

1 **Discovery of a single-subunit oligosaccharyltransferase that enables glycosylation**
2 **of full-length IgG antibodies in *Escherichia coli***

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1 **Abstract**

2 Human immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies are one of the most important classes of
3 biotherapeutic agents and undergo glycosylation at the conserved N297 site in the C_{H2}
4 domain, which is critical for IgG Fc effector functions and anti-inflammatory activity.
5 Hence, technologies for producing authentically glycosylated IgGs are in high demand.
6 While attempts to engineer *Escherichia coli* for this purpose have been described, they
7 have met limited success due in part to the lack of available oligosaccharyltransferase
8 (OST) enzymes that can install *N*-linked glycans within the QYNST sequon of the IgG
9 C_{H2} domain. Here, we identified a previously uncharacterized single-subunit OST
10 (ssOST) from the bacterium *Desulfovibrio marinus* that exhibited greatly relaxed substrate
11 specificity and, as a result, was able to catalyze glycosylation of native C_{H2} domains in
12 the context of both a hinge-Fc fragment and a full-length IgG. Although the attached
13 glycans were bacterial in origin, conversion to a homogeneous, asialo complex-type G2
14 *N*-glycan at the QYNST sequon of the *E. coli*-derived hinge-Fc was achieved via
15 chemoenzymatic glycan remodeling. Importantly, the resulting G2-hinge-Fc exhibited
16 strong binding to human FcγRIIIa (CD16a), one of the most potent receptors for eliciting
17 antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC). Taken together, the discovery of
18 *DmPglB* provides previously unavailable biocatalytic capabilities to the bacterial
19 glycoprotein engineering toolbox and opens the door to using *E. coli* for the production
20 and glycoengineering of human IgGs and fragments derived thereof.

21

22 **Introduction**

23 Protein glycosylation is an important post-translational modification that is observed in the
24 majority of proteins found in nature ¹ and in the clinic ². Of the different types of protein
25 glycosylation, asparagine-linked (*N*-linked) glycosylation is the most common ^{3, 4} and
26 occurs in all three domains of life ⁵. The most highly conserved component of *N*-
27 glycosylation pathways across these domains is the oligosaccharyltransferase (OST),
28 which catalyzes the transfer of a preassembled oligosaccharide from a lipid-linked
29 oligosaccharide (LLO) donor to an asparagine residue within a consensus acceptor site
30 or sequon (typically N-X-S/T where X ≠ P) in a newly synthesized protein ⁶.

1 While *N*-linked glycosylation in eukaryotes, archaea, and bacteria share many
2 mechanistic features, some notable differences have been observed, especially with
3 respect to the OSTs that are central to these systems^{5, 7, 8}. For example, most eukaryotic
4 OSTs are hetero-octameric complexes comprised of multiple non-catalytic subunits and
5 a catalytic subunit, STT3⁹⁻¹². In contrast, archaea and bacteria possess single-subunit
6 OSTs (ssOSTs) that are homologous to STT3^{10, 13, 14}. Another difference among the
7 various OSTs is their distinct but overlapping acceptor sequon preferences. The
8 prototypical bacterial OST, namely PglB from *Campylobacter jejuni* (*Cj*PglB), recognizes
9 a more stringent D/E-X₋₁-N-X₊₁-S/T (X_{-1,+1} ≠ P) sequon compared to the N-X-S/T sequon
10 recognized by eukaryotic and archaeal OSTs¹⁵. However, the requirement for an acidic
11 residue in the -2 position of the sequon, known as the “minus two rule”, is not universally
12 followed by bacterial ssOSTs. Indeed, several PglB homologs from the *Desulfobacterota*
13 (formerly *Deltaproteobacteria*) phylum including *D. alaskensis* G20 (formerly *D.*
14 *desulfuricans* G20) PglB (*Da*PglB), *D. gigas* DSM 1382 PglB (*Dg*PglB), and *D. vulgaris*
15 Hildenborough PglB (*Dv*PglB) exhibit sequon specificities that are relaxed compared to
16 *Cj*PglB and overlap with eukaryotic and archaeal OSTs¹⁶.

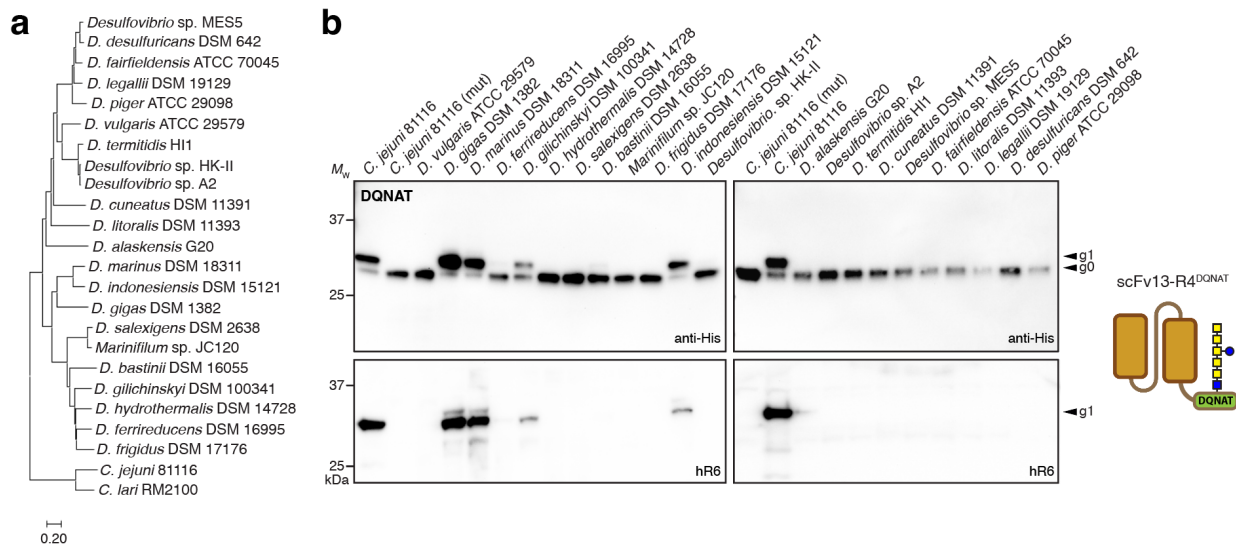
17 To date, these and other functional details about bacterial ssOSTs come from
18 studies where glycosylation pathways have been recombinantly introduced into
19 laboratory strains of *Escherichia coli*, which lack native glycosylation pathways. Ever
20 since the reconstitution of the entire *C. jejuni* protein glycosylation in *E. coli* by Aebi and
21 coworkers more than 20 years ago¹⁷, many groups have leveraged *Cj*PglB and its
22 homologs for performing *N*-linked glycosylation of diverse protein substrates. Most
23 notable among these are fragments of human IgG^{16, 18-21} such as C_H2 or C_H2-C_H3
24 (hereafter fragment crystallizable (Fc) domain), which hold promise in the treatment of
25 autoimmune disorders^{22, 23}. However, the use of engineered *E. coli* for producing
26 glycosylated IgG fragments is largely limited to (i) attachment of non-human glycan
27 structures at (ii) mutated acceptor sequons, which are the preferred substrates of
28 prototypic bacterial ssOSTs. While efforts have been described that partially overcome
29 these shortcomings^{16, 19, 21}, the overall poor glycosylation efficiency of IgG fragments in
30 *E. coli* remains an unsolved problem and has discouraged efforts to glycosylate full-length
31 IgGs, which represent an even more challenging target from a structural perspective.

1 Here, we sought to discover ssOSTs capable of *N*-glycosylation of the authentic
2 QYNST sequon in human Fc fragments and full-length IgGs expressed in *E. coli*. We
3 hypothesized that uncharacterized PglBs with broader substrate recognition and higher
4 glycosylation efficiency might exist in the genomes of other *Desulfobacterota*. To test this
5 hypothesis, a collection of 19 PglB homologs was generated by genome mining of
6 *Desulfovibrio* spp. and screened in *E. coli* for the ability to glycosylate canonical and non-
7 canonical acceptor sequons in periplasmically expressed acceptor proteins. This
8 screening campaign led to the discovery of a PglB homolog from *D. marinus* strain DSM
9 18311 (*DmPglB*) that could efficiently glycosylate minimal N-X-T motifs in different model
10 acceptor proteins regardless of the residue at the -2 position. We show that the relaxed
11 sequon specificity of *DmPglB* enabled glycosylation of authentic QYNST sequons in the
12 context of both a hinge-Fc fragment and a full-length IgG. For the hinge-Fc, the
13 glycosylation efficiency was significantly higher than any previous study, which enabled
14 chemoenzymatic remodeling to create uniform, human-type G2 glycans on the *E. coli*-
15 derived hinge-Fc that bestowed the protein with binding to a human Fc gamma receptor
16 (FcγR), specifically FcγRIIIa. Collectively, these results deepen our understanding of
17 substrate selection by bacterial ssOSTs and pave the way for using glycoengineered *E.*
18 *coli* to customize glycan-sensitive properties (e.g., anti-inflammatory activity, binding
19 activity, effector function, FcγR signaling, half-life, etc.) of IgGs and their fragments.

20

21 **Results**

22 **Bioprospecting of *Desulfobacterota* for interesting ssOST candidates.** The current
23 armamentarium of characterized ssOSTs is insufficient for glycoprotein engineering
24 applications that endeavor to recapitulate human-type glycosylation of biotherapeutic
25 proteins^{19, 21, 24}. Therefore, we sought to expand the collection of PglB homologs from
26 *Desulfovibrio* spp. that have relaxed sequon specificity and catalyze glycosylation of
27 diverse sequons with higher efficiency than previously discovered enzymes. To this end,
28 we curated a collection of 19 candidate OSTs with similarity to *DaPglB* and *DgPglB* (**Fig.**
29 **1a**). We chose *DaPglB* and *DgPglB* as the query sequences because these OSTs
30 previously exhibited the most efficient glycosylation of non-canonical sequences (e.g.,
31 AQNAT)¹⁶ and thus do not conform to the minus two rule that has been established for



1
2 **Figure 1. Bioprospecting of *Desulfovibrio* species for functional PglB homologs.** (a) Phylogenetic
3 tree of the PglB homologs evaluated in this study. The curated list of enzymes was generated from a BLAST
4 search using *Da*PglB and *Dg*PglB as the query sequences. *Cj*PglB and *Ci*PglB were added for comparison.
5 The tree was generated by the neighbor-joining method from multiple sequence alignment using Molecular
6 Evolutionary Genetics Analysis version 11 (MEGA11) software ²⁵. (b) Immunoblot analysis of periplasmic
7 fractions from CLM24 cells transformed with plasmid pMW07-pgl Δ BCDEF encoding genes for biosynthesis
8 of a modified *C. jejuni* heptasaccharide glycan (GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc), plasmid pBS-scFv13-R4^{DQNAT}
9 encoding the scFv13-R4^{DQNAT} acceptor protein, and a derivative of plasmid pMLBAD encoding one of the
10 PglB homologs as indicated. Blots were probed with polyhistidine epitope tag-specific antibody (anti-His)
11 to detect the C-terminal 6x-His tag on the acceptor protein (top panel) and hR6 serum specific for the *C.*
12 *jejuni* heptasaccharide glycan (bottom panel). Molecular weight (M_w) markers are indicated on the left. The
13 g0 and g1 arrows indicate un- and monoglycosylated acceptor proteins, respectively. Blots are
14 representative of biological replicates ($n = 3$).
15

16 *Cj*PglB ¹⁵. Among the selected *Desulfovibrio* PglB homologs, sequence identity with
17 *Dg*PglB ranged from 30–47%, with *Dm*PglB and *D. indonesiensis* DSM 15121 PglB
18 (*Di*PglB) exhibiting the highest homology (42% and 47% identity, respectively) and *D.*
19 *desulfuricans* DSM 642 exhibiting the lowest (30% identity). Likewise, sequence identity
20 between *Desulfovibrio* PglBs and *Da*PglB ranged from 30–38%, with PglB enzymes from
21 *Desulfovibrio* sp. A2 and *D. litoralis* DSM 11393 exhibiting the highest and lowest
22 homology, respectively. For context, *Da*PglB and *Dg*PglB share 30% identity with each
23 other and only ~15–20% with the prototypic bacterial OSTs, *Cj*PglB and *C. lari* PglB
24 (*Ci*PglB). In fact, the catalytic region of *Desulfovibrio* PglBs containing the signature
25 WWDXXG motif, which is essential for OST function and thought to play a primary role in
26 catalysis ²⁶, is more similar to the catalytic region of eukaryotic and archaeal OSTs than
27 to the same region of *Cj*PglB ^{16, 27}.

