

Supplementary Information

Probing the modularity of megasynthases by rational engineering of a fatty acid synthase (FAS) type I

Alexander Rittner, Karthik S. Paithankar, David Drexler, Aaron Himmler, and Martin Grininger*

Author affiliations

Institute of Organic Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Buchmann Institute for Molecular Life Sciences, Cluster of Excellence for Macromolecular Complexes, Goethe University Frankfurt, Max-von-Laue-Str. 15, 60438 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Correspondence

*grininger@chemie.uni-frankfurt.de

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Expression of human FAS in *E. coli*

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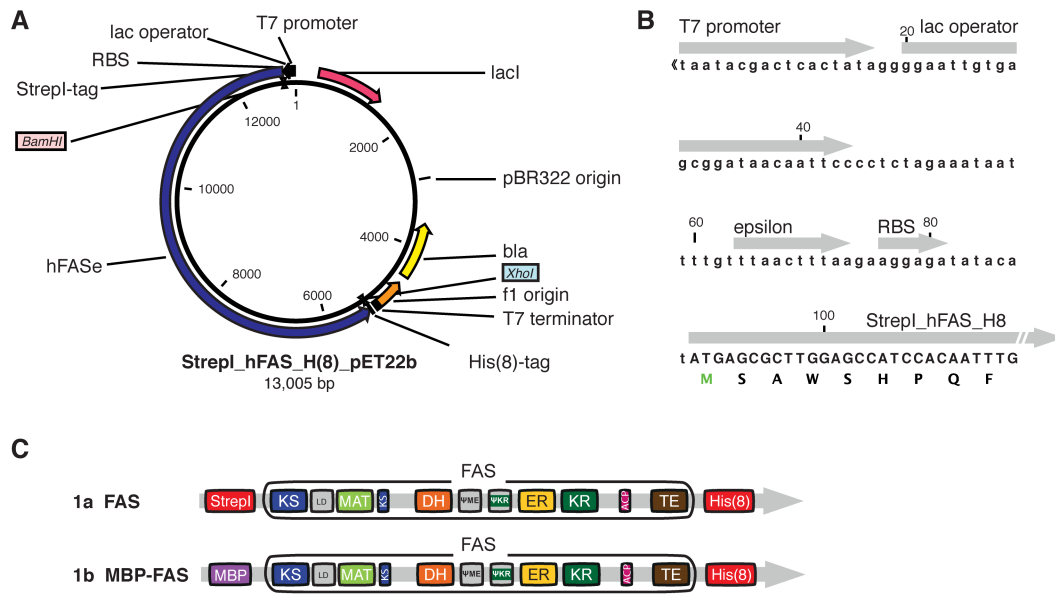


Figure S1: Cloning of human FAS expression constructs in *E. coli*. (A) Representative vector map of a pET22b derived expression vector generating N-terminally Strepl- and C-terminally His-tagged constructs. Abbreviations: lacI, Lac repressor protein; bla, β -lactamase; RBS, ribosome binding site. (B) Sequence of the 5' regulatory region of the multiple cloning site of pET22b and the 5' part of the N-terminally Strep-tagged hFAS. (C) Domain organization of FAS constructs containing different tags. Abbreviations as introduced in the main text. MBP, referring to the maltose binding protein, is fused to the N-terminus for increased protein solubility.

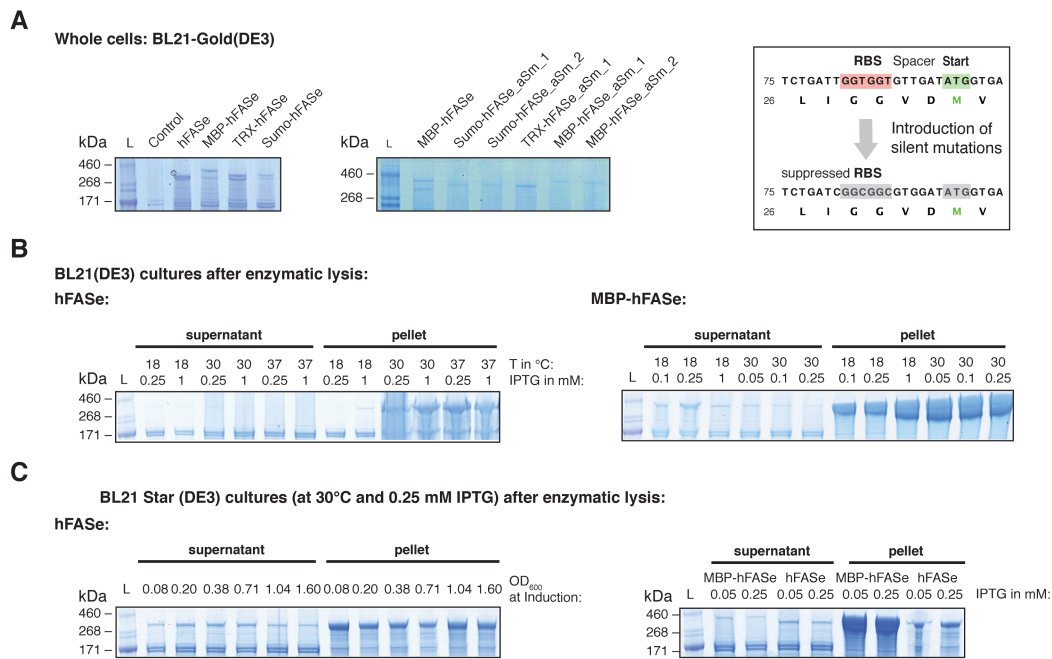


Figure S2: Screening of expression conditions for human FAS in *E. coli*. SDS-PAGE was performed with NuPage 4-12 % Bis-Tris gradient gels. The MBP-tag was used for increasing protein solubility. (A) Initial test-expressions of different fusion constructs of hFASe (hFAS expressed from a codon optimized gene for *E. coli*) in BL21-Gold(DE3) cells. Whole cells were loaded on the SDS-PAGE gel to analyze total expression yields (left and middle panels). Due to the appearance of a second band for all constructs, an alternative translation start was identified and suppressed by introducing silent mutations in the RBS (aSm; middle and right panel). The alternative start codon, referring to M32, is highlighted in green. (B) Influence of temperature and IPTG inducer concentrations on the expression of hFASe (left panel) and MBP-hFASe (right panel) in BL21(DE3). hFASe refers to a sequence optimized gene. Supernatants and pellets after centrifugation of enzymatically lysed cells were loaded. (C) Influence of the cell density at induction on the expression of hFASe (left panel) and MBP-hFASe (right panel) in BL21 Star (DE3) cells. Supernatants and pellets after centrifugation of enzymatically lysed cells were loaded.

