Targeted, Genome-scale Overexpression in Proteobacteria

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Abstract

Targeted, genome-scale gene perturbation screens using Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats interference (CRISPRi) and activation (CRISPRa) have revolutionized eukaryotic genetics, advancing medical, industrial, and basic research. Although CRISPRi knockdowns have been broadly applied in bacteria, options for genome-scale gene overexpression face key limitations. Here, we develop a facile approach for genome-scale overexpression in bacteria we call, "CRISPRtOE" (CRISPR transposition and OverExpression). We first create a platform for comprehensive gene targeting using CRISPR-associated transposons (CAST) and show that transposition occurs at a higher frequency in non-transcribed DNA. We then demonstrate that CRISPRtOE can upregulate gene expression in Proteobacteria with medical and industrial relevance by integrating synthetic promoters of varying strength upstream of target genes. Finally, we employ CRISPRtOE screening at the genome-scale in the model bacterium *Escherichia coli* and the non-model biofuel producer *Zymomonas mobilis*, recovering known and novel antibiotic and engineering targets. We

33 envision that CRISPRtOE will be a valuable overexpression tool for antibiotic mode of action,

34 industrial strain optimization, and gene function discovery in bacteria.

Importance

Systematic alteration of bacterial gene expression enables identification of genes relevant to

diverse fields of study and practical applications. Although many targeted, genome-scale

genetic tools exist for reducing or eliminating gene expression, there are few facile approaches

for systematic gene overexpression in bacteria. Here, we develop a targeted overexpression

approach for Proteobacteria of medical and industrial importance that precisely inserts strong

promoters upstream of genes using CRISPR-associated transposons. We demonstrate that this

approach can be used to systematically overexpress genes in both model (*Escherichia coli* K-

12) and non-model (*Zymomonas mobilis*) Proteobacteria for the purpose of understanding

antibiotic resistance mechanisms and improving strain resilience in biofuel production

conditions, respectively.

Introduction

Overexpression (OE) studies have been invaluable for gene phenotyping in medical (1–3),

industrial (4), and basic contexts (3, 5). When used at the genome-scale, OE enables

systematic functional interrogation of genes that are normally cryptic under screening

conditions, mimics natural resistance mechanisms, and complements loss of function

approaches by identifying genes with opposite phenotypes when knocked down versus

overexpressed (1, 6). Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats activation

(CRISPRa) has allowed routine, genome-scale overexpression screening in eukaryotes for drug

synergy/antagonism (6) or sensitivity/resistance to toxic plant compounds that reduce

bioproduct yields (7). For example, a recent screen in mammalian cells for genes that interact

with the anti-cancer drug, rigosertib, leveraged genome-scale CRISPR interference (CRISPRi)

knockdowns with CRISPRa OE to identify target pathways (1). OE has also enhanced strain

optimization for industrial purposes, such as a genome-wide CRISPRa screen in in

Saccharomyces cerevisiae for genes involved in resistance to the biofuel production stressor,

furfural (7).

Existing genome-scale OE approaches in bacteria have key limitations. Classic OE

approaches, such as random integration of promoter-containing transposons to overexpress

downstream genes(8), are untargeted and require high-density transposon (Tn) libraries to

resolve phenotypic ambiguities caused by the effects of Tn insertion versus OE. Libraries of

Open Reading Frames (ORFs) cloned into multi-copy plasmids (9) are technically targeted

approaches, but are tedious and expensive to construct, limiting their utility in non-model

bacteria. Further, the use of plasmids presents additional complications, such as the constant

requirement for antibiotic selection for plasmid maintenance—complicating screens for antibiotic

function—and copy number variation that increases experimental noise (10). Contemporary

approaches have sought to mitigate these issues and make genome-scale OE more accessible.

For instance, Trackable Multiplex Recombineering (TRMR) is a targeted approach that uses

recombinase-aided DNA editing (recombineering) to insert barcoded promoters or ribosome

binding variants upstream of genes to achieve OE (11, 12); however, use of this method at the

genome-scale is restricted to bacteria with efficient recombineering systems. An innovative new

OE technique, "Dub-seq," uses random genomic fragments cloned into barcoded, multi-copy

plasmids (13, 14). Dub-seq reduces upfront barriers to OE library construction, but at the cost of

being untargeted, increasing the complication of downstream analysis, and sharing some

downsides of other plasmid-based approaches. Moreover, the length of cloned genomic

fragments dictates Dub-seq library screening results; smaller fragments may miss genes that

only have phenotypes when co-expressed in operons (e.g., protein complex subunits) while

longer fragments may make it more difficult to pinpoint individual genes responsible for the

selected phenotype.

Although systematic CRISPRa screens are routinely used in eukaryotes (1–3), no

genome-scale CRISPRa studies have been reported in bacteria, to our knowledge. CRISPRa in

eukaryotes uses a catalytically inactive Cas9 protein (dCas9) and single guide RNAs (sgRNAs)

to deliver activator proteins to promoter regions, facilitating activation by opening chromatin

(15). In contrast, CRISPRa-based OE in bacteria requires direct interactions between activator

proteins and RNA polymerase (RNAP) that dictate strict activator-RNAP spacing and orientation

on DNA(16–19). Recent improvements to bacterial CRISPRa using dCas9 variants with

reduced PAM stringency or engineered activator proteins (19) partially mitigated the spacing

requirements and increased overall activation; however—even in these optimized systems—

only 1/3 to 1/2 of targeted endogenous genes could be upregulated, and the extent of OE was

unpredictable (18, 19).

Naturally occurring CRISPR-associated transposon (CAST) systems(20) have been

engineered to generate targeted insertions in bacterial genomes with high efficiency(21–23).

Although several CAST systems have been described (24–26), the Tn*6677* system from *Vibrio*

cholerae (VcCAST) is among the best characterized and most precise(27–30). In VcCAST, a

nuclease-deficient Type I-F CRISPR system pairs with a Tn*7*-like transposase to achieve guide

RNA-directed transposition. Guide RNA spacers direct VcCAST proteins to a complementary

protospacer, resulting in transposition of Tn*6677* end-flanked DNA ~49 bp downstream of the

protospacer (27–30). Transposon DNA can be inserted in two orientations with respect to the

Tn*6677* ends (R-L or L-R) but is highly biased toward the R-L orientation (21, 31). VcCAST is

highly precise, with nearly all tested guides showing >95% on-target insertion activity. The utility

of CASTs has been demonstrated for high-efficiency genome editing in Proteobacteria (21),

systematic disruption of transcription factor genes in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (23), and

targeting individual strains in a complex microbiome (22), but existing systems remain sub-

optimal for genome-scale functional genomics. Moreover, the use of Tn*6677* to deliver

regulatory elements—such as promoters—has recently shown promise in the model bacterium,

Escherichia coli (32). However, key gaps remain in our ability to deploy CAST systems for

genome-scale OE studies in diverse bacteria.

Here we addressed those gaps by creating a VcCAST system for targeted, genome-

scale OE in Proteobacteria we call, "CRISPRtOE" (CRISPR transposition and OverExpression)

(Fig. 1). CRISPRtOE precisely delivers a transposon with an outward facing promoter upstream

of genes to facilitate OE. We show the utility of CRISPRtOE to upregulate gene expression in

medically and industrially-relevant Proteobacterial species. Finally, we demonstrate genome-

scale overexpression in model (*E. coli*) and non-model (*Zymomonas mobilis*) Proteobacteria,

defining genes required for resistance to antibiotics or biofuel production stressors, respectively.

Results

A VcCAST Platform for Genome-scale Functional Genomics

We first generated a VcCAST system designed for genome-scale functional genomics we call,

"CRISPRt." Like previous VcCAST constructs (21, 22), CRISPRt enables insertion of Tn*6677* at

precise genomic positions specified by programmable gRNAs (Fig. 2A and 2B). Superimposed

on this are additional properties for facile use of VcCAST at the genome-scale: 1) Tn insertion is

selectable such that all transconjugants contain an integrated Tn; 2) *cas* helper and Tn plasmids

only replicate in *pir*-containing *E. coli* cells and are non-replicative in recipient bacteria, obviating

the need for plasmid curing prior to phenotyping (23); 3) *cas* and Tn components are on

separate plasmids, preventing insertion of *cas* genes into the genome in cases of Tn plasmid

co-integration and reducing Tn plasmid size which facilitates conjugation and cargo modification

by standard cloning procedures (Fig. 2A, 2B, S1A, and S1B). CRISPRt transconjugants

obtained from tri-parental matings were recovered at efficiencies consistent with genome-scale

library creation (e.g., ~10^{-2} frequency for *E. coli* K-12 MG1655, Fig. S1C). To confirm the

precision of CRISPRt, we targeted both endogenous (*lacZ*) and heterologous (*gfp*) reporter

genes for disruption in *E. coli* K-12 (Fig. S1D), using phenotypic assays and Illumina short read

sequencing of the genomic DNA-Tn*6677* junction (Tn-seq (33)) as readouts (Fig. 2C, S2A, S2B,

S2C, S2D, and S2E). As expected, Tn-seq showed a >99.5% on target efficiency for both *lacZ*

and *gfp* spacers, Tn insertion within a tight window centered at ~49 downstream of the

protospacer, and a strong Tn insertion bias toward the R-L orientation. Tn plasmid co-integration

occurred at a very low frequency (~10^{-3} for *E. coli* K-12, Fig. S2F).

Although Protospacer Adjacent Motif (PAM) requirements for VcCAST have been well

characterized (a "CN" PAM is sufficient (25)), other genomic features that impact guide efficacy

are poorly understood. To address this issue, we created a pooled CRISPRt library targeting

both strands of an *mScarlet-I* reporter gene integrated into the *E. coli* K-12 genome (46 gRNAs

total, Fig. S3A). Surprisingly, we found that transcription had a significant impact on guide

efficacy. To measure relative guide efficacy, we compared the abundance of gRNA spacers in

our library before and after transposition into *mScarlet-I* (Fig. S3B). Consistent with previous

data from smaller sets of spacers(34), we found considerable variability, with a ~27-fold

difference in efficacy between the most and least active guides. Looking for patterns that could

explain these differences, we noticed a clear, but not absolute bias toward higher efficiency in

template strand targeting guides. Other variables, such as distance from the gene start or PAM

identity did not show an obvious trend (Fig. S3C and S3D). The strand bias in insertion

frequency suggested either replication or transcription could be impacting guide efficacy. We

continued to observe a strand bias when the orientation of *mScarlet-I* was flipped relative to the

origin of replication (Fig. S4A and S4B), seemingly ruling out replication as a factor and

implicating transcription. Indeed, CRISPRt insertion into a non-transcribed *mScarlet-I* gene

showed reduced variation in relative guide efficacy (Fig. S5A). To determine the absolute effect

of transcription on CRISPRt efficacy, we cloned the three most active guides from our *mScarlet-I*

library (T03, T09, and T21) and individually tested their efficiencies in the presence and absence

of transcription (Fig. 2E and S5B). We found that transcription of *mScarlet-I* reduced recovery of

CRISPRt transconjugants by 6.9 to 19.6-fold, depending on the guide tested. We conclude that

CRISPRt has excellent properties for genome-scale functional genomics while retaining the

precision of VcCAST and that CRISPRt efficacy is higher when targeting non-transcribed DNA.

Targeted and Tunable Overexpression in Proteobacteria

We sought to modify CRISPRt into a targeted overexpression system by inserting outward-

facing promoters into Tn*6677* that increase transcription of downstream genes (CRISPRtOE

(Fig. 3A)). We inserted synthetic, constitutive promoters of varying strength that had been

shown to function in Gamma- and Alpha-proteobacteria (35, 36) into Tn*6677* with the goal of

creating an OE gradient (Fig. S6A and S6B). To quantify the OE activity of CRISPRtOE, we

generated a "test" strain with a promoterless *mScarlet-I* reporter gene integrated into the *E. coli*

K-12 genome. This cassette contained a well-characterized protospacer upstream of *mScarlet-I*

to act as a "landing pad" (LP) for CRISPRtOE transposons (Fig. 3A and S6C). The test strain

showed negligible mScarlet-I expression in the absence of an upstream CRISPRtOE insertion

(Fig. 3B).

CRISPRtOE achieved a gradient of *mScarlet-I* OE across our series of tested promoters

(Fig. 3B). CRISPRtOE containing the strong H promoter (P_H) showed a ~177-fold increase in

mScarlet-I expression, while weaker promoters (P_V and P_A) showed intermediate increases (~2-

30-fold); OE was validated at the RNA level using qPCR (Fig. S7A). CRISPRtOE lacking a

promoter (no P) failed to stimulate expression above background, although we note that

insertions in the reverse orientation (L-R) were excluded from this analysis due to cryptic

promoter activity (Fig. S7B and Table S6). We also observed small variations in OE depending

on the precise location of insertion for unknown reasons (Table S6).

We next sought to demonstrate CRISPRtOE activity in Proteobacteria with medical and

industrial relevance. The non-model Alphaproteobacterium, *Zymomonas mobilis*, is a promising

biofuel producer and an intriguing example of a free-living bacterium with a naturally reduced

genome (37). To assay CRISPRtOE function in *Z. mobilis*, we again generated a promoterless

mScarlet-I test strain and measured expression following insertion of CRISPRtOE transposons

(Fig. S7C and Table S6). We found that CRISPRtOE could produce a gradient of

overexpression in *Z. mobilis* up to ~50-fold. Differences in the fold effects of CRISPRtOE across

species likely reflect variation in promoter activity among our constitutive promoter set.

We then extended this approach to a panel of eight total species including the Gram-

negative ESKAPE pathogens (38) *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*,

Pseudomonas aeruginosa, and *Enterobacter cloacae*, as well as the industrially and

environmentally relevant strains *Pseudomonas putida* (39) and *Shewanella oneidensis* (40),

focusing our strongest promoter (P_H) to reduce experimental complexity (Fig. 3C and Table S6).

