



AK Biokatalyse  
biocat



Materials Valley e. V. Workshop  
// Biokatalyse //  
24.04.2014

BASF SE Feierabendhaus, Ludwigshafen Hessen  
Donnerstag den 24. April 2014

# Biocatalytic processes in cellular systems

## Synthetic Biology and Biocatalysis

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# Talk structure

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Talk

- BIOCATS IN BERLIN
- CODE ENGINEERING: WHY & HOW?
- APPLICATIONS
- CURRENT PROBLEMS (AND SOLUTIONS) IN THE FIELD
- BIOORTHOGONAL CHEMISTRIES AND ARTIFICIAL METABOLISM
- VISION
- COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

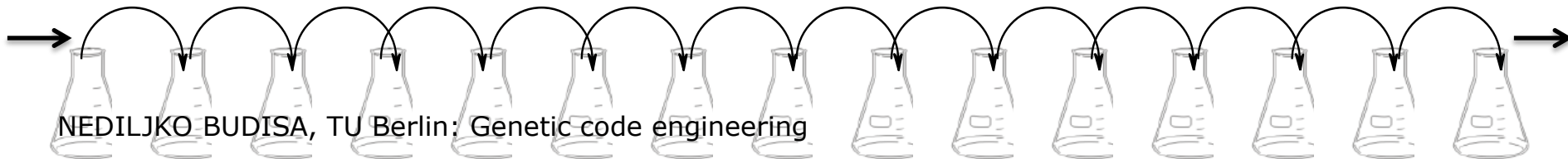
# Biocatalysis Group, Institute of Chemistry Berlin Institute of Technology (TU Berlin), Germany



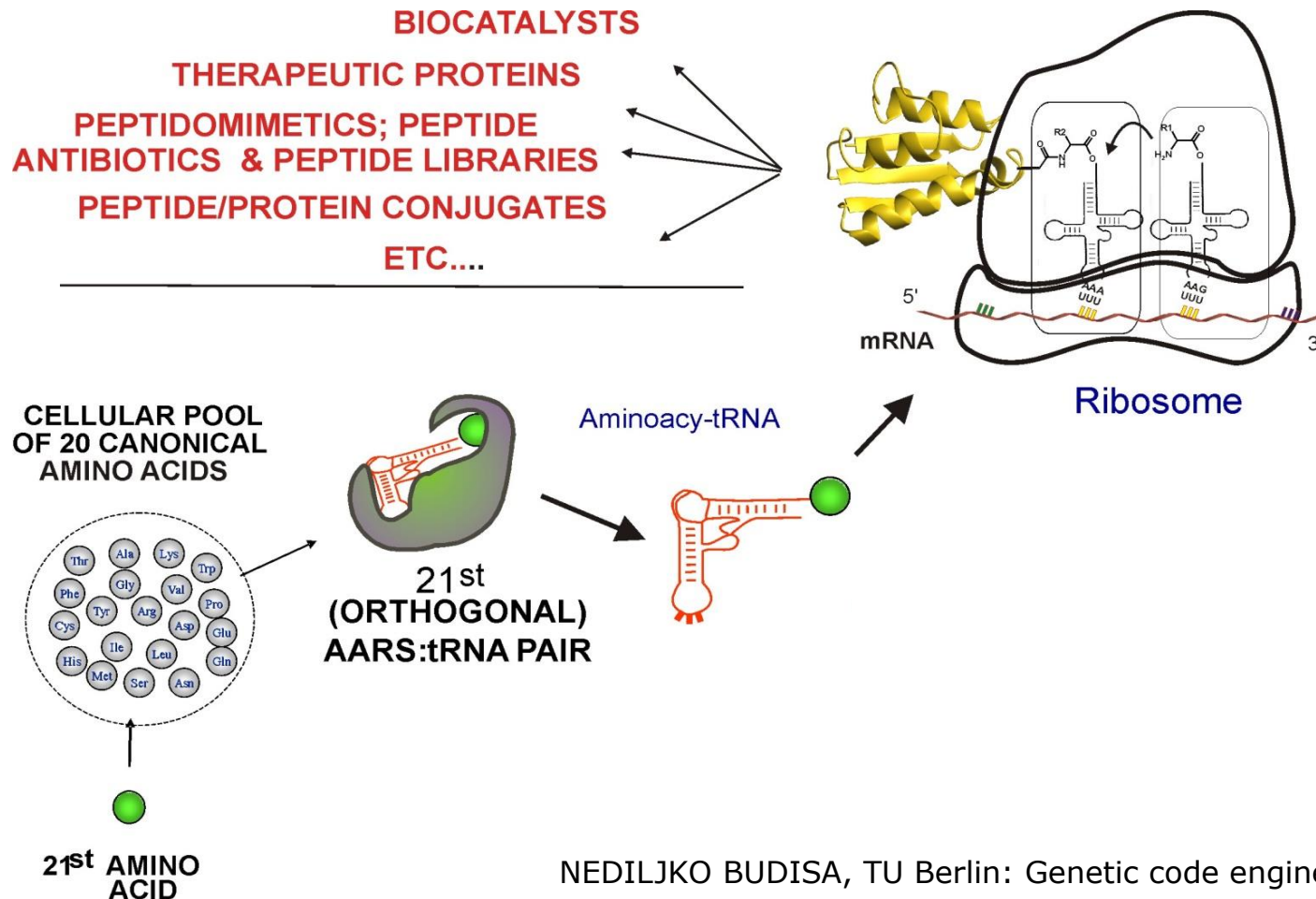
Group leader: Prof. Dr. Nediljko Budisa

Web: [www.biocat.tu-berlin.de](http://www.biocat.tu-berlin.de)

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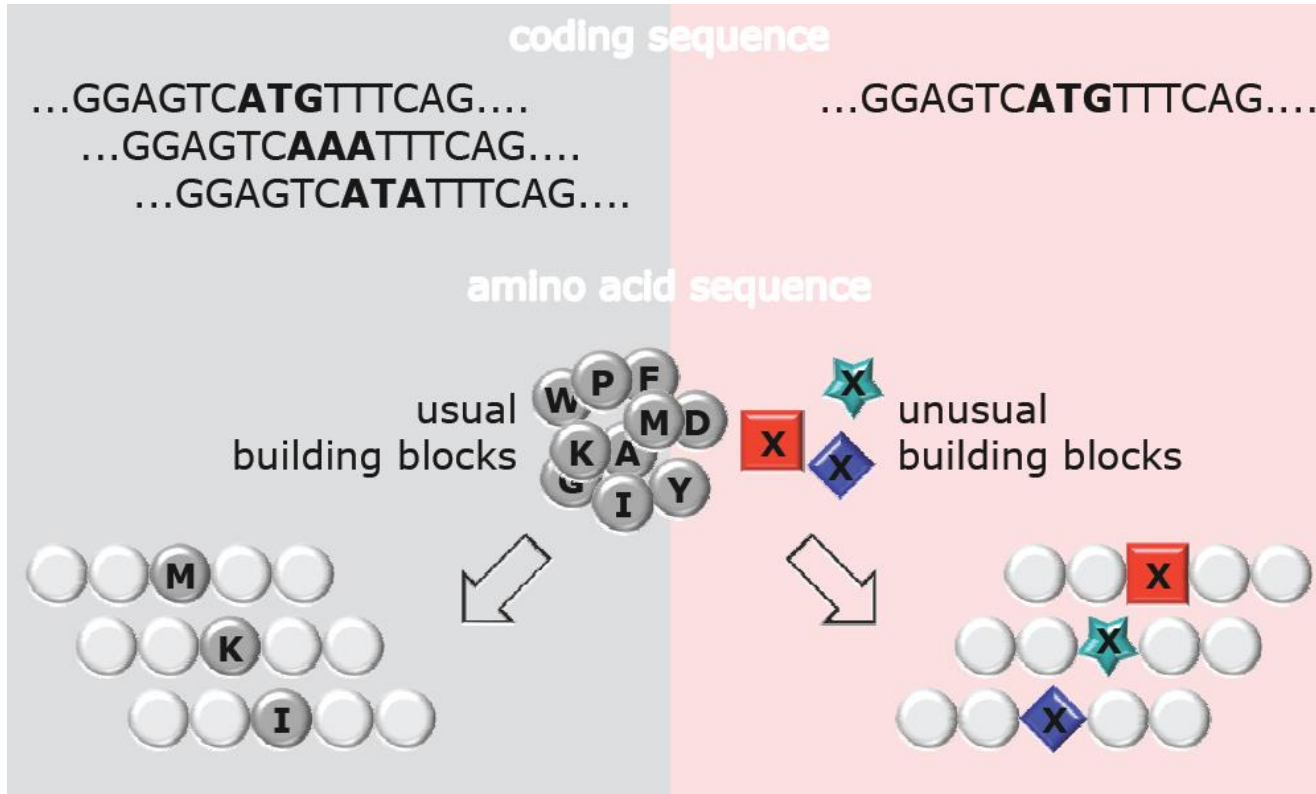
## TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF PROTEINS SYNTHESIS (Genetic Code Engineering & Expansion)