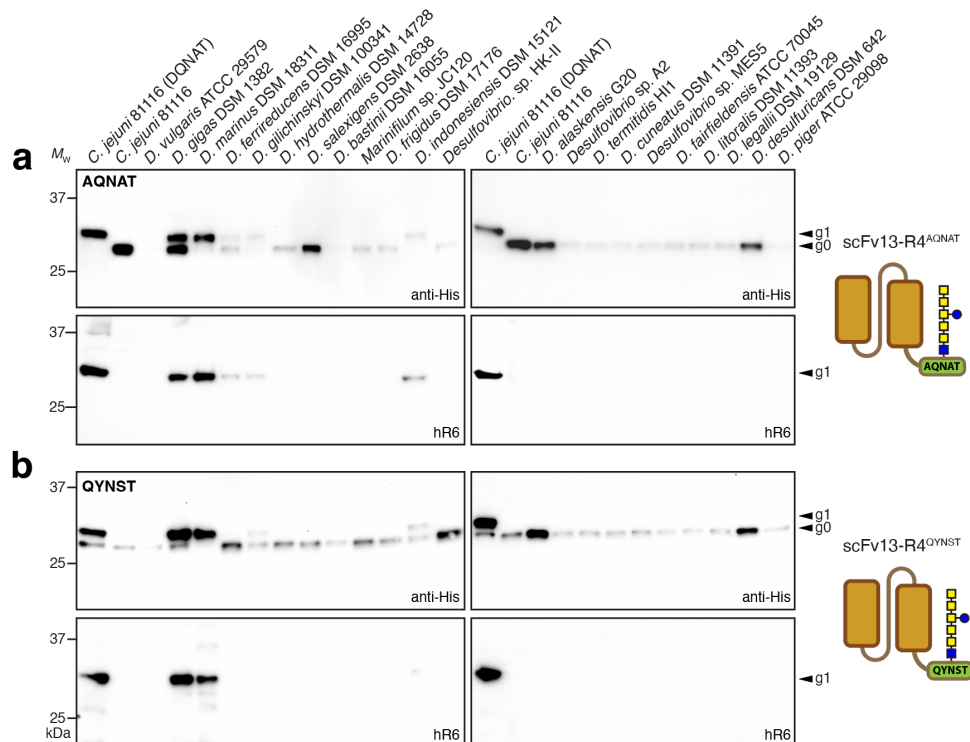
1 **A subset of *Desulfovibrio* PglB homologs exhibit efficient OST activity.** To
2 functionally evaluate the curated list of *Desulfo bacterota* OSTs, we employed an ectopic
3 trans-complementation assay¹⁶. The assay is based on *E. coli* strain CLM24, which lacks
4 native glycosylation but is rendered glycosylation competent by transformation with one
5 plasmid encoding enzymes for *N*-glycan biosynthesis, a second plasmid encoding a
6 candidate PglB homolog, and a third plasmid encoding a glycoprotein target bearing
7 either an engineered or natural *N*-glycan acceptor site. Using this assay, candidate PglB
8 homologs are provided *in trans* and readily tested for their ability to promote glycosylation
9 activity in *E. coli*.

10 To minimize microheterogeneity so that modified acceptor proteins were
11 homogeneously glycosylated, we used plasmid pMW07-pgl Δ BCDEF that was previously
12 shown to yield glycoproteins that were predominantly glycosylated (>98%) with
13 GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc, a mimic of the *C. jejuni* *N*-glycan but with reducing-end GlcNAc
14 replacing bacillosamine²⁸. This reducing-end GlcNAc could be further advantageous as
15 a substrate for *Desulfovibrio* spp. PglB family enzymes given that at least one
16 glycoprotein from *D. gigas*, the 16-heme cytochrome HmcA, involves the formation of a
17 GlcNAc-asparagine linkage at N261 of HmcA²⁹. Moreover, this linkage also occurs in
18 eukaryotic *N*-glycoproteins and can be remodeled to create a eukaryotic complex-type
19 glycan via a two-step enzymatic trimming/transglycosylation process¹⁹. Codon-optimized
20 versions of each *Desulfovibrio* *pglB* gene were expressed from plasmid pMLBAD. For the
21 acceptor protein, anti- β -galactosidase single-chain Fv antibody clone 13-R4 (scFv13-R4)
22 fused with an N-terminal co-translational Sec export signal and a C-terminal DQNAT
23 glycosylation tag²¹ was expressed from plasmid pBS-scFv13-R4^{DQNAT}. We chose
24 scFv13-R4^{DQNAT} as the initial target because it is a model acceptor protein that is well
25 expressed in the *E. coli* periplasm and can be efficiently glycosylated by diverse PglB
26 homologs^{16, 21, 30}. It should be noted that DQNAT is an optimal sequon for *Cj*PglB³¹ and
27 has been widely used as a tag for studying PglB-mediated glycosylation in *E. coli*¹⁸.

28 Glycosylation of the periplasmic scFv13-R4^{DQNAT} protein was evaluated by
29 immunoblot analysis with a polyhistidine epitope tag-specific antibody (anti-His) or *C.*
30 *jejuni* heptasaccharide-specific serum (hR6)²⁰. As expected, positive control cells
31 complemented with wild-type (wt) *Cj*PglB produced two proteins that were detected with

1 the anti-His antibody, which corresponded to the un- (g0) and monoglycosylated (g1)
2 forms of scFv13-R4^{DQNAT} (**Fig. 1b**). Subsequent detection of the higher molecular weight
3 g1 band with hR6 serum specific for the *C. jejuni* glycan confirmed glycosylation of this
4 protein by wt *CjPglB*. In contrast, negative control cells complemented with a *CjPglB*
5 mutant rendered inactive by two active-site mutations (D54N and E316Q) produced only
6 the g0 form of scFv13-R4^{DQNAT} with no detectable signal from the hR6 serum (**Fig. 1b**),
7 confirming lack of glycosylation in these cells. Of the 22 *Desulfobacterota* PglB homologs
8 tested here (19 newly curated and 3 – *DaPglB*, *DgPglB* and *DvPglB* – that were tested
9 previously ¹⁶), a total of 7 enzymes (*DaPglB*, *DgPglB*, *DiPglB*, *DmPglB*, *D. bastini* PglB
10 (*DbPglB*), *D. ferrireducens* PglB (*DfPglB*), and *D. gilichinskyi* PglB (*DgilPglB*)) were
11 functionally expressed based on their ability to promote detectable levels of glycosylation
12 as determined by immunoblot analysis with the anti-His antibody and hR6 serum (**Fig.**
13 **1b**). The relative levels of glycosylation varied widely under the conditions tested here
14 with *DgPglB*, *DiPglB* and *DmPglB* enzymes showing the highest glycosylation efficiency
15 for the canonical DQNAT motif (>85% observed for each based on densitometry
16 analysis), rivaling that observed for *CjPglB*. It is also noteworthy that these three highly
17 efficient OSTs also produced an additional slower migrating band in the anti-His and hR6
18 blots, corresponding to a diglycosylated (g2) form of scFv13-R4^{DQNAT}. We suspect that
19 this band resulted from the glycosylation of a native motif (⁷⁵RDNAT⁷⁹) in scFv13-R4
20 protein that was previously observed to be glycosylated by *Desulfovibrio* PglB homologs
21 having relaxed sequon specificity such as *DgPglB* ¹⁶.

22 ***DmPglB* efficiently glycosylates non-canonical sequons.** To determine whether any
23 of the *Desulfovibrio* PglB homologs also recognized sequons with a non-acidic amino acid
24 in the -2 position, we tested glycosylation of the acceptor protein scFv13-R4^{AQNAT}, which
25 carries an AQNAT motif at its C-terminus. The AQNAT sequon is considered a non-
26 canonical sequon because it is not glycosylated by *CjPglB* (**Fig. 2a**), which serves as the
27 archetype for bacterial *N*-glycosylation and was used in early studies to uncover the rules
28 of substrate specificity for this family of enzymes ^{15, 31}. Hence, the ability to glycosylate
29 AQNAT and other related sequons in which D/E residues are absent from the -2 position
30 serves as a measuring stick for relaxed substrate specificity ^{16, 20, 27, 30}. To eliminate any
31 potential confounding results related to relaxed specificity, we additionally used an



1
2 **Figure 2. Glycosylation of non-canonical sequons by *Desulfovibrio* spp. PglB homologs.** Immunoblot
3 analysis of periplasmic fractions from CLM24 cells transformed with the following: plasmid pMW07-
4 pglΔBCDEF, a derivative of plasmid pMLBAD encoding one of the PglB homologs as indicated, and either
5 (a) plasmid pBS-scFv13-R4^{AQ^{NAT}} or (b) pBS-scFv13-R4^{QY^{NST}} encoding the scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)
6 acceptor protein with AQ^{NAT} or QY^{NST} sequons, respectively. Blots were probed with polyhistidine
7 epitope tag-specific antibody (anti-His) to detect the C-terminal 6x-His tag on the acceptor protein (top
8 panel) and hR6 serum specific for the *C. jejuni* heptasaccharide glycan (bottom panel). Molecular weight
9 (M_w) markers are indicated on the left. The g0 and g1 arrows indicate un- and monoglycosylated acceptor
10 proteins, respectively. Blots are representative of biological replicates ($n = 3$).
11

12 scFv13-R4 variant in which two putative internal glycosylation sites (³²FSNYS³⁶ and
13 ⁷⁵RDNAT⁷⁹) were mutated by introducing N34L and N77L substitutions. These mutations
14 were previously shown to eliminate the g2 form of this protein arising from glycosylation
15 at position N77 (N34 was not observed to be glycosylated) ¹⁶.