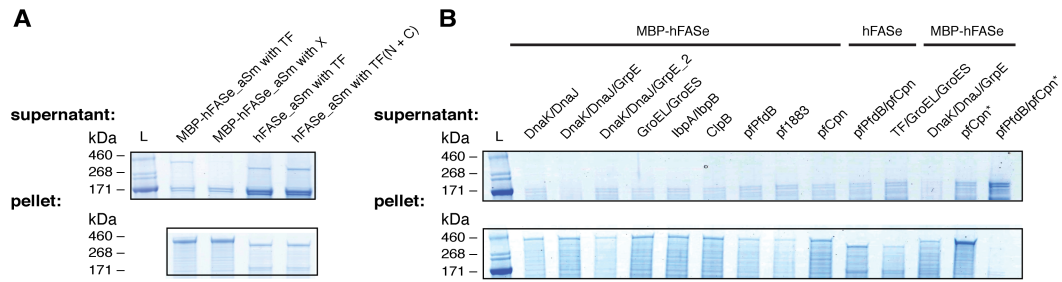


Figure S3: Co-expression of hFAS with chaperones encoding genes. SDS-PAGE was performed with NuPage 4-12 % Bis-Tris gradient gels. (A) Co-expression of MBP-hFASe and hFASe in BL21-Gold(DE3) cells with trigger factor (TF), truncated trigger factor (TF(N+C)) and a control dodecin (X). Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE of the supernatant and pellet after enzymatic lysis of 50 mL cultures (4 h/30 °C) are shown. TF(N + C) refers to a truncated version containing the fused N- and C- terminal part of the TF. (B) Co-expression of MBP-hFASe and hFASe with various chaperones from *E. coli* and *P. furiosus* in BL21-Gold(DE3) cells. Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE of the supernatant and pellet after enzymatic lysis of 50 mL cultures (4 h/30 °C) are shown. Asterisks indicates co-expression at 47 °C for potential activity of enzymes from *P. furiosus*.

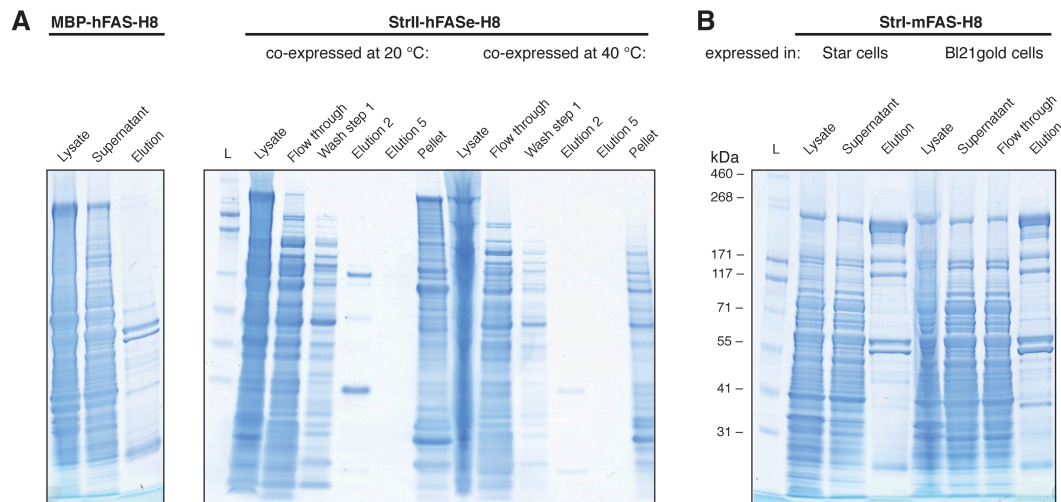


Figure S4: Expression of MBP-hFAS, hFASe and mFAS constructs in large scale (1-2 L expression cultures). (A) Expression of MBP-hFAS in a 2 L BL21-Gold(DE3) culture and co-expression of hFASe with chaperones (pfuPfdA, pfuPfdB and pfuCpn bearing a mutation to increase activity at lower temperatures)¹ in 1 L cultures at 20 °C and 40 °C. (B) Expression and purification of mFAS, expressed in 2 L cultures of BL21 Star (DE3) or BL21-Gold(DE3) cells. Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE of the lysed cells (French press) and crudely purified protein (Ni-chelating affinity chromatography) is shown.

FAS_MOUSE MEEVVIAGMSGKLEPESENLOEFWANLIGVDMVTDGDRRWKAGLYGLPKRSGKLDLKFDAFFGVHPKQOAHMTDPLRLLLLEVSYEAI VDDGINPASL 100
FAS_RAT MEEVVIAGMSGKLEPESENLOEFWANLIGVDMVTDGDRRWKAGLYGLPKRSGKLDLKFDAFFGVHPKQOAHMTDPLRLLLLEVSYEAI VDDGINPASL 100
FAS_HUMAN MEEVVIAGMSGKLEPESENLOEFWANLIGVDMVTDGDRRWKAGLYGLPKRSGKLDLKFDAFFGVHPKQOAHMTDPLRLLLLEVSYEAI VDDGINPASL 100
FAS_PIG MEEVVIAGMSGKLEPESENLOEFWANLIGVDMVTDGDRRWKAGLYGLPKRSGKLDLKFDAFFGVHPKQOAHMTDPLRLLLLEVSYEAI VDDGINPASL 100
FAS_CHICK MEDVVIAGIAGKLEPESENLOEFWENLVGDMVTDGDRRWKAGLYGLPKRSGKLDLKFDAFFGVHPKQOAHMTDPLRLLLLEVSYEAI VDDGINPASL 100



FAS_MOUSE RGTNTGVWVGVSGSEASEALSRDPETLLGVSMVGCORAMMANRSLFFDFKGPSIALDTACSSSLLALONAYQAIRSGCEPAALVGGIINLLKPNTSVQF 200
FAS_RAT RGTNTGVWVGVSGSEASEALSRDPETLLGVSMVGCORAMMANRSLFFDFKGPSIALDTACSSSLLALONAYQAIRSGCEPAALVGGIINLLKPNTSVQF 200
FAS_HUMAN RGTHTGVWVGVSGSETSEALSRDPETLLGVSMVGCORAMMANRSLFFDFKGPSIALDTACSSSLLALONAYQAIRSGCEPAALVGGIINLLKPNTSVQF 200
FAS_PIG RGTSTGVWVGVSSDASEALSRDPETLLGVSMVGCORAMMANRSLFFDFKGPSIALDTACSSSLLALONAYQAIRSGCEPAALVGGIINLLKPNTSVQF 200
FAS_CHICK RGTDTGVWVGVSGSEALEALSDPEELLVGSMVGCORAMMANRSLFFDFKGPSIALDTACSSSLLALONAYQAIRSGCEPAALVGGIINLLKPNTSVQF 200



