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## Click-chemistry based fluorometric assay for apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase from enzyme characterization to high-throughput screening --Manuscript Draft--

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**TITLE:**

**Click-Chemistry Based Fluorometric Assay for Apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase from Enzyme Characterization to High-Throughput Screening**

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**KEYWORDS:**

integral membrane apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase, diacylglycerol peptide, alkyne-phospholipid, mixed micelles, click-chemistry, fluorescence

**SUMMARY:**

Presented here is a sensitive fluorescence assay to monitor apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase activity using diacylglycerol peptide and alkyne-phospholipids as substrates with click-chemistry.

**ABSTRACT:**

Lipoproteins from  $\gamma$ -proteobacteria are posttranslationally modified by fatty acids derived from membrane phospholipids by the action of three integral membrane enzymes, resulting in triacylated proteins. The first step in the lipoprotein modification pathway involves the transfer of a diacylglycerol group from phosphatidylglycerol onto the prolipoprotein, resulting in diacylglycerol prolipoprotein. In the second step, the signal peptide of prolipoprotein is cleaved, forming an apolipoprotein, which in turn is modified by a third fatty acid derived from a phospholipid. This last step is catalyzed by apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase (Lnt). The lipoprotein modification pathway is essential in most  $\gamma$ -proteobacteria, making it a potential target for the development of novel antibacterial agents. Described here is a sensitive assay for Lnt that is compatible with high-throughput screening of small inhibitory molecules. The enzyme and substrates are membrane-embedded molecules; therefore, the development of an in vitro test is not straightforward. This includes the purification of the active enzyme in the presence of detergent, the availability of alkyne-phospholipids and diacylglycerol peptide substrates, and the reaction conditions in mixed micelles. Furthermore, in order to use the activity test in a high-throughput screening (HTS) setup, direct readout of the reaction product is preferred over coupled enzymatic reactions. In this fluorometric enzyme assay, the alkyne-triacylated peptide product is rendered fluorescent through a click-chemistry reaction and detected in a multiwell plate format. This method is applicable to other acyltransferases that use fatty acid-containing

substrates, including phospholipids and acyl-CoA.

## INTRODUCTION:

Bacterial lipoproteins are characterized by covalently bound fatty acids at their amino-termini through which they are anchored into membranes<sup>1,2</sup>. The mature part of the protein is highly diverse in structure and function, thereby explaining the role of lipoproteins in various biological processes in the bacterial cell envelope.

Lipoproteins are modified by phospholipid-derived fatty acids after insertion into the cytoplasmic membrane. The prolipoproteins contain a signature motif, the lipobox, which contains an invariant cysteine residue that becomes acylated and the first amino acid in the mature protein. The first step of this pathway is catalyzed by prolipoprotein phosphatidylglycerol::diacylglycerol transferase (Lgt), which transfers the diacylglycerol group from phosphatidylglycerol onto the prolipoprotein via a thioether link between diacylglycerol and cysteine. Signal peptidase II (Lsp) cleaves the signal peptide from diacylglycerol prolipoprotein, resulting in an apolipoprotein that is anchored into the membrane through its diacylglycerol moiety. The third and last step is catalyzed by apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase (Lnt), which adds a fatty acid from the *sn*-1 position of phospholipid onto apolipoprotein, resulting in triacylated mature lipoprotein (**Figure 1**)<sup>3</sup>. The Lnt reaction is a two-step ping-pong reaction where a stable thioester acyl intermediate is formed. The lysophospholipid byproduct is released prior to the acylation of the apolipoprotein substrate in the second step of the reaction.

The phospholipid substrate specificity is determined in a Lnt assay based on the mobility shift of N-acyl diacylglycerol peptide on a high percentage Tris-Tricine Urea SDS-PAGE<sup>4</sup>. Phospholipids with small polar headgroups, saturated [*sn*-1] and nonsaturated [*sn*-2], were preferred substrates<sup>4</sup>. The gel shift assay is not appropriate for extensive kinetic studies of apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase nor for HTS to identify inhibitory molecules. Click-chemistry using alkyne fatty acids has been successfully used to study lipoprotein modification in bacteria<sup>5</sup> and fatty acid metabolism in eukaryotes<sup>6</sup>. Recently, an in vitro assay of Ras palmitoylation was reported to identify inhibitors<sup>7</sup>.

In the method described here, purified active Lnt in detergent is incubated with substrates in mixed micelles to form alkyne-triacylated peptide that is subsequently detected by fluorescence spectrometry.

