

**Supporting Data for:** A modular strategy for engineering orthogonal chimeric RNA transcription regulators

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## **Materials and Methods**

### **Flow cytometry**

Ten  $\mu\text{L}$  of cell culture from the *in vivo* gene expression assay was mixed with 500  $\mu\text{L}$  PBS and read on a BD FACSCalibur flow cytometer. Data for the following parameters were collected: forward scatter (FSC), side scatter (SSC), and GFP fluorescence (488 nm excitation, 530 nm emission). Data for at least 50,000 cellular counts were collected for each sample. Data for each plasmid combination were analyzed in matlab. Counts were first gated in FSC vs. SSC by choosing a window surrounding the largest cluster of cells. GFP values recorded in relative channel number (1-4096 corresponding to 12-bit data) for gated cells were then histogrammed in 500 bins. Histograms were converted into relative intensity values (0-10,000 for log4 mode acquisition) and plotted in Figure S9.

### **Induction curve assay**

All experiments were performed in *E. coli* strain TG1. Plasmid combinations were transformed into chemically competent *E. coli* TG1 cells, plated on Difco LB+Agar plates containing 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  carbenicillin and 34  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  chloramphenicol, and incubated overnight (approximately 17 hours (h)) at 37°C. Plates were taken out of the incubator and left at room temperature for approximately 7 h. Three colonies were used to separately inoculate 300  $\mu\text{L}$  of LB containing carbenicillin and chloramphenicol at the concentrations above in a 2 mL 96-well block (Costar 3960), and grown approximately 17 h overnight at 37°C at 1,000 rpm in a Labnet Vortemp 56 bench top shaker. 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of this overnight culture was then added to 190  $\mu\text{L}$  (1:20 dilution) of M9 minimal media (1xM9 minimal salts, 1 mM thiamine hydrochloride, 0.4% glycerol, 0.2% casamino acids, 2 mM  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , 0.1 mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ) containing the selective antibiotics and the required amount of IPTG. After 3 h incubation at 37C, 1,000 rpm in the Vortemp shaker, 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of this culture was diluted again into 180  $\mu\text{L}$  (1:10 dilution) of supplemented M9 minimal media with antibiotics and IPTG, and grown for 2.5 h at 37C, 1,000 rpm. 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of this culture was then transferred to a 96-well plate (Costar 3631) containing 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Fluorescence (485 nm excitation, 528 nm emission) and optical density (OD, 600 nm) were then measured using a Biotek SynergyHT plate reader.

### **mRFP *in vivo* gene expression assay**

Transformation and growth was performed according the methods for the *in vivo* gene expression assay outlined in the main text. Fluorescence (560 nm excitation, 630 nm emission) and optical density (OD, 600 nm) were measured using the Molecular Devices plate readers Spectra Max Gemini and Spectra Max 190 respectively.

**Table S1:** Important DNA sequences

Name	Sequence
Super folder green fluorescent protein (SFGFP)	ATGAGCAAAGGAGAAGAAGAACTTTTCACTGGAGTTGTCCCAATTCTTGTTGAATT AGATGGTGTATGTTAATGGGCACAAATTTTCTGTCCGTGGAGAGGGTGAAGGT GATGCTACAAACGGAAAACCTCACCTTAAATTTATTTGCACTACTGGAAAAC CCTGTTCCGTGGCCAACACTTGTCACTACTGACCTATGGTGTTCATGCTT TTCCCGTTATCCGGATCACATGAAACGGCATGACTTTTTCAAGAGTGCCATGC CCGAAGGTTATGTACAGGAACGCACTATATCTTTCAAAGATGACGGGACCTAC AAGACGCGTGCTGAAGTCAAGTTTGAAGGTGATACCCTTGTTAATCGTATCGA GTTAAAGGGTATTGATTTTAAAGAAGATGGAAACATTCTTGGACACAAACTCG AGTACAACCTTAACTCACACAATGTATACATCACGGCAGACAAACAAAAGAAT GGAATCAAAGCTAACTTCAAATTCGCCACAACGTTGAAGATGGTTCCGTTCA ACTAGCAGACCATTATCAACAAAATACTCCAATTGGCGATGGCCCTGTCCCTT TACCAGACAACCATTACCTGTCGACACAATCTGTCCCTTCGAAAGATCCCAAC GAAAAGCGTGACCACATGGTCCTTCTTGAGTTTGTAACTGCTGCTGGGATTAC ACATGGCATGGATGAGCTCTACAAA
Ribosome binding site (RBS)	AGGAGGAAGGATCT
TrrnB	GAAGCTTGGGCCCGAACAAAACTCATCTCAGAAGAGGATCTGAATAGCGCC GTCGACCATCATCATCATCATTGAGTTTAAACGGTCTCCAGCTTGGCTGT TTTGGCGGATGAGAGAAGATTTTTCAGCCTGATACAGATTAATCAGAACGCAG AAGCGGTCTGATAAAACAGAATTTGCCTGGCGGCAGTAGCGCGGTGGTCCCA CCTGACCCCATGCCGAACCTCAGAAGTGAACGCCGTAGCGCCGATGGTAGTG TGGGGTCTCCCATGCGAGAGTAGGGAAGTCCAGGCATCAAATAAACGAA AGGCTCAGTCGAAAGACTGGGCCTTTCGTTTTATCTGTTGTTTGTGCGGTGAAC T
pT181 attenuator (EcoRI-J2319-attenuator-SFGFP-TrrnB-PstI)	GAATTC TAAAGATCT TTGACAGCTAGCTCAGTCCTAGGTATAATACTAGT AACAA AAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCCTGACCAAAGTTTGTGAACGACATCATT AAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGA TATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATT GAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCA AATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAAT AGCCGGTTGTAAGGATCTAGGAGGAAGGATCT ATGAGCAAAGGAGAAGAAGT TTTCACTGGAGTTGTCCCAATTCTTGTTGAATTAGATGGTGTATGTTAATGGGCA CAAATTTTCTGTCCGTGGAGAGGGTGAAGGTGATGCTACAAACGGAAAACCTC ACCCTTAAATTTATTTGCACTACTGGAAAACCTGTTCCGTGGCCAACACTT GTCACTACTCTGACCTATGGTGTTCATGCTTTTTCCCGTTATCCGGATCACAT GAAACGGCATGACTTTTTCAAGAGTGCCATGCCCGAAGGTTATGTACAGGAA CGCACTATATCTTCAAAGATGACGGGACCTACAAGACGCGTGCTGAAGTCAA GTTTGAAGGTGATACCCTTGTTAATCGTATCGAGTTAAAGGGTATTGATTTTAA AGAAGATGGAAACATTCTTGGACACAAACTCGAGTACAACCTTAACTCACACA ATGTATACATCACGGCAGACAAACAAAAGAATGGAATCAAAGCTAACTTCAAA ATTGCCACAACGTTGAAGATGGTTCCGTTCACTAGCAGACCATTATCAACA AAATACTCCAATTGGCGATGGCCCTGTCCCTTTACCAGACAACCATTACCTGT CGACACAATCTGTCCCTTCGAAAGATCCCAACGAAAAGCGTGACCACATGGTC CTTCTTGAGTTTGTAACTGCTGCTGGGATTACACATGGCATGGATGAGCTCTA



	TTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATA TACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACG AAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAAC AATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTT AGACAATTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTG TAA		
JBL009	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCGTACCCTCTGCAAAGTT AACGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTT TTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATA TACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACG AAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAAC AATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTT AGACAATTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTG TAA	pT181.YS	6, S7, S8
JBL1037	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTTTGGCGAGTGT GAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTT ATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATAC ATAAAGATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAA TTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAAT CATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGA CAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 10	S2
JBL1126	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAACTTTGGCGA GTACGA TGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGA GTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATT TAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTT AAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATA AAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCAC GATTTAGACAATTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCC GGTTGTAA	Fusion 4	3, 5, 6, S5, S7, S8
JBL1016	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACTTTGGCGAGTGAAC GACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAAT CTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAA GATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAG ATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGC AAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATT TTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 11	S2
JBL1048	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATTCAACTTTGGCGAGT ACGATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTG TTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA TACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAAC GAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAA CAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATT TAGACAATTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTT GTAA	Fusion 12	S2
JBL1815	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTTGGCGGTGTGA ACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATA ATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATACATA AAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTG AGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCAT GCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAA TTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 1	2
JBL1017	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGAACCTTGGCGGAA CTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGT TTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAAT ATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAAC	Fusion 2	2

	GAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAA CAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATT TAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTT GTAA		
JBL1039	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTCGAACTTGGC GGAACGCAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACA CTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACG ATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATTTGGGTGAGCGAT TCCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTAT GTATAAAAAAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAA ATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAAT AGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 3	2, 5, 6, S5, S7
JBL1813	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACTTGGCGGTGAACGA CATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCT TGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGA TATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGAT TAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAAACAATCATGCAA ATCATTCAAATCATTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTT TCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 7	S2
JBL1018	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCAGAACTTGGCGGAAC GAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACAACACTGAGTTGTTTT ATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATAC ATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAA TTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAAACAAT CATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGA CAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 8	S2
JBL1019	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACCTCGAACTTGGCGG AACGCAGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACAACACTGAG TTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTT AAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTA AACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAA AAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTGGAAAATCACG ATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCG GTTGTAA	Fusion 9	S2
JBL1040	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCTTACGAACTTGGC GGAACGACGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACA CTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACG ATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGAT TCCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTAT GTATAAAAAAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAA ATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAAT AGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 5	3
JBL1020	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACTTACGAACTTGGCG GAACGACGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACAACACTGA GTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATT TAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTT AAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATA AAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCAC GATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCC GGTTGTAA	Fusion 6	3, 6, S7, S8
JBL1057	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGGATTTTTTCGCGAAA CCTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAACAACACTGAGTTG TTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA TATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAAC GAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAA	Fusion 17	S3

	CAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATT TAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTT GTAA		
JBL1059	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTGATTTTTTCGCGA AACCATTTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTG AGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATAT TTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTT TAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTAT AAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCA CGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGC CGGTTGTAA	Fusion 18	S3
JBL1805	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTCTGATTATTGATT TTTCGCGAAACCATTTAATCATATGTGAACGACATCATTCA AAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTT AGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTT GGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGT CGCTCTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCA AATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAAC CGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 19	S3
JBL1063	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCA GATTTTTTCGCGAAACC TGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTT ATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAAATATAC ATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAA TTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAAT CATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGA CAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 13	4
JBL1065	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATTGATTTTTTCGCGAAA CCATTTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTT GTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA ATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAA CGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAA ACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGAT TTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGT TGTA	Fusion 14	4
JBL1166	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATCTGATTATTGATTTTT CGCGAAACCATTTAATCATATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGA AAAAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGAT ATTAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGG TGAGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCT CTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATC ATTTGGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGC TACTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 15	4, 5, 6, S6, S7, S8
JBL1110	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACCTATGTCTAGTCCAC ATCAGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTT GTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA ATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAA CGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAA ACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGAT TTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGT TGTA	Fusion 16	4, 5, 6, S5, S7, S8
JBL1190	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATCTGATTATTGATTTtG gcGAAACCATTTAATCATATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAA AAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATT AAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGA GCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTT	Fusion 15m1	S6

	TTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATT GGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTAC TCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA		
JBL1191	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATCTGATTATTGATTTA cgcGAAACCATTTAATCATATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAA AAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATAT TAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTG AGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCT TTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATT TGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTA CTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 15m2	S6
JBL1192	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATCTGATTATTGATTTAA GCcGAAACCATTTAATCATATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAA AAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATAT TAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTG AGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCT TTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATT TGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTA CTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 15m3	S6
JBL1199	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATCTGATTATTGATTTA cCcGAAACCATTTAATCATATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAA AAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATAT TAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTG AGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCT TTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATT TGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTA CTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 15m4	S6
JBL1193	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCATCTGATTATTGATTTcg gggGAAACCATTTAATCATATGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAA AAAAACACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATAT TAAACGATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTG AGCGATTCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCT TTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATT TGAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTA CTCTAATAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 15m5	5, 6, S6, S7, S8
JBL1080	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAAtgaTTGGCGtca ACGATGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGT TGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTA AATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAA ACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAA ACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTGGAAAATCACGA TTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGG TTGTAA	Fusion 4m1	5, 6, S7, S8
JBL1111	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGtgtTTCAACTTTGGC GAGTACGAgcaTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAAC ACTGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAAC GATATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGA TTCCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTA TGATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTGGAA AATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAA TAGCCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 4m2	5, 6, S7
JBL1075	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGTTCAACTTTcaCGA GTACGA TGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGA GTTGTTTTTATAATCTTGTATATTTAGATATTAACGATATT TAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTT	Fusion 4m3	S5

	AAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATA AAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCAC GATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCC GGTTGTAA		
JBL1113	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGagCAACTTTGGCGA GTACTtTGGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAG TTGTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTT AAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTA AACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAA AAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACG ATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCG GTTGTAA	Fusion 4m4	S5
JBL1163	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTCGAAgTTGGC GcAACGCAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACAC TGAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGAT ATTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATT CTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGT ATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAAT CACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAG CCGGTTGTAA	Fusion 3m1	5, 6, S7, S8
JBL1165	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCacCGAACTTGCGC GAACGtcGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACT GAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGATA TTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCC TTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTA TAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATC ACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGC CGGTTGTAA	Fusion 3m2	5, 6, S7, S8
JBL1164	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACGCCTgcAACTTGCGC GAAgcCAGTGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACT GAGTTGTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGATA TTTAAATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCC TTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTA TAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATC ACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGC CGGTTGTAA	Fusion 3m3	S5
JBL1150	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACCTATGTCTgaTCCAC ATCAGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTT GTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA ATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAA CGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAA ACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGAT TTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGT TGTA	Fusion 16m1	5, 6, S7
JBL1146	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACCTATGTCTtGTCCAC ATCAGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTT GTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA ATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCTTAAA CGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAA ACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTTGGAAAATCACGAT TTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGT TGTA	Fusion 16m2	S5
JBL1145	AACAAAATAAAAAGGAGTCGCTCACCTATGTCTAaTCCAC ATCAGTGAACGACATCATTCAAAGAAAAAAACACTGAGTT GTTTTATAATCTTGATATTTAGATATTAACGATATTTAA	Fusion 16m3	S5



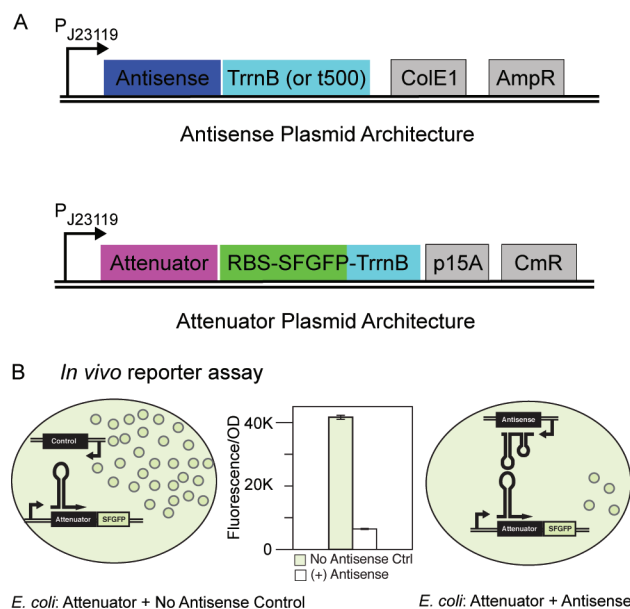
	ATATACATAAAGATATATATTTGGGTGAGCGATTCCTTAAACGAAATTGAGATTAAGGAGTCGCTCTTTTTTATGTATAAAAACAATCATGCAAATCATTCAAATCATTGGAAAAATCACGATTTAGACAATTTTTCTAAAACCGGCTACTCTAATAGCCGGTGTAA		
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**Table S3:** Antisense plasmids used in this study. Plasmid sequences can be constructed by replacing the blue region in the pT181 antisense sequence in Table S1 with the blue region indicated here. White background indicates fusion sequence. Lower case nucleotides indicate mutations made to fusions. All chimeric fusions constructed, with the exception of several non-functional mutants, are reported in this table and in Table S3.

