Supporting Information

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SI Materials and Methods

Constructs. The bacterial cellulose synthase (bcs)A and bcsB genes were cloned into the pETDuet (Novagen) expression vector as described (1). BcsA was expressed with a C-terminal dodecahistidine tag to facilitate purification, and the mature region of BcsB was fused to an N-terminal pectate lyase B (PelB) signal sequence for correct targeting. All N-terminal truncation mutants of BcsB were cloned as C-terminally FLAG-tagged species into the pETDuet expression vector containing the WT *bcsA* gene using NcoI and HindIII restriction sites. The expression of the truncated complexes was as described for the WT complex (1).

Protein Expression and Purification. All BcsA-B complexes were expressed in *Escherichia coli* C43 (2) in auto-induction medium and were purified by metal affinity and size exclusion chromatography as described previously (1). The protein was solubilized from the membrane fraction in Triton X-100 detergent, followed by detergent exchange into 1 mM LysoFosCholine Ether 14 (LFCE14) or 5 mM *N*,*N*-dimethylamine oxide (LDAO) during metal affinity chromatography. The purified complexes were concentrated to a 50 μ M final concentration using an extinction coefficient of (161,925 M⁻¹·cm⁻¹) and reconstituted into proteoliposomes (PLs) or nanodiscs (NDs).

Preparation of Inverted Membrane Vesicles. The cell pellet obtained from a 2-L culture of *E. coli* C43 overexpressing the BcsA-B complex was resuspended in RB buffer containing 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.2, 100 mM NaCl, and 10% glycerol and lysed in a bench-top microfluidizer. The whole cell extract was cleared from cell debris by centrifugation for 20 min at 12,500 rpm in a Beckman JA-20 rotor at 4 °C, and the supernatant was floated on a 1.8 M sucrose cushion by centrifugation at 100,000 × *g* for 120 min at 4 °C in a Beckman 45Ti rotor. The membrane vesicles were recovered from the top of the sucrose cushion, diluted fivefold in RB buffer, and sedimented overnight at 100,000 × *g* in a 45Ti rotor. The purified inverted membrane vesicles (IMVs) were resuspended in 1 mL RB buffer, homogenized in a tissue grinder, and stored in aliquots at -80 °C.

Reconstitution into Proteoliposomes and Nanodiscs. The purified and concentrated BcsA-B complex was incubated at a 5 μ M final concentration with 5 mg/mL *E. coli* total lipid extract solubilized in 8 mM LFCE14 in AB buffer containing 25 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 0.3 M NaCl, 5 mM cellobiose and 10% (vol/ vol) glycerol. The detergent was removed by addition of SM-2 BioBeads (BioRad) until the turbidity of the solution indicated the formation of lipid vesicles. The obtained PLs were stored in aliquots at -80 °C.

For reconstitution into NDs, the apoA1-derived membrane scaffold protein (MSP) was expressed and purified as described previously (3) and incubated at 120 μ M with 30 μ M of purified BcsA-B and 1 mg/mL *E. coli* total lipid extract solubilized in 8 mM LFCE14. The detergent was removed by addition of Bio-Beads, and the reconstituted NDs were purified over a S200 analytical gel filtration column in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM cellobiose, and 10% glycerol. The purified NDs were concentrated to 5 μ M assuming an additive extinction coefficient of 185,875 M⁻¹·cm⁻¹ for BcsA-B and MSP (4).

Sedimentation Assays. Standard cellulose synthase sedimentation assays were performed by incubating $1 \mu M$ of cellulose synthase complexes, either in PLs, NDs, or detergent micelles, in the

presence of 30 µM cyclic-di-GMP (c-di-GMP), 20 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM UDP-glucose (UDP-Glc), and 0.25 µCi UDP-[³H]-Glc in AB buffer lacking glycerol and containing only 0.1 M NaCl. Following incubation at 37 °C for 45 min, the polymerization reaction was terminated by addition of 2% SDS, and the waterinsoluble polymer was pelleted by centrifugation at $15,000 \times g$ at room temperature. The obtained pellet was resuspended in 20 µL 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, and 0.1 M NaCl and spotted at the origin of a descending Whatman-2MM chromatography paper, which was developed in an aqueous solution of 60% ethanol. For enzymatic degradation, the pellet was resuspended in 20 µL 50 mM sodium acetate, pH 4.5, and 100 mM NaCl and was digested with 0.1 mg/mL of endo-β-1,4- or endo-β-1,3 glucanase from Aspergillus niger (TCI) or Trichoderma sp. (Megazyme), respectively. Following paper chromatography, the high-molecular-weight polymer retained at the origin was quantified by scintillation counting.

