UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

YEAST SYSTEM FOR SURFACE DISPLAY OF HETEROLOGOUS PROTEIN

NADZARAH BINTI ABD. WAHAB

Thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS

I certify that a panel of examiners has met on 29th April 2015 to conduct the final examination of Nadzarah Binti Abd.Wahab on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Yeast System For Surface Display Of Heterologous Protein” in accordance with Universiti Teknologi MARA Act 1976 (Akta 173). The Panel of Examiners recommends that the student be awarded the relevant degree. The panel of Examiners was as follows:

Suhaimi Muhammed, PhD
Professor
Faculty of Applied Sciences,
Universiti Teknologi MARA
(Chairman)

Sharifah Aminah Syed Mohamad., PhD
Associate Professor
Faculty of Applied Sciences,
Universiti Teknologi MARA
/Internal Examiner

Fahrul Zaman Huyop, PhD
Professor
Faculty of Biosciences & Medical Engineering,
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
(External Examiner)

Son Radu, PhD
Professor
Faculty of Science & Food Technology,
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(External Examiner)

SITI HALIJAH SHARIFF, PhD
Associate Professor
Dean
Institute of Graduates Studies
Universiti Teknologi MARA
Date: 15th February, 2016
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

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Name of Student : Nadzarah Binti Abd Wahab
Student ID No  : 2004260564
Programme  : Doctor of Philosophy
Faculty : Applied Sciences
Thesis Title  : Yeast System for Surface Display of Heterologous Protein

Signature of Student : 

Date : February 2016
ABSTRACT

An *Escherichia coli*-yeast shuttle vector for the anchoring of heterologous protein to the yeast host's cell wall was constructed using the backbone from pGAD424. A construct comprising the signal sequence from the yeast sucrose isomerase gene (SucSg), a multiple cloning site sequence and a DNA fragment encoding 67 amino acids from the carboxyl-terminal of the yeast cell wall protein 2 (CWP2) was constructed *in vitro*. The construct was designed such that a gene sequence cloned into the MCS will be translated in-frame with the SucSg and CWP2. The construct was then inserted into the HindIII site on pGAD424, replacing the GAL4 fusion tag and the original MCS sequence. DNA sequencing confirmed the correct insertion of both signal and anchor proteins in the vector. The newly obtained working plasmid vector was termed pYDSMO1. A green fluorescent protein (GFP) was incorporated as a reporter gene into the vector and transformed into a yeast host to test the functionality of the vector. A substantial fraction (60%) of the cells were observed to fluoresce green, indicating successful expression of the GFP. The green fluorescence was observed to largely concentrate in clusters on the edge of the cells, indicating that the GFP is transported and anchored to the cell surface.

To investigate the potential commercial application of the vector, a bacterial α-amylase and the yeast meiosis-specific glucoamylase were later cloned separately into the system. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is a glucose feeder therefore by attaching the amylase gene to the surface, *S.cerevisiae* is able to use starch as a feed providing a cost effective and better way of utilizing abundance source of starch. This is valuable for instance in ethanol fermentation for industry or green technology. A total of 30 yeast transformants (amy-E) were recovered indicating successful expression. Transformants A5, B1 and B6 were successfully expressed on the cell surface, but C5 and D2 shows successful expression on the growth medium. Transformants A5, B1 and B6 have fusion protein on the cell wall at 81.3%, 30% and 6.7% respectively. Three transformants were found (yeast glucose isomerase) that differs in qualitative assays compared to amy-E transformants. GA-1 and GA-3 only gave nearly 32.9% and 22.9% respectively in percentage of glucose released from a cell fraction. This was believed to be due to the catalytic domain of the two amylases despite belonging to the same group of family enzyme. Qualitative assay of the washed cell pellet and supernatant fractions indicate that both activity and anchoring efficiency varies. Anchoring of proteins therefore was not completely achieved.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONFORMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR'S DECLARATION</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</td>
<td>xix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Problem Statement                                      | 1    |
1.2 Objectives                                             | 3    |
1.3 Significance of Study                                  | 3    |

## CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Surface Display by Definition                          | 5    |
2.1.1 Bacterial Surface Display                           | 6    |
2.1.2 Phage surface Display                               | 7    |
2.1.3 Yeast Surface Display                               | 7    |
2.1.3.1 Surface Display by Other Yeast Family             | 8    |
2.2 Applications of Surface Display                        | 9    |
2.2.1 Applications of Bacterial Display                   | 9    |
2.2.2 Applications of Phage Display                       | 11   |
2.2.3 Applications of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Surface Display | 13   |
   2.2.3.1 Food Associated Industries                      | 13   |
   2.2.3.2 Medical and Pharmacology                        | 13   |