## PROTOCOL:

### 1. Enzyme and substrate preparation

#### 1.1. Purification of enzyme

1.1.1. Produce and purify Lnt enzyme from detergent solubilized membranes as described previously<sup>4,8</sup>. Briefly, induce expression of the *lnt-strep* gene, encoding Lnt with a C-terminal Strep tag, at OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.6 with anhydrous tetracycline (200 ng/mL) at 37 °C for 16 h.

89  
90 1.1.2. Harvest cells by centrifugation at 4,000 x *g* for 10 min and discard the supernatant.

91  
92 1.1.3. Resuspend the cell pellet in buffer WA (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM EDTA)  
93 to 100 OD<sub>600</sub> units per mL.

94  
95 1.1.4. Break the cells by two passages through a French pressure cell press at 10,000 psi.

96  
97 1.1.5. Remove unbroken cells and debris by centrifugation at 13,000 x *g* for 20 min. Keep the  
98 supernatant and discard the pellet.

99  
100 1.1.6. Centrifuge the supernatant at 120,000 x *g* for 60 min and collect the membrane vesicles  
101 (translucent brown colored pellet). Discard the supernatant.

102  
103 1.1.7. Solubilize the integral membrane proteins from the membrane pellet with 1% (w/v) n-  
104 Dodecyl β-D-maltoside (DDM) in buffer WA for 30 min at room temperature (RT). Centrifuge and  
105 remove insolubilized material at 120,000 x *g* for 30 min. Use the supernatant fraction for  
106 purification.

107  
108 1.1.8. Purify Lnt-strep on an affinity chromatography column (see **Table of Materials**) and an  
109 S400 gel filtration column (see **Table of Materials**) as described by Nozeret et al.<sup>8</sup>.

110  
111 1.1.9. Store the purified enzyme in buffer WA containing 0.05% DDM and 10% glycerol at -80 °C.

112  
113 NOTE: The enzyme is stable for over 5 years.

114  
115 **1.2. Preparation of alkyne-phospholipid and biotinylated Fibroblast Stimulating Ligand (FSL-1-**  
116 **biotin) substrates**

117  
118 1.2.1. Aliquot 100 μL of custom-synthesized alkyne-POPE (1-hexadec-15-ynoyl-2-oleoyl-*sn*-  
119 glycerol-3-phosphoethanolamine, see **Table of Materials**) solubilized in chloroform into 1.5 mL  
120 tubes.

121  
122 1.2.2. Pierce the tubes with a syringe and evaporate the chloroform in a speed-vac at RT for 2 h.  
123 Store the dry phospholipid samples at -20 °C.

124  
125 1.2.3. Dissolve alkyne-POPE in 0.1% Triton X-100 at 500 μM prior to use. Add a 3 min sonication  
126 step in an ultrasonic water bath at RT to solubilize alkyne-POPE if necessary.

127  
128 1.2.4. Resuspend FSL-1-biotin in water at 445 μM.

129  
130 NOTE: Both solutions can be stored at -20 °C for at least 2 months.

131  
132 **2. Tube assay**

NOTE: On Day 1, set up the Lnt reaction in 1.5 mL tubes (step 2.1) and coat 96 well plates with streptavidin (step 2.2).

## 2.1. Preparation of reagent mixture and enzymatic reaction

2.1.1. For a standard Lnt assay, mix alkyne-POPE (final 50  $\mu$ M from 500  $\mu$ M stock) and FSL-1-biotin (final concentration of 50  $\mu$ M from a 445  $\mu$ M stock) in Lnt reaction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100 containing 1% BSA) at a final volume of 18  $\mu$ L in 1.5 mL tubes. Perform all conditions in triplicate.

2.1.2. Sonicate the substrate mixture (prepared in step 2.1.1) for 3 min in an ultrasonic water bath and incubate at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 min prior to the addition of Lnt enzyme (step 2.1.3).

NOTE: MTSES (sodium (2-sulfonatoethyl)methanethiosulfonate), a thiol-specific reagent, inhibits Lnt<sup>8</sup>. Add 10 mM MTSES (100 mM stock solution in 100% DMSO) to the reaction tubes (step 2.1.1) to be used as negative control samples. Adjust the volume of the Lnt reaction buffer so the total volume is 18  $\mu$ L.

2.1.3. Add active (1 ng/ $\mu$ L, corresponding to 17.2 nM) or inactive Lnt (C387S) (2  $\mu$ L of 10 ng/ $\mu$ L stock in buffer WA containing 0.05% DDM) and mix with the substrates (step 2.1.2) by pipetting up and down.

2.1.4. Incubate the reaction at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for 16 h in a thermomixer with heated lid.