To ensure a constant ratio of UDP-Glc to ³H-labeled UDP-Glc for the titration of UDP-Glc in the presence of 0.7 mM UDP (Fig. 4C), a fourfold concentrated stock solution containing 20 mM UDP-Glc and 1.0 μ Ci UDP-[³H]-Glc was diluted to the final substrate concentration required for the individual experiments. Following synthesis, the reactions were treated as described above.

Enzyme-Coupled Activity Assays. Pyruvate kinase (PK)- and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)-coupled activity assays were performed by incubating 0.5 μ M cellulose synthase with 1 U PK and 1 U LDH, 0.5 mM NADH, 1 mM phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP), and 30 mM MgCl₂ in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM cellulose, and 10% glycerol in a total volume of 20 μ L. The cellulose synthase complex was added last to the reaction mix after a preincubation for 10 min at room temperature. The decrease in absorbance at 340 nm was measured in a SpectraMax plate reader in Corning 384 well clear flat bottom assay plates. Control reactions in the absence of cellulose synthase were performed to determine the background NADH oxidation. Data were plotted and analyzed in Origin (5) and fitted to monophasic Michaelis-Menten kinetics as described (3).

Western Blot Analysis. Proteins were separated by SDS/PAGE on a 12.5% polyacrylamide gel and transferred to nitrocellulose membranes at 100 V and constant current (350 mA) for 60 min at 4 °C in a BioRad Mini-Transfer Cell according to the manufacturer's specifications. The nitrocellulose membrane was blocked in 5% milk/TBS-Tween solution for 30 min and incubated overnight with an anti-penta-His (Qiagen) or anti-FLAG (Sigma) primary mouse antibody. The membranes were washed three times in 5% milk/TBS-Tween before incubating with an IRDye800-conjugated anti-mouse secondary antibody (Rockland) for 45 min at room temperature. After washing, the membranes were scanned on an Odyssey Infrared Imager (Licor).

Linkage Analysis. The freeze-dried in vitro product obtained from 20 μ L of 1 μ M PL-reconstituted BcsA-B was dispersed in 200 μ L dry DMSO. The mixture was incubated for 6 h at room temperature combining sonication (10-min intervals every hour) and agitation with a magnetic stirrer. Samples were maintained under argon atmosphere during the dispersion and methylation steps. Methylation reactions were performed using the NaOH/ CH₃I method (6) by repeating five times the methylation. Partially methylated polysaccharides were hydrolyzed in the presence of 2 M trifluoroacetic acid at 121 °C for 2 h and further

derivatized to permethylated alditolacetates (7). The latter was separated and analyzed by gas chromatography/electron-impact MS (GC/EI-MS) on a SP-2380 capillary column (30 m \times 0.25 mm inner diameter; Supelco) using an HP-6890 GC system and an HP-5973 electron-impact mass spectrometer as a detector (Agilent Technologies). The temperature program increased

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from 160 °C to 210 °C at a rate of 1 °C/min. The mass spectra of the fragments obtained from the permethylated alditolacetates were compared with those of reference derivatives.

Data Analysis. All measurements were performed at least in triplicate, and error bars represent deviations from the means.