16 Glycosylation of the scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)^{AQ^{NAT}} construct was only observed
17 with OSTs that also glycosylated scFv13-R4^{DQ^{NAT}}, suggesting that the other OSTs prefer
18 different sequons or were otherwise non-functional in our trans-complementation assay
19 for other reasons (e.g., poor expression, incompatibility with GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc glycan
20 or C-terminal location of sequon). Of the seven *Desulfobacterota* PglB homologs that
21 showed activity towards scFv13-R4^{DQ^{NAT}} above, all but *D*bPglB were also capable of
22 glycosylating scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)^{AQ^{NAT}} based on immunoblot analysis with anti-His

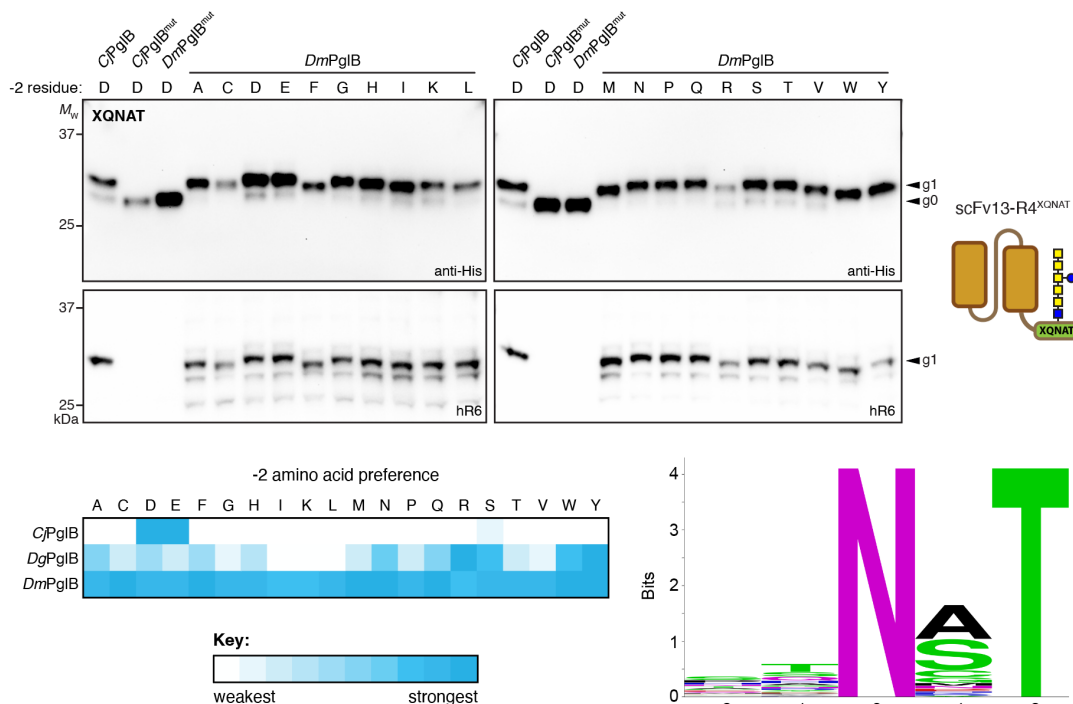
1 antibody and hR6 serum (**Fig. 2a**). These results suggest that *DbPglB* may possess a
2 *CjPglB*-like preference for an acidic residue in the -2 position. In contrast, *DfPglB* showed
3 significantly stronger glycosylation of scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)^{AQNAT} compared to its weak
4 glycosylation of scFv13-R4^{DQNAT}, suggesting a bias for sequons with non-acidic residues
5 in the -2 position. Importantly, *DmPglB* glycosylated scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)^{AQNAT} with
6 an efficiency that was considerably higher than *DgPglB* (~76% vs. 48%, respectively). It
7 should be noted that while *DaPglB* was previously observed to glycosylate scFv13-
8 R4(N34L/N77L)^{AQNAT} ¹⁶, there was no measurable activity for this OST with the non-
9 canonical AQNAT sequon under the conditions tested here.

10 To further investigate the ability of *Desulfovibrio* spp. PglB homologs to recognize
11 non-canonical sequences, we tested glycosylation of the acceptor protein scFv13-
12 R4(N34L/N77L)^{QYNST}, which carries a QYNST motif at its C-terminus. We chose QYNST
13 because immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies, one of the most abundant glycoproteins in
14 human serum, are invariably decorated with *N*-glycans at a highly conserved QYNST site
15 in their Fc region. Whereas the scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)^{QYNST} acceptor was not
16 glycosylated by *CjPglB*, consistent with its restricted acceptor sequon specificity ¹⁵, four
17 *Desulfovibrio* OSTs – *DgPglB*, *DmPglB*, *DiPglB*, and *DgilPglB* exhibited glycosylation of
18 the non-canonical QYNST sequon as revealed by immunoblotting (**Fig. 2b**) and mass
19 spectrometry (**Supplementary Fig. 1**; shown for *DmPglB*). Of these, *DmPglB* displayed
20 the highest glycosylation efficiency (~100%), making this the only OST capable of
21 glycosylating all three sequons – DQNAT, AQNAT, and QYNST – with very high
22 efficiency. It is also worth noting that during these experiments, we observed
23 autoglycosylation of *DmPglB* (**Supplementary Fig. 2a**), indicating that *DmPglB* is itself a
24 glycoprotein, just like its *C. jejuni* and *C. lari* counterparts ^{14, 32}. Mass spectrometry
25 analysis identified two sequons clustered at the extreme C-terminus of *DmPglB* that were
26 autoglycosylated, namely ⁷⁵¹EANGT⁷⁵⁵ and ⁷⁵⁶AANAT⁷⁶⁰ (**Supplementary Fig. 2b** and
27 **c**), with the latter providing further evidence of relaxed sequon specificity for *DmPglB*.

28 ***DmPglB* exhibits extremely relaxed sequon specificity.** To further explore the
29 molecular determinants of *DmPglB* acceptor-site specificity, we systematically
30 investigated the amino acid preferences at the -2 position of the sequon. This analysis
31 took advantage of a set of plasmids encoding scFv13-R4 acceptor proteins in which the

1 -2 position of the C-terminal acceptor motif was varied to include all 20 amino acids ³⁰.
2 Consistent with the broad specificity observed previously for other *Desulfovibrio* spp.
3 OSTs including *DaPglB* and *DgPglB* ¹⁶, *DmPglB* exhibited relaxed acceptor-site
4 specificity (**Fig. 3a and b**). Interestingly, unlike the highly variable relaxation observed for
5 *DaPglB* and *DgPglB*, with certain sequons becoming strongly glycosylated and others
6 only weakly glycosylated or not at all (shown for *DgPglB*; **Supplementary Fig. 3**),
7 *DmPglB* exhibited non-preferential and highly efficient glycosylation (76-100%) of all 20
8 sequons (**Fig. 3b**). At this point, we also constructed a catalytically inactive *DmPglB* by
9 mutating two residues, D55N and E363Q, in the catalytic pocket. Sequence alignment
10 and structural modeling indicated that these two residues corresponded to D56 and E319
11 in *C/PglB* or D54N and E316Q in *CjPglB* (**Supplementary Fig. 4**), which are essential for
12 catalytic activity ^{14, 30}. Indeed, a *DmPglB*(D55N/E363Q) double mutant (hereafter
13 *DmPglB*^{mut}) was incapable of glycosylating the C-terminal DQNAT motif on scFv13-R4
14 (**Fig. 3a**), confirming the *DmPglB*-dependent nature of the glycosylation results above.

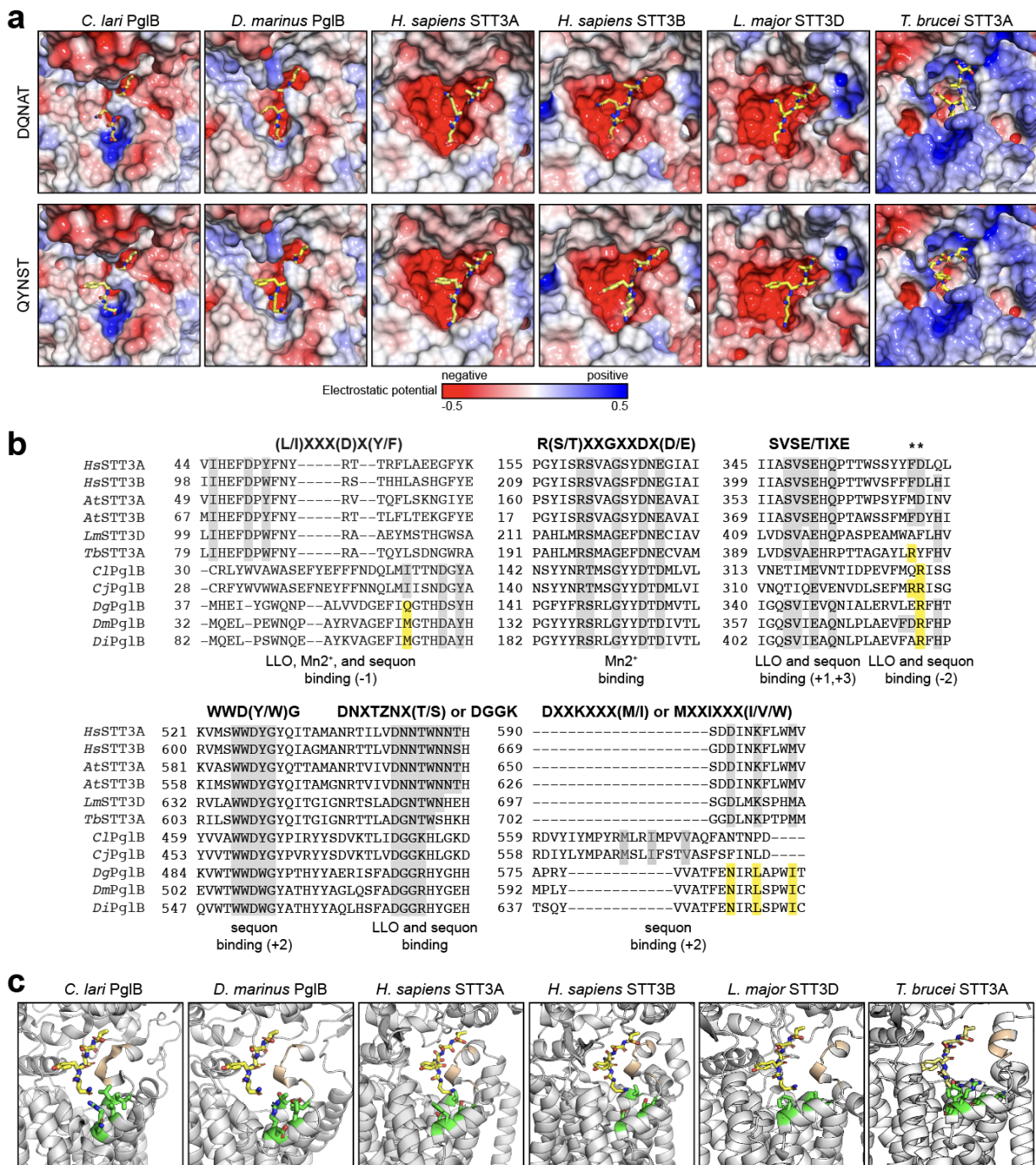
15 To analyze acceptor-site specificity of the *DmPglB* enzyme in a more unbiased
16 manner, we utilized a previously established genetic screen called glycoSNAP
17 (glycosylation of secreted N-linked acceptor proteins) ³⁰. GlycoSNAP is a high-throughput
18 colony blotting assay based on glycosylation and extracellular secretion of a reporter
19 protein composed of *E. coli* YebF, a small (10 kDa in its mature form) extracellularly
20 secreted protein ³³, or YebF fusion proteins modified with an acceptor sequon ^{28, 30}. To
21 eliminate unwanted non-consensus glycosylation in the YebF protein itself, we used an
22 N24L mutant of YebF that was not glycosylated by any relaxed OST homologs ^{16, 30}. The
23 compatibility of one such reporter fusion, YebF(N24L)-Im7 ²⁸, with *DmPglB* was first
24 evaluated in the context of a C-terminal DQNAT sequon, with clear extracellular
25 accumulation of glycosylated YebF(N24L)-Im7^{DQNAT} detected for cells co-expressing wild-
26 type *DmPglB* (**Supplementary Fig. 5a**). In contrast, there was no evidence for
27 glycosylation of the YebF(N24L)-Im7^{DQNAT} construct that had been secreted by cells co-
28 expressing *DmPglB*^{mut}. Encouraged by this result, we next used glycoSNAP to screen a
29 combinatorial library of acceptor-site sequences for glycosylation by *DmPglB*. A
30 combinatorial library of ~1.1 x 10⁵ YebF(N24L)-Im7^{XXNXT} variants was generated by
31 randomizing the amino acids in the -2, -1, and +1 positions of the C-terminal acceptor