We found that CRISPRtOE could increase mScarlet-I expression in all tested species with an

OE range of 232-fold (*E. cloacae*) to 23-fold (*P. aeruginosa*), possibly due to variations in

promoter activity, translation initiation or mScarlet-I folding across species. The CRISPRtOE

insertion position in most species was centered at 33 bp upstream of *mScarlet-I*, although *A.*
baumannii showed a wider range of positions for unknown reasons (Fig. S7D and Table S6). We
note that the modular design of CRISPRtOE enables facile swapping of promoter sequences
with organism-specific or inducible promoters to customize expression levels depending on the
application and that we have constructed CRISPRtOE variants with a variety of antibiotic
markers to facilitate its use in resistant environmental or clinical isolates. Recovery of
CRISPRtOE transconjugants ranged from ~10^{-2} to 10^{-6} across species (Table S7), with most
species showing sufficient insertion efficiency to facilitate construction of genome-scale libraries.
We conclude that CRISPRtOE is an effective overexpression strategy for Proteobacteria.
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Pooled CRISPRtOE Recapitulates Known Antibiotic Targets

There is an urgent need to develop new therapeutics to stem the rising tide of antibiotic
resistance (41). One major bottleneck in the process of translating new antimicrobials to the
clinic is determining the mode of action, including identifying the direct target. CRISPRtOE could
provide a straightforward avenue to antibiotic target discovery because strains with
overexpressed target proteins would outgrow competitor strains in a pooled context. For
instance, it has been shown that OE of *folA*, encoding the trimethoprim (TMP) target,
Dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), can substantially increase resistance to TMP (42). Likewise,
murA, encoding the fosfomycin (FOS) target, UDP-NAG enolpyruvyl transferase (MurA), can
provide FOS resistance when overexpressed (43).
To validate CRISPRtOE as a tool for phenotyping antibiotic targets, we overexpressed
the *folA* and *murA* genes in *E. coli* K-12 using the strong promoter construct (P_H). As a hedge
against potential variation in integration or OE efficacy, we tiled the region upstream of both
genes with 12 unique spacers per gene and created a negative control library that inserted into
the *lacZ* coding region (Fig. S8A). We then performed a pooled growth assay competing either
the *folA* or *murA* library against the *lacZ* library in sub-lethal concentrations of TMP or FOS,
respectively. Strikingly, we found that all CRISPRtOE gRNAs targeting *folA* and *murA* were
effective in increasing antibiotic resistance (Fig. S8B and S8C). Relative to *lacZ* controls, the
folA library grown in TMP showed a 22-fold median increase in abundance while the *murA*
library grown in FOS showed a 52-fold median increase. To further characterize these
resistance phenotypes, we performed Minimal Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) strip or broth
microdilution assays on individual CRISPRtOE isolates (Fig. S8D, S8E, S8F, and S8G). We
observed substantial shifts in MIC (~15-30 fold) for CRISPRtOE insertions at varying distances
upstream of *folA* (Fig. S8E and S8F), suggesting that CRISPRtOE phenotypes are robust to

insertion distances upstream of target genes. We obtained similar results from measuring the

FOS MIC for *murA* CRISPRtOE isolates (Fig. S8G).

Strong phenotypes from *folA* and *murA* OE provided an opportunity to test if

CRISPRtOE targeting could be multiplexed. Thus, we targeted both *folA* and *murA* for OE in the

same cell using two distinct strategies: 1) kanamycin (KAN)- or gentamicin (GEN)-marked

transposons containing either a single *folA* or *murA* spacer were used in a quad-parental mating

and transconjugants were selected on both KAN and GEN, or 2) a kanamycin-marked Tn*6677*

containing a CRISPR array with both *folA* and *murA* spacers was used in a tri-parental mating

and transconjugants were selected on KAN (Fig. S9A). We found that 97% of KAN[R]/GEN[R]

transconjugants from the quad-parental mating contained insertions upstream of both *folA* and

murA, and we confirmed TMP[R]/FOS[R] phenotypes for four tested isolates (Fig. S9B, S9C, and

S9D). In contrast, only 12.5% of transconjugants from the tri-parental mating contained both

folA and *murA* upstream insertions in the correct orientation; however, all four colonies tested

were TMP[R]/FOS[R] (Fig. S9B, S9C, and S9D). We conclude that CRISPRtOE is effective at

targeting endogenous genes, such as antibiotic targets, and can be effectively multiplexed.

Genome-scale CRISPRtOE Validates Antibiotic Targets and Reveals

Resistance Pathways

Buoyed by our success with *folA* and *murA*, we expanded the scope of our CRISPRtOE

screening approach to the genome-scale (Fig. 4A). We targeted all protein-coding genes in the

E. coli K-12 genome with ~10 gRNAs designed to integrate transposons within a small window

upstream of genes without disrupting downstream coding sequences (~45,000 guides total).

Based solely on this design, we predicted that 64% of transposon insertions would occur in

intergenic regions and 36% would occur in upstream genes (Fig. S10A and S10B). Thus, we

generated two pooled libraries—one with promoter H and one without a defined promoter—to

distinguish between phenotypes caused by OE rather than upstream gene disruption.

We found that CRISPRtOE effectively targeted regions upstream of genes across the

genome. We first used Tn-seq to map transposon locations, then performed a computational

analysis to associate insertions in the proper orientation (R-L) with downstream genes. Based

on this analysis, an average of ~97% of insertions occurred at locations consistent with the

library design, demonstrating high, on target efficiency (Fig. S10C, Table S8). Unfortunately,

transposon insertion locations could not be defined using gRNA spacer sequences alone, as a

fraction of transconjugant cells likely obtained and expressed multiple gRNAs during the mating

procedure. This resulted in transposons that inserted at a site designated by the library design

that nonetheless did not match the gRNA spacer found within the inserted transposon

("hijacked" transposons). Although our libraries showed that, on average, ~29% of transposon

insertions were hijacked (Fig. S10C, Table S8), we estimate that only ~3.5% of transconjugants

in our library contained more than one insertion based on mating experiments that used

differentially marked transposons (Fig. S10D). In our Tn-seq analysis, we found that

CRISPRtOE insertions occurred in a tight distribution largely within 100 bp of the 5′ ends of

genes (Fig. 4B). This is in stark contrast to the nearly flat distribution of Tn5 insertions, which

are known to occur pseudo-randomly (44). For instance, the visual distinction between

CRISPRtOE targeted and Tn5 pseudo-random insertion was readily apparent at the non-

essential *lac* locus (Fig. 4C).

To test the ability of CRISPRtOE to identify antibiotic-relevant gene phenotypes at the

genome-scale, we grew our libraries in the presence or absence of a sublethal concentration of

TMP and measured relative strain abundance. Biological replicates showed excellent

agreement at the gene level (R^2 ~ 0.92, Fig. S11A), underscoring the high reproducibility of

genome-scale CRISPRtOE. The *folA* gene was a clear positive outlier with >1000-fold

enrichment in TMP versus untreated (Fig. 5A and 5B), demonstrating the power of our

CRISPRtOE screen in recovering antibiotic targets. Substantial *folA* enrichment was only seen

in the P$_H$-containing library and not in the promoterless library, indicating that OE, rather than

transposon insertion per se, was responsible for the phenotype (Fig. 5B). Promoter-dependent

phenotypes were largely distinct from insertion phenotypes across the entire genome, as

relative strain abundances of the P$_H$ and no promoter libraries after TMP treatment were not

correlated (R^2 = 0.007, compare Fig. S11B and S11C). Computational subsampling of our

libraries suggested that CRISPRtOE library complexity could be reduced, if desired. Gene-level

phenotypes remained robust after subsampling the library from ~10 to 4 random guides per

gene (R^2 = 0.905, Fig. S12A). Further, we obtained many of the same top hits, including *folA*, if

we only considered guides that targeted the first gene in operons (Fig. S13A). Thus, we

anticipate that future CRISPRtOE libraries could achieve genome-scale overexpression with far

fewer guides per gene.

Significant outliers outside of the direct target revealed potential TMP resistance or

susceptibility mechanisms (Fig. 5A and 5B). For instance, one of the most resistant outlier

genes was *soxS*, encoding an AraC-type transcription activator known to regulate genes

involved in antibiotic resistance (45) (Fig. 5B). Indeed, AraC and MarR family transcription factor

genes and their regulons were among the most resistant outliers in our screen (e.g., *marR*, *rob*,

marA and the SoxS/Rob/MarA regulated AcrAB efflux pump (46), Table S9), highlighting the

ability of CRISPRtOE to identify resistance gene regulators by amplifying natural activation

circuits.

Other resistance and susceptibility mechanisms centered on folate metabolism. TMP

treatment reduces cellular methionine levels due to the involvement of tetrahydrofolate (the

product of DHFR) in methionine synthesis (47). CRISPRtOE of the *metR* gene, which encodes

a positive regulator of methionine biosynthesis genes (48), increased TMP resistance (Fig. 5B),

possibly in increasing flux through the pathway. In contrast, *metF* OE was highly deleterious in

the presence of TMP (Fig. 5A), likely due to depletion of 5,10-methylenetetrahydrofolate pools

normally used by the ThyA-DHFR pathway to generate tetrahydrofolate (49). We validated this

toxicity by showing that *metF* OE from a multi-copy plasmid reduces the MIC for TMP by ~4-fold

(Fig. 5C). Neither *metR* nor *metF* were recovered in previous TMP loss-of-function screens (50,

51), demonstrating the utility of CRISPRtOE to identify new players in antibiotic function.

Interestingly, CRISPRtOE of *folM*, which is thought to encode a protein with DHFR activity (52),

was highly toxic to TMP-treated cells (Fig. 5A, Table S9). Although unintuitive, this result is

consistent with other genome-scale phenotyping studies that found that disruption of *folM*

increases resistance to TMP (50, 51).

Finally, genes involved in cellular polysaccharide synthesis, including Enteric Common

Antigen (ECA) biosynthesis genes (e.g., genes in the *rff/wec* operon), were functionally enriched

among sensitive outliers (FDR = 0.0054, ks test; Table S10A). Previous work has shown that

disruption of the ECA pathway also increases TMP sensitivity, possibly by sequestering

thymidine pools and leading to "hyper-acting" version of thymine-less death (53). Our work

suggests that dysregulation by OE, in addition to disruption, can cause ECA-dependent toxicity

in TMP-treated cells. Although ECA genes exist in complex operons that may be disrupted by

insertion (Fig. 5D), phenotypes for some ECA genes required the presence of P_H in the

transposon (Table S9). We chose to focus our follow up analysis on *rffM* (a.k.a. *wecG*), which is

the last gene in the ECA operon and showed a phenotype that was strongly dependent on P_H

(Table S9). To validate TMP sensitivity upon *rffM* OE and to rule out *cis* effects from disruption of

the ECA operon, we expressed *rffM* from a multi-copy plasmid. Plasmid-based OE of *rffM*

reduced the TMP MIC by ~4-fold (Fig. 5E), confirming that OE is the source of toxicity. As ECA

is found on the cell surface, we considered that ECA pathway disruption by *rffM* OE might

increase susceptibility to a broader set of small molecule inhibitors other than TMP. To test this,

we screened our plasmid-based *rffM* OE strain against 24 chemicals using a Biolog Phenotype

Array. We found that *rffM* OE increased sensitivity to additional small molecule compounds,

such as diamide (a.k.a., tetramethylazodicarboxamide) and rifamycin SV (Fig. 5F and S14A and

S14B). Thus, OE of ECA synthesis genes increases susceptibility to TMP and other small

molecule inhibitors, although the precise mechanism and scope of affected inhibitors remains

unknown.

We next expanded our genome-scale proof-of-principle studies by screening our

CRISPRtOE library against FOS, finding expected, underexplored, and potentially novel FOS

resistance determinants (Fig. 6 and S15 and Table S11). As expected, *murA* was a prominent

resistant outlier along with the gene upstream of *murA*, *ibaG* (Fig. 6A and S15A). As OE of *ibaG*

and *murA* showed similar fold increases in FOS treated cells, we speculated that the *ibaG*

phenotype is due to increased transcription of *murA* rather than a contribution of the *ibaG* gene

product to FOS resistance, per se.

Among the other top resistance genes, we identified several genes within the *phn*

operon (*phnCDEFGHIJKLMNOP*) (Fig. 6A and S15A and Table S11) which is involved in

degradation of small molecules containing carbon-phosphate (C-P) bonds known as

phosphonates (54). Intriguingly, FOS contains a C-P bond that is central to the molecule and

likely critical for its function as an antibiotic. The *phn* operon was previously implicated in FOS

resistance in a screen that used randomly inserting transposons that contained promoters (55),

but the genetic basis of the OE phenotype was not further characterized. We found that

CRISPRtOE insertions upstream, but not downstream of *phnM* allowed for FOS resistance,

suggesting that OE of *phnM*, *phnN*, *phnO*, or *phnP* was responsible for the phenotype (Fig. 6B).

We first validated *phnC* and *phnM* CRISPRtOE phenotypes outside of the pooled screen

context, finding increases in the FOS MIC of ~8- and ~11-fold, respectively (Fig. 6C and S15B).

Deletion of *phnMNOP* had no impact on the FOS MIC of otherwise wild-type (WT) cells,

demonstrating that the role of *phn* genes in FOS resistance is only apparent through OE (Fig.

6D, 6E, and S15C). However, deletion of *phnMNOP* eliminated the increase in FOS resistance

caused by *phnC* CRISPRtOE (Fig. 6E and S15D). Reasoning from the insertion data that OE of

phnM was most likely to be the key player in our FOS resistance phenotype, we overexpressed

phnM from a multi-copy plasmid and measured FOS MICs. Consistent with our hypothesis, we

found that *phnM* OE was sufficient to increase the FOS MIC in otherwise wild-type cells and for

a strain lacking *phnMNOP* on the chromosome (Fig. 6E and S15D). Interestingly, plasmid-based

phnM OE in a *phnC* CRISPRtOE Δ*phnMNOP* background further increased the FOS MIC to

~37-fold over WT (Figures 5E and S15D), suggesting that *phnM* functions alongside other

members of the *phn* operon, but also acts as a critical bottleneck to FOS resistance in WT cells.