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St_BcsB Ec_BcsB Pp_BcsB Ax-BcsB Kp_BcsB Rs_BcsB	44 57 41 121 86 55	PATEAPVVAQTAPSR
St_BcsB	59	EVKLTFAQIAPPPGSMALRGVNPNGGIEFGMRSDEVASKAVLNLEYTPSP
Ec_BcsB	72	DVKLTFAQIAPPPGSMVLRGINPNGSIEFGMRSDEVVTKAMLNLEYTPSP
Pp_BcsB	45	QVAKTFEQLGHASDSLLL-GVRNSEHIEFGLRRDRLATDASLQLDYTPSP
Ax-BcsB	181	DAARVADGEITRTSTFRDLGLATGPLTLRGFSPLQGUDVIVPANRVVTRARITLSGALSP
Kp_BcsB	102	GDLNLAQMGMPDG-IILSGGQRQGGVSFTLPADQVVIHSQLSLAVRVSP
Rs_BcsB	61	
St_BcsB	109	SLLPVQSQLKVYLNDELMGVLPVTKEQLGKKTLAQVPINPLFITDPNRVRLEFVGHYRDV
Ec_BcsB	122	SLLPVQSQLKVYLNDELMGVLPVTKEQLGKKTLAQMPINPLFISDFNRVRLEFVGHYRDV
Pp_BcsB	94	ALLPNLSHLRVINDELMGVPVEKEQLGQRVRRQLPLDPKLLGDFNRVRLEFVGHYTDV
Ax-BcsB	241	SLLPEASAVSVTLNEQYVGTIRVDFEHP-RFGPITFDIDPLYFTGDNKLNFHFAGEYRRD
Kp_BcsB	150	EMASRNATLQLMLNGQPLGTLPLGADGE-DVSHYQLDIPPALMVSSNNLSVKINDGDTLQ
Rs_BcsB	105	DILPESSQIIVRMNDQEIGRFTPRQFGALGAVTMPLGEAVRAGDNLVTIEAQHRHRIY
St_BcsB	169	CENPASSTLWLDIGRNSALDLTYNMLAVNNDISHFPVPFFDPRDNRPVTLPIVFADMPDL
Ec_BcsB	182	CERPASTLWLDVGRSSGLDLTYQT.NVKNDISHFPVPFFDPSDNRTMLPMVFAGAPDV
Pp_BcsB	154	CEDPAHSGLWLNLNRKSQVQLHEQALVLENDIAHFPLPFDTRDTGKVVLPVVFSGVPSL
Ax-BcsB	300	CNDLYNEVLWARISDFSTVTLTTRIAPDRKISYLPAFYDPNLRTPLRVPVWPNPDAH
Kp_BcsB	209	CPRDIHDTSRVTVLPTSHFSWESQLNISDDISHFPRPFFDSMQMTPADIAVAYGAKPSA
Rs_BcsB	163	CFADAEFDLWTEVDLSQSGVALPAAIGTEPTSFIAALTAQAESGRPVEIRTPTP
St_BcsB	229	AQQQAASIVASWFGSRAGWRGQRFPVLYNHLPDRNAIVFATNDRRPDFLRDH
Ec_BcsB	242	SLQQASAIVASWFGSRSGWRGQNFPVLYNQLPDRNAIVFATNDRRPDFLRDH
Pp_BcsB	214	SEQRAAAILASYFGSQAGWRKASFPVLYNNLPARGEKPAPSIVFASNDRRPAFLADLQQF
Ax-BcsB	360	SHLKASLVASWFGKLADFRKVSFPVSTTIPASGNAIAIGENLPIDARG
Kp_BcsB	269	DVFSAAALISSWLGIQADYRGIAFSALRDRLPERHGIVIGHPGEQVGGMML
Rs_BcsB	218	PDEATLRTLAQALGRPLPDEALPLALSKPWSAETG
St_BcsB	281	PAVNAPVIEMMSHPDNPYVKLLVVFGRDDKDLLQAAKGIAQGNILFRGSSVVVNDVKPLL
Ec_BcsB	294	PAVKAPVIEMINHPQNPYVKLLVVFGRDDKDLLQAAKGIAQGNILFRGESVVVNEVKPLL
Pp_BcsB	274	PVDGPVLQVIDHPHDRFSKVLLVLGRND-DLIKAASALAVGNNLFRGARVKVEQMTALQ
Ax-BcsB	409	TRPTGPTLSEVENPNDRLGTILVLTGRNAQEVEVARVLAFSSDTLGAVGTKVNDVTLQ
Kp_BcsB	320	PETDKPLLRIAMPANPAYKLLIVGKNDTALRMAAWRLTRGHFAPQTATLDVEPQTIPV
Rs_BcsB	253	PTYARITLLPSDADRVSIRRGGDGAVVLVLEHPPEGSPNASLVADLLGATPTLPP
St_BcsB	341	ARKPYDAPNWVRTDRPVTFGELKTYEEQLQSSGLEPAPINVSLNLPPDLYLLRSNGIDMD
Ec_BcsB	354	RKPYDAPNWVRTDRPVTFGELKTYEEQLQSSGLEPAAINVSLNLPPDLYLRSTGIDMD
Pp_BcsB	333	RQPYDAPNWTRTDRPVRFAELDDPEQLQVSGLQ?RPVTLELNLPPDLFVRNQGIPLR
Ax-BcsB	469	RHPYDAPAFVPTDRPVRFGELVAASD-LQGGGFAPPVMALPFHLPPDLYSWRNRPYPID
Kp_BcsB	380	G-KAYDAPRWIPTDRPVKLSELLRKDQSPTVSGVMHEFLRIAFRAAPLYLWDGETIPLQ
Rs_BcsB	308	PTLPQIPPGRVVTLADMGVDTILTDNRYFNRDIDFQLPDDWLLLASQKAQIG
St_BcsB	401	LNYRYTSPPTKDSSRLDISLNNQFLQAFSLNSTQETNRLLLRLPVLQGLLDGKTDV