1
2 **Figure 3. Molecular determinants of *DmPglB* acceptor-site specificity.** (a) Immunoblot analysis of
3 periplasmic fractions from CLM24 cells transformed with the following: plasmid pMW07-pgl Δ BCDEF,
4 plasmid pMLBAD encoding *DmPglB*, *DmPglB*^{mut}, *CjPglB* or *CjPglB*^{mut}, and plasmid pBS-scFv13-R4^{XQNAT}
5 encoding the scFv13-R4 with each of the 20 amino acids in the -2 position of the C-terminal sequon as
6 indicated. Blots were probed with polyhistidine epitope tag-specific antibody (anti-His) to detect the C-
7 terminal 6x-His tag on the acceptor protein (top panel) and hR6 serum specific for the *C. jejuni*
8 heptasaccharide glycan (bottom panel). Molecular weight (M_w) markers are indicated on the left. The g0
9 and g1 arrows indicate un- and monoglycosylated acceptor proteins, respectively. Blots are representative
10 of biological replicates ($n = 3$). (b) Heatmap analysis of the relative -2 amino acid preference of *CjPglB*,
11 *DgPglB*, and *DmPglB*. Relative preferences (weaker = white; stronger = dark cyan) were determined based
12 on densitometric quantification of the glycosylation efficiency for each acceptor protein in the anti-His
13 immunoblot. Glycosylation efficiency was determined based on densitometric quantification of the percent
14 glycosylated expressed as $g1/[g0+g1]$ ratio. (c) Sequence logo showing experimentally determined
15 acceptor-site specificity of *DmPglB* using glycoSNAP-based library screening of YebF(N24L)-Im7^{XXNXT}.
16
17 sequon by PCR amplification using NNK degenerate primers. The resulting library was
18 screened by glycoSNAP replica plating to identify clones that produced glycosylated
19 YebF(N24L)-Im7 in culture supernatants (**Supplementary Fig. 5b**). A total of 65 positive
20 hits were recovered (**Supplementary Fig. 5c and d**) and used to generate a consensus
21 motif representing sequons that are preferentially glycosylated by *DmPglB* (**Fig 3c**).
22 Overall, *DmPglB* exhibited highly relaxed specificity at all three variable sequon positions
23 with only a slight preference for threonine at the -1 position and alanine or serine at the
24 +1 position. The -2 and -1 positions showed the most variability with all 20 amino acids
25 represented except for I/L/R in the -2 site and E/I/L/W for the -1 site (**Supplementary**

1 **Fig. 5d**). Importantly, these results were in good agreement with the findings above in
2 which *DmPglB* indiscriminately glycosylated all XQNAT sequons with high efficiency.
3 ***DmPglB* structure contains both bacterial and eukaryotic features.** To better
4 understand the observed functional differences for *DmPglB* relative to other OSTs, we
5 generated a structural model of *DmPglB* using the AlphaFold2 protein structure prediction
6 algorithm implemented with ColabFold ^{34, 35}. Comparing the predicted structure of
7 *DmPglB* with the solved structure of *C/PglB* ¹⁴ revealed clear variations in the structures
8 of the catalytic pockets. Based on our electrostatic surface calculations ³⁶, it is apparent
9 that the entrance to the peptide-binding cavity that hosts the -2 position of the acceptor
10 sequon is positively charged in *C/PglB* but neutral in *DmPglB* (**Fig. 4a**). This difference in
11 surface charge results from residues in the vicinity of the arginine at position 331 in *C/PglB*
12 (R375 in *DmPglB*), which is strongly conserved in bacterial ssOSTs (**Fig. 4b**) and
13 provides a salt bridge to the aspartic acid in a bound DQNATF substrate peptide in the
14 *C/PglB* crystal structure ¹⁴. Specifically, in the case of *C/PglB*, R331 is surrounded by
15 primarily hydrophobic residues (I323, V327, and L374) that cluster to form a positively
16 charged patch in this region of the protein (**Fig. 4a and c**). Conversely, the same region
17 in *DmPglB* is significantly more neutral due to the occurrence of negatively charged and
18 neutral amino acids (L367, E371, D374 and T418) that surround R375, providing a
19 possible explanation for the more relaxed substrate specificity of this enzyme. Another
20 visible difference is the peptide-binding cavity in *DmPglB*, which is more spacious and
21 lined with more negatively charged residues than the cavity in *C/PglB*. It is worth noting
22 that structural models of eukaryotic STT3s, which themselves do not require an acidic
23 residue in the -2 position of the sequon, exhibited features akin to *DmPglB* including an
24 even more voluminous peptide-binding cavity with a similarly neutral entrance and a
25 highly negatively charged lining (**Fig. 4a**).

26 Multiple sequence alignment revealed that the *Desulfovibrio* spp. PglBs possessed
27 all the short, conserved motifs that have been documented previously for OSTs from all
28 kingdoms albeit with subtle deviations from the *Campylobacter* and eukaryotic sequences
29 including WWDWG instead of WWDYG, DGGR instead of DGGK, and NL instead of
30 DK/MI (**Fig. 4b** and **Supplementary Fig. 6**). A more dramatic difference was observed
31 for the SVSE/TIXE motif, which occurs in the fifth external loop (EL5) and is involved in

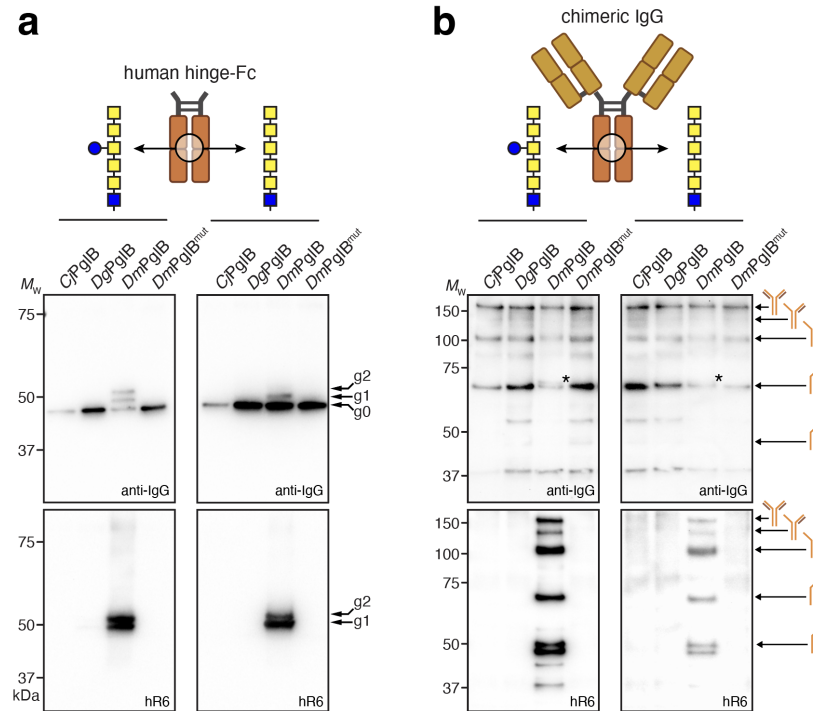


1
2 **Figure 4. Molecular determinants of relaxed acceptor-site specificity of *Dm*PglB.** (a) Electrostatic
3 potential of various OST peptide-binding pockets modeled with either DQNAT (top) or QYNST (bottom)
4 acceptor peptides (yellow). Electrostatic surfaces were generated based on calculations using the adaptive
5 Poisson-Boltzmann solver (APBS) ³⁶. (b) Sequence alignments of conserved, short motifs in eukaryotic
6 STT3s (human and plant STT3A and STT3B, protozoan *Leishmania major* STT3D and *Trypanosoma brucei*
7 *Tb*STTA) and bacterial ssOSTs (*Ci*PglB, *Cj*PglB, *Dg*PglB, *Dm*PglB, *Di*PglB). Alignments shown were made
8 using Clustal Omega web server multiple alignment editor ³⁷. Conserved residues are shaded gray while
9 notable residues that deviate between eukaryotic and bacterial sequences are shaded yellow. (c) Structural
10 model of QYNST peptide (yellow) in the peptide-binding pocket of the same OSTs in (a). Depicted in green

1 are amino acids at the entrance to the peptide-binding cavity that cluster to create a positively charged
2 patch in *C/PgIB* but are neutral in all other OSTs. The SVSE/SVIE/TIXE motifs are depicted in gold.
3
4 recognizing sequons at the main-chain level with the glutamic acid serving as a
5 coordination switch that responds to ligand binding³⁸. It has been widely reported that
6 the conserved SVSE motif is unique to eukaryotes whereas the conserved TIXE motif is
7 confined to archaeal and eubacterial OSTs. To our surprise, all *Desulfovibrio* spp. PgIBs
8 including *DgPgIB*, *DmPgIB* and *DiPgIB* possessed SVIE/SIIE motifs that were more like
9 the eukaryotic SVSE motif than the canonical bacterial TIXE motifs found in *C/PgIB* and
10 *CjPgIB* (**Fig. 4b** and **Supplementary Fig. 6**). Moreover, in eukaryotic and *Desulfovibrio*
11 OSTs we observed a highly conserved glutamine located two residues downstream of
12 this motif, with the *Desulfovibrio* PgIB homologs also possessing a highly conserved
13 glutamine immediately upstream of the motif.