# Our Mission. Congeners vs. Mutants

NEDILJKO BUDISA, TU Berlin: Genetic code engineering



B. Wiltschi

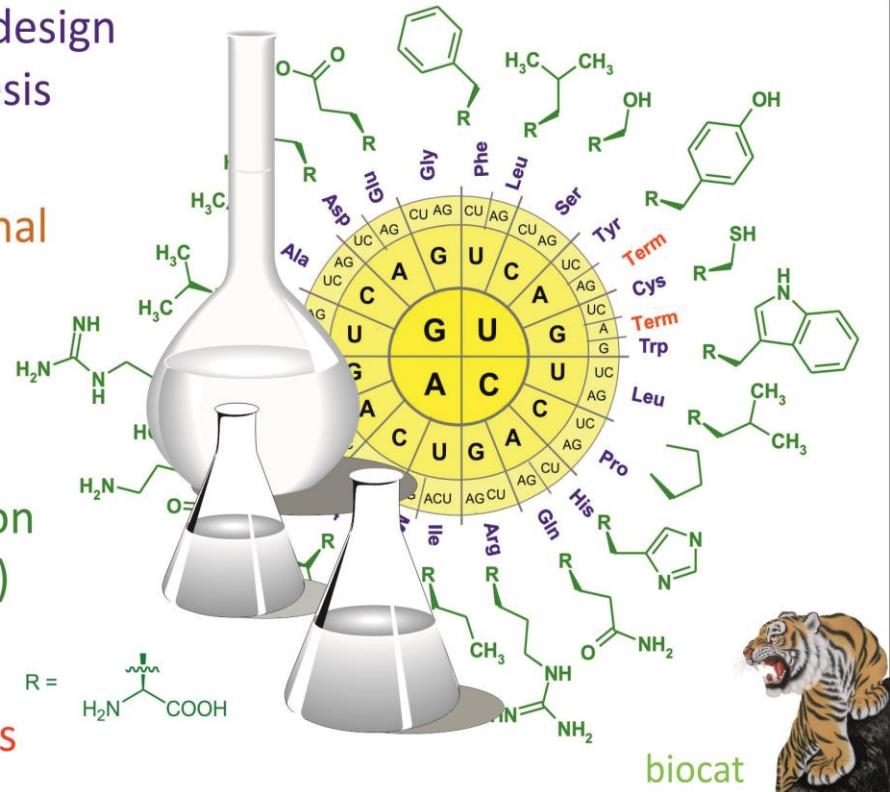
**MUTANTS** - CLASSICAL SITE-DIRECTED MUTAGENESIS & GUIDED EVOLUTION

**CONGENERS** - THE SAME GENE SEQUENCE AS WT BUT CONTAINS A FRACTION OF SYNTHETIC AMINO ACIDS

## SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY OF PROTEINS AND CELLS

(at the interface of chemistry and biology)

- Alloprotein (congeneric proteins) design & engineering in protein biosynthesis (Polypeptide based bio/nano-materials)
- Chemical control of posttranslational modifications of proteins (Bioorthogonal transformations)
- Metabolic engineering
- Genetic code engineering/expansion (orthogonalization/reprogramming)
- Visions: A new chemistry of life  
Designer proteins and cells





Topic

CODE ENGINEERING

WHY & HOW?

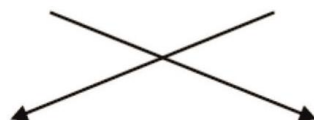
APPLICATIONS?

# The Big Picture: Flow of Information in Biology

State of  
the art

## GENETIC CODE RE-DESIGN

at the level of:



### a) Informational polymers (e.g. nucleic acids)

- Creation of novel “letters”  
(e.g. noncanonical coding units)  
by:
  - New/different **combinations**  
of “letters” or coding units  
(e.g. quadruplets, pentaplets)
  - New/different **chemical make-up**  
of informational polymers  
(e.g. XNA)

### b) Catalytic polymers (e.g. proteins)

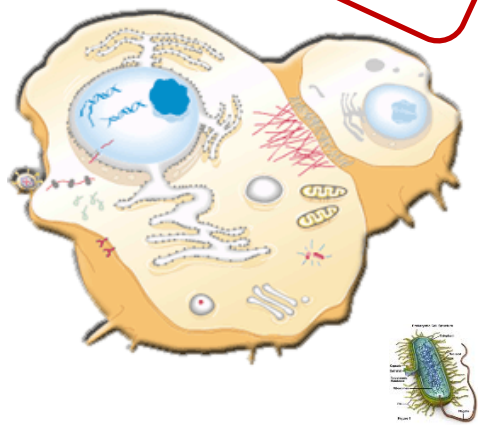
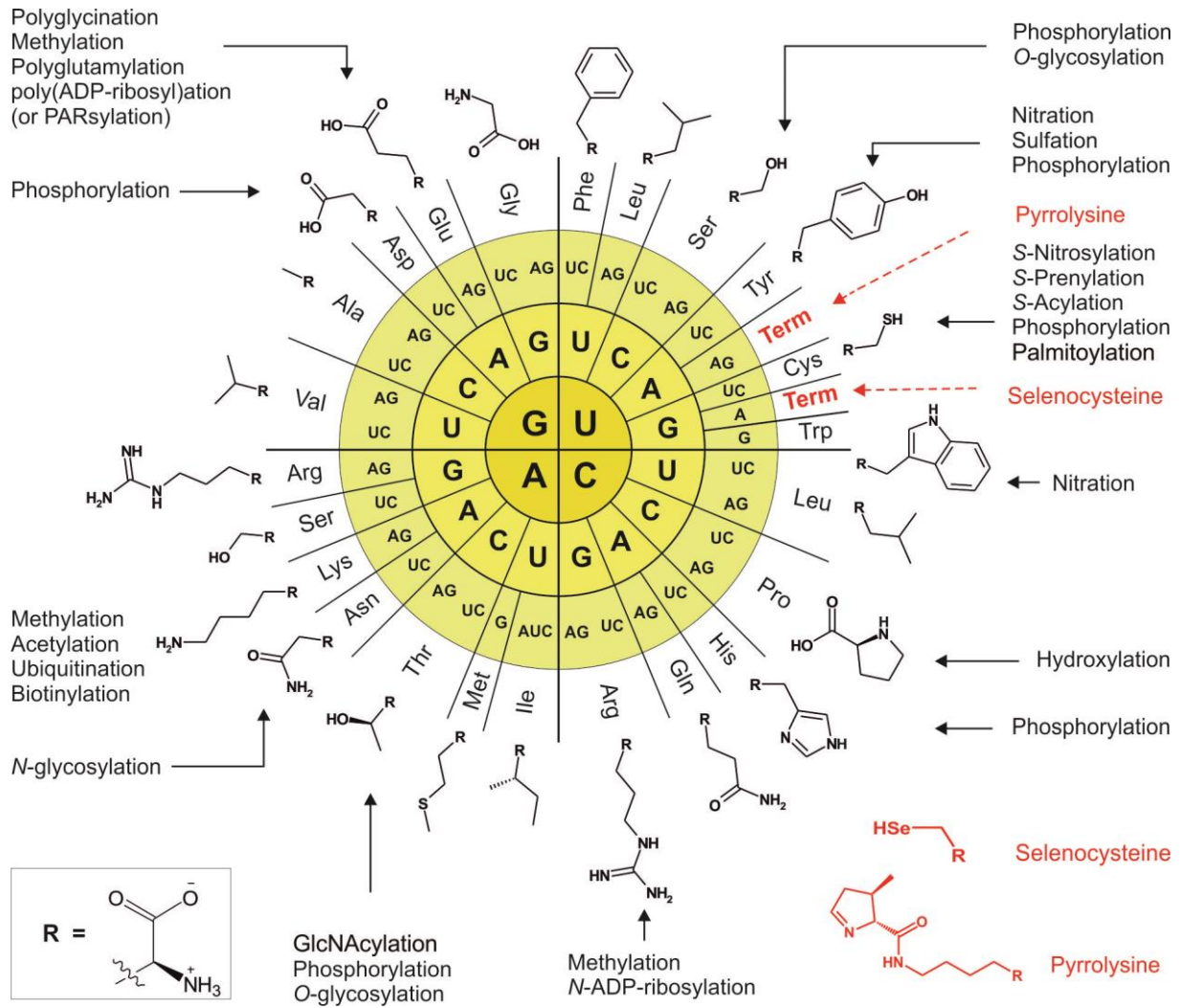
- Building blocks “monomers”  
(e.g. amino acids) :
  - **Reduction**
  - **Substitutions** (engineering) of canonical  
building blocks with noncanonical ones  
(e.g. noncanonical amino acids, ncAAs)
  - **Expansions** of standard repertoire with  
noncanonical building blocks (e.g. ncAAs)