Finally, we investigated the role of *waaY*, which encodes the lipopolysaccharide (LPS)

core heptose II kinase (56), in FOS resistance. In the absence of *waaY*, LPS is not

phosphorylated on heptose II (56) and cells become sensitized to a number of small molecule

inhibitors and antibiotics, but not FOS (45). However, our CRISPRtOE screen suggested that

waaY OE could provide resistance to FOS (Fig. S15A and S15E). We confirmed that *waaY*

increases the FOS MIC when overexpressed in *cis* (via CRISPRtOE) or *trans* (via multi-copy

plasmid). Thus, our experiments suggest that cellular levels of *waaY* and by extension, LPS

phosphorylation, are insufficient to provide FOS resistance but OE can overcome this deficit. In

sum, genome-scale CRISPRtOE recovered known antibiotic targets and resistance

mechanisms as well as intriguing new players in resistance.

Genome-scale CRISPRtOE in a non-model bacterium identifies potential engineering targets

We next sought to extend our genome-scale CRISPRtOE approach beyond model bacteria and

well-characterized inhibitors. *Zymomonas mobilis* is an Alphaproteobacterium that shows

promise in conversion of deconstructed plant material (hydrolysate) into biofuels. Plant

hydrolysates contain sugars used by *Z. mobilis* in the production of biofuels, but also a complex

mixture of inhibitory compounds that originate from the deconstruction process or from the plant

material itself. Only some of these inhibitors are known. In principle, OE screens could identify

engineering targets that overcome the growth defects caused by hydrolysate inhibitors and

increase biofuel yields. To identify potential engineering targets, we constructed CRISPRtOE

libraries containing no promoter or P_H that targeted all protein coding genes in the *Z. mobilis*

ZM4 genome (~20,000 guides total) using the same design principles described above for *E.*

coli. We used Tn-seq to map transposon locations and found high on-target efficiency (Fig.

S10C). We then screened our libraries against a concentration of ammonia fiber expansion

(AFEX)-treated switchgrass hydrolysate that resulted in ~50% growth inhibition when added to

defined medium. We found multiple genes that improved the relative and absolute growth of *Z.*

mobilis in switchgrass hydrolysate (Fig. 7A and 7B and Table S12). We focused our follow up

studies on two intriguing resistant outliers, *fumA*, encoding Fumarase A, and *rpoE*, encoding an

extracytoplasmic function (ECF) σ factor (Fig. 7, S16, and S17). Fumarase typically participates

in the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, but *Z. mobilis* has an incomplete TCA pathway lacking key

enzymes such as malate dehydrogenase (57). CRISPRtOE and plasmid-based OE of *fumA*

outside the pooled context validated the growth advantage of *fumA* over WT, although the

absolute magnitude of this advantage was modest (Fig. S16A, S16B, S17A, and S17B).

However, CRISPRtOE and plasmid-based OE of *rpoE* in hydrolysate showed a much larger

absolute growth effect versus WT (Fig. 7C, 7D, S16C, S16D, S17C, and S17D). As many ECF σ

factors are involved in mitigating cell stress, we speculate that *rpoE* OE "pre-induces" a cellular

stress response which reduces the long lag phase associated with growth in hydrolysate.

However, we caution that very little is known about the RpoE regulon in *Z. mobilis*, and the

name "*rpoE*" may be misleading as the *Z. mobilis* protein shows low percent identity with well-

characterized RpoE proteins from other bacteria (e.g., *E. coli* K-12 RpoE (58) (b2573) ~23%,

Rhodobacter sphaeroides RpoE (59) (RSP_2681) ~40%). In sum, we extended genome-scale

CRISPRtOE to the non-model bacterium *Z. mobilis* and successfully identified genes that

improved growth in complex plant hydrolysate.

Discussion

Functional genomics approaches that are robustly scalable and readily applicable to diverse

bacteria are required to bridge the yawning gap between genome sequencing and gene function

assessment. Our work provides a targeted, systematic, and practical approach for genome-

scale gene overexpression in Proteobacteria and possibly beyond. By modifying VcCAST for

use in functional genomics (Fig. 1 and 2) and defining non-transcribed regions of DNA as high-

efficiency insertion sites (Fig. S3), we demonstrated targeted and tunable OE in Proteobacteria

with medical, industrial, and basic research relevance (Fig. 3). Our genome-scale OE screen for

targets and modulators of TMP and FOS efficacy in the model organism *E. coli* highlight the

exquisite specificity of CRISPRtOE in recovering genes and pathways that underpin antibiotic

function (Fig. 4, 5 and 6). The extension of our genome-scale OE screening approach to the

non-model bacterium *Z. mobilis* in a complex inhibitor mixture and the ease of constructing

individual CRISPRtOE inhibitor-resistant strains demonstrates the potential utility for industrial

strain optimization (Fig. 7). Given the ease of implementing CRISPRtOE in the organisms

explored here, we anticipate that our approach will be readily expandable to many other

microbes and screening conditions. While our manuscript was under review, another manuscript

was published that showed that VcCAST containing promoters could be used to upregulate

genes in *E. coli*(32). Our work dramatically expands this approach across multiple

Proteobacteria and to the genome scale. We note that the replicative CAST vector used in that

study is suboptimal for use at the genome-scale due to a lack of Tn selection, the need to cure

the plasmid post-editing, and an inability to replicate in important genera such as *Acinetobacter*.

CRISPRtOE is a valuable genetic tool for both basic and applied biology. The targeted

aspect of CRISPRtOE can be used to generate focused libraries that limit size (number of

gRNAs) and scope (number of targeted genes). Moreover, screen hits can be readily pursued

for downstream mechanistic analysis by individually cloning gRNAs used in the screen to easily

recreate strains outside of the pooled context, a clear benefit over random transposition

approaches such as Tn*5*. Additionally, generating pooled sub-libraries from screen hits enables

follow up validation at scale. Importantly, the ability to insert transposons with or without

promoters at the same genomic locus will allow researchers to disentangle the effects of Tn

insertion versus overexpression, simplifying hit interpretation. Further, combining CRISPRtOE

with existing gene perturbation approaches such as CRISPRi could enable screening for

overexpression suppressors of essential functions at the genome-scale.

Our proof of principle work demonstrating that genome-scale CRISPRtOE can identify

resistance genes in *E. coli* K-12 holds promise for extending this approach to clinically relevant

pathogens with the goal of improving diagnosis and treatment. Importantly, CRISPRtOE action

is similar to clinically relevant antibiotic resistance mechanisms, such as IS element

transposition and overexpression of downstream resistance genes (60). CRISPRtOE may also

be valuable for optimization of strains for industrial use. Industrial strain optimization often

occurs through loss of function (61) or directed evolution experiments (62), followed up by

plasmid-based overexpression of mutated pathways. CRISPRtOE streamlines this process in

non-model bacteria, particularly by enabling recreation of optimized strain features in different

genetic backgrounds by targeted transposition. Finally, CRISPRtOE-optimized strains may be

immediately useful in production, as CRISPRtOE leaves no heterologously expressed *cas*

genes in the recipient strain.

Several open questions remain regarding the mechanisms by which genes found in our

CRISPRtOE screens provide resistance to TMP, FOS, and hydrolysate. Do potential alterations

in the outer membrane caused by *rffM* OE alter cell permeability to small molecule inhibitors

such as TMP? RffM catalyzes the first committed step in the pathway to generate ECA modified

LPS (ECA-LPS); thus, *rffM* OE would be predicted to increase the ratio of ECA-LPS to N-acetyl-

D-glucosamine modified LPS (GlcNAc-LPS) in *E. coli* K-12 (or O-antigen modified LPS in other

E. coli strains). Consistent with this the Bernhardt lab recently showed that *rffM* OE dramatically

reduced GlcNAc-LPS-specific labeling (63), demonstrating perturbation of the outer membrane.

Does PhnM act in concert with other members of the Phn enzymatic machinery to modify and

degrade FOS? Phn operon members are thought to degrade phosphonates by the following

mechanism: *i*) PhnI along with PhnG, PhnH, and PhnL use ATP and phosphonate compounds

as substrates to produce 5-triphosphoribosyl-α-1-phosphonate, which is then *ii*) degraded by

PhnM into pyrophosphate and 5-phosphoribosyl-α-1-phosphonate, and finally *iii*) the C-P bond

is broken by PhnJ as part of the large Phn(GHIJKL)$_2$ complex (64, 65). PhnM lacks C-P lyase

activity and is unlikely to directly degrade FOS; however, it is possible that PhnM-mediated

conversion of the triphosphorylated phosphonate substrate into a monophosphorylated form is

limiting flux through the pathway. Alternatively, if PhnM is sufficient for FOS resistance, by what

mechanism does it act? Does the extent of WaaY-dependent, heptose II phosphorylation of LPS

mirror the extent of resistance provided by *waaY* OE? Although WaaY appears to be required

for phosphorylation (56), the fraction of modified LPS molecules in WT versus *waaY* OE is

unknown. Finally, what target genes are induced upon *rpoE* OE to drive resistance to

hydrolysate toxins? Mutations in the transcription machinery often occur during laboratory

evolution experiments to optimize growth in complex or pleiotropic conditions (66), suggesting

that the expression of multiple genes needs to be altered to satisfy the genetic selection. Future

work will map the RpoE regulon in *Z. mobilis*, potentially identifying additional stress resilience

factors and permitting a comparison to better characterized ECF σs.

CRISPRtOE is not without caveats and there may be scenarios in which it is

outperformed by other overexpression or gene manipulation strategies. CRISPRtOE and other

engineering approaches that insert promoters will alter expression of downstream genes in

operons; these effects could complicate but not necessarily preclude identification of gene-level

CRISPRtOE phenotypes. Our view is that expression of downstream genes is often

advantageous due to fact that protein complexes are often found in operons (e.g., efflux pump

subunits). We expect that "No promoter" CRISPRtOE libraries will largely allow for

disambiguation of insertion versus overexpression phenotypes, but there may be rare instances

in which the combination of insertion and overexpression causes an unexpected genetic

interaction because operons contain functionally related genes. In this scenario, Dub-seq or

promoter recombineering strategies would be advantageous, as Dub-seq expresses genes *in*

trans and recombineering can be used to introduce more subtle *cis* mutations that could avoid

perturbing upstream genes. Dub-seq can also introduce heterologous DNA from other species

for phenotyping (14), something CRISPRtOE is not designed to accomplish. Although we have

only demonstrated genome-scale CRISPRtOE in selected Proteobacteria, we envision that

improvements to the technology by ourselves and others will enable broad use of the

technology in diverse bacteria.

Materials and Methods

Strains and growth conditions.

Strains are listed in Table S1. Growth and antibiotic selection conditions are summarized in Table S2. *Escherichia coli*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae,* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were grown in LB broth, Lennox (BD240230) at 37°C (or 30°C for CRISPR-guided transposition) in a flask with shaking at 250 rpm, in a culture tube on a roller drum, in a 96 well deepwell plate with shaking at 900 rpm, or in a Tecan Sunrise plate reader shaking with OD600 measurements every 15 min. *Pseudomonas putida* and *Shewanella oneidensis* were grown in LB in a culture tube on a roller drum or in a 96 well deepwell plate with shaking at 900 rpm at 30°C. *Zymomonas mobilis* was grown in RMG medium (10g yeast extract and 2g KH_2PO_4 monobasic/liter with 2% glucose added after autoclaving) at 30°C statically in a culture tube or deepwell plate. *E. coli* was grown in Mueller Hinton Broth (MHB, BD 275730) for antibiotic minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) assays. Media was solidified with 1.5-2% agar for growth on plates. Antibiotics were added when necessary: *E. coli* (100 µg/ml carbenicillin (carb), 30 µg/ml kanamycin (kan), or 50 µg/ml spectinomycin (spt)), *A. baumannii* (60 µg/ml kan or 100 µg/ml apramycin (apr)), *E. cloacae* (30 µg/ml kan or 50 µg/ml spt), *K. pneumoniae* (60 µg/ml kan or 50 µg/ml spt), *P. aeruginosa* (30 µg/ml gentamicin (gen) or 1 mg/ml kan), *P. putida* (150 µg/ml apr or 60 µg/ml kan), *S. oneidensis* (60 µg/ml kan or 30 µg/ml gen), and *Z. mobilis* (200 µg/ml gen or 100 µg/ml spt). Diaminopimelic acid (DAP) was added at 300 µM to support growth of *dap- E. coli* strains. Strains were preserved in 15% glycerol at -80°C.

General molecular biology techniques.

Plasmids are listed in Table S3A and a summary of plasmids for utilizing the CRISPRt and CRISPtOE systems and constructing mScarlet-I reporter strains is in Table S3B. Oligonucleotides are listed in Table S4A (individual) and Tables S4B-E (pooled). *pir*-dependent plasmids were propagated in *E. coli* strain BW25141 (sJMP146) or its derivative sJMP3053. Plasmids were purified using the GeneJet Plasmid Miniprep kit (Thermo K0503), the QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit (Qiagen 27106), or the Purelink HiPure Plasmid Midiprep kit (Invitrogen K210005). Plasmids were digested with restriction enzymes from New England Biolabs (NEB, Ipswich, MA). Ligations used T4 DNA ligase (NEB M0202) and fragment assembly used NEBuilder Hifi (NEB E2621). Genomic DNA was extracted with the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen 69504) or the GeneJet genomic DNA purification kit (Thermo K0721). DNA fragments were amplified by PCR using Q5 DNA polymerase (NEB M0491, for cloning) or One*Taq* DNA Polymerase (NEB M0480, for analysis). PCR products were spin-purified using the Monarch

PCR & DNA Cleanup Kit (NEB T1030) or the DNA Clean & Concentrator-5 kit (Zymo Research,

Irvine, CA, D4013). Reactions were purified with 1.8X Mag-Bind TotalPure NGS magnetic beads

(Omega) on a magnetic rack (Alpaqua). DNA was quantified spectrophometrically using a

NanoDrop Lite or fluorometrically using a Qubit with the HS or BR DNA kit (Thermo). Plasmids

were transformed into electrocompetent *E. coli* cells using a 0.1 cm cuvette (Fisher FB101) and

a BioRad Gene Pulser Xcell on the Bacterial 1 *E. coli* preset protocol (25 µF, 200 ohm, 1800 V)

as described in detail previously(67). Oligonucleotides were synthesized by Integrated DNA

Technologies (Coralville, IA) or Agilent (SurePrint Oligonucleotide library) (Santa Clara, CA).

Sequencing was performed by Functional Biosciences (Madison, WI), Plasmidsaurus (Eugene,

OR), Azenta (South Plainfield, NJ), or the University of Wisconsin-Madison Biotechnology

Center Next Generation Sequencing Core (UWBC NGS core, Madison, WI).

