

**THE INCORPORATION OF BORONOPHENYLALANINE INTO PHAGE
DISPLAY LIBRARIES FOR IDENTIFYING INHIBITORS OF CD44**

An Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis

by

DEMONTA DEVONE COLEMAN

Submitted to the Undergraduate Research Scholars program at
Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the designation as an

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Approved by Research Advisor:

Dr. Wenshe Liu

May 2020

Major: Biomedical Sciences

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT.....	1
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	2
NOMENCLATURE.....	3
LIST OF FIGURES.....	4
CHAPTER	
I. INTRODUCTION.....	5
II. METHODS.....	11
Transformation of sfGFP-TAG-Top 10 cells with pEVOL-BoFRS-8.....	11
Genetic Incorporation of BoF into Phage-Displayed Peptides	14
III. RESULTS.....	17
Quantifying Incorporation of BoF in sfGFP-TAG-Top 10 Cells.....	17
Phage Display Progress.....	21
IV. CONCLUSION.....	23
sfGFP Model for Testing Incorporation.....	23
Future Research.....	23
REFERENCES.....	24

ABSTRACT

The Incorporation of Boronophenylalanine into Phage Display Libraries for Identifying Inhibitors of CD44

Demonta Devone Coleman
Department of Veterinary Medicine
Texas A&M University

Research Advisor: Dr. Wenshe Ray Liu
Department of Chemistry
Texas A&M University

Many cancers, including breast and pancreatic, are known to display similar cancer stem cell markers, and the CD44 receptor is a common marker. The receptor binds specific biomolecules that lead to increased cell proliferation and survival. Boronophenylalanine, a noncanonical amino acid, is of interest because of boronic acid's novel and robust chemical properties, and its functional group boronic acid's ability to participate in reversible chemistry allows for recycling of protein targets and avoidance of immunogenic responses *in vivo*. Phage display will be the experimental tool for studying ligand capabilities of boronophenylalanine-containing peptides with CD44. Boronophenylalanine incorporation has been successfully tested using a sfGFP model, and two of the three plasmids required for phage production have been transformed into a top 10 cell line using microbiology techniques. Current efforts are towards transforming said cell line with the final plasmid and producing phages. After at least 3 rounds of selection and amplification, we hope to produce a boronophenylalanine-incorporated heptapeptide library, and through sequencing of the phages, we hope to gain insight about this noncanonical amino acid's integration into peptides in developing reversible covalent inhibitors of CD44.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like express my deepest gratitude to my research professor, Dr. Wenshe Liu, for allowing me to conduct research in his lab. Under Dr. Liu's guidance, I was required to think critically about a problem and come up with novel solutions both of which substantiated my analytical thinking, literature review, time management, and communication skills. In addition to the professional development granted through this experience, I gained valuable knowledge of organic chemistry and microbiology techniques.

I give my greatest appreciation to my graduate student advisor, Trae Hampton. Trae's continued patience and careful guidance throughout the research enhanced my self-confidence and independence. He was there whenever I needed assistance or advice, and without him I would not have made it this far in my undergraduate research endeavors. He was a model mentor who I strive to be like during my graduate studies.

I thank the graduate students of Dr. Liu's research group for being there for me whenever Trae was not available. Their contribution to the project was much appreciated.

I thank the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University, National Institute of Health, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, and Welch Foundation for their continued financial support of this research.

Finally, I thank my loved ones for their gracious encouragement and emotional support.

NOMENCLATURE

aaRS	aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase
Amp ^r	ampicillin resistance
BoF	boronophenylalanine
BoFRS	boronophenylalanine-tRNA synthetase
CSC	cancer stem cell
Cmp ^r	chloramphenicol resistance
Kan ^r	kanamycin resistance
ncAA	noncanonical Amino Acid
OD	optical density
PylRS	pyrrolysine-tRNA synthetase
tRNA ^{BoF}	boronophenylalanine specific tRNA
tRNA ^{Pyl}	pyrrolysine specific tRNA

FIGURE	Page
1. Phage Display Cycle.....	8
2. Structure of BoF.....	9
3. Essential Plasmids.....	10
4. sfGFP-D134TAG Plasmid Map.....	13
5. sfGFP Fluorescence.....	18
6. SDS-PAGE Gel.....	19
7. Mass Spectrometry Data.....	20
8. pEVOL-BoFRS-8/M13KO7A Transformants on LB agar plate.....	22

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a heterogenous disease that results from many genetic abnormalities in cells that disrupts cell homeostasis. The abnormalities associated with the majority of cancer types involve mutations that promote gain-of-function in oncogenes and loss-of-function in tumor suppressor genes; these mutations cause alterations in cell physiology resulting in acquired capabilities that fall into six categories: self-sufficiency in growth signals, insensitivity to anti-growth signals, tissue invasion and metastasis, sustained angiogenesis, and limitless replicative potential¹. In developing better treatments and therapies for different cancers, it is important to know which cells are contributing to the progression of the disease, and the CSC model offers further insight on cancer development and proliferation. According to the CSC model, cancerous tissue may be organized in a similar fashion as normal tissues; cancer stem cells differentiate into diverse lineages with the bulk of progeny not contributing directly to the promotion of the disease². Tumorigenic cancer cells often display CSC markers which allow researchers to identify which cells are actually contributing to the progression of the disease³.

Of the six acquired capabilities, self-sufficiency in growth signals involves overexpression of receptors associated with cell growth and proliferation, and studies have shown that the glycoprotein transmembrane receptor CD44 is the most common CSC surface marker making it a focal point of cancer research^{1,4}. Overexpression of this receptor leads to unregulated cell growth due to increased ligand-induced cell proliferation and growth which promotes cancer development. Hyaluronic acid and other grow-promoting biomolecules bind to

the receptor inducing cell proliferation, and many therapeutic strategies are aimed at preventing such binding⁵.

Phage display can be a powerful tool for the production of peptide libraries that can be used for rapid screening of potential ligands⁶. The phage's DNA can be modified so that it codes for variation of peptides/proteins that will be displayed on the surface. This modification allows for a protein or peptide to be fused with a phage coat protein on its surface⁷. The displaying ability of the phages allow for the direct study of the structure-activity relationship of peptides/proteins with diverse biological molecules related to disease (Fig. 1). Herein, we will take a novel approach to this method by aiming to display an ncAA containing heptapeptide fused to the pIII surface protein of the phages for developing reversible covalent inhibitors of CD44.