# WHY CODE ENGINEERING?

## CO- AND POST-TRANSLATIONAL MODIFICATIONS

State of the art



### Engineering point of view:

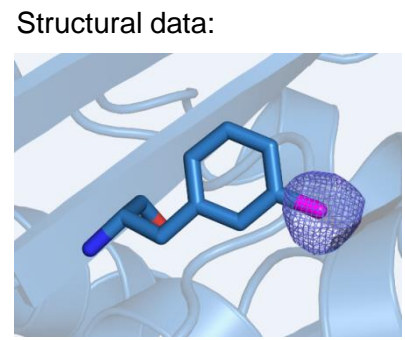
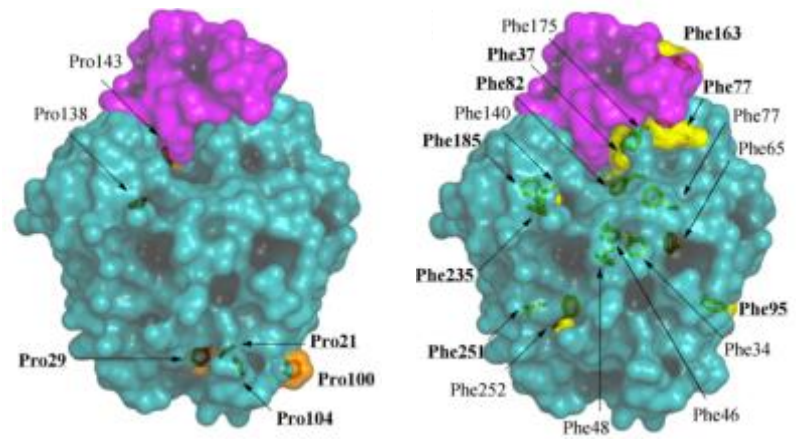
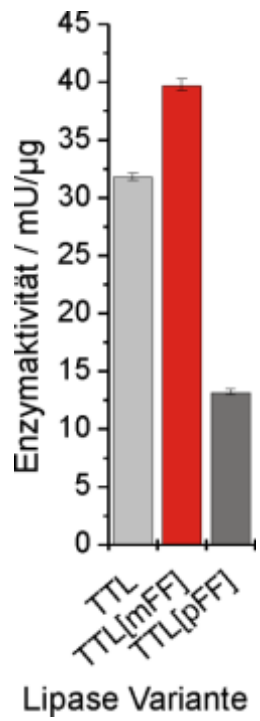
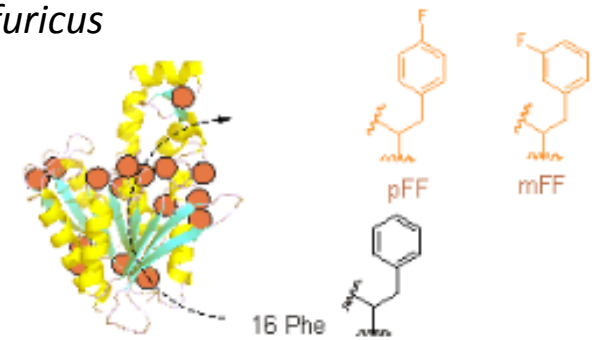
- PTM machinery - highly complex (compartmentalization!)
- large quantities of homogeneous product?
- recognition features - easily destroyed

# Example: improved lipase (TTL)

Novel

Phenylalanine → *meta*-Fluorphenylalanine Global Exchange in TTL (Lipase form *Thermoanaerobacter thermohydrosulfuricus* SOL1)

→ Congener is ~ 25% active



Hoesl *et al.* Lipase Congeners Designed by Genetic Code Engineering. *ChemCatChem*, 3, 213-221 (2011).

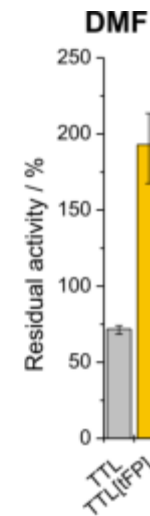
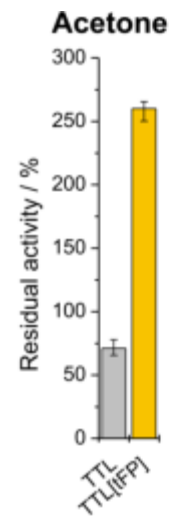
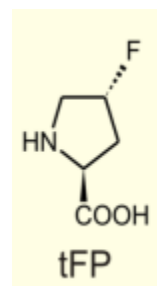
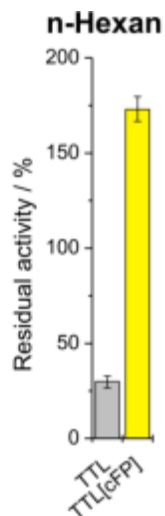
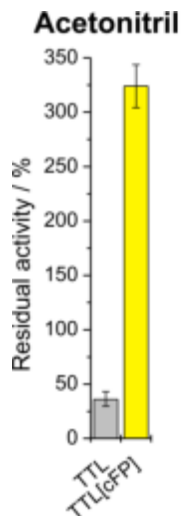
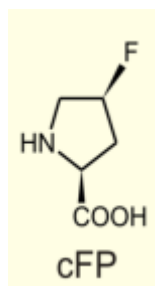
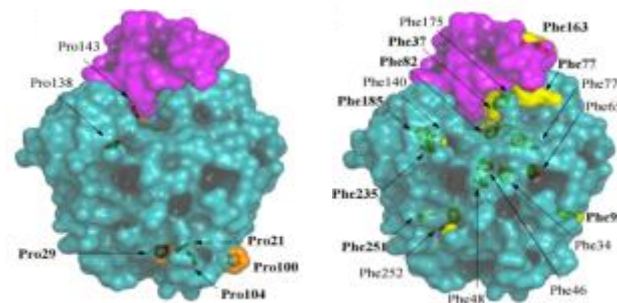
Spyros D. Chatziefthimiou  
Willmanns Group at EMBL  
Hamburg (2014)

# Example: improved lipase (TTL) in organic solvents

Novel

**Prolin → Fluoroproline**  
**Exchange in TTL:**

→ Congeners with increased  
resistance to 90% of solvent

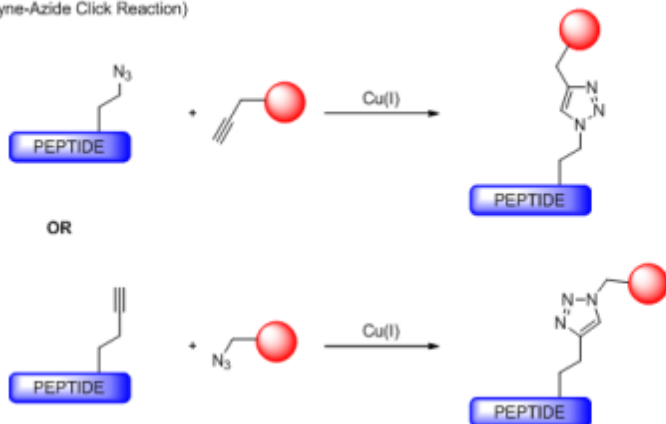


Acevedo-Rocha *et al.* Non-canonical amino acids as a useful synthetic biological tool for lipase-catalysed reactions in hostile environments *Catal. Sci. Technol.*, 3, 1198-1201 (2013)

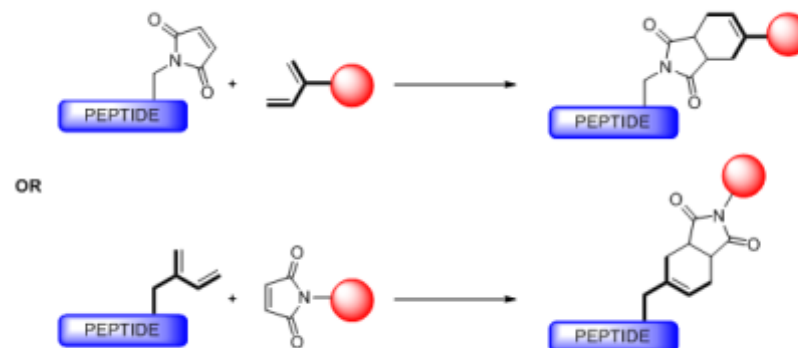
# Congeners for bio-orthogonal coupling chemistries