14 **Glycosylation of native QYNST sequon in human Fc domains.** Encouraged by the
15 ability of *DmPgIB* to recognize minimal N-X-T motifs, we proceeded to evaluate the extent
16 to which it could glycosylate the native QYNST site found in the Fc region of an IgG
17 antibody. To this end, we created a pTrc99S-based plasmid that encoded the native Fc
18 region and hinge derived from human IgG1 (hereafter hinge-Fc). For the *N*-glycan, we
19 utilized the same pMW07-pgI Δ BCDEF plasmid from above as well as a derivative,
20 plasmid pMW07-pgI Δ BICDEF, that produces GalNAc₅GlcNAc without the branching
21 glucose. We added this latter glycan because it facilitates enzymatic removal of GalNAc₅
22 to reveal a GlcNAc “primer” that can be used for chemoenzymatic glycan remodeling¹⁹.
23 For the PgIB homologs, these were all expressed from pMLBAD as above.

24 In agreement with a previously published data¹⁶, *CjPgIB* was unable to glycosylate
25 the native QYNST sequon in the hinge-Fc with either of the tested *N*-glycan structures as
26 revealed by non-reducing immunoblot analysis using an anti-IgG antibody and hR6 serum
27 for detection (**Fig. 5a**). In stark contrast, the *DmPgIB* homolog glycosylated the hinge-Fc
28 regardless of the *N*-glycan used, in agreement with the extremely relaxed acceptor-site
29 specificity observed above for this OST. This activity was completely absent in cells
30 carrying the *DmPgIB*^{mut} variant, confirming the OST-dependent nature of the
31 glycosylation. Moreover, the observation of doubly and singly glycosylated hinge-Fc
32 indicated that a mixture of fully and hemi-glycosylated products, respectively, were



1
2 **Figure 5. Glycosylation of the native QYNST sequon in IgG Fc domains by *DmPglB*.** Non-reducing
3 immunoblot analysis of protein A-purified proteins from whole-cell lysate of CLM24 cells transformed with:
4 plasmid pMW07-pgl Δ BCDEF (left) or pMW07-pgl Δ BICDEF (right), plasmid pMLBAD encoding *CjPglB*,
5 *DgPglB*, *DmPglB*, or *DmPglB*^{mut}, and plasmid pTrc99S-hinge-Fc encoding hinge-Fc derived from human
6 IgG1. Blots were probed with anti-human IgG (anti-IgG) to detect human Fc (top panel) and hR6 serum
7 specific for the *C. jejuni* heptasaccharide glycan (bottom panel). Molecular weight (*M_w*) markers are
8 indicated on the left. The g0, g1, and g2 arrows indicate un-, mono-, and diglycosylated Fc proteins,
9 respectively. Blots are representative of biological replicates (*n* = 3). (b) Same as in (a) but instead using
10 JUDE-1 cells transformed with plasmid pMAZ360-YMF10-IgG encoding a full-length chimeric IgG1 specific
11 for PA along with plasmids for glycan biosynthesis and OST as indicated. Asterisks denote band shift due
12 to glycosylation of HC-LC dimer.

13
14 generated under the conditions tested, with roughly equal quantities of both based on the
15 comparable g2 and g1 band intensities in the anti-glycan blot. To unequivocally prove
16 glycosylation of the native QYNST sequon in hinge-Fc by *DmPglB*, LC-MS/MS analysis
17 of the glycosylation products was performed under reduced and protease-digested
18 conditions. The MS/MS spectrum of a tryptic peptide (⁹⁹EEQYNSTYR¹⁰⁷) containing the
19 known glycosylation sequon conclusively revealed the presence of a HexNAc₆Hex₁
20 structure, consistent with the GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc glycan (**Supplementary Fig. 7a**). In
21 the case of *DgPglB*, which also exhibited relaxed specificity including glycosylation of the
22 C-terminal QYNST motif, we observed only weak glycosylation of the hinge-Fc region
23 with the GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc glycan and no observable glycosylation with the

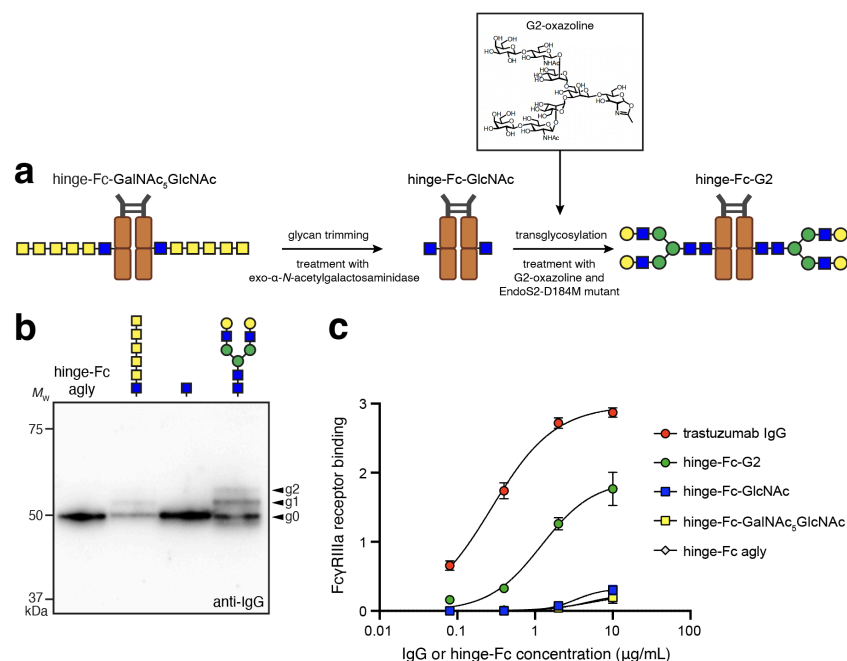
1 GalNAc₅GlcNAc glycan. This weak glycosylation was consistent with earlier observations
2 in which *DgPglB* only glycosylated a small fraction (<5%) of hinge-Fc molecules ¹⁶.

3 We next investigated whether *DmPglB* could glycosylate a full-length IgG1
4 antibody, namely YMF10, which is a chimeric IgG clone (murine V_H and V_L regions and
5 human constant regions) with high affinity and specificity for *Bacillus anthracis* protective
6 antigen (PA) ³⁹. YMF10 was chosen because it can be expressed in the *E. coli* periplasm
7 at high levels, and its heavy chain (HC) and light chain (LC) can be efficiently assembled
8 into a functional full-length IgG. To ensure efficient IgG expression, we used JUDE-1 *E.*
9 *coli* cells carrying plasmid pMAZ360-YMF10-IgG as described previously ³⁹. These cells
10 were further transformed with plasmid pMLBAD encoding a PglB homolog and either
11 pMW07-pgl Δ BCDEF or pMW07-pgl Δ BICDEF encoding the *N*-glycan biosynthesis genes.

12 Non-reducing immunoblot analysis with anti-IgG antibody for detection revealed
13 formation of fully assembled heterotetrameric YMF10 as well as other intermediate
14 products for each of the strain/plasmid combinations tested (**Fig. 5b**), in line with
15 expression patterns observed previously ^{40, 41}. Importantly, only cells carrying *DmPglB*
16 were capable of YMF10 glycosylation as evidenced by detection of HC-linked glycans
17 with hR6 serum, whereas no glycosylation was observed for cells carrying either *CjPglB*
18 or *DgPglB* (**Fig. 5b**). Although all products containing at least one HC were detected by
19 hR6 serum, the fully assembled IgG tetramer was one of the major glycoforms along with
20 the HC-HC and HC-LC dimers based on relative band intensities. While it was difficult to
21 see a band shift in the anti-IgG blot indicative of glycosylation of the full-length protein
22 due to poor resolution at higher molecular weights (>100 kDa), a band shift was observed
23 for the half antibody product (HC-LC dimer) at ~70 kDa. As expected, there was no
24 detectable glycosylation activity when the catalytically inactive mutant *DmPglB*^{mut} was
25 substituted for wt *DmPglB*. Further confirmation of IgG glycosylation was obtained by LC-
26 MS/MS analysis of reduced and digested IgG-containing samples. Specifically, the
27 MS/MS spectrum confirmed glycosylation of a tryptic peptide (²⁹³EEQYNSTYR³⁰¹)
28 containing the known glycosylation sequon and modified with HexNAc₆Hex₁ or HexNAc₆,
29 consistent with the GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc and GalNAc₅GlcNAc glycans, respectively
30 (**Supplementary Fig. 7b and c**).

1 **Remodeling bacteria-derived IgG1-Fc with eukaryotic N-glycans.** Upon confirming
2 the ability of *DmPglB* to glycosylate the authentic QYNST sequon in human hinge-Fc, we
3 sought to transform the installed GalNAc₅GlcNAc glycan into a more biomedically
4 relevant glycoform using an *in vitro* chemoenzymatic transglycosylation strategy (**Fig. 6a**).
5 Previous studies by Wang and coworkers described a combined method for using
6 engineered *E. coli* to produce glycoproteins bearing GalNAc₅GlcNAc glycans that were
7 subsequently trimmed and remodeled *in vitro* by enzymatic transglycosylation to install
8 eukaryotic N-glycans including an asialo afucosylated complex-type biantennary glycan
9 (Gal₂GlcNAc₂Man₃GlcNAc₂; G2)¹⁹. However, while transglycosylation was achieved with
10 a model bacterial acceptor protein, it was not possible with a C_H2 domain of human IgG-
11 Fc because of the low glycosylation efficiency (<5%) achieved with *CjPglB* at a bacterial-
12 optimized DFNST sequon in place of QYNST¹⁹. To determine if this strategy could be
13 used to remodel our more efficiently glycosylated hinge-Fc proteins, we first subjected
14 the protein A-purified hinge-Fc bearing GalNAc₅GlcNAc to enzymatic trimming with exo-
15 α-N-acetylgalactosaminidase, with GalNAc removal being continuously monitored by LC-
16 ESI-MS (**Supplementary Fig. 8a and b**) and confirmed by immunoblot analysis (**Fig. 6b**).
17 The resulting hinge-Fc bearing only a GlcNAc stump was then subjected to
18 transglycosylation catalyzed by the glycosynthase mutant, EndoS2-D184M⁴², with
19 preassembled G2-oxazoline as donor substrate¹⁹ in a reaction that was again monitored
20 by LC-ESI-MS (**Supplementary Fig. 8b**) and confirmed by immunoblot analysis (**Fig.**
21 **6b**). This sequence of steps produced a hinge-Fc protein bearing the G2 glycoform (G2-
22 hinge-Fc).

23 To evaluate the functional consequences of installing eukaryotic glycans onto the
24 *E. coli*-derived hinge-Fc, we investigated the binding affinity between different hinge-Fc
25 glycoforms and a human Fc gamma receptor (FcγR). Specifically, we chose the clinically
26 relevant FcγRIIIa-V158 allotype⁴³ because it is the high-affinity allele and interactions
27 between this receptor and different IgG subclasses have been extensively studied^{44, 45}.
28 It is also worth noting that glycosylated hinge-Fc antibodies including those containing
29 terminal galactose residues, such as G2, exhibit affinity for FcγRIIIa⁴⁶. In total, we
30 examined four *E. coli*-derived glycoprotein forms: aglycosylated hinge-Fc, glycosylated
31 GalNAc₅GlcNAc-hinge-Fc, GlcNAc-hinge-Fc, and G2-hinge-Fc. Among these



1
2 **Figure 6. Chemoenzymatic remodeling of *E. coli*-derived hinge-Fc glycans.** (a) Schematic
3 representation of the chemoenzymatic reaction for trimming and remodeling hinge-Fc glycans. (b)
4 Immunoblot analysis of the four *E. coli*-derived glycoforms (from left to right): aglycosylated hinge-Fc,
5 glycosylated GalNAc₅GlcNAc-hinge-Fc, GlcNAc-hinge-Fc, and G2-hinge-Fc. Blot was probed with anti-
6 human IgG (anti-IgG) to detect human Fc. Molecular weight (M_w) markers are indicated on the left. The g0,
7 g1, and g2 arrows indicate un-, mono-, and diglycosylated Fc proteins, respectively. Blot is representative
8 of biological replicates ($n = 3$). (c) ELISA analysis of same constructs in (b) with Fc γ RIIIA-V158 as
9 immobilized antigen. Data are average of three biological replicates and error bars represent standard
10 deviation of the mean.