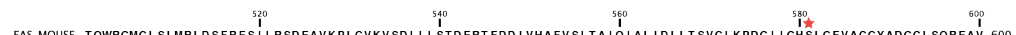
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FAS_RAT MKLGM LSPDGT CRSFDDSGSGYCRSEAVVLLTKKSLARRVYATILNAGNTDGSKEQGVTFPSGVEQELICSLYOPAGLAPLESLEYIEAHGTGTVKVG 300
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FAS_CHICK MKLGM LSPDGT CRSFDDSGSGYCRSEAVVLLTKKSMARVYATILNAGNTDGSKEQGVTFPSGVEQELICSLYOPAGLAPLESLEYIEAHGTGTVKVG 300



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FAS_RAT DPQELNGITRSLCAFRQAPLLIGSTKSNMGMPEPASGLAALTKVLLSLEHGVAWPNLHFHNPPEIPALLDGRLOVVDRLPVRRGIVGINSFGFGGANV 400
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FAS_CHICK DPQEVNGIVNVFCOCEREPLLIGSTKSNMGMPEPASGLAALAKVILSLEHGVAWPNLHFHNPPEIPALLDGRLOVVDRLPVRRGIVGINSFGFGGANV 400



FAS_MOUSE HVILQPNTRGAPAPATHAALPHLLHASGRTLEAVODLLEQGRHSODLAFVSM LNDIAATPTAAMPFRGYTVLVGEGVQEVQVSTNKRPLWVICSGMG 500
FAS_RAT HVILQPNTRGAPAPATHAALPHLLHASGRTLEAVODLLEQGRHSODLAFVSM LNDIAATPTAAMPFRGYTVLVGEGVQEVQVSTNKRPLWVICSGMG 500
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FAS_CHICK HVILQPNTRGAPAPATHAALPHLLHASGRTLEAVODLLEQGRHSODLAFVSM LNDIAATPTAAMPFRGYTVLVGEGVQEVQVSTNKRPLWVICSGMG 499



FAS_MOUSE TQWRGMGLSMLRDSFRESILRSDEAVKPLGVKSDLLSTDEFTDDIVHAFVSLTAIQIALIDLTSVGLKPDGIGHSLGVEACGYADGCLSORFAV 600
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FAS_MOUSE VIREPRPRARWLSSTISPEAQWSSSLARTSSAEYNNVNLVSPVLFQEAALWHIPEHAVVLEIAPHALLOAVLKRGVKSSCTIIPLMKRDKHNDLEFFLNTL 800
FAS_RAT VIREPRPRARWLSSTISPEAQWSSSLARTSSAEYNNVNLVSPVLFQEAALWHIPEHAVVLEIAPHALLOAVLKRGVKSSCTIIPLMKRDKHNDLEFFLNTL 800
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FAS_MOUSE ARSLCLSLLEETPVFENVTFHOATILPKTGTVALEVRLEASHAFVEVSD-TGNLIVSGKVVYLEDQVNSKLFDPH-EVPTPPESASVSRLLTOGEVYKEL 995
FAS_RAT ARSLCLSLLEETPVFENVTFHOATILPKTGTVALEVRLEASHAFVEVSD-TGNLIVSGKVVYLEDQVNSKLFDPH-EVPTPPESASVSRLLTOGEVYKEL 995
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FAS_HUMAN SGLHTESAPRRQEQVLPTEKFFVTFPHEAECLSESTALQELQELCKGLARALQTKATQOGLKAMLGQE-----DPPHGLPRLLAACQLQNLG 1192
FAS_PIG LGAHSSVAPRRQEQVLPTEKFFVTFPHEAECLSESTALQELQELCKGLARALQTKATQOGLKAMLGQE-----DPPHGLPRLLAACQLQNLG 1194
FAS_CHICK NGLHASVAPRRQEQVLPTEKFFVTFPHEAECLSESTALQELQELCKGLARALQTKATQOGLKAMLGQE-----DPPHGLPRLLAACQLQNLG 1197