Novel

## Alkyne-Azide Huisgen Cycloaddition (Alkyne-Azide Click Reaction)

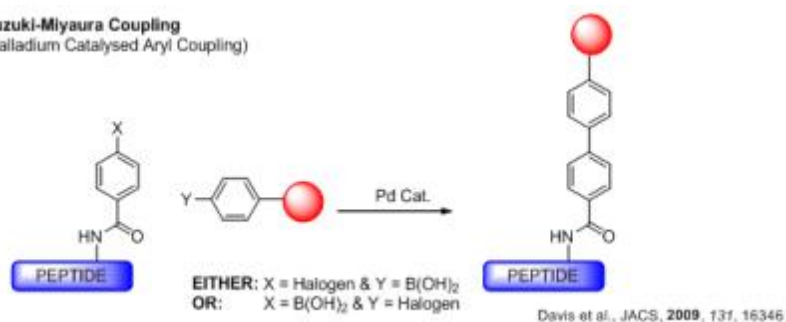


## [4+2]-Cycloaddition (Diels-Alder Reaction)

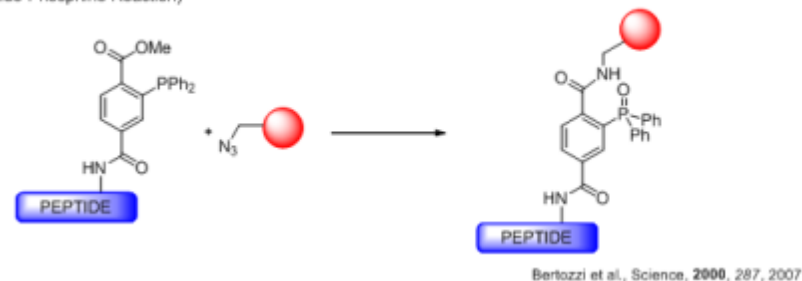


Eur. J. Org. Chem., 2010, 33, 6303–6314

## Suzuki-Miyaura Coupling (Palladium Catalysed Aryl Coupling)



## Staudinger Ligation (Azide-Phosphine Reaction)



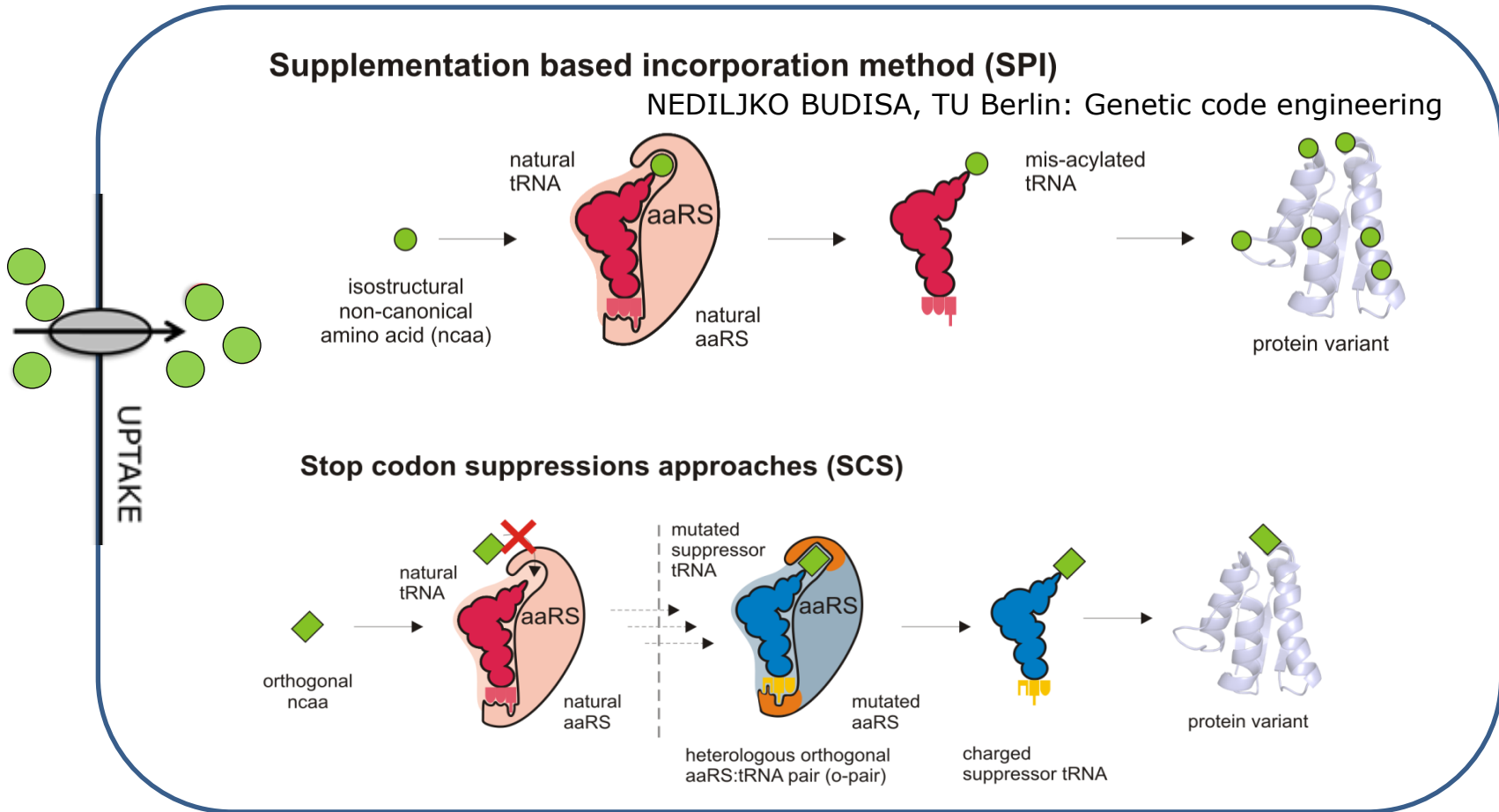
Artnar, L. A., Merkel, L., Bohlke, N., Beceren-Braun, F., Weise, C., Dervede, J., Budisa, N, Hackenberger, C. P. R. (2012). *Chem. Commun* **48**, 522 – 524



# Strategies to expand the genetic code

NEDILJKO BUDISA, TU Berlin: Genetic code engineering

State of the art

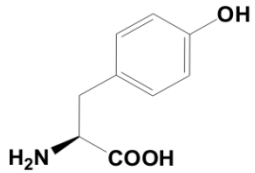


# Orthogonal translation

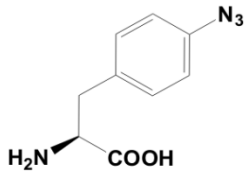
Novel

## Currently available orthogonal pairs & Cell permeable amino acids

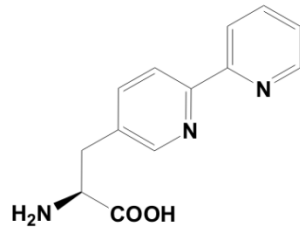
### *Methanocaldococcus jannaschii* TyrRS System (Peter Schultz)



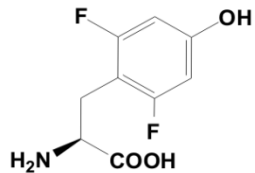
Tyrosin



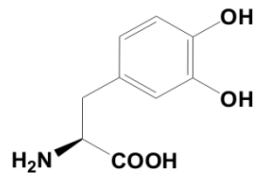
Azidophenylalanin



Bipyridylalanin

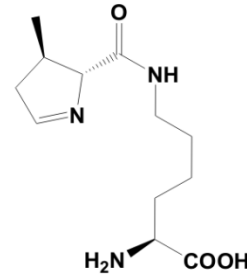


2,6-Difluoro-Tyrosin

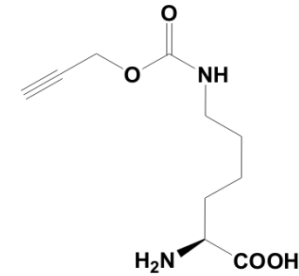


DOPA

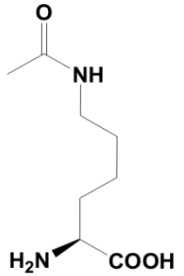
### *Methanosarcina* sp. PylRS System



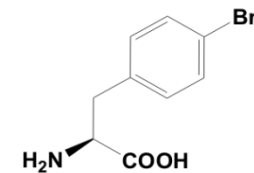
Pyrrolysyl



Alkin-Pyl-Analog



Keto-Pyl-Analog



4-Bromophenylalanin

# CURRENT PROBLEMS (AND SOLUTIONS) IN THE FIELD

## BIOORTHOGONAL CHEMISTRIES AND ARTIFICIAL METABOLISM

# General problems and issues

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Issues

- **Scale of production**
- **Metabolic engineering**  
(ncAAs should be synthesized from simple precursors)
- **Quality of o-pairs/engineered enzymes**
- **Evolution and selection procedures (robust strains)**
- Paradigm shift: single proteins -> Proteomes
- **Societal and industrially relevant problems**

N. Budisa: Xenobiology, New-to-Nature Synthetic Cells and Genetic Firewall  
*Current Organic Chemistry*, **18**, (2014) In press .