11
12 glycoforms, G2-hinge-Fc displayed the highest binding affinity for Fc γ RIIIA-V158 as
13 determined by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), with a half-maximal
14 effective concentration (EC_{50}) of 28.5 nM (**Fig. 6c**). In contrast, binding for the trimmed
15 GlcNAc-hinge-Fc ($EC_{50} = 581$ nM), and the untrimmed hinge-Fc containing
16 GalNAc₅GlcNAc ($EC_{50} = 825$ nM) was not significantly different compared to the
17 aglycosylated hinge-Fc. By way of comparison, we measured an EC_{50} of 2 nM for
18 commercially available trastuzumab (**Fig. 6c**) while another IgG product, rituximab that
19 was subjected to glycan remodeling to acquire the G2 glycan, exhibited an EC_{50} of 1.4
20 nM with Fc γ RIIIA-V158⁴⁷. The weaker Fc γ RIIIA affinity of our G2-hinge-Fc relative to
21 these full-length IgGs may be due to differences in their glycosylation levels and/or the
22 absence of Fab domains in hinge-Fc that stabilize IgG-Fc γ RIIIA interactions⁴⁸.
23 Regardless, our results provide proof-of-concept for chemoenzymatic conversion of *E.*
24 *coli*-derived IgG-Fc glycans into glycoforms that preserve important Fc effector functions.

1 Discussion

2 The engineered expression of glycosylated antibodies in *E. coli* depends on OSTs that
3 can install *N*-linked glycans within the QYNST sequon of the IgG C_H2 domain. To this
4 end, we identified a previously uncharacterized ssOST, *DmPglB*, that was able to
5 glycosylate minimal N-X-S/T sequons with high efficiency and without preference for the
6 residues in the -2, -1 or +1 positions. In fact, the breadth of sequons recognized by
7 *DmPglB* and the efficiency with which they were modified was unmatched by any of the
8 ~50 bacterial ssOSTs that have been tested here and elsewhere^{15, 16, 20, 27, 30}. Importantly,
9 *DmPglB* promoted glycosylation of the native QYNST motif in a human hinge-Fc fragment
10 and a full-length, chimeric IgG antibody with efficiencies that ranged from 12-40% based
11 on densitometry analysis of Western blots and LC/MS analysis of intact glycoproteins
12 (e.g., hinge-Fc glycosylation was ~12% based on LC-ESI-MS analysis of the intact
13 glycoprotein). Although the installed glycans were bacterial-type structures, we
14 sidestepped this limitation by *in vitro* chemoenzymatic transformation of bacterial
15 GalNAc₅GlcNAc into complex-type G2, a glycan that is known to enhance ADCC activity
16 *in vitro* and anticancer efficacy *in vivo*⁴⁹. The complete conversion to G2 on hinge-Fc
17 observed here was significantly more efficient than the roughly 50% conversion achieved
18 with a model bacterial glycoprotein¹⁹. This difference was presumably due to the use of
19 a more efficient glycosynthase mutant, EndoS2-D184M, that potently remodels
20 antibodies with complex-type glycans including G2⁴². Importantly, the remodeled G2-
21 hinge-Fc engaged FcγRIIIa while the hinge-Fc bearing the bacterial glycan did not,
22 demonstrating the potential of our strategy for creating antibodies with native effector
23 functions.

24 While the precise sequence determinants responsible for the unique substrate
25 specificity of *DmPglB* remain to be experimentally determined, we hypothesize that
26 acceptor substrate selection is governed in part by the EL5 loop including the SVSE/TIXE
27 motif and neighboring residues. This hypothesis is supported by our structural models
28 that showed the SVSE/TIXE motifs of bacterial and eukaryotic OSTs in close proximity to
29 the acceptor peptide. This positioning is consistent with recently determined crystal
30 structures of archaeal and bacterial ssOSTs, namely *AgIB* from *Archaeoglobus fulgidus*
31 (*AfAgIB*) and *C/PglB*, respectively, with bound substrate peptide, which revealed that the

1 TIXE motif lies side-by-side in an anti-parallel β -sheet configuration with the sequon and
2 forms two interchain hydrogen bonds with the +1 and +3 residues of the sequon ^{38, 50}.
3 Interestingly, whereas *C/PglB* and *CjPglB* each possess a canonical bacterial TIXE motif
4 and follow the minus two rule, the *DgPglB*, *DiPglB*, and *DmPglB* enzymes possess
5 eukaryotic-like SVIE motifs. We speculate that this motif in *Desulfovibrio* ssOSTs may
6 contribute to their more eukaryotic-like sequon requirements relative to *Campylobacter*
7 ssOSTs. However, the fact that archaeal OSTs also possess a TIXE motif and yet do not
8 require an acidic residue in the -2 position of the sequon indicates that this motif alone is
9 insufficient to explain the differences in sequon preference among these OSTs.

10 We speculate that additional residues in the vicinity of the SVSE/TIXE motif might
11 also be important in determining acceptor substrate preferences. In support of this notion,
12 alanine scanning mutagenesis of the EL5 loop of *AfAgIB* confirmed that the TIXE motif
13 as well five adjacent downstream residues that are positioned near the -2 position of the
14 acceptor peptide are essential for glycosylation activity ³⁸. These residues are in the
15 immediate vicinity of the highly conserved arginine that, in *C/PglB*, forms a stabilizing salt
16 bridge with the aspartic acid in the -2 position of the sequon ¹⁴. This residue appears to
17 be a key regulator of sequon selection based on mutagenesis studies in which
18 substitution of the analogous arginine in *CjPglB* or *DgPglB* with residues such as leucine
19 or asparagine was sufficient to reprogram the -2 preferences of each enzyme ^{16, 30}.
20 Another key feature in sequon selection may be the electrostatic charge of this region of
21 the enzyme, which forms the peptide-binding cavity and is more neutral in *DmPglB* and
22 eukaryotic OSTs but positively charged in *C/PglB*. A more spacious peptide-binding cavity
23 in *DmPglB* may also contribute to its ability to accommodate sequons having bulkier
24 sidechains such as the aromatic residue at -1 of QYNST.

25 The production of glycosylated and properly folded hinge-Fc and full-length IgG
26 was contingent on localization of each into the *E. coli* periplasm, which is the location of
27 the disulfide bond formation machinery and the PglB active site. It has long been known
28 that the *E. coli* periplasm can support the proper assembly of antibody HC and LC ⁵¹.
29 However, while *E. coli*-derived antibodies bind strongly to their cognate antigens and the
30 neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn), they show no significant binding to complement component
31 1q (C1q) or Fc γ Rs due to lack of glycosylation ^{51, 52}. This deficiency can be overcome by

1 introducing specific mutations to the IgG Fc domain that confer Fc γ R binding⁵³⁻⁵⁵, but all
2 aglycosylated IgG mutants isolated so far exhibit selective binding to a single Fc γ R, which
3 is in contrast to glycosylated IgGs derived from mammalian cells that bind all Fc γ R.
4 Hence, there remains great interest in combining Fc or IgG expression with protein
5 glycosylation in *E. coli*. Unfortunately, previous attempts to glycosylate Fc fragments in
6 *E. coli* have largely been limited to attachment of bacterial *N*-glycans^{16, 18-20}, which is
7 insufficient to confer Fc γ R binding as we showed here. It is possible to attach eukaryotic
8 glycans to the Fc domain using *Cj*PglB in *E. coli*; however, this approach was met with
9 inefficient glycosylation (~1%)²¹. Our combined strategy overcomes the deficiencies of
10 these previous works in two important ways. First, the use of *Dm*PglB greatly increases
11 the efficiency of Fc glycosylation including at the authentic QYNST sequon and second,
12 the chemoenzymatic remodeling strategy introduces eukaryotic complex-type glycans
13 that permit the full spectrum of Fc effector functions that have until now been inaccessible
14 to *E. coli*-derived IgGs. Although further improvements in glycosylation efficiency and
15 yield will be required to rival IgG expression in mammalian host cell lines, our discovery
16 of *Dm*PglB provides a potent new *N*-glycosylation catalyst to the bacterial glycoprotein
17 engineering toolbox and creates an important foundation on which the production and
18 glycoengineering of IgG antibodies and antibody fragments can be more deeply
19 investigated and optimized in the future.

20

21 **Materials and Methods**

22 **Bacterial strains, growth conditions, and plasmids.** *E. coli* strain DH5 α was employed
23 for all cloning and library construction. *E. coli* strain CLM24⁵⁶ was utilized for all *in vivo*
24 glycosylation studies except for full-length IgG expression and glycosylation, which used
25 *E. coli* strain JUDE-1³⁹. *E. coli* strain BL21(DE3) was used to generate acceptor proteins
26 for *in vitro* glycosylation experiments. Cultures were grown overnight and subsequently
27 subcultured at 37 °C in Luria-Bertani (LB) broth, supplemented with antibiotics as required
28 at the following concentrations: 20 μ g/ml chloramphenicol (Cm), 80 μ g/ml spectinomycin
29 (Spec), 100 μ g/ml ampicillin (Amp), and 100 μ g/mL trimethoprim (Tmp). When the optical
30 density at 600 nm (OD₆₀₀) reached ~1.4, 0.1 mM of isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactoside (IPTG)
31 and 0.2% (w/v) L-arabinose inducers were added. Induction was carried out at 30 °C for

1 18 h. For expression and glycosylation of full-length IgGs, cultures were grown overnight
2 and subsequently subcultured at 37 °C in terrific broth (TB) supplemented with the
3 necessary antibiotics. When the OD₆₀₀ reached ~1.4, 0.3 mM of IPTG and 0.2% (w/v) L-
4 arabinose inducers were added. Induction was carried out at 30 °C for 12 h.

