dNaMTP, 0.25 mM d5SICSTP) and grown overnight at 37 °C while shaking (250 rpm), resulting in 10× dilution compared to recovery media or 33.3× dilution compared to the originally transformed cells. Aliquots (100 µl) were taken after 15, 19, 24, 32, 43, 53, 77, 146 h, OD₆₀₀ was determined, and the cells were centrifuged (8000 rfu for 5 min, 4 °C). Spent media was analyzed for nucleotide composition by HPLC and the pINF and pACS plasmid mixtures were purified by recovered by spin column, eluted in 30 µl of water and analyzed by restriction digestion. The retention of the UBP on the pINF plasmid was quantified by biotin gel shift mobility assay and sequencing.

[00466] Transformation media (10 µl) was spread onto 2xYT-agar containing streptomycin with 10× and 50× dilutions to determine viable colony forming units after overnight growth at 37 °C to calculate the number of the transformed pINF molecules. Transformation, recovery, and growth were carried out similarly for the natural control plasmid. Additionally, a negative control was run and treated similarly to pINF transformation except that it was not subjected to electroporation (**Figure 11**). No growth in the negative control samples was observed after at least 6 days. No PCR amplification of the negative control was detected. Thus, unamplified pINF plasmid was carried through cell growth and later detected erroneously as the propagated plasmid.

Example 6: Fidelity measurement***DNA biotinylation by PCR***

[00467] Purified mixtures of pINF and pACS plasmids (1 ng) from growth experiments (Figs. 3 and 4) were amplified by PCR under the following conditions: 1× OneTaq reaction buffer, MgSO₄ adjusted to 3.0 mM, 0.3 mM of dNTP, 0.1 mM of the biotinylated dNaMTP analog dMMO2^{SSBIO}TP, 0.1 mM of d5SICSTP, 1 µM of each of the primers pUC19-seq-fwd and pUC19-seq-rev, 0.02 U/µl of OneTaq DNA Polymerase, and 0.0025 U/µl of DeepVent DNA Polymerase in a total volume of 25 µl in an CFX Connect Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad) under the following thermal cycling conditions: Initial denaturation (96 °C, 1 min); 10 cycles of denaturation (96 °C, 30 s), annealing (64 °C, 30 s), and extension (68 °C, 4 min). PCR products were purified as described in Materials, and the resulting biotinylated DNA duplexes (5 µl, 25-50 ng) were mixed with streptavidin (1 µl, 1 µg/µl, Promega) in phosphate buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA), incubated for 30 min at 37 °C, mixed with 5× non-denaturing loading buffer, and loaded onto 6% non-denaturing

PAGE. After running at 110 V for 30 min, the gel was visualized and quantified. The resulting fragment (194 bp) with primer regions underlined and the unnatural nucleotide in bold (X = dNaM or its biotinylated analog dMMO2^{SSBIO}) is shown below (SEQ ID NO:26).

[00468] 5'-GCAGGCATGCAAGCTTGGCGTAATCATGGTCATAGCTGTTTCCTGTGTGA
AATTGTTATCCGCTCACAXTTCCACACAACATACGAGCCGGAAGCATAAAGTGTA
AGCCTGGGGTGCCTAATGAGTGAGCTAACTCACATTAATTGCGTTGCGCTCACTGCC
CGCTTTCCAGTCGGGAAACCTGTCGTGCCAG

Streptavidin Shift Calibration

[00469] To build a calibration curve between streptavidin (SA) shift and the fraction of sequences with UBP in the population (UBP), a PCR method was developed where the reaction was spiked with DeepVent. The method improved the fidelity with which DNA containing d5SICS-dMMO2^{SSBIO} was amplified. Calibration was conducted under similar conditions. To quantify the net retention of the UBP, nine mixtures of the TK-1-dNaM template and its natural counterpart with a known ratio of unnatural and natural were prepared, subjected to biotinylation by PCR, and analyzed by a mobility-shift assay on 6% non-denaturing PAGE. For calibration, the mixtures TK-1-dNaM template and its natural counterpart with a known ratio of unnatural and natural templates (0.04 ng) were amplified under similar conditions over nine cycles of PCR with pUC19-fusion primers and analyzed similar to samples from growth experiments described herein. Experiments were run in triplicate and the streptavidin shift (SAS, %) was plotted as function of the UBP content (UBP, %) and the data fit to a linear equation:

$$\text{Equation 1: SAS} = 0.77 \times \text{UBP} + 2.0 \text{ } R^2 = 0.999.$$

where UBP corresponds to the retention of the UBP (%) in the analyzed samples after cellular replication and was calculated from the SAS shift using Equation 1..

Calculation of plasmid amplification

[00470] Cells were plated on 2×YT-agar containing ampicillin and streptavidin after transformation with pINF, and colonies were counted after overnight growth at 37 °C. Transformed cells were assumed to contain one molecule of plasmid. Colony counts corresponded to the original amount of plasmid that was taken up by the cells. After overnight growth (**Figure 4**), the plasmids were purified from a volume of the cell culture and quantified. Since purified plasmid DNA represent a mixture of pINF and pACS plasmid, digestion restriction analysis with NdeI exonuclease was performed that linearized both plasmids followed by 1% agarose gel. An example of calculations for the 19 h time point with one out of three triplicates is provided below.

Example of calculation of plasmid amplification after 19 h:*Known (or measured) parameters:*

Number of colonies after transformation (10 µl of culture plated)	1750 ± 200
Dilution for growth experiment, fold	33.3
Volume of culture purified for plasmid extraction, µl	100
Elution volume, µl	30
pINF fraction in total plasmid mixture, %	43
Total plasmid concentration, ng µl ⁻¹	2.97
Biotin shift, %	74.2

Calculation of plasmid concentration before growth:

$$\frac{175 \text{ molecules } \mu\text{l}^{-1}}{33.3} = 5.3 \text{ molecules } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$$

Calculation of plasmid amount in 100 µl of media after growth (19 h):pINF amount:

$$2.97 \text{ ng } \mu\text{l}^{-1} \times 43\% \times 30 \mu\text{l} = 38 \text{ ng}$$

Number of pINF molecules:

$$\frac{38 \times 10^{-9} \text{ g}}{2686 \text{ bp} \times 660 \text{ g mol}^{-1} \text{ bp}^{-1}} \times 6.02 \times 10^{23} \text{ molecules mol}^{-1} = 1.3 \times 10^{10} \text{ molecules}$$

Plasmid concentration:

$$\frac{1.3 \times 10^{10} \text{ molecules}}{100 \mu\text{l}} = 1.3 \times 10^8 \text{ molecules } \mu\text{l}^{-1}$$

Calculation of amplification (A), the number of doubling (n), retention (F), and fidelity (f)

$$A = \frac{1.3 \times 10^8 \text{ molecules } \mu\text{l}^{-1}}{5.3 \text{ molecules } \mu\text{l}^{-1}} = 2.4 \times 10^7$$

$$n = \log_2(2.4 \times 10^7) = 24.5$$

$$F = \frac{0.742 - 0.020}{0.772} = 93.5\%$$

$$f = 0.935^{\frac{1}{24.5}} = 99.7\%$$

[00471] Since plasmid recovery during purification is below 100%, our calculations underestimate the amplification level (A) and thus the number of doubling (n).

[00472] The fidelity (retention per doubling) is related to retention of the UBP (F) as

$$f^n = F$$

and, since $n = \log_2(A)$, fidelity was calculated as

$$f = F^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

Example 7: Fidelity measurement by sequencing (Figure 3E)

Fragment generation for sequencing

[00473] Purified mixtures of pINF and pACS plasmids (1 ng) after the overnight growth were amplified by PCR under the following conditions: 1× OneTaq reaction buffer, MgSO₄ adjusted to 3.0 mM, 0.2 mM of dNTP, 0.1 mM of dNaMTP, 0.1 mM of the d5SICSTP analog dTPT3TP, 1 μM of each of the primers pUC19-seq2-fwd and pUC19-seq-rev (see below), and 0.02 U/μl of OneTaq DNA Polymerase in a total volume of 25 μl under the following thermal cycling conditions: denaturation (96 °C, 1 min); and 10 cycles of denaturation (96 °C, 30 s), annealing 64 °C, 30 s), and extension 68 °C, 2 min. Products were purified by spin column, quantified to measure DNA concentration and then sequenced as described below. Sequencing fragment (304 bp) with primer regions are underlined and the unnatural nucleotide in bold (X = dNaM) is shown below.

[00474] 5'-GCTGCAAGGCGATTAAGTTGGGTAACGCCAGGGTTTTCCCAGTCACGAC
GTTGTAAAACGACGGCCAGTGAATTCGAGCTCGGTACCCGGGGATCCTCTAGAGTC
GACCTGCAGGCATGCAAGCTTGGCGTAATCATGGTCATAGCTGTTTCCTGTGTGAAA
TTGTTATCCGCTCACAXTTCCACACAACATACGAGCCGGAAGCATAAAGTGTAAG
CCTGGGGTGCCTAATGAGTGAGCTAACTCACATTAATTGCGTTGCGCTCACTGCCCCG
CTTTCCAGTCGGGAAACCTGTCGTGCCAG (SEQ ID NO:27).

Sanger Sequencing

[00475] The cycle sequencing reactions (10 μl) were performed on a 9800 Fast Thermal Cycler (Applied Biosystems) with the Cycle Sequencing Mix (0.5 μl) of the BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems) containing 1 ng template and 6 pmol of sequencing primer pUC19-seq-rev under the following thermal cycling conditions: initial denaturation (98 °C, 1 min); and 25 cycles of denaturation (96 °C, 10 s), annealing (60 °C, 15 s), and extension (68 °C, 2.5 min). Upon completion, residual dye terminators were removed from the reaction. Products were eluted off the beads with deionized water and sequenced directly. Sequencing traces were collected and analyzed with imaging software.

Analysis of Sanger Sequencing Traces

[00476] Sanger Sequencing traces were analyzed to determine the retention of the UBP.

Briefly, the presence of an unnatural nucleotide leads to a sharp termination of the sequencing profile, while mutation to a natural nucleotide results in “read-through”. The extent of this read-through after normalization is inversely correlated with the retention of an UBP. Raw sequencing traces were analyzed by first adjusting the start and stop points for the sequencing analysis software and then determining the average signal intensity individually for each channel (A, C, G and T) for peaks within the defined points. This was done separately for the parts of the sequencing trace before (section *L*) and after (section *R*) the unnatural nucleotide. The R/L ratio after normalization $(R/L)_{norm}$ for sequencing decay and read-through in the control unamplified sample $(R/L = 0.55(R/L)_{norm} + 7.2)$, corresponds to the percentage of the natural sequences in the pool (Malyshev et al.). Therefore, an overall retention (F) of the incorporation of the UBP during PCR was calculated as:

$$1 - \left(\frac{R}{L} \right)_{norm}$$

[00477] Over 20% read-through occurred in the direction of pUC19-seq2-fwd primer using a control plasmid pINF. Sequencing of the opposite direction (pUC19-seq-rev) was performed and used to gauge fidelity and UDP retention as a function of growth (Table 7). Raw sequencing traces are shown in Figure 3F.

Table 7 -UBP retention (%) as a function of growth

Time (h)	Sequencing Analysis	Gel Shift Analysis
15	> 95	97 ± 5
19	> 95	91 ± 3
24	> 95	83 ± 1
32	85 ± 5	64 ± 10
43	71 ± 10	55 ± 13
53	68 ± 21	51 ± 18
77	60 ± 16	42 ± 18
146	30 ± 12	12 ± 8

Table 8 - Exemplary oligonucleotide sequences

Name	Sequence (5' to 3')	Purpose
pCDF-1b-fwd	GGTATATCTCCTTATTAAAGTTAAACAAAATTATT	Primers for pCDF-1b linearization
pCDF-1b-rev	TCTACAGGGG (SEQ ID NO: 29)	
<i>PtNTT2</i> -fwd	TTAACCTAGGCTGCTGCCACCG (SEQ ID NO: 49)	Primers for <i>PtNTT2</i> cloning
<i>PtNTT2</i> -rev	GTTTAACTTTAATAAGGAGATATACCATGAGACCA TTTCCGAC (SEQ ID NO:30)	
	GCAGCAGCCTAGGTAACTACTTTTCTTTGTTGGTC TTTG (SEQ ID NO:31)	

<i>Tp</i> NTT2-fwd	GTTTAACTTTAATAAGGAGATATACCATGAAAAA TCTTGTACAATCC (SEQ ID NO:32)	Primers for <i>Tp</i> NTT2 cloning
<i>Tp</i> NTT2-rev	GCAGCAGCCTAGGTAACTACTTCTGGTGCTCTTT TG (SEQ ID NO:33)	
pUC19-lin-fwd	TGGGGTGCCTAATGAGTGAGC (SEQ ID NO: 50)	Primers for pUC19 linearization
pUC19-lin-rev	CTATGACCATGATTACGCCAAGCTTG (SEQ ID NO:34)	
TK-1-dNaM	CTGTTTCCTGTGTGAAATTGTTATCCGCTCACANa MTTCCACACAACATACGAGCCGGAAGCATAAAGT GTAAAGCC (SEQ ID NO:35)	Unnatural fragment with dNaM
TK-1-dT	CTGTTTCCTGTGTGAAATTGTTATCCGCTCACAT TTCCACACAACATACGAGCCGGAAGCATAAAGTG TAAAGCC (SEQ ID NO:36)	Natural fragment with dT
pUC19-fusion- fwd	CAAGCTTGGCGTAATCATGGTCATAGCTGTTTCCT GTGTGAAATTGTTATCCGC (SEQ ID NO:37)	Primers for unnatural fragment cloning
pUC19-fusion- rev	GCTCACTCATTAGGCACCCCAGGCTTTACACTTTA TGCTTCCGGC (SEQ ID NO:38)	
pUC19-seq-fwd	GCAGGCATGCAAGCTTGGCGTAATCATGG (SEQ ID NO:39)	Primers for pINF analysis by gel shift and Sanger sequencing
pUC19-seq2-fwd	GCTGCAAGGCGATTAAGTTGGGTAACGCC (SEQ ID NO:40)	
pUC19-seq-rev	CTGGCACGACAGGTTTCCCGACTGG (SEQ ID NO:41)	

Example 8: Polymerase incorporation of unnatural nucleic acids

[00478] Test reaction mixtures are added to the wells of a multiwell plate, where each well contains primed DNA templates attached to the bottoms of the wells. The test reaction mixtures contain a polymerase variant and an unnatural nucleic acid, an unnatural nucleic acid having (1) a base moiety that complements the appropriate position of the template for accurate extension to occur and (2) a biotinylated moiety attached to the sugar moiety. Following sufficient incubation time for extension to occur (*e.g.* for a control reaction having a polymerase of known reactivity with the unnatural nucleic acid), the reaction mixture is removed, the wells of the plate are washed to remove residual unnatural nucleic acids, and a development reagent is added to the wells. The development reagent includes a labeled streptavidin molecule that is capable of binding to nucleic acid molecules attached to well bottoms that have incorporated the unnatural nucleic acid. The label on the streptavidin molecule is any of a variety known in the art. The plate is washed again to remove unbound labeled streptavidin molecules. The label is then detected using a multiwell plate reader. The presence of signal from the labeled streptavidin indicates a polymerase having the ability to incorporate an unnatural nucleic acid. The same assay is used to determine kinetics or other quantitative parameters by varying the reaction time and or concentration of liquid-phase reagents. Similar screens are carried out for other unnatural nucleic acid by minor modification of the reagents exemplified above.

Example 9: Polymerase incorporation of TPT3, (d)FTPT3, (d)NaM, (d)5SICS, (d)FEMO, (d)FIMO, and/or (d)MMO2 into DNA

[00479] Polymerase (15µg/ml) is incubated at 30° C in buffer (50mM TRIS pH 7.5, 0.05 % Tween 20, 6mM MgSO₄, 1mM EDTA, 50mM NaCl) with 20nM DNA. A time zero aliquot is taken for each concentration and then **TPT3, (d)FTPT3, (d)NaM, (d)5SICS, (d)FEMO, (d)FIMO, and/or (d)MMO2** is added at 10, 5, 2 or 1µM final concentration to start the reaction. Tubes are incubated at 30° C and aliquots are taken at 0.33, 0.66, 1, 2, 5, and 15 mins from the 4 reaction tubes for quenching and 15% urea acrylamide gel analysis. 1 mM dNTPs are added to the remaining reaction tubes and after a further 10 mins an aliquot is taken for gel analysis (chase).

[00480] A photograph of the gel resulting from the above polymerase extension reaction is then taken. The results show the primer changing into larger band over the time course, with an increase in the amount of the larger band over time. The larger band demonstrates the addition of the **(d)TPT3, (d)FTPT3, (d)NaM, (d)5SICS, (d)FEMO, (d)FIMO, and/or (d)MMO2** to the DNA (i.e. extension by one base). Following the addition of natural dNTPs the polymerase is able to extend the primer to the end of the template demonstrating that addition of the **(d)TPT3, (d)FTPT3, (d)NaM, (d)5SICS, (d)FEMO, (d)FIMO, and/or (d)MMO2** does not create a 3' blocked primer and that the polymerase is able to extend the primer with natural and unnatural nucleic acids. The incorporation is more rapid at higher concentrations (10µM) than at lower ones (1 µM) and shows time dependence indicative of genuine enzyme incorporation.

[00481] The results demonstrate the surprising finding that the polymerase can have selective primer extension reactivity for **(d)TPT3, (d)FTPT3, (d)NaM, (d)5SICS, (d)FEMO, (d)FIMO, and/or (d)MMO2** and natural nucleic acids.