## 2.2. Streptavidin coating of 96 well plates

2.2.1. Prepare a stock solution of streptavidin at 2 mg/mL in H<sub>2</sub>O.

NOTE: This solution can be stored at -20  $^{\circ}$ C for up to 6 months.

2.2.2. From the stock solution prepare 10  $\mu$ g/mL streptavidin in water as a working solution. Add 100  $\mu$ L of the solution to each well of the 96 well plate. Bind streptavidin to the plate by incubating at 37  $^{\circ}$ C overnight without a lid to air-dry the wells.

NOTE: On Day 2 perform click-chemistry (step 2.3), bind Lnt reaction mixture to streptavidin-coated plates (step 2.4), and detect fluorescence and analyze results (step 2.5).

## 2.3. Click-chemistry reaction

2.3.1. Prepare stock solutions of Azido-FAM (5 mM in DMSO), TCEP (Tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride; 50 mM prepared in water), TBTA (Tris[(1-benzyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl]amine; 2 mM in tert-butanol:DMSO (4:1)), and CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mM freshly prepared in H<sub>2</sub>O).

2.3.2. In the 1.5 mL tubes containing the Lnt reaction mixture prepared in step 2.1.4, perform click-chemistry by adding the reagents in the following order: 0.2  $\mu$ L of stock Azido-FAM (final concentration 50  $\mu$ M), 0.4  $\mu$ L of stock TCEP (final concentration 1 mM), 0.2  $\mu$ L of stock TBTA (final concentration 0.02 mM).

2.3.3. Vortex the solution for 5 s. Then add 0.4  $\mu$ L of stock  $\text{CuSO}_4$  (final concentration 1 mM). Vortex again for 5 s. Incubate the samples in the dark at RT for 1 h.

## 2.4. Binding of Lnt reaction mixture to streptavidin-coated plates

2.4.1. Wash the wells of the streptavidin-coated plates after the overnight incubation from step 2.2.2 3x with 200  $\mu$ L of PBS-T1 (PBS containing 0.05% Tween-20).

NOTE: Streptavidin plates can be used immediately or stored dry at 4  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

2.4.2. Transfer 18  $\mu$ L from the click-chemistry mixture from step 2.3 to a well in a 96 well streptavidin-coated plate and add 100  $\mu$ L of PBS-T1 to bind N-acyl-FSL-1-biotin-FAM product to streptavidin plates.

2.4.3. Use biotin-fluorescein (0.26  $\mu$ M from a 3.1 mM stock in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) as positive control for streptavidin binding and fluorescence readout.

2.4.4. Incubate the plates at RT for 1 h in the dark in a thermomixer, shaking at 300 rpm.

2.4.5. Perform manual wash steps of the 96 well plates with a multichannel electronic pipette as follows: six washes with 200  $\mu$ L of PBS-T2 (PBS containing 1% Tween-20), three flushes with a pipette, three washes with 200  $\mu$ L of PBS, three flushes with a pipette.

## 2.5. Fluorescence detection and analysis

2.5.1. Add 200  $\mu$ L of PBS and record the fluorescence at 520 nm in a fluorescence microplate reader. Save results in spreadsheet software.

NOTE: Biotin-fluorescein is used as a positive control for streptavidin binding and fluorescence detection at 520 nm. A reproducible readout of 30,000–40,000 A.U. with 0.26  $\mu$ M biotin-fluorescein is expected. All samples are analyzed in triplicate, including controls.

2.5.2. Calculate the standard deviation for each reaction and the calculate P-values for negative controls and positive samples using unpaired t-test using a statistical software.

## 3. Multiwell plate assay

NOTE: On Day 1 set up the Lnt reaction in 384 well plates (step 3.1) and coat 384 well plates with

streptavidin (step 3.2).

### 3.1. Preparation of reagent mixture and enzymatic reaction

NOTE: The quantity of the reagents and enzyme is reduced compared to the tube assay and the Lnt reaction is performed directly in 384 well plates. This allows the use of less material and a reduction of steps that can be further automated.

3.1.1. Mix the substrates as follows: alkyne-POPE (final concentration 50  $\mu$ M from 500  $\mu$ M stock) and FSL-1-biotin (final 50  $\mu$ M from 500  $\mu$ M stock) in Lnt reaction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100 containing 1% BSA) at a volume of 13.5  $\mu$ L per reaction per well in a 384 well plate format. Perform all conditions in triplicate. Calculate the total amount of reagents required for the number of reactions to be performed (i.e., 5,184  $\mu$ L for one 384 well plate).