One of the most common approaches for incorporation of ncAAs is the exploitation of amber and ochre nonsense codons. This is achieved through the use of an orthogonal aaRS and its cognate amber suppressing tRNA that are simultaneously expressed, and PylRS and tRNA^{Pyl} have been confirmed orthogonal in all domains of life⁸. The use of a mutant archaic PylRS-tRNA^{Pyl} pair to incorporate the BoF in a phage display system will be attempted. Boronic acid's novel chemical properties have allowed for its use in the synthesis of sugar ligands with selective recognition, and has been successfully incorporated in *E. coli* proteins⁹. Boronic acid's chemical properties have been exploited in many studies, but the most relevant property to this project is its ability to form reversible covalent bonds (Fig. 2). Boronic ester bond formation can be reversed which grants researchers the ability recycle proteins of interest and avoid immunological responses in living systems, both of which are important in drug discovery research¹⁰. The incorporation of ncAAs into a phage display system in an effort to develop

biological regulators of cancerous cells is a relatively new approach for examining the structure-activity relationship of biological systems. The experimental design is expected to help us shine light on this new research front. Through this project, we aimed at 3 objectives: testing the incorporation of BoF in a model protein, genetic incorporation of BoF in phage displayed peptides through amber suppression, and identifying potential reversible covalent inhibitors of CD44 through phage display.

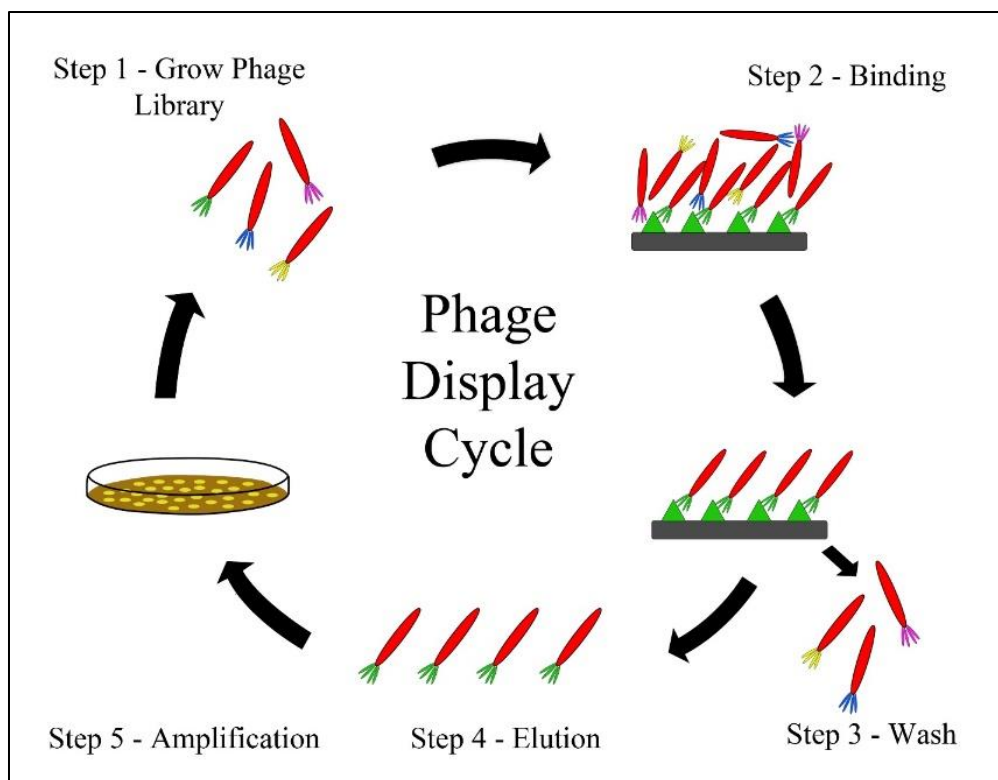


Figure 1. The Phage Display Cycle. 1) Phages expressing the pIII surface protein fused to the peptide library to be evolved are produced. 2) The phage library is exposed to an immobilized target in which some phages bind stronger than others to the target. 3) Low affinity binders are washed away. 4) High affinity binders are eluded and isolated. 5) The high affinity binders are used to infect bacteria and are amplified. Random mutations may occur in the peptide library gene after this amplification. These mutations introduce more variation in the peptide library allowing for more rounds of selection to be conducted for identifying high affinity binders to the target.

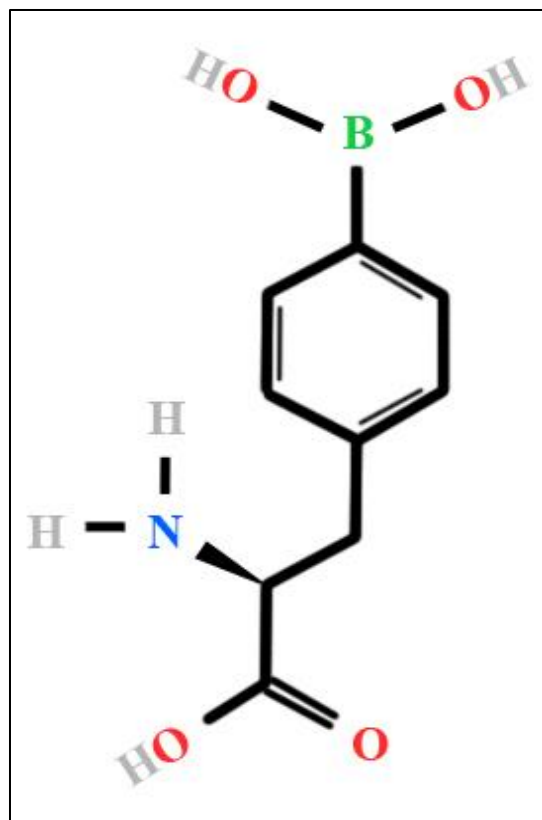


Figure 2. The structure of Boronophenylalanine. The functional group of this noncanonical amino acid is boronic acid and is directly responsible for its novel chemical properties.