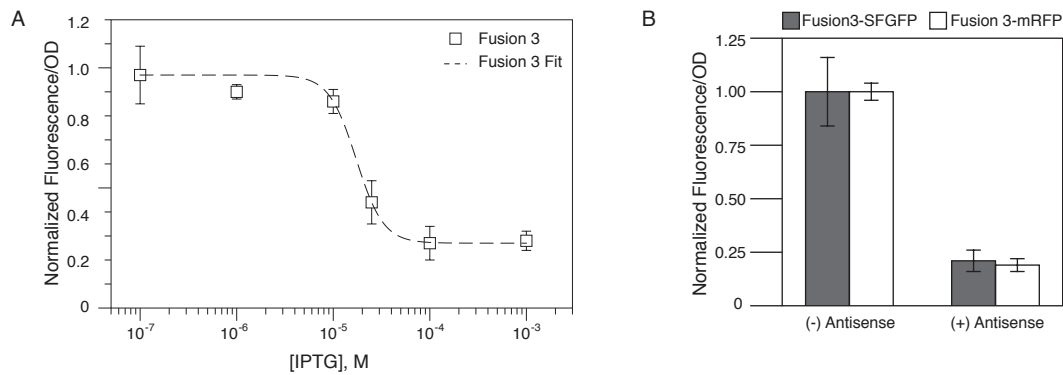
Plasmid #	Antisense sequence	Name	Figure
JBL002	J23119 – TrnB – AmpR – ColE1 origin	No antisense control	
JBL004	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGCGTGAGCGACT CCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	pT181	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8,
JBL008	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCTGCAACTTTGGCGAGGGACAGAGCGACT CCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	pT181.H1	6, S7, S8
JBL010	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCTGCAACTTTGGCGAGGGACAGAGCGACT CCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	pT181.YS	6, S7, S8
JBL1049	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGCGTGAGCGACTCCTT TTTATT – TrnB	Fusion 10	S2
JBL1033	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 4	3, 5, 6, S5, S7, S8
JBL1026	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 11	S2
JBL1034	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 12	S2
JBL1812	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 1	2
JBL1027	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 2	2
JBL1035	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 3	2, 5, 6, S5, S7
JBL1814	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 7	S2
JBL1028	ATACAAGATTATAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGCCAAAGTTGAACTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTT – TrnB	Fusion 8	S2

JBL1024	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTGCGTTCGCCAAGTTCGAGGTGAGC GACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 9	S2
JBL1036	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTGCGTTCGCCAAGTTCGTAAGCG TGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 5	3
JBL1029	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTGCGTTCGCCAAGTTCGTAAGTGAG CGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 6	3, 6, S7, S8
JBL1119	GCGAAAATCCGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 17	S3
JBL1093	GCGAAAATCAA CGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 18	S3
JBL1806	GCGAAAATCAATAATCAGACGTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTAT TI – t500	Fusion 19	S3
JBL1064	GCGAAAATCTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 13	4
JBL1095	GCGAAAATCTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 13	4
JBL1096	GCGAAAATCAA TGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 14	4
JBL1170	GCGAAAATCAATAATCAGATGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 15	4, 5, 6, S6, S7, S8
JBL1133	GACTAGACATAGG TGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 16	4, 5, 6, S5, S7
JBL1194	gcCaaAAATCAATAATCAGATGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 15m1	S6
JBL1195	gcgTaAAATCAATAATCAGATGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 15m2	S6
JBL1196	gGCTTAAATCAATAATCAGATGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 15m3	S6
JBL1197	gGgTaAAATCAATAATCAGATGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 15m4	S6
JBL1198	ccccgAAATCAATAATCAGATGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 15m5	5, 6, S6, S7, S8
JBL1081	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGTtgaCGCCAAcaTGAA CGTGAGC GACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 4m1	5, 6, S7, S8
JBL1074	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTgcTCGTA CTG CCAAAGTTGAAacaC GTGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 4m2	5, 6, S7
JBL1076	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCGTACTCGtgAAAGTTGAA CGTGAG CGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 4m3	S5
JBL1120	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTaaGTACTCGtgAAAGTTGct CGTGAGC GACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 4m4	S5
JBL1169	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCTGCGTTgCGCCAAcTTCGAGG CGTG AGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 3m1	5, 6, S7, S8
JBL1174	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCgaCGTTCGCCAAGTTCGgtG CGTG AGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 3m2	5, 6, S7, S8
JBL1173	ATACAAGATTATAAAAAACAACTCAGTGTTTTTTCTTTGAA TGATGTCGTTCACTCTGgcTTCCGCCAAGTTgcAGG CGTG AGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – TrrnB	Fusion 3m3	S5
JBL1180	GATcAGACATAGG TGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATTI – t500	Fusion 16m1	5, 6, S7

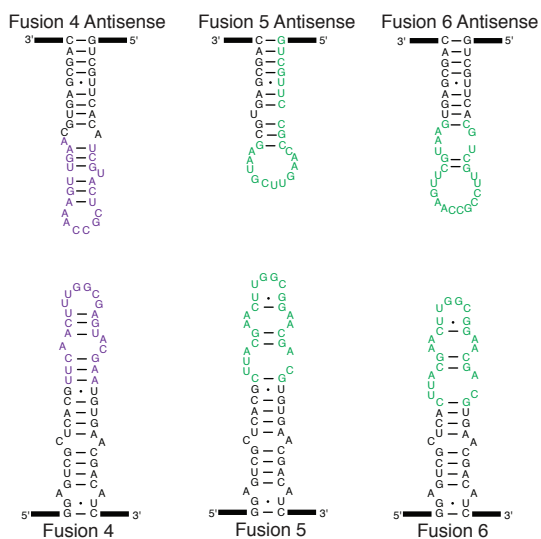
JBL1177	GACaAGACATAGG <b>TGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATT</b> – t500	Fusion 16m2	S5
JBL1167	CCTATGTCTAaTC <b>TGAGCGACTCCTTTTTATT</b> – t500	Fusion 16m3	S5