Example 10: Creation of a cell with an expanded genetic alphabet

[00482] The experiments described herein illustrate the plasmid-based expression of eight different NTTs in *E. coli* C41(DE3) (**Table 9A**). The uptake of [α -³²P]-dATP was examined as a surrogate for the unnatural triphosphates (**Figure 5**). The dATP was efficiently transported into cells by the NTTs from *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* (*PtNTT2*) and *Thalassiosira pseudonana* (*TpNTT2*). Unexpectedly, the NTTs from *Protochlamydia amoebophila* (*PamNTT2* and *PamNTT5*) were found to also import dATP. Both *PamNTT2* and *PamNTT5* exhibited a measurable uptake of dATP (**Figure 5**). *PtNTT2* showed the most activity, and both it and *TpNTT2* are demonstrated broad specificity, making them putative NTTs for importing nucleotide triphosphates.

[00483] The replication of DNA containing **d5SICS-dNaM** has been validated *in vitro* with different polymerases, but most so with the family A polymerases, such as the Klenow fragment

of *E. coli* DNA Polymerase I (Pol I). While the majority of the *E. coli* genome is replicated by Pol III, an plasmid was engineered that focused on replication of the UBP by Pol I. The accessory plasmid (pACS) was derived from pCDF-1b by inserting the *PtNTT2* gene (**Figure 10**). The information plasmid (pINF) was derived from pUC19 by replacing dT₅₀₅ (standard numbering of the pUC19 map available for download at <http://www.thermoscientificbio.com/uploadedFiles/Resources/pUC18-pUC19-map.pdf>) with dNaM. This places the UBP 362 nts downstream of the *ColE1* origin (**Figure 10**). Plasmid pINF (*i.e.* the information plasmid) was constructed from pUC19 by replacing dT₅₀₅ with dNaM using solid phase synthesis and circular extension PCR (**Figure 3A** and **Figure 10**). The dA-dT pair at position 505 was replaced with dNaM paired opposite an analog of d5SICS (dTPT3). This positions the UBP downstream of the *ColE1* origin of replication where leading strand replication is mediated by Pol I, and within the TK-1 Okazaki processing site, where lagging strand synthesis is also expected to be mediated by Pol I. Synthetic pINF was constructed using the d5SICS analog because it should be efficiently replaced by d5SICS if replication occurs *in vivo* and thus makes it possible to differentiate *in vivo* replicated pINF from synthetic pINF.

[00484] To determine whether *E. coli* can use the imported unnatural triphosphates to stably propagate pINF, C41(DE3) cells were first transformed with a pCDF-1b plasmid encoding *PtNTT2* (hereafter referred to as pACS, for accessory plasmid, **Figure 10**, and see Seq ID No. 1, below) and grown in media containing 0.25 mM of both unnatural triphosphates, 50 mM KPi, and 1 mM IPTG to induce transporter production. Cells were then transformed with pINF, and after a 1 h recovery period, cultures were diluted 10-fold with the same media supplemented with ampicillin and growth was monitored via culture turbidity (**Figure 3A** and **Table 9A** and **B**).

Table 9A

Transporter	Deoxyribotriphosphates				Ribotriphosphates			
	dG	dA	dC	T	G	A	C	U
<i>PtNTT2</i>	82	271	31	428	78	197	49	86
<i>TpNTT2</i>	74	665	60	251	59	49	33	90
PamNTT2					156	437	570	676
PamNTT3								1320
PamNTT5	121				22	360		
SnNTT2					179	654		
SnNTT3			42		407	375	9	34
<i>RpNTT2</i>	Substrate is unknown							

Substrate specificity (K_M , μM) of depicted NTT

Table 9B

Plasmid	IPTG	dXTP/dYTP	Relative Copy Number	OD ₆₀₀ (15h)	OD ₆₀₀ (19h)
pINF	+	+	1.8	0.34	0.75
	+	-	4.6	0.15	0.75
	-	+	8.9	3.13	3.98
pUC19	+	+	2.8	0.54	1.25
	-	-	2.6	0.73	1.30

OD₆₀₀ and relative plasmid copy number of pINF as determined by its molar ratio to pACS after 15 and 19 h of growth. X = **NaM** and Y = **5SICS**.

[00485] As controls, cells were also transformed with pUC19, or grown without either IPTG or the unnatural triphosphates. Growth was slower in the presence of IPTG, likely due to the effects of transporter induction. However, the addition of d**5SICSTP** and d**NaMTP** resulted in only a slight decrease in growth in the absence of pINF, and it eliminated a growth lag in the presence of pINF (**Figure 3B**). This indicates that the unnatural triphosphates are not toxic and are required for the efficient replication of pINF.

[00486] To determine whether pINF is propagated with retention of the UBP, we recovered the plasmid from cells after 15 h of growth. The introduction of the UBP resulted in only a small reduction in plasmid copy number (<2-fold, **Table 9B**), and based on the amount of recovered plasmid and the transformation efficiency, pINF was amplified 2×10^7 -fold during growth (~24 doublings).

[00487] To determine the level of UBP retention, the recovered plasmid was digested, dephosphorylated to single nucleosides, and analyzed by LC-MS/MS. While the detection and quantification of d**NaM** were precluded by its poor fragmentation efficiency and low product ion counts over background, signal for d**5SICS** was clearly observable (**Figure 3C**). External calibration curves were constructed using the unnatural nucleoside and validated by determining its ratio to dA in synthetic oligonucleotides (**Table 7**). Using the resulting calibration curve, we determined the ratio of dA to d**5SICS** in recovered pINF was 1106 to 1, which when compared to the expected ratio of 1325 to 1, suggests the presence of approximately one UBP per plasmid. No d**5SICS** was detected in control experiments in which the transporter was not induced, nor when the unnatural triphosphates were not added to the media, nor when pUC19 was used instead of pINF (**Figure 3C**), demonstrating that its presence results from the replication of the UBP and not from misinsertion of the unnatural triphosphates opposite a natural nucleotide. Importantly, as the synthetic pINF contained an analog of d**5SICS**, and d**5SICS** was only provided as a triphosphate added to the media, its presence in pINF confirms *in vivo* replication.

[00488] The region of pINF surrounding nucleotide 505 was then PCR amplified in the presence of d5SICSTP and a biotinylated dNaMTP analog. Analysis by streptavidin gel shift showed that 67% of the amplified DNA contained biotin (**Figure 3D**). No shift was observed in control experiments in which the transporter was not induced, nor when the unnatural triphosphates were not added to the media, demonstrating that the shift required the import of the unnatural triphosphates. Similarly, no gel shift was observed with DNA isolated from identically treated control cells transformed with pUC19, demonstrating that the shift results from the retention of the UBP and not from misinsertion of the unnatural triphosphates opposite a natural nucleotide. Based on a calibration curve constructed from the shifts observed with the amplification products of controlled mixtures of DNA containing dNaM or its fully natural counterpart (Methods), the observed gel shift corresponds to a UBP retention of 86%, which in turn corresponds to a fidelity (retention per doubling) of 99.4% ($0.994 = 0.86$).

[00489] To confirm the high retention of the UBP, the same region of pINF was PCR amplified in the presence of d5SICSTP and dNaMTP, and the products were analyzed by Sanger sequencing (**Figure 3E**). The presence of the UBP caused an abrupt termination in the sequencing reaction, and thus the level of UBP retention may be quantified from the ratio of the amplitudes of the peaks in the chromatogram before and after the site of UPB incorporation. Sequencing chromatograms of pINF isolated from cultures grown either without *PtNTT2* induction or without addition of the unnatural triphosphates showed no termination. In contrast, chromatograms from the amplification products of pINF isolated from cells grown with *PtNTT2* induction and with added unnatural triphosphates showed an abrupt termination at the expected position. With a lower limit of read-through detection estimated to be 5% (corresponding to 95% retention), this places a lower limit of 99.7% on the fidelity of UBP replication. The estimates of fidelity from both sets of experiments correspond to an error rate of $\sim 10^{-3}$, which is comparable to the intrinsic error-rate of some polymerases with natural DNA.

[00490] The high retention of the UBP over a 15 h period of growth indicates that it is not efficiently excised by DNA repair pathways. To further support this conclusion, we repeated the experiments, but monitored UBP retention, cell growth, and unnatural triphosphate decomposition for up to 6 days (**Figure 4**).

[00491] At 15 and 19 h of growth, the cultures reached an OD₆₀₀ of ~ 0.9 and ~ 1.2 , respectively, and both d5SICSTP and dNaMTP decomposed to only 17–20% and 10–16% of their initial 0.25 mM concentrations (**Figure 12A**). In agreement with the above described experiments, retention of the UBP after 15 h was $97 \pm 5\%$ and $>95\%$, as determined by gel shift and sequencing, respectively, and after 19 h it was $91 \pm 3\%$ and $>95\%$. As the cultures entered stationary phase and the triphosphates decomposed completely, plasmid loss began to compete

with replication (**Figures 12B and C**), but even then, retention of the UBP remained at ~45% and ~15%, at 3 and 6 days respectively. Moreover, when d5SICS-dNaM was lost, it was replaced by dA-dT, which is consistent with the mutational spectrum of Kf. Finally, the shape of the retention vs. time curve mirrors that of the growth vs. time curve. Taken together, these data strongly support the conclusion that loss of the UBP results from replication-mediated mispairing (which is unavoidable after unnatural triphosphate decomposition), and not from the activity of DNA repair pathways.

Example 11: Directed evolution of cells with increased NTT activity

[00492] Cells harboring endogenous NTTs are incubated in the presence of natural dNTPs and one or more unnatural nucleic acids. The concentration of one or more of the natural dNTPs in contact with the cells is decreased slowly over time and with growth. The concentration of one or more of the unnatural nucleic acids in contact with the cells is increased slowly over time and with growth. Surviving cells are subjected to further rounds of exposure to increasing concentrations of the unnatural nucleic acids and decreasing concentrations of the natural dNTPs. Surviving cells, lysates, or purified NTTs are assayed for binding kinetics, import, replication, and/or incorporation of the unnatural nucleic acids. Cell pools demonstrating increased import, replication, and/or incorporation of the unnatural nucleic acids compared to the initial cells harboring endogenous NTTs are further assayed for the NTT variants using PCR and sequencing methods. The cells and/or information of the NTT variant sequences are used to generate recombinant proteins and nucleic acid reagents for expression in host cells as described above. Further, genetically engineered cells are engineered that contain increased import activity, replication activity, and/or incorporation of the unnatural nucleic acids compared to the initial cells harboring endogenous NTTs.

Example 12: Directed evolution of cells with polymerase activity for unnatural nucleic acids

Cells harboring endogenous polymerases are incubated in the presence of natural dNTPs and one or more unnatural nucleic acids. The concentration of one or more of the natural dNTPs in contact with the cells is decreased slowly over time and with growth. The concentration of one or more of the unnatural nucleic acids in contact with the cells is increased slowly over time and with growth. Surviving cells are subjected to further rounds of exposure to increasing concentrations of the unnatural nucleic acids and decreasing concentrations of the natural dNTPs. Surviving cells, lysates, or purified polymerases are assayed for replication and/or incorporation of the unnatural nucleic acids. Cell pools demonstrating increased import, replication, and/or incorporation of the unnatural nucleic acids compared to the initial cells harboring endogenous polymerases are further assayed for the polymerase variants using PCR

and sequencing methods. The cells and/or information of the polymerase variant sequences are used to generate recombinant proteins and nucleic acid reagents for expression in host cells as described above. Further, genetically engineered cells are engineered that contain increased polymerase activity, replication activity, and/or incorporation of the unnatural nucleic acids compared to the initial cells harboring endogenous polymerases.

Other Embodiments

[00493] Unless otherwise explained, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. The following references contain embodiments of the methods and compositions that can be used herein: The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, 18th Edition, published by Merck Research Laboratories, 2006 (ISBN 0-911910-18-2); Benjamin Lewin, Genes IX, published by Jones & Bartlett Publishing, 2007 (ISBN-13: 9780763740634); Kendrew et al. (eds.), The Encyclopedia of Mol. Biology, published by Blackwell Science Ltd., 1994 (ISBN 0-632-02182-9); and Robert A. Meyers (ed.), Mol. Biology and Biotechnology: a Comprehensive Desk Reference, published by VCH Publishers, Inc., 1995 (ISBN 1-56081-569-8).

[00494] Standard procedures of the present disclosure are described, e.g., in Maniatis et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., USA (1982); Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2 ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., USA (1989); Davis et al., Basic Methods in Molecular Biology, Elsevier Science Publishing, Inc., New York, USA (1986); or Methods in Enzymology: Guide to Molecular Cloning Techniques Vol. 152, S. L. Berger and A. R. Kimmel (eds.), Academic Press Inc., San Diego, USA (1987)). Current Protocols in Molecular Biology (CPMB) (Fred M. Ausubel, et al. ed., John Wiley and Sons, Inc.), Current Protocols in Protein Science (CPPS) (John E. Coligan, et. al., ed., John Wiley and Sons, Inc.), Current Protocols in Immunology (CPI) (John E. Coligan, et. al., ed. John Wiley and Sons, Inc.), Current Protocols in Cell Biology (CPCB) (Juan S. Bonifacino et. al. ed., John Wiley and Sons, Inc.), Culture of Animal Cells: A Manual of Basic Technique by R. Ian Freshney, Publisher: Wiley-Liss; 5th edition (2005), and Animal Cell Culture Methods (Methods in Cell Biology, Vol. 57, Jennie P. Mather and David Barnes editors, Academic Press, 1st edition, 1998), which are all incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

[00495] Disclosed herein are molecules, materials, compositions, and components that can be used for, can be used in conjunction with, can be used in preparation for, or are products of methods and compositions disclosed herein. It is understood that when combinations, subsets, interactions, groups, etc. of these materials are disclosed and while specific reference of each

various individual and collective combinations and permutation of these molecules and compounds cannot be explicitly disclosed, each is specifically contemplated and described herein. For example, if a nucleotide or nucleic acid is disclosed and discussed and a number of modifications that can be made to a number of molecules including the nucleotide or nucleic acid are discussed, each and every combination and permutation of nucleotide or nucleic acid and the modifications that are possible are specifically contemplated unless specifically indicated to the contrary. This concept applies to all aspects of this application including, but not limited to, steps in methods of making and using the disclosed molecules and compositions. Thus, if there are a variety of additional steps that can be performed it is understood that each of these additional steps can be performed with any specific embodiment or combination of embodiments of the disclosed methods, and that each such combination is specifically contemplated and should be considered disclosed.

[00496] All publications, patents, and patent applications mentioned in the above specification are hereby incorporated by reference. Various modifications and variations of the described methods, compositions, and kits of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Although the invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various modifications of the described modes for carrying out the invention that are obvious to those skilled in the art are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Other embodiments are in the claims.

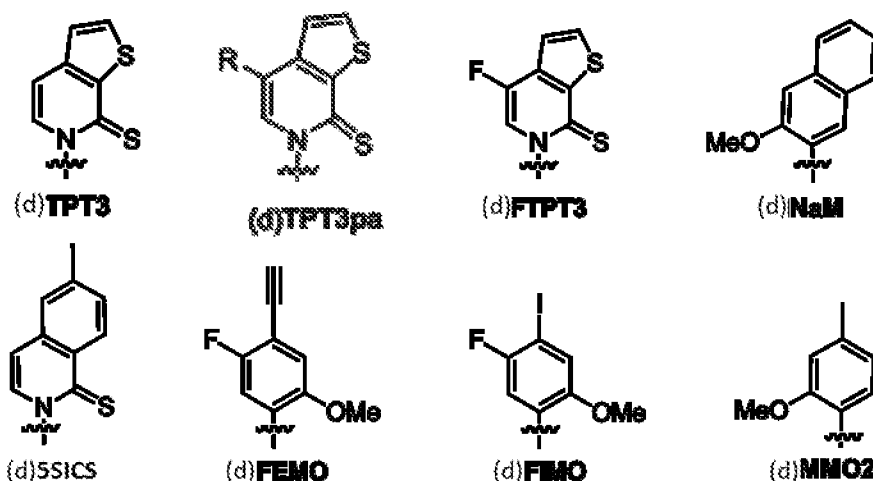
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cell comprising at least one unnatural nucleic acid, wherein at least one unnatural nucleic acid is an imported unnatural nucleic acid.
2. The cell of claim 1, further comprising an expanded genetic alphabet, wherein the genetic alphabet is comprised of at least one unnatural base pair (UBP).
3. The cell of claim 1 further comprising a heterologous nucleic acid.
4. The cell of claim 3, wherein a heterologous nucleic acid encodes for a nucleotide triphosphate transporter (NTT).
5. The cell of claim 4, wherein the heterologous NTT transports a least one unnatural nucleic acid into the cell.
6. The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell comprises enhanced import of an unnatural nucleotide, enhanced incorporation of an unnatural nucleotide into a nucleic acid of the cell, or decreased degradation of an unnatural nucleic acid in comparison to the respective wild type cell.
7. The cell of claim 6, wherein the cell further comprises at least one template UBP comprising at least one unnatural template nucleic acid.
8. The cell of claim 7, wherein at least one unnatural nucleic acid comprises an unnatural base.
9. The cell of claim 8, wherein the unnatural base is selected from the group consisting of 2-aminoadenin-9-yl, 2-aminoadenine, 2-F-adenine, 2-thiouracil, 2-thio-thymine, 2-thiocytosine, 2-propyl and alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 2-amino-adenine, 2-amino-propyl-adenine, 2-aminopyridine, 2-pyridone, 2'-deoxyuridine, 2-amino-2'-deoxyadenosine 3-deazaguanine, 3-deazaadenine, 4-thio-uracil, 4-thio-thymine, uracil-5-yl, hypoxanthin-9-yl (I), 5-methyl-cytosine, 5-hydroxymethyl cytosine, xanthine, hypoxanthine, 5-bromo, and 5-trifluoromethyl uracils and cytosines; 5-halouracil, 5-halocytosine, 5-propynyl-uracil, 5-propynyl cytosine, 5-uracil, 5-substituted, 5-halo, 5-substituted pyrimidines, 5-hydroxycytosine, 5-bromocytosine, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorocytosine, chlorinated cytosine, cyclocytosine, cytosine arabinoside, 5-fluorocytosine, fluoropyrimidine, fluorouracil, 5,6-dihydrocytosine, 5-iodocytosine, hydroxyurea, iodouracil, 5-nitrocytosine, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-fluorouracil, and 5-iodouracil, 6-alkyl derivatives of adenine and guanine, 6-azapyrimidines, 6-azo-uracil, 6-azo cytosine, azacytosine, 6-azo-thymine, 6-thio-guanine, 7-methylguanine, 7-methyladenine, 7-deazaguanine, 7-deazaguanosine, 7-deaza-adenine, 7-deaza-8-

azaguanine, 8-azaguanine, 8-azaadenine, 8-halo, 8-amino, 8-thiol, 8-thioalkyl, and 8-hydroxyl substituted adenines and guanines; N4-ethylcytosine, N-2 substituted purines, N-6 substituted purines, O-6 substituted purines, those that increase the stability of duplex formation, universal nucleic acids, hydrophobic nucleic acids, promiscuous nucleic acids, size-expanded nucleic acids, fluorinated nucleic acids, tricyclic pyrimidines, phenoxazine cytidine([5,4-b][1,4]benzoxazin-2(3H)-one), phenothiazine cytidine (1H- pyrimido[5,4-b][1,4]benzothiazin-2(3H)-one), G-clamps, phenoxazine cytidine (9-(2-aminoethoxy)-H-pyrimido[5,4-b][1,4]benzoxazin-2(3H)-one), carbazole cytidine (2H-pyrimido[4,5- b]indol-2-one), pyridoindole cytidine (H-pyrido [3',2':4,5]pyrrolo [2,3-d]pyrimidin-2-one), 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-iodouracil, hypoxanthine, xanthine, 4-acetylcytosine, 5-(carboxyhydroxymethyl) uracil, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyl-2-thiouridine, 5-carboxymethylaminomethyluracil, dihydrouracil, beta-D-galactosylqueosine, inosine, N6-isopentenyladenine, 1-methylguanine, 1-methylinosine, 2,2-dimethylguanine, 2-methyladenine, 2-methylguanine, 3-methylcytosine, 5-methylcytosine, N6-adenine, 7-methylguanine, 5-methylaminomethyluracil, 5-methoxyaminomethyl-2-thiouracil, beta-D-mannosylqueosine, 5'-methoxycarboxymethyluracil, 5-methoxyuracil, 2-methylthio-N6-isopentenyladenine, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid, wybutoxosine, pseudouracil, queosine, 2-thiocytosine, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, 5-methyluracil, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid methylester, uracil-5-oxoacetic acid, 5-methyl-2-thiouracil, 3-(3-amino-3-N-2-carboxypropyl) uracil, (acp3)w, and 2,6-diaminopurine and those in which the purine or pyrimidine base is replaced with a heterocycle.