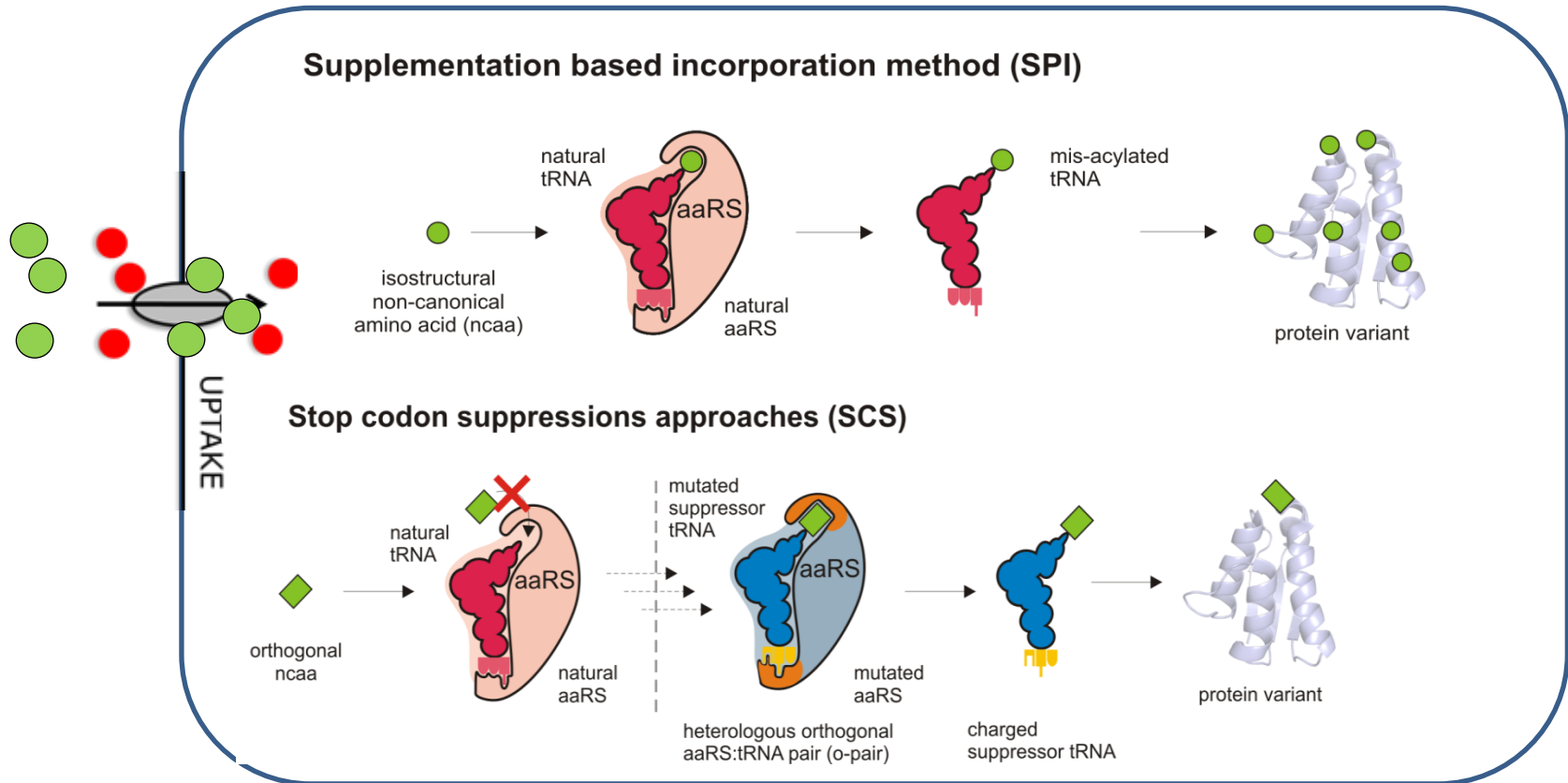
NEDILJKO BUDISA, TU Berlin: Genetic code engineering



# Metabolic engineering ?

Issues

Solution of industrially relevant bio-production problems?

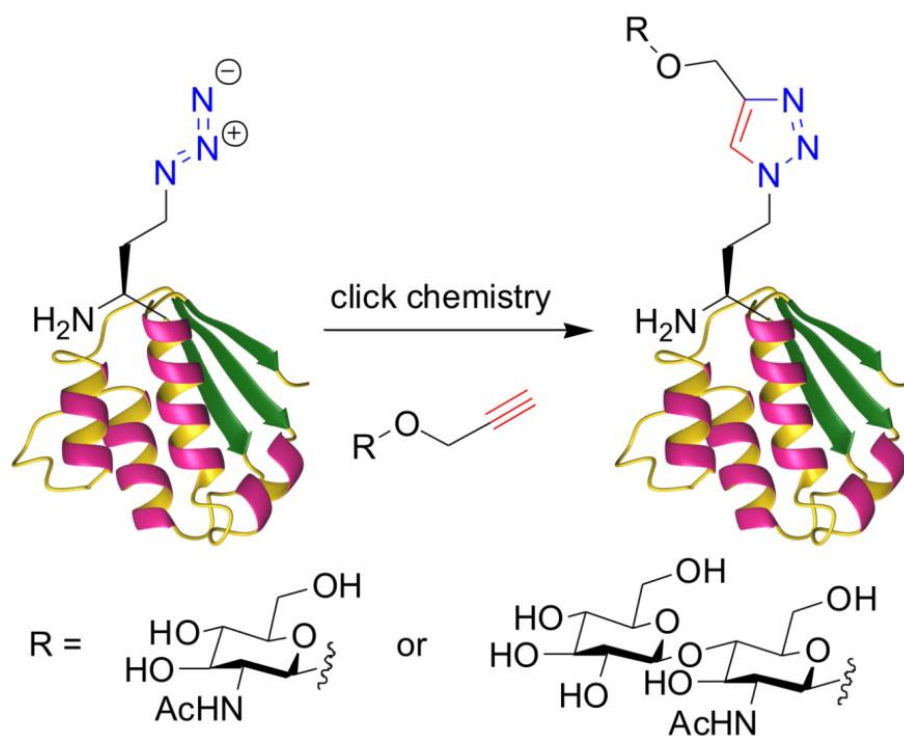


Metabolic engineering (ncAAs should be synthesized from simple precursors)



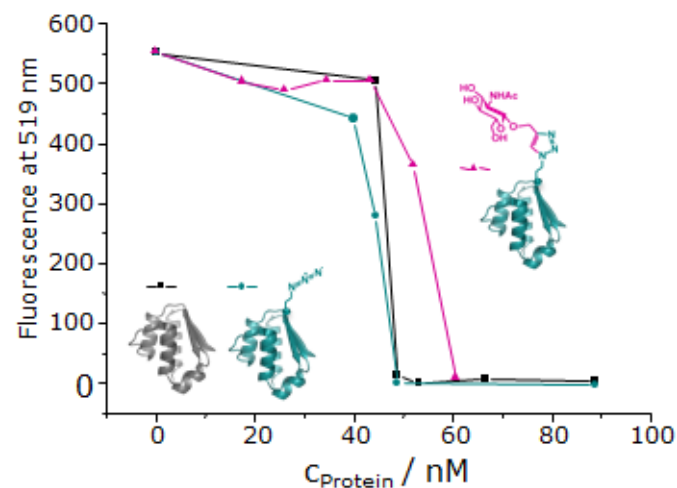
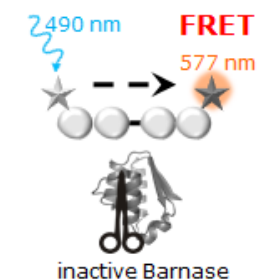
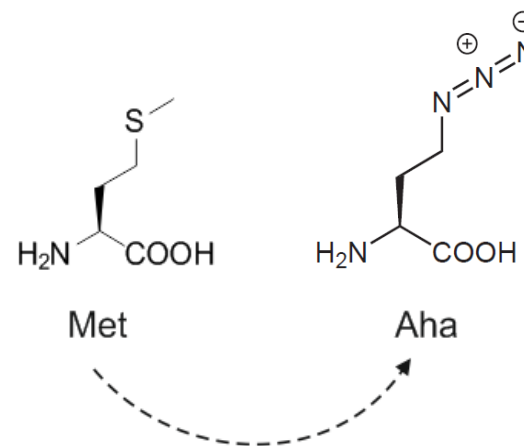
# Case study: glycosylation of barstar

Novel



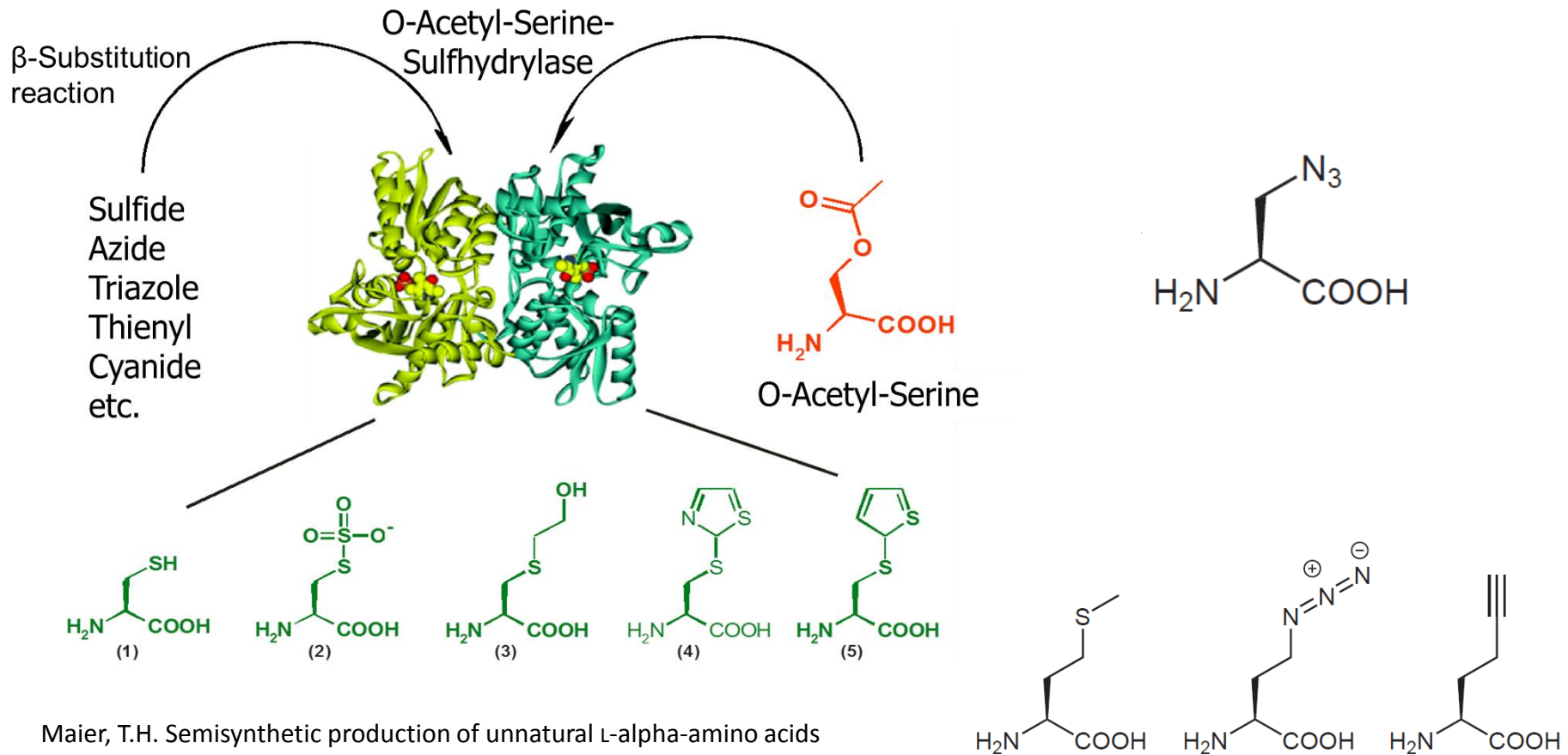
R = N-acetyl glucose (NAGlu); or  
R = N-acetyl chitobiose (NAChi)