Ec_BcsB	414	INYRYTMPPVKDSSRMDISLNNQFLQSFNLSSKQEANRLLLRIPVLQGLLDGKTDV
Pp_BcsB	393	TLYRYTAFAVTDESRLSISVNDQYITSMFLVGNDRRGGTLEEMRLAVLSGDNTALSEN
Ax-BcsB	528	LWVRTPGGPVVDLETSRLDVHLNNNYLDSFTLKPPSLWAAWSERLVNQHAGAVEHA
Kp_BcsB	439	VGYRFPSESWINDKSLSVTLNGTFLNNLFMNKQGFLEKVWRXLGGDARQERFT
Rs_BcsB	360	IDYGFAGGLPEGALLLVKVNGTTVRMLPLDRCQGFLEKVWRXLGDARQEFT
St_BcsB Ec_BcsB Pp_BcsB Ax-BcsB Kp_BcsB Rs_BcsB	457 470 451 584 494 402	S-IPALKLGAMNQLRFDFRYMNPMPGGSVDNCITFQPVPNHVVI S-IPALKLGATNQLRFDFEYMNPMPGGSVDNCITFQPVQNHVVI SLVPALKIGDRNRLRPDFSFASTLGSAQRDRCQTS
St_BcsB	500	GDDSTIDFSKYYHFIAMPD-LRAFANAGFPFSRMADLSDTLAVMPKTPTEAQMETLLN-T
Ec_BcsB	513	GDDSTIDFSKYYHFIPMPD-LRAFANAGFPFSRMADLSQTITVMPKAPNEAQMETLLN-T
Pp_BcsB	495	DDNSTIDLSGYHHYIAMPD-LRAFARSGFPFSRMADLSETLVIMPAKFTAMQVGTLLD-T
Ax-BcsB	623	DSDSWLDFRGYHFARLPM-LSYFAEAFPFSRMADLSETLVVVPHHDAGTGFMD-L
Kp_BcsB	534	TDDSWIDLSKTRHFSLLPN-LSYFVGASFPFSRLADYSQTTLLLPADFSETQVATLLN-L
Rs_BcsB	459	MARDLAQVTPASVHPATPDGLARTLPFMAAFREVPDAAPVDLTVAGLHDIATVPLNEEGL
St_BcsB	558	VGAIGGQTGFPAINLTITDDSAQIADK-DADLLIISAIPGKLKDDKRIDLLVQ
Ec_BcsB	571	VGFIGAQTGFPAINLTVTDDGSTIQGK-DADIMIIGGIPDKLKDDKQIDLLVQ
Pp_BcsB	553	VGGLAGGIGYPALGLQLIDDWQQVAAA-DADLLLIGSLPEALRDAPDLGLLS
Ax-BcsB	681	MGFFGATWYPASGVQVADINDLSEHPPQGDLILATAGDAFKFELLTRAPYELT
Kp_BcsB	592	AARSGNATGTALANNRVVLGMPTGGGDLQSLRERDVLAVTALDQQAFNQSLLADSPYRPV
Rs_BcsB	519	TPRLLALTLLPSTVSRLVERPATPAGPPANALAPLGAAPGEGVMPPLVESNWSDRA
St_BcsB	610	ATQSNVKTP-MRQTAFPSIMPDEADRAADAQSTVTASGPMAAVVGFQSPFNDQRSVI
Ec_BcsB	623	ATESWVKTP-MRQTPFPGIVPDESDRAAETRSTLTSSGAMAAVIGFQSPINDQRSVI
Pp_BcsB	605	AQRDWLLQG-RSASLPGQQRFDTEPVAASSRVAVSAQAPIAAITGLKSPFHEQRSVV
Ax-BcsB	737	DGHIRVGQH-MGLQGIWXI.FQDHDHAGLQGCVQANLNAPIAGAVLLGAQSPYRSDRSVV
Kp_BcsB	652	DNVLSVREPDLWCKVQRRLTGDWTSASLDADRYFSSSSAWRGFISYRSPWNSTRLVV
Rs_BcsB	575	QTFVQATLQPVIQTVRMLRPGDGNLAEWLATRKGTAMLLAPEPGKLW
St_BCSB	666	ALLADSPRGYQLLNDAVNDSGKRAAMFGSVAVIRES-GVHSLRVGDIYYVGHLPWF
EC_BCSB	679	ALLADSPRGYEMLNDAVNDSGKRATMFGSVAVIRES-GINSLRVGDVYYGHLPWF
Pp_BCSB	661	ALLANSDSDYALLRDMLGDVGKLDAVAGSVTLLRSG-GVSSQFVGEHYFVGALPWW
Ax-BCSB	796	ALMGDTPSRMHDLVMGLRSKEDVPRIQGDLVLRNGD-RLTSYRTAPTFTMGSLPWW
Kp_BCSB	709	VALASNDDQLARLKTDLESPRINAGIRGDTAVITSDNGVRSFQVSTFPPSGQMPNY
RS_BCSB	623	VILGPEAEPARVAEALAMAPRSPGGPRGQVAVLGSDGRWSSWSKPGLLPELREPVSLDNV
St_BcsB	721	ERLWYALANHPVLLAVLAALSVVLLAWVLWRLLRILSRRRLDPDHE
Ec_BcsB	734	ERVWYALANHPILLAVLAAISVILLAWVLWRLLRIISRRRLNPDNE
Pp_BcsB	716	LLLWFHLSEHPVLAVIAAVCVVLFAFLWRALRWAGKRRLGEAG
Ax-BcsB	851	MWLDWYLGTRPLTLYVLGLUGAGLVAAAAVRLLRRAQHRLEEAARVKDTTDASH
Kp_BcsB	765	MMAVWYASQHSGFLAVLGLIATSINGLALTAMFKRHARKRLGSGDNQ
Rs_BcsB	683	RSVVGNVASARPPLLLGGMLGLAWISAAIAVGFVLRTRRKGLK