10. The cell of claim 8, wherein the unnatural base is selected from the group consisting of



wherein R is a functional group.

11. The cell of claim 10, wherein the functional group is selected from the group consisting of an affinity tag such as biotin, flourophore, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benyl, halo, hydroxyl, carbonyl, aldehyde, haloformyl, carbonate ester, carboxylate, carboxyl, ester, methoxy, hydroperoxy, peroxy, ether, hemiacetal, hemiketal, acetal, ketal, orthoester, methylenedioxy, orthocarbonate ester, carboxamide, primary amine, secondary amine, tertiary amine, primary ketamine, secondary ketamine, primary aldimine, secondary aldimine, imide, azide, azo, cyanate, isocyanate, nitrate, nitrile, isonitrile, nitrosooxy, nitro, nitroso, pyridyl, sulfhydryl, sulfide, disulfide, sulfinyl, sulfino, sulfo, thiocyanate, isothiocyanate, carbonothioyl, phoshino, phosphono, phosphate, borono, boronate, borino, borinate, and combinations thereof.
12. A method for producing a genetically modified cell comprising: (a) providing a cell exhibiting a wild type level of import of a first unnatural nucleotide; and (b) introducing a heterologous NTT onto the cell, thereby enhancing the level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide in comparison the level of import of the first unnatural into the cell that exhibits a wild type level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the cell that exhibits a wild type level of import of the first unnatural nucleotide does not comprise the heterologous NTT.
14. The method of claim 13, further comprising contacting the cell comprising a heterologous NTT with the first unnatural nucleotide.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein the cell comprising the heterologous NTT further comprises at least one template UBP comprising a first unnatural template nucleic acid.
16. A method of incorporating an unnatural nucleic acid into a cell, comprising; (a) contacting a cell comprising a heterologous NTT with a first unnatural nucleic acid; and (b) cultivating the cell for a period of time; wherein the heterologous NTT transports the first unnatural nucleic acid into the cell.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the cell comprises the heterologous NTT further comprising at least one template UBP comprising a first unnatural template nucleic acid.
18. A method for genetically engineering a cell comprising: (a) contacting a cell comprising a heterologous NTT with a liquid, the liquid comprising: (i) a concentration of an unnatural nucleic acid, and (ii) a concentration of a natural nucleic acid, (b) cultivating the cell for a period of time, (c) increasing the ratio of the concentration of the unnatural nucleic acid to the concentration of the natural nucleic acid; and (d) repeating steps (b) and (c) one or more times.
19. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a UBP, wherein the UBP was formed within a cell further consisting of any one of those listed in Appendix A, and any combination thereof.

20. An isolated heterologous NTT protein comprising an unnatural nucleic acid bound thereto, wherein the unnatural nucleic acid bound thereto is selected from the group consisting of any one of those listed in Appendix A.

FIG. 1

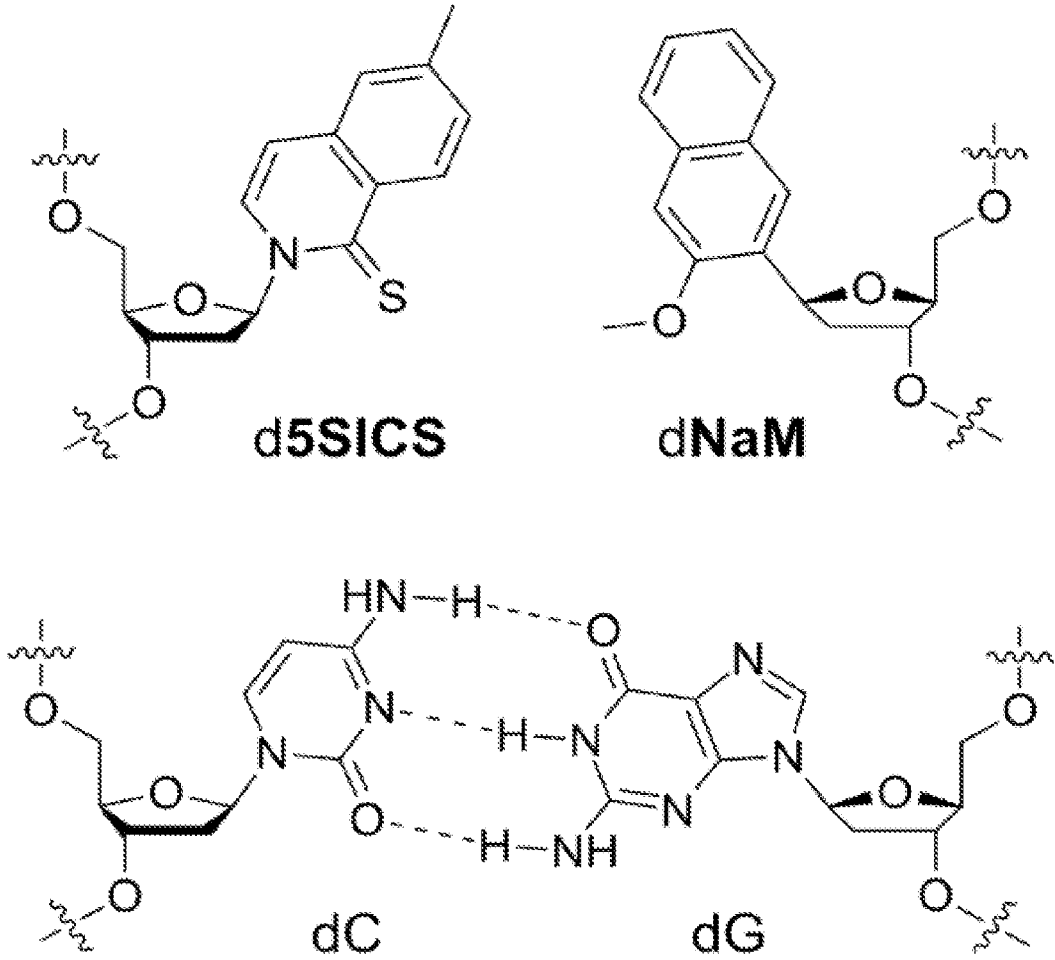


FIG. 2

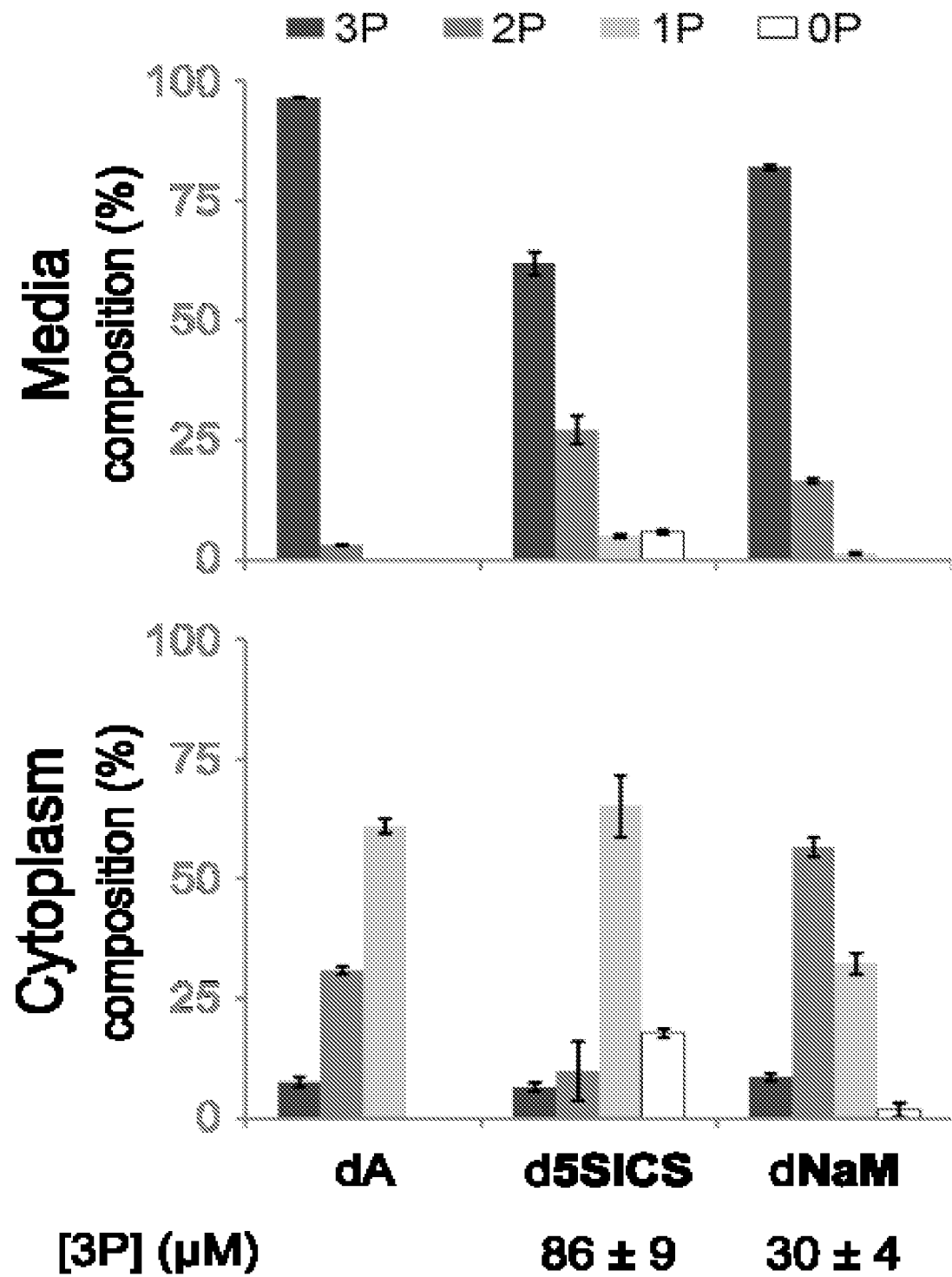


FIG. 3

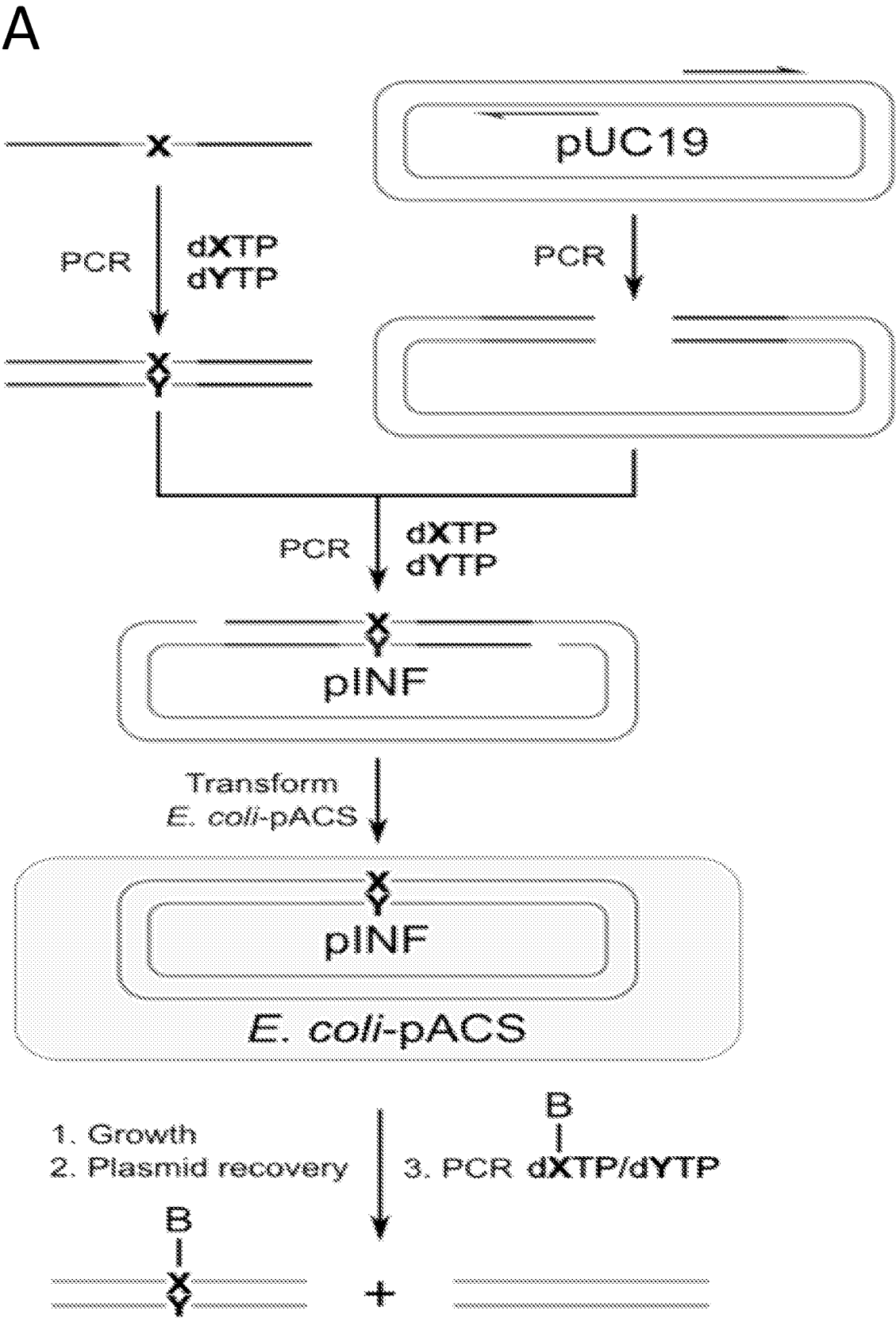


FIG. 3 (continued)