Merkel, L., Beckmann, H. S. G., Wittmann, V., Budisa, N. (2008).  
Efficient N-terminal Glycoconjugation of Proteins by the N-End Rule.  
*ChemBioChem* **9**, 1220-1224.



# Metabolic engineering in *Escherichia coli*: Intracellular biosynthesis of azidohomoalanine (Aha)?

Novel



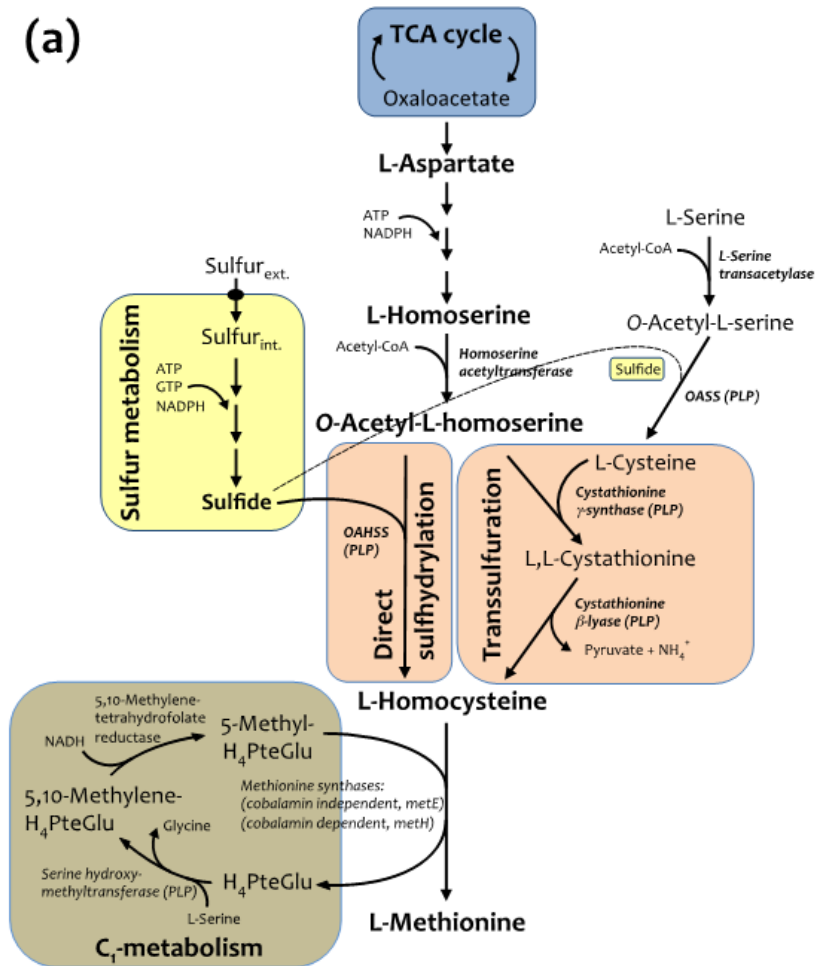
Maier, T.H. Semisynthetic production of unnatural L-alpha-amino acids by metabolic engineering of the cysteine-biosynthetic Pathway. *Nat. Biotechnol.* **2003**, *21*, 422–427.



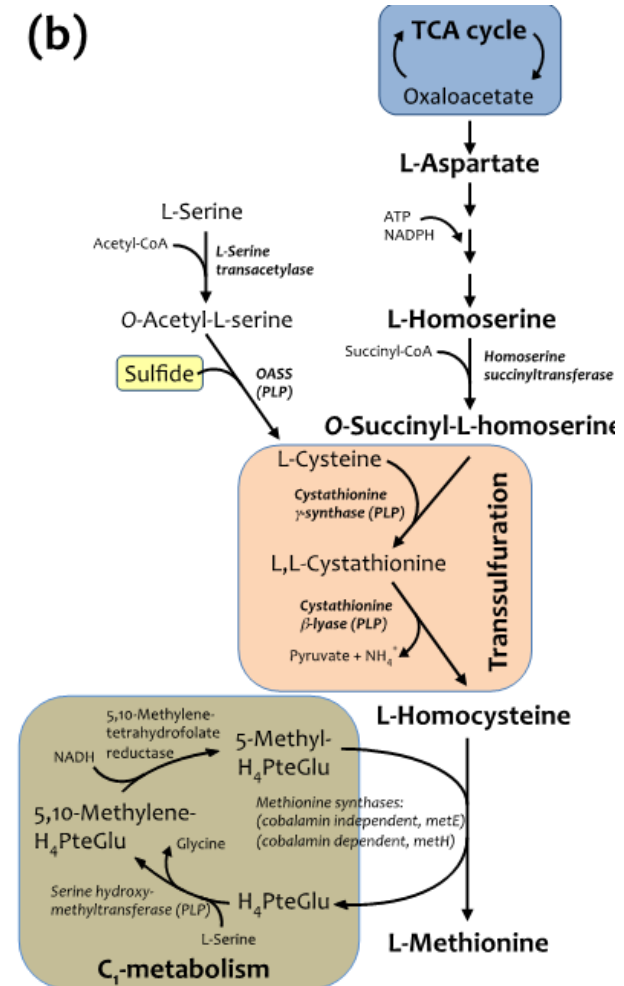
# Metabolic engineering: Intracellular biosynthesis of methionine

Novel

(a)



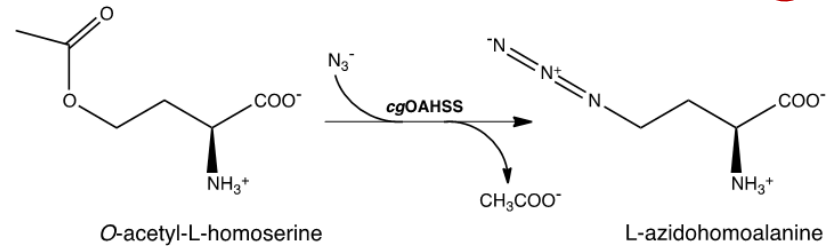
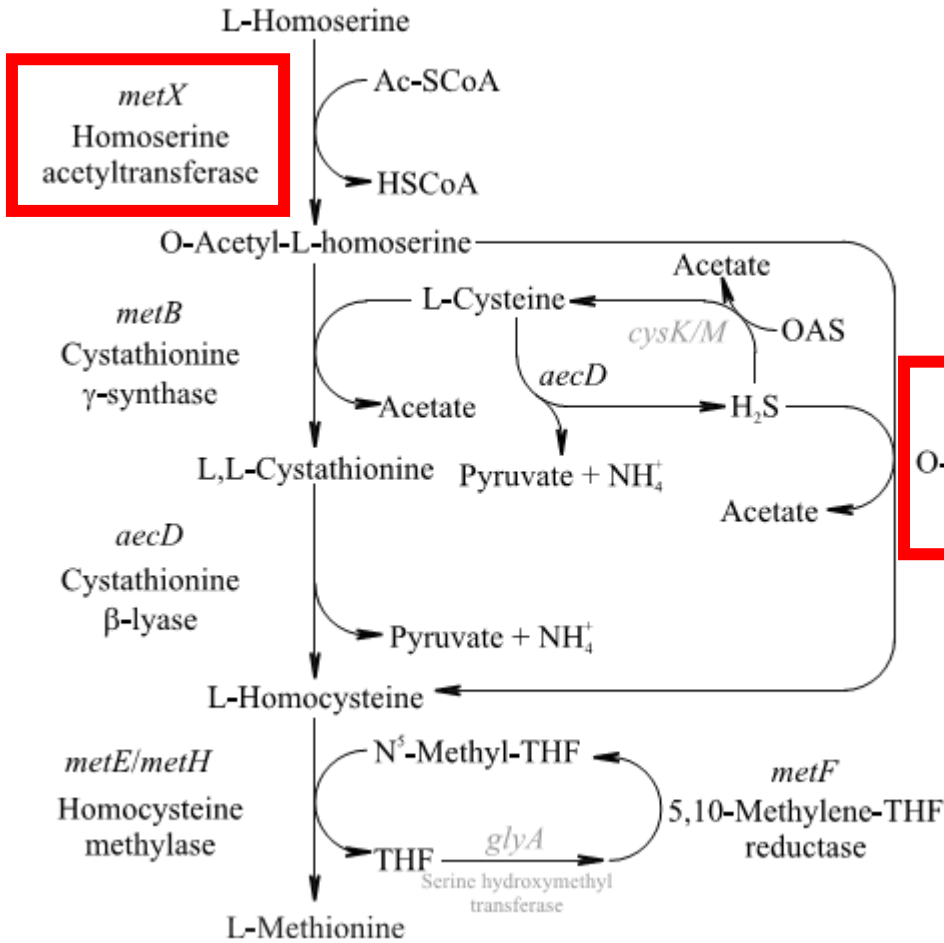
(b)