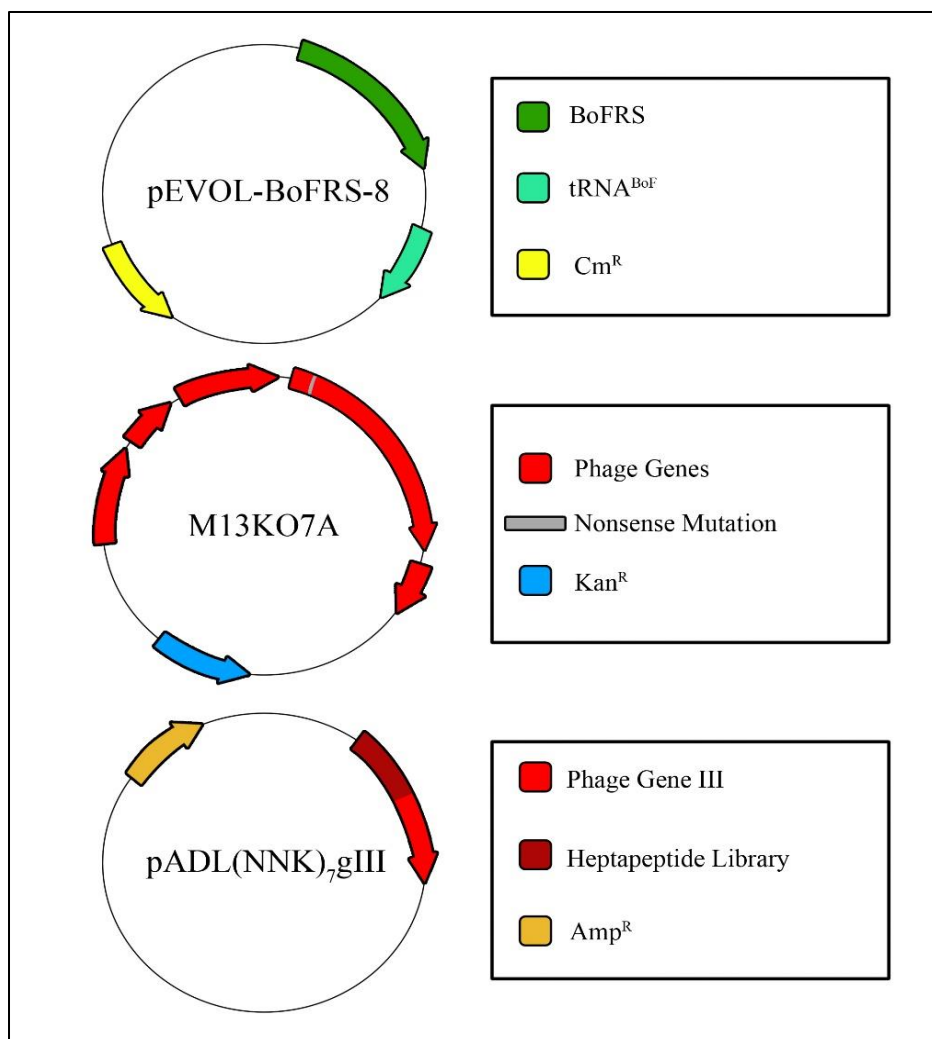


Figure 3. Essential Plasmids. Phage production required the transformation of 3 plasmids in *E. coli*. The pEVOL-BoFRS-8 plasmid contained genes encoding BoFRS and tRNA^{BoF} which are required for TAG codon site-specific BoF incorporation as well as a chloramphenicol resistance gene. The M13KO7A plasmid contained genes encoding for general phage proteins including a nonfunctional gene III which had a nonsense mutation. The plasmid also contained a kanamycin resistance gene. The pADL(NNK)₇gIII plasmid contained the gene encoding the pIII surface protein fused to the gene encoding the highly diverse and assessible heptapeptide. The codon sequence of the heptapeptide contained the amber codon, TAG, at a random position. The plasmid also contained a gene for ampicillin resistance.

CHAPTER II

METHODS

Transformation of Top 10 sfGFP-D134TAG cells with pEVOL-BoFRS-8

Before the production of phages, the pEVOL-BoFRS-8 plasmid's integrity needed to be tested in order to examine the BoF incorporation. The plasmid contained the genes encoding BoFRS and tRNA^{BoF} which are mutants of PylRS and tRNA^{Pyl} that are responsible for BoF incorporation in peptides with TAG-codon specificity. The plasmid also has a Cmp^r gene (Fig. 3). The sfGFP-D134TAG plasmid contained a TAG-nonsense mutation in the sfGFP gene and an Amp^r gene (Fig. 4). Top 10 sfGFP-D134TAG cells were inoculated to 5mL of LB broth media supplemented with ampicillin (100 µg/mL) and incubated overnight at 37 °C.

The next day the cells were made chemically competent. A 1mL sample of the overnight broth culture was inoculated to 94 mL of fresh LB broth supplemented with ampicillin (100 µg/mL). The culture was incubated at 37 °C until optimal OD₆₀₀ (~0.5) was reached. After reaching this OD, 4 aliquots were made and placed on ice for ~5 minutes. The aliquots were centrifuged at 5000g for 10 minutes at 4°C before being placed back on ice. The cells were resuspended in 25 mL of cold 0.1 M CaCl₂ in each of the four samples and were left on ice for 20 minutes. The samples were centrifuged again using the aforementioned settings. Finally, the 4 chemically competent cells samples were each resuspended in 200 µL of cold 0.1M CaCl₂. One of the chemically competent cell aliquots was used for the transformation with pEVOL-BoFRS-8, and the other three were stored.

The 200 µL competent cell sample was exposed to 66.46 ng of pEVOL-BoFRS-8 and was left at room temperature for 30 minutes. The mixture was then placed in a 42 °C water bath

for 2 minutes and placed on ice for 1 minute. The sample solution was transferred to 2 mL of 2YT broth and was incubated for 30 minutes at 37 °C. The recovery broth was plated on LB agar supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 mg/mL) and ampicillin (100 mg/mL), and the plate was incubated at 37 °C overnight.