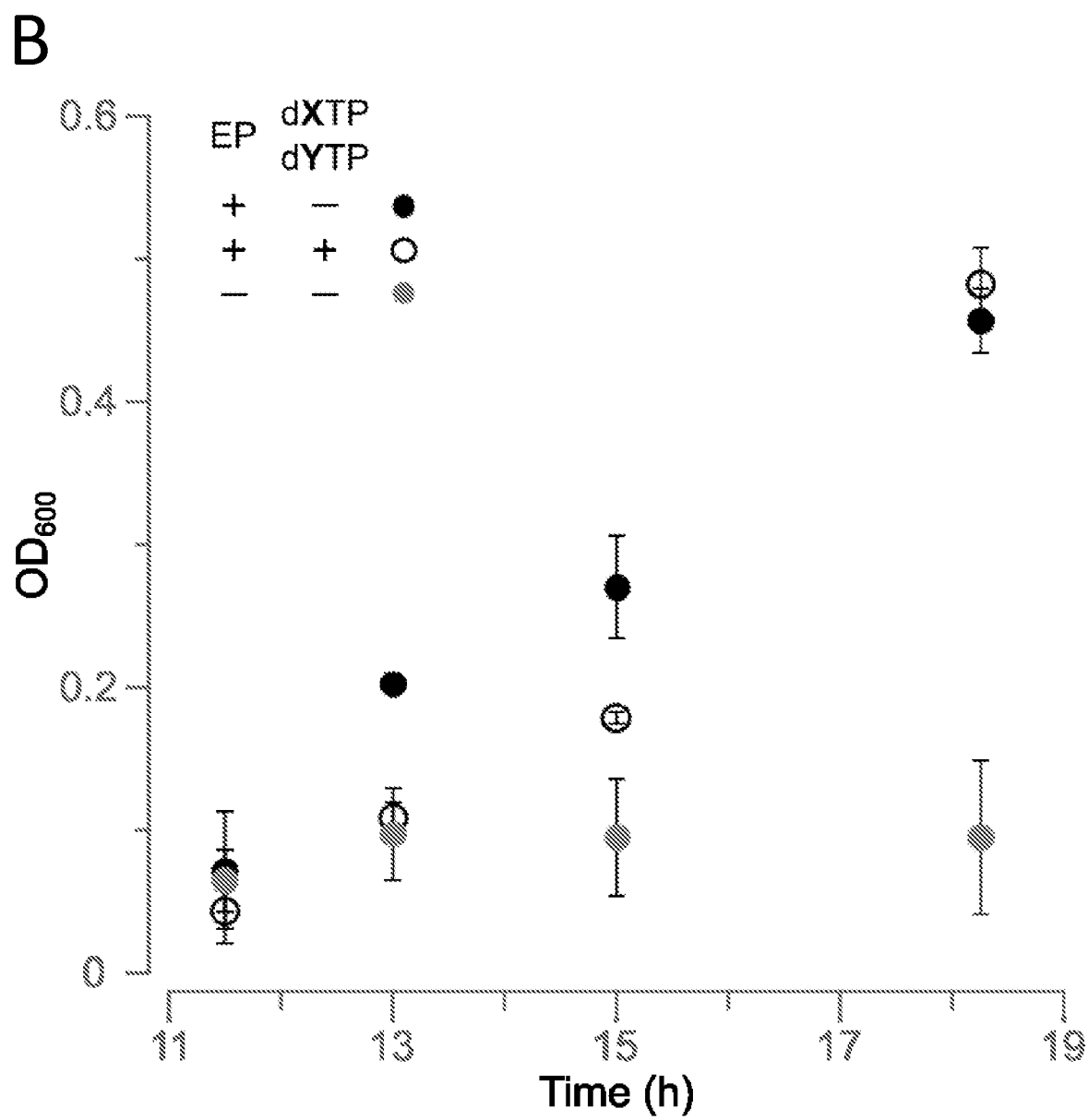


FIG. 3 (continued)

C

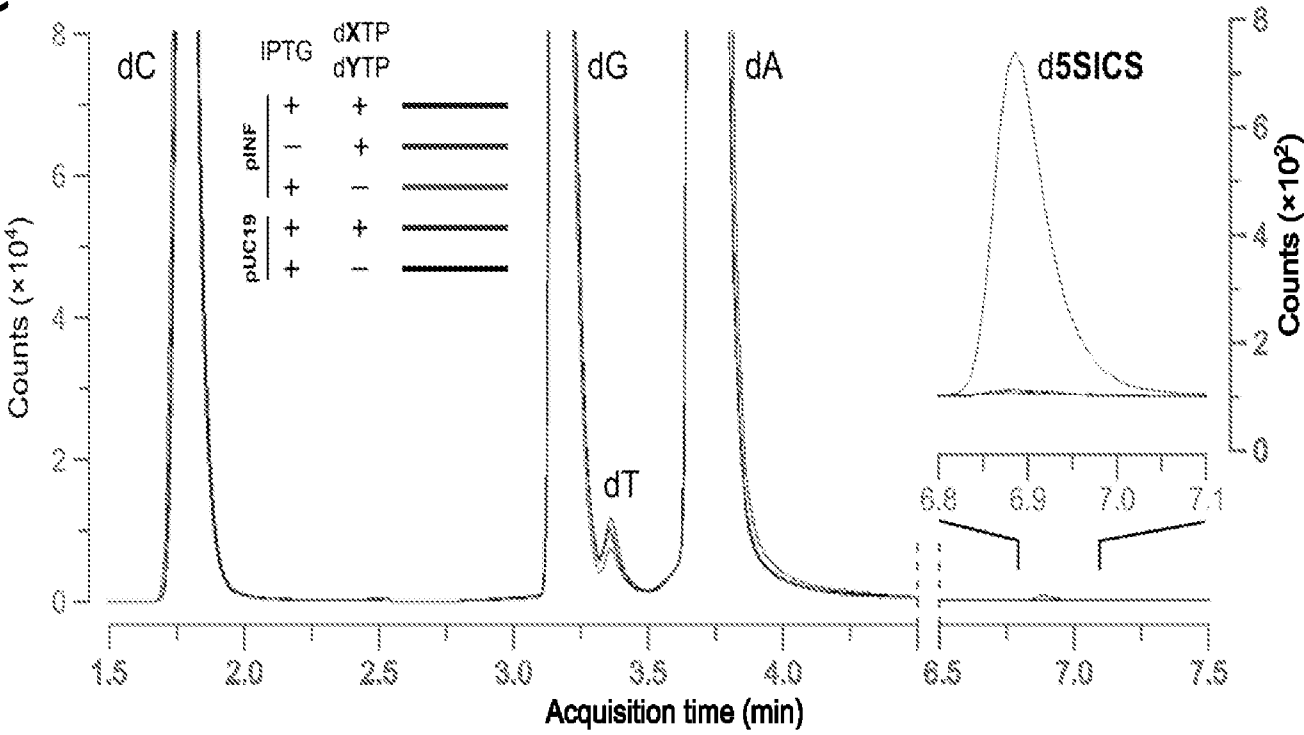


FIG. 3 (continued)

D

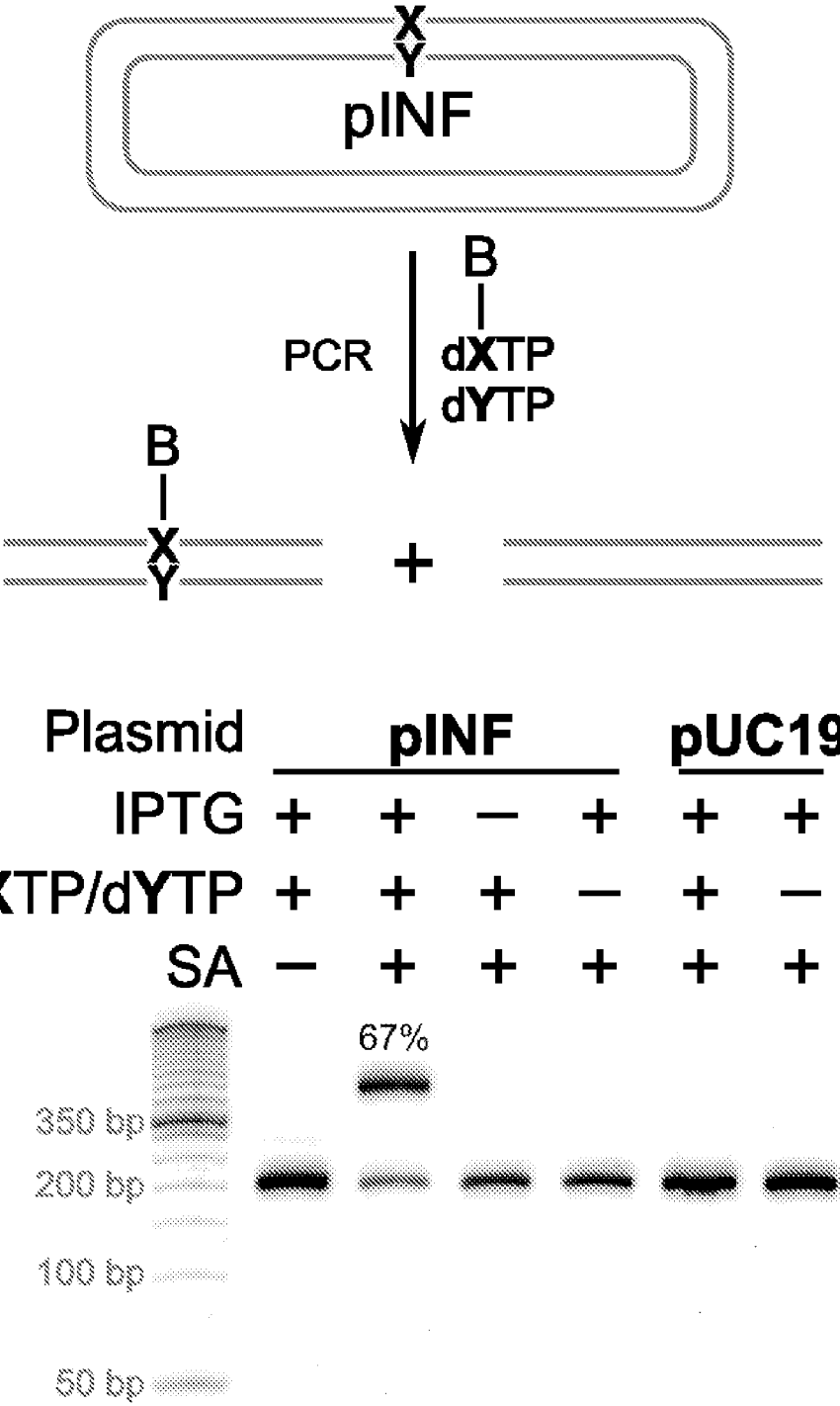


FIG. 3 (continued)