***E. coli* Δ*lac* strain construction.**

An *E. coli* MG1655 strain with a *lac* operon deletion (Δ*lac*, Lac⁻) was constructed by λ-Red-

mediated recombination as previously described(68). Briefly, *E. coli* MG1655 (sJMP163)

harboring the plasmid pSIM6 (pJMP170) encoding the λ-Red proteins was transformed with a

linear DNA fragment encoding an FRT-*kan*-FRT cassette which was amplified by PCR from

plasmid pJMP3099 using primers oJMP912 and oJMP913 which also have 40 nt homology to

the chromosomal insertion site**)** resulting in strain sJMP3267. The allele was transferred from

sJMP3267 to *E. coli* MG1655 (sJMP163) by P1–*vir*-mediated transduction, as previously

described(69), resulting in strain sJMP3269. The *kan* gene was removed by transformation with

plasmid pCP20 (pJMP3008), encoding a constitutively expressed FLP recombinase, as

previously described(70), resulting in strain sJMP3272. Full deletion of the *lac* operon in

sJMP3272 was confirmed by PCR with flanking primers (oJMP914 and oJMP915) followed by

Sanger sequencing.

Construction of chromosomal fluorescent reporters (insertion into the *att*$_{Tn7}$ site).

Fluorescent reporter cassettes are located in a Tn*7* transposon located on an R6K ori (*pir*

dependent) plasmid. The transposons were transferred to the *att*$_{Tn7}$ site ~50 bp downstream of

glmS of a recipient bacterial chromosome by co-conjugation of the Tn*7* transposon donor strain

and a second donor strain harboring a plasmid expressing Tn*7* transposase(71). Donor strains

encode conjugation machinery, encode *pir*, and are DAP dependent. Briefly, a donor strain with

the transposon plasmid, a second donor with the transposase expression plasmid, and the

recipient strain were resuspended from plates to an OD$_{600}$=9 and mixed in equal proportions

(100 μl each). Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 5000 rcf for 2 min (except *A. baumannii*

at 9000 rcf) and placed on a nitrocellulose filter (Millipore HAWP01300) on an LB plate (except

Z. mobilis on RMG) and incubated at 30°C (*Z. mobilis* and *P. putida*) or 37°C (all other

organisms) for 2-18h. Cells from the filter were resuspended in 300 μl media, serially diluted,

and plated with antibiotic selection for the transposon (see growth and selection conditions

above) and without DAP to select against the donor strains, and incubated at 30 or 37°C until

colonies formed.

A transposon containing a GFP expression cassette was derived from a Mobile-CRISPRi

plasmid(67) by assembling the AscI-EcoRI fragment of pJMP2824 and annealed

oligonucleotides oJMP1420 and oJMP1421 to create pJMP6957. The GFP encoding gene of

pJMP6957 was replaced by an mScarlet-I encoding gene derived from Addgene plasmid 85069

(pJMP7001) to create pJMP10180 which has an *mScarlet-I* cassette (BbsI sites removed and

mScarlet converted to *mScarlet-I*) with the T7A1 constitutive promoter in the Tn*7* transposon. A

promoterless *mScarlet-I* reporter with the CRISPRt *LZ1* protospacer was derived from

pJMP6957, pJMP10180, and synthetic DNA oJMP1599 to create pJMP10206 (see Table S3A

for details).

Construction of CRISPRt/CRISPRtOE system.

The CRISPRt/CRISPRtOE donor plasmids were derived from pSpinR (pSL1765)(21), Mobile-

CRISPRi plasmids(71), and synthetic DNA. Cloning details are located in Table S3A for the

individual plasmids. In summary, (1) a functional antibiotic resistance cassette was added to the

transposon (pJMP747) and the BsaI cloning site in the gRNA cassette was altered (pJMP10009

and pJMP10011). A two plasmid R6K ori (*pir*-dependent) system for selectable CRISPR-guided

transposition was created by combining (1) the TnsABC-TniQ-Cas876 expression cassette from

pSpinR with the amp^R, R6K ori, mobilizable backbone from Mobile-CRISPRi (pJMP2782) to

create pCRISPRt-H (pJMP10233) and (2) the transposon and guide RNA cassette from

pJMP10011 with the same backbone (from pJMP2782) to create pCt-T (pJMP10237 and

derivatives) which was further minimized, optimized, and altered by adding transcription

terminators and moving the guide RNA cassette inside the transposon to produce pCRISPRt-T-

gent (pJMP10395) and pCRISPRt-T-kan (pJMP10397). CRISPRtOE plasmids with either no

promoter or various strength promoters (pCtOE-noP, pCtOE-P$_A$, pCtOE-P$_H$, pCtOE-P$_V$) were

derived from these plasmids by inserting a transcription terminator and promoter cassette

derived from synthetic DNA (oJMP2000 plus oJMP2001-2004) into the above plasmids to

produce plasmids oJMP10471-10479. Apramycin resistant derivatives of some of these

plasmids were created by digesting pJMP10397 and pJMP10478 with XhoI and assembling with

a piece of synthetic DNA (oJMP1946) encoding an apramycin resistance gene.

CRISPRtOE Guide Design.

Guide RNAs were designed using custom Python scripts

(https://github.com/ryandward/CRISPRt_gRNA and https://github.com/ryandward/seq_hunter).

The *E. coli* K-12 RefSeq genome assembly, in GenBank file format, was downloaded from the

NCBI database (Accession Number: GCF_000005845.2), using the seq_hunter.py script. All

genomic locations with a suitable "CN" PAM sequence were identified using the

CRISPRt_gRNA.py script. Potential spacers of 32 nucleotides in length were evaluated using

awk, and ten were selected based on the following criteria: 1) Unique occurrence in the

genome, 2) occurrence on the same strand as the downstream gene, 3) at least 95 nucleotides

upstream from the gene annotation**.**

CRISPRt/CRISPRtOE individual guide and guide library construction.

Guide sequences (Table S5A-C) were cloned into the BsaI-cloning site of the pCRISPRt-

T/pCtOE plasmids. For cloning individual spacer sequences, two 36-nucleotide (nt)

oligonucleotides (oligos) were annealed so that they encode the desired sequence flanked by

sticky ends compatible to the vector BsaI site, whereas for cloning pooled libraries, DNA

fragments encoding spacers were amplified from a pool of oligos and digested with BsaI prior to

ligation.

To prepare the pCRISPRt-T/pCtOE vectors for cloning, plasmid DNA was extracted from a 100

ml culture using a midiprep kit, 2-10 µg plasmid DNA was digested with BsaI-HF-v2 (NEB

R3733) in a 100 µl reaction for 4 h at 37°C and then spin-purified.

For cloning individual guides, pairs of oligonucleotides (2 µM each) were mixed in a 50 µl total

volume of 1X NEB CutSmart buffer, heated at 95°C, 5 min and then cooled to room temperature

~20 min to anneal, and then diluted 1:40 in dH$_2$O prior to ligation. Ligation reactions (10 µl)

contained 1X T4 DNA ligase buffer (NEB), additional DTT (10 mM final) and ATP (0.1 mM final),

and 0.5 µl T4 DNA ligase in addition to 50 ng BsaI-digested/spin-purified vector and 2 µl of 1:40

diluted annealed oligos. Ligations were incubated at 25°C for 2 h and ligase was heat

inactivated for 20 min at 65°C. 1-2 µl ligation was used for electroporation into 50 µl *E. coli*

strain BW25141 (sJMP146). Transformations were serially diluted and plated with selection on

carb to obtain isolated colonies. After confirmation of sequence, individual plasmids were

transformed into *E. coli* mating strain WM6026 (sJMP424 or sJMP3257) with selection on carb
and DAP.
For cloning pooled libraries, fragments were amplified from 90 nt pooled oligos (IDT oPools or
Agilent SurePrint pools) using the following conditions per 100 µl reaction (reaction size was
adjusted ~100-600 µl depending on size of library): 20 µl Q5 buffer, 3 µl GC enhancer, 2 µl
10mM each dNTPs, 5 µl each 10 µM forward and reverse primers, 2 µl 10 nM pooled oligo
library, 1 µl Q5 DNA polymerase, and 186 µl H_2O with the following thermocycling parameters:
98°C, 30s; 15-19 cycles of: 98°C, 15s; 56°C, 15s; 72°C, 15s; 72°C, 10 min; 10°C, hold (cycles
were adjusted to obtain sufficient PCR product without overamplifying/biasing the library). PCR
products (90 bp) were spin-purified, and 300 ng was digested with BsaI-HF-v2 (NEB R3733) in
a 100 µl reaction for 2 h at 37°C (no heat kill, reaction size was adjusted proportionally
depending on the size of the library). Size and digestion of PCR products were confirmed on a
4% agarose E-Gel (Thermo). The BsaI-digested PCR product without further purification
(3ng/µl) was ligated into BsaI-digested, spin-purified plasmid as described above except 10 µl of
the digested PCR product was ligated with 500 ng cut plasmid in a 100 µl reaction and ligations
were incubated at 16°C for 14 h. Library ligations were purified by spot dialysis on a
nitrocellulose filter (Millipore VSWP02500) against 0.1 mM Tris, pH 8 buffer for 20 min prior to
transformation by electroporation into *E. coli* mating strain WM6026 (sJMP424 or sJMP3257).
To obtain sufficient transformants for large libraries, electrocompetent cells were made 5X more
concentrated in the final step of the preparation(67) and multiple transformations were carried
out depending on the size of the library. Transformations were plated with selection on LB with
carb and DAP at a density of ~30,000-50,000 colonies/150 mm petri plate. Cells (>30X more
colonies the number of guides, e.g. >1.35 million CFU for the 45,000 guide libraries) were
scraped from plates and resuspended in LB + 15% glycerol, density was adjusted to OD_{600}=9,
and aliquots were frozen at -80°C.
663
Transfer of the CRISPRt/CRISPRtOE system to the bacterial chromosome.
CRISPRt and CRISPRtOE strains were constructed by triparental mating of two *E. coli* donor
strains—one with the pCRISPRt-H plasmid encoding Cas678-TniQ-TnsABC and another with
the pCRISPRt-T or pCtOE plasmid containing the transposon with the guide RNA and antibiotic
resistance—and a recipient strain. See Table S2 for a summary of growth media and conditions
and antibiotic concentrations. All conjugations and selection post-conjugation were carried out at
30°C regardless of the normal incubation temperature for the organism. Isolated donor and
recipient strains were struck out on plates with the appropriate media and antibiotic (if relevant)

concentrations. Colonies were resuspended from plates into the growth medium used for the

recipient to a density of OD_{600}=9. Equal amounts of donors and recipient were mixed together

(along with the appropriate no recipient, no CRISPRt-H donor, or no CRISPRt-T donor controls),

cells were pelleted by centrifugation at 5000 x *g* (except *A. baumannii* at 9000 x *g*), placed on a

nitrocellulose filter (Millipore HAWP01300) on an LB plate (except an RMG plate for *Z. mobilis*),

and incubated 12-18 h at 30°C. Cells from the filter were resuspended in 300 µl media, serially

diluted, and plated with antibiotic selection for the transposon (see growth and selection

conditions above) and without DAP to select against the donor strains, and incubated at 30°C

until colonies formed (1-3 days). A typical mating was 100 µl each strain and plating 100 µl

undiluted, and 10^{-1} through 10^{-4} dilutions to obtain isolated colonies. For library construction,

conjugations were scaled up and plated with selection at a density of ~30,000-50,000

colonies/150 mm petri plate. Cells (>30X more colonies the number of guides, e.g. >1.35 million

CFU for the 45,000 guide libraries) were scraped from plates and resuspended in LB + 15%

glycerol, density was adjusted to OD_{600}=10-15, and aliquots were frozen at -80°C.

Analysis of phenotype of *E. coli lacZ* and *gfp*-targeting CRISPRt.

For *gfp* targeted CRISPRt, fluorescence level (GFP) of 80 individual colonies was determined.

Cultures were grown in 300 µl media in 96 well deepwell plates from a single colony to

saturation. Cells were centrifuged at 4,000 x *g* for 10 min and cell pellets were resuspended in

300 µl 1X PBS. 150 µl was transferred to a 96-well black, clear bottom microplate (Corning

3631) and cell density (OD_{600}) and fluorescence (excitation 475 nm, emission 510 nm) were

measured in a fluorescence microplate reader (Tecan Infinite Mplex). Fluorescence values were

normalized to cell density.

For *lacZ* targeted CRISPRt, the color of 80 individual colonies was determined by patching on

LB agar plates containing X-gal (20 µg/ml). Blue indicates the presence of an intact *lacZ* due to

metabolism of the X-gal by LacZ (betagalactosidase) and white indicates disruption of *lacZ*.

Analysis of individual CRISPRtOE isolates from various Proteobacteria.

Phenotype determination. Fluorescence levels (mScarlet-I) of 12 CRISPRtOE isolates of all 8

species were determined. Cultures of isolates were grown in 300 µl media in 96 well deepwell

plates from a single colony to saturation. Cultures were serially diluted to 1:10,000 (1:100 twice)

into fresh media and grown again to saturation (~13 doublings). Cells were centrifuged at 4,000

x *g* for 10 min. Cell pellets were resuspended in 300µl 1X PBS and 150 µl was transferred to a

96-well black, clear bottom microplate (Corning 3631). Cell density (OD600) and fluorescence

(excitation 584 nm, emission 607 nms) were measured in a fluorescence microplate reader

(Tecan Infinite Mplex). Fluorescence values were normalized to cell density. The assay was

repeated three times for *E. coli* and *Z. mobilis* and twice for all other strains.