FAS_MOUSE NLQELGELGAOERLLEDPDPLISGLLNSQALKACVDTALENLSLTKMKVVEVLAGEGHLYSRIPALLNTPMLQLEYATDRHPQALKDVQTKLQOHDV 1287
FAS_RAT NLQELGELGAOERLLEDPDPLISGLLNSQALKACVDTALENLSLTKMKVVEVLAGEGHLYSRIPALLNTPMLQLEYATDRHPQALKDVQTKLQOHDV 1287
FAS_HUMAN NLQELGELGAOERLLEDPDPLISGLLNSQALKACVDTALENLSLTKMKVVEVLAGEGHLYSRIPALLNTPMLQLEYATDRHPQALKDVQTKLQOHDV 1292
FAS_PIG NLQELGELGAOERLLEDPDPLISGLLNSQALKACVDTALENLSLTKMKVVEVLAGEGHLYSRIPALLNTPMLQLEYATDRHPQALKDVQTKLQOHDV 1294
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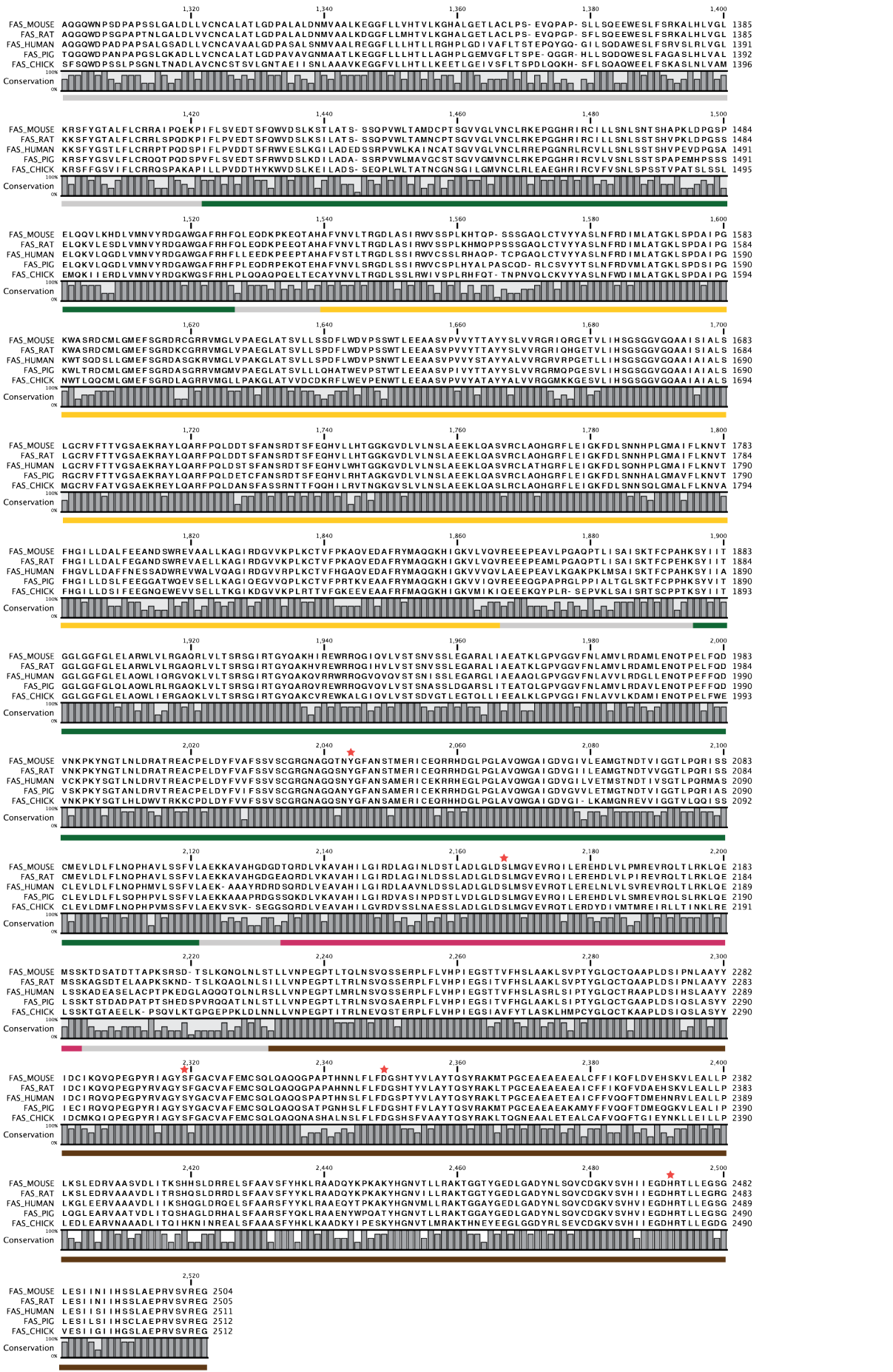


Figure S5: Sequences of animal type I FAS. The sequences were obtained from NCBI (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>; UniProt accession codes: murine FAS: P19096; rat FAS: P12785; human FAS: P49327; porcine FAS: A5YV76 and chicken FAS: P12276. Primary sequences were aligned using Clustal Omega. Sequence numbering based on murine FAS (mFAS) used in the construct design. The colored bars indicate the different domains according to the following color code: KS, blue; MAT, light green; DH, orange; KR, dark green; ER, yellow; ACP, magenta; TE, brown. Catalytic residues are indicated by asterisks. Amino acid conservation within set of presented sequences is given in percent.

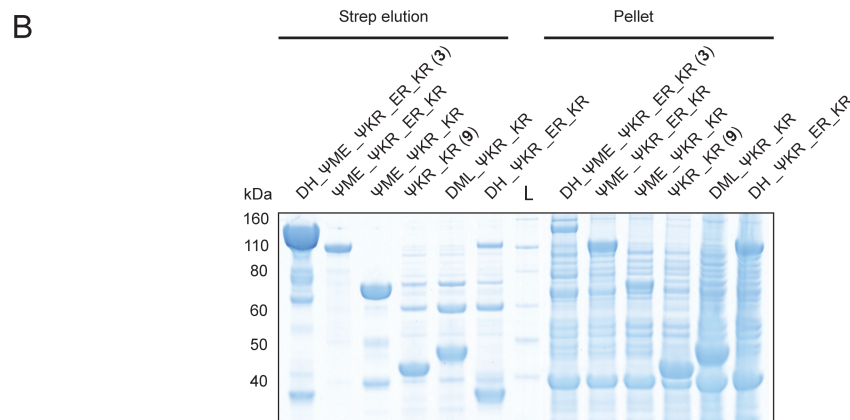
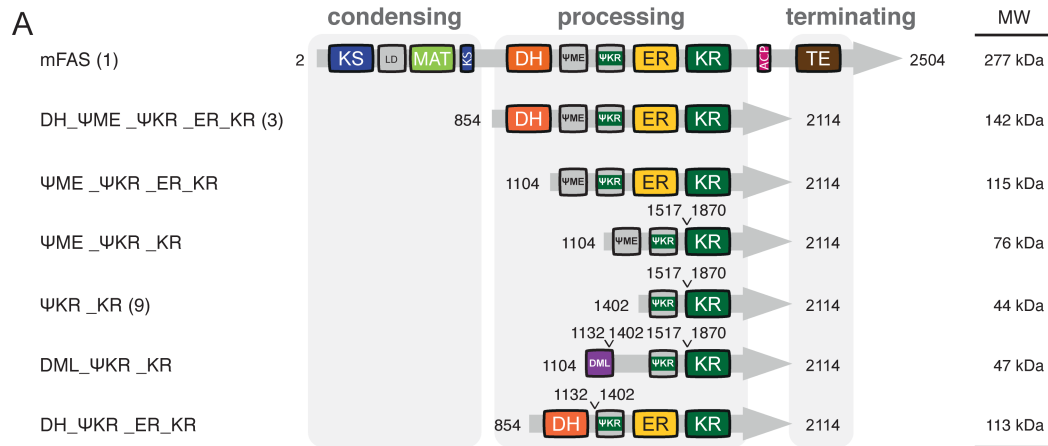


Figure S6: Deconstruction of the processing part of mFAS. (A) Domain organization of mFAS and constructs of the processing part. Construct number are given in brackets. All amino acid positions/numbers refer to the wild type mFAS. Molecular weights refer to proteins without the N-terminal methionine. The abbreviation DML refers to the linker between the DH and ΨME domain. (B) Comparison of soluble and aggregated fractions of various truncated constructs of the processing part. Constructs were solely purified with a Strep-Tactin columns, which explains the relatively high degree of contamination.

