

Automated Glycan Assembly as Enabling Technology for the Glycosciences

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Automated glycan assembly (AGA)¹ allows for preparation of diverse oligo- and polysaccharides² on a solid support employing a synthesizer.³ Microwave-heating accelerates capping, deprotection and functionalization steps of AGA.⁴

A better understanding of glycosylation reactions is needed in order to optimize coupling steps and thereby shorten overall assembly times. We developed a continuous flow set-up to optimize glycosylations using minimal amounts of material while achieving high reproducibility.⁵

The data obtained using this set-up helped us to quantitate 13 parameters that influence glycosylations and enabled the use of machine learning techniques as a basis for predicting glycosylation outcomes.⁶ Currently, reactivity and optimal glycosylation temperatures are correlated in order to further accelerate AGA.⁷ Access to ever more complex glycans including cis-linked polysaccharides⁸ and complex N-glycans⁹ are enabling fundamental investigations into the structure and function of polysaccharide materials,¹⁰ vaccines¹¹ and diagnostics.

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