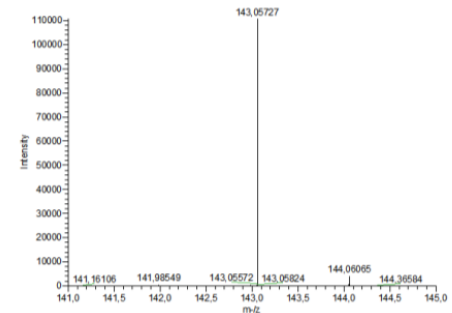
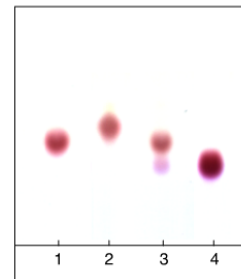
(a) Methionine biosynthetic pathway in *C. glutamicum* and (b) *E. coli*.

# Metabolic engineering: Intracellular biosynthesis of azidohomoalanine (Aha)

Novel



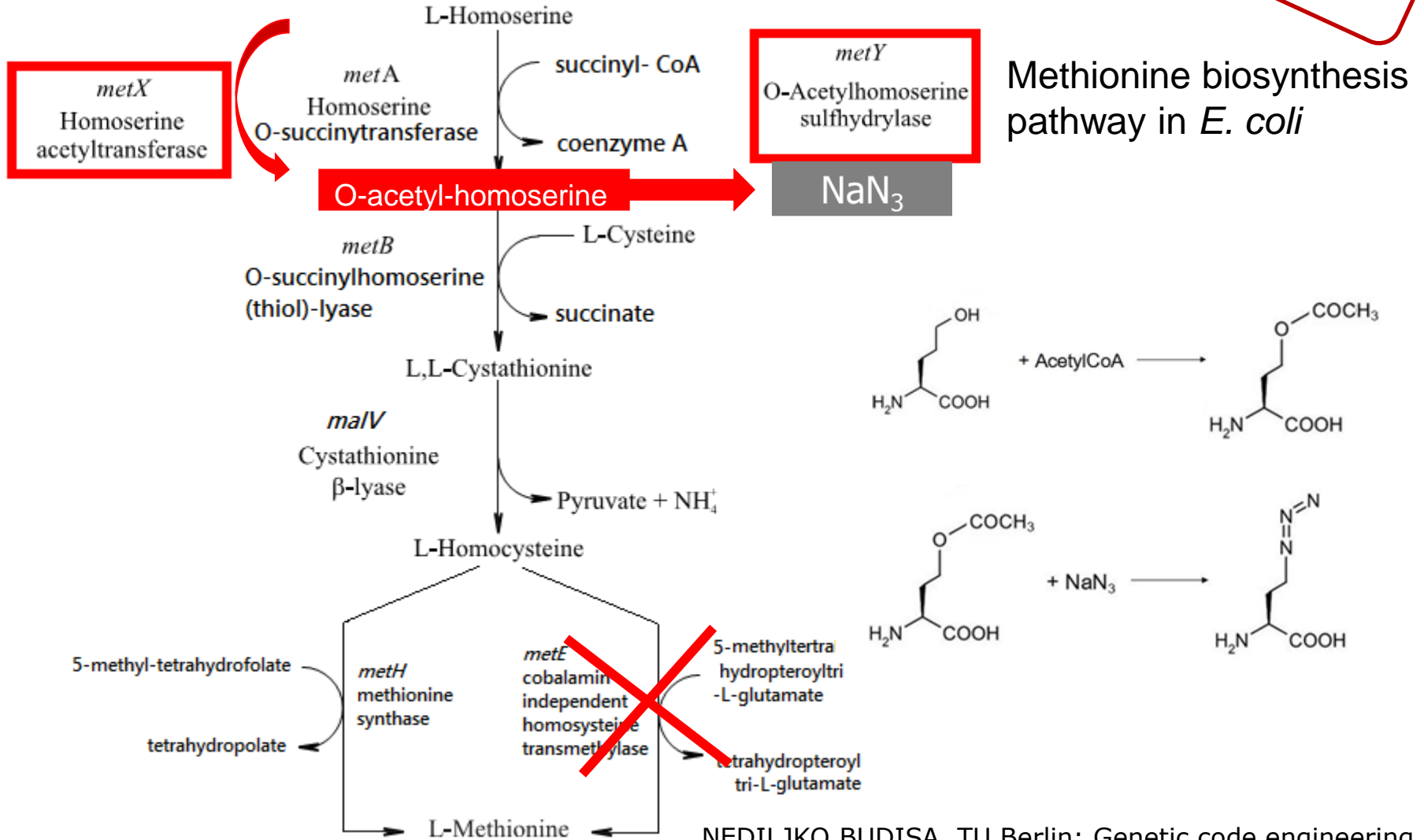
In vitro biosynthesis of  
azidohomoalanine (Aha)



Methionine synthesis pathway in  
*Corynebacterium glutamicum*

# Metabolic engineering: Intracellular biosynthesis of azidohomoalanine (Aha)

Novel

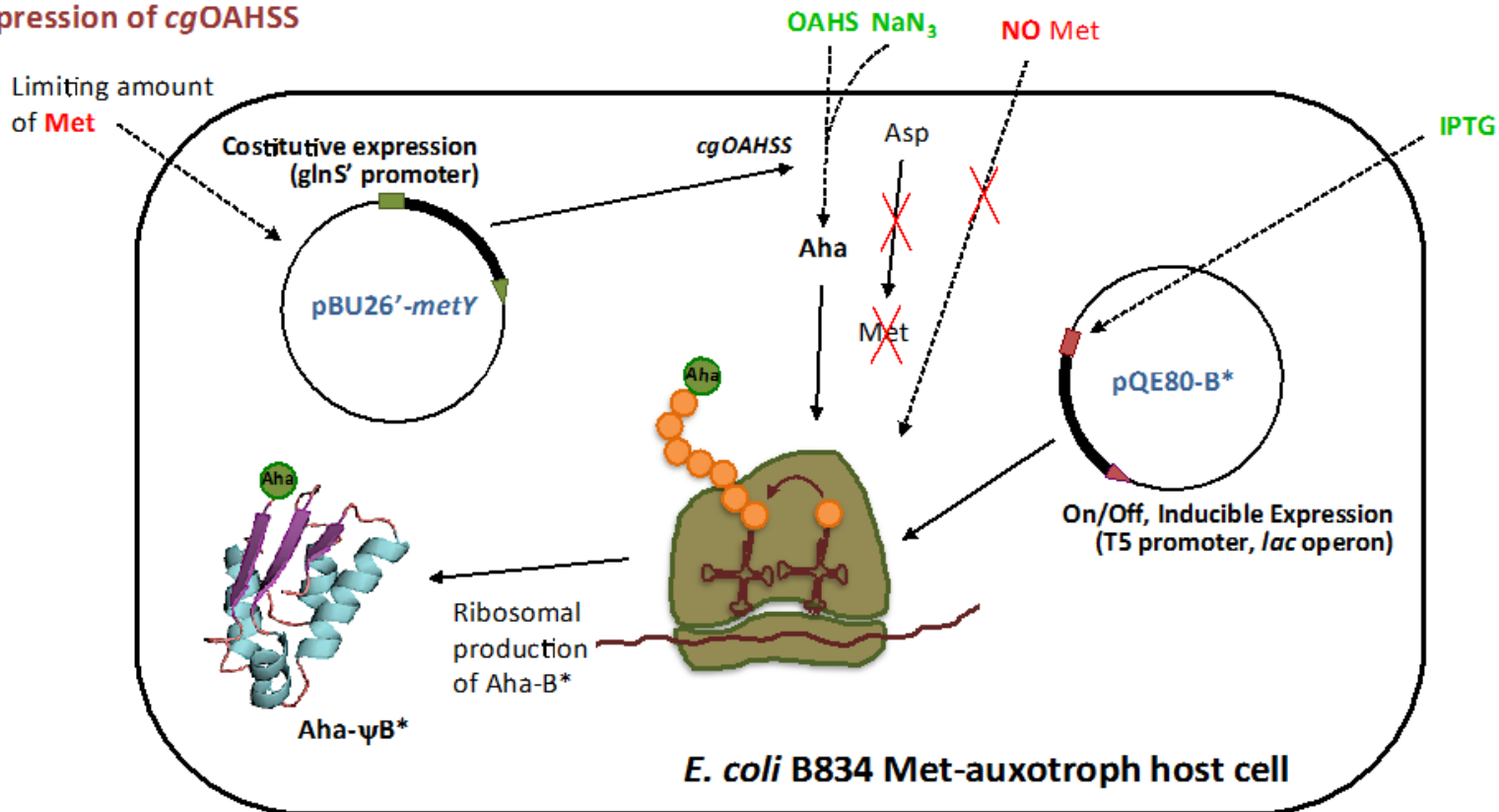


# General method for intracellular L-Aha production and incorporation into recombinant proteins

Novel

1<sup>st</sup> phase: limiting amounts of Met.  
Expression of *cgOAHSS*

2<sup>nd</sup> phase: all Met has been consumed.  
Addition of OAHs, NaN<sub>3</sub> and induction of B\* via IPTG.