5 Plasmids for expressing different bacterial OSTs were constructed similarly to
6 pMAF10⁵⁶ that encodes *CjPglB*. Specifically, each of the 24 bacterial OST genes were
7 separately cloned into the EcoRI site of plasmid pMLBAD⁵⁷. Template DNA for bacterial
8 OSTs was codon optimized and obtained from Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT).
9 Plasmid pMAF10-*CmPglB*^{mut} was constructed previously by performing site-directed
10 mutagenesis on *CjPglB* in pMAF10 to introduce two mutations, D54N and E316Q, that
11 abolish catalytic activity³⁰. Plasmid pMAF10-*DmPglB*^{mut} was constructed in a similar
12 fashion by introducing analogous mutations, namely D55N and E363Q, to *DmPglB* in
13 plasmid pMAF10-*DmPglB*. For purification of *DmPglB*, plasmid pSF-*DmPglB*-10xHis was
14 created by replacing the gene encoding *CjPglB* in plasmid pSF-*CjPglB*¹⁶ with the gene
15 encoding *DmPglB* along with an additional 10xHis sequence using Gibson assembly. For
16 heterologous biosynthesis of the GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc glycan, we generated plasmid
17 pMW07-pglΔBCDEF by deleting the *pglCDEF* genes coding for biosynthesis of
18 bacillosamine from the *pgl* locus in plasmid pMW07-pglΔB³⁰ using Gibson assembly
19 cloning. For biosynthesis of the linear GalNAc₅GlcNAc glycan, we generated plasmid
20 pMW07-pglΔBICDEF by additionally deleting the gene coding for the transfer of the
21 branching glucose (*pglI*). The gene deletions were confirmed by Oxford nanopore whole
22 plasmid sequencing at Plasmidsaurus. For acceptor protein expression, plasmids pBS-
23 scFv13-R4^{DQNAT}, pBS-scFv13-R4^{XQNAT}, and pBS-scFv13-R4^{AQNAT-GKG-His6} were used and
24 are described elsewhere^{16, 30}. Plasmid pBS-scFv13-R4^{QYNST-GKG-His6} was created by
25 replacing the AQNAT motif in pBS-scFv13-R4^{AQNAT-GKG-His6} with QYNST. Plasmid
26 pTrc99S-YebF-Im7^{DQNAT} described in previous studies²⁸ was used as template to create
27 pTrc99S-YebF-Im7^{XXNXT} using degenerate primers with NNK bases (N = A, C, T or G;
28 K = G or T) at the -2, -1 and +1 positions of the glycosylation sequon. The resulting
29 plasmid DNA library was used to transform DH5α cells as discussed below. Plasmid
30 pTrc99S-spDsbA-hinge-Fc was created by adding the hinge sequence
31 EPKSCDKTHTCPPCP between the *E. coli* DsbA signal peptide and the human IgG1 Fc

1 domain in pTrc-spDsbA-Fc¹⁸. Plasmid pMAZ360-YMF10-IgG³⁹ was provided as a
2 generous gift from Prof. George Georgiou (University of Texas, Austin). All PCRs were
3 performed using Phusion high-fidelity polymerase (New England Biolabs), and the PCR
4 products were gel-purified from the product mixtures to eliminate nonspecific PCR
5 products. The resulting PCR products were assembled using Gibson Assembly Master
6 Mix (New England Biolabs). After transformation of DH5 α cells, all plasmids were isolated
7 using a QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit (Qiagen) and confirmed by DNA sequencing at the
8 Genomics Facility of the Cornell Biotechnology Resource Center.

9 **GlycoSNAP assay.** Screening of the pTrc99S-YebF-Im7^{XXNXT} library was performed
10 using the glycoSNAP assay as described previously^{16, 28, 30}. Briefly, *E. coli* strain CLM24
11 carrying plasmid pMW07-pgl Δ BCDEF and pMLBAD encoding the *DmPglB* OST was
12 transformed with the pTrc99S-YebF-Im7^{XXNXT} library plasmids, yielding a cell library of
13 $\sim 1.1 \times 10^5$ members. The resulting transformants were grown on 150-mm LB-agar plates
14 containing 20 μ g/mL Cm, 100 μ g/mL Tmp, and 80 μ g/mL Spec overnight at 37 °C. The
15 second day, nitrocellulose transfer membranes were cut to fit 150-mm plates and prewet
16 with sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) before placement onto LB-agar plates
17 containing 20 μ g/mL Cm, 100 μ g/mL Tmp, 80 μ g/mL Spec, 0.1 mM IPTG, and 0.2% (w/v)
18 L-arabinose. Library transformants were replicated onto a nitrocellulose transfer
19 membrane (BioRad, 0.45 μ m), which were then placed colony-side-up on a second
20 nitrocellulose transfer membrane and incubated at 30 °C for 18 h. The nitrocellulose
21 transfer membranes were washed in Tris-buffered saline (TBS) for 10 min, blocked in 5%
22 bovine serum albumin for 30 min, and probed for 1 h with fluorescein-labeled SBA (Vector
23 Laboratories, Cat # FL-1011) and Alexa Fluor 647 (AF647)-conjugated anti-His antibody
24 (R&D Systems, Cat # IC0501R) following the manufacturer's instructions. All positive hits
25 were re-streaked onto fresh LB-agar plates containing 20 μ g/mL Cm, 100 μ g/mL Tmp,
26 and 80 μ g/mL Spec and grown overnight at 37 °C. Individual colonies were grown in liquid
27 culture to confirm glycosylation of periplasmic fractions and the sequence of the
28 glycosylation tag was confirmed by DNA sequencing.

29 **Protein isolation.** To analyze the products of *in vivo* glycosylation, periplasmic extracts
30 were derived from *E. coli* cultures according to a previously described procedure²⁸.
31 Briefly, following induction, cells were harvested by centrifugation at 8,000 rpm for 2 min,

1 after which the pellets were resuspended in an amount of 0.4 M arginine such that OD₆₀₀
2 values were normalized to 10. Following incubation at 4 °C for 1 h, the samples were
3 centrifuged at 13,200 rpm for 1 min and the supernatant containing periplasmic extracts
4 was collected. For purification of proteins containing a polyhistidine (6x-His) tag, cells
5 were harvested after induction by centrifugation at 9,000 rpm at 4 °C for 25 min and the
6 pellets were resuspended in desalting buffer (50 mM NaH₂PO₄ and 300 mM NaCl)
7 followed by cell lysis using a Emulsiflex C5 homogenizer (Avestin) at 16,000–18,000 psi.
8 The resulting lysate was centrifugated at 9,000 rpm at 4 °C for 25 min. The imidazole
9 concentration of the resulting supernatant was adjusted to 10 mM by addition of desalting
10 buffer containing 1 M imidazole. The supernatant was incubated at 4 °C for 1 h with
11 HisPur Ni-NTA resin (ThermoFisher), after which the samples were applied twice to a
12 gravity flow column at room temperature. The column was washed using desalting buffer
13 containing 10 mM imidazole and proteins were eluted in 2 mL of desalting buffer
14 containing 300 mM imidazole. The eluted proteins were desalted using Zeba Spin
15 Desalting Columns (ThermoFisher) and stored at 4 °C.

16 For protein A purification, harvested cells were resuspended in equilibration buffer
17 (100 mM Na₂HPO₄, 136 mM NaCl, pH 8), followed by cell lysis using a Emulsiflex C5
18 homogenizer (Avestin) at 16,000–18,000 psi. The resulting lysate was centrifugated at
19 9,000 rpm at 4 °C for 25 min. The supernatant was mixed with the equilibration buffer in
20 a 1:1 ratio by mass, after which the samples were applied to a gravity flow column which
21 contained MabSelect SuRe protein A resin (Cytiva). The column was washed using
22 equilibration buffer. Proteins were eluted using 1 mL of elution buffer (165 mM glycine,
23 pH 2.2). The eluted proteins were collected in a tube containing 100 µL of neutralizing
24 buffer. The eluted fractions were subject to buffer exchange with PBS twice using a 10K
25 MWCO protein concentrator (ThermoFisher). During buffer exchange, samples were
26 centrifugated at 4500 rpm at 4 °C for 20 min.

27 For purification of *DmPglB* from *E. coli*, a single colony of BL21DE3 carrying
28 plasmid pSF-*DmPglB*-10xHis was grown overnight at 37 °C in 20 mL of LB supplemented
29 with Amp. Overnight cells were subcultured into 1 L of TB supplemented with Amp and
30 grown until the OD₆₀₀ reached a value of ~0.8. The incubation temperature was adjusted
31 to 16 °C, after which protein expression was induced by the addition of L-arabinose to a

1 final concentration of 0.02% (w/v). Protein expression was allowed to proceed for 16 h at
2 16 °C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation, resuspended in 10 mL Buffer A (50 mM
3 HEPES, 250mM NaCl, pH 7.4) per gram of pellet and then lysed using a homogenizer
4 (Avestin C5 EmulsiFlex). The lysate was centrifuged to remove cell debris and the
5 supernatant was ultracentrifuged (38,000 rpm; Beckman 70Ti rotor) for 2 h at 4 °C. The
6 resulting pellet containing the membrane fraction was partially resuspended in 25 mL
7 Buffer B (50 mM HEPES, 250 mM NaCl, and 1% (w/v%) n-dodecyl- β -D-maltoside (DDM),
8 pH 7.4). The suspension was incubated at room temperature rotating for 1 h and then
9 ultracentrifuged (38,000 rpm; Beckman 70Ti rotor) for 1 h at 4 °C. The supernatant
10 containing DDM-solubilized *DmPglB* was mixed with 0.8 mL of HisPur Ni-NTA resin
11 (ThermoFisher) equilibrated with Buffer B supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail
12 and incubated rotating for 24 h at 4 °C. After incubation, the material was transferred to a
13 gravity column, washed with Buffer C (50 mM HEPES, 250 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole
14 and 1% (w/v) DDM, pH 7.4), and eluted using Buffer D (50 mM HEPES, 250 mM NaCl,
15 250 mM imidazole and 1% (w/v) DDM, pH 7.4). Purified proteins were stored at a final
16 concentration of 3 mg/mL in a modified OST storage buffer (50 mM HEPES, 250 mM
17 NaCl, 33% (v/v) glycerol, 1% (w/v) DDM, pH 7.5) at -20 °C.

18 **Immunoblotting.** Protein samples (either periplasmic fractions or purified proteins) were
19 solubilized in 10% β -mercaptoethanol (BME) in 4x lithium dodecyl sulfate (LDS) sample
20 buffer and resolved on Bolt Bis-Tris Plus gels (ThermoFisher). The samples were later
21 transferred to immobilon PVDF transfer membranes and blocked with 5% milk (w/v) or
22 5% bovine serum albumin (w/v) in tris-buffered saline supplemented with 0.1% (w/v)
23 Tween 20 (TBST). The following antibodies were used for immunoblotting: polyhistidine
24 (6x-His) tag-specific polyclonal antibody (1:5000 dilution; Abcam, Cat # ab1187); F(ab')₂-
25 goat anti-human IgG (H+L) secondary antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase
26 (HRP) (1:5000 dilution; ThermoFisher, Cat # A24464), *C. jejuni* heptasaccharide glycan-
27 specific antiserum hR6 (1:1000 dilution; kind gift of Marcus Aebi, ETH Zürich)²⁰, and
28 donkey anti-rabbit IgG conjugated to HRP (1:5000 dilution; Cat # ab7083). Following
29 probing with primary and second antibodies, the membranes were washed three times
30 with TBST for 10 min and subsequently visualized using a ChemiDoc™ MP Imaging
31 System (Bio-Rad).