Genotype determination. Insertion positions of 12 CRISPRtOE isolates of all 8 species were

determined. Cultures of isolates were grown in 300 µl media in 96 well deepwell plates, serially

diluted 1:100 in dH$_2$O, heated to 90°C for 3 min prior to use as a template for PCR. Fragments

(~2000 bp) were amplified by PCR with a forward primer in the transposon (oJMP490) and a set

of indexed (4 nt barcode) reverse primers in the *mScarlet-I* coding sequence (oJMP2118-2129)

in a 25 µl reaction containing: 5 µl OneTaq buffer, 0.5 µl 10mM each dNTPs, 0.5 µl each 10 µM

forward and reverse primers, 2 µl diluted culture, 0.25 µl OneTaq DNA polymerase, and 16.25 µl

H$_2$O with the following touchdown PCR program: 94°C, 3 min then 10 cycles of 94°C, 30s,

65°C, 30s (-1°C/cycle), 68°C, 2.5 min, then 25 cycles of 94°C, 30s, 55°C, 30s, 68°C, 2.5 min,

then 68°C, 5 min in a BioRad T100 thermalcycler. Sets of indexed PCRs for each organism

were pooled, spin purified and sequenced by Oxford nanopore long read amplicon sequencing

by Plasmidsaurus. Sequencing data was demultiplexed using a custom Python script

(SplitSamplesSeq.py) and insertion position relative to the *mScarlet-I* ATG start codon was

determined.

mScarlet-I expression analysis

Overnight cultures were diluted 1:1000 into 25ml LB in a 125ml flask in triplicate and incubated

at 37ºC, shaking until cultures reached mid-log phase (OD600 ~0.4). Three 3ml culture was

treated by vortexing in 375µl cold 5% phenol in ethanol for 10s. Cells were harvested by

centrifugation for 10min at 4000xg, flash frozen in a dry ice ethanol bath after decanting

supernatant, and stored at -80ºC. Cells were lysed by resuspending in 200µl RNase-free TE

buffer, pH8 containing 1µl Ready-Lyse lysozyme (Lucigen R1804M) for 5 min at RT and 1min at

55ºC. RNA was extracted with the Monarch Total RNA miniprep kit according to the

manufacturer's protocol (includes on column gDNA removal and DNase I treatment). An

additional DNA removal step was performed using the DNA-free removal kit (Invitrogen

AM1906) according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNA was quantified using a nanodrop

spectrophotometer and Qubit fluorometer (Thermo). cDNA was synthesized using Superscript III

Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen 18080093) using ~3µg total RNA and gene-specific primers

at 55ºC for 30min according to the manufacturer's protocol. qPCR was performed using a

Roche Lightcycler 480 and Lightcycler 480 SYBR Green I Mastermix (Roche 04707516001) in a

20µl reaction containing 10µl 2X mastermix, 1µl each forward and reverse primer (10µM), and

2µl cDNA with preincubation at 95°C 10min and amplification at 95°C 10s, 55°C 15s, 72°C 10s

for 40 cycles. Fold changes in mScarlet-I gene expression were calculated using the double

delta Ct method (72) with *rho* expression for normalization. Two technical replicates are shown

each of with the standard deviation of three biological replicates.

CRISPRtOE strain construction efficiency

The CRISPRtOE system was transferred to the recipient chromosome by tri-parental

conjugation followed by CAST transposition. The reported values are the combined efficiency of

conjugation and transposition with the LZ1 guide into a recipient harboring the LP-mScarlet-I

reporter. Equal amounts (100µl culture normalized to OD600=9 in media) of recipient, CRISPRt-

H donor, and CRISPRt-T donor were mixed and incubated for 16h at 30°C on a nitrocellulose

filter on a non-selective plate (RMG for *Z. mobilis*, LB for all other organisms). Cells were

resuspended off the filter by vortexing, diluted serially (1:10) in media in triplicate, and 10µl was

spotted on selective and non-selective plates and incubated at 30°C. Growth on selective

versus non-selective plates was compared to determine efficiency.

Multiplex CRISPRtOE strain construction

Strains with two CRISPRtOE insertions were constructed using the same conjugation

methodology as for single CRISPRtOE insertions except for method 1, two transposon donor

strains with different antibiotic resistance cassettes were used. Insertion position of isolates was

confirmed by PCR with one primer in the transposon and a second in the target gene and

precise location was determined by sequencing the PCR product. Increased antibiotic

resistence of the CRISPRtOE isolates was confirmed by disc diffusion assays. MICs of single

isolates from each method were determined using MIC test strips (Lsiofilchem).

CRISPRtOE library growth experiments.

Competition experiment growth. The *E. coli* CRISPRtOE *murA* and *folA* libraries were mixed in

equal volume with the LP-*lacZ* library: 50 µl frozen stock (OD$_{600}$ = 10) of each library (*murA* +

LP-*lacZ* and *folA* + LP-*lacZ*) into 100 ml LB (starting OD$_{600}$ = 0.01) in a 500 ml flask and

incubated shaking at 37°C until OD$_{600}$ = 0.2 (~2.5 h) (timepoint = T0) to revive the cells. These

cultures were diluted to OD$_{600}$ = 0.02 into 4 ml LB plus antibiotic fosfomycin (0.4 µg/ml, for the

murA + LP-*lacZ* libraries) or trimethoprim (0.1 µg/ml, for the *folA* + LP-*lacZ* libraries) or no

antibiotic control in 14 ml snap cap culture tubes (Corning 352059) in duplicate and incubated

with shaking for 18 h at 37°C (T1). These cultures were serially diluted back to OD$_{600}$ = 0.01 into

fresh tubes containing the same media and incubated again with shaking for 18 h at 37°C (T2)

for a total of ~10-15 doublings. Cells were pelleted from 15 ml of culture in duplicate at each

time point T0 and 1ml of culture at timepoints T1 and T2 and stored at -20°C.

<u>Whole genome experiment growth</u>. The *E. coli* CRISPRtOE whole genome libraries with no

promoter (sJMP10704) or promoter H (sJMP10705) were revived by dilution of 100 µl frozen

stock (OD_{600} = 15) into 100 ml LB (starting OD_{600} = 0.015) and incubation in 500 ml flasks

shaking at 37°C until OD_{600} = 0.2 (~2.5 h) (timepoint = T0). These cultures were diluted to OD_{600}

= 0.02 into 4 ml LB plus antibiotic trimethoprim (0.1 µg/ml) or no antibiotic control in 14 ml snap

cap culture tubes (Corning 352059) in duplicate and incubated with shaking for 18 h at 37°C

(T1). These cultures were serially diluted back to OD_{600} = 0.01 into fresh tubes containing the

same media and incubated again with shaking for 18 h at 37°C (T2) for a total of ~10-15

doublings. Cells were pelleted from 15 ml of culture in duplicate at time point T0 and 1ml of

culture at timepoints T1 and T2 and stored at -20°C.

Analysis of individual CRISPRtOE isolates from library competition experiment.

Insertion positions of 8 CRISPRtOE isolates from the *folA* and *murA* libraries were determined.

Cultures of isolates were grown in 3 ml media from an isolated colony, serially diluted 1:100 in

dH_2O, heated to 90°C for 3 min prior to use as a template for PCR. Fragments (~600 bp) were

amplified by PCR with a forward primer in the transposon (oJMP61) and a reverse primer in the

folA or *murA* coding sequence (oJMP2349 and oJMP2348, respectively) in a 50 µl reaction

containing: 10 µl OneTaq buffer, 1.0 µl 10mM each dNTPs, 1.0 µl each 10 µM forward and

reverse primers, 2 µl diluted culture, 0.5 µl OneTaq DNA polymerase, and 16.25 µl H_2O with the

following touchdown PCR program: 94°C, 3 min then 10 cycles of 94°C, 30s, 65°C, 30s (-

1°C/cycle), 68°C, 1 min, then 25 cycles of 94°C, 30s, 55°C, 30s, 68°C, 1 min, then 68°C, 5 min

in a BioRad T100 thermalcycler. PCR products were spin-purified and Sanger sequenced to

determine the transposon insertion position relative to the *mScarlet-I* ATG start codon.

Tnseq analysis of CRISPRt/CRISPRtOE constructs.

The TnSeq protocol was adapted from Klompe et al(31). Genomic DNA (gDNA) was extracted

from the equivalent of 1 ml of cells at OD_{600}=3 (~2x10^9 cells) either resuspended from a plate or

from liquid culture and was further purified by spot dialysis on a nitrocellulose filter (Millipore

VSWP02500) against 0.1 mM Tris, pH 8 buffer for 20 min. 1 µg gDNA was digested with 4U

MmeI (NEB) in a 50 µl reaction at 37°C, 12 hrs and heat inactivated at 65°C, 20 min. The digest

was purified using 1.8X magnetic beads (Omega) following the manufacturer's protocol, eluting

in 20 μl 10 mM Tris, pH 8.0. Adapter oligos oJMP1995 and P-oJMP1996 (phosphorylated) were
annealed by mixing equal volume of 100μM oligos in 10mM Tris, pH8 (50 μM each), heating to
95°C, 5 min followed by cooling to RT ~15 min, and diluted 1:10 (5 μM each) for use. Annealed
oligos were ligated onto MmeI-digested DNA in a 20 μl reaction with 2 μl 10X T4 ligase buffer, 2
μl 100 mM DTT, 2 μl 1 mM ATP, 12 μl purified MmeI-digested gDNA (50 ng/μl, 600 ng total), 1 μl
5 μM annealed adapter oligos (250 nM final) and 1 μl T4 DNA ligase. Ligations were incubated
14 h at 16°C and the enzyme was heat-inactivated for 20 min at 65°C. Ligations were purified
using 1.8X magnetic beads, eluting in 22 μl 10 mM Tris, pH 8. Fragments were amplified by
PCR with primers containing partial adapters for index PCR with Illumina TruSeq adapters in a
100μl reaction containing: 20 μl 5X Q5 buffer, 3 μl GC enhancer, 2 μl 10 mM each dNTPs, 5 μl
each forward primer (oJMP1997) and reverse primer (oJMP1998 or indexed primers
oJMP2022-2033), 10 μl purified ligation, 1 μl Q5 DNA polymerase, and 54 μl dH$_2$O with the
following program: 98°C, 30s then 18-20 cycles of 98°C, 15s, 66°C, 15s, 72°C, 15s, then 72°C,
10 min in a BioRad C1000 thermal cycler. PCR products were spin-purifed (eluted in 15 μl) and
quantified fluorometrically. Samples were sequenced by the UWBC NGS Core facility or Azenta
Amplicon-EZ service. Briefly, PCR products were amplified with nested primers containing i5
and i7 indexes and Illumina TruSeq adapters followed by bead cleanup, quantification, pooling
and running on a NovaSeq X Plus (150 bp paired end reads) or MiSeq (250 bp paired end
reads). Sequencing analysis of the initial CRISPRt or CRISPRtOE plasmid libraries from which
the strain libraries were prepared was by amplification with oJMP2011 and oJMP1998 (or
barcoded version of oJMP1998: oJMP2022-2033), followed by spin purification and Illumina
sequencing.
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Analysis of *E. coli mScarlet-I*-targeting CRISPRt libraries.
Two plasmid libraries (pJMP10505 and pJMP10506) were constructed (gen^R and kan^R) and
used to create CRISPRtOE libraries (sJMP10519, 10520, 10594, 10595, and 10637-10640) in
each of four *E. coli mScarlet-I* reporter strains (sJMP10205, 10269, 10630, 10633). Plasmid
DNA from pJMP10505 and pJMP10506 was amplified with oJMP2011 and oJMP1998. gDNA
from (sJMP10519, 10520, 10594, 10595, and 10637-10640) was processed by TnSeq as
detailed above with oJMP1997 and oJMP2022-2033. Sequencing data was demultiplexed using
SplitSamplesSeq.py and guides were quantified using seal.sh from bbmap.
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MIC assays.

The minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of *E. coli folA* and *murA* CRISPRtOE isolates was

determined by either growth in a microtiter plate or by disc diffusion assays, respectively. For the

broth microdilution assay, CRISPRtOE isolates and WT controls were grown to saturation from

an isolated colony and serially diluted to OD600 = 0.003) and the CRISPRtOE library was

diluted from a glycerol stock to the same density. Trimethoprim was serially diluted in DMSO at

1000X concentration and then diluted to 2X in MHB. *E. coli folA* CRISPRtOE isolates, the *folA*

CRISPRtOE library, a *lacZ* CRISPRtOE control, and WT cultures and the media containing

antibiotic were mixed in equal proportions and incubated 20 h shaking at 37°C prior to cell

density (OD$_{600}$) determination in a microplate reader. For the MIC strip assays, *E. coli folA* or

murA CRISPRtOE isolates, a *lacZ* CRISPRtOE control, and WT cultures were diluted to OD$_{600}$ =

0.3 and 300 µl was spread on a 100 mm MH agar plate and dried in a laminar flow cabinet.

When dry, MIC strips (Liofilchem, Italy; 920371 (TMP 0.002-32 mg/L) and 920791(FOS 0.064-

1024 mg/L)) were applied to the plate and 10 µl serially diluted antibiotics were applied to the

discs. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 18 h. Broth microdilution assays were repeated 3 times

and MIC test strip assays twice.

CRISPRtOE data processing and analysis.

All commands and scripts used for processing and analysis of CRISPRtOE data are available at

(https://github.com/GLBRC/CtOE_analysis).

Paired-end analysis for spacer-insertion site analysis. FASTQ files were separated for each

read (R1 and R2) and trimmed to remove transposon-specific sequences using Cutadapt

(v5.0)(73). The `--discard-untrimmed` flag was used to remove reads that lacked transposon-

specific adapters. R1 reads were filtered to retain only trimmed sequences of length 18-20bp,

and R2 reads were filtered to retain only those of length 32bp. Reads were then repaired using

BBMap (v39.06) suite's `repair.sh` tool with options to discard unpaired reads (`repair=t

tossbrokenreads=t`). This ensured that only properly paired reads with both R1 and R2 passing

all quality filters were retained for downstream analysis. The trimmed FASTQ files were

separately aligned to the *E. coli* genome (NCBI RefSeq Assembly ID GCF_000005845.2) or the

Z. mobilis genome (NCBI RefSeq Assembly ID GCF_003054575.1) using Bowtie (v1.3.1) (74) in

single-end mode, with flags `-k 1`, `--best`, `--strata`, `--nomaqround`, `-v 0`, and `-m 1` . The

alignment SAM file for each sample was converted to BAM using Samtools (v1.13)(75), filtered

to retain alignments with MAPQ of >=42 with `samtools view`, then namesorted with `samtools

sort –n`, before being parsed to TSV format for downstream analysis. (76) A custom python

script was used to annotate the site of Tn insertion, identify unique sites of Tn insertion, and

compare these to the predicted sites of Tn insertion from the designed CRISPRtOE library.