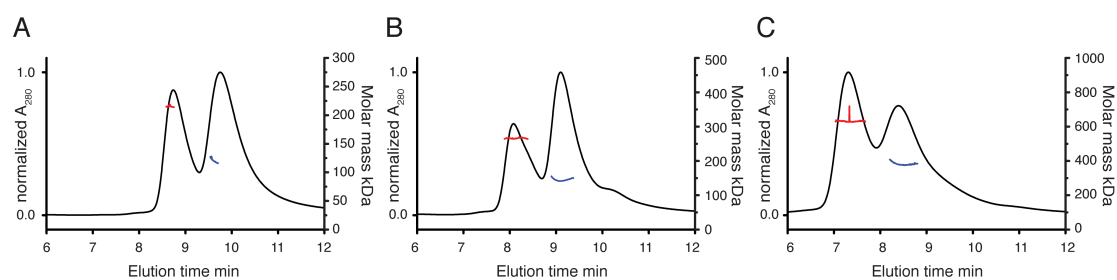


Figure S7: Confirmation of the oligomeric state of select constructs. HPLC-MALS analysis (multiangle light scattering) of select constructs with absorption normalized to the highest peak. (A) KS-MAT-ACP (**17**): the first and the second peaks correspond to 215 (216) and 121 (108) kDa. (B) KS-MAT-ACP-TE (**22**): the first and the second peaks correspond to 266 (284) and 149 (142) kDa. (C) LD-MAT-ACP-mFAS (**25**): the first and the second peaks correspond to 632 (674) and 390 (337) kDa. The calculated masses confirm the two oligomeric states, peak 1 and peak 2 referring to monomeric and dimeric states of the samples, respectively. The theoretical masses are given in brackets.

Table S1: List of plasmids

Number	Important Construct	Name
pAR018	1; mFAS	pAR18_Strepl_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR069	2; KS-MAT; condensing part	pAR69_STRI_m(KS_MAT)_H8_pET22b
pAR236	3; processing part	pAR236_Strepl_m(DH_ps_ER_KR)_H8_pET22b
pAR100	4; apo-ACP	pAR100_Strepl_mACP_H8_pET22b
pAR194	5; TE	pAR194_mTEI_H8_pET22b
pAR088	6; mFAS_ΔTE	pAR88_Strepl_mFASm_ΔTE_H8_pET22b
pAR162	7; mFAS_ΔER_ΔTE	pAR162_Strepl_mFASm_ΔER_ΔTE_H8_pET22b
pAR163	8; mFAS_ΔDH_ΔER_ΔTE	pAR163_Strepl_mFASm_ΔDH_ΔER_ΔTE_H8_pET22b
pAR239	9; ΨKR_KR	pAR239_Strepl_m(psKR_KR)_H8_pET22b
pAR243	10; KSt _{trunc}	pAR243_STRI_mKS_H8_pET22b
pAR244	11; KS-LD	pAR244_STRI_m(KS_LD)_H8_pET22b
pAR245	12; MAT _{trunc}	pAR245_Strepl_mMAT_H8_pET22b
pAR309	13; MAT _{Ave}	pAR309_Strepl_mMAT(Structure)_H8_pET22b
pAR246	14; LD-MAT	pAR246_Strepl_m(LD_MAT)_H8_pET22b
pAR247	15; LD-MAT-pAT	pAR247_STRI_m(LD_MAT_postATL)_H8_pET22b
pAR327	16; MAT _{Ave} -MBP	pAR327_Strepl_mMAT(Structure)_GGGS_MBP_H8_pET22b-1
pAR127	17; KS-MAT-ACP	pAR127_Strepl_m(KS_MAT)_mouseL_ACP_H8_pET22b
pAR125	18; KS-MAT-AM3L-ACP	pAR125_Strepl_m(KS_MAT)_AM3L_ACP_H8_pET22b
pAR151	19; KS-MAT-AM3L2-ACP	pAR151_Strepl_m(KS_MAT)_AM3L2_ACP_H8_pET22b
pAR126	20; KS-MAT-AM11L-ACP	pAR126_Strepl_m(KS_MAT)_AM11L_ACP_H8_pET22b
pAR152	21; KS-MAT-AM11L2-ACP	pAR152_Strepl_m(KS_MAT)_AM11L2_ACP_H8_pET22b
pAR128	22; KS-MAT-ACP-TE	pAR128_Strepl_m(KS_MAT)_mouseL_ACP_TE_H8_pET22b
pAR168	23; KS-MAT-ACP-m(KMA)	pAR168_Strepl_m(KS_MAT_mL_ACP)_mL_m(KS_MAT_mL_ACP)_H8_pET22b
pAR167	24; KS-MAT-ACP-mFAS	pAR167_Strepl_m(KS_MAT_mL_ACP)_mL_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR292	25; LD-MAT-ACP-mFAS	pAR292_Strepl_m(LD_MAT_mACP)_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR306	26; (AT0-ACP0) _{AVES} -mFAS	pAR306_Strepl_AVES(AT0_ACP0)_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR307	27; (AT0-ACP0) _{DEBS} -mFAS	pAR307_Strepl_DEBS(AT0_ACP0)_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR340	28; MAT _{Ave} -ACP-mFAS	pAR340_Strepl_mMAT(Str)_GGGS_mACP_GGS_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR291	29; LD-MAT-mFAS	pAR291_Strepl_m(LD_MAT)_mFASm_H8_pET22b
pAR357	Sfp	pAR357_SFP_pCDF-1b

Number	Constructs (Sup. Info)	Name
pAR001	MBP-hFASe	pAR01_Strepl_MBP_hFASe_H8_pET22b
pAR002	TRX-hFASe	pAR02_Strepl_Trx_hFASe_H8_pET22b
pAR003	Sumo-hFASe	pAR03_Strepl_SUMO3_hFASe_H8_pET22b
pAR010	hFASe_aSm	pAR10_Strepl_hFASe(aSTARTm)_H8_pET22b
pAR011	MBP-hFASe_aSm	pAR11_Strepl_MBP_hFASe(aSTARTm)_H8_pET22b
pAR012	TRX-hFASe_aSm	pAR12_Strepl_Trx_hFASe(aSTARTm)_H8_pET22b
pAR013	Sumo-hFASe_aSm	pAR13_Strepl_SUMO3_hFASe(aSTARTm)_H8_pET22b
pAR017	hFAS	pAR17_Strepl_hFASh_H8_pET22b
pAR026	StrII-hFASe-H8	pAR26_StreplII_hFASe(aSTARTm)_H8_pET22b
pAR036	TF(N+C)+hFASe	pAR36b_TF(N+C)_RBS_StreplII_hFASe(aSTARTm)_H8_pET22b
pAR038	MBP-hFAS	pAR38_MBP_hFASh_H8_pMAL-c5G
pAR237	ΨME_ΨKR_ER_KR	pAR237_Strepl_m(ps_ER_KR)_H8_pET22b
pAR238	ΨME_ΨKR_KR	pAR238_Strepl_m(ps_KR)_H8_pET22b
pAR240	DML_ΨKR_KR	pAR240_Strepl_m(PKSL_psKR_KR)_H8_pET22b
pAR241	DH_ΨKR_ER_KR	pAR241_Strepl_m(DH_psKR_ER_KR)_H8_pET22b