3.1.2. Sonicate the substrate mixture for 3 min in an ultrasonic water bath.

3.1.3. Aliquot 13.5  $\mu$ L of the substrate mixture per well in a 384 well plate.

NOTE: As a negative control, 10 mM of MTSES (625 mM stock solution in 100% DMSO) can be added per well. Adjust the volume of Lnt buffer (step 3.1.1) to reach a final reaction volume of 13.5  $\mu$ L.

3.1.4. Incubate at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for 5 min prior to the addition of Lnt enzyme (step 3.1.5).

3.1.5. Add 0.5 ng/ $\mu$ L (corresponding to 8.6 nM) active Lnt enzyme, or inactive variant (C387S) (1.5  $\mu$ L from 5 ng/ $\mu$ L stock in buffer WA containing 0.05% DDM) in Lnt reaction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% Triton X-100, 1% BSA) to each well containing the reaction mixture from step 3.1.3. Mix reagents by pipetting up and down. The total reaction volume is 15  $\mu$ L.

3.1.6. Seal the plate with plastic foil for multiwell plates.

3.1.7. Incubate at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for 16 h in a thermomixer with heated lid.

### 3.2. Streptavidin coating 384 well plates

3.2.1. Use 75  $\mu$ L of streptavidin (10  $\mu$ g/mL in H<sub>2</sub>O) from step 2.2.2 to coat wells of a 384 well plate. Let streptavidin bind to the plate by incubating at 37  $^{\circ}$ C overnight without a lid to air-dry the wells.

NOTE: On Day 2 perform click-chemistry (step 3.3), bind Lnt reaction mixture to streptavidin-coated plates (step 3.4), detect fluorescence, and analyze results (step 3.5).

### 3.3. Click-chemistry reaction

3.3.1. Prepare stock solutions of Azido-FAM (1.2 mM in DMSO), TCEP (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride; 24 mM prepared in H<sub>2</sub>O), TBTA (Tris[(1-benzyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl]amine; 0.48 mM in tert-butanol:DMSO (4:1)) and CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O (24 mM freshly prepared in H<sub>2</sub>O).

3.3.2. Combine the three click-chemistry reagents: a mixture of Azido-FAM (final concentration 50 µM), TCEP (1 mM final), and TBTA (0.02 mM final), each at 0.75 µL in final volume of 2.25 µL per well. Calculate the required volume per 384 well plate (i.e., use 864 µL when all wells of the 384 well plate are used). Mix vigorously.

3.3.3. Add 2.25 µL of the reagent solution per well directly to the completed Lnt reaction in the 384 well plate from step 3.1.7.

3.3.4. Mix by pipetting up and down with a multichannel electronic pipette.

3.3.5. Add CuSO<sub>4</sub> (0.75 µL from 24 mM stock for a 1 mM final concentration) and mix by pipetting up and down with a multichannel electronic pipette.

3.3.6. Incubate at RT for 1 h in the dark.

#### **3.4. Binding of Lnt reaction mixture to streptavidin-coated 384 well plates**

3.4.1. Wash the wells of the streptavidin-coated plates after the overnight incubation from step 3.2.1 1x with 85 µL PBS-T1.

3.4.2. Transfer 11 µL of the click-chemistry reaction from each well of the incubation plate from step 3.3.6 to the streptavidin-coated plate from step 3.4.1 to bind the N-acyl-FSL-1-biotin-FAM product to the streptavidin plates.

3.4.3. Add 64 µL of buffer PBS-T1.

3.4.4. Include biotin-fluorescein (0.19 µM from a 3.1 mM stock in H<sub>2</sub>O) as a control for binding to streptavidin-coated wells.

3.4.5. Incubate the 384 well plates at RT for 1 h in the dark in a thermomixer, shaking at 300 rpm.

3.4.6. Wash the plates using an automated plate washer as follows: 10 washes with 85 µL PBS-T2, plates are shaken between washes; 5 washes with 85 µL PBS, plates are shaken between washes.

#### **3.5. Fluorescence detection and analysis**

3.5.1. Add PBS (85 µL) and record fluorescence in a fluorescence microplate reader at 535 nm.

3.5.2. Analyze data as described (step 2.5.2).

#### REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS:

In the Lnt reaction the *sn*-1 fatty acid from phospholipids is transferred onto a diacylglycerol peptide, resulting in mature triacylated peptide<sup>8</sup>. The in vitro Lnt assay described here is designed to use phospholipids containing an alkyne fatty acid (alkyne-POPE) and FSL-1-biotin as substrates, resulting in the formation of alkyne-FSL-1-biotin. Upon a click-chemistry reaction with azido-FAM, this product should become fluorescently labeled and detected by fluorescence spectrometry (**Figure 2**).