<u>CRISPRtOE library sequencing analysis (single-end)</u>. Prior to analysis of FASTQ reads, a list of

expected Tn insertion sites based on the CRISPRtOE library design was created with a custom

python script (ctoe_analysis 'guides' pipeline). R1 reads were trimmed and filtered with

Cutadapt as in paired-end analysis. Trimmed R1 reads were aligned to reference genome with

bowtie, then filtered and sorted with SAMtools as in paired-end analysis. Alignment files were

parsed to TSV format, sites of Tn insertion identified and counted with a custom python script.

Observed sites of Tn insertion were compared to predicted sites of Tn insertion. Counts of

insertions consistent with the target location and orientation of CRISPRtOE library design were

retained for downstream analysis in edgeR.

<u>Differential abundance analysis</u>. Differential abundance analysis was performed using the

generalized linear model (GLM) framework in edgeR (v4.4.2). Raw count data were filtered to

retain unique Tn insertions with counts per million (CPM) of at least 0.1 in a minimum of half of

the samples per comparison set. Normalization factors were calculated using the trimmed mean

of M-values method. A negative binomial GLM was fitted using quasi-likelihood (QL) methods

with robust dispersion estimation. The model incorporated both treatment and library type

factors, modeling each independently as well as their interaction (formula: ~ library * treatment).

Differential abundance was assessed for individual insertions. For gene-level analysis, a

competitive gene set test was performed using CAMERA, linking Tn insertions to their

downstream genes. Separate contrasts were constructed to evaluate treatment effects in

promoter and non-promoter contexts, as well as the interaction between library type and

treatment. For each gene, median log fold changes were calculated from the insertions mapping

to that gene. Multiple testing correction was performed using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure

to control the false discovery rate. Downstream gene-level analyses report the median log fold

change calculated from individual insertions and the FDR values calculated using CAMERA.

Genes with significant log2FCs between treatment and control conditions were identified from

CAMERA analysis, requiring an FDR <= 0.05. Genes with promoter-dependent phenotypes

were selected, requiring the median log2FC for the library * treatment interaction factor to be at

least 2 (either positive or negative). Genes were then ranked by the log2FC value of the

Promoter library, and the top 10 and bottom 10 genes selected for plotting.

Data availability

Raw sequencing data is deposited at the Sequence Read Archive

(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra, PRJNA1284861). All other data are available upon request.

Plasmids are available from Addgene (https://www.addgene.org, #225832-225871). Guide

design script is available at https://github.com/ryandward/CRISPRt_gRNA . Analysis and

demultiplexing scripts are available at https://github.com/GLBRC/CtOE_analysis and

https://github.com/GLBRC/CtOE_downstream_analysis .

(Pre-publication SRA reviewer link:

https://dataview.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/object/PRJNA1284861?reviewer=8p8ge077d7g4jthl52a6tuadmv)

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Supplemental Material

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Author contributions

A.B.B. and J.M.P. designed, performed, and interpreted the experiments and wrote the manuscript with input from all authors. K.S.M. and A.N.H. developed the data analysis pipeline and performed data analysis. R.D.W. and M.P. developed code. B.C.D, R.A.C., C.C.F., and E.E.B performed experiments.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Figure legends

Figure 1. A CRISPR-associated transposition (CAST) system for targeted, genome-scale overexpression in Proteobacteria called "CRISPRtOE" (CRISPR transposition and OverExpression). CRISPRtOE precisely delivers a transposon with an outward facing promoter upstream of genes to facilitate overexpression. CRISPRtOE can upregulate gene expression in medically and industrially-relevant Proteobacterial species. Genome-scale CRISPRtOE screens in model (*E. coli*) and non-model (*Zymomonas mobilis*) Proteobacteria can be used to define genes required for resistance to antibiotics or biofuel production stressors.

1162

Figure 2. A mobilizable, selectable, dual-plasmid system for CRISPR-guided transposition**.** (A)

Schematic of mechanism of *Vibrio cholera* Type I-F CRISPR-associated transposon (VcCAST)

system(20, 21)**.** (B) Schematic of strain construction using the CRISPRt targeted transposition

system. Plasmids have pir-dependent origins of replication preventing replication in the bacterial

recipient. One plasmid encodes the minimal Type I-F CRISPR-Cas (Cas678) and Tn7-like

transposase (TnsABC and TniQ) machinery, and a second plasmid contains a transposon

carrying the guide RNA and antibiotic resistance expression cassettes (see Figure S1 for

details). These plasmids are transferred by co-conjugation to a recipient bacterium by *E. coli*

donor strains with a chromosomal copy of the RP4 transfer machinery. Inside the recipient cell,

the transposon (flanked in yellow) is inserted onto the chromosome at a site determined by the

sequence of the guide RNA. Selection on antibiotic plates lacking diaminopimelic acid (DAP)

selects for transconjugants and against the *E. coli* donor strains. (C) Specificity of CRISPRt

disruption of *gfp* in *E. coli* measured by Tnseq. Mapping of location of transposon insertion sites

to the *E. coli* genome after CRISPRt targeted transposition with the *gfp1* guide (226,671 reads).

(D) Transposition efficiency of 3 individual CRISPRt guides (T03, T09, T21) targeting *mScarlet-I*

cassettes in the *E. coli att*$_{Tn7}$ site either with a promoter (+ transcription) or without a promoter (-

transcription) measured by plating efficiency with and without selection (+/- kanamycin) in

triplicate. Red arrows indicate fold change in efficiency without and with transcription. Error

represents the average of n=3 assays, * indicates p<0.05, two-tailed t-test.

1182

Figure 3. Tunable overexpression of chromosomally located genes using CRISPRtOE**.** (A)

Schematic of the CRISPRtOE targeted overexpression system. The test chromosomal target is

an *mScarlet-I* gene preceded by a 'Landing Pad' (LP) with no promoter, a PAM, and the *LZ1*

protospacer (see Figure S6C). The CRISPRtOE construct has a transposon carrying guide RNA

and antibiotic resistance expression cassettes and an outward facing promoter (see Figure S6B

for details). Co-conjugation of strains carrying the CRISPRtOE construct and the CRISPRt-H

plasmid (harboring the VcCAST machinery) with a promoterless 'LP' *mScarlet-I* reporter

recipient strain results in a CRISPRtOE test strain. (B) mScarlet-I fluorescence analysis of *E.*

coli CRISPRtOE isolates (no promoter or synthetic promoters A, V, and H) compared to the

parent (promoterless 'LP' *mScarlet-I*) strain. CRISPRtOE transposon insertion position and

fluorescence measurements were determined for twelve isolates. Fluorescence measurements

were normalized to cell density (OD$_{600}$). On target, RL orientation isolates are shown here, see

Figure S7B for all orientations and Table S6 for values. Error is expressed for the median value

of 8-12 isolates in n=3 assays. (C) Fold effect of CRISPRtOE mScarlet-I overexpression using

synthetic promoter H in eight Alpha- and Gammaprotebacteria (*E. coli* (*Eco*), *Enterobacter*

cloacae (*Ecl*), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (*Kpn*), *Acinetobacter baumannii* (*Aba*), *Pseudomonas*

aeruginosa (*Pae*), *Pseudomonas putida* (*Ppu*), *Zymomonas mobilis* (*Zmo*), and *Shewanella*

oneidensis (*Son*)). CRISPRtOE transposon insertion position and fluorescence measurements

were determined for twelve isolates. Fluorescence measurements were normalized to cell

density (OD_{600}). Values are shown for isolates with on-target, RL orientation CRISPRtOE

insertions and fold changes for on-target and RL orientation CRISPRtOE isolates compared to a

strain with promoterless *mScarlet-I* (see Table S6 for details). Error is expressed for the median

value of 8-12 isolates in n=3 (*Eco* and *Zmo*) or n=2 (*Ecl*, *Kpn*, *Aba*, *Pae*, *Ppu*, and *Son*) assays.

1206

Figure 4. Genome-scale CRISPRtOE**.** (A) Schematic of genome-scale CRISPRtOE experiment

including design and construction of libraries, experimental screen, bioinformatic data

processing, and validation. Bioinformatic steps are in purple and experimental steps are in blue.

Ten gRNAs were designed to guide insertion of the Tn6677 transposon (with or without a

promoter) upstream of all genes. Pooled CRISPRtOE libraries grown in the presence of sub-

lethal concentrations of ihibitors (e.g. *E. coli*: trimethoprim and fosfomycin antibiotics; *Z. mobilis*:

switchgrass hydrolysate) and were screened for fitness by Tn-seq before and after treatment.

Data were analyzed by counting reads that were in the R-L orientation upstream of genes to

discover fitness phenotypes dependent on gene overexpression. Individual strains

overexpressing genes with CRISPRtOE or from a plasmid were constructed to validate

phenotypes outside of the pooled context. (B) Positions of CRISPRtOE insertions upstream of

all genes in the genome. Insertion site distance d was calculated based on the distance in bp

from the 3′ end of the Tn to the 5′ end of the gene. CRISPRtOE Tn insertions shown in red. For

comparison, random/untargeted insertions from a Tn*5* library are shown in green. (C)

CRISPRtOE insertions into the *E. coli lac* locus showing precise placement upstream of genes

compared to a library constructed with Tn*5* random transposition. The scale is capped at 20

reads for visual clarity.

1224

Figure 5. *E. coli* genome scale CRISPRtOE screen with trimethoprim. (A) Volcano plot of gRNA

spacer counts in trimethoprim (TMP) versus dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) control. Each dot

represents a strain with a spacer targeting upstream of a gene. Those that are not statistically

significant (false discovery rate (FDR) > 0.05) are shown in light grey and significant hits (FDR $\leq$

0.05) are shown in dark gray. Several outliers are colored: e.g. *folA* (red)*, metF* (blue),

rffM/wecG (green). (B) Top 10 gene hits with increased fitness in TMP treatment. Genes must

have at least a 4-fold change in the CRISPRtOE-Promoter H data and show a 4-fold difference

in a comparison between Promoter H (red bars) and no promoter (blue bars) to be considered.

Dots represent unique insertions. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD). (C) Liquid MIC

assay showing resistance of strains overexpressing *metF* from a plasmid to TMP. Error bars

represent SD of triplicate assays. Significance was determined by a t test ($\leq$0.05(*), $\leq$0.01(**),

$\leq$0.001(***)). (D) *E. coli* Enterobacterial Common Antigen (ECA) biosynthesis (*rff/wec*) operon.

(E) Liquid MIC assay showing resistance of strains overexpressing *rffM* from a plasmid to TMP.

Error bars represent SD of triplicate assays. Significance was determined by a t test ($\leq$0.05(*),

$\leq$0.01(**), $\leq$0.001(***)). (F) Growth assay of strains overexpressing *rffM* from a plasmid in

additional chemical conditions (Biolog phenotypic array plate PM16 comprised of 24

compounds). Two concentrations of CRISPRtOE screen chemicals FOS (no response

expected) and TMP (response expected), and of two additional chemical that had a significant

response (diamide and rifamycin) are shown. Duplicate assays are shown (Rep1 and Rep2).

Significance was determined by a t test ($\leq$0.05(*), $\leq$0.01(**)). See figure S14 for additional

details.

1246

Figure 6. *E. coli* genome scale CRISPRtOE screen with fosfomycin. (A) Top gene hits with

increased fitness in fosfomycin (FOS) treatment. Genes must have at least a 4-fold change in

the CRISPRtOE-Promoter H data and show a 4-fold difference in a comparison between

Promoter H (red bars) and no promoter (blue bars) to be considered. Dots represent unique

insertions. sError bars represent standard deviation (SD). (B) CRISPRtOE-Promoter H

insertions with increased fitness in FOS in the *E. coli* phosphonate utilization (*phn*) operon

represented by arrows. (C) Quantification of MIC test strip (Liofilchem) assay showing

resistance to FOS of individual CRISPRtOE-Promoter H strains overexpressing *phnC* or *phnH*.

Error bars represent SD of triplicate assays (also see figure S15B). (D) Schematic of *phnMNOP*

chromosomal deletion and *phnM* complementation experiment. (E) Quantification of FOS MIC

test strip (Liofilchem) assays in WT, Δ*phnMNOP* deletion, or CRISPRtOE-Promoter H-*phnC* plus

Δ*phnMNOP* deletion strains that are overexpressing *phnM* from a plasmid (or empty vector

control). Error bars represent SD of triplicate assays (also see figure S15D).

1260

Figure 7. *Z. mobilis* genome scale CRISPRtOE screen with plant hydrolysate. (A) Volcano plot

of gRNA spacer counts in 65% hydrolysate versus *Zymomonas* rich defined medium (ZRDM)

control. Each dot represents a strain with a spacer targeting upstream of a gene. Those that are

not statistically significant (false discovery rate (FDR) > 0.05) are shown in light grey and

significant hits (FDR $\leq$ 0.05) are shown in dark gray. Several outliers are colored: *fumA* (green),

rpoE (orange). (B) Top gene hits with increased fitness in 65% hydrolysate. Genes must have at

least a 4-fold change in the CRISPRtOE-Promoter H data and show a 4-fold difference in a

comparison between Promoter H (red bars) and no promoter (blue bars) to be considered. Dots

represent unique insertions. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD). (C) Growth assay of

individually constructed CRISPRtOE-Promoter H *rpoE* strains versus the parent strain in 65%

hydrolysate or ZRDM control. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD) of three independant

cultures. (D) Relative fitness of strains shown in panel (C). Growth was quantified by calculating

the area under the curve (auc_e) using GrowthCurver. Fitness was normalized to control

condition (parent strain in ZRDM). Significance was determined by a t test ($\leq$0.005(***)). See

also Figure S16C and S16D.