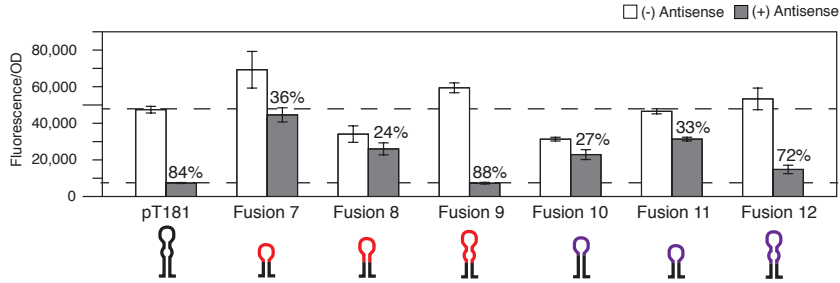
**Figure S1.** (A) Plasmid architecture for antisense and attenuator plasmids. All antisense plasmids have the ColE1 origin and ampicillin resistance (AmpR). All attenuator plasmids have the p15A origin and chloramphenicol resistance (CmR). The J23119 *E. Coli* consensus promoter ([http://partsregistry.org/Part:BBa\\_J23119](http://partsregistry.org/Part:BBa_J23119)), modified to include a *SpeI* site right before the start of transcription, was used for all plasmids. TrnB and t500 are transcriptional terminator sequences. RBS = ribosome binding site; SFGFP = super folder green fluorescent protein coding sequence. See Table S1 for sequence details of these plasmids. (B) Diagram of *in vivo* gene expression assay with example results. *E. coli* TG1 cells are transformed with a plasmid containing the attenuator transcriptionally fused to SFGFP, and another plasmid encoding antisense (white bar) or a no antisense control plasmid (green bar).



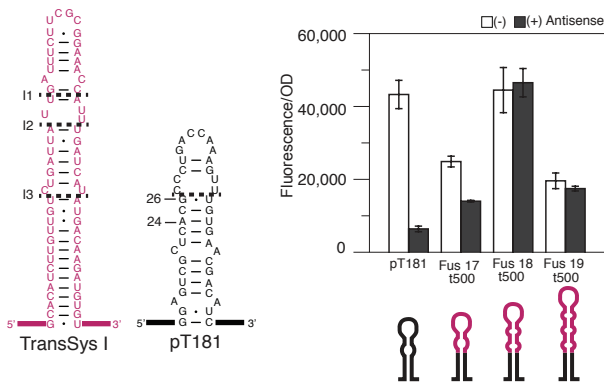
**Figure S2.** Fusion 3 inducibility and functional modularity. (A) Induction curve using an IPTG inducible  $P_{Lac0-1}$  promoter (40) for Fusion 3. Fluorescence/OD are plotted for different concentrations of IPTG in the growth media (see Materials and Methods above). Data were normalized to the no antisense condition. The dashed line shows a Hill equation fit to the data ( $n = 3.07$ ). Error bars represent standard deviations of at least 4 independent transformants. (B) Comparison of *in vivo* expression data using SFGFP (grey bars) and monomeric red fluorescent protein (mRFP) (white bars) as reporters for Fusion 3 attenuation. Data were normalized to the no antisense condition in each case. Error bars represent standard deviations of at least 5 independent transformants.



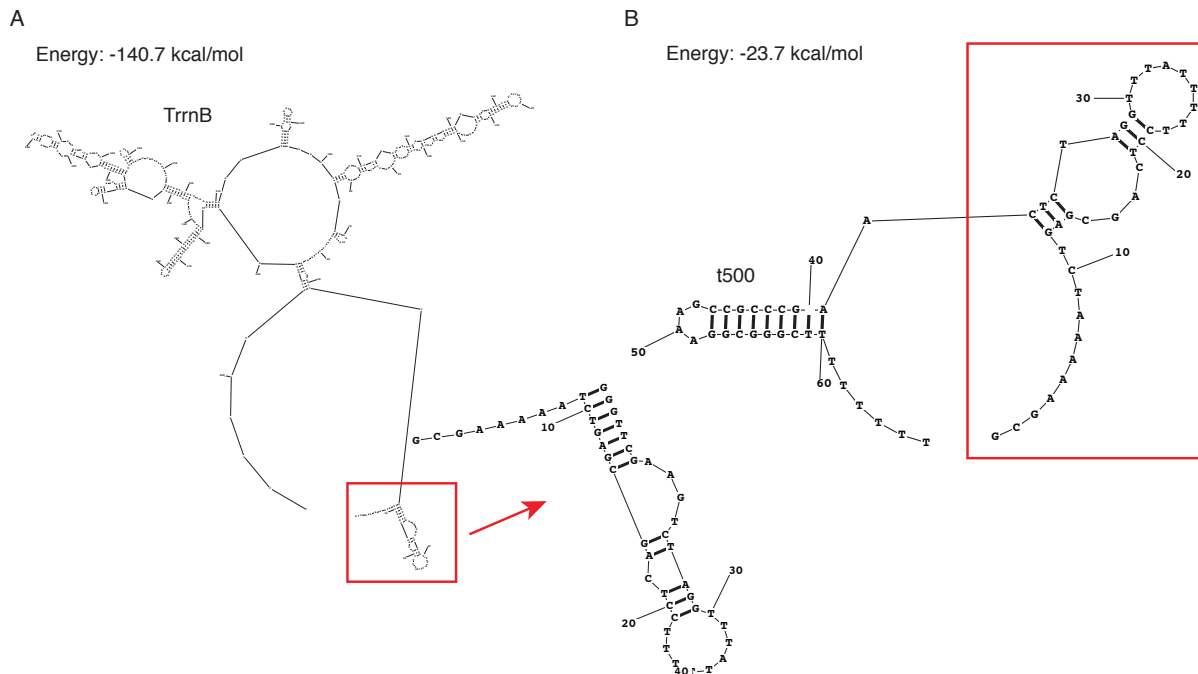
**Figure S3.** Predicted structures for fusions in Figure 3. Predicted MFE structures of the first hairpin of the chimeric attenuator and antisense for Fusions 4, 5 and 6. Purple and green colored bases represent sequence from the parent translational regulator (see Figure 3 for color code). Bases in black represent the wild type pT181 sequence.