Number	Chaperones (Sup. Info)	Name
pAR32A	TF	pAR32_TF_pETcoco-1
pAR32B	TF(N+C)	pAR32b_TF(N+C)_pETcoco-1-1
pAR033	X	pAR33_mycdodecin_pETcoco
pAR035	DnaK-/DnaJ	pAR35_DnaK_RBS_DnaJ_pETcoco
pAR039	pfPfdB	pAR39_pfuPre(b)_pETcoco
pAR043	GroEL/GroES	pAR43_GroES_RBS_GroEL_pETcoco
pAR044	DnaK-/DnaJ/GrpE	pAR44_DnaK_RBS_DnaJ_RBS_GrpE_pETcoco
pAR045	prefoldin (pfuPfdB)	pAR45_pfuPre(b)_RBS_pfuPre(a)_pETcoco
pAR046	pf1883	pAR46_PF1883_pETcoco
pAR047	pfCpn	pAR47_PfCPN_pETcoco
pAR048	lbpA/lbpB	pAR48_lbpA_RBS_lbpB_pETcoco
pAR049	ClpB	pAR49_ClpB_pETcoco

Table S2: List of primers for the cloning of respective plasmids

Number	Name	Length	Orientation	T _m [°C]*	Sequence (5'3')	Construct Template
AR37	Step_mFASm_infusion	41	forward	55.4	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCgaggagtggtgatagccg	1
AR38	mFASm_His_infusion	36	reverse	55.4	GGTGATGATGCTCGAGccctccgacacactcactc	IRAVp968
AR163	hMAT_His_for	36	forward	53.2	cagggtccccagccCATCATCACACCACCACC	2
AR148	mMAT_hDH_rev	36	reverse	55.9	ctgaggggaaactgagccgttgggaagtcctcag	pAR18
AR422	StrI_mDH_for	36	forward	55.9	CGAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCagctcctctctgctac	3
AR204	ΔmACPTe_His_rev	33	reverse	57.2	GTGATGATGCTCGAGgltcccccagccacagc	pAR18
AR176	STRll_mACP_for	30	forward	56.2	TCGAAAAAGGCGCCGGgggaggggacaccc	4
AR227	mACP_H8_rev	35	reverse	57.9	GTGATGATGCTCGAGgggggctgtctgtcagtag	pAR18
AR349	pET22b_mTEI_for	38	forward	56.7	AGAAAGGATATACATATCtccagagtgacacgtctc	5
AR38	mFASm_His_infusion	36	reverse	55.4	GGTGATGATGCTCGAGccctccgacacactcactc	pAR18
AR37	Step_mFASm_infusion	41	forward	55.4	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCgaggagtggtgatagccg	6
AR203	ΔmTE_His_rev	36	reverse	56.3	GTGATGATGCTCGAGtctgtctcagtagccagtc	pAR18
AR311	ΔmER_for	35	forward	55.9	gagcaggagaagccctcaagactctgcccagc	7
AR312	ΔmER_rev	21	reverse	56.3	gggtgtctctctcactcag	pAR88
AR313	ΔmDH_for	19	forward	55.4	tcacggcgccagcaagaac	8
AR314	ΔmDH_rev	33	reverse	54.9	ttgtctccgctgaagaggaggagctggagcc	pAR88
AR424	StrI_mpsKR_for	41	forward	54.8	CGAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCcccacagggaaacclatctcc	9
AR204	ΔmACPTe_His_rev	33	reverse	57.2	GTGATGATGCTCGAGgltcccccagccacagc	pAR162
AR429	m(LD_MAT)del_for	41	forward	55.9	cagcccacaacagggCGCGGcagggactcctctctc	10
AR430	m(LD_MAT)del_rev	19	reverse	57.6	ccgtgtgttggcttggagag	pAR18
AR431	mMATdel_for	39	forward	57.4	caagaagtgcagaaagctcaccatctccctgtgat	11
AR432	mMATdel_rev	22	reverse	56.7	ttgtctcactcttggacacgg	pAR18
AR433	STRl_mMAT_for	39	forward	56.3	GAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCctctgtctctctcaggg	12
AR434	mMAT_H8_rev	34	reverse	57.6	GTGATGATGCTCGAGctcctctctcagggacagcc	pAR18
AR512	STRl_mMAT2_for	37	forward	55.4	GAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCcaccacaagaagccccc	13
AR513	mMAT2_H8_rev	34	reverse	55.4	GTGATGATGCTCGAGgagctgtgtgagtgcaac	pAR18
AR435	STRl_mLD_for	34	forward	56.2	GAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCgcccctgcgcccactgt	14
AR436	mLD_H8_rev	36	reverse	56.3	GTGATGATGCTCGAGgagtggaacaagcgttag	pAR18
AR435	STRl_mLD_for	34	forward	56.2	GAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCgcccctgcgcccactgt	15
AR148	mMAT_hDH_rev	36	reverse	55.9	ctgaggggaaactgagccgttgggaagtcctcag	pAR18
AR202	LEHis_for	21	forward	56.3	CTCGAGCATCATCACCCAC	16
AR537	mMATstr_GGS_rev	43	reverse	55.4	CGATCCACCCGAGAACCTCCACcagctgtgaggtgcacc	pAR309
AR539	GS_MalE_for	44	forward	53.7	GTTCGGCGGTGGATCGAAATCCGAAGTAACCTGGTAATC	16
AR540	MalE_H8_rev	35	reverse	55.9	GTGATGATGCTCGAGAGTCTCGCGCTTTTCAGGG	pMAL-c5G
AR272	mMAT_mouseL_for	37	forward	56.3	cagcatcagccagctgagcagagaagaagctgtggcc	17
AR273	mouseL_mACP_rev	21	reverse	56.3	actgggtctgagctgtgagac	pAR88
AR267	mACP_for	16	forward	56.2	ggggagcggggacaccc	18
AR266	mKS_W_rev	20	reverse	55.9	ccaagctcagctgtgttccc	pAR88
AR268	mMAT_AM3L_for	37	forward	54.9	ggaccacaagcagctggtCTCCAAACCCCGGCAAG	18
AR269	AM3L_mACP_rev	35	reverse	55.4	gggtgtccccctccccCAGGAGCATCACGCAAG	DSM46492
