

1 **Reconstitution of the lipid-linked oligosaccharide pathway for assembly of high-mannose**  
2 ***N*-glycans**

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23 **Abstract**

24 The asparagine (N)-linked Man9GlcNAc2 is required for glycoprotein folding and secretion.  
25 Understanding how its structure contributes to these functions has been stymied by our inability to  
26 produce this glycan as a homogenous structure of sufficient quantities for study. Here, we report the high  
27 yield chemoenzymatic synthesis of Man9GlcNAc2 and its biosynthetic intermediates by reconstituting  
28 the eukaryotic lipid-linked oligosaccharide (LLO) pathway. Endoplasmic reticulum mannosyltransferases  
29 (MTases) are expressed in *E. coli* and used for mannosylation of the dolichol mimic, phytanyl  
30 pyrophosphate GlcNAc2. These recombinant MTases recognize unique substrates and when combined,  
31 synthesize end products that precisely mimic those *in vivo*, demonstrating that ordered assembly of LLO is  
32 due to the strict enzyme substrate specificity. Indeed, non-physiological glycans are produced only when  
33 the luminal MTases are challenged with cytosolic substrates. Reconstitution of the LLO pathway to  
34 synthesize Man9GlcNAc2 *in vitro* provides an important tool for functional studies of the N-linked  
35 glycoprotein biosynthesis pathway.

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## 39 **Introduction**

40 N-linked glycosylation is an essential modification that regulates protein structure and function<sup>1,2</sup>. The  
41 N-linked glycan is processed very differently in species-, tissue- and cell-specific ways, leading to an  
42 immensely complex glycome. Despite their heterogeneity, most of N-glycans share a common  
43 Glc3Man9GlcNAc2 precursor oligosaccharide that is pre-assembled on the ER membrane before it is  
44 transferred to protein. Fourteen mono-saccharides are sequentially added onto a dolichyl pyrophosphate  
45 (PP-Dol) membrane anchor by ER membrane-associated Alg (asparagine-linked glycosylation)  
46 glycosyltransferases (GTases)<sup>3</sup>. Once assembled, the Glc3Man9GlcNAc2 oligosaccharide is transferred  
47 to the target protein by oligosaccharyltransferase (OST), which catalyzes the formation of an  
48 N-glycosidic bond to an asparagine within the Asn-X-(Ser/Thr) consensus sequence<sup>3,4</sup>. After its transfer,  
49 Glc3Man9GlcNAc2 is modified by removal or re-addition of glucoses under the regulation of the  
50 calnexin-calreticulin cycle. Production of deglycosylated protein-bound Man9GlcNAc2 (M9GN2) is the  
51 signal that tells the cell a glycoprotein has acquired its native conformation<sup>5,6</sup>, and hence is competent to  
52 exit the ER for further cell-type specific glycosylation in the Golgi. Errors in the synthesis, transfer, or  
53 modification of the N-linked glycan causes glycoproteins to be recognized by quality control systems,  
54 preventing their exit from the ER and targeting them for degradation<sup>7-9</sup>. Its critical position at the  
55 junction of glycoprotein folding, quality control, and transport from the ER underscores the importance  
56 of understanding the molecular details of M9GN2 for a range of biological and pharmacological studies,  
57 including glycan arrays<sup>10,11</sup>, vaccine production<sup>12,13</sup>, and glycoprotein quality control<sup>14,15</sup>.

58 In eukaryotic cells, stepwise assembly of M9GN2 occurs on the ER membrane in two topologically  
59 distinct set of reactions (Figure 1)<sup>3</sup>. First, on the cytosolic face, the Alg7/Alg13/Alg14 complex adds two  
60 N-acetylglucosamines from uridine diphosphate N-acetylglucosamine (UDP-GlcNAc) to make dolichyl  
61 pyrophosphate GlcNAc2 (GN2-PP-Dol)<sup>16-21</sup>. The Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11 mannosyltransferases (MTases)  
62 then add five mannoses from guanosine diphosphate mannose (GDP-Man) to make Man5GlcNAc2  
63 (M5GN2-PP-Dol)<sup>22-26</sup>. Second, after M5GN2-PP-Dol is flipped from the cytosolic face of the ER into  
64 the lumen, four additional mannoses are added by the Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 MTases to form  
65 M9GN2-PP-Dol (Figure 1)<sup>27-30</sup>. In contrast to the cytosolic mannosylations of M5GN2 that use

66 GDP-Man as sugar donor, the luminal mannosylations use dolichyl phosphate mannose, whose synthesis  
67 is catalyzed by dolichol phosphate mannose synthase (Dpm1, Figure 1)<sup>31</sup>. Thus, biosynthesis of  
68 M9GN2-PP-Dol requires expression of nine different Alg GTases and three different donor sugar  
69 substrates.

70 Much effort has been devoted to the production of structurally homogenous M9GN2 substrate in  
71 amounts sufficient for functional and structural studies<sup>32-34</sup>. Isolation of M9GN2 from natural sources  
72 (i.e. egg yolk and soybean) is limited by low recovery<sup>35,36</sup>. Chemical synthesis of various high-mannose  
73 N-glycans has also been accomplished, resulting in higher yields but is labor-intensive and  
74 time-consuming<sup>37-40</sup>. Chemoenzymatic synthesis using LLO substrates with simplified lipids has proved  
75 useful for producing some M9GN2 precursors, including M3GN2 and M5GN2<sup>25,41-44</sup>. However, full  
76 length lipid-linked M9GN2 production has thus far been limited by its enzymatic complexity, which  
77 requires purification of a lipid carrier, various sugar donors and all the Alg MTases.

78 Here, we overcome these challenges and describe efficient production of full length M9GN2  
79 oligosaccharide *in vitro* using recombinant Alg proteins expressed from *E. coli*. Reconstitution of the  
80 entire LLO pathway from GlcNAc2 to M9GN2 is achieved in two successive one-pot reactions, which  
81 correspond to the reactions that occur on the cytosolic and on the luminal faces of the ER *in vivo*.

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## 84 **Results**

### 85 **Chemo-enzymatic synthesis of M5GN2**

86 We previously reported efficient synthesis of the M3GN2 intermediate oligosaccharide using  
87 recombinant Alg1 and Alg2 MTases, and a synthetic phytanyl pyrophosphate GlcNAc2 (GN2-PP-Phy)  
88 substrate<sup>25,45</sup>. In those studies, M3GN2-PP-Phy was sequentially synthesized with recombinant  
89 His-tagged *S. cerevisiae* Alg1 lacking its transmembrane domain (TMD) (Alg1ΔTM) to produce  
90 M1GN2, and full length Alg2, including its TMD and an N-terminal thioredoxin tag (Trx-Alg2) to  
91 produce M3GN2. The Alg2 reaction was performed in the presence of *E. coli* membrane fraction<sup>25,45</sup>. To  
92 produce M5GN2-PP-Phy, we purified Alg11, which adds the next two mannoses on M3GN2-PP-Phy. *S.*  
93 *cerevisiae* Alg11 lacking its N-terminal TMD was overexpressed and purified from *E. coli*  
94 (Supplementary Figure 1a and 1b). GN2-PP-Phy and GDP-Man were incubated sequentially with  
95 recombinant Alg1ΔTM, Trx-Alg2, and Alg11ΔTM, to produce M5GN2-PP-Phy (Figure 2a). The  
96 reactions were quenched by addition of acid to release PP-Phy from the oligosaccharides, which were  
97 purified and analyzed by ultra-performance liquid chromatography-mass spectroscopy (UPLC-MS).  
98 Without added MTase, acid hydrolyzed GlcNAc2 (GN2) eluted in two peaks (5.7 and 6.1 min, Figure 2b)  
99 designated the alpha and beta anomeric isomers of GN2<sup>45</sup>. Addition of different combinations of  
100 Alg1ΔTM, Alg2, and Alg11ΔTM resulted in a loss of GN2 and a shift in the UPLC retention time of  
101 higher molecular weight glycan products (detected by MS) (Supplementary Figure 2). In the sequential  
102 reactions, the first mannose was added by Alg1ΔTM to produce the trisaccharide M1GN2; addition of  
103 Trx-Alg2 with membrane fraction of *E. coli* (since the bilayer formation is critical for Alg2 *in vitro*  
104 activity<sup>25</sup>, membranes are always included with Trx-Alg2) to the first reaction extended M1GN2 with  
105 two additional mannoses, leading to M3GN2; final addition of Alg11ΔTM produced M5GN2, which  
106 eluted in two peaks that originated from the target product, with retention times at about 14 min in  
107 UPLC (Figure 2b).

108 *In vivo*, Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11 form a multimeric MTase complex on the cytosolic face of the ER  
109 membrane<sup>42</sup>. Assembly of this complex is required for catalysis of the five sequential mannosylations  
110 that lead to M5GN2<sup>46,47</sup>. In an attempt to simplify enzymatic M5GN2 production, we tested if

111 co-expression of recombinant Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM could form an active complex in  
112 purified *E. coli* membranes. If so, membrane fractions from *E. coli* containing this complex would  
113 enable one-pot mannosylation of GN2-PP-Phy to produce M5GN2-PP-Phy. Membrane fractions  
114 isolated from *E. coli* expressing these enzymes and lysed by sonication were analyzed by western  
115 blotting. The result demonstrated that when co-expressed, Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM in  
116 membranes prepared from *E. coli* (see Methods) migrated with a molecular weight indistinguishable  
117 from the corresponding proteins purified individually (Supplementary Figure 1c). This Alg1 $\Delta$ TM,  
118 Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM-containing membrane fraction was incubated with GN2-PP-Phy and  
119 GDP-Man. After 12 h, the reaction was quenched and acid-released oligosaccharides were analyzed by  
120 UPLC-MS. The result of this experiment suggested that M5GN2 could indeed be produced in a one-pot  
121 reaction since GN2-PP-Phy was completely converted to M5GN2 (Figure 2c), with a product yield of ~8  
122  $\mu$ g from 100  $\mu$ L reaction volume.