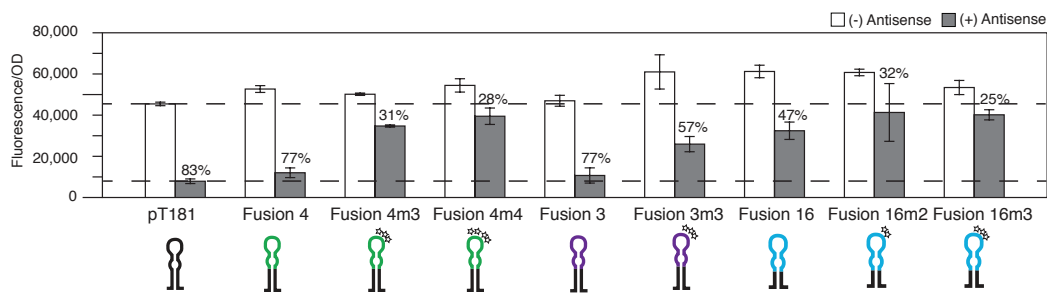
**Figure S4.** Testing the interior-loop design principle for loop-loop chimeric attenuators. Data complementary to Figures 2 and 3. Fusions 7, 8 and 9 were engineered using the pT181 position at A24 (Figure 3A) for the three fusion sequences of TransSysM (M1, M2 and M3 – see Figure 2). Fusions 10 and 11 were engineered using a combination of the top loop of the TransSysR hairpin and pT181 positions G26 and A24, respectively. Fusion 12 was engineered using a combination of the TransSysR fusion region in Figure 3 and pT181 position A24. Average *in vivo* fluorescence from cells with (grey) or without (white) cognate antisense RNA. Error bars represent the standard deviation of at least 5 independent transformations.



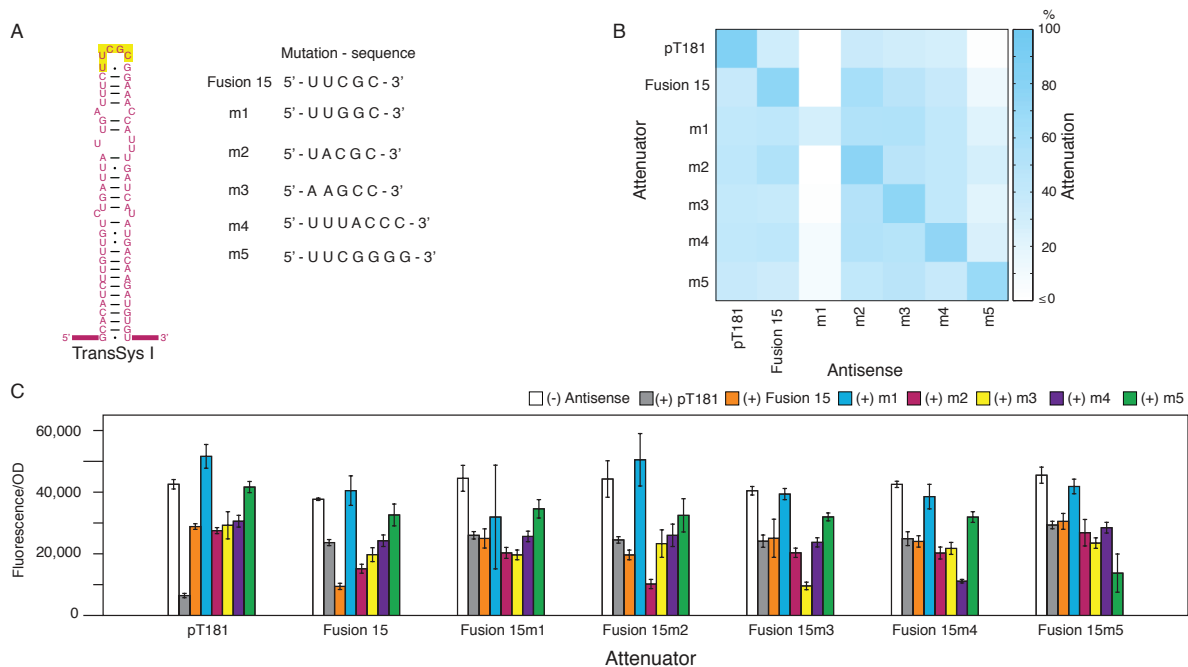
**Figure S5.** Chimeric attenuators based on TransSysI and pT181 position G26. Data complementary to Figure 4. Average *in vivo* fluorescence from cells with (black) and without (white) plasmids encoding cognate antisense RNA for each fusion. The t500 terminator was used for all chimeric antisense plasmids. Error bars represent the standard deviation of at least 5 independent transformations.