In order to quantify BoF incorporation by pEVOL-BoFRS-8, sfGFP expression was induced. A colony from the LB agar plate was inoculated to 5 mL of 2YT broth supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) and ampicillin (100 µg/mL) and incubated overnight at 37°C. A fresh 8 mL 2YT broth culture supplemented with ampicillin (100 µg/mL) and chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) was prepared with 500µL of the overnight culture. The broth culture incubated for ~1 hour to a final OD₆₀₀ of 0.43 before 16 mg of arabinose were added (2% by volume). The mixture was separated into 2 separate 4 mL culture tubes so that each contained about 2% arabinose. One tube was labeled the control and the other the experimental. In the experimental culture, 1.25 M BoF was added, and both cultures were incubated overnight at 37 °C. Both cultures were pelleted for 10 minutes at 4000 rpm before being resuspended in 900 µL of resuspension buffer, 100 µL of 11.5 mg/mL lysozyme solution, and 1 µL of 100 mM PMSF. The solutions were transferred into 2 different Eppendorf tubes and pelleted for 2 minutes at 14000 rpm. The supernatant of each of the 2 tubes were transferred to fresh Eppendorf tubes. Due to the presence of visible cellular debris in each of the solutions, they were subjected to 0.45 µm paper-syringe filtration. The fluorescence was quantified using relative fluorescent units (RFU), and a graph comparing the experimental and control fluorescence outputs was produced. Samples from both the experimental and control supernatants were used for SDS-PAGE and mass spectrometry.

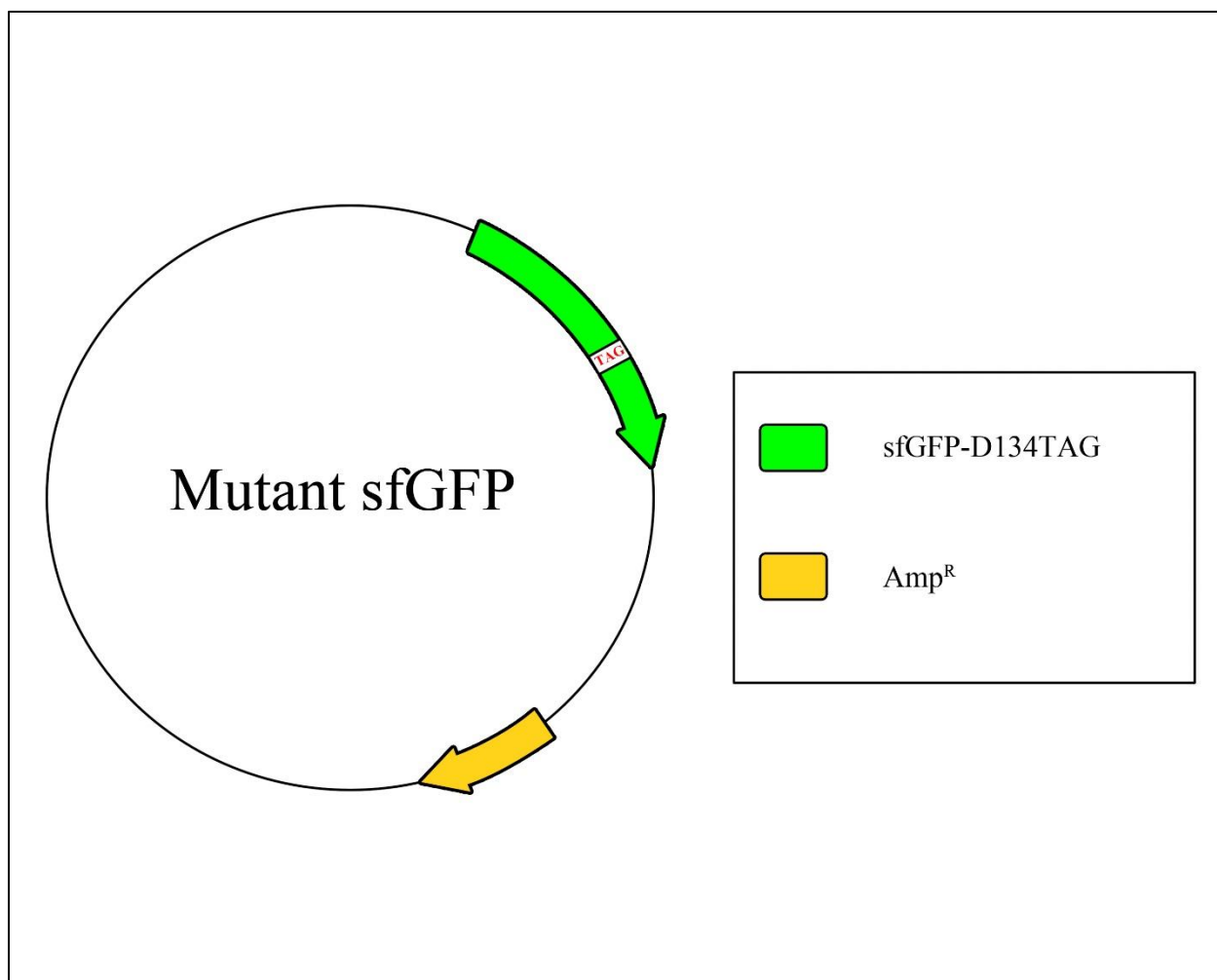


Figure 4. sfGFP-D134TAG Plasmid Map. The plasmid contained a mutant sfGFP gene and a gene for ampicillin resistance. The mutant sfGFP codon sequence contained the stop codon TAG at position 134, and the BoFRS/tRNA^{BoF} genes of the pEVOL-BoFRS-8 plasmid facilitated incorporation of BoF at said position.

Genetic Incorporation of BoF into Phage-Displayed Peptides

The production of ncAA-displaying phages required the transformation of top 10 cells with 3 distinct plasmids¹¹: 1) pEVOL-BoFRS which contained genes encoding BoFRS, tRNA^{BoF}, and Cmp^r, 2) M13KO7A which contained general phage genes, a TAA mutated gene III, and a Kan^r gene 3) pADL(NNK)_{7gIII} which contained the genes for the heptapeptide library and Amp^r (Fig. 3).

Top 10 chemical competent cells were exposed to 69.84 ng of the pEVOL-BoFRS-8 plasmid and were left at room temperature for 30 minutes. The cells were then heat-shocked for 30 seconds at 42 °C before being returned to the ice for 5 minutes. The cells were inoculated to 100 µL of SOC media and incubated for 1 hr at 37 °C. Following the recovery period, the cells were plated on LB agar supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL). The plate was incubated at 37 °C overnight. The following day, one colony from the plate was inoculated to 5 mL of 2YT media supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) and incubated overnight at 37 °C in preparation for the M13KO7A helper phage plasmid transformation.