123 All oligosaccharides generated by above reactions were confirmed by mass spectral analysis  
124 (Supplementary Figure 2). To further determine the mannoside linkages of these M5GN2 glycans, we  
125 performed the treatment with specific mannosidases (Supplementary Figure 3). *In vivo*, Alg1 attaches  
126 the first mannose to GN2-PP-Dol via an  $\beta$ 1,4 linkage; Alg2 adds the second mannose via an  $\alpha$ 1,3 linkage  
127 and the third mannose via an  $\alpha$ 1,6 linkage (Figure 1); Alg11 adds the fourth and fifth mannoses via an  
128  $\alpha$ 1,2 linkage on the A-arm. If each of the mannoses in M5GN2 generated by above reactions is linked in  
129 the way they are *in vivo*, treatment with  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannosidase removes two  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses modified by  
130 Alg11 $\Delta$ TM<sup>43</sup>; treatment with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3 mannosidase removes two  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses modified by Alg11 $\Delta$ TM  
131 and one  $\alpha$ 1,3 mannose modified by Trx-Alg2; treatment with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3- and  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannosidase will remove  
132 two  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses modified by Alg11 $\Delta$ TM, one  $\alpha$ 1,3 mannose and one  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannose modified by  
133 Trx-Alg2<sup>25</sup>. It should be noticed that, in our study, the usual structures of LLOs are abbreviated as  
134 MxGN2, in which x indicates the number of Man residues. On the other hand, the nomenclature for  
135 those unusual and digested LLO intermediates, which will appear in the late part of the manuscript, be  
136 abbreviated as Mx(Ay/By/Cy)GN2, in which A/B/C indicates the A-, B-, or C-arm respectively; y is the  
137 number for denoting Man residues disconnected from an particular arm of the M9GN2. All these

138 structures of LLOs discussed in our study and their abbreviations have been summarized in  
139 Supplementary Table 1.

140 As shown in Supplementary Figure 3, digestion of M5GN2 with  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase yielded M3GN2  
141 as predicted for its removal of two  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses from the A-arm;  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase digestion  
142 removed two  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses and one additional  $\alpha$ 1,3-linked mannose to give M2AGN2; treating  
143 with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3- and  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannosidase generated M1GN2. These structural analyses demonstrated the  
144 M5GN2-PP-Phy synthesized *in vitro* has the same glycan structure as that synthesized *in vivo* by the  
145 LLO pathway. A scale-up of one-pot reaction produced milligram quantities of the product, whose  
146 structure was also verified by mass analysis and NMR spectrum (see in Supplementary Note 1-3,  
147 Supplementary Figure 4a and 5a). Therefore, membrane fractions from *E. coli* that co-express yeast  
148 Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11 proteins provide a simple, inexpensive source of enzymes for chemoenzymatic  
149 synthesis of M5GN2 with 100% conversion rate.

150

### 151 **Synthesis of M9GN2 and its intermediates from M5GN2-PP-Phy**

152 *In vivo*, after its synthesis on the cytosolic face of the ER, M5GN2-PP-Dol is translocated and  
153 extended to M9GN2 by the luminal Alg3, Alg9, and Alg12 MTases (Figure 1)<sup>3</sup>. Alg3 attaches the sixth  
154 mannose to M5GN2-PP-Dol via an  $\alpha$ 1,3 linkage on the B-arm (Figure 1)<sup>27,30</sup>; Alg9 adds the seventh  
155 mannose via an  $\alpha$ 1,2 linkage on the B-arm (Figure 1)<sup>28</sup>; Alg12 adds the eighth mannose via an  $\alpha$ 1,6  
156 linkage on the C-arm<sup>29,48</sup>; Alg9 also adds the ninth mannose via an  $\alpha$ 1,2 linkage on the C-arm (Figure  
157 1)<sup>28</sup>.

158 To perform the M5GN2 to M9GN2 extension reactions *in vitro* (Figure 3a), recombinant yeast Alg3,  
159 Alg9 and Alg12 were purified from *E. coli*. All these enzymes contain multiple transmembrane domains  
160 (TMHMM Server v. 2.0), which suggested that their expression in bacteria could be problematic. Indeed,  
161 attempts to express N-terminally His-tagged proteins were successful only for Alg12; both Alg3 and Alg9  
162 were unstable in *E. coli*. Protein stability was improved dramatically by attaching a Mistic-tag to the  
163 N-terminus of Alg3 and Alg9. Mistic is a short bacterial protein used to enhance expression of integral  
164 membrane proteins in *E. coli*<sup>49</sup>. Expression of Mistic-Alg3, Mistic-Alg9 as well as Alg12 was confirmed

165 by western blotting (Supplementary Figure 1d). Since detergent extraction of these enzymes from *E. coli*  
166 membrane led to decrease of activity, mannosylation reactions to extend M5GN2 to M9GN2 were  
167 performed with membrane fractions from *E. coli* expressing recombinant Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12.

168 Since the nucleotide sugar donor GDP-Man cannot cross the ER membrane, luminal ER MTases,  
169 Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 utilize lipid-linked Man-P-Dol as sugar donor (Figure 1). Purification of  
170 Man-P-Dol is laborious, therefore we tested the feasibility of using another sugar donor more amenable  
171 to *in vitro* mannosylation. Since MTases recognize and extend phytanyl-linked glycan as efficiently as  
172 dolichol-linked glycan substrates<sup>50,51</sup>, we reasoned that recombinant Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 might be  
173 able to use phytanyl- instead of dolichol-linked mannose (Man-P-Phy) as a sugar donor. Man-P-Phy is  
174 soluble so if this idea were correct, preparation of sugar donor for these *in vitro* reactions would be  
175 simplified. To test this idea, recombinant *S. cerevisiae* Dpm1<sup>31</sup>, which catalyzes addition of mannose  
176 from GDP-Man to dolichyl phosphate (P-Dol), was purified from *E. coli* and used to synthesize  
177 Man-P-Phy (Supplementary Figure 6a and 6b). Purified Dpm1 was incubated with GDP-Man and  
178 phytanyl phosphate (P-Phy), and Man-P-Phy production was monitored by thin layer chromatography  
179 (TLC). As shown in Supplementary Figure 6c, almost quantitative conversion of Man-P-Phy from P-Phy  
180 was observed, demonstrating efficient recognition of P-Phy by Dpm1. Man-P-Phy prepared by Dpm1  
181 was used as sugar donor for extension of M5GN2 to M9GN2 by recombinant Alg3, Alg9, and Alg12.

182 To produce M6GN2-PP-Phy, M5GN2-PP-Phy was incubated with *in situ* prepared Man-P-Phy and a  
183 membrane fraction purified from *E. coli* expressing Mistic-Alg3. After 12 h, acid-hydrolyzed glycan  
184 products were analyzed by UPLC-MS. These glycan products eluted in a peak at ~15.4 min with a mass  
185 m/z: of 1420.19 ([M6GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup>), which corresponds to the predicted molecular weight of M6GN2  
186 (Figure 3b and 3c). To determine the mannoside linkage in M6GN2, it was subjected to treatment with  
187 specific mannosidases. *In vivo*, Alg3 attaches one mannose to M5GN2 via an  $\alpha$ 1,3 linkage. As shown in  
188 Figure 4a, after digesting the product with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase, peaks corresponding to M2AGN2 were  
189 observed, suggesting two  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses and two  $\alpha$ 1,3-linked mannoses were removed; treatment  
190 with  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase resulted in M4A2BC2GN2, indicating the removal of two  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses.  
191 These results demonstrated that Alg3-catalyzed mannose on M6GN2 bears the predicted  $\alpha$ 1,3-mannoside



192 linkage. To gain information about the kinetics of this reaction, time-dependent conversion ratios were  
193 calculated by measuring the production of M6GN2 at different time points. After 4 h of incubation, the  
194 conversion ratio of reaction reached over 90%; by 12 h it had reached ~100% (Supplementary Figure 7a).  
195 Thus, we chose 12 h incubation for performing the complete extension of M6GN2-PP-Phy from  
196 M5GN2-PP-Phy (Figure 3b).

197 M7GN2-PP-Phy was produced by sequential addition of two mannoses to M5GN2-PP-Phy by Alg3 and  
198 Alg9. M5GN2-PP-Phy was incubated with membrane fractions from *E. coli* expressing Mystic-Alg3 for  
199 12 h, after which Mystic-Alg9 added for an additional 12 h. The molecular weight and anomeric structure  
200 of the glycan products were verified by UPLC-MS and mannosidase digestion. Peaks eluting at ~15.9  
201 min in UPLC possessed the mass peak m/z: 1582.54 ([M7GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup>), which correspond to M7GN2  
202 (Figure 3b and 3c). After treatment with  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase, peaks corresponding to M4A2BC2GN2 were  
203 observed (Figure 4b), indicating the removal of three  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses. These data demonstrated that  
204 the seventh Alg9-catalyzed mannose in M7GN2 is attached to M6GN2 by an  $\alpha$ 1,2-Man linkage. The 12 h  
205 incubation time used for Mystic-Alg9 extension in Figure 3b was determined on a kinetic analysis of  
206 time-dependent conversion ratios (Supplementary Figure 7b), which revealed nearly 100% conversion  
207 from M6GN2 to M7GN2 after 12 h.