Fig. S1. Sequence alignment of BcsB. (*Left*) BcsB sequences from *Salmonella typhimurium* (St), *Escherichia coli* (Ec), *Pseudomonas putida* (Pp), *Gluconace-tobacter xylinus* (Ax), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Kp), and *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* (Rs) are compared. The alignment is colored according to the individual BcsB domains: carbohydrate-binding domain (CBD)-1, blue; flavodoxin-like domain (FD)-1, orange; CBD-2, cyan; FD-2, sand, transmembrane (TM) anchor, and preceding interface helix, dark blue. Conserved cysteines forming a disulfide bridge are framed black and are shown as yellow spheres in the right panel. (*Right*) Structure of the *R. sphaeroides* BcsA-B complex. BcsA is shown as a surface in shades of gray; BcsB is shown as cartoon colored according to the sequence alignment.

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Fig. 52. Characterization of the BcsA-B in vitro product by linkage analysis (see experimental details in *SI Materials and Methods*). (*A*) Shown is a typical gas chromatogram corresponding to the separated permethylated alditolacetates. The derivative corresponding to terminal glucose residues (nonreducing ends; t-Glc) was quantified from multiple chromatograms obtained from different dilutions of the alditolacetates and represents no more than 0.3–0.5% of the total alditolacetates. The only other peak in the chromatogram arising from a sugar residue corresponds to 1,4-linked glucosyl residues (1,4-Glc) and represents 99.5–99.7% of the total derivatives. (*B* and *C*) El-MS fragmentation spectra of the permethylated alditolacetates obtained from the product synthesized in vitro by the BcsA-B complex. The identity of the 1,5-di-*O*-acetyl, 2,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-methyl-D-glucitol and 1,4,5-tri-*O*-acetyl, 2,3,6-tri-*O*-methyl-D-glucitol corresponding to Legend continued on following page

