

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL FOR:**

**Title: Loss of specificity variants of WzxC suggest that substrate recognition is coupled with transporter opening in MOP-family flippases**

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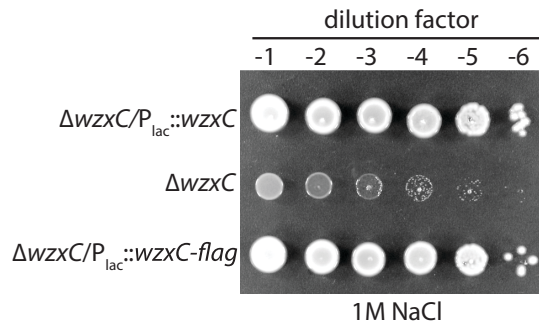
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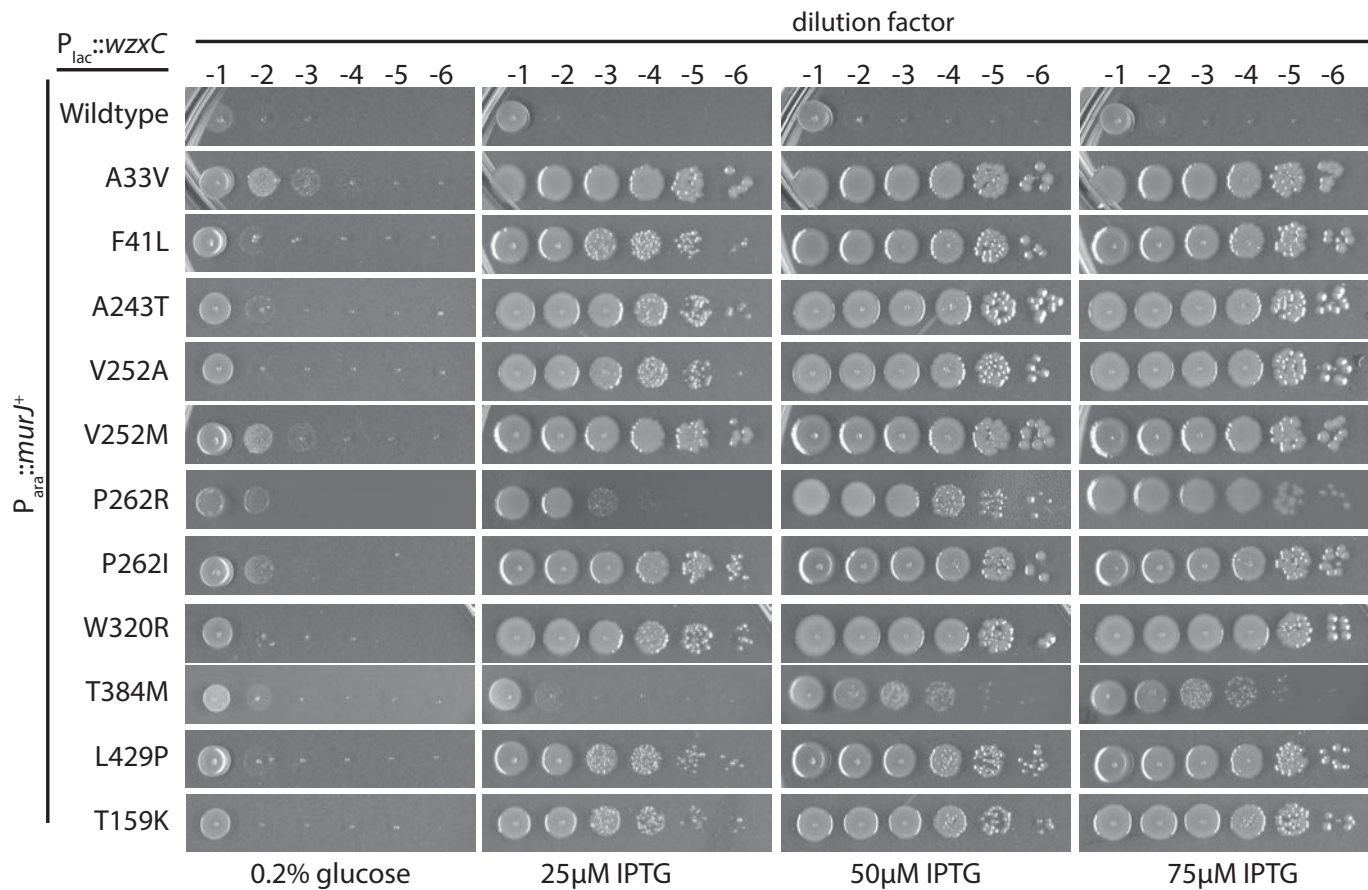