1 **Glycoproteomic tandem MS analysis.** Purified proteins were reduced by heating in 25
2 mM DL-dithiothreitol (DTT) at 50 °C for 45 min, then cooled down to room temperature,
3 immediately alkylated by incubating with 90 mM iodoacetamide (IAA) at room
4 temperature in dark for 20 min. Samples were loaded on the top of 10-kDa molecular
5 weight cut-off (MWCO) filters (MilliporeSigma), desalted by passing through with 800 µL
6 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate (Ambic). Proteins were recovered from the filters and
7 reconstituted as 1 µg/µL solution in 50 mM Ambic. Sequencing grade trypsin (Promega)
8 was added to samples at a 1:20 ratio, digestion was performed at 37 °C overnight. Trypsin
9 activity was terminated by heating at 100 °C for 5 min. Cooled samples were reconstituted
10 in LC-MS grade 0.1% formic acid (FA) as 0.1 µg/µL solution, passed through 0.2 µm filters
11 (Fisher Scientific). LC-MS/MS was carried out on an Ultimate 3000 RSLCnano low-flow
12 liquid chromatography system coupled with Orbitrap Tribrid Eclipse mass spectrometer
13 via a Nanospray Flex ion source. Samples were trap-loaded on a 2 µm pore size 75 µm
14 × 150 mm Acclaim PepMap 100 C18 nanoLC column. The column was equilibrated at
15 0.300 µL/min flowrate with 96% Buffer A (0.1% FA) and 4% Buffer B (80% acetonitrile
16 (ACN) with 0.1% FA). A 60-min gradient in which Buffer B ramped from 4% to 62.5% was
17 used for peptide separation. To scrutinize the expected glycan attachment at the
18 anticipated sequon, a higher collision energy dissociation (HCD) product triggered
19 collision induced dissociation (CID) (HCDpdCID) MS/MS fragmentation cycle in 3-s frame
20 was used. Precursors were scanned in Orbitrap at 120,000 resolution and fragments were
21 detected in Orbitrap at 30,000 resolution⁵⁸.

22 LC-MS/MS data was searched in Byonic (v5.0.3) and manually inspected in
23 Freestyle (v1.8 SP1). For IgG-Fc and full-length IgG analysis, IgG sequences with fully
24 reversed decoy were used for peptide backbone identification. The precursor mass
25 tolerance was set at 5 ppm, while the fragment mass tolerance was allowed as 20 ppm.
26 Expected glycan composition HexNAc(6) or HexNAc(6)Hex(1) based on the specific
27 glycosylation pathway was registered in *N*-glycan list. Protein list output was set with a
28 cutoff at 1% FDR (false detection rate) or 20 reverse sequences, whichever came last.
29 Only fully specific trypsin-cleaved peptides with up to 2 mis-cleavages were considered.
30 Carbamidomethylation on cysteine was considered as fixed modification. Oxidation on
31 methionine, deamidation on asparagine and glutamine were considered as variable

1 modifications. Peptide identity and modifications were annotated by Byonic, followed by
2 manual inspection of peptide backbone b/y ions, glycan oxonium ions, and glycopeptide
3 neutral losses⁵⁹. Relative abundance of glycoforms reported were based on area under
4 the curve of deconvoluted extracted ion chromatogram (XIC) peaks processed in
5 Freestyle using the protein Averagine model. Aglycosylated QYNST peptide XIC in the
6 same run was used for relative quantification. Accurate precursor masses and retention
7 times were used as additional identification bases, when the fragments of either
8 glycopeptide or aglycosylated peptide in a pair, but not both, were suppressed in LC-
9 MS/MS acquisition⁶⁰. To confidentially locate *N*-glycosylation sites on and covalent
10 glycan attachment to scFv13-R4(N34L/N77L)^{QYNST} and *DmPglB*, sequential trypsin/ α -
11 lytic protease digestion was performed at a 1:20 ratio. A stepped collision energy HCD
12 product-triggered electron transfer dissociation with assisted HCD (EThcD) (stepped
13 HCDpdEThcD) MS/MS program was used. Confident *N*-glycosylation site mapping on
14 these two samples required a/b/c/y/z fragment ions retaining glycosylation delta mass.
15 We were not able to gather quantitative information from the complicated glycosylation
16 states of *DmPglB*.

17 ***In vitro* glycosylation.** For *in vitro* glycosylation of *DmPglB*, reactions were adapted from
18 a previously published protocol⁶¹. Specifically, 500 μ L of *in vitro* glycosylation buffer (10
19 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 10 mM MnCl₂, and 0.1% (w/v) DDM) containing 50 μ g of purified
20 *DmPglB* and 50 μ L of solvent extracted LLOs were incubated at 30 °C for 16 h. Organic
21 solvent extraction of LLOs bearing the GalNAc₅(Glc)GlcNAc glycan from the membrane
22 of *E. coli* cells was performed as described^{62, 63}. Briefly, a single colony of CLM24 carrying
23 the plasmid pMW07-pgl Δ BICDEF was inoculated in LB supplemented with Cm and grown
24 overnight at 37 °C. Overnight cells were then subcultured into 1 L of TB supplemented
25 with Cm and grown until the OD₆₀₀ reached ~0.8. The incubation temperature was
26 adjusted to 30 °C and expression induced with 0.2% (w/v) L-arabinose. After 16 h, cells
27 were harvested by centrifugation, resuspended in 50 mL MeOH, and dried overnight. The
28 next day, dried cell material was scraped into a 50-mL conical tube and pulverized. The
29 pulverized material was then thoroughly mixed with 12 mL of 2:1 mixture of
30 chloroform:methanol, sonicated in a water bath for 10 min, centrifuged at 4,000 rpm and
31 4 °C for 10 min, and the supernatant discarded. This step was then repeated two more

1 times. Subsequently, 20 mL of water was thoroughly mixed with the pellet, sonicated in a
2 water bath for 10 min, centrifuged at 4,000 rpm and 4 °C for 10 min, and the supernatant
3 discarded. The pellet was vortexed with 18 mL of a 10:10:3 mixture of
4 chloroform:methanol:water and sonicated in a water bath to homogeneity. 8 mL of
5 methanol was subsequently added, the mixture was vortexed, and then centrifuged at
6 4,000 rpm and 4 °C for 10 min. The supernatant was decanted and retained while the
7 pellet discarded. Then, 8 mL of chloroform and 2 mL of water were added to the
8 supernatant, mixed, and centrifuged at 4,000 rpm and 4 °C for 10 min. The aqueous
9 supernatant was aspirated and discarded, while the organic bottom layer containing the
10 LLO was dried overnight. The next day, dried material was resuspended in cell-free
11 glycosylation buffer (10 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, and 0.1% (w/v) DDM) and stored at -20 °C.
12 **Chemoenzymatic glycan remodeling.** A total of 400 U of *exo- α -N-*
13 *acetylgalactosaminidase* (New England Biolabs, Cat # P0734S) was added to a solution
14 of GalNAc₅GlcNAc-hinge-Fc dimer (200 μ g) in 100 μ L GlycoBuffer 1 (50 mM NaOAc, 5
15 mM CaCl₂, pH 5.5) and the reaction mixture was incubated at room temperature. Reaction
16 progress was monitored by LC-ESI-MS using an Exactive Plus Orbitrap Mass
17 Spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) equipped with an Agilent Poroshell 300SB C8 column
18 (5 μ m, 1.0 \times 75 mm) and was found to be complete after just 2 h. The sample was then
19 buffer exchanged to 100 mM Tris pH 7 buffer using an Amicon[®] Ultra 0.5 mL 10K
20 Centrifugal Filter (Millipore) and concentrated to 2 mg/mL. To this solution was added G2-
21 oxazoline (320 μ g, 30 mol eq), followed by 1 μ g of EndoS2-D184M to a final concentration
22 of 0.4% (w/w) relative to the hinge-Fc. The sample was incubated at 30 °C, and the
23 reaction monitored by LC-ESI-MS. After 30 min, the reaction was complete, and the G2-
24 hinge-Fc product was purified using a 1-mL Protein A HP column (Cytiva) following
25 previously established procedures⁴⁷. The final product was buffer exchanged to PBS by
26 centrifugal filtration and stored at -80 °C until later use.
27 **ELISA.** For binding assays between IgG-Fc domain and Fc γ receptor, Fc γ RIIIA V158 (10
28 μ g/mL; Sino Biological) in PBS buffer (pH 7.4) was coated onto a high-binding 96-well
29 plate (VWR) overnight at 4 °C. After washing with PBST (PBS, 0.1% Tween 20) the plate
30 was blocked overnight at 4 °C with 200 μ L of 5% milk (w/v) in PBST. The plate was
31 washed three times and 100- μ L serial dilutions of sample were added to each well. The

1 concentrations of each glycosylated and aglycosylated sample ranged from 0.08 to 10
2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ (fivefold serial dilutions). All IgG-Fc glycoforms were purified proteins except for
3 commercial trastuzumab (HY-P9907, MedChem Express). The plate was placed on a
4 shaker and incubated for 1 h at 37 °C. After incubation, the plate was washed three times,
5 and incubated for 1 h with 100 μL of F(ab')₂-goat anti-human IgG (H+L) antibody
6 conjugated to HRP (1:5,000 dilution; ThermoFisher, Cat # A24464). After three washes,
7 100 μL of 3,3',5,5' tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) ELISA substrate (ThermoFisher) were
8 added to each well for signal development. The reaction was stopped upon addition of
9 100 μL of 2M sulfuric acid. The absorbance of samples was measured at 450 nm using
10 a SpectraMax 190 microplate reader (Molecular Devices) and the data was analyzed
11 using GraphPad Prism software (version 10.0.2) by nonlinear regression analysis.

12 **Sequence alignments and structural models.** Sequences were aligned using the
13 Clustal Omega web server ³⁷. The structure of *C. lari* PglB was derived from the PDB
14 entry 5OGL ¹⁴. Structures for all other OSTs were obtained with the AlphaFold2 (AF2)
15 protein structure prediction algorithm implemented with ColabFold ^{34, 35}. All structures
16 were generated with standard settings, 8 recycles and relaxed with Amber. We generated
17 two sets of structures – one with and one without the substrate peptide GGQYNST.
18 However, AF2 failed to place the peptide in the peptide binding pocket of the enzyme for
19 all enzymes. In these cases, we resorted to obtaining the structure of enzyme-peptide
20 complexes by manually aligning the enzyme structures from AF2 to the enzyme-peptide
21 complex (with DQNAT peptide) for the *C/PglB* crystal structure from PDB entry 5OGL ¹⁴.
22 To model the QYNST peptide in the peptide-binding pocket, we mutated the DQNAT
23 peptide to QYNST and relaxed the QYNST peptide in the peptide-binding pocket of each
24 enzyme's AF2 model with Rosetta's relax function. Twenty-five structures were generated
25 using the Rosetta relax function with default parameters for each enzyme-peptide
26 complex and the structure with the lowest total score was selected. Electrostatic surfaces
27 were generated based on electrostatics calculations using the APBS plugin in PyMOL,
28 which combines standard focusing techniques and the Bank-Holst algorithm into a
29 “parallel focusing” method for the solution of the Poisson-Boltzmann equation (PBE) for
30 nanoscale systems ³⁶.

31

1 **Data Availability.** All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this
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4
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18 **Author Contributions.** B.S. designed research, performed research, analyzed data, and
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20 research, performed research, and analyzed data. S.P.M. and J.J.G. developed structural
21 models and analyzed data. X.Y. and P.A. performed LC-MS-MS analysis. M.C.J., L.-
22 X.W., and C.A.A. designed and directed research and analyzed data. M.P.D. designed
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27 Inc., UbiquiTX, Inc., and Versatope Therapeutics, Inc. M.P.D.'s and M.C.J. interests are
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30 interests.

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