

# Reversible Chemoenzymatic Protein Labeling

Tech ID: 23288 / UC Case 2013-030-0

## BACKGROUND

Some of nature's most complex molecules are made by cellular factories that rely on an acyl carrier protein (ACP) to shuttle growing molecules along biological assembly lines. Post-translational protein modification is important for adding functions to proteins that can be exploited for therapeutics, protein engineering, affinity design and enzyme immobilization, among other applications. Commercial techniques for attaching labels to acyl carrier protein (ACP) and other carrier proteins are currently in use.

## TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

Researchers at UC San Diego have developed a method to reversibly tag a protein essential for the assembly of complex molecules in biological cells. Specifically, the inventors have invented new methods and compositions for removing a phosphopantethiene analogue moiety from an ACP-phosphopantetheine conjugate thereby providing Apo-ACP proteins. This reversible process can be repeated multiple times without degradation in protein identity, making it a major addition to an already popular and useful labeling method.

The technique could help researchers to rewire cellular factories, such as those involved in nonribosomal protein, and fatty acid syntheses, to allow construction of new products, such as biofuels or drugs. Given the multitude of existing opportunities for ACP labeling, particularly in work involving fusion-protein applications and natural-product biosynthetic studies, this reversible methodology will provide markedly improved flexibility for rapid modification of protein species. Additionally, the cost-saving measure of recovering valuable apo-ACP substrates cannot be overlooked.

## STATE OF DEVELOPMENT

The researchers have published on the full reversibility of the technique in visualization and functional studies. Results indicate that given the wide substrate acceptance demonstrated by this enzymatic approach, various fluorescent and functional tags can be exchanged on a single protein with robustness not offered by previous enzymatic methods.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFO

This technology is available for worldwide licensing.

## RELATED MATERIALS

- ▶ [Nicolas M Kosa, Robert W Haushalter, Andrew R Smith & Michael D Burkart "Reversible labeling of native and fusion-protein motifs" Nature Methods 9, 2012, pp 981-984. - 10/01/2012](#)
- ▶ [Coverage in Sept 19, 2012 issue of Chemical & Engineering News "Tool May Aid Biosynthetic Reverse Engineering" - 09/19/2012](#)

## PATENT STATUS

| Country                  | Type          | Number    | Dated      | Case     |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| United States Of America | Issued Patent | 9,823,254 | 11/21/2017 | 2013-030 |

## ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES BY THESE INVENTORS

- ▶ [Synthetic Anticancer Polyketide Compounds](#)
- ▶ [\(SD2008-188\) Anticancer Agents - Novel Spirohexenolides](#)

## CONTACT

University of California, San Diego  
Office of Innovation and Commercialization  
[innovation@ucsd.edu](mailto:innovation@ucsd.edu)  
tel: 858.534.5815.



## INVENTORS

- ▶ Burkart, Michael D.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### KEYWORDS

Protein labeling, chemoenzymes,  
protein visualization

### CATEGORIZED AS

- ▶ **Agriculture & Animal Science**
  - ▶ Transgenics
- ▶ **Biotechnology**
  - ▶ Industrial/ Energy
- ▶ **Materials & Chemicals**
  - ▶ Biological
- ▶ **Research Tools**
  - ▶ Protein Synthesis

### RELATED CASES

2013-030-0