AR267	mACP_for	16	forward	56.2	ggggagcggggacaccc	19
AR299	mKS_G_mouseL_rev	39	reverse	55.9	cctcagcaaccgggacatcccaagctcagctgtgttccc	pAR88
AR297	mMAT_AM3L2_for	48	forward	57.2	gtcccgtgtctgagacttcccaaacggcCCGAGCGAAGCCGTGAG	19
AR269	AM3L_mACP_rev	35	reverse	55.4	gggtgtccccctccccCAGGAGCATCACGCAAG	DSM46492
AR267	mACP_for	16	forward	56.2	ggggagcggggacaccc	20
AR266	mKS_W_rev	20	reverse	55.9	ccaagctcagctgtgttccc	pAR88
AR270	mMAT_AM11L_for	36	forward	54.3	ggaccacagctcagactgtCTGGATGTGGAGGGGGC	20
AR271	AM11L_mACP_rev	32	reverse	56.2	gggtgtccccctccccGCGAGGCACTCGCGC	DSM46492
AR267	mACP_for	16	forward	56.2	ggggagcggggacaccc	20
AR299	mKS_G_mouseL_rev	39	reverse	55.9	cctcagcaaccgggacatcccaagctcagctgtgttccc	pAR88
AR298	mMAT_AM11L2_for	47	forward	54.3	gtcccgtgtctgagacttcccaaacggcGTCTCGGCGAGTGGGG	20
AR271	AM11L_mACP_rev	32	reverse	56.2	gggtgtccccctccccGCGAGGCACTCGCGC	DSM46492
AR272	mMAT_mouseL_for	37	forward	56.3	cagcatcagccagctgagcagagaagaagctgtggcc	22
AR273	mouseL_mACP_rev	21	reverse	56.3	actgggtctgagctgtgagac	pAR18
AR317	mFASm_for	19	forward	55.4	gaggagtggtgatagccg	23
AR428	StrepGS_rev	19	reverse	55.4	GGATCCGGCGCCTTTTTTCG	pAR127
AR37	Step_mFASm_infusion	41	forward	55.4	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCgaggagtggtgatagccg	23
AR318	mACP_mL_mFAS_rev	40	reverse	56.7	ggctatcaccacctcctcagaagctgtcactctggactgt	pAR127
AR317	mFASm_for	19	forward	55.4	gaggagtggtgatagccg	24
AR428	StrepGS_rev	19	reverse	55.4	GGATCCGGCGCCTTTTTTCG	pAR18
AR37	Step_mFASm_infusion	41	forward	55.4	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGGATCCgaggagtggtgatagccg	24
AR318	mACP_mL_mFAS_rev	40	reverse	56.7	ggctatcaccacctcctcagaagctgtcactctggactgt	pAR127
AR494	Not1_mLD_for	36	forward	54.3	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGCAcaccactgcacacgctgc	25
AR496	mACP_Not1_rev	39	reverse	56.7	acctctcTGCGGCCGAGagagtgctcactctggactgt	pAR127
AR467	Not1_mFAS_for	34	forward	55.4	GAAAAAGCGCCGCAgaggagtggtgatagccg	25
AR468	Not1_Step1_rev	30	reverse	56.3	cTGCGGCCGCTTTTTCGAACTGCGGGTGGC	pAR18
AR508	Not1_AVES(AT0)_for	34	forward	54.3	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGCAgAGGATGGAGCGCGGG	26
AR509	AVES(ACP0)_Not1_rev	32	reverse	56.2	cacctctcTGCGGCCGCGCTCCCTCCGTGGC	DSM46492
AR467	Not1_mFAS_for	34	forward	55.4	GAAAAAGCGCCGCAgaggagtggtgatagccg	26
AR468	Not1_Step1_rev	30	reverse	56.3	cTGCGGCCGCTTTTTCGAACTGCGGGTGGC	pAR18
AR510	Not1_DEBS(AT0)_for	37	forward	56.3	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGACCTGTCAAAGCTCTCCGAC	27
AR511	DEBS(ACP0)_Not1_rev	34	reverse	57.2	cacctctcTGCGGCCGCGCGCTTCCTGTTGGTC	pBP144
AR467	Not1_mFAS_for	34	forward	55.4	GAAAAAGCGCCGCAgaggagtggtgatagccg	27
AR468	Not1_Step1_rev	30	reverse	56.3	cTGCGGCCGCTTTTTCGAACTGCGGGTGGC	pAR18
AR522	Not1_mMAT_for	38	forward	55.4	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGCAcaccacaagaagccccc	28
AR537	mMATstr_GGS_rev	43	reverse	55.4	CGATCCACCCGAGAACCTCCACcagctgtgaggtgcacc	pAR18
AR560	GS_mACP_for	46	forward	56.2	GGTTCTGGCGGTGGATCGGCAAGTGGCTctgggagcggggacaccc	28
AR561	mACP_GGS_rev	62	reverse	53	CAGAGCCACCTCCGCTCGATCCACCGCCAGAACCTCCACcagggacaattctgaagtttc	pAR18
AR562	GS_Not1_rev	56	reverse	57.2	cacctctcTGCGGCCGAGAGCCCCAGATCCACCCCAAGGCCACCTCCGCTCG	28
AR467	Not1_mFAS_for	34	forward	55.4	GAAAAAGCGCCGCAgaggagtggtgatagccg	28
AR468	Not1_Step1_rev	30	reverse	56.3	cTGCGGCCGCTTTTTCGAACTGCGGGTGGC	pAR18
AR494	Not1_mLD_for	36	forward	54.3	GTTCGAAAAAGGCGCCGCAcaccactgcacacgctgc	29
AR495	postAT_Not1_rev	38	reverse	54.4	acctctcTGCGGCCGCAcagctgttcccactgtgtg	pAR127
AR467	Not1_mFAS_for	34	forward	55.4	GAAAAAGCGCCGCAgaggagtggtgatagccg	29
AR468	Not1_Step1_rev	30	reverse	56.3	cTGCGGCCGCTTTTTCGAACTGCGGGTGGC	pAR18
AR589	pCDF1b_for	20	forward	53.8	TTAactAGGCTGCTGCCAC	Sfp
AR590	pCDF1b_rev	29	reverse	53	catGGTATATCTCTTATTAAGTAAAC	pCDF-1b
AR591	pCDF1b_SFP_for	43	forward	52.1	AATAAGGAGATATACCatgaagatttaccgaatttatatggac	Sfp
AR592	SFP_pCDF1b_rev	41	reverse	54.4	CAGCAGCCTAGGTTAAttataaagctctgtctacgagcc	SFP_bsub