Cells from the overnight culture were made chemically competent and transformed. A 50 µL sample of the pEVOL-BoFRS-8 overnight transformant culture was inoculated to 5 mL of 2YT supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) and incubated at 37 °C until an optimal OD₆₀₀ was reached (~0.46). The culture was placed on ice for 20 minutes with swirling for even cooling. After the cooling period, cells were pelleted for at 5000g for 10 minutes at 4 °C before being resuspended in 10 mL of cold 0.1M MgCl₂. The cells were then pelleted at 5000g for 10 min at 4 °C before being resuspended in 20 mL of cold 0.1 M CaCl₂. The cell solution was left on ice for 10 minutes and was then pelleted at 5000g for 10 min at 4 °C. Cells were resuspended

in 5 mL of cold 15% glycerol, 85 mM CaCl₂ and pelleted at 5000g for 10 min at 4 °C. Cells were resuspended in 200 µL of cold 15% glycerol, 85 mM CaCl₂ and aliquoted into 100 µL samples in two Eppendorf tubes with one being used for the transformation with the M13KO7A plasmid.

The 100 µL aliquot of chemical competent pEVOL-BoFRS transformant cells were exposed to 50.0 ng of M13KO7A and were left on ice for 30 minutes. The cells were then heat-shocked for 30 seconds at 42 °C before being returned to the ice for 5 minutes. After the wait, the cells were inoculated to 100 µL of SOC media and incubated for 1 hr at 37 °C. Following the recovery period, the cells were plated on LB agar infused chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) and kanamycin (25 µg/mL). The plate was incubated overnight at 37 °C. A colony from the plate was inoculated to 5 mL of 2YT media supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) and kanamycin (25 µg/mL) and incubated overnight at 37 °C in preparation for the pADL(NNK)_{7gIII} plasmid transformation.

Cells containing BoFRS and M13K07A were made electrocompetent in preparation for the peptide library transformation. Two 5 mL overnight cultures were prepared in 2YT supplemented with chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) and kanamycin (25 µg/mL) and incubated at 37 °C. The following day, the both cultures were inoculated to 1 L of no salt LB broth and were rapid-shake incubated at 37 °C until optimal OD₆₀₀ was reached (0.42). The 1 L broth culture was then chilled on ice for 10 minutes with continuous swirling before being aliquoted into 3 centrifuge bottles in a cold room. The aliquots were then pelleted at 4000 rpm for 5 minutes at 0 °C. The cells of each aliquot were resuspended in 50 mL of 10% glycerol. The resuspension volume was brought to about 150 mL before being split into two centrifuge bottles. The two resuspensions were pelleted at 4000 rpm for 5 minutes at 0 °C, and each were then resuspended in 100 mL of 10% glycerol. After this 2nd resuspension, the solutions were combined into one

centrifuge bottle and pelleted at 4000 rpm for 5 min at 0 °C. The cells were then resuspended into 100 mL of 10% glycerol before being pelleted at 4000 rpm for 5 min at 0 °C. Following this final glycerol wash, the cells were resuspended 3 mL before being aliquoted in 30-120 mL samples and flash frozen. The aliquots were stored in -80 °C in preparation for the electroporation transformation. The final transformation with pADL(NNK)_{7gIII} for phage production and subsequent selection/amplification were not conducted.

CHAPTER III

RESULTS

Quantifying Incorporation of pEVOL-BoFRS in sfGFP-D134TAG -Top 10 Cells

After the induction of sfGFP expression, the experimental and control cultures were placed under UV light, and the relative fluorescence of each were quantified using computer software and was expressed in relative fluorescent units (Fig. 5). The control culture showed no green light fluorescence under UV light, and the experimental culture fluoresced strongly. The graph produced from the computer program showed that the experimental culture had a relative fluorescence of ~6000 RFU, and the control culture had a relative fluorescence of ~400 RFU. In order to further prove that boronophenylalanine was incorporated in sfGFP, SDS PAGE was conducted (Fig. 6), and mass spectrometry was performed on samples for both cultures (Fig. 7).

The experimental mass spectrometry data displayed a strong peak at 21-23 min, but this peak is absent in the control data. When sfGFP forms the chromophore responsible for fluorescence, it loses a water so that was taken into consideration in calculating the theoretical mass of the protein. The theoretical mass of sfGFP was 27920.224 Da, and the calculation was as followed: 27732.23 Da (estimated mass without BoF incorporation) + 206.01 Da (estimated mass of BoF) – 18.016 (mass of water that was loss) = 27920.20 Da (theoretical mass of sfGFP with BoF incorporation). The deconvoluted experimental mass spectrometry data indicated that the mass of the sfGFP produced was 27884.9 Da which 35.324 Da less than the calculated theoretical mass. The most plausible explanation for this difference is that BoF residue participated in condensation reactions with two neighboring lysine residues which resulted in the loss of 2 more water molecules.