The reaction conditions were optimized for maximum fluorescence readout at 520 nm in a plate reader. At 1 ng/μL enzyme, complete conversion of FSL-1-biotin was observed<sup>8</sup> (**Figure 3**). Negative controls included reactions without enzyme, with an inactive variant of the enzyme (active site mutant C387S), or with thiol-specific inhibitor MTSES that result in low fluorescence detection. Biotin-fluorescein bound efficiently to streptavidin-coated plates and was used as an internal control for maximum fluorescence signal. All experiments were performed in triplicate and standard deviation calculations and statistical analysis showed that the assay was sensitive and reproducible.

In order to develop an HTS assay to screen for small molecule inhibitors of Lnt, the quantity of reagents was reduced, and the reactions were performed directly in 384 well plates. Furthermore, wash steps were automated using a plate washer (see **Table of Materials**). As for the tube assay, the reaction was sensitive and reproducible, with a significant difference between the negative control (C387S) and active enzyme (Lnt) (**Figure 4**). In HTS the Z' factor determines whether a response in an assay is large enough for screening purposes<sup>9</sup> and is calculated using the following equation:

$$1 - \frac{(3\sigma_S + 3\sigma_B)}{|(S - B)|}$$

Where S is the average signal, B is background signal, and σ is standard deviation.

The average Z' factor was >0.6 for the Lnt assay performed in HTS format using 384 well plates, suggesting that the assay for screening of small molecule for Lnt inhibition was outstanding.

#### FIGURE AND TABLE LEGENDS:

##### **Figure 1: Enzymatic reactions in posttranslational modification of lipoprotein in proteobacteria.**

The sequential steps were catalyzed by Lgt<sup>10</sup>, Lsp<sup>11</sup>, and Lnt<sup>12-14</sup> in the cytoplasmic membrane. PGN: peptidoglycan, SP: signal peptide, LB: lipobox, conserved motif containing Cys<sub>+1</sub> and modified with fatty acids and the first amino acid in mature lipoprotein, PG: phosphatidylglycerol, G-1-P: glycerol-1-phosphate, PE: phosphatidylethanolamine, lysoPE: lyso-phosphatidylethanolamine.

**Figure 2: Schematic of the fluorometric enzyme assay for apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase (Lnt).** The substrates FSL-1-biotin (yellow) and alkyne-POPE (blue) were mixed with purified Lnt enzyme solubilized in detergent. The reaction was performed in mixed micelles at 37 °C (step 1). The alkyne-FSL-1-biotin product was labeled with fluorescein (orange) by click-chemistry (step 2) and detected in a fluorescence plate reader upon binding to streptavidin-coated plates (step 3). The figure is a modified version of Figure 1B published by Nozeret et al.<sup>8</sup> conforming to the Creative Commons license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

**Figure 3: Fluorescence detection of Lnt activity in 96 well format.** Lnt reactions were performed in tubes at 37 °C for 16 h. After fluorescent labeling by click-chemistry and binding to streptavidin-coated plates, fluorescence was measured by fluorescence spectrometry. Biotin-fluorescein (biotin-fluo 0.26 µM) was used as control for fluorescence. Buffer was reaction buffer only. Samples indicating alkyne-POPE (50 µM), FSL-1-biotin (50 µM), and substrates (mix of alkyne-POPE and FSL-1-biotin, 50 µM each) did not contain enzyme. Negative controls included inhibition with MTSES (10 mM) and an inactive variant of Lnt (C387S). Lnt enzyme was added at 1 ng/µL. Standard deviations were calculated for n = 3 experiments. \*\* P-value < 0.005. Excitation at 494 nm, bandwidth 5 nm and emission at 520 nm, bandwidth 5 nm.

**Figure 4: Fluorescence readout of the Lnt reaction in 384 well plate compatible with HTS.** Enzymatic Lnt reactions were performed in 384 well plates at 37 °C. Biotin-fluorescein (biotin-fluo 0.19 µM) was used as control for fluorescence. Buffer was reaction buffer containing DMSO. Negative controls included inhibition with MTSES (10 mM) and an inactive variant of Lnt (C387S). Lnt enzyme was added at 0.5 ng/µL. Standard deviations were calculated for n = 3 experiments. \*\*\* P-value < 0.0005. Excitation at 485 nm, bandwidth 20 nm and emission at 535 nm, bandwidth 25 nm.