Supporting Note 1. Expression of human FAS in *E. coli*

Most of the recent kinetic and biochemical data was collected on rat FAS, expressed in *Spodoptera frugiperda* (*Sf-9*) insect cells in the Smith laboratory.² As we aimed at cheap and quick access to recombinant protein, we did not follow this strategy, but instead searched for expressible animal FAS constructs in *E. coli*. The initial focus was on human FAS (hFAS). hFAS is a member of the animal FAS family and hence suited to investigate the relationship to PKS. It also serves as a potential drug target due to its relevance in the therapy of several diseases.^{3,4}

The project was initiated by cloning human FASN genes into bacterial expression plasmids. Two different genes were used, a synthetic, codon optimized gene (GeneArt, ThermoFisher) and a verified cDNA clone (Source BioScience). Both genes were cloned into a pET22b (Novagen) derived expression vector, generating a N-terminal StrepI-tag and a C-terminal His-tag (hFAS_e, synthetic gene encoding human FAS; hFAS_h, native sequence) (see Fig. S1A-C). Additionally, both genes were cloned into the vector pMAL-c5G (New England BioLabs) generating a N-terminal MBP-fusion and a C-terminal His-tag according to Jayakumar *et al.*⁵ Contrary to Jayakumar's report, all attempts to express the human FAS in *E. coli* were either unsuccessful or yielded aggregated material, as also stated elsewhere.⁶ Different expression strategies were tested; using different fusion constructs, *E. coli* cell lines, expression temperatures, concentration of inducer IPTG to different cell densities for induction.

A summary of expression is as following:

The first expression of four different constructs of hFAS_e (N-terminal StrepI-tag, MBP-, Trx- and Sumo-fusion) in BL21-Gold (DE3) cells was analyzed via SDS-PAGE, performed on whole cells (see Fig. S2A). Every lane showed a faint band at the expected construct sizes (hFAS_e: 278 kDa, MBP-hFAS_e: 320 kDa; Trx-hFAS_e 290 kDa; Sumo-hFAS_e 287 kDa) indicating expression of full-length constructs. Interestingly, a second prominent band appeared at a slightly smaller construct size in all lanes indicating truncated protein. Since all different N-terminal fused constructs resulted in the same truncated protein it is clear that either a prominent proteolytic cleavage site or an alternative

translation start codon exists at the beginning of hFAS coding sequence. Indeed, a methionine at position 32 was identified with an appropriate strong translation initiation site. Two silent mutations in the alternative RBS abolished the production of truncated FAS (see Fig. S2A, right panel).

Based on the finding that *E. coli* is capable of translating the human FASN gene into a full-length polypeptide chain regardless of a N-terminal fusion, we then investigated whether hFAS is properly folded. Test-expressions in medium scale (50 mL) were performed to simultaneously screen the impact of different expression conditions. Cells were lysed mildly by lysozyme treatment in a stabilizing buffer, and the insoluble fraction was separated by centrifugation. Both fractions (inclusion bodies were dissolved in 8 M urea) were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. Unfortunately, most of the hFAS was expressed insolubly independent of the tested expression conditions. N-terminal fusion of MBP did not increase the fraction of soluble protein significantly (see Fig. S2B). Interestingly, the total amount of produced protein was dramatically increased by the MBP-fusion, but only when the plasmid pAR19 was used for expression (see Fig. S2B middle panel). This plasmid is based on the vector pMAL, which contains the whole regulatory region of *malE* under a TAC promoter. Furthermore, this plasmid does not have a N-terminal tag and directly starts with the *malE* sequence.

In order to increase the fraction of soluble protein, we tested several approaches. First, the improved *E. coli* BL21 strain BL21 Star (DE3) was used, which offers a better mRNA stability due to a mutation in the *rne131* gene. Additionally, the cell density at induction with IPTG was varied (see Fig. S2C). From the Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE, it seems that expression in BL21 Star (DE3) cells resulted in a slightly increased soluble fraction, especially, when cells were induced at an OD₆₀₀ between 0.2-0.7. Again, a fusion with MBP did not increase the soluble fraction of protein.

A last attempt to obtain a soluble expression of hFAS in *E. coli* was tried by co-expression with molecular chaperones as they are known to assist the folding of polypeptide chains and the assembly of the macromolecule. Different chaperone systems were reported to facilitate heterologous expression of especially mammalian proteins in *E. coli*.^{7,8} Indeed, a potential role of the human chaperonin TRiC/CCT was assigned to the folding process

of hFAS.^{9,10} We decided to test a broad variety of chaperones from *E. coli*: Trigger factor (TF), DnaK-/DnaJ/GrpE, GroEL/GroES, ClpB and IbpA/IbpB plus chaperones of the thermophilic organism *Pyrococcus furiosus*: prefoldin (pfuPfdB), chaperonin (Cpn) and PF1883.

We decided to use the pETcoco system (Merck Biosciences) as co-expression vector, as it allows regulating copy number in the cell from low to medium copy. Every chaperone system consisting of more than one gene was organized polycistronically. In general, the 5' regulatory region of pET22b from the XbaI restriction site was used as translation initiation site between the genes. The effect of co-expression was again tested in 50 mL test cultures with subsequent separation of the soluble and insoluble fraction (see Fig. S3A and B).

Neither a chaperone system from *E. coli* nor from *P. furiosus* was able to prevent aggregation of hFAS. Hardly any beneficial effect on the fraction of soluble protein was observed. Only co-expression with TF seems to result in the appearance of small amounts of hFAS in the soluble fraction (see Fig. S3A). Though hFAS is one of the largest proteins in *E. coli* but we observed only 'thin' band(s) at ca. 171 kDa which may mean perhaps only a low amount of protein was loaded onto the gel. Therefore, it is difficult to draw a final conclusion, but a major effect of these chaperone systems on hFAS folding can be excluded.

Nevertheless, due to the appearance of small bands in the soluble fractions of our test expressions, we decided to test this expression on a larger scale. The scale of a bacterial culture may influence expression yields and also Jayakumar *et al.* used optimal conditions of a fermenter (15 L scale) to express hFAS.^{5,11}

It can clearly be seen that MBP-hFAS is expressed in full-length in *E. coli* (see Fig. S4A-C). Comparing the lane with lysate to the supernatant shows a dramatic decrease of protein after centrifugation reflecting the expected high portion of insoluble protein. A supernatant fraction indicating soluble protein could not be purified by Ni-chelating affinity chromatography. This finding implies that either the C-terminal His-tag was inaccessible or that hFAS was unfolded, either as not expressed in its native conformation or denatured

during protein preparation. hFAS without a N-terminal fusion domain behaved similarly and again no beneficial effect of chaperone co-expression was seen.

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