

Protein Engineering for the Design of Protein-polymer Systems

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Extended Abstract

Directed protein evolution has become in biocatalysis and in chemical/pharmaceutical industries a widely accepted and broadly applied method for tailoring of enzymes to application demands. Advances in mutagenesis technologies and screening systems are fuelling progress and enabling novel reengineering strategies (Ruff et al., 2013) by (I.) focused mutagenesis (selected residues are randomized; e.g. 3.2 million protein variants generated (Denning et al., 2011) and screened (Ruff et al., 2012) in two days), (II.) random mutagenesis (mutations are randomly introduced over the whole gene), and (III.) gene recombination (stretches of genes are mixed to chimeras in a random or rational manner (Marienhagen et al., 2012)).

These methods offer in combination with computation methods robust options to shape protein properties to demands in material science. After introducing concepts and limitations of protein engineering technologies, the potential will be outlined on the example of two β -barrel proteins (FhuA and nitro-bindin). Protein-hybrids comprise examples on triggered release systems (reduction trigger (Onaca et al., 2008) and light trigger (Güven et al., 2011)), hybrid catalyst design (Philippart et al., 2013), elongating β -strands to match thickness of polymer membranes, increase channel diameter of FhuA, and development of a production technology in gram scale.

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