the t-Glc and 1,4-Glc residues, respectively, was verified after fragmentation by EI-MS. EI-MS analysis performed on the other minor peaks visible on the chromatogram (e.g., before retention times of 13, 14, 17, and 19 min) revealed that they did not correspond to any sugar derivative. The fragmentation spectra obtained are characteristic of 1,4,5-tri-O-acetyl, 2,3,6-tri-O-methyl-D-glucitol (*B*) (GC retention time of 21.3 min) and 1,5-di-O-acetyl, 2,3,4,6-tetra-O-methyl-D-glucitol (*C*) (GC retention time of 10.8 min) and correspond to 1,4-Glc and t-Glc residues, respectively.



Fig. S3. Cation selectivity and pH optimum of cellulose synthase. (*A*) Cellulose synthesis reactions were performed in the presence of 20 mM of the indicated cations or in the absence of any additional divalent cations with and without addition of 20 mM EDTA. The activities are shown relative to the activity in the presence of magnesium. (*B*) The BcsA-B complex exhibits a maximum catalytic activity at neutral pH. Activity assays were performed in phosphate buffer adjusted at the indicated pH, revealing a pH optimum at pH 7.5. All activity assays were performed for 45 min at 37 °C with 1 μ M PLs-reconstituted *R. sphaeroides* BcsA-B and by quantifying the accumulation of ³H-labeled water insoluble cellulose as described.



Fig. S4. Reconstitution of BcsA-B into lipid nanodiscs. 30 μM of the purified BcsA-B complex was incubated with 120 μM purified apo-A1 protein MSP in the presence of 1 mg/mL detergent-solubilized *E. coli* total lipid extract. After detergent removal by addition of SM-2 BioBeads, the NDs were purified by gel filtration chromatography over an analytical S200 Superdex size-exclusion chromatography column (*Upper*) in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 5 mM cellobiose, and 10% (vol/vol) glycerol. The eluted fractions were analyzed by SDS/PAGE and Coomassie staining (*Lower*), pooled, and concentrated to 5 μM.



Fig. S5. Nanodiscs provide a native-like environment for BcsA-B. NDs containing the purified BcsA-B complex were incubated at 0.5 μ M for 60 min at 37 °C with 5 mM UDP-Glc and 0.03 mM c-di-GMP as described for the PLs-reconstituted complex. No product is formed in the presence of 20 mM EDTA. After synthesis, the polymer can be digested with 0.1 mg/mL β -1,4 cellulase from *Aspergillus niger* (β -1,4). The synthesized, ³H-labeled polymer was quantified as described in *SI Materials and Methods*.



Fig. S6. Comparison of bacterial exopolysaccharide synthases. The biosynthesis of bacterial alginate, cellulose, and poly-β-1,6 *N*-acetylglucosamine is activated by c-di-GMP, whereas hyaluronan (HA) formation is independent of c-di-GMP. c-di-GMP-binding domains (green and khaki hexagons) can either be a part of the catalytic subunits (shown in green) or are localized in associating subunits that interact with the synthases, as shown for BcsA and BcsB and Alg44 and Alg8, respectively. PgaC and PgaD of the poly-β-1,6 *N*-acetylglucosamine synthase bind c-di-GMP at their interface and do not contain PilZ domains. The GT domains are shown in black and the periplasmic and outer-membrane components required for activity in vivo are shown in gray. Predicted TM segments are shown as cylinders. HA synthase (HAS) is predicted to contain four to six TM helices (shown in dark and light green) and is sufficient for HA synthesis and membrane translocation. IM and OM, inner and outer membrane, respectively.