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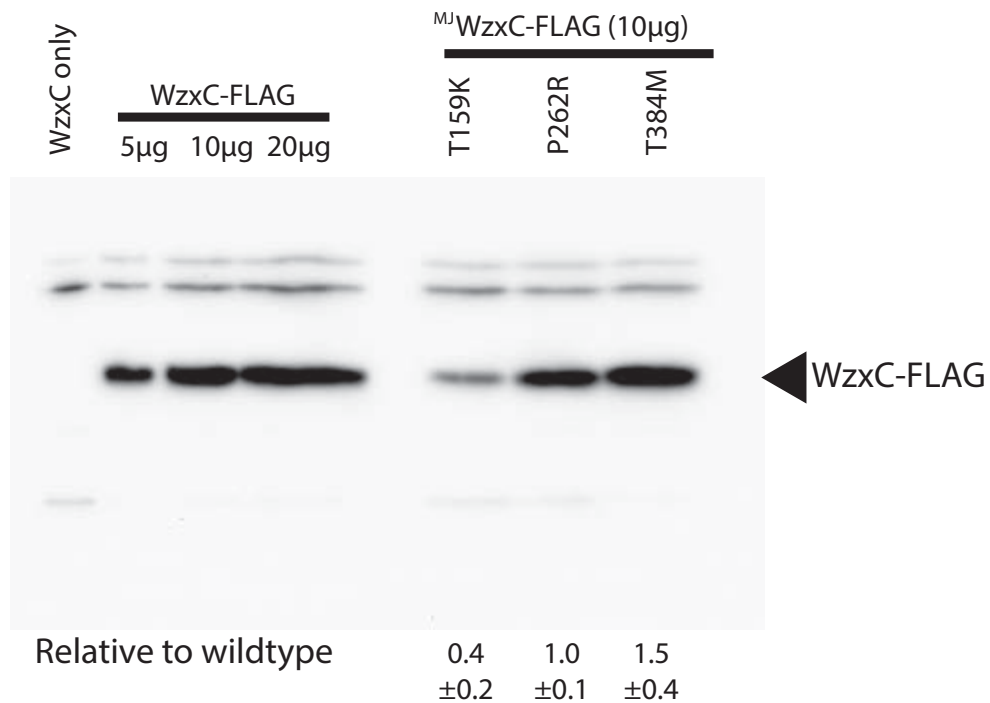
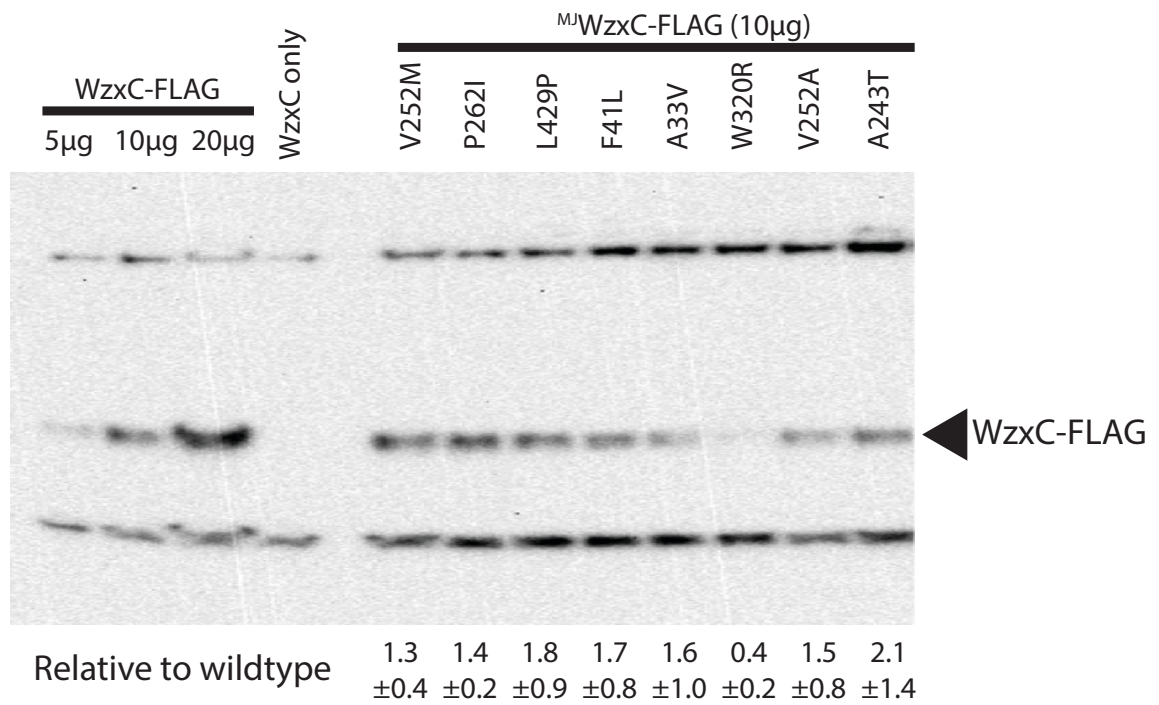
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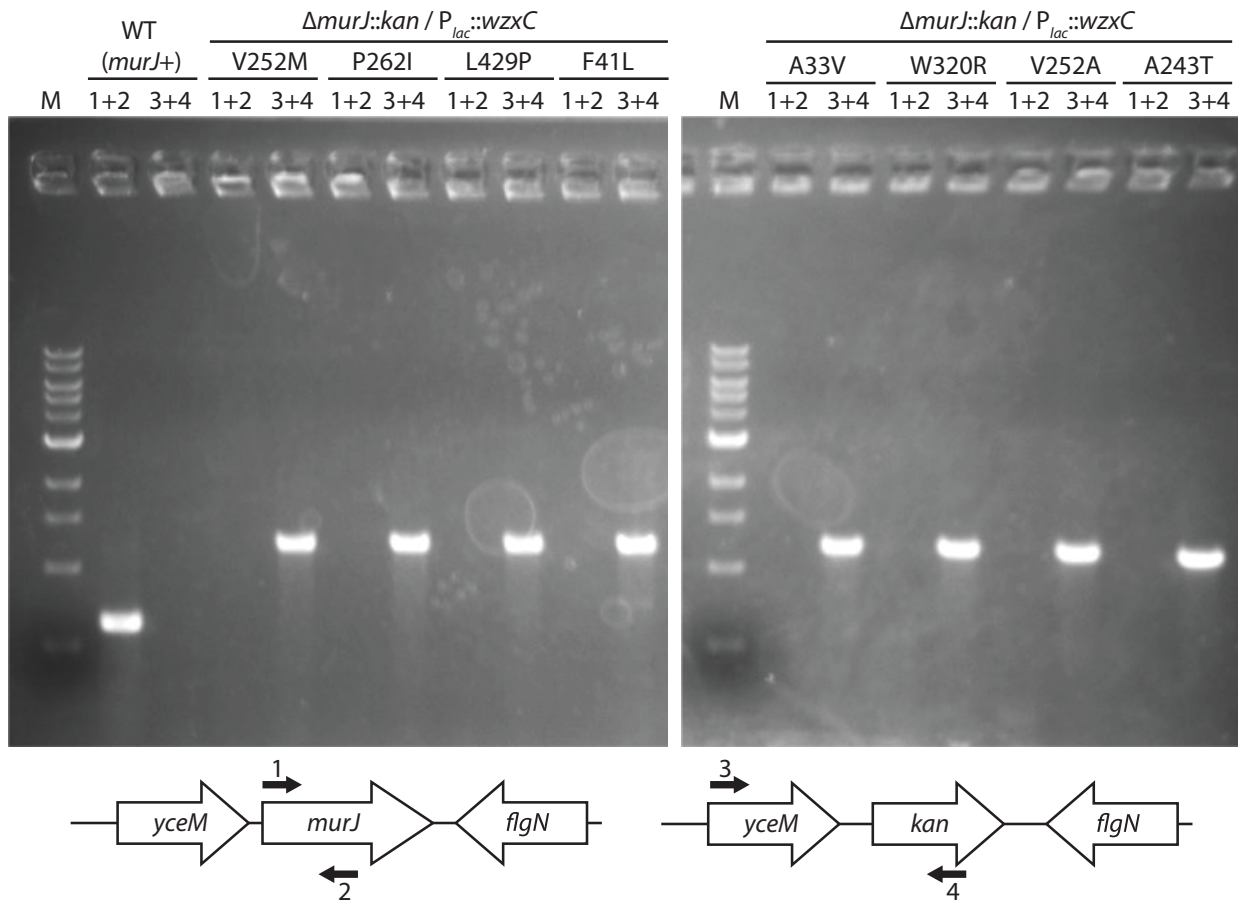
**Figure S1. WzxC-FLAG is functional.** Cells of CS38 [ $\Delta wzxC$ ], CS38/pCS123 [ $\Delta wzxC/P_{lac}::wzxC$ ], or CS38/pCS124 [ $\Delta wzxC/P_{lac}::wzxC$ -FLAG] were grown overnight in LB medium (CS38) or LB medium with 25 $\mu$ g/ml chloramphenicol (CS38/pCS123 and CS38/pCS124) at 37°C with aeration. Cultures were then serially diluted and 5 $\mu$ l of the culture was spotted on LB plates supplemented with 1M NaCl. On this medium, cells inactivated for WzxC display a strong growth defect. This defect was corrected by production of WzxC-FLAG as well as untagged WzxC indicating that the fusion is functional.