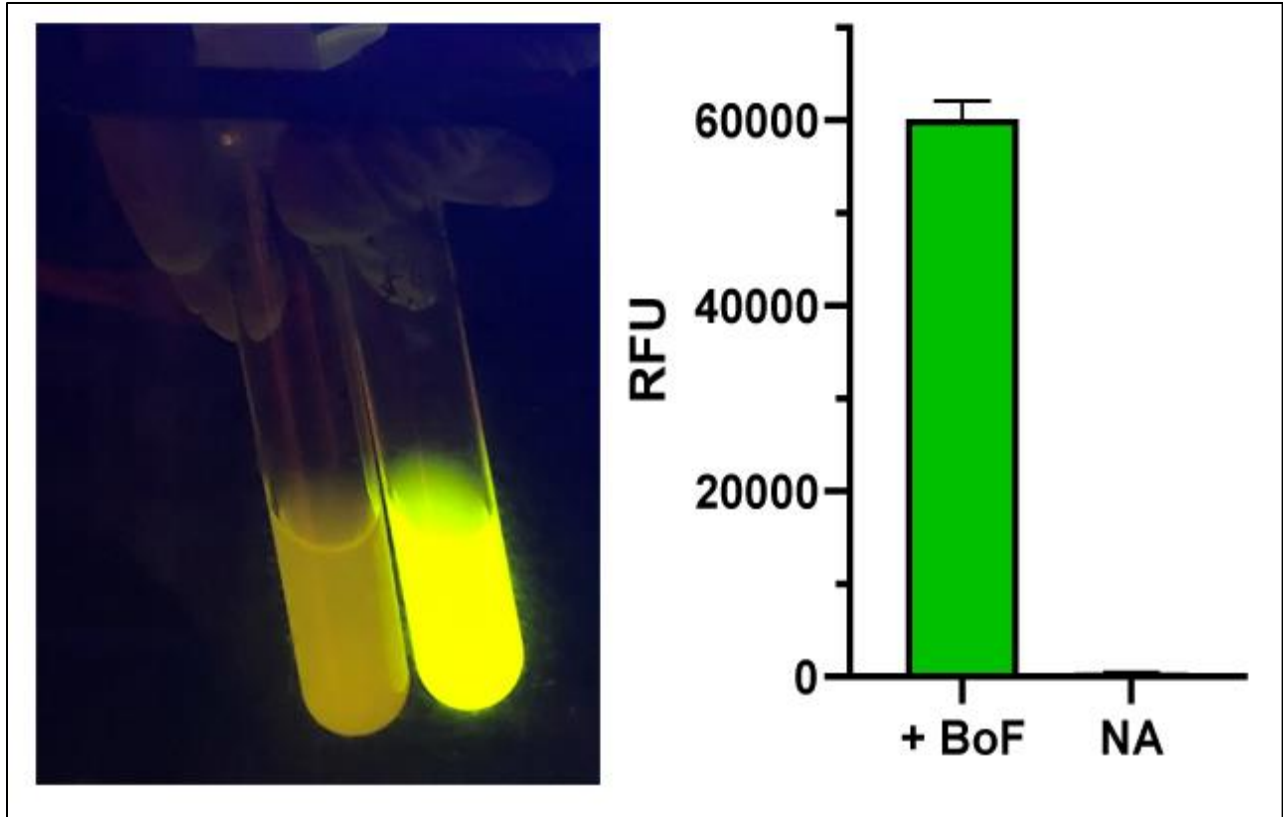


Figure 5. sfGFP-D134TAG Fluorescence Data. Relative fluorescence units (RFU) were generated by computer. The relative fluorescence of experimental and control cultures were ~6000 and 400 RFU respectively. The experimental culture was incubated in the presence of BoF, and the control culture was not.

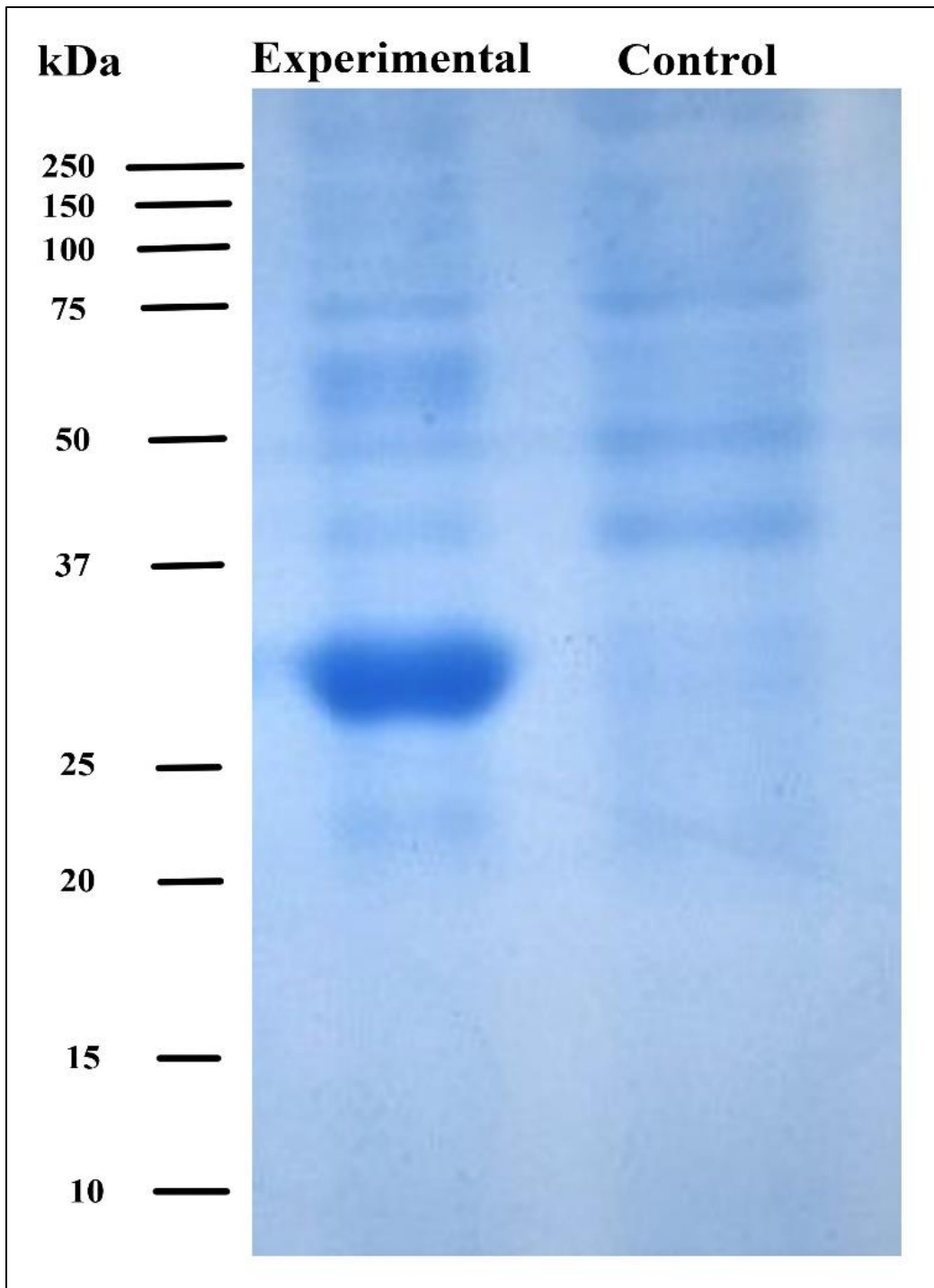


Figure 6. SDS-PHAGE. At ~28kDa, a band appears in the experimental lane while that band is absent in the control lane

