Automated Design of Protein-binding Riboswitches for Sensing Human Biomarkers in a Cell-free Expression System

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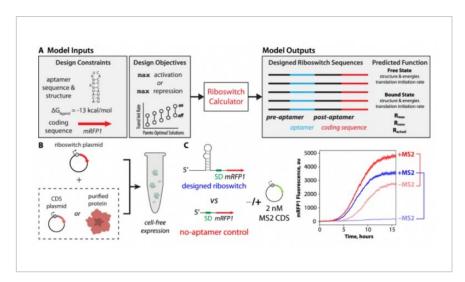


Fig. 1: Design of protein-sensing riboswitches and cell-free riboswitch characterization.

Technology Summary

The inventors developed an integrated computational & experimental platform to convert protein-binding RNA aptamers into riboswitch cell-free biosensors. The inventors demonstrated the platform by developing protein-sensing riboswitches for human monomeric C-reactive protein and human interleukin-32γ, which are biomarkers for heart disease, viral infection and inflammation, as well as phage MS2 coat protein. The riboswitch sensors regulated output protein expression levels by up to 21-fold with protein concentrations within the human serum physiological range. The inventors have identified over 20 protein biomarkers that could be detected by engineering riboswitch cell-free biosensors and have designed devices that utilize riboswitch cell-free biosensors for use in medical diagnostics. A more detailed description can be found in the inventor's peer-reviewed April 27, 2023 Nature Communication eponymous publication entitled "Automated Design of Protein-binding Riboswitches for Sensing Human Biomarkers in a Cell-free Expression System."

Application & Market Utility

The inventors foresee commercial utility in developing this platform technology for low-cost medical diagnostics for human proteins found in serum, saliva, or other fluids. The inventors believe that the reagent cost of an assay having long shelf-life at room temperature may be around one dollar (\$1).

Next Steps

The inventors foresee commercial utility in developing this platform technology.

TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL

4-7

Seeking

Investment |

Keywords

- Biosensor
- Diagnostic
- Biomarker

Researchers

Howard Salis, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biological and Chemical Engineering, Synthetic Biology

Grace Vezeau

Former Graduate Research Assistant

Other Researchers

Originating College

The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Office of Technology Management Contact

Matthew Smith mds126@psu.edu