1276

Figure S1. Details of CRISPRt plasmids and *E. coli* GFP reporter strain. (A) Plasmid maps of

CRISPRt-H helper and CRISPRt-T transposon plasmids. Both plasmids in the dual plasmid

system have backbones with an R6K pir-dependent replication origin, an ampicillan resistance

cassette, and conjugative transfer origin. The CRISPRt-H helper plasmid has expression

cassettes for the minimal Vch CRISPR (Cas678) and Transposase (TnsABC, TniQ) machinery

derived from pSpin-R(21). The CRISPRt-T transposon plasmid encodes a modified VchINT

transposon derived from pSpin-R(21) which includes a guide RNA expression cassette with a

modified BsaI cloning site and an antibiotic expression cassette and transcription terminators

derived from CRISPRi plasmids(71). The antibiotic resistance cassette is flanked by XhoI sites

to facilitate modification, six variants are shown. (B) Sequence of CRISPRt targeted

transposition system guide RNA expression cassette including the BsaI cloning site for new

guide RNAs. (C) Efficiency of obtaining CRISPRt transconjugants in *E. coli* using the *LZ1* and

gfp1 guides. Serial dilutions of three technical replicates of *LZ1* and *gfp1* CRISPRt assays were

plated with and without selection (LB-kan or LB, respectively) and CFUs were compared;

Efficiency of CRISPRt targeted transposition in *E. coli* with the *LZ1* guide was ~1 in 100 and

with the *gfp1* guide was ~1 in 1000. **(**D) Position of the P$_{veg}$-*sfgfp* expression cassette inserted

between *yjaA* and *yjaB* on the *E. coli* chromosome.

1294

Figure S2. CRISPRt disruption efficiency in *E. coli*. (A) Specificity of CRISPRt disruption of *lacZ*

in *E. coli* measured by Tnseq. Mapping of location of transposon insertion sites to the *E. coli*

genome after CRISPRt targeted transposition the *LZ1* guide (216,801 reads). (B) Insertion

position (bp downstream of protospacer) frequency of CRISPRt disruption of *gfp* and (C) *lacZ* in

E. coli (RL orientation). Percentage of on-target, RL orientation insertions for all positions with >

0.01%. (D) Efficiency of CRISPRt disruption of *sfgfp* in *E. coli* using a fluorescence phenotypic

assay. The *E. coli yjaA-sfgfp-yjaB* strain (sJMP2688) is green fluorescent whereas the *E. coli*

WT strain (sJMP163) is not. Isolates from CRISPRt targeted transposition of *E. coli yjaA-sfgfp-*

yjaB with the *gfp1* guide (selection for transconjugants on LB-kan plates) were assayed for

fluorescence; 82/84 (97.6%) were white indicating disruption of *sfgfp*. (E) Efficiency of CRISPRt

disruption of *lacZ* in *E. coli* using an X-gal phenotypic assay. The *E. coli* WT strain (sJMP163)

can metabolize X-gal resulting in a blue colony color whereas the *E. coli lacZYA* deletion strain

(sJMP3272) cannot metabolize X-gal resulting in a white colony color. Isolates from CRISPRt

targeted transposition of *E. coli* WT with the *LZ1* guide (selection for transconjugants on LB-kan

plates) were assayed for colony color; 90/90 (100%) were white indicating disruption of *lacZ*. (F)

Frequency of co-integration of transposon-containing plasmid versus transposition of

transposon only. *E. coli* CRISPRtOE libraries (sJMP10705 and sJMP10706) were serially

diluted and plated on LB, LB-kan, and LB-carb in triplicate to determine total CFU, CFU with

selection for transposon, CFU with selection for insertion of entire transposon-containing

plasmid.

1315

Figure S3. Transcription impacts efficacy of CRISPRt guides. (A) Schematic of guides in pooled

mScarlet-I disruption experiment. Twenty-three guides matching protospacers located on top

(T1-24) or bottom (B1-24) strand of the mScarlet-I encoding gene with a range of CN guides

(see Table S5 for details). (B) Relative efficacy of CRISPRt *mScarlet-I* guides in a pooled screen

targeting *mScarlet-I* expressed from a transposon in the att_{Tn7} site on the *E. coli* chromosome.

Relative efficacy is expressed as the $\log_2$-fold change of the frequency in the CRISPRt libraries

(sJMP10519 and sJMP10520) vs. the frequency in the original plasmid construct libraries

(sJMP10505 and sJMP10506). Average and standard deviation of two separate CRISPRt

libraries (gentamicin^R and kanamycin^R) containing all 46 guides. (C) Relative efficacy data

ordered by guide position rather than efficacy shows no correlation between position and

efficacy. (D) No correlation between PAM sequence (CA, CC, CG, CT) and efficacy (frequency

of insertion) for 46 *mScarlet-I* targeting guides.

1328

Figure S4. Transcription impacts efficacy of CRISPRt guides. (A) Schematic of *mScarlet-I*

cassettes +/- promoter on the *E. coli* chromosome. The *mScarlet-I* expression cassette (red)

with and without a promoter (orange) along with a spectinomycin resistance cassette (spt^R,

brown) are located on the *E. coli* chromosome just downstream of *glmS* and upstream of *pstS*.

The *mScarlet-I* expression cassette is inserted in one of two orientations so that the direction of

transcription is either in the same or the opposite direction of the leading strand of chromosomal

DNA replication. (B) Relative efficacy of CRISPRt *mScarlet-I* guides in a pooled screen targeting

mScarlet-I expressed on the *E. coli* chromosome in different orientations with and without

transcription. Relative efficacy is expressed as the log2-fold change of the frequency in the

CRISPRt libraries (sJMP10519-10520, sJMP10594-10595, sJMP10637-10640) vs. the

frequency in the original plasmid construct libraries (sJMP10505 and sJMP10506) with average

and standard deviation of two separate CRISPRt libraries (gentamicin^R and kanamycin^R)

containing all 46 guides shown.

1342

Figure S5. Transcription impacts efficacy of CRISPRt guides, continued. (A) Relative efficacy of

CRISPRt gRNAs in a pooled screen targeting *mScarlet-I* as in Figure S4 with average and

standard deviation of two separate CRISPRt libraries (gentamicin^R and kanamycin^R) containing

all 46 guides shown on scatter plots. (B) Fluorescent phenotypes of 80 isolates from each of the

E. coli CRISPRt *mScarlet-I* individual guide libraries (sJMP10641-10646) compared to *E. coli*

strains with no *mScarlet-I* gene ((-) mScar, sJMP6999) or expressing *mScarlet-I* ((+) mScar,

sJMP10205). Only 4/480 (0.83%) retained *mScarlet-I* levels equal to the parent strain indicating

an off-target rate of <1% overall.

1351

Figure S6. CRISPRtOE construct details. (A) Sequence alignment of CRISPRtOE promoters A,

H, and V compared to a consensus *E. coli* σ^{70} promoter. Promoter A is based on the *lacUV5*

promoter. Promoter H and V are synthetic promoters. Promoter H has an UP element

highlighted in yellow. (B) Schematics of CRISPRtOE Tn*7*-like transposon constructs with four

different outward facing promoter sequences (no promoter, and constitutive promoters A, H, and

V; see Table S3 for plasmid details). Plasmids have been submitted to Addgene (ID 225832-

225871). (C) Schematic of the chromosomally-encoded promoterless *mScarlet-I* reporter

contained on a Tn*7* transposon inserted into the *att*$_{Tn7}$ site of *E. coli*.

1360

Figure S7. Tunable overexpression of chromosomally located genes using CRISPRtOE.

(A) Quantification by qPCR of the *E. coli* CRISPRtOE-P$_H$-*mScarlet-I* strain versus the

promoterless 'Landing Pad' parent strain. Assay was repeated twice each with three biological

replicates. *mScarlet-I* expression was normalized to expression of *rho*. (B) mScarlet-I

fluorescence analysis of *E. coli* CRISPRtOE isolates (no promoter or synthetic promoters A, V,

and H) compared to the parent (promoterless *mScarlet-I*) strain. As in Figure 2B except values
are shown for all CRISPRtOE isolates (both RL and LR insertion orientations with RL shown in
black and LR (flipped) shown in red). Error is expressed for the median value of 12 isolates in
three replicate assays. (C) mScarlet-I fluorescence analysis of CRISPRtOE isolates of the
Alphaproteobacterium *Zymomonas mobilis* (no promoter or synthetic promoters A, V, and H)
compared to the parent (promoterless *mScarlet-I*) strain. Values are shown for isolates with on-
target, RL orientation CRISPRtOE insertions. Error is expressed for the median value of 8-12
isolates in three replicate assays. (D) Schematic showing insertion of CRISPRtOE transposon
into the 'Landing Pad' upstream of *mScarlet-I*. Insertion position is variable (~45-55bp
downstream of protospacer) resulting in a variable amount of the Landing Pad (containing the
RBS) remaining upstream of the *mScarlet-I* coding sequence. Insertion positions and orientation
of CRISPRtOE isolates in the eight species shown in Figure 2C. Insertion position is expressed
relative to start of *mScarlet-I* coding sequence (equal to the remaining LP sequence).
1379
Figure S8. CRISPRtOE *folA* and *murA* pooled library screen and MIC assays inform antibiotic
mode of action. (A) Schematic of CRISPRtOE competitive growth assay. A pooled CRISPRtOE
strain library was constructed by amplification of spacer sequences from a pooled oligo library
and transfer onto the chromosome of a recipient strain. Insertion of the CRISPRtOE transposon
is either upstream of genes of interest (12 guides/gene) or within the *lacZ* gene as a control
gene (4 guides/gene) in *E. coli*. A CRISPRtOE pooled library was screened by culturing a
CRISPRtOE pooled library and control library together for multiple generations in the presence
or absence of a chemical of interest (trimethoprim (TMP) for the *folA* library and fosfomycin
(FOS) for the *murA* library). The change in the composition of the pooled library before and after
treatment was measured by amplification and NGS sequencing of the spacer sequences. (B)
CRISPRtOE *folA* pooled library screen in TMP. Fitness of pooled strains overexpressing *folA*
compared to the *lacZ* control strains in the absence or presence of TMP. (C) CRISPRtOE *murA*
pooled library screen in FOS. (D) Schematic of insertion position for CRISPRtOE isolates. (E)
MIC broth microdilution assay of four individual CRISPRtOE *folA* strains compared to WT, a
CRISPRtOE *lacZ* isolate, and the CRISPRtOE *folA* pooled library in the presence of TMP (0.04-
20 µg/ml). Error is expressed for 3 separate assays. (F) MIC test strip assays (trimethoprim,
0.002-32 µg/ml) comparing WT and four distinct CRISPRtOE *folA* isolates quantified as average
and standard deviation of two assays. (G) MIC test strip assays (fosfomycin, 0.064-1024 µg/ml)
comparing WT and four distinct CRISPRtOE *murA* isolates quantified as average and standard
deviation of two assays.

1400

Figure S9. Multiplexed CRISPRtOE strain construction. (A) Schematic of two methods of
multiplexed CRISPRtOE strain construction in *E. coli*. Method 1 utilizes quad-parental mating
with two CRISPRtOE transposon donors with different antibiotic resistance genes while Method
2 utilizes tri-parental mating with a single transposon donor with a single antibiotic resistance
gene and a CRISPR array encoding multiple guides. Guides upstream of *folA* or *murA* that were
previously shown to be effective at conferring TMP or FOS resistance (see Figure S8) were
used to simultaneously guide the CRISPRtOE-promoter H Tn insertion into the genome of *E.*
coli. (B) Efficiency of multiplexed insertion of CRISPRtOE-promoter H-*folA* and CRISPRtOE-
promoter H-*murA* as determined by PCR of 32 isolates. Increased TMP and FOS resistance of
4 PCR-confirmed isolates was confirmed by disc diffusion assays. (C) TMP resistance of 1
sequence-confirmed isolate from each of the two methods was compared to WT and previously
isolated single isolates (either CRISPRtOE-promoter H-*folA* or CRISPRtOE-promoter H-*murA*.
(D) FOS resistance of 1 sequence-confirmed isolate from each of the two methods was
compared to WT and previously obtained single isolates (either CRISPRtOE-promoter H-*folA* or
CRISPRtOE-promoter H-*murA*.

1416

Figure S10. Tn insertion in *E.coli* and *Z. mobilis* CRISPRtOE genome-scale libraries. (A)
Schematic of two possible transposon insertion positions: intergenic/entirely between genes or
Tn inserted in front of a gene disrupts the end of the gene upstream of it. (B) Percentage of
insertions in the *E. coli* and *Z. mobilis* genome-scale CRISPRtOE libraries that are intergenic
versus in an upstream gene. (C) Percentage of Tn insertions that are on- (orange) or off- (white)
target and percentage on on-target Tn insertions whose position corresponds to the encoded
spacer (medium gray) or is instead near the predicted insertion position based on another
'hijacked' spacer (light gray). (D) Multiplex CRISPRtOE experiment to estimate number of
strains that may have multiple Tn insertions. Quad-parental mating was performed with two
CRISPRtOE transposon donors with different antibiotic resistance genes (kan^R or gen^R) that
were previously shown to effectively target insertion upstream of *folA* or *murA* in *E. coli.*
Transconjugants selected on kan, gen, or kan and gen were quantified in three technical
replicates and the difference between the number of transconjugants with a single antibiotic
resistance phenotype vs. a dual antibiotic resistance phenotype was calculated.

1431

1432 **Figure S11.** Genome-scale CRISPRtOE reproducibility. (A) Comparison of two biological
1433 replicates of CRISPRtOE screen data at the gene level (CPM = counts per million). Either

CRISPRtOE library with Promoter H or no promoter with either TMP or DMSO control treatment showing correlation (R^2 = ~0.9).(B) Comparison of two biological replicates of the log2FC (FC = fold change) of TMP versus DMSO control treatment for either the CRISPRtOE library with Promoter H or no promoter showing correlation (R^2 = ~0.8). (C) Comparison of the median LFC (Log Fold Change) of TMP versus DMSO control treatment for the CRISPRtOE Promoter H versus no promoter libraries showing no correlation (R^2 = ~0.007).

Figure S12. Robustness of CRISPRtOE with fewer analyzed guides. Scatterplots comparing all spacers measured in our study to subsets of 5, 4, 3, or 2 randomly selected spacers per gene.

Figure S13. *E. coli* CRISPRtOE TMP screen top positive outlier genes considering only the first gene in the operon. Genes must have at least a 4-fold change in the CRISPRtOE Promoter H data and show a 4-fold difference in a comparison between Promoter H (red) and no promoter (blue) to be considered. Dots represent unique insertions. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD).