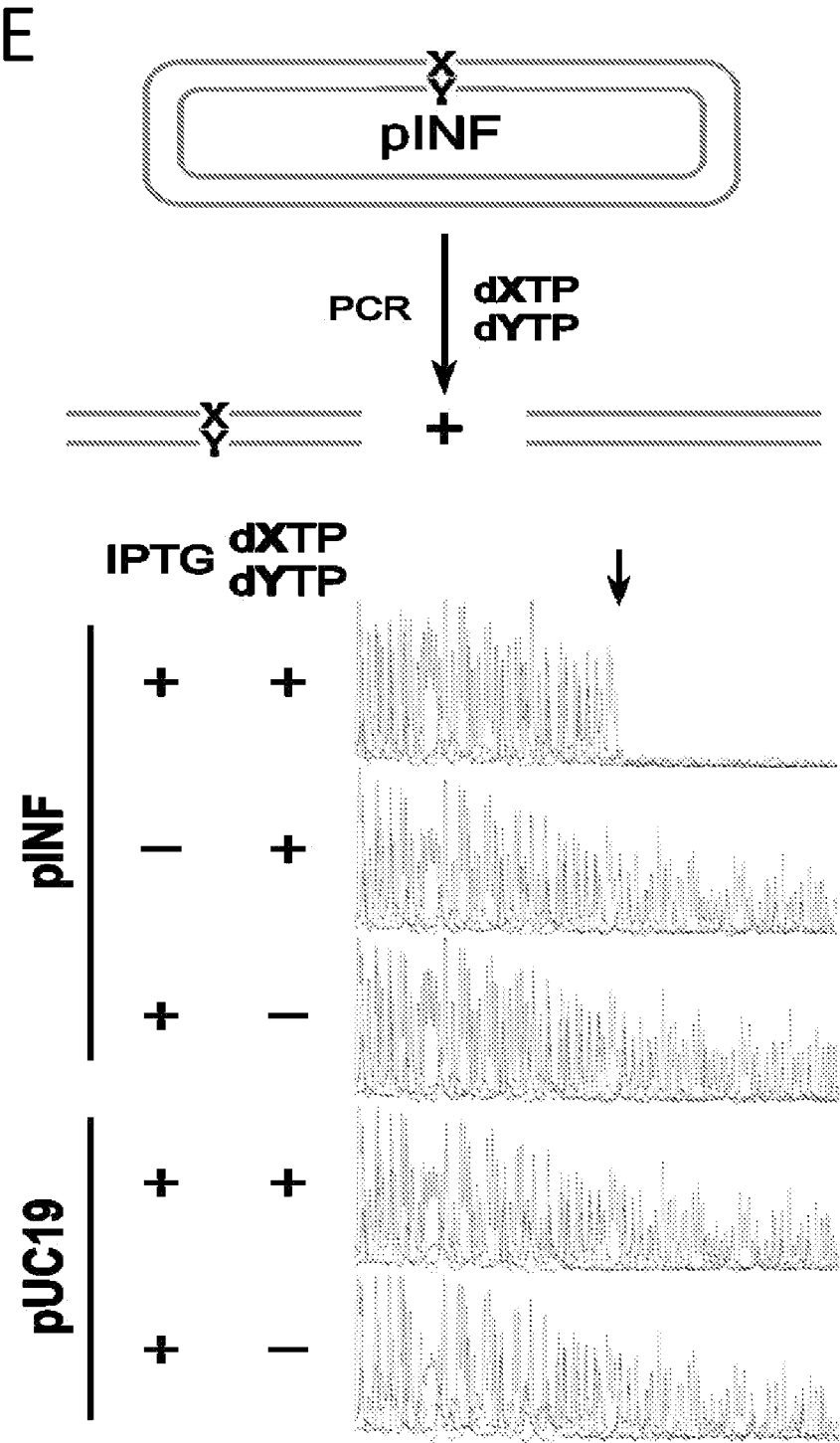


FIG. 4

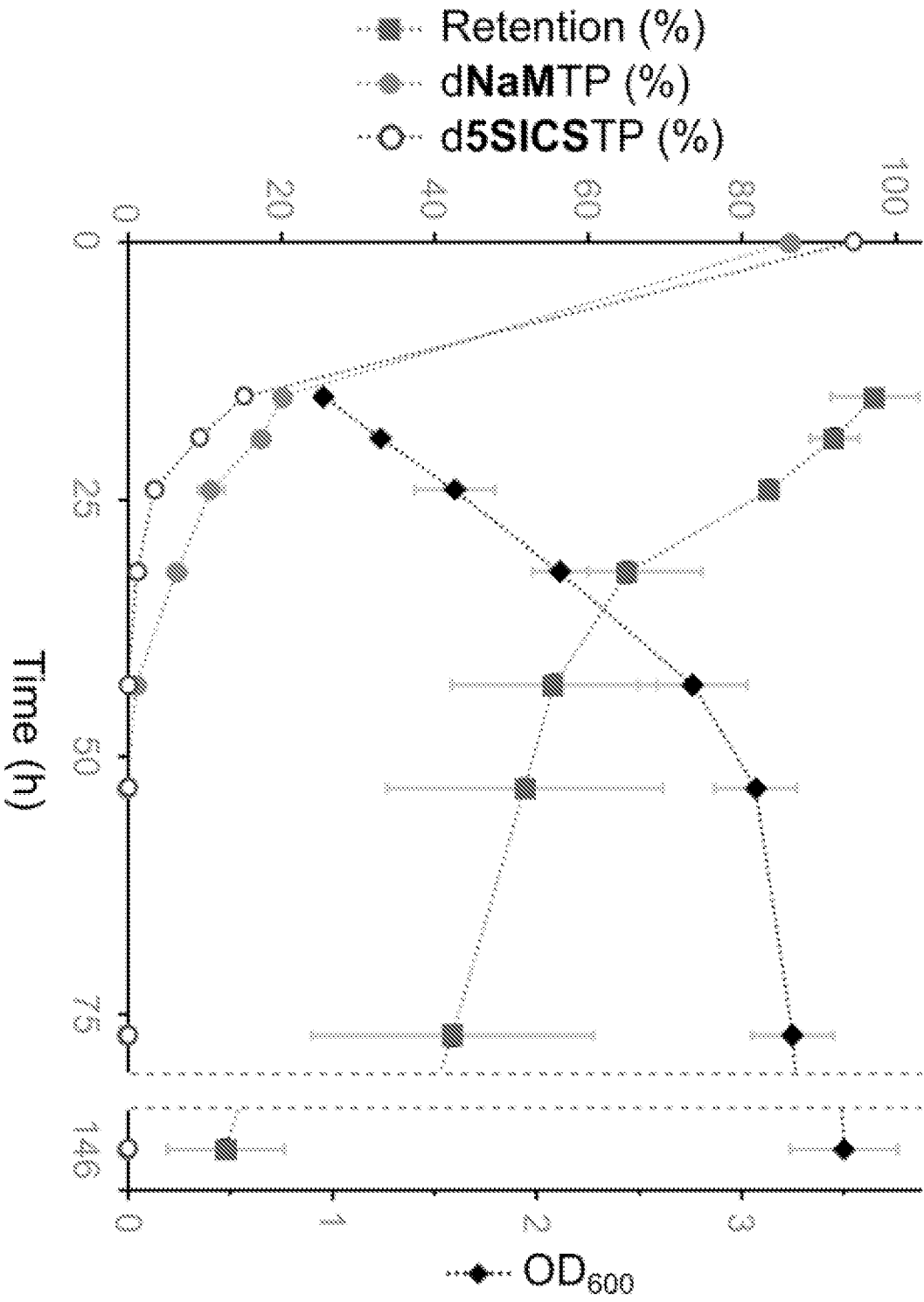


FIG. 5

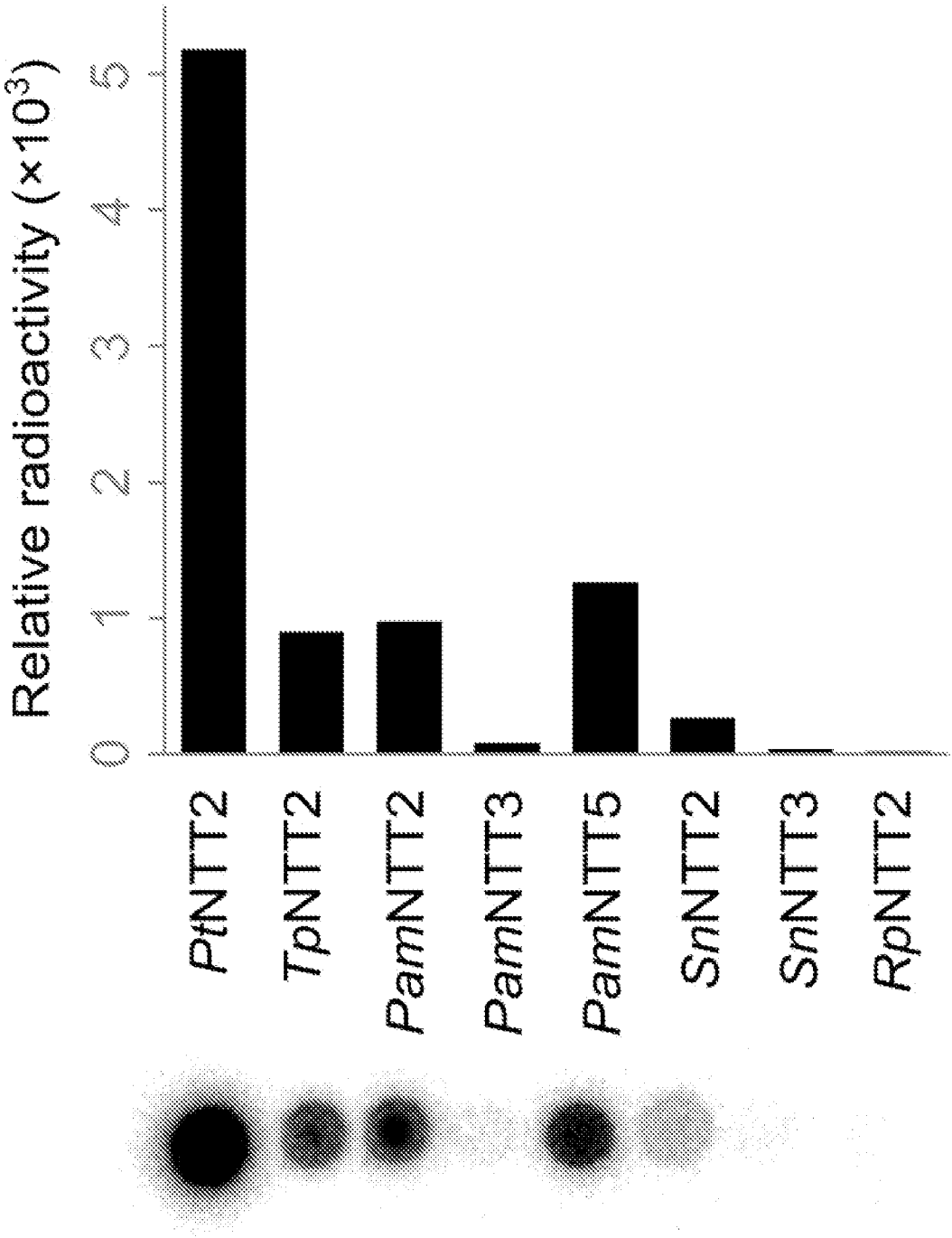


FIG. 6

A

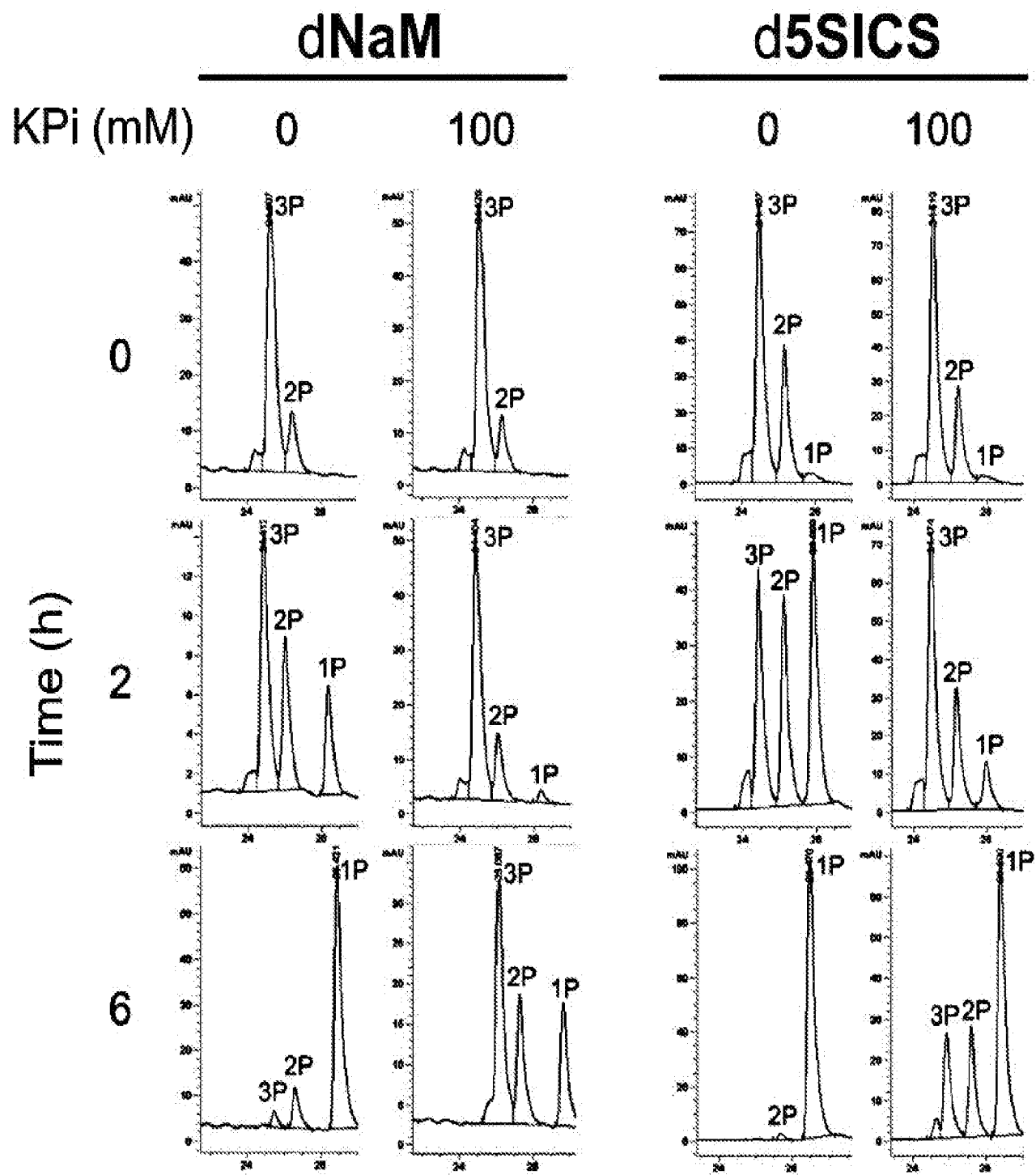


FIG. 6 (continued)

B

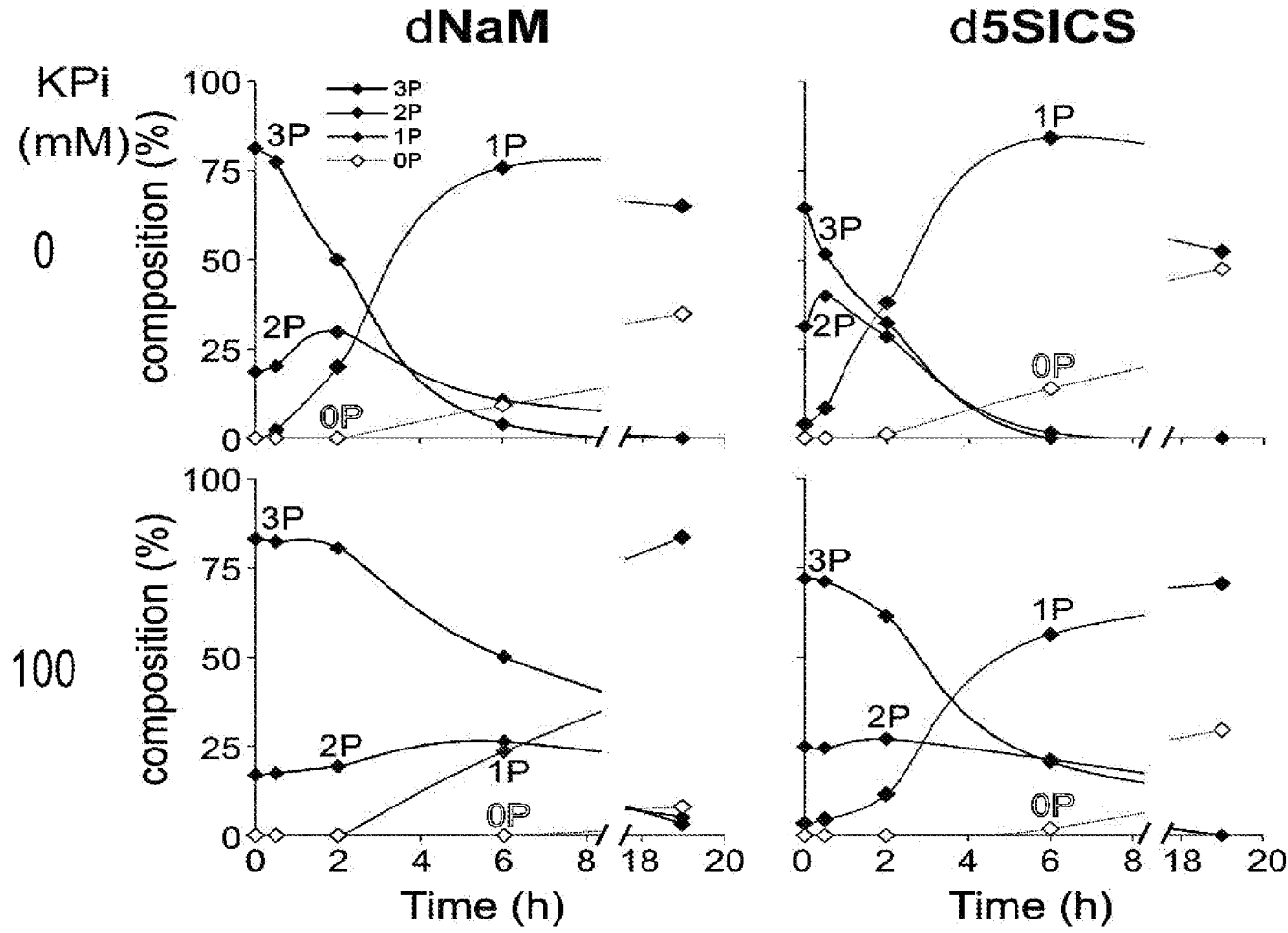


FIG. 7

A

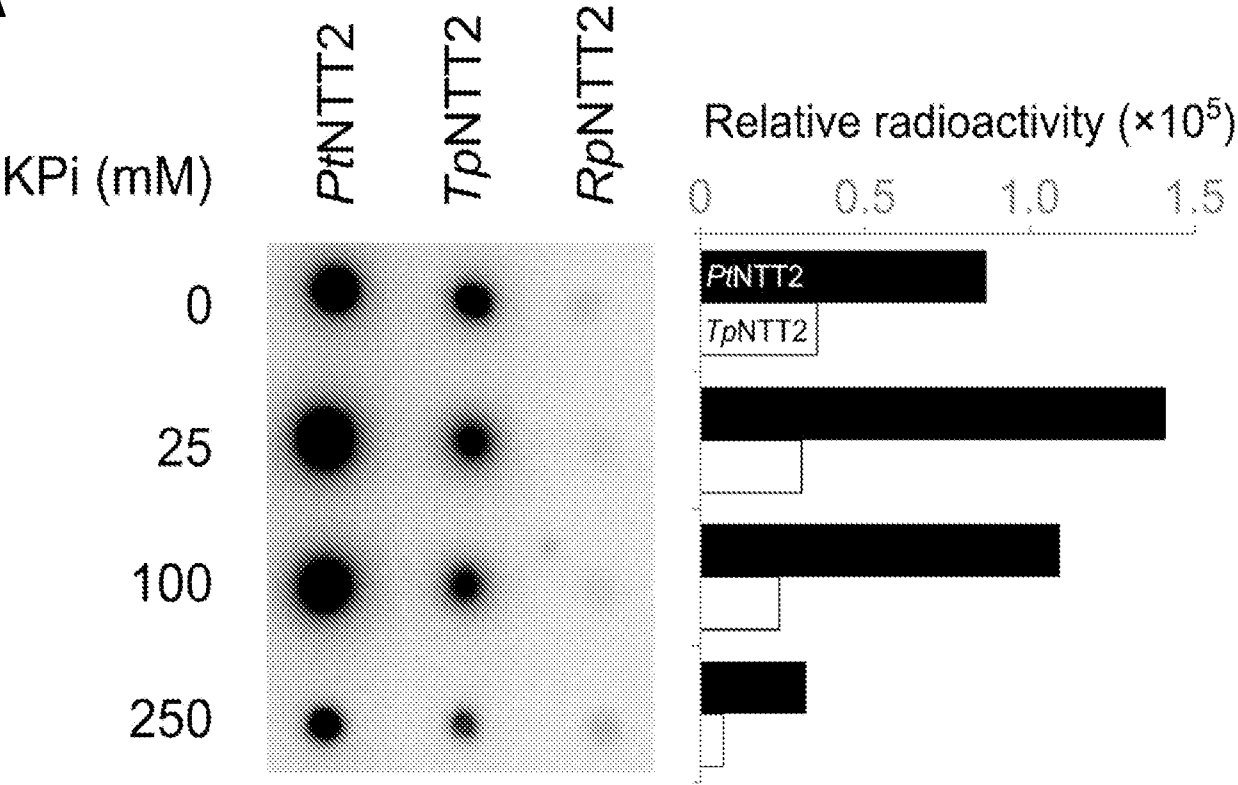


FIG. 7 (continued)