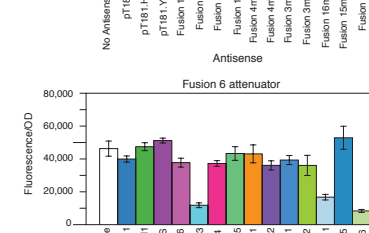
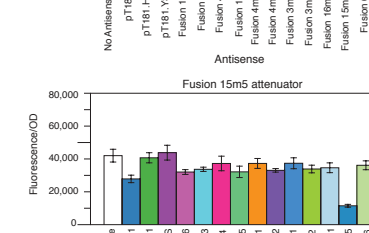
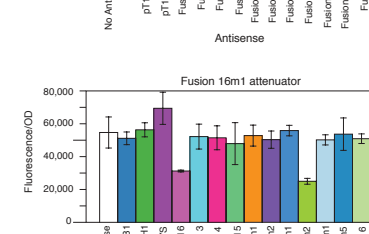
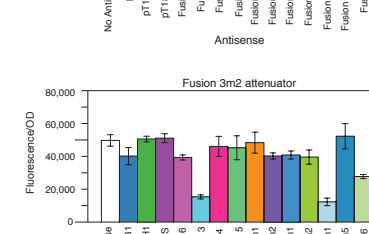
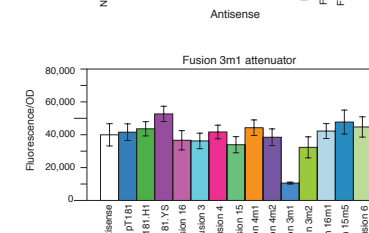
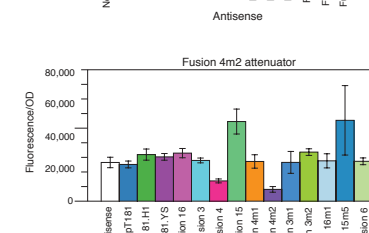
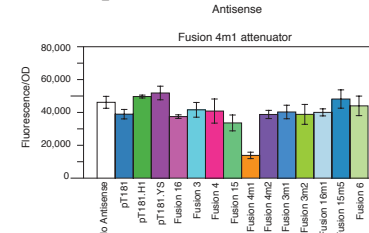
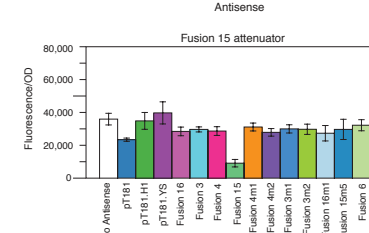
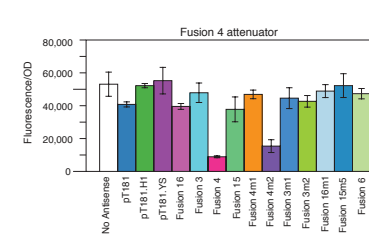
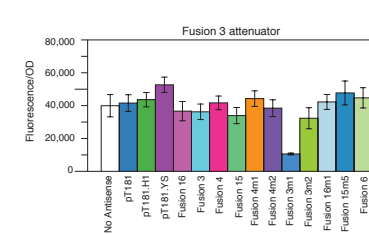
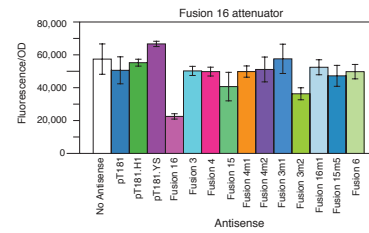
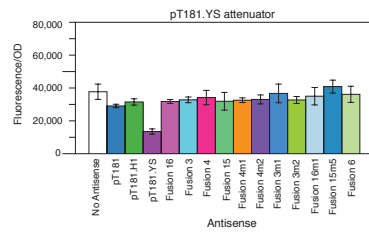
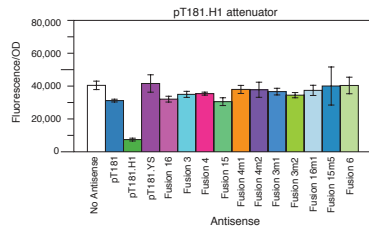
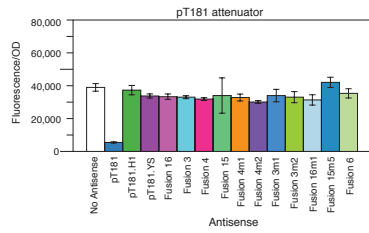
**Figure S6.** Linear antisense folding of Fusion 13 with TrrnB and t500 terminators. Predicted minimum free energy (MFE) structure of Fusion 13 antisense with (A) TrrnB and (B) t500; red box highlights the antisense sequence which is zoomed in an inset in (A).



**Figure S7.** Representative set of chimera mutation failures. Data complementary to Figure 5. Average *in vivo* fluorescence from cells with (grey) and without (white) plasmids encoding cognate antisense RNA for each fusion. Error bars represent the standard deviation of at least 5 independent transformations.