## DISCUSSION:

The protocol for the Lnt assay described here, based on fluorescence detection of the triacylated product, is sensitive and reproducible. The specific and efficient binding of biotin to streptavidin is a key element in the assay. Alkyne-POPE substrate left after completion of the Lnt reaction is also fluorescently labeled with FAM but is efficiently removed after binding onto the streptavidin plates by multiple wash steps. Furthermore, addition of DMSO does not affect Lnt activity and has no impact on the assay. Both substrate and enzyme are highly lipophilic and require reaction conditions in mixed micelles. Techniques that depend on soluble enzymes and substrates for product detection, including fluorescence polarization, are not applicable<sup>8</sup>. The only limitation of the assay is the compatibility of the enzyme with alkyne substrate, because the click-chemistry reaction is dependent on this chemical group.

Gel shift assays have been reported in previous studies to analyze Lnt activity and to determine substrate specificity<sup>4</sup>. With the current protocol, and in parallel with fluorescence spectrometry, in-gel fluorescence detection can be used to monitor Lnt activity<sup>8</sup>, although this format is not suitable for HTS. The tube assay is particularly interesting for kinetic and comparative studies of Lnt mutants. Phospholipid substrate specificity can be addressed using alkyne-phospholipids

obtained by metabolic labeling of bacteria with alkyne fatty acids composed of various chain lengths and degree of saturation as described<sup>8</sup>.

The 384 well plate format is compatible with HTS studies because a significant difference is observed between active enzyme and a substrate only control. An average Z' factor of >0.6 was calculated with the optimized conditions presented here. The high reproducibility of the assay contributes to the high Z' factor. For successful HTS a Z' factor above 0.6 is recommended<sup>9</sup>. Wash steps are efficient with the use of an automated plate washer. Other steps can be further optimized, including pipetting of reagents, which would allow screening of large libraries of small molecules.

The protocol is applicable to other acyltransferases that use fatty acid-containing substrates if alkyne groups are compatible with substrate recognition by the enzyme. A recent study on the identification of specific inhibitors of eukaryotic Palmitoyl Acyl Transferase (PAT) describes using membrane-bound enzyme and alkyne-acyl-CoA as substrate<sup>7</sup>. Palmitoylation of a small biotinylated Ras peptide was observed by click-chemistry fluorogenic detection. A pilot screen in 384 well plate format of this assay identified specific inhibitors of PAT, suggesting that substrates composed of alkyne fatty acid group combined with click-chemistry and sensitive fluorescence detection is a promising method for target-based HTS.

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#### DISCLOSURES:

The authors have nothing to disclose.