B

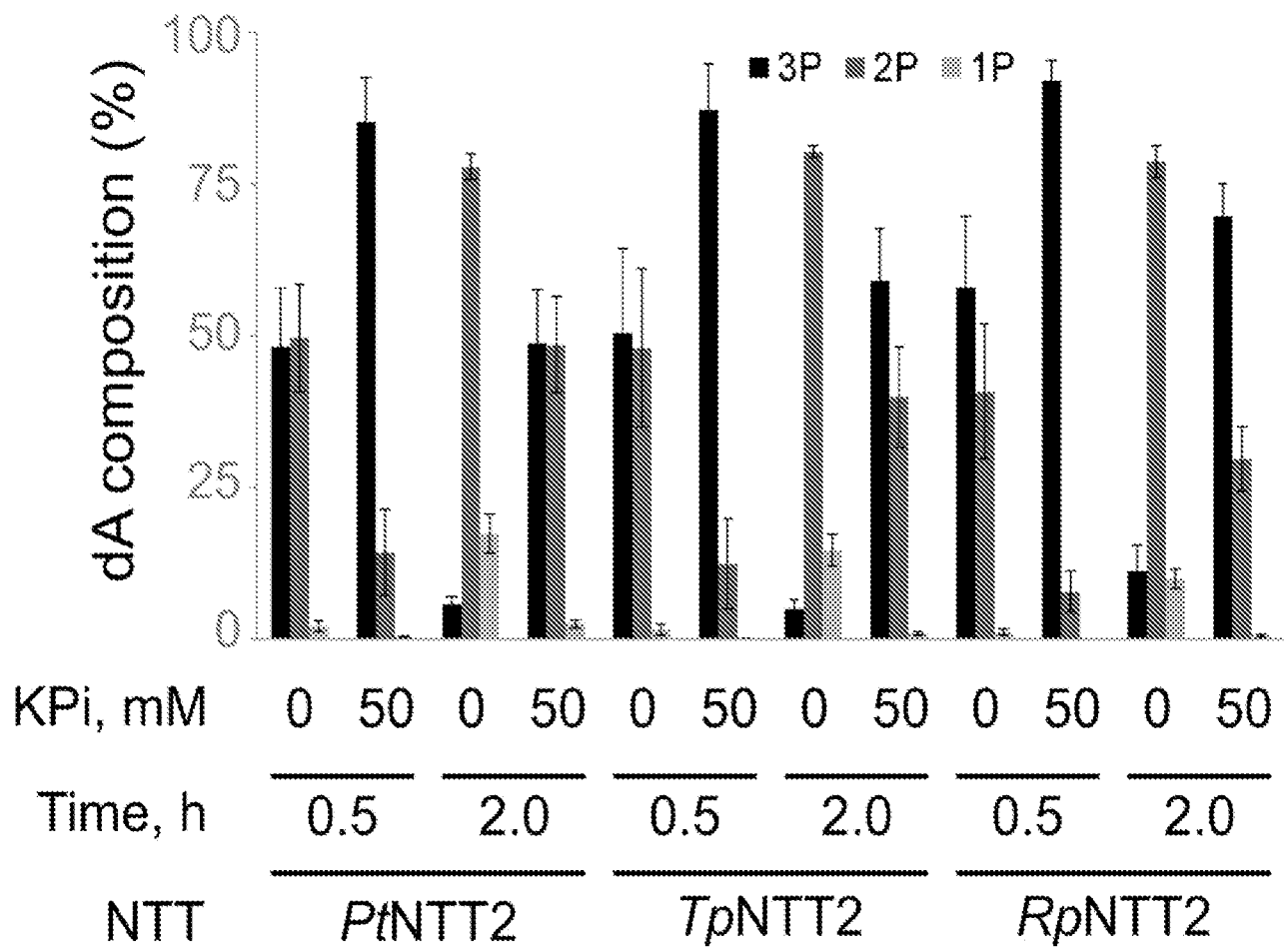


FIG. 8

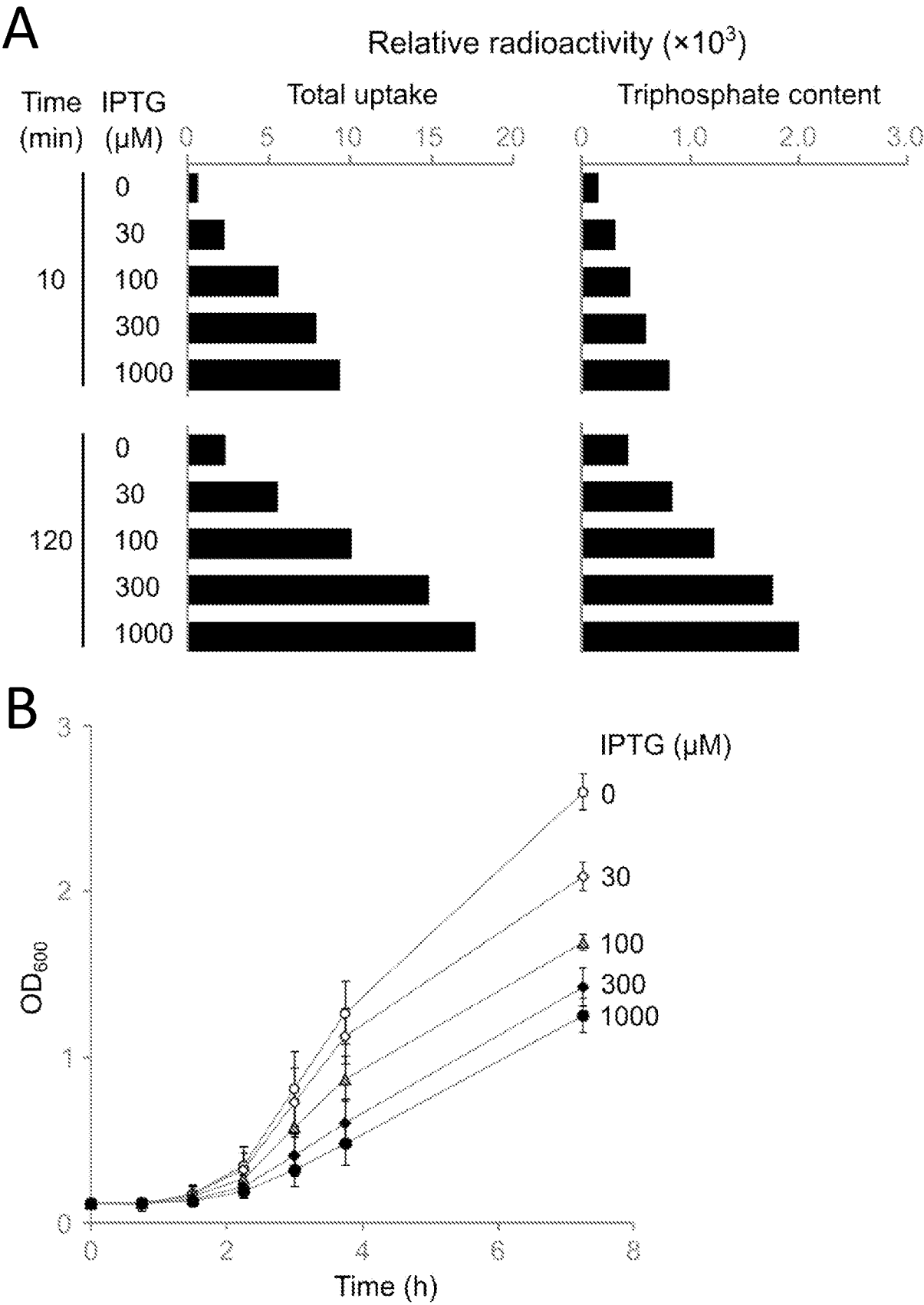


FIG. 9

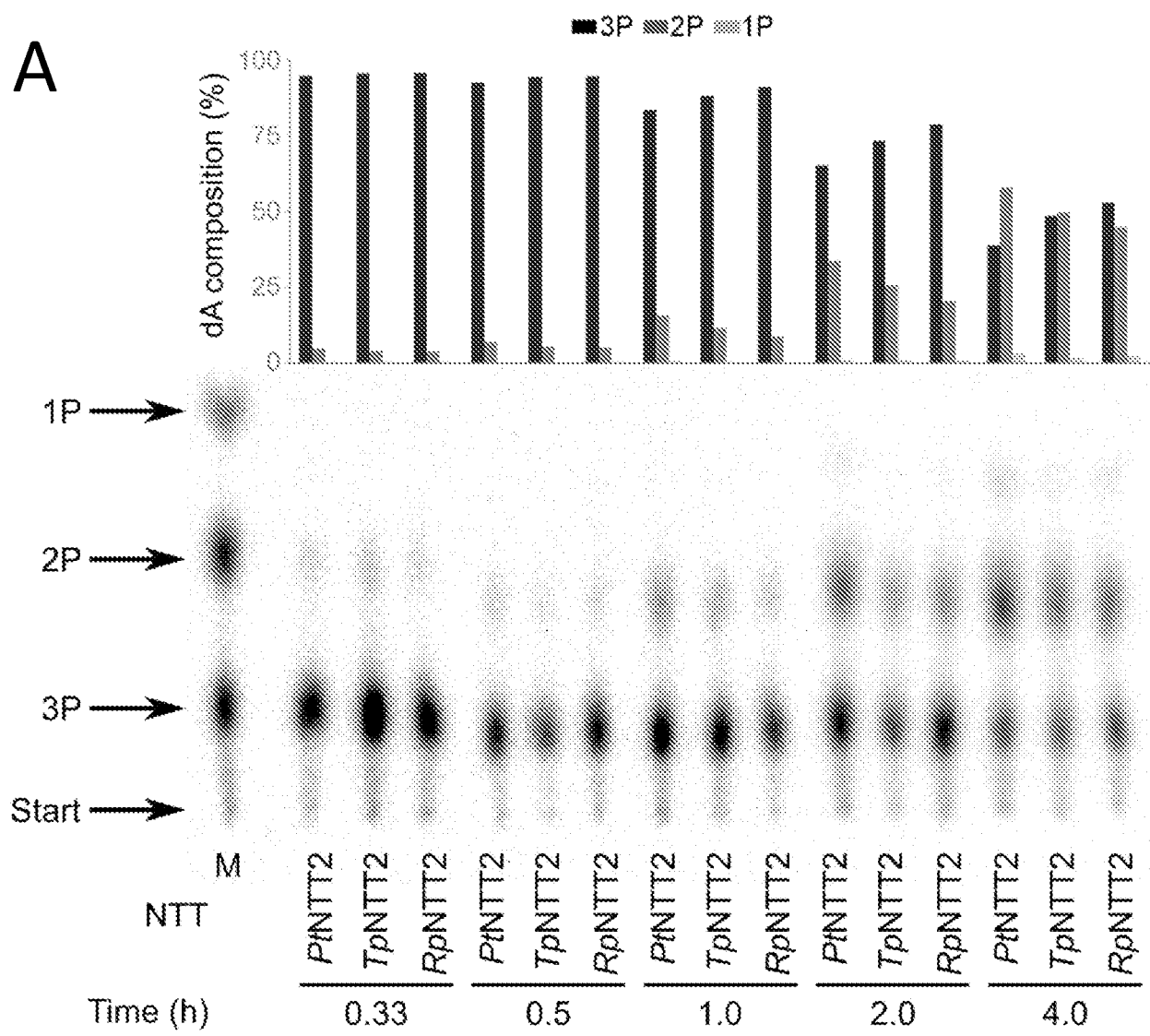


FIG. 9 (continued)

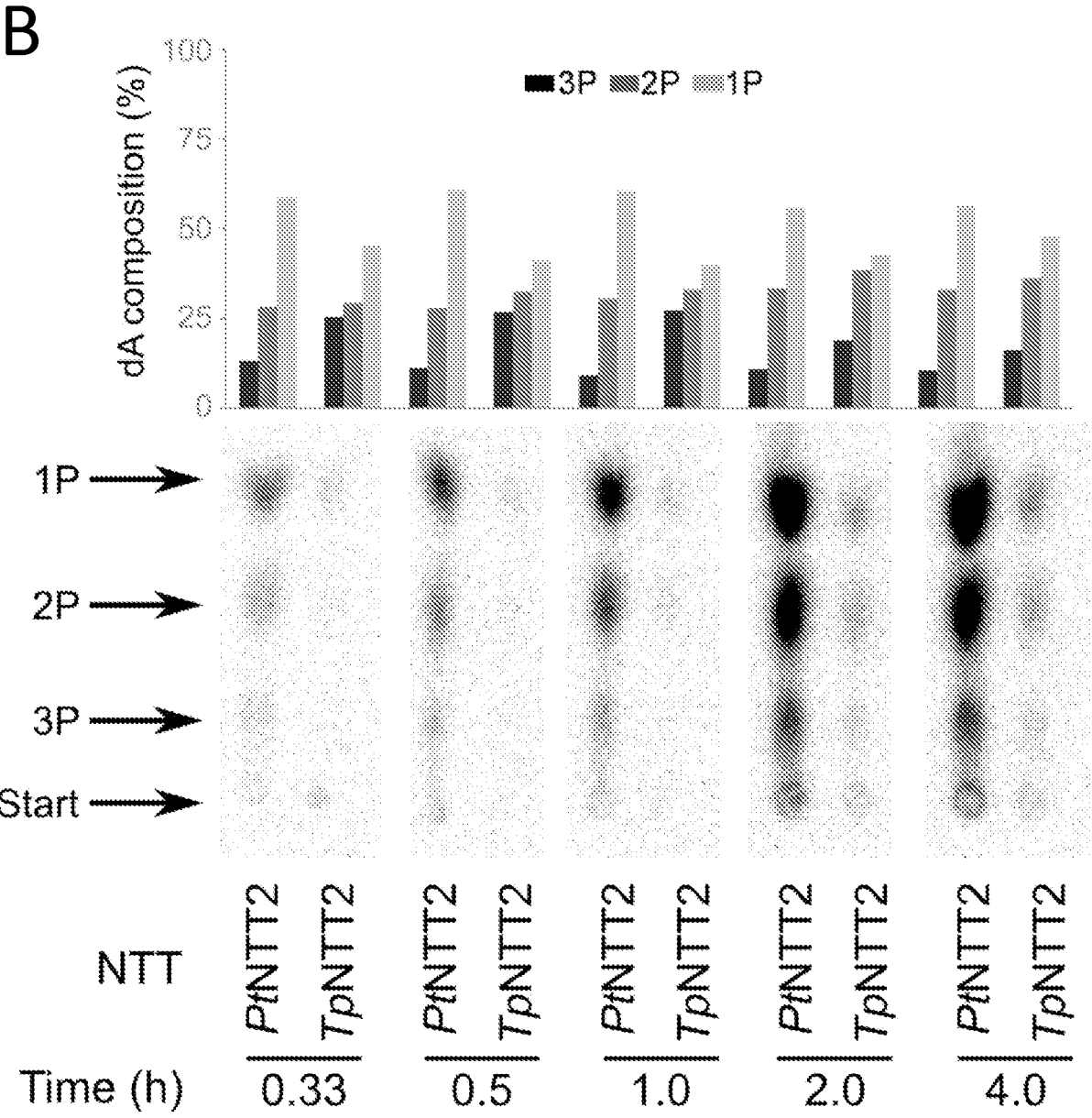


FIG. 10

(Part of SEQ ID NOS: 26 and 27)

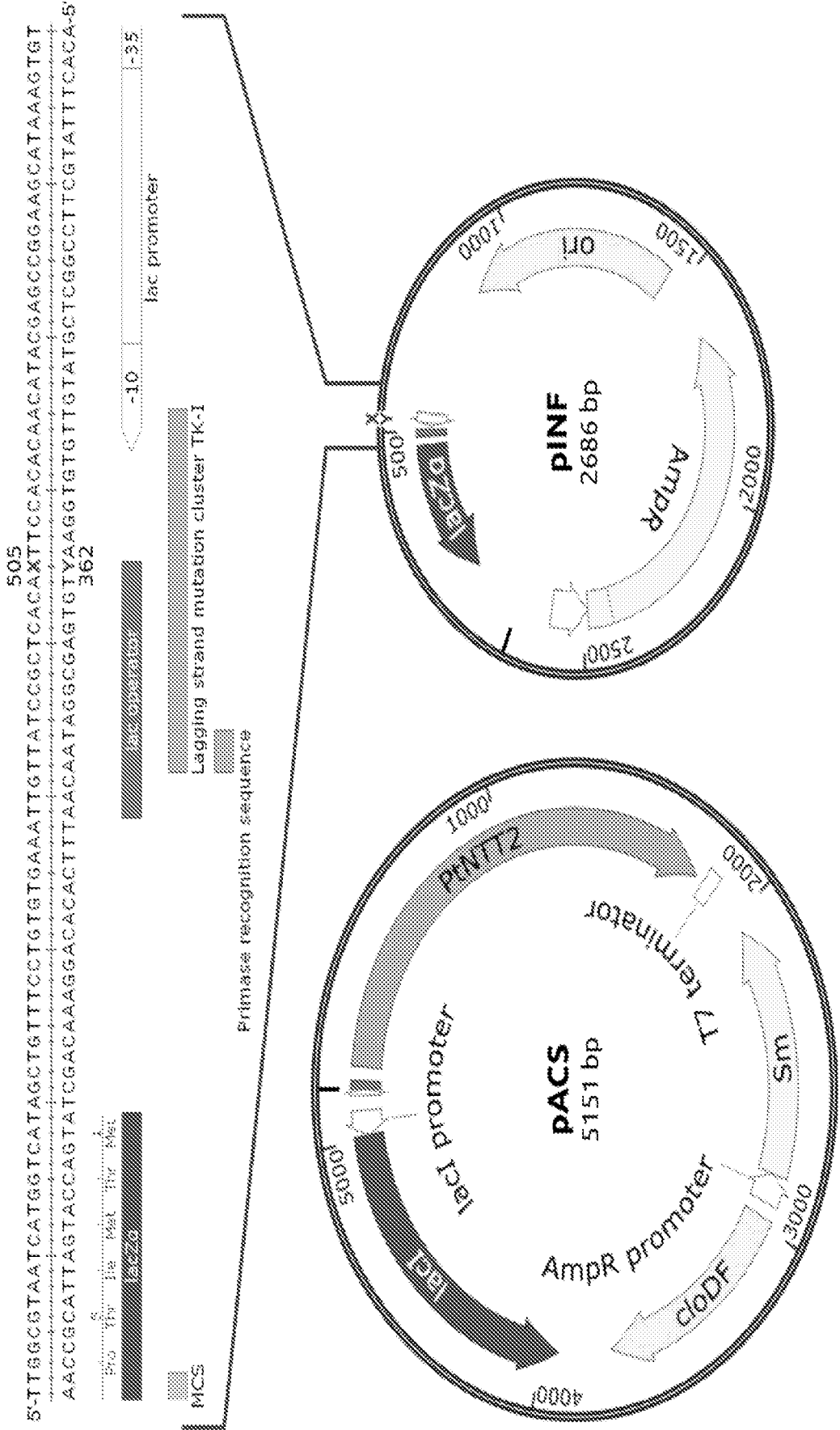


FIG. 11

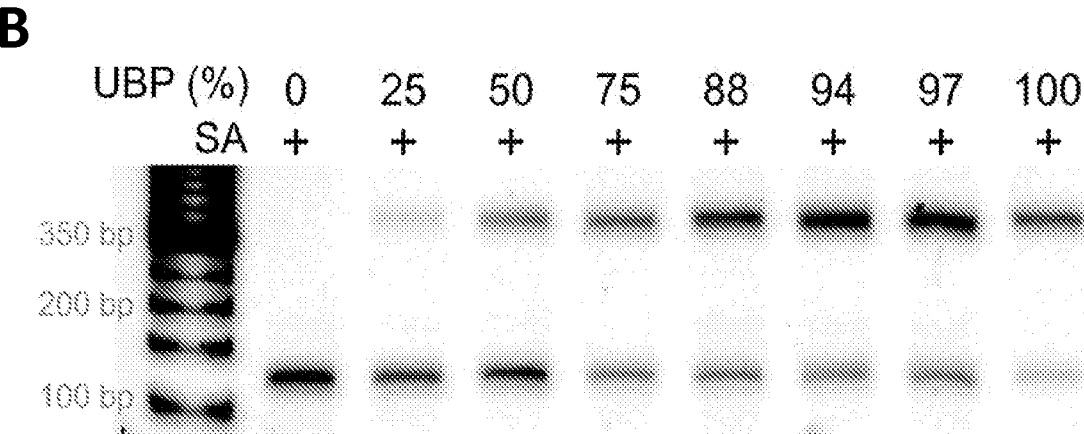
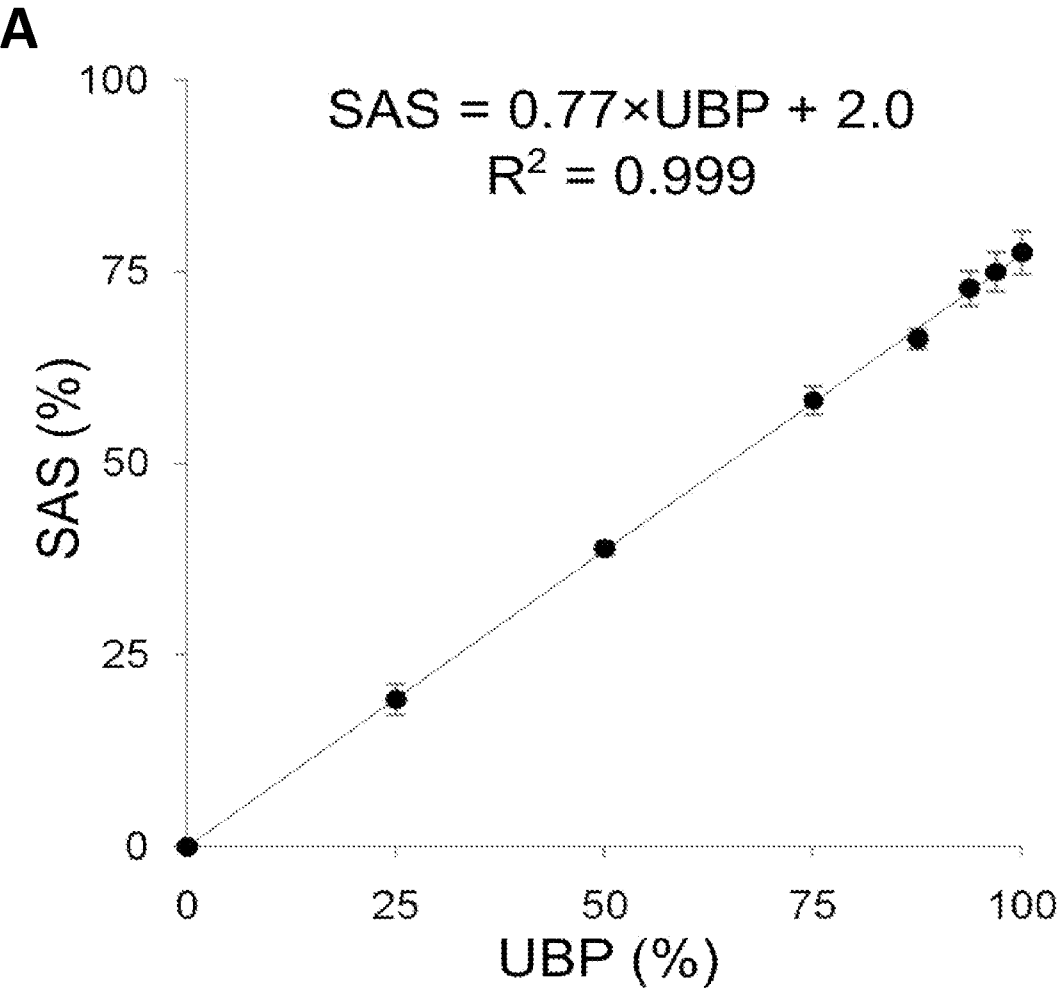