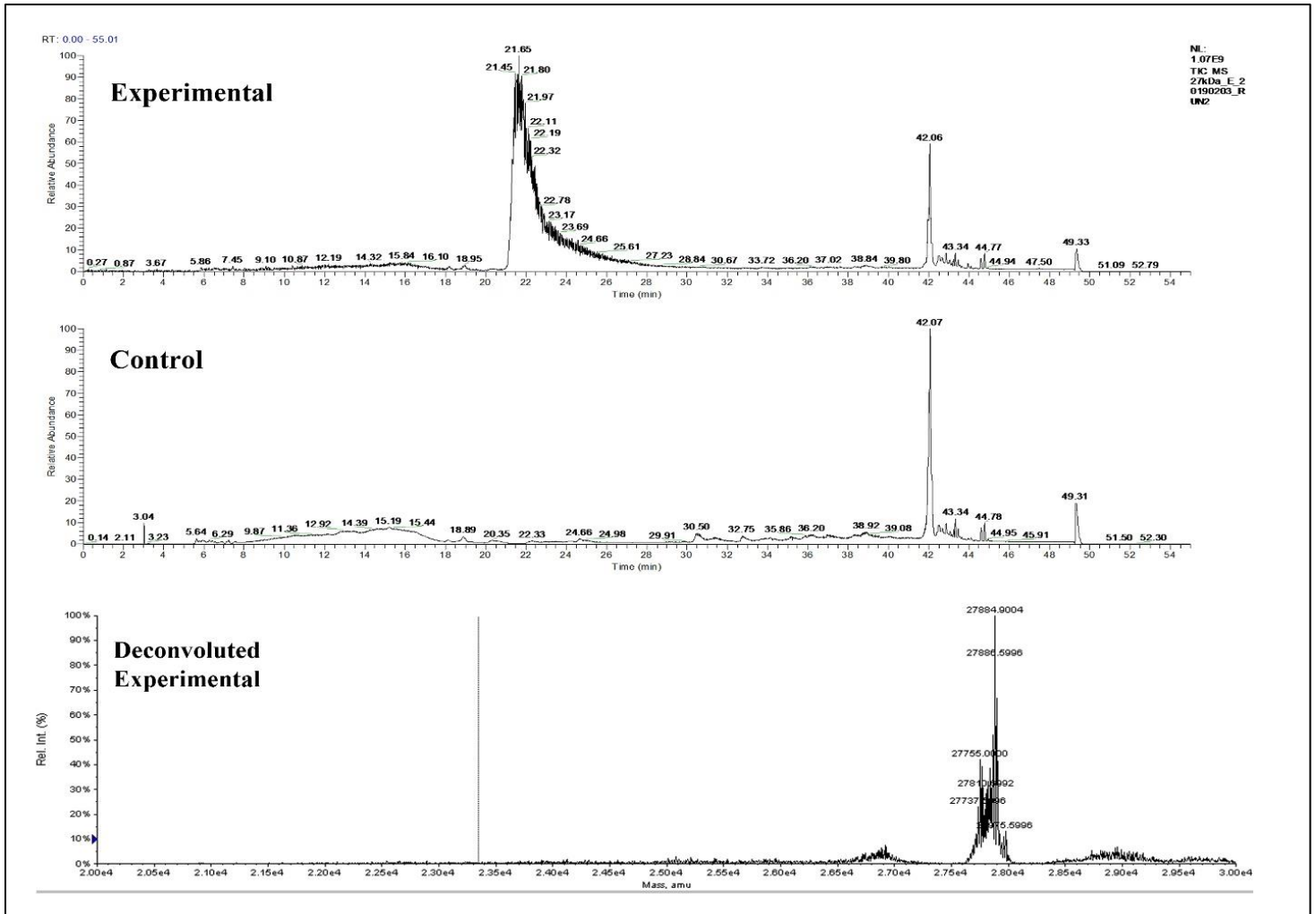


Figure 7. Mass Spectrometry of sfGFP-D134TAG with BoF Incorporation. The absence of a strong peak between 21-23min in the control data when compared to the experimental data indicates that the sfGFP was absent in the control sample. The deconvoluted experimental data suggests that the estimated mass of the sfGFP was ~27.9 kDa.

Phage Display Progress

Both the pEVOL-BoFRS and M13KO7A plasmids have been successfully transformed into a top 10 cell line, evident through growth on a kanamycin and chloramphenicol supplemented LB agar plate. (Fig. 8). Unfortunately the third and final plasmid needed for phage production was not able to be transformed into the existing cell line, resulting in no phages for selections against the CD44. We hope to have BoF-incorporated heptapeptide phage library by the end of summer 2020 if the circumstances surrounding COVID19 allow for it.