Figure S14. Growth assay of strains overexpressing *rffM* from a plasmid in additional chemical conditions using a Biolog phenotypic array plate PM16 comprised of 24 chemicals with 4 concentrations each. (A) Growth curves of are shown for CRISPRtOE screen chemicals FOS (no response expected) and TMP (response expected), and of two additional chemicals that had a significant response (diamide and rifamycin) for 3 concentrations. Error bars represent SD of duplicate assays. (B) Quantification of area under the curve (auc_e) of growth assays shown in panel (A) using GrowthCurver. Duplicate assays are shown (Rep1 and Rep2). Three concentrations are shown. Significance was determined by a t test ($\leq$0.05(*), $\leq$0.01(**)). Biolog PM16 compounds tested: cefotaxime, phosphomycin, 5-chloro-7-iodo-8-hydroxyquinoline, norfloxacin, sulfanilamide, trimethoprim, dichlofluanid, protamine sulphate, cetylpyridinium chloride, 1-chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene, diamide, cinoxacin, streptomycin, 5-azacytidine, rifamycin SV, potassium tellurite, sodium selenite, aluminum sulphate, chromium chloride, ferric chloride, L-glutamic-g-hydroxamate, glycine hydroxamate, chloroxylenol, sorbic acid.

Figure S15. *E. coli* genome scale CRISPRtOE screen with fosfomycin. (A) Volcano plot of gRNA spacer counts in fosfomycin (FOS) versus water control. Each dot represents a strain with a spacer targeting upstream of a gene. Those that are not statistically significant (false discovery rate (FDR) > 0.05) are shown in light grey and significant hits (FDR $\leq$ 0.05) are shown

in dark gray. Several outliers are colored: *murA* (red), *ibaG* (yellow), *phnC-M* (blue), *waaY*

(green). (B) MIC test strip (Liofilchem) assay (3 technical replicates) showing resistance to FOS

of individual CRISPRtOE-Promoter H strains overexpressing *phnC* or *phnH* compared to WT.

(C) MIC test strip (Liofilchem) assay (3 technical replicates) showing resistance to FOS of

strains overexpressing *phnMNOP* from a plasmid with an IPTG-inducible promoter in WT or a

Δ*phnMNOP* deletion strain. (D) MIC test strip (Liofilchem) assay (3 technical replicates) showing

resistance to FOS of strains overexpressing *phnM* from a plasmid with an IPTG-inducible

promoter in WT, Δ*phnMNOP* deletion, or Δ*phnMNOP* deletion plus CRISPRtOE-Promoter H-

phnC overexpression strain. (E) MIC test strip (Liofilchem) assay (2 technical replicates)

showing resistance to FOS of strains overexpressing *waaY* using CRISPRtOE-Promoter H (left)

or from a plasmid with an IPTG-inducible promoter (right).

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Figure S16. Fitness of *Z. mobilis* CRISPRtOE-Promoter H *fumA* and *rpoE* strains. (A) Growth

assay of individually constructed CRISPRtOE-Promoter H *fumA* strains versus the parent strain

in 65% hydrolysate or ZRDM control. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD) of three

independant cultures. (B) Relative fitness of strains shown in panel (A). Growth was quantified

by calculating the area under the curve (auc_e) using GrowthCurver. Fitness was normalized to

control condition (parent strain in ZRDM). Significance was determined by a t test ($\leq$0.005(***).

(C) Growth assay of individually constructed CRISPRtOE-Promoter H *rpoE* strains versus the

parent strain in 65% hydrolysate or ZRDM control. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD)

of three independant cultures. (D) Relative fitness of strains shown in panel (C). Growth was

quantified by calculating the area under the curve (auc_e) using GrowthCurver. Fitness was

normalized to control condition (parent strain in ZRDM). Significance was determined by a t test

($\leq$0.005(***).

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Figure S17. Fitness of *Z. mobilis* strains overexpressing *fumA* and *rpoE* from a plasmid. (A)

Growth assay of *fumA* plasmid overexpression strains versus a strain with an empty plasmid in

65% hydrolysate or ZRDM control. Error bars represent standard deviation (SD) of three

independant cultures. (B) Relative fitness of strains shown in panel (A). Growth was quantified

by calculating the area under the curve (auc_e) using GrowthCurver. Fitness was normalized to

control condition (parent strain in ZRDM). Significance was determined by a t test ($<$0.01(**),

$\leq$0.005(***). (C) Growth assay of *rpoE* plasmid overexpression strains versus a strain with an

empty plasmid in 65% hydrolysate or ZRDM control. Error bars represent standard deviation

(SD) of three independant cultures. (D) Relative fitness of strains shown in panel (C). Growth

was quantified by calculating the area under the curve (auc_e) using GrowthCurver. Fitness was

normalized to control condition (parent strain in ZRDM). Significance was determined by a t test

(<0.01(**), ≤0.005(***).

Figure 1

CRISPRtOE
Targeted Gene OverExpression

Product

Promoter

Tn

VcCAST Targeted Transposition

Product
Product
Product

Tn | gene

OE in Medically-relevant Species

Acinetobacter baumannii
Enterobacter cloacae
Escherichia coli
Klebsiella pneumoniae
Pseudomonas aeruginosa

OE in Industrially-relevant Species

Pseudomonas putida
Shewanella oniedensis
Zymomonas mobilis

Genome-scale OverExpression in *Escherichia coli*

antibiotic screens
- trimethoprim
- fosfomycin

Genome-scale OverExpression in *Zymomonas mobilis*

hydrolysate screen
- AFEX pretreated switchgrass

Figure 2

A VcCAST transposon insertion

B Dual plasmid VcCAST system for functional genomics

C CRISPRt insertions into *gfp* (*gfp 1* spacer)

D CRISPRt transposition efficiency +/- transcription

Figure 3

A

pir-dependent CRISPRt Helper plasmid

+

Transposon with outward facing promoter
on *pir*-dependent plasmid

+

Promoterless *mScarlet-I* in chromosome

CRISPR-guided
transposition

CRISPRt Targeted OverExpression

B *E. coli* **K-12 CRISPRtOE**

Parent | LP | no P | P$_V$ | P$_A$ | P$_H$
CRISPRtOE

71 | 71 | 73 | 138 | 2146 | 12614
~2X | ~30X | ~177X

y-axis: mScarlet-I expression (AU/OD600)

C CRISPRtOE in diverse bacteria (Promoter H)

y-axis: Fold change mScarlet-I expression

Eco 177X | *Ecl* 232X | *Kpn* 158X | *Aba* 73X | *Pae* 23X | *Ppu* 62X | *Zmo* 50X | *Son* 30X

Pathogen | Industrial

Figure 4

A Genome-scale CRISPRtOE

Identify gene set and design guides

10 gRNAs targeting upstream of all genes

gene

RBS

Generate libraries

+ promoter

- promoter

gene

gene

Screen libraries

screen conditions
-trimethoprim
-fosfomycin
-switchgrass hydrolysate

untreated   treated

versus

Remove "flipped" transposons

✓ gene

✗ gene

Find promoter-dependent hit genes

✓ gene

✗ gene

Validate outside of pooled context with CRISPRtOE or *trans* expression

OD

Time

B CRISPRtOE insertions upstream of genes

C Genome-scale CRISPRtOE in *E. coli* K-12: *lac* locus

Figure 5

A *E. coli* Genome-scale CRISPRtOE-TMP

B Increased fitness in TMP (Median Top 10 Genes)

C *metF* plasmid OE, MIC in TMP

D *E. coli rff-wec* operon

E *rffM* plasmid OE, MIC in TMP

F *rffM* plasmid OE, additonal conditions growth assay

Figure 6

A Increased fitness in FOS (Median Top 10 Genes)

B CRISPRtOE insertions in *E. coli phnM* operon

C MIC in FOS

D Chromosome

E MIC in FOS

Figure 7

A **Z. mobilis Genome-scale CRISPRtOE-hydrolysate**

B **Increased fitness in hydrolysate (Median Top 10 Genes)**

C **CRISPRtOE-rpoE Growth curve**

D **CRISPRtOE-rpoE Fitness**

Figure S1

A CRISPRt plasmids

pJMP10395 gm^r
pJMP10397 kan^r
pJMP10621 apr^r
pJMP10746 spec^r
pJMP10748 cm^r
pJMP10750 hyg^r

B CRISPRt guide RNA cloning site

C *E. coli* efficiency of transposition

D *E. coli* chromosomal *gfp* reporter

Figure S2

A   CRISPRt insertions into *lacZ* (*LZ1* spacer)

B   *gfp1* insertion position (on target, RL orientation)

C   *LZ1* insertion position (on target, RL orientation)

D   *gfp* insertion phenotype

Strain	Parent Strain genotype	CRISPRt guide	Fluorescence phenotype
sJMP163	*E. coli* MG1655 WT	na	white
sJMP2688	*E. coli* MG1655 *gfp*	na	green
isolates	*E. coli* MG1655 *gfp*	gfp1	82/84 white (97.6%)

E   *lacZ* insertion phenotype

Strain	Parent Strain genotype	CRISPRt guide	X-gal phenotype
sJMP163	*E. coli* MG1655 WT	na	blue
sJMP3272	*E. coli* MG1655 DlacZYA	na	white
isolates	*E. coli* MG1655 WT	LZ1	90/90 white (100%)

F   Frequency of insertion of entire transposon vs transposition only

Figure S3

A CRISPRt *mScarlet-I* spacer library

B CRISPRt *mScarlet-I* guide relative efficacy

C CRISPRt guide efficacy by position

D Frequency of insertion vs. PAM

Figure S4

A

B

Figure S5

A

B

Figure S6

A CRISPRtOE Promoter Sequences

```
A  CTCACTCATTAGGCACCCCAGGCTTTACACTTTATGCTTCCGGCTCGTATAATGTCTAG
H  GGAAAATTTTTTTTTCAAAAGTACTTGAAATTAATCA•TCCGGCTCGTATAATTCTAGT
V  CACCAAGCCAGTTACCTCGGTTCTTTAATCTTTATGC•TCCGGCTCGTATAGTGCTAGC
   nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnTTGACAnnnnnnnn•nnnnnnnnnTATAATnnnnn
                           -35           spacer     -10
```

B Transposons with outward facing promoters (or no promoter control)

C Chromosomal promoterless mScarlet-I reporter

Figure S7

A

mScarlet-I expression (qPCR)
CRISPRtOE-P_H vs LP/parent strain

B

E. coli CRISPRtOE mScarlet-I overexpression (all orientations)

| Median: | 71 | 71 | 73 | 138 | 2146 | 12614 |

C

Z. mobilis CRISPRtOE

D

	Position of CRISPRtOE transposon in Landing Pad relative to mScarlet-I start (LZ1 guide)													
	# insertions analyzed	**RL vs LR orientation**		**Position relative to ATG start (% of total RL insertions)**										
	total RL and LR	%RL	%LR	-35	-34	-33	-32	-31	-30	-13	-2	+19	+108
Eco	48	87.5	12.5	21.4	2.4	71.4	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Aba	12	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3
Ecl	8	87.5	12.5	28.6	0.0	71.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kpn	10	90.0	10.0	22.2	0.0	77.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pae	12	91.7	8.3	36.4	0.0	63.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ppu	12	83.3	16.7	10.0	10.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Son	11	100.0	0.0	36.4	9.1	45.5	0.0	0.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Zmo	48	91.7	8.3	0.0	2.3	95.5	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Figure S8

Figure S9

A   Multiplex strain construction

Method 1: Multiple transposons

or

Method 2: Single transposon with CRISPR array

gRNAs targeting upstream of *folA* and *murA*

Multiplex CRISPRtOE

E. coli genome
4.6 Mbp

B   Multiplex efficiency (*E. coli*)

Method	Transposon donor	crRNA	Conjugation	Selection	Insertion/genotype confirmed by PCR	Resistance phenotypes confirmed
1	Dual	1/donor	quad-parental	kan and gen	31/32 (97%)	4/4
2	Single	2/donor (array)	Tri-parental	kan	4/32 (12.5%)	4/4

C   Trimethoprim MIC (0.002-32 µg/ml)

CRISPRtOE-promoter H isolates

WT (sJMP163) — A: 1, B: 0.75

folA (-29bp) (sJMP10709) — A: 12, B: 12

murA (-33bp) (sJMP10717) — A: 1, B: 0.75

folA (-20bp), *murA* (-20bp) (kan^R,gen^R) (sJMP14000) — A: >32, B: >32

folA (-20bp), *murA* (-20bp) (kan^R) (sJMP14006) — A: 24, B: 24

MIC

D   Fosfomycin MIC (0.064-1024 µg/ml)

CRISPRtOE-promoter H isolates

WT (sJMP163) — A: 1.5, B: 2

folA (-29bp) (sJMP10709) — A: 1.5, B: 1.5

murA (-33bp) (sJMP10717) — A: 24, B: 16

folA (-20bp), *murA* (-20bp) (kan^R,gen^R) (sJMP14000) — A: 6, B: 12

folA (-20bp), *murA* (-20bp) (kan^R) (sJMP14006) — A: 12, B: 8

MIC

Figure S10

Figure S11

A   **Comparing Replicates With or Without Promoter H − Gene Medians**

B   **Comparing TMP vs DMSO With or Without Promoter H − Gene Medians**

C   **Comparing LFC TMP vs DMSO Gene Medians for CRISPRtOE With and Without Promoter**

Figure S12

A   **Log2 FC Gene Median TMP vs. DMSO treatment CRISPRtOE-Promoter H**
Subset Number of Spacers vs All Spacers

Figure S13

First Genes in Operon

Figure S14

A

B

Figure S15

A

E. coli Genome-scale CRISPRtOE Fosfomycin vs water

B

CRISPRtOE

C

phnMNOP Plasmid OE (100 μM IPTG induction)

D

phnM Plasmid OE (30 μM IPTG induction)

E

waaY CRISPRtOE or Plasmid OE (100 μM IPTG induction)

Figure S16

A CRISPRtOE-*fumA* Growth curve

B CRISPRtOE-*fumA* Fitness

C CRISPRtOE-*rpoE* Growth curve

D CRISPRtOE-*rpoE* Fitness

Figure S17

A **Plasmid OE *fumA* Growth curve**

B **Plasmid OE-*fumA* Fitness**

C **Plasmid OE *rpoE* Growth curve**

D **Plasmid OE *rpoE* Fitness**