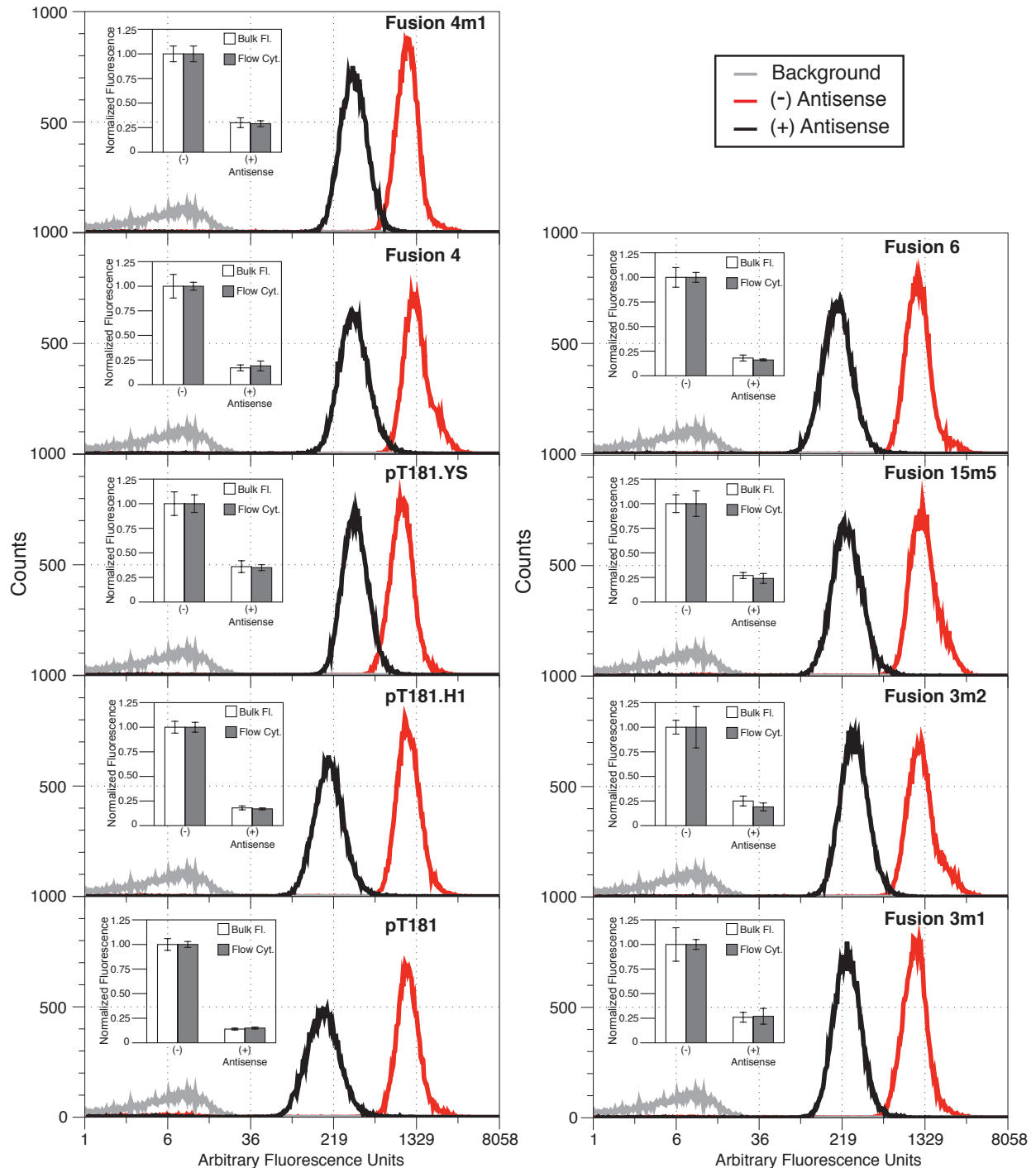


**Figure S8.** Mutations to Fusion 15. (A) Five previously reported mutations to the IS10 translational regulator (7) were applied to chimeric attenuator Fusion 15. Mutations were made by substituting the highlighted yellow sequence with sequences listed to the right. (B) 7x7 orthogonality matrix for the pT181 attenuator, Fusion 15, and the 5 mutants. The matrix shows all possible combinations of (antisense, attenuator) for the 7 attenuators tested. Attenuation % is represented by a color scale in which 100% is blue and less than or equal to 0% is white. (C) *In vivo* expression data used to calculate the matrix in part (B). White bars represent the average fluorescence/OD of cells without antisense and colored bars of cells with antisense according to the legend. Error bars represent standard deviations of at least 4 independent transformants.





**Figure S9.** *In vivo* expression data used to calculate the 14x14 attenuation matrix found in Figure 6A. White bars represent the average fluorescence/OD of cells without antisense and colored bars of cells with antisense according to label on x-axis. Each plot represents a row of the 14x14 matrix in Figure 6A – i.e. attenuation for a single chimeric attenuator with different combinations of antisense RNA indicated on the x-axis. Error bars represent standard deviations of at least 5 independent transformants.



**Figure S10.** Representative flow cytometry data. Representative histograms for the eight attenuators found in the final orthogonality matrix and the pT181 attenuator. Red traces represent cells without (-) antisense, black traces represent cells with (+) cognate antisense, and grey traces represent the background fluorescence of cells not expressing SFGFP. Histograms are plotted on a log-scale in terms of relative intensity, but were calculated in relative channel number as described in the SI Materials and Methods above. Inset plots are a comparison between average bulk fluorescence (white bars) and mean fluorescence calculated from flow cytometry (grey bars) for the (-) and (+) cognate antisense conditions. Average fluorescence was normalized by the fluorescence observed without antisense for each attenuator. Error bars represent standard deviations of at least 3 independent transformants.

## References

7. Mutalik, V.K., Qi, L., Guimaraes, J.C., Lucks, J.B. and Arkin, A.P. (2012) Rationally designed families of orthogonal RNA regulators of translation. *Nat Chem Biol*, **8**, 447–454.
40. Lutz, R. and Bujard, H. (1997) Independent and tight regulation of transcriptional units in *Escherichia coli* via the LacR/O, the TetR/O and AraC/I1-I2 regulatory elements. *Nucleic Acids Res*, **25**, 1203–1210.