FIG. 12

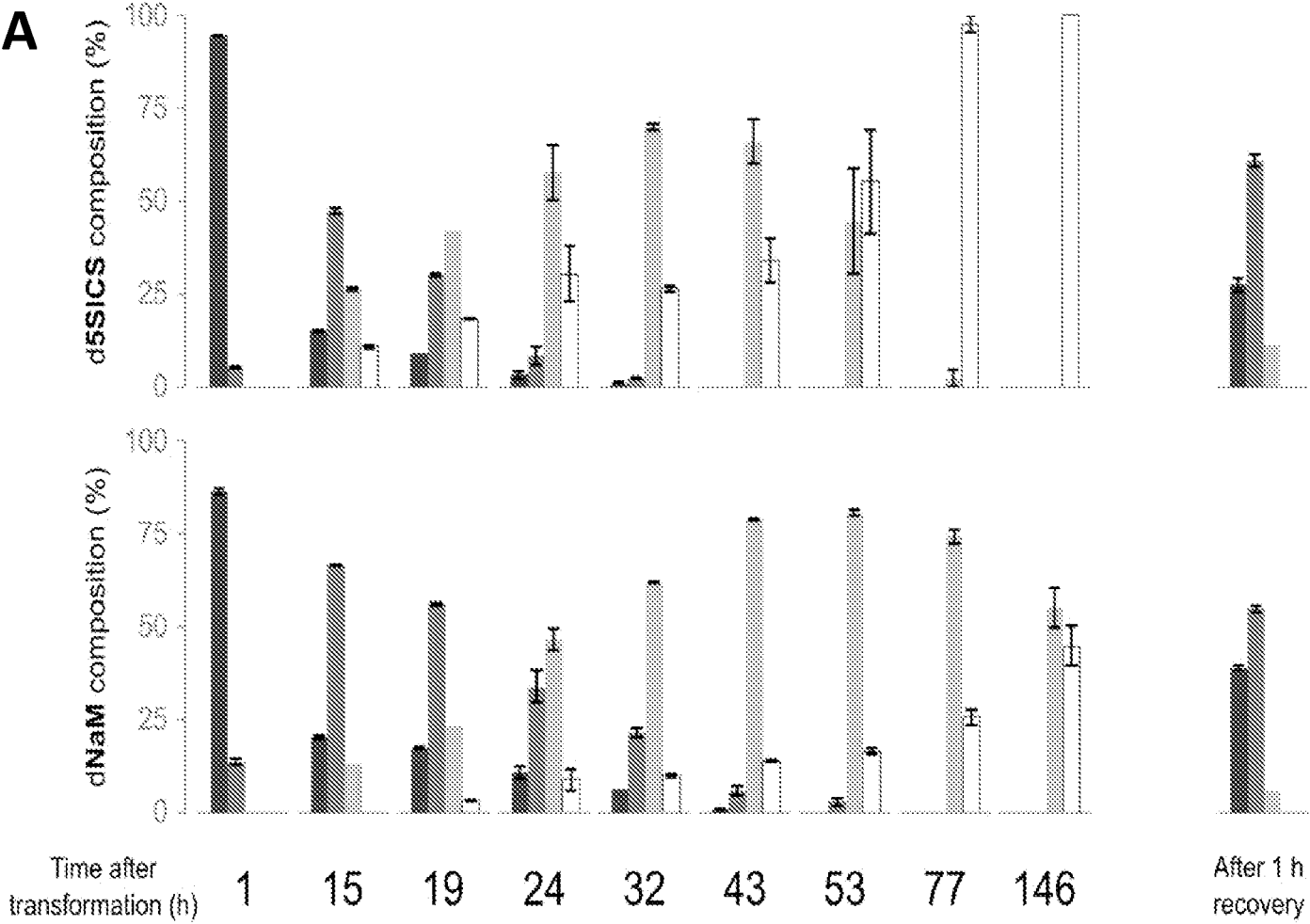
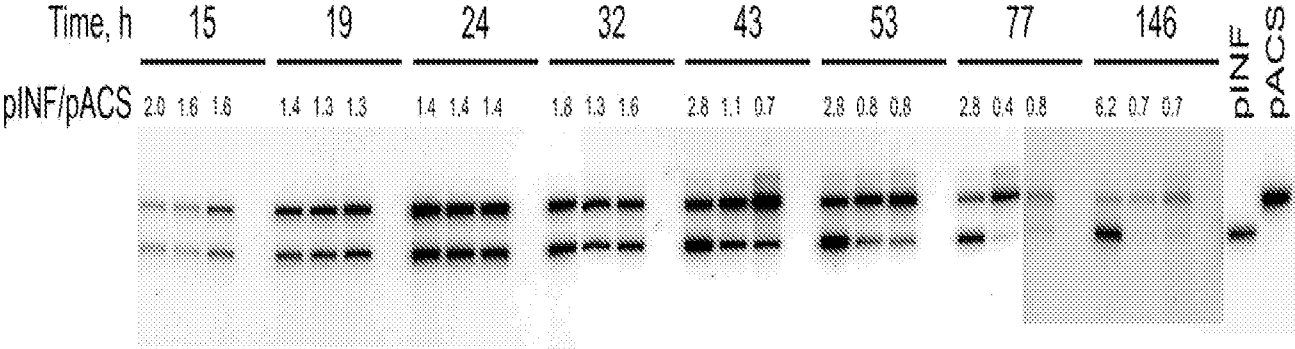


FIG. 12 (continued)

B



C

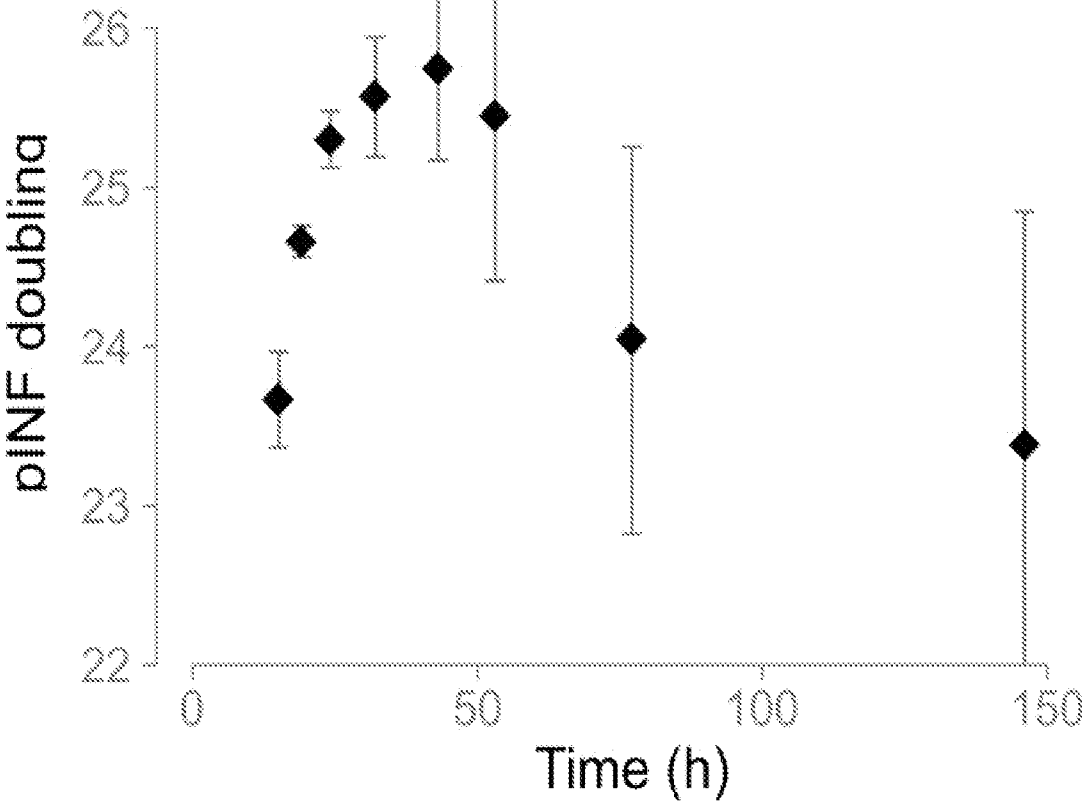


FIG. 13

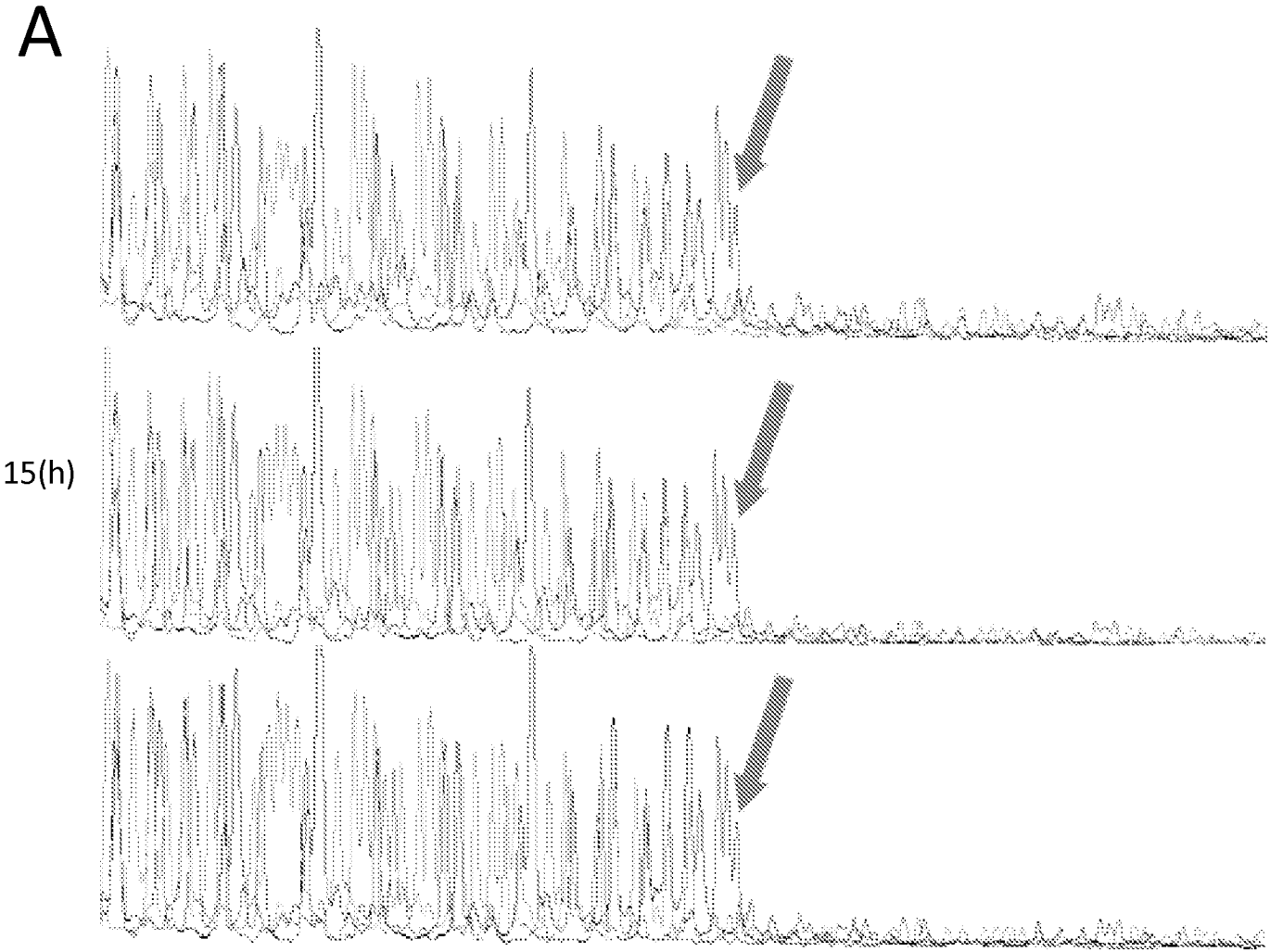


FIG. 13 (continued)

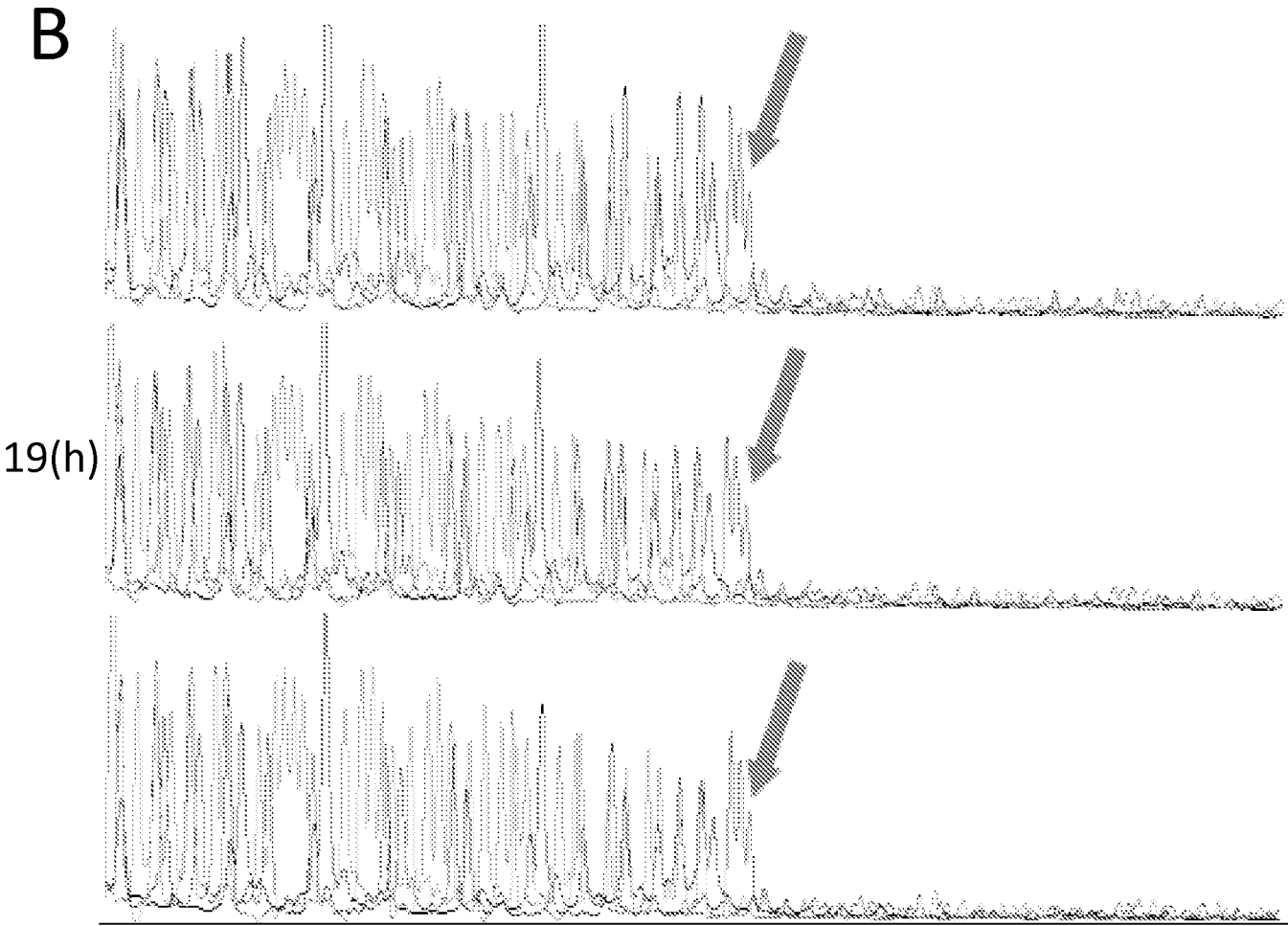


FIG. 13 (continued)

C

24(h)