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- 460

FIGURE 1

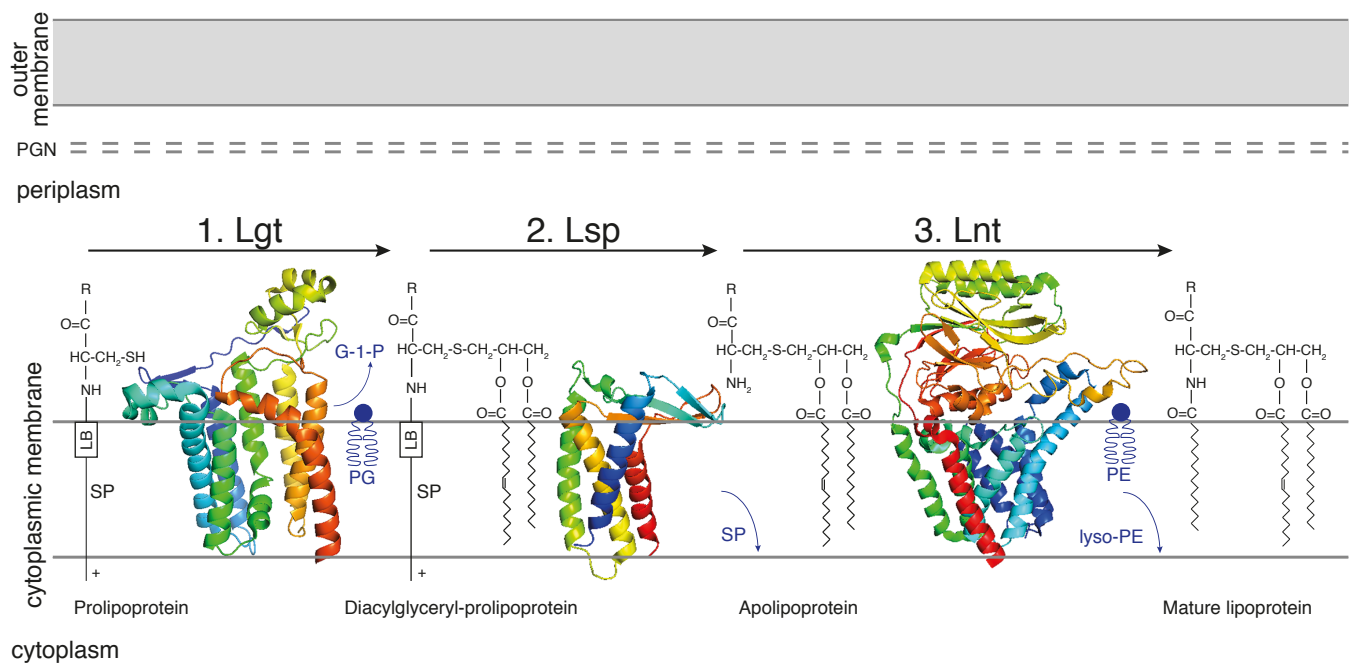


FIGURE 2

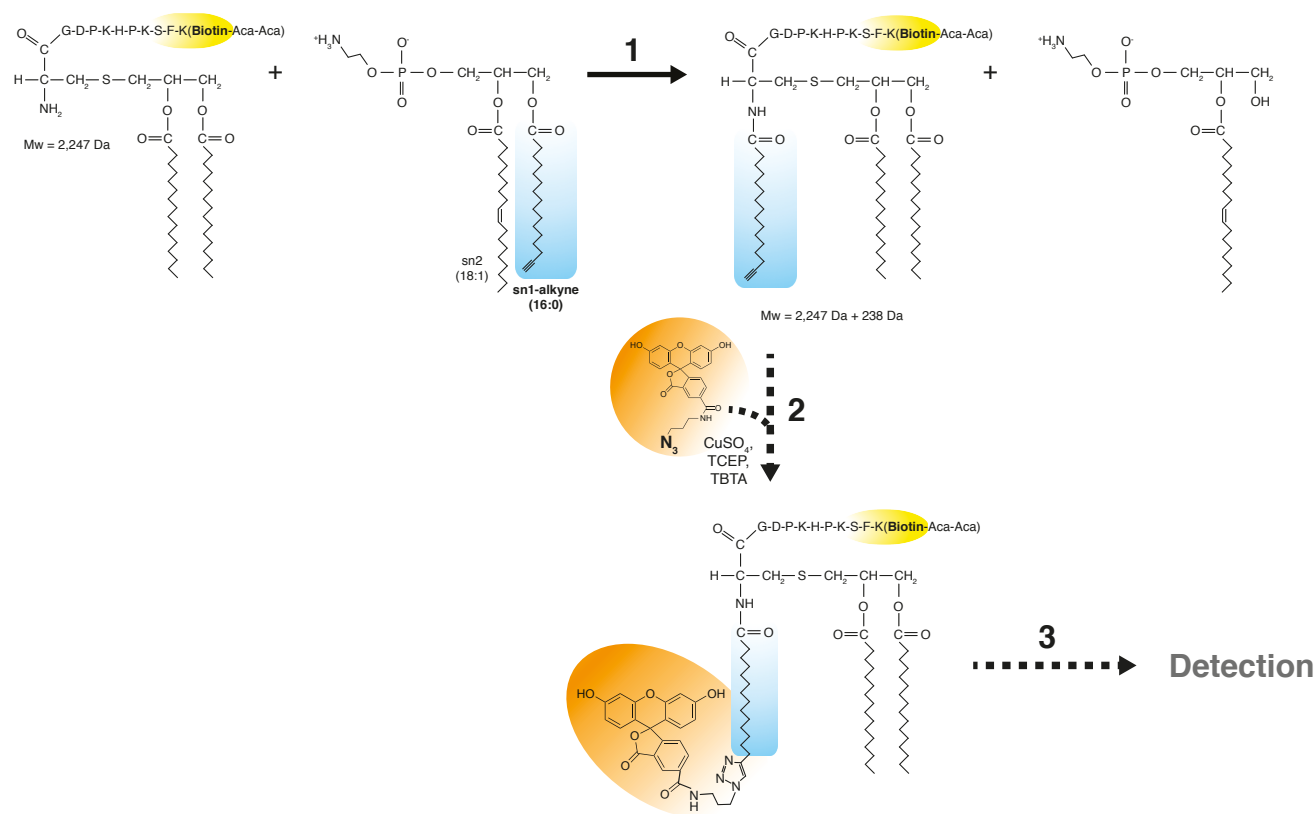


FIGURE 3

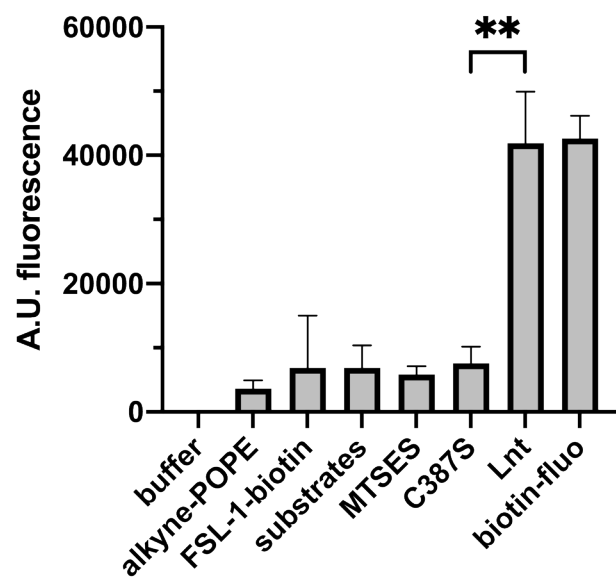
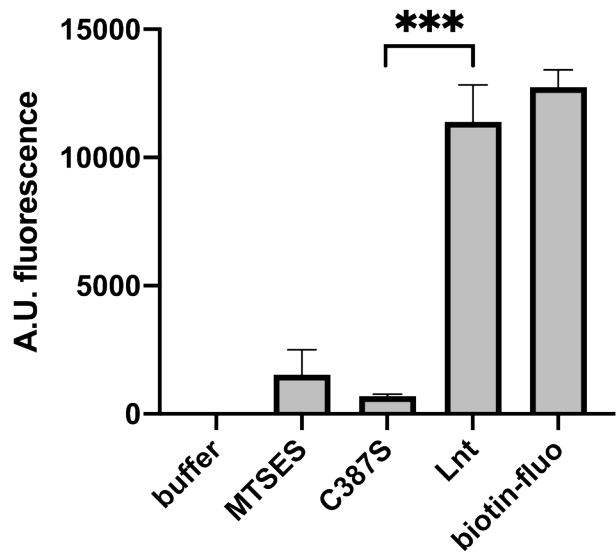


FIGURE 4



Name of Material/ Equipment	Company
Äkta Purifier FPLC system	GE Healthcare
alkyne-POPE	Avanti Polar Lipids
Azido-FAM	Lumiprobe
BioPhotometer Plus	Eppendorf
BioTek ELX 405 Select plate washer	BioTek
biotin-fluorescein	Sigma
Copper(II) sulfate pentahydrate	Sigma
DDM	Anatrace
Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO)	Invitrogen
Electronic pipet Voyager 8 channels 0.5-12.5 uL	INTEGRA
French Pressure Cell	N/A
FSL-1-biotin	EMC microcollections
Greiner Bio-One 384-well standard CELLSTAR polystyrene microplate	Greiner
Greiner Bio-One 96-well sterile polystyrene plate, high binding	Greiner
Microplate reader Infinite M1000 pro	Tecan
MTSES (sodium (2-sulfonatoethyl)methanethiosulfonate)	Anatrace
Optically Clear Adhesive Seal Sheets	Thermo Scientific
Sephacryl S400 HR 16/60 gel filtration column	GE Healthcare
StrepTactin Sepharose 50 %	IBA Biotechnology
streptavidin	Sigma
TBTA (tris[(1-benzyl-1H-1,2,3-triazol-4-yl)methyl]amine	Sigma