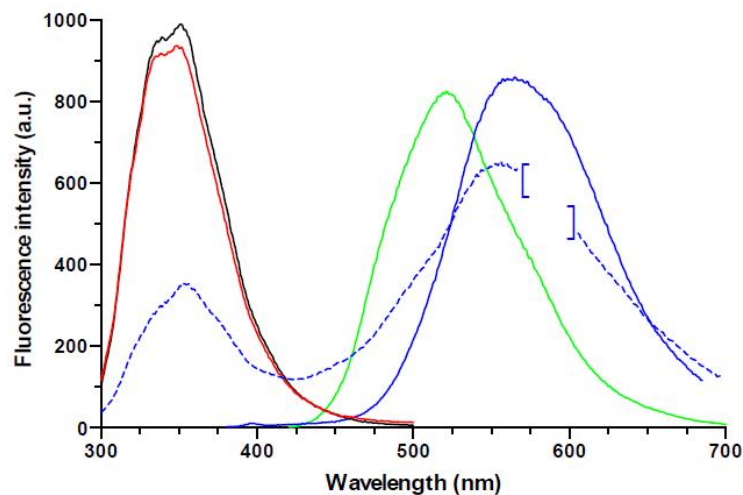
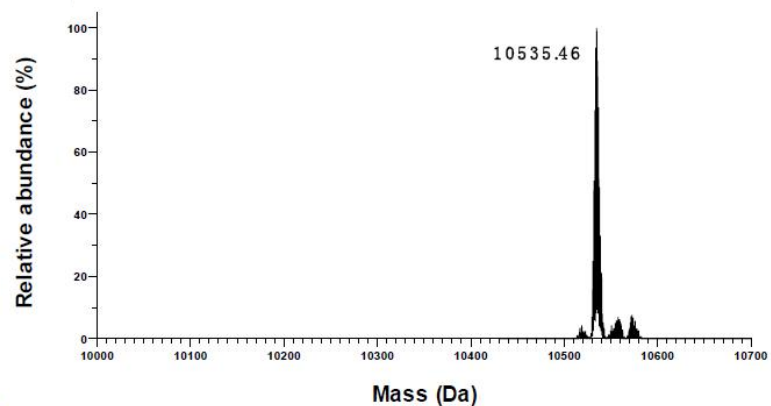
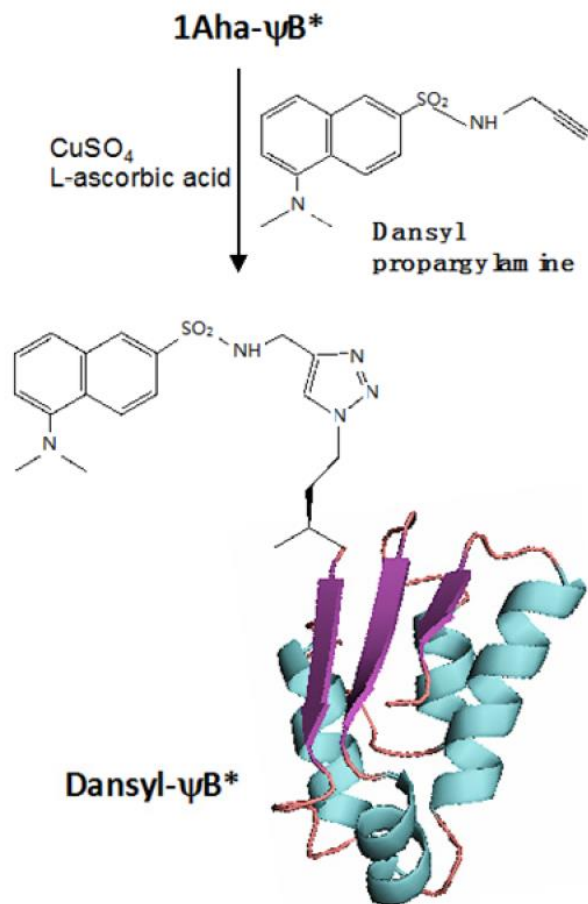
Ma Y, Biava H, Contestabile R, Budisa N, di Salvo ML (2014). Coupling Bioorthogonal Chemistries with Artificial Metabolism: Intracellular Biosynthesis of Azidohomoalanine and Its Incorporation into Recombinant Proteins.

*Molecules* **2014**, *19*, 1004-1022; doi:10.3390/molecules19011004



# Aha-barstar: Click chemistry and fluorescence

Novel



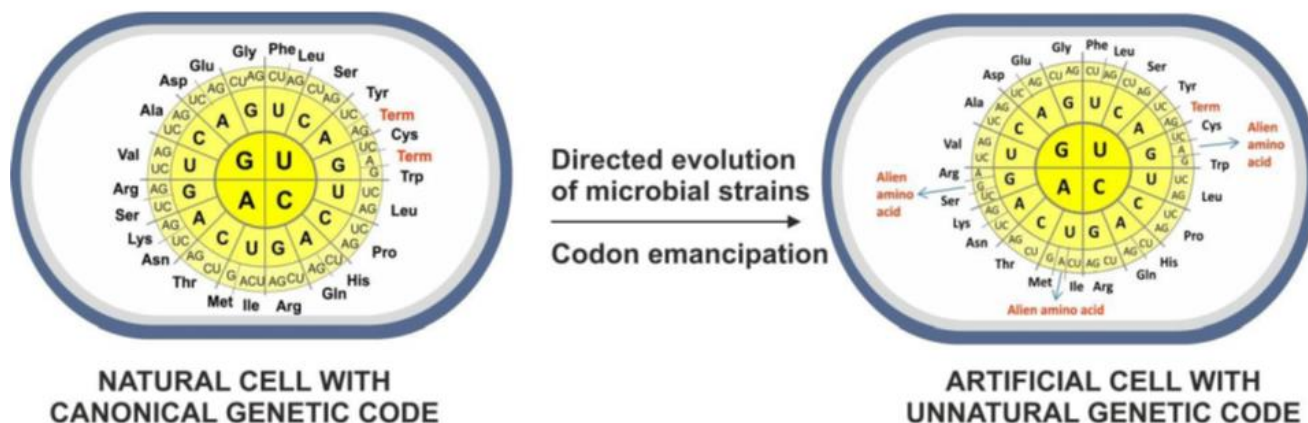
Ma Y, Biava H, Contestabile R, Budisa N, di Salvo ML (2014). Coupling Bioorthogonal Chemistries with Artificial Metabolism: Intracellular Biosynthesis of Azidohomoalanine and Its Incorporation into Recombinant Proteins.

*Molecules* **2014**, *19*, 1004-1022; doi:10.3390/molecules19011004

N. Budisa: Xenobiology, New-to-Nature Synthetic Cells and Genetic Firewall  
*Current Organic Chemistry*, **18**, (2014) In press .

## VISION

### Why Synthetic Biology?



# Why synthetic cells? Why new chemistry of life?

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Novel

We need platforms with engineered genetic code for the transfer of numerous chemical reactions and processes from the chemical synthetic laboratory into the biochemistry of living cells.

- Living cells (microbes) → ready-made prefabricated production systems governed by a genetic program
- Synthetic organisms as an important emerging technology because nature's own versatility would allow the production of practically any imaginable substance
- biological organisms are akin to programmable manufacturing systems; by making small changes in their genetic program a bioengineer can effect big changes in their output

N. Budisa: Xenobiology, New-to-Nature Synthetic Cells and Genetic Firewall  
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# Biocat Group in Berlin- Research Topics

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## **Drug Design**

(Ribosome as a route to the diversity of small molecules)

**Biomaterials** (congeneric peptides and proteins)

**Biocatalysis** (biocatalytic processes in cellular systems)

**Bioorthogonal conjugations** (synthetic chemistry & in vivo chemistry)

**Photobiology** - chromophore design (synthetic chemistry & chemistry in vivo)

**Biophysics** - protein folding and stability (Engineering & Design)

**Metabolic Engineering** (reprogramming intracellular amino acid syntheses)

**Directed evolution** and engineering of bacterial strains

**Designer proteins and cells** - alternative or novel chemistry of life

HERZLICHEN DANK FÜR IHRE  
AUFMERKSAMKEIT!!!