208 M8GN2-PP-Phy was produced by addition of one mannose to M7GN2-PP-Phy by Alg12. After  
209 producing M7GN2-PP-Phy with Mystic-Alg3 and Mystic-Alg9, the reaction was stopped by heating at 100  
210 °C to inactivate Alg3 and Alg9, cooled and then incubated with a membrane fraction from *E. coli*  
211 producing Alg12 for 12 h. Glycans produced in this reaction of eluted in UPLC-MS peaks with m/z:  
212 1744.30, which corresponds to the predicted mass of M8GN2 (Figure 3b and 3c). To confirm the newly  
213 formed Alg12-catalyzed Man-Man linkage in M8GN2 is identical to the *in vivo*  $\alpha$ 1,6-linked man, the  
214 product was subjected to mannosidase treatment. As shown in Figure 4c, digestion of the product with  
215  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase removed two  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses from the A-arm, one  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannose from  
216 the B-arm, and two additional  $\alpha$ 1,3-linked mannoses (from A-arm and B-arm, respectively) to generate  
217 M3A3B2CGN2 with two  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannoside linkages on C arm. Further treatment with  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannosidase  
218 removed both these mannoses (Figure 4c). These results demonstrated that the eighth mannose added by

219 Alg12 is attached via the predicted  $\alpha$ 1,6-linkage. Kinetic analysis of recombinant Alg12 demonstrated it  
220 could convert about 80% of M7GN2-PP-Phy to M8GN2-PP-Phy after 8 h of incubation (Supplementary  
221 Figure 7c). In contrast, within 8 h both Mystic-Alg3 and Mystic-Alg9 completed conversion reactions,  
222 indicating a slower reaction rate of Alg12 compared to the other two MTases (Supplementary Figure 7). In  
223 yeast, Alg12 is N-glycosylated on one or more asparagines. Therefore, the weaker kinetic property of  
224 Alg12 may be attributed to its lack of N-glycan resulting from expression in *E. coli*.

225 Alg9 is predicted to add both the seventh and ninth  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses of M9GN2-PP-Phy<sup>28</sup>. *In vitro*  
226 extension of M9GN2 was performed by sequentially incubating M5GN2-PP-Phy with membrane  
227 fractions from *E. coli* expressing Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12. M5GN2-PP-Phy was incubated  
228 with membrane fractions from *E. coli* expressing Mystic-Alg3 for 12 h, after which Mystic-Alg9 added  
229 for an additional 12 h, then sequentially incubated with membrane fractions containing Alg12 and  
230 Mystic-Alg9 for 12 h, respectively. Peaks eluting at  $\sim$ 17.2 min showed an m/z value of 1906.55,  
231 assignable as [M9GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup> in accord with the calculated molecular weight of M9GN2 (1883.67) (Figure  
232 3b and 3c). These data demonstrated that these sequential reactions produced M9GN2 from M5GN2 with  
233 a high conversion rate (88.6%) (Figure 3b). Analysis of mannose linkages of M9GN2 was performed with  
234 linkage-specific mannosidases. As shown in Figure 4d, treatment of M9GN2 with  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase  
235 yielded M5A2BCGN2, as predicted for removal of two  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses from the A-arm, one  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked  
236 mannose from the B-arm, and one  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannose from the C-arm. Similarly,  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase  
237 digestion removed four  $\alpha$ 1,2-linked mannoses and two additional  $\alpha$ 1,3-linked mannoses (from A-arm and  
238 B-arm, respectively) to generate M3A3B2CGN2 with two  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannoside linkages on C arm. Peaks  
239 corresponding to M1GN2 were observed after treatment with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3 and  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannosidases, the latter  
240 removing two additional  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannoses. Further treatment with  $\beta$ -mannosidase hydrolyzed the last  
241  $\beta$ 1,4-linked mannose, leaving GN2 as the sole product (Figure 4d). Taken together, these results  
242 demonstrated unequivocally that M9GN2 bearing four  $\alpha$ 1,2-man, two  $\alpha$ 1,3-man, two  $\alpha$ 1,6-man and one  
243  $\beta$ 1,4-man was successfully reconstituted *in vitro*, and its structure is identical to that produced *in vivo*<sup>52</sup>.

244 To efficiently synthesize the M9GN2 glycan from M5GN2-PP-Phy, a one-pot reaction was attempted.  
245 Membrane fractions prepared from *E. coli* expressing Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12 were mixed

246 together and incubated with M5GN2-PP-Phy for 20 h. After acid hydrolysis, reaction products were  
247 subjected to UPLC-MS analysis. As shown in Figure 3d, UPLC peaks corresponding to M5GN2  
248 substrate (eluting at around 14.8 min) were completely converted to product in a single peak eluting at  
249 ~17.3 min. This one-pot reaction converted 100% of M5GN2 to M9GN2, an efficiency higher than that  
250 of its stepwise synthesis (Figure 3c and 3d). The reason for this difference in yield was not further  
251 examined. Nevertheless, these results demonstrate the successful *in vitro* synthesis of M9GN2 with near  
252 complete yield, with a product yield of ~12  $\mu\text{g}$  from 100  $\mu\text{L}$  reaction volume. When scaled-up, this  
253 reaction gave milligram quantities of the product, whose structure was verified by mass analysis and NMR  
254 spectrum (see Supplementary Note 1-3, Supplementary Figure 4b, 5b-d).

255

### 256 **Alg MTases display strict substrate specificity**

257 There is strong genetic evidence to support the model that the strict substrate specificity of each Alg  
258 GTase leads to ordered assembly of LLO glycans<sup>23,29</sup>. Our *in vitro* system provided an opportunity to  
259 rigorously test the specificity of each Alg MTases by varying the order of addition of each enzyme in the  
260 presence of different substrates.

261 The cytosolic Alg MTases catalyze all the cytosolic-facing ER reactions. Among them, Alg1 is known  
262 to be responsible for the addition of a  $\beta$ 1,4-linked mannose to GN2-PP-Phy. To determine if Alg2 or  
263 Alg11 could also use GN2-PP-Phy as substrate, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM were incubated in the reaction  
264 buffer with GN2-PP-Phy and GDP-Man. Reaction products were analyzed after hydrolysis by  
265 UPLC-MS. As shown in Figure 5a, in the absence of Alg1, no mannosylation product was detected,  
266 indicating that neither Trx-Alg2 nor Alg11 $\Delta$ TM could recognize GN2 as the substrate. When Alg1 $\Delta$ TM  
267 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM were incubated with GN2-PP-Phy and GDP-Man in the absence of Trx-Alg2, Alg1 $\Delta$ TM  
268 extended GN2 to M1GN2, but M1GN2 was not further mannosylated by Alg11 $\Delta$ TM (Figure 5a). This  
269 result demonstrated that Alg11 could not recognize M1GN2-PP-Phy as its substrate. Taken together,  
270 these data demonstrate recombinant Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM each showed the capacity to  
271 distinguish the corresponding acceptor structures from other intermediates<sup>23</sup>.

272 Similar order of addition experiments was performed with Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12, which catalyze the

273 luminal reactions to produce M9GN2 from M5GN2. Extension of M5GN2 was performed in the  
274 presence of M5GN2-PP-Phy and Man-P-Phy, along with different combinations of Alg 3, Alg9, and  
275 Alg12. Reaction products were analyzed after hydrolysis by UPLC-MS (Figure 5b). We found that in  
276 the absence of Alg3, neither Alg9 nor Alg12 could add any mannoses to M5GN2-PP-Phy. In the absence  
277 of Alg9, even after Alg3 extended M5GN2 to M6GN2, Alg12 could not add any additional mannoses to  
278 it (Figure 5b). These results implied that Alg9 and Alg12 each are capable of recognizing only the  
279 product of preceding Alg in the LLO pathway. Consistent with *in vivo* specificity studies<sup>29,53</sup>, our results  
280 demonstrated that each of the recombinant Alg proteins display strict substrate specificity, and it is this  
281 substrate specificity that dictates the strict order of LLO mannosylation.

282

### 283 **Synthesis of non-physiological LLOs**

284 Another notable observation was the absence of unusual non-physiological oligosaccharide products  
285 in these *in vitro* reactions. *In vivo*, LLO synthesis is compartmentalized in the cytosol and lumen. These  
286 two topologically distinct reaction stages are bridged by a flippase that translocates M5GN2-PP-Dol  
287 across the membrane from the cytosol to the ER lumen (Figure 1). Because of these topological  
288 constraints, MTases whose catalytic domains reside in the ER lumen or in the cytosol are exposed to  
289 only a subset of LLO intermediates *in vivo*. That is, cytosolic LLO intermediates are not found in the ER  
290 lumen and vice versa. Our *in vitro* two-pot reactions mimicked these constraints by physically separating  
291 the Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11 reactions from those of Alg3, Alg9, and Alg12. Thus, one explanation for the  
292 absence of unusual glycan byproducts is that their synthesis is simply prevented by  
293 compartmentalization of enzymes. If this is correct, luminal enzymes should be able to extend cytosolic  
294 intermediates if they are available. To test this idea, cytosolic LLOs, including GN2-PP-Phy,  
295 M1GN2-PP-Phy, M3GN2-PP-Phy and an intermediate M2GN2-PP-Phy  
296 (Man-( $\alpha$ 1,3)-Man-GlcNAc2-PP-Phy) generated by an Alg2 mutant (G257P) that accumulates M1GN2  
297 and M2GN2 were prepared<sup>25</sup>. These intermediates were incubated with recombinant Alg3, Alg9, and  
298 Alg12, and glycan products analyzed by UPLC-MS. In the presence of Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and  
299 Alg12, neither GN2-PP-Phy, M1GN2-PP-Phy nor M2GN2-PP-Phy was elongated (Figure 6a). In

300 contrast, a significant amount of M3GN2-PP-Phy was elongated by Alg3 to produce M4A2BC2GN2  
301 (Figure 6b). Two groups of peaks could be detected by UPLC-MS. As confirmed by MS, glycans in the  
302 first group eluted ~ 12.7 min and were derived from M3GN2-PP-Phy while glycans in the second group  
303 of peaks eluted at about 13.7 min and were derived from M4A2BC2GN2 (Supplementary Figure 8a).  
304 Sequential addition of Mistic-Alg3 and Mistic-Alg9 converted M3GN2-PP-Phy to  
305 M5A2C2GN2-PP-Phy. In contrast, incubation of M3GN2 with both Mistic-Alg9 and Alg12 failed to  
306 produce any additional products. These results suggested that extension of M3GN2-PP-Phy to  
307 M5A2C2GN2-PP-Phy requires successive and ordered mannosylation by Alg3 and Alg9. This idea was  
308 verified since a reaction that included M3GN2 incubated sequentially with Mistic-Alg3 for 12 h,  
309 followed Mistic-Alg9 for another 12 h, followed by Alg12 for another 12 h, produced M7AGN2 (Figure  
310 6b). The acid-hydrolyzed glycan products were analyzed by UPLC-MS (Supplementary Figure 8a). To  
311 confirm the structures of these unusual LLOs, the final product M7AGN2 was treated with specific  
312 mannosidases (Supplementary Figure 8b). Our results confirmed that all the additional mannoses added  
313 on M3GN2 in M7AGN2 derived from the ordered mannosylation by Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12. Therefore,  
314 we concluded that M3GN2 can serve as the substrate of ER luminal MTases *in vitro* for production of  
315 several unusual LLOs bearing high-mannose type glycans (Supplementary Table 1).