TCEP (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride	Sigma
TECAN Infinite F500	Tecan
TECAN Infinite M1000 pro	Tecan
Thermomixer C	Eppendorf
Triton X-100	Sigma
Ultra centrifuge	Beckman LC

Catalog Number	Purity	Comments/Description
NA	NA	Lnt purification
900414P	>99%	Lnt substrate
A4130	100% (pure)	Click reagent
N/A	NA	OD 600 nm
N° serie 115800, n° materiel 405 Select	NA	Wash steps
53608	≥90%	Fluorescence control
C3036	≥98%	Click reagent
D310A	≥ 99% β+α; < 15% α	Detergent for Lnt purification
D12435	anhydrous	Solubilization Click reagent
4721	NA	Handling reagents
N/A	NA	Cell disruption
L7030	NA	Lnt substrate
781091	NA	Black with transparent bottom (up or bottom reading)
655097	NA	Black with transparent bottom (up or bottom reading)
N/A	NA	Fluorescence detection
S110MT	~100%	Thiol specific inhibitor
AB-1170	NA	Foil to seal multi-well plate
GE28-9356-04	NA	Lnt purification
2-1201-010	NA	Lnt purification
S4762-1MG	≥13 units/mg protein	Biotin binding
678937	97%	Click reagent
75259	≥98%	Click reagent
N/A	NA	Fluorescence detection
N/A	NA	Fluorescence detection
5382000015	NA	Heated lid
93443	10% in H2O	Lnt reaction buffer
N/A	NA	Cell fractionation

**07 Feb 2020**

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