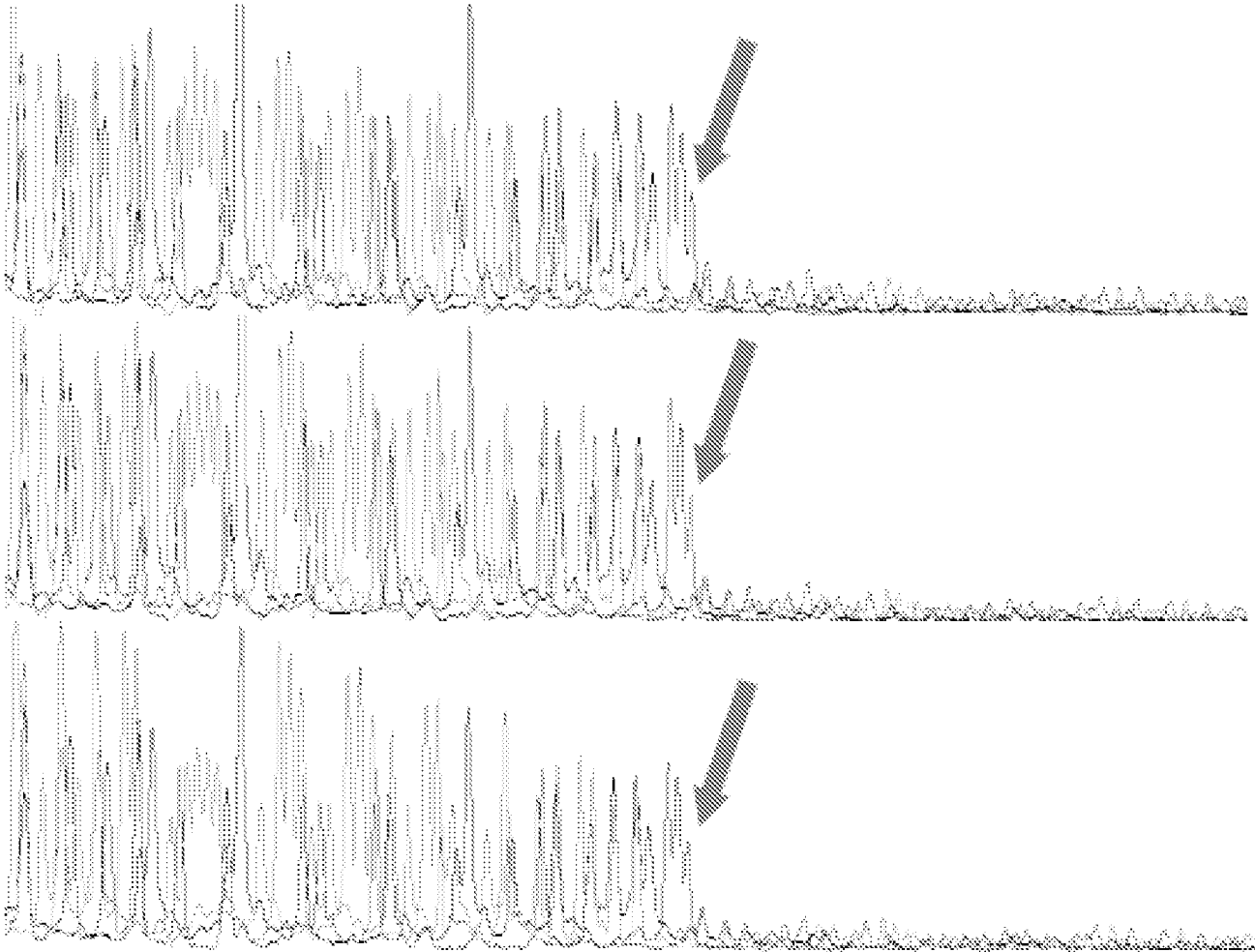


FIG. 13 (continued)

D

32(h)

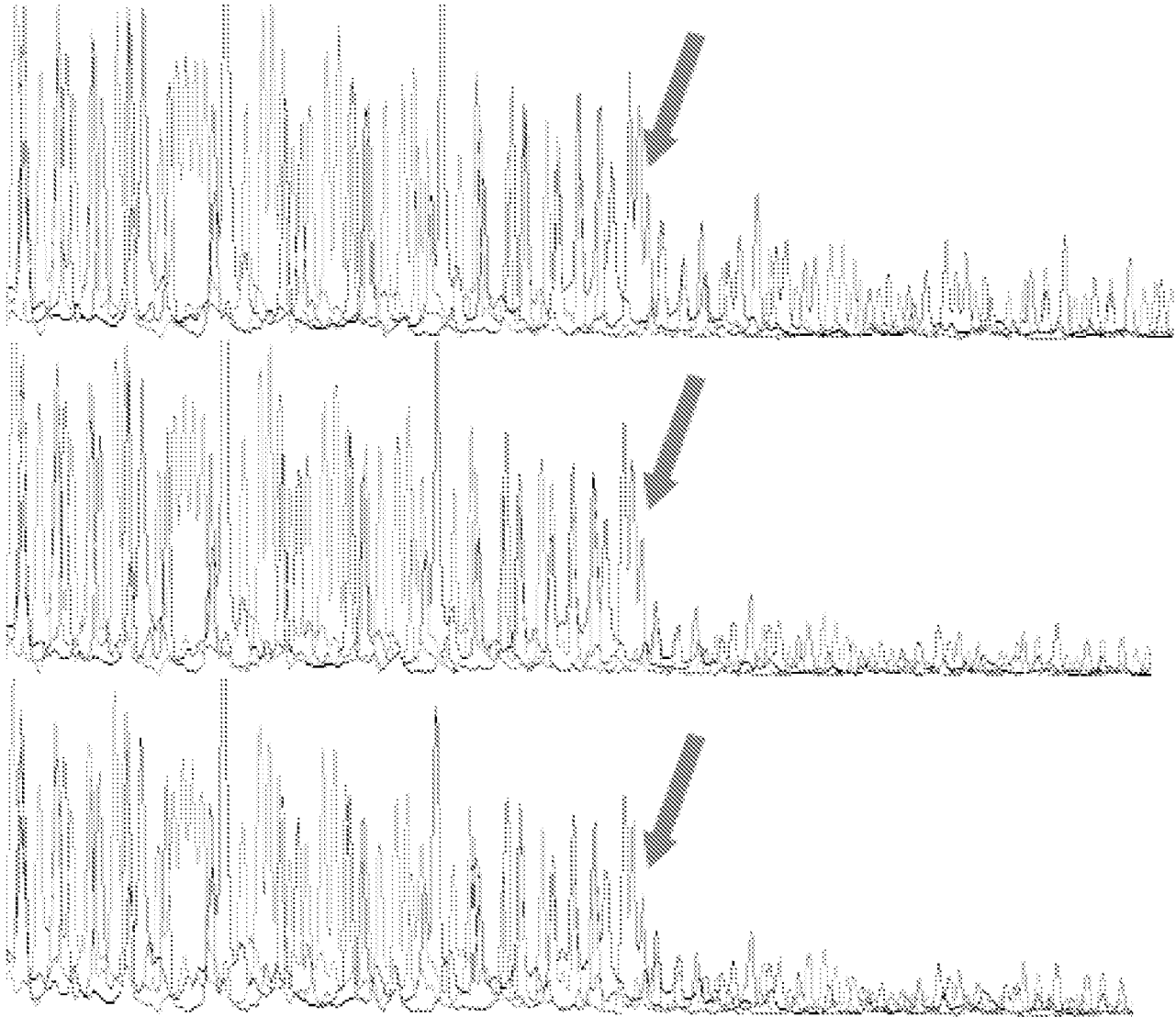
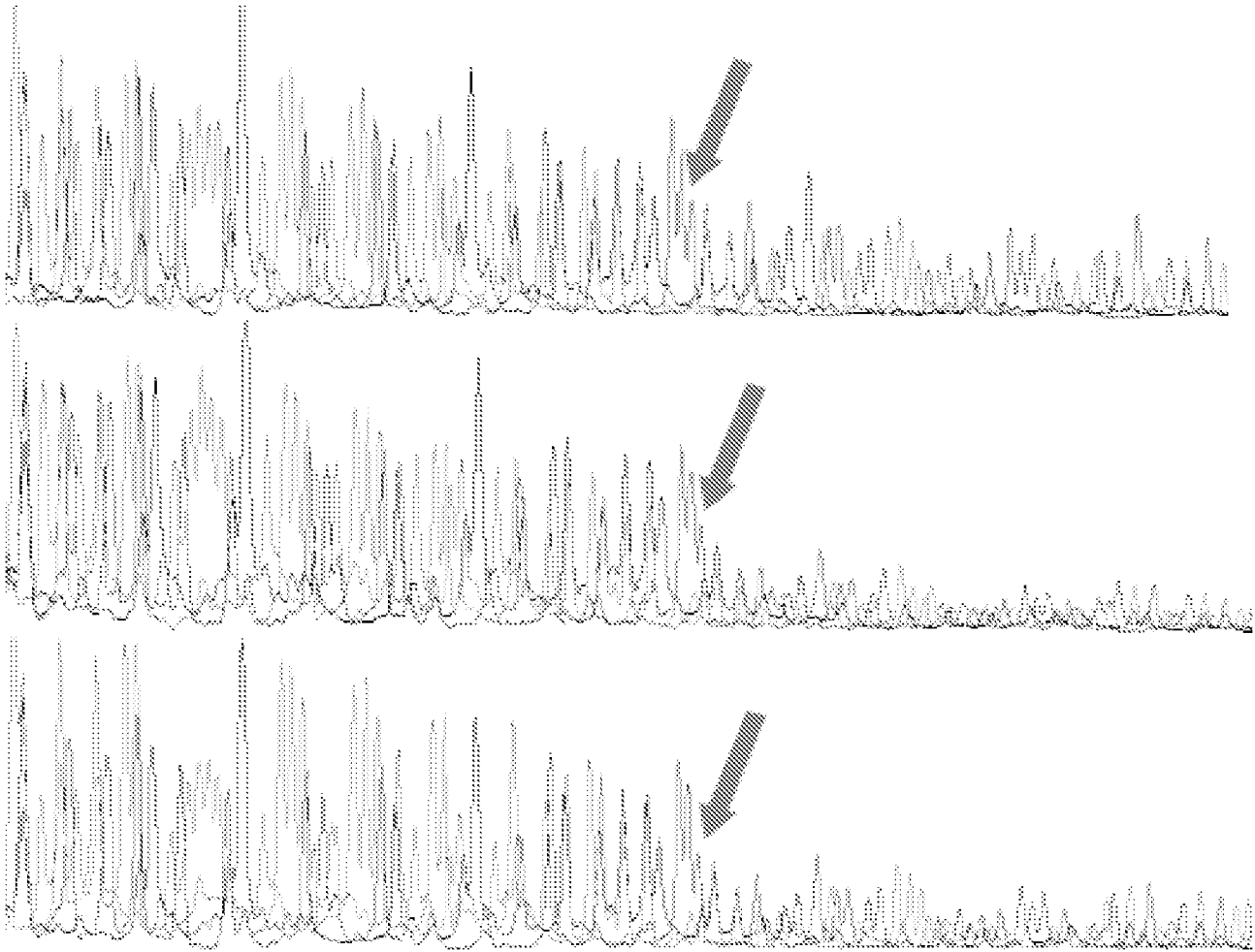


FIG. 13 (continued)

E

43(h)



F**FIG. 13 (continued)**

53(h)

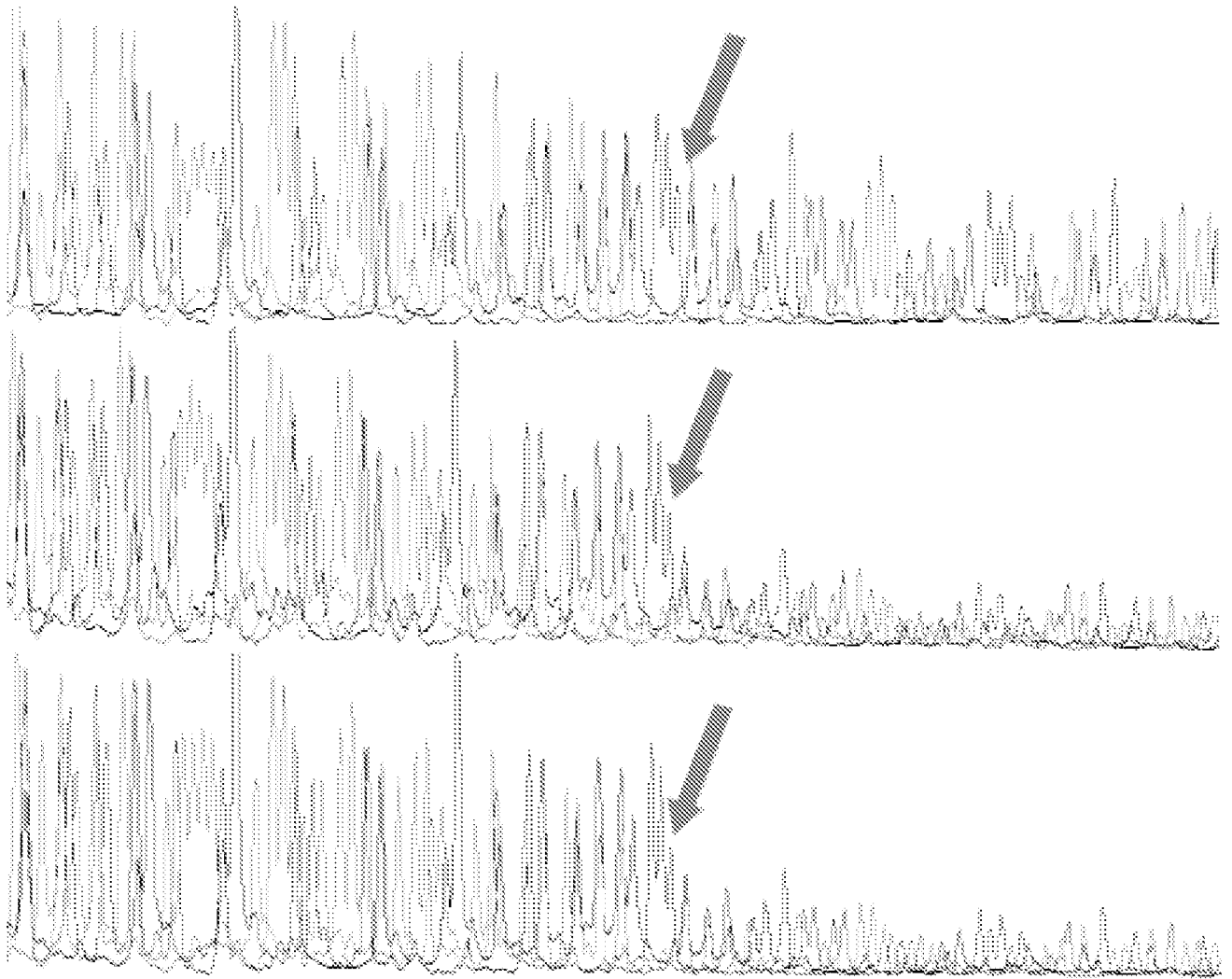


FIG. 13 (continued)

G

77(h)

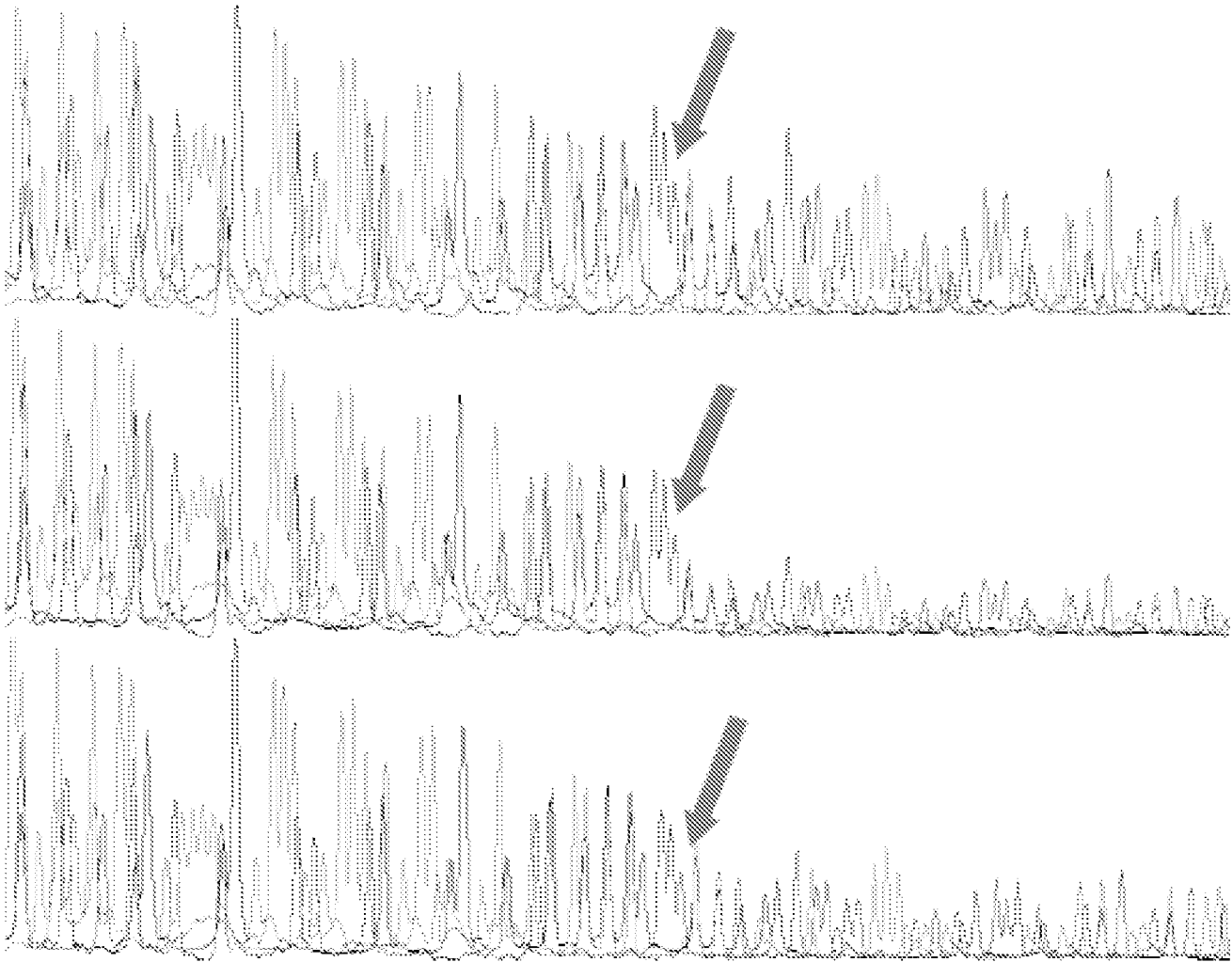


FIG. 13 (continued)

H

146(h)