316

## 317 **Discussion**

318 In this study, we describe *in vitro* reconstitution of the eukaryotic LLO pathway from GN2 to M9GN2,  
319 using recombinant Alg MTases. Reconstitution involved two successive one-pot reactions, which  
320 correspond to the *in vivo* cytosolic and luminal reactions. First, five mannoses were added to GN2 by  
321 recombinant Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11 to produce M5GN2. This M5GN2 then served as the substrate for  
322 extension by recombinant Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 to produce M9GN2. These two sequential one-pot  
323 reactions produced an M9GN2 oligosaccharide whose mannose linkages were verified to be identical to  
324 that produced *in vivo*.

325 *In vitro* synthesis of M5GN2 was first described by Locher and co-workers using yeast Alg1, Alg11,  
326 and human Alg2 expressed and purified from mammalian cells<sup>43</sup>. While this method provides proof of

327 principle, it is impractical as general strategy for M5GN2 production because of its low yield as well as  
328 the high cost of preparing human Alg2. We previously described purification of active, recombinant  
329 yeast Alg2 from *E. coli* and built on that approach for M5GN2 synthesis in the present study.  
330 Mannosylation of GN2-PP-Phy by purified Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM to produce  
331 M5GN2-PP-Phy was extremely efficient, with a conversion rate approaching 100% (Figure 2b). Alg1,  
332 Alg2 and Alg11 associate *in vivo*<sup>46</sup> and we discovered they also do so in *E. coli* when co-expressed. This  
333 property was exploited to develop a one-pot reaction to mannosylate GN2-PP-Phy to M5GN2-PP-Phy,  
334 with a membrane fraction from *E. coli* that simultaneously over-expressed recombinant Alg1, Alg2 and  
335 Alg11 as a source of enzymes (Figure 2c). This co-expression system is important because it  
336 significantly simplifies M5GN2-PP-Phy synthesis *in vitro*.

337 Assembly of M9GN2-PP-Dol from M5GN2 occurs in the ER lumen, and genetic evidence has  
338 implicated Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 as the GTases responsible for these activities<sup>3</sup>. Our experiments  
339 showing that recombinant Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12 were both necessary and sufficient to  
340 extend M5GN2 to M9GN2 provide direct evidence for their activities, which has thus far been lacking  
341 (Figure 3 and 4). Furthermore, the substrate specificity of each of these MTases was studied by adding  
342 different combinations of Alg proteins to the substrate (Figure 5). Our results not only provided direct  
343 evidence that Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 are the luminal MTases that elongate M5GN2 to M9GN2 during  
344 LLO biosynthesis *in vivo*, but also verified the strict substrate specificity of their MTase activities at  
345 enzyme level (Figure 5b).

346 Overexpression of Alg12 in an *alg9* $\Delta$  strain accumulates similar levels of M6GN2 and M7BCGN2  
347 N-glycans *in vivo*, indicating that the second  $\alpha$ 1,6-man (Figure 1) can be directly added to the M6GN2  
348 structure even in the absence of Alg9 *in vivo*<sup>54,55</sup>. We did not observe such a direct modification on  
349 M6GN2 by recombinant Alg12 *in vitro* under standard conditions (Figure 5b). However, addition of a  
350 5-fold excess of Alg12 coupled with a much longer incubation time (to over 48 h) allowed detection of a  
351 small amount of product (Supplementary Figure 9a). This product was isolated and analyzed by  
352 UPLC-MS, and treated with a series of linkage-specific mannosidases as described above  
353 (Supplementary Figure 9b, 9c). These experiments confirmed this product as M7BCGN2, which has an

354 additional  $\alpha$ 1,6-man on the C arm of M6GN2. One explanation for the apparent difference between the  
355 *in vivo* and *in vitro* reactions may be due to a more robust activity of N-glycosylated Alg12 produced in  
356 a eukaryote compared to recombinant Alg12 from *E. coli* (Supplementary Figure 7c) that lacks  
357 N-glycan(s).

358 Interestingly, stepwise synthesis of M9GN2 using Mistic-Alg3, Mistic-Alg9 and Alg12 from  
359 membrane fractions converted less than 90% of M5GN2-PP-Phy to M9GN2-PP-Phy (Figure 3b), while  
360 the one-pot reaction with membranes showed ~100% conversion. This suggests that these luminal  
361 MTases work better when simultaneously mixed. The cytosolic-facing Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11 MTases  
362 (Figure 2c) work as a multimeric complex *in vivo*<sup>46</sup> and it is tempting to speculate that the luminal Alg3,  
363 Alg9 and Alg12 may physically interact with one another as well. This physical interaction would be  
364 facilitated in the one pot reaction, which in turn may promote the higher efficiency we observe *in vitro*.  
365 Further experiments are required to test if Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 form complexes *in vivo* or *in vitro*.

366 *In vivo*, M3GN2-PP-Dol cannot gain access to the ER lumen. This creates a topological constraint that  
367 prevents the luminal Alg3, Alg9, and Alg12 from potentially producing aberrant LLO products. When  
368 M3GN2-PP-Phy was incubated with recombinant Alg3, we observed a moderate yield of  
369 M4A2BC2GN2 glycan (Figure 6b), suggesting that the two Alg11-catalyzed  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannose on the A  
370 arm are not critical ligands required for glycan recognition by Alg3. Further mannosylation of  
371 M4A2BC2GN2 by Alg9 produced M5A2C2 glycan, and the combination of Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12  
372 resulted in M7AGN2 (Figure 6b). Interestingly, incubation with the combination of Alg3, Alg9 and  
373 Alg12 somehow increased the conversion rate of Alg3, leading to the accumulation of M6A2CGN2 and  
374 M7AGN2. *alg11* $\Delta$  yeast mutants have been reported to accumulate some unusual LLO with six or seven  
375 mannoses<sup>26,56</sup>, but how or why this happens has been a mystery. Our results provide an explanation of  
376 this phenomenon. *alg11* $\Delta$  mutants accumulate high levels of M3GN2-PP-Dol. This may favor the  
377 occasional translocation of M3GN2 into the ER lumen, which in turn could provide the M3GN2-PP-Dol  
378 substrate for elongation by Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 to produce aberrant luminal LLOs. The ability to  
379 produce these unusual high-mannose glycans, such as M7AGN2 (Supplementary Table 1), may be  
380 useful for biochemical studies that will provide a deeper understanding of the substrate specificity of

381 these MTases.

382 Scaling-up these two one-pot reactions produced milligram quantities of products, which are  
383 sufficient for performing further bioassays. M9GN2 is a crucial glycan intermediate in the N-linked  
384 glycosylation pathway as the substrate for downstream enzymes involved in its transfer to protein and  
385 further modification. Thus, our study provides an important tool for biochemical studies of the  
386 mechanism and structure of those downstream enzymes.

387

## 388 **Methods**

### 389 **Plasmid Constructions**

390 All expression plasmids were constructed such that each encoded Alg protein contained an N-terminal  
391 His6 tag. pET28-Alg1 $\Delta$ TM and pET32-Trx-Alg2 have been described.<sup>25,45</sup> The *Mistic* gene<sup>49</sup>, was  
392 synthesized (BGI, Shenzhen, China) and cloned into the *Nde*I and *Nhe*I sites of pET28 (Thermo  
393 Scientific, MA, USA), generating pET28-Mistic. Yeast genes encoding Alg11 $\Delta$ TM (aa 45-548), Dpm1,  
394 Alg3, Alg9 and Alg12 were amplified by PCR using genomic DNA of *S. cerevisiae*. *ALG11 $\Delta$ TM*, *DPM1*  
395 and *ALG12* were cloned into vector pET28. *ALG3* and *ALG9* were cloned into pET28-Mistic.  
396 Oligonucleotide primers are listed in Supplementary Table 2. Expression plasmids, including their  
397 description, parent plasmid, and cloning sites are listed in Supplementary Table 3. Plasmid sequencing  
398 data are provided as Supplementary Data 1. To construct the Alg1, Alg2, Alg11 co-expression plasmid  
399 (pET28-Alg1 $\Delta$ TM-Trx-Alg2-Alg11 $\Delta$ TM), *ALG1 $\Delta$ TM*, *TRX-ALG2* and *ALG11 $\Delta$ TM* were amplified by  
400 PCR from pET28-Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, pET32-Trx-Alg2 and pET28-Alg11 $\Delta$ TM, and sequentially cloned into  
401 *Nco*I and *Bam*HI, *Sac*I and *Eco*RI, *Not*I and *Xho*I sites of one pET28 vector, respectively. Insertion of 5'  
402 T7 promoter and ribosome binding sites in front of both *TRX-ALG2* and *ALG11 $\Delta$ TM* genes allowed their  
403 simultaneous expression.

404

### 405 **Protein expression and purification**

406 All proteins used in this study contained an N-terminal His6-tag. Overexpression of Alg1 $\Delta$ TM,  
407 Trx-Alg2, Alg11 $\Delta$ TM, Dpm1, Mistic-Alg3, Mistic-Alg9, Alg12, and the co-expression of Alg1 $\Delta$ TM,



408 Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM were performed in *E. coli* Rosetta (DE3) cells originating from BL21 (Thermo  
409 Scientific, MA, USA, Catalogue Number: 70-954-4). Cells were cultured in Terrific-Broth (TB, 1.2%  
410 tryptone, 2.4% yeast extract, 0.5% glycerol, 17 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and 72 mM K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>) at 37 °C until the  
411 OD<sub>600</sub> was between 0.8 and 1.2. Cultures were cooled to 16 °C prior to induction with  
412 isopropyl- $\beta$ -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG, Sangon Biotech, Shanghai, China). IPTG was added to a  
413 final concentration of 0.1 mM to induce T7-dependent gene expression. Cultures were induced overnight  
414 with shaking at 16°C. After induction, cells were harvested and resuspended in buffer A [25 mM  
415 Tris/HCl (pH 8.0) and 150 mM NaCl], then disrupted by sonication on ice to produce a lysate that was  
416 further processed as described below.

417 Dpm1 was purified using the same method as previously described for purification of Alg1 $\Delta$ TM and  
418 Trx-Alg2<sup>25,45</sup>. Briefly, the cell lysate was spun down to remove cellular debris (4,000  $\times$  g, 20 min, 4 °C),  
419 followed by pelleting of insoluble materials containing *E. coli* membrane (20,000  $\times$  g, 90 min, 4 °C).  
420 Proteins in the insoluble fraction were solubilized for 1 h in buffer A containing 1% Triton X-100.  
421 His-tagged Dpm1 was purified from the detergent-soluble fraction with HisTrap HP affinity  
422 chromatography (GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK). Alg11 $\Delta$ TM was purified as followed. The cell  
423 lysate was spun down to remove cellular debris and insoluble material (12,000  $\times$  g, 30 min, 4 °C).  
424 Alg11 $\Delta$ TM in the supernatant was purified using HisTrap HP affinity chromatography. The purified  
425 protein was dialyzed against buffer [25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 50 mM NaCl], followed by  
426 concentration using Amicon Ultra 10K NMWL filtration units (Millipore, MA, USA). Protein  
427 concentration was determined with the BCA assay kit (Sangon Biotech, Shanghai, China).

428 To prepare membrane fractions from *E. coli* expressing recombinant proteins, the cell lysate was spun  
429 down to remove cellular debris (4,000  $\times$  g, 20 min, 4 °C), followed by pelleting of the membranes  
430 (100,000  $\times$  g, 60 min, 4 °C). For Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12, membranes were homogenized in  
431 [14 mM MES/NaOH (pH 6.5), 30% glycerol]; for co-expressed Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM,  
432 membranes were homogenized in [50 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.5), 30% glycerol]. The membrane fractions  
433 were stored at -20 °C. Enzyme activity in membranes remained active for at least three months.

434 Protein expression was verified by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

435 (SDS-PAGE) and western blotting (Supplementary Figure 1). Protein samples were boiled for 5 min at  
436 100 °C before loading. Typically, 10 µg of protein samples were separated by 10% or 12% SDS-PAGE,  
437 followed by coomassie brilliant blue staining. For western blotting, samples were transferred onto  
438 polyvinylidenedifluoride membranes (Bio-Rad, CA, USA), incubated with anti-His mouse mAb  
439 (1:2,000) (Code number: HT501, Lot number: M21022, TransGen Biotech, Beijing, China), followed by  
440 goat anti-mouse IgG, HRP (1:5,000) (Code number: H5201-01, Lot number: M21015, TransGen  
441 Biotech, Beijing, China) and detected by chemiluminescence (ECL, Bio-Rad, CA, USA).

442

#### 443 **Preparation of phytanyl phosphate mannose with Dpm1**

444 Chemo-enzymatic synthesis of phytanyl phosphate mannose (Man-P-Phy) was performed as  
445 reported<sup>51</sup>. Briefly, standard reaction mixtures contained 50 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.5), 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1%  
446 NP-40, 20 mM P-Phy, 50 mM GDP-Man (Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA), and 2 mg/mL purified Dpm1 in a  
447 total volume of 50 µL. The reaction was performed at 30 °C for 10 h, Dpm1-dependent mannose  
448 transfer efficiency from GDP-Man to P-Phy was monitored by thin layer chromatography using Merck  
449 60 F<sub>254</sub> silica-coated plates (Millipore, MA, USA) with a chloroform/methanol/water (6.5:3.5:0.4, V/V)  
450 solvent and developed in ethanol/sulphuric acid (19:1, V/V) with heating. The conversion yield of P-Phy  
451 to Man-P-Phy was estimated by comparing the newly formed product spot with P-Phy. This reaction  
452 mixture was directly added into MTase reactions without further treatment.

453

#### 454 **Enzymatic assembly of M1~9GN2-PP-Phy**

455 The chemical synthesis of GN2-PP-Phy was prepared as reported<sup>57,58</sup>. All enzyme assays were  
456 performed in the following buffer: [14 mM MES/NaOH (pH 6.0), 4 mM potassium citrate, 10 mM  
457 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.05% NP-40, 50 µM GN2-PP-Phy, 1 M sucrose; 2 mM GDP-Man] in a total  
458 volume of 100 µL. For assembly of the M5GN2-PP-Phy, purified enzymes [Alg1ΔTM (0.5 µg/mL),  
459 Trx-Alg2 (150 µg/mL) and Alg11ΔTM (50 µg/mL)] were added stepwise and incubated at 30 °C for 12  
460 h (each); Reactions performed with membrane fractions from *E. coli* that co-expressed Alg1ΔTM,  
461 Trx-Alg2 and Alg11ΔTM (20 µg/mL) were incubated at 30 °C for 12 h.

462 For stepwise assembly of M9GN2-PP-Phy from M5GN2-PP-Phy, membrane fractions from *E. coli*  
463 expressing [Mistic-Alg3 (20 mg/mL), Mistic-Alg9 (20 mg/mL) and Alg12 (20 mg/mL)] were added  
464 stepwise and incubated at 30 °C for 12 h with 2 mM Man-P-Phy. For one-pot synthesis of  
465 M9GN2-PP-Phy from M5GN2-PP-Phy, these membrane fractions were incubated simultaneously with 2  
466 mM Man-P-Phy at 30 °C for 20 h, rather than sequentially.

467

#### 468 **Mannosidase digestions**

469 Digestion of glycans (2.5 nmol) with 3.2 U of  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase (*Xanthomonas manihotis*, New  
470 England Biolabs, MA, USA), 4 U of  $\alpha$ 1,6-mannosidase (*Xanthomonas manihotis*, New England Biolabs)  
471 and 0.1 mU of  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase (*Aspergillus saitoi*, ProZyme, CA, USA) were performed in 10  $\mu$ L at  
472 25 °C for 16 h in buffers supplied by the manufacture. Digestion of glycans (2.5 nmol) with 25 mU of  
473  $\beta$ -mannosidase (*Helix pomatia*, Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA) were performed in 50 mM sodium citrate  
474 (pH 4.4) at 25 °C for 16 h.

475

#### 476 **UPLC-MS analysis of saccharides**

477 Samples were hydrolyzed with 20 mM hydrogen chloride. After 1 h incubation at 100 °C, the  
478 water-soluble glycan-containing fraction was desalted by solid-phase extraction using 1 mL Supelclean  
479 ENVI-Carb Slurry (Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA) and lyophilized. Dried samples were dissolved in water  
480 prior to UPLC-MS analysis. Samples were analyzed on a TSQ Quantum Ultra (Thermo Scientific, MA,  
481 USA) coupled to a Dionex Ultimate 3000 UPLC (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA). Glycans were applied  
482 on an Acquity UPLC BEH Amide column (1.7  $\mu$ m, 2.1 x 100 mm, Waters, MA, USA) and eluted with  
483 an acetonitrile gradient with a flow rate 0.2 mL/min. The gradient program was set as follows; 0-2 min,  
484 isocratic 80% acetonitrile; 2-15 min, 80-50% acetonitrile; 15-18 min, isocratic 50% acetonitrile. Eluent  
485 was monitored by measuring total ions at positive mode in the mass range of m/z 400-2000.

486

#### 487 **Data availability**

488 The source data underlying Supplementary Figures 1a-d, 6b-c and 7a-c are provided as a Source Data  
489 file. A reporting summary for this Article is available as a Supplementary Information file. All other data

490 that support the results of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable  
491 request.

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637 **Author contributions**

638 S.-T. L., T.-T. L, X.-X. X., Y. D., N. W. and X.-D. G. performed experiments and analyzed data. Z. L.  
639 and T. K. provided expertise and feedback. N. W., D. N. and X.-D. G. proposed and supervised the  
640 project and wrote the manuscript. All authors confirmed and edited the manuscript.

641

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652

653 **Competing interests**

654 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest to this work.

655

656

657 **Figure legends**

658 **Figure 1.** Mannosylation in the eukaryotic LLO biosynthesis pathway. Alg mannosyltransferases  
659 (MTases) catalyze formation of M9GN2-PP-Dol by sequentially adding mannoses to GN2-PP-Dol.  
660 Cytosolic reactions use the nucleotide sugar GDP-Man donor, while luminal enzymes use Man-P-Dol,  
661 synthesized by Dpm1. Linkages of each sugar are indicated on the right, as are the A, B and C arms of  
662 the triantennary oligosaccharide.

663

664 **Figure 2.** *In vitro* M5GN2-PP-Phy synthesis. (a) Schematic diagram of sequential mannosylation  
665 reactions catalyzed by Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM. (b) UPLC chromatograms of hydrolyzed  
666 glycans from reactions with various combinations of purified MTases. Each segment of sequential  
667 reactions was incubated for 12 h, as described in Materials and Methods. Reactions that included  
668 GN2-PP-Phy, GDP-Man, and Alg1 $\Delta$ TM produced M1GN2 (Alg1 $\Delta$ TM); sequential addition of  
669 Alg1 $\Delta$ TM and Trx-Alg2 produced M3GN2 [(Alg1 $\Delta$ TM)+Trx-Alg2]; sequential addition of Alg1 $\Delta$ TM,  
670 Trx-Alg2, and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM generated M5GN2 [(Alg1 $\Delta$ TM+Trx-Alg2)+Alg11 $\Delta$ TM]. (c) UPLC  
671 chromatogram of hydrolyzed glycans from a one-pot reaction containing GN2-PP-Phy, GDP-Man and a  
672 membrane fraction purified from *E. coli* that co-expressed Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2 and Alg11 $\Delta$ TM.

673

674 **Figure 3.** *In vitro* assembly of the M9GN2-PP-Phy. (a) Schematic diagram of sequential mannosylation  
675 reactions catalyzed by Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12. (b) UPLC chromatograms of hydrolyzed  
676 glycans from reactions with various combinations of membrane fraction purified from *E. coli* expressing  
677 either Alg3, Alg9 or Alg12. In the presence of M5GN2-PP-Phy and Man-P-Phy, addition of Mystic-Alg3  
678 produced M6GN2 (Mystic-Alg3); sequential addition of Mystic-Alg3 and Mystic-Alg9 produced M7GN2  
679 (Mystic-Alg3+Mystic-Alg9); the reaction with Mystic-Alg3 and Mystic-Alg9 was stopped by heating,  
680 then adding Alg12 produced M8GN2 [(Mystic-Alg3+Mystic-Alg9)/heat+Alg12]; sequential addition of  
681 Mystic-Alg3 for 12 h, Mystic-Alg9 for 12 h, Alg12 for 12 h and Mystic-Alg9 for 12 h generated M9GN2  
682 (Mystic-Alg3+Mystic-Alg9+Alg12). (c) Mass spectra of glycans released from Phy-PP-linked  
683 oligosaccharide products. Mass analyses showed the peaks eluted (Figure 3b) at ~15.5 min, ~16.0 min,

684 ~16.6 min and ~17.2 min correspond to M6GN2 ([M6GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup>), M7GN2 ([M7GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup>), M8GN2  
685 ([M8GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup>) and M9GN2 ([M9GN2+Na]<sup>+</sup>), respectively. (d) UPLC chromatogram of hydrolyzed  
686 glycans from reactions in which Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12 were added simultaneously for 20  
687 h in one pot to generate M9GN2 from M5GN2-PP-Phy and Man-P-Phy.

688

689 **Figure 4.** UPLC-MS analyses of mannosidase digestion of M9GN2 and precursors. Each of the glycans  
690 generated in experiments shown in Figure 3b were digested with linkage-specific mannosidases,  
691 including:  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase, which removes terminal  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses;  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase, which  
692 removes terminal  $\alpha$ 1,2 mannoses and terminal  $\alpha$ 1,3 mannoses;  $\alpha$ 1,6-mannosidase, which removes  
693 terminal non-branched  $\alpha$ 1,6 mannoses;  $\beta$ -mannosidase, which removes terminal  $\beta$ -mannoses. Digestion  
694 products and their deduced structure are depicted schematically (a) Digestion of M6GN2 with  
695  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase produced M2AGN2; while its digestion with  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase produced  
696 M4A2BC2GN2. (b) Digestion of M7GN2 with  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase produced M4A2BC2GN2. (c)  
697 Digestion of M8GN2 with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase produced M3A3B2CGN2; while its digestion with  
698  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase and  $\alpha$ 1,6-mannosidase produced M1GN2. (d) Digestion of M9GN2 with  
699  $\alpha$ 1,2-mannosidase produced M5BCGN2; digestion with  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase produced M3A3B2CGN2;  
700 digestion with both  $\alpha$ 1,2-3-mannosidase and  $\alpha$ 1,6-mannosidase produced M1GN2; further treatment  
701 with  $\beta$ -mannosidase produced GN2.

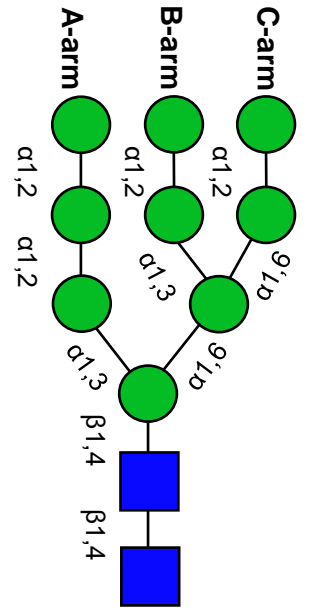
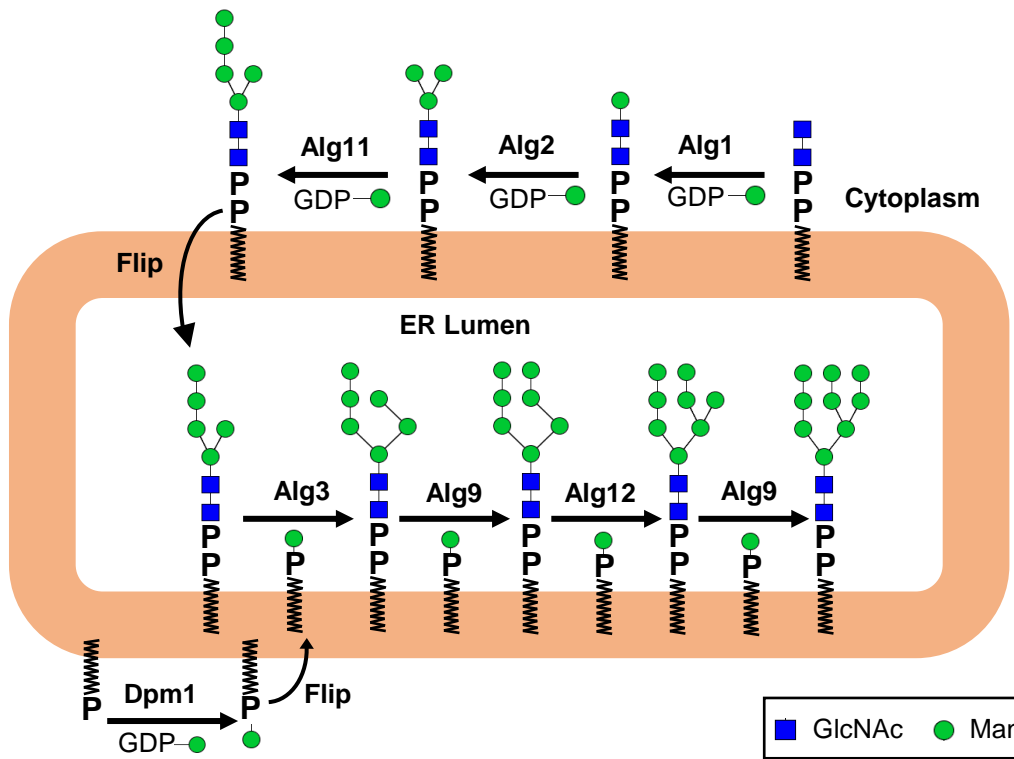
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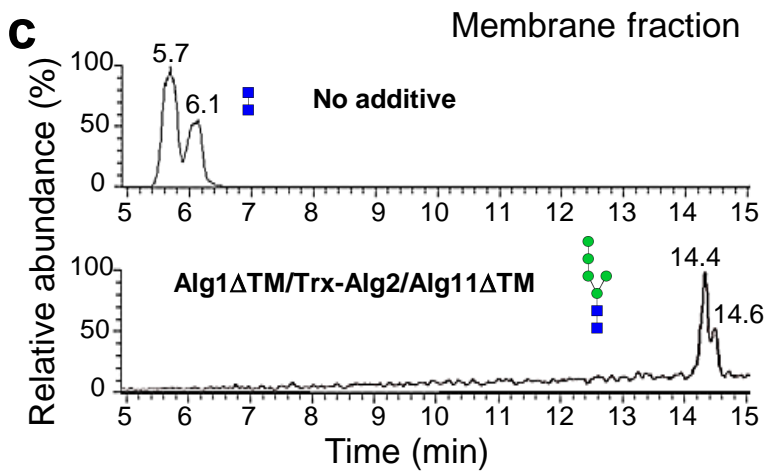
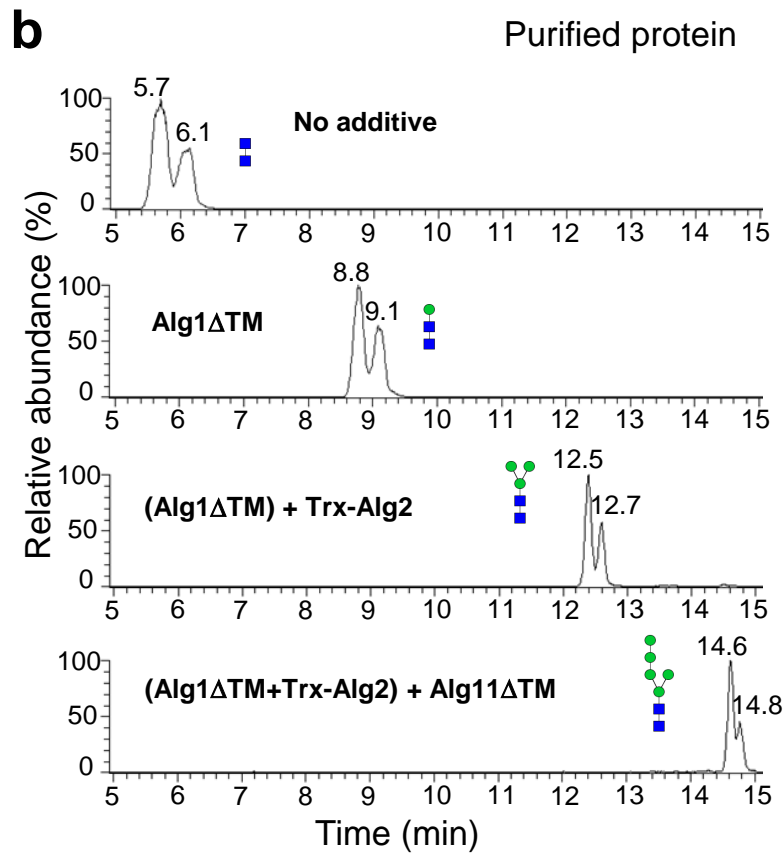
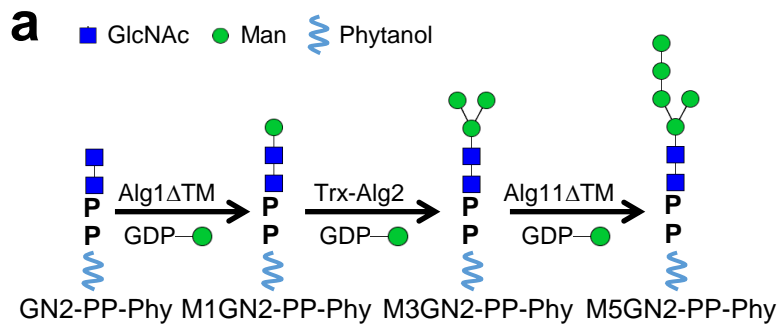
703 **Figure 5.** Substrate specificity of Alg MTases. (a) Substrate specificity of Alg1, Alg2 and Alg11.  
704 Reactions contained GN2-PP-Phy and GDP-Man and the indicated combination of Alg1 $\Delta$ TM, Trx-Alg2  
705 and/or Alg11 $\Delta$ TM. Glycan products were analysed by UPLC-MS. (b) Substrate specificity of Alg3,  
706 Alg9 and Alg12. Each reaction contained M5GN2-PP-Phy and Man-P-Phy and the indicated  
707 combination of Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12. Glycan products were analysed by UPLC-MS.  
708 Reaction products are indicated by the arrows, and their deduced structure is depicted schematically

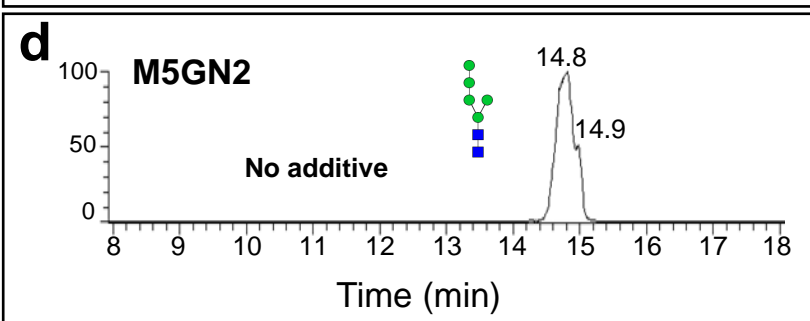
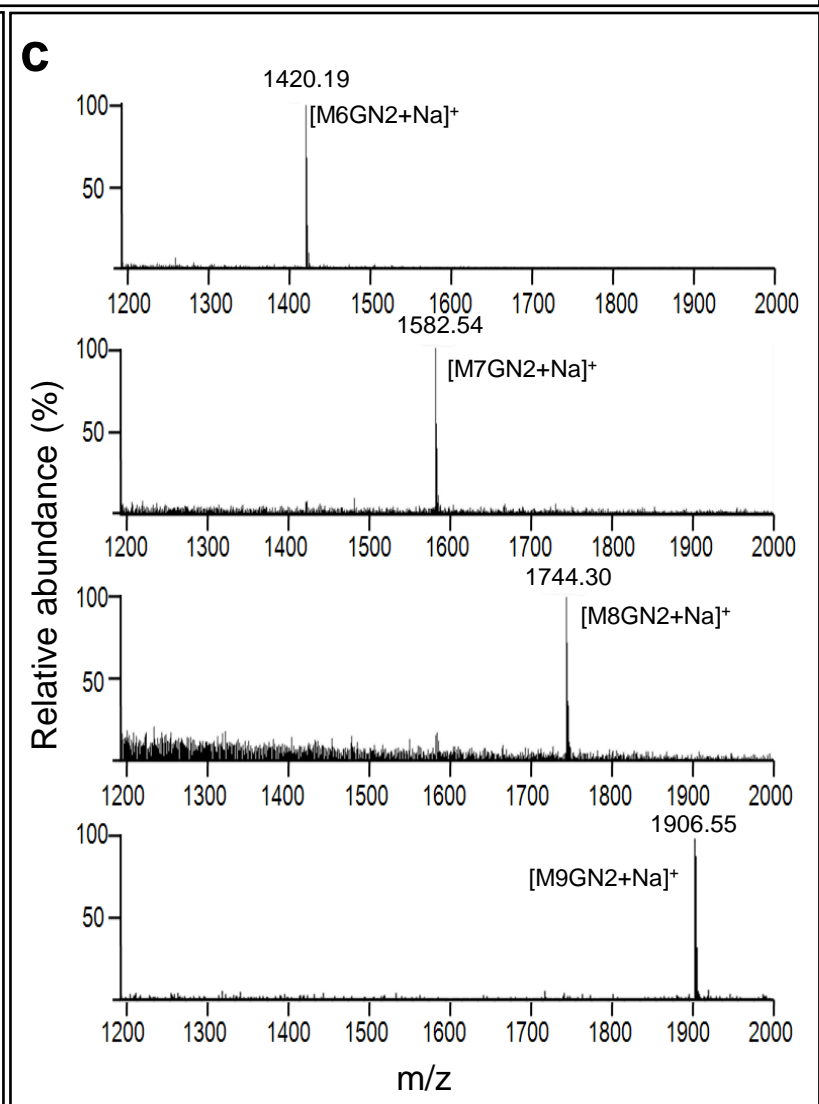
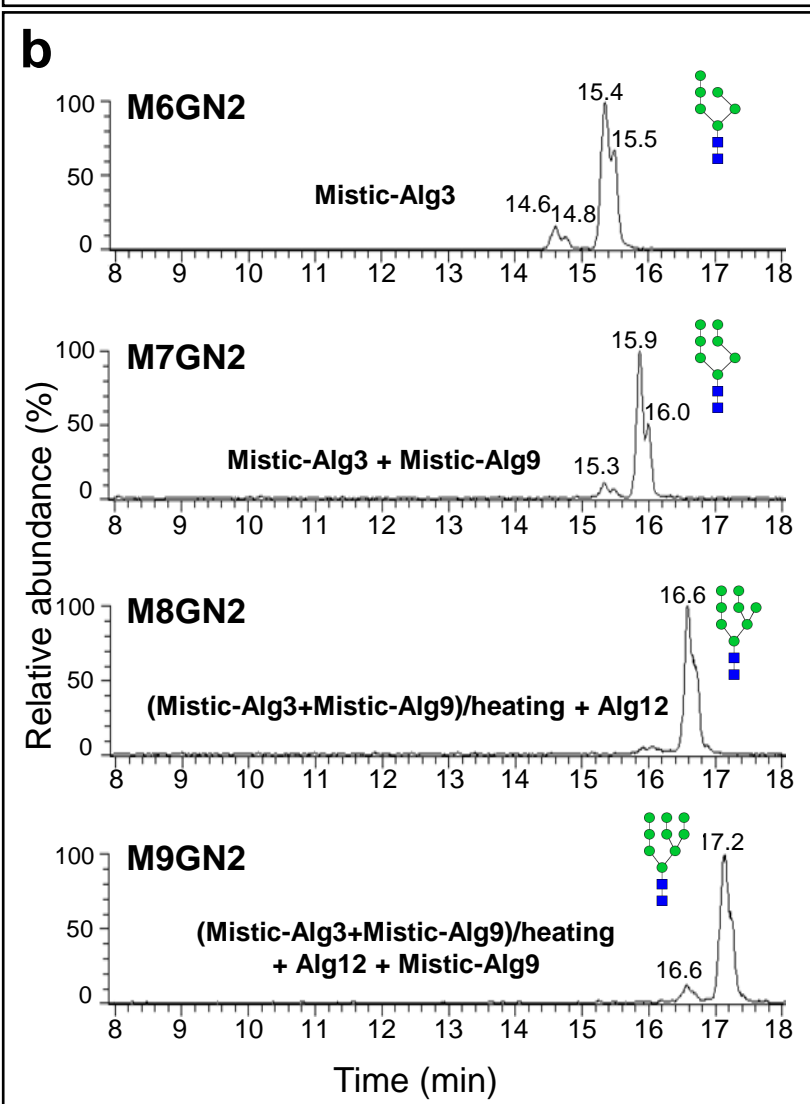
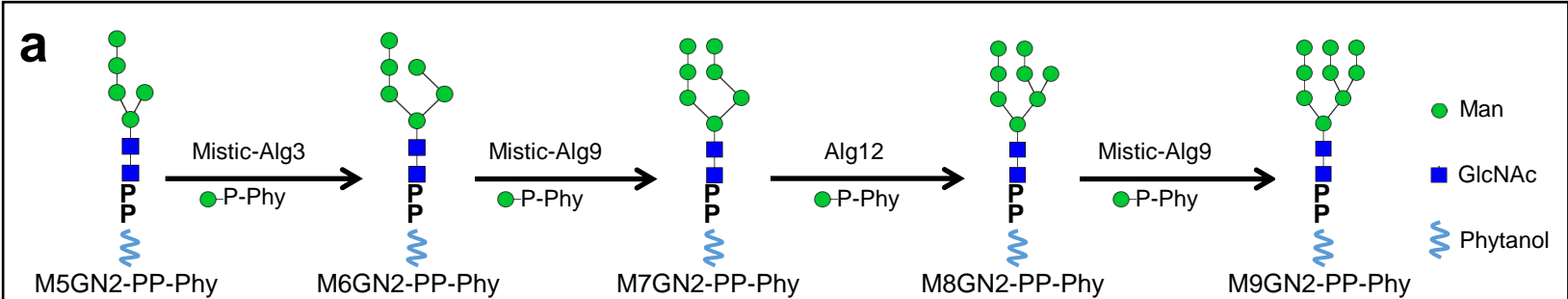
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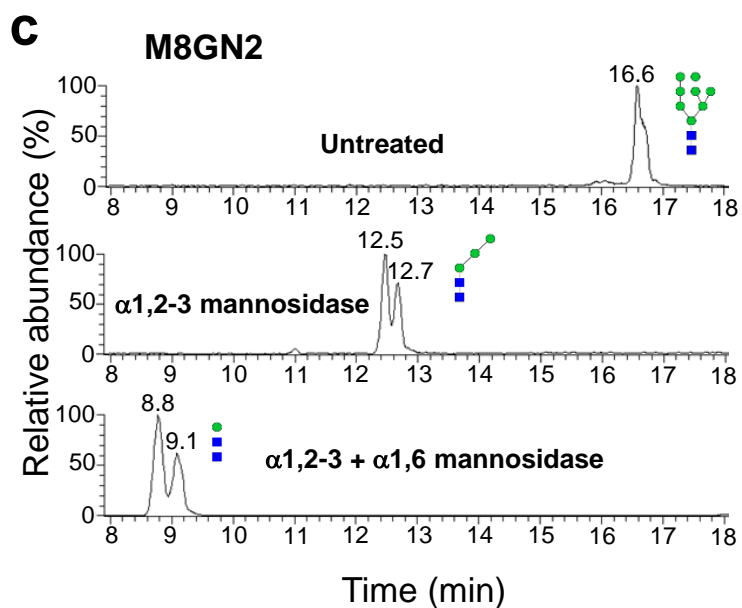
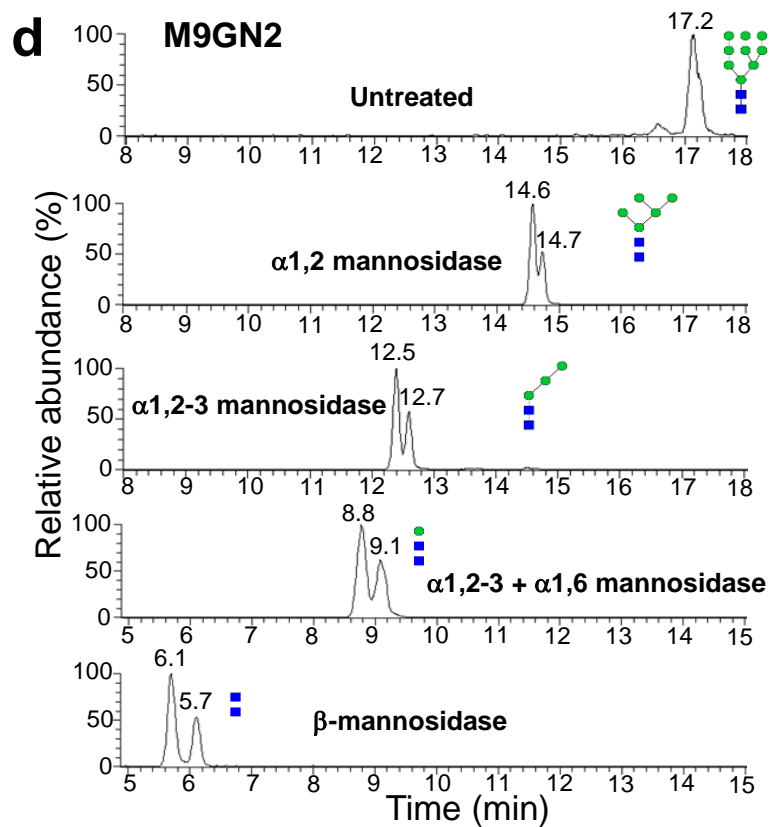
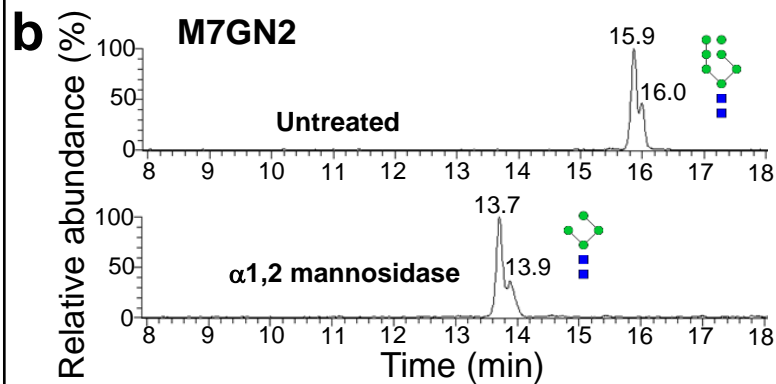
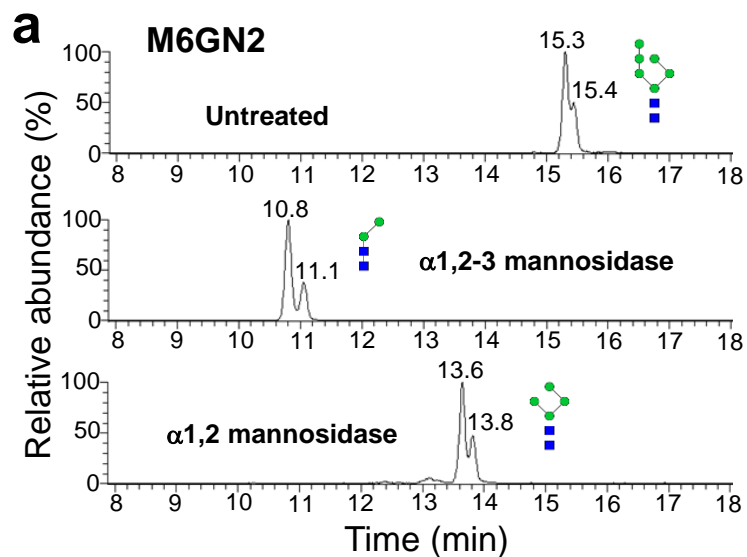
710 **Figure 6.** Specificity of the ER luminal MTases for non-physiological substrates. (a) Reactions were

711 performed in the presence of GN2-PP-Phy, M1GN2-PP-Phy, or a mixture of  
712 M1GN2-PP-Phy/M2GN2-PP-Phy, and Man-P-Phy. Products were analyzed by UPLC-MS. Addition of  
713 Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12 (Mistic-Alg3+Mistic-Alg9+Alg12) failed to elongate any of those  
714 substrates. (b) Reactions were performed in the presence of M3GN2-PP-Phy and Man-P-Phy. Stepwise  
715 addition of the membrane fractions of Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12 produced a variety of  
716 unusual LLOs, whose deduced structure is shown schematically. Addition of Mystic-Alg3 alone  
717 generated M4A2BC2GN2 (Mistic-Alg3); sequential addition of Mystic-Alg3 and Mystic-Alg9 generated  
718 M5A2C2GN2 [(Mistic-Alg3)+Mistic-Alg9]; sequential addition of Mystic-Alg3, Mystic-Alg9 and Alg12  
719 generated M6A2CGN2 and M7AGN2 [(Mistic-Alg3+Mistic-Alg9)+Alg12]. Products are indicated by  
720 the arrows.

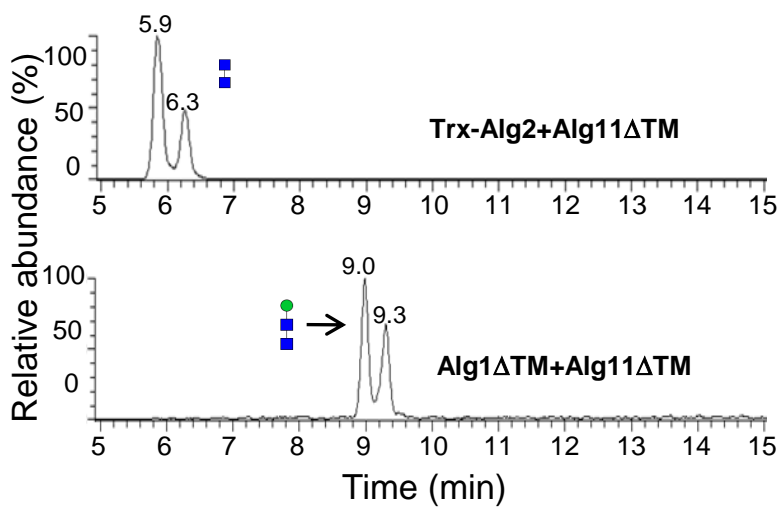
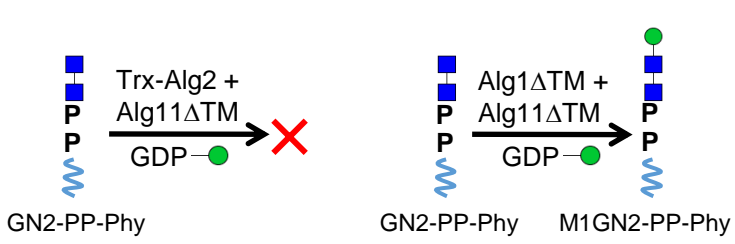










**a****b**