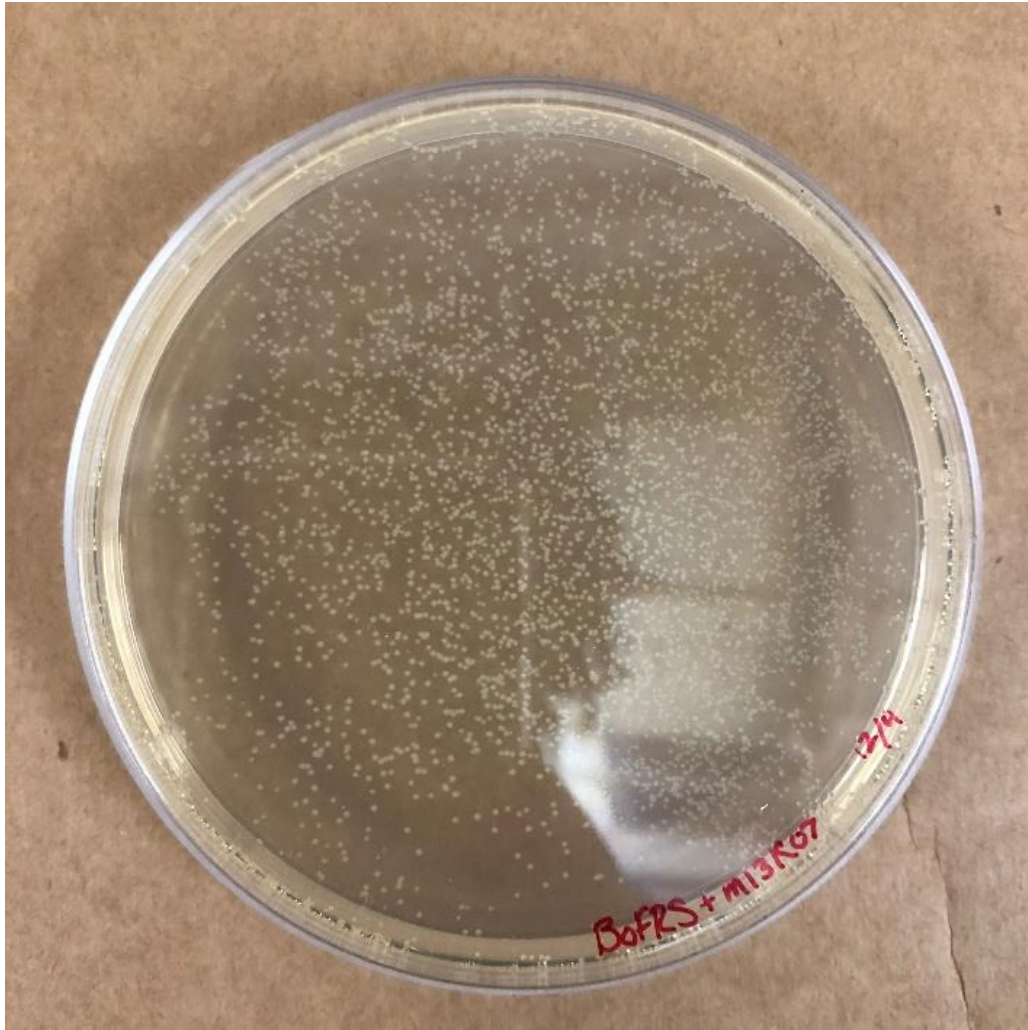


Figure 8. pEVOL-BoFRS-8/M13KO7A Transformants on LB agar plate. Two of the three plasmids required for phage production have been successful transformed into top 10 cells. The cells grew on LB agar supplemented with 34 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ chloramphenicol and 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ kanamycin.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

sfGFP Model for Testing Incorporation

The results from using the sfGFP-D134TAG model suggest that the pEVOL-BoFRS can facilitate the incorporation of BoF utilizing amber suppression with BoFRS/ tRNA^{BoF}. When BoF was present, sfGFP-D134TAG/pEVOL-BoFRS-8 transformant cultures fluoresced under UV light 15 times greater than in the absence of the ncAA. The experimental and control wells of the SDS-PAGE gel were different in that the band between 25-31 kDa, indicating the expression of sfGFP, was only present in the experimental well, and the mass spectrometry data indicated that BoF was incorporated in sfGFP assuming that the residue participated in condensation reactions with two neighboring lysine residues.

Future Research

Due to the unforeseen events surrounding the COVID-19 virus in spring 2020, phages have not been produced. The last plasmid, pADL(NNK)₇gIII, needs to be incorporated in the existing pEVOL-BoFRS-8/M13KO7A transformant cell line in order to produce phages. Once pADL(NNK)₇gIII is transformed in the existing cell line through electroporation, phage expression will be induced. The phages will have a functionally assessable randomized heptapeptide containing BoF fused to the pIII protein. We hope that the high variation (4.48×10^8) and the incorporation of BoF in the randomized peptide will allow for rapid identification of reversible covalent inhibitors of CD44 through a phage display assay.

REFERENCES

1. Hanahan DA, Weinberg RA. The Hallmarks of Cancer. *Cell*. 2000;100(1):57-70. doi:10.1016/S0092-8674(00)81683-9.
2. Shackleton M, Quintana E, Fearon ER, Morrison SJ. Heterogeneity in Cancer: Cancer Stem Cells versus Clonal Evolution. *Cell*. 2009;138(5):822-829. doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.08.017.
3. Rachmadi L, Siregar NC, Kanoko M, et al. Role of Cancer Stem Cell, Apoptotic Factor, DNA Repair, and Telomerase Toward Radiation Therapy Response in Stage IIIB Cervical Cancer. *Oman Medical Journal*. 2019;34(3):224-230. doi:10.5001/omj.2019.43.
4. Yan Y, Zuo X, Wei D. Concise Review: Emerging Role of CD44 in Cancer Stem Cells: A Promising Biomarker and Therapeutic Target. *STEM CELLS Translational Medicine*. 2015;4(9):1033-1043. doi:10.5966/sctm.2015-0048.
5. Chen C, Zhao S, Karnad A, Freeman JW. The biology and role of CD44 in cancer progression: therapeutic implications. *Journal of Hematology & Oncology*. 2018;11(1):1-3. doi:10.1186/s13045-018-0605-5.
6. Barderas R, Benito-Peña E. The 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry: phage display of peptides and antibodies. *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry*. 2019;411(12):2475-2479. doi:10.1007/s00216-019-01714-4.
7. Wu C-H, Liu I-J, Lu R-M, Wu H-C. Advancement and applications of peptide phage display technology in biomedical science. *Journal of Biomedical Science*. 2016;23(1):1-1. doi:10.1186/s12929-016-0223-x.
8. Sharma V, Zeng Y, Wang WW, Qiao Y, Kurra Y, Liu WR. Evolving the N-Terminal Domain of Pyrrolysyl-tRNA Synthetase for Improved Incorporation of Noncanonical Amino Acids. *ChemBioChem*. 2017;19(1):26-30. doi:10.1002/cbic.201700268.
9. Brustad E, Bushey ML, Lee JW, Groff D, Liu W, Schultz PG. A Genetically Encoded Boronate-Containing Amino Acid. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*. 2008;47(43):8220-8223. doi:10.1002/ange.200803240.
10. Akgun B, Hall DG. Boronic Acids as Bioorthogonal Probes for Site-Selective Labeling of Proteins. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*. 2018;57(40):13028-13044. doi:10.1002/anie.201712611.

11. Tharp JM, Hampton JT, Reed CA, et al. An amber obligate active site-directed ligand evolution technique for phage display. *Nature Communications*. 2020;11(1):2-4. doi:10.1038/s41467-020-15057-7.