Table S1. *Cryptococcus neoformans* (Cn) strains used in this study

Cn strains	Genotype	Strain Characteristics	References
H99	Wild type	Cn var. *grubii*, wild-type strain, highly virulent in mice	[1]
AI100-dsRed	P_histoneH3-DsRed-SKL-T_hH3-NEO	H99 with an ectopic integration of DsRed.	[2]
AI132-GFP	P_histoneH3-HEM15-GFP-NAT	H99 with an ectopic integration of GFP tagged after the *HEM15* protein.	[2]
Cap59	Cap59::HYG	Mutant in H99 background, avirulent, no capsule	[3,4]
XX44	Scs7::NEO	Mutant in H99 background, deletion of the gene encoding the sphingolipid alpha-hydroxylase. Virulence in animals not tested, but likely dramatically reduced as the mutant displays defective growth in 5% CO_2.	Xie X and Lin X, unpublished data
HMC1	lac1::HYG	Mutant in H99 background, modestly reduced in virulence, defective in melanin production	[5,6,7]
MCD16	lac1 mutant	Mutant in H99 background, modestly reduced in virulence, defective in melanin production	[5,6,7]
AI81	bwc1::NAT	Mutant in H99 background, modestly reduced in virulence, required for light sensing.	[8]
XL1601	Znf2::NEO	Mutant in H99 background, modestly enhanced in virulence. Cells are locked in yeast phase and cannot undergo dimorphic switch to hyphal growth during mating	[9]
87C	Wild type	Cn var. *grubii*	[10]
UA491	Wild type	Cn var. *neoformans*	[11]
UA4223	Wild type	Cn var. *neoformans*	[11]
UM2	Wild type	Hybrid of Cn var. *grubii* and Cn var. *neoformans* (A/D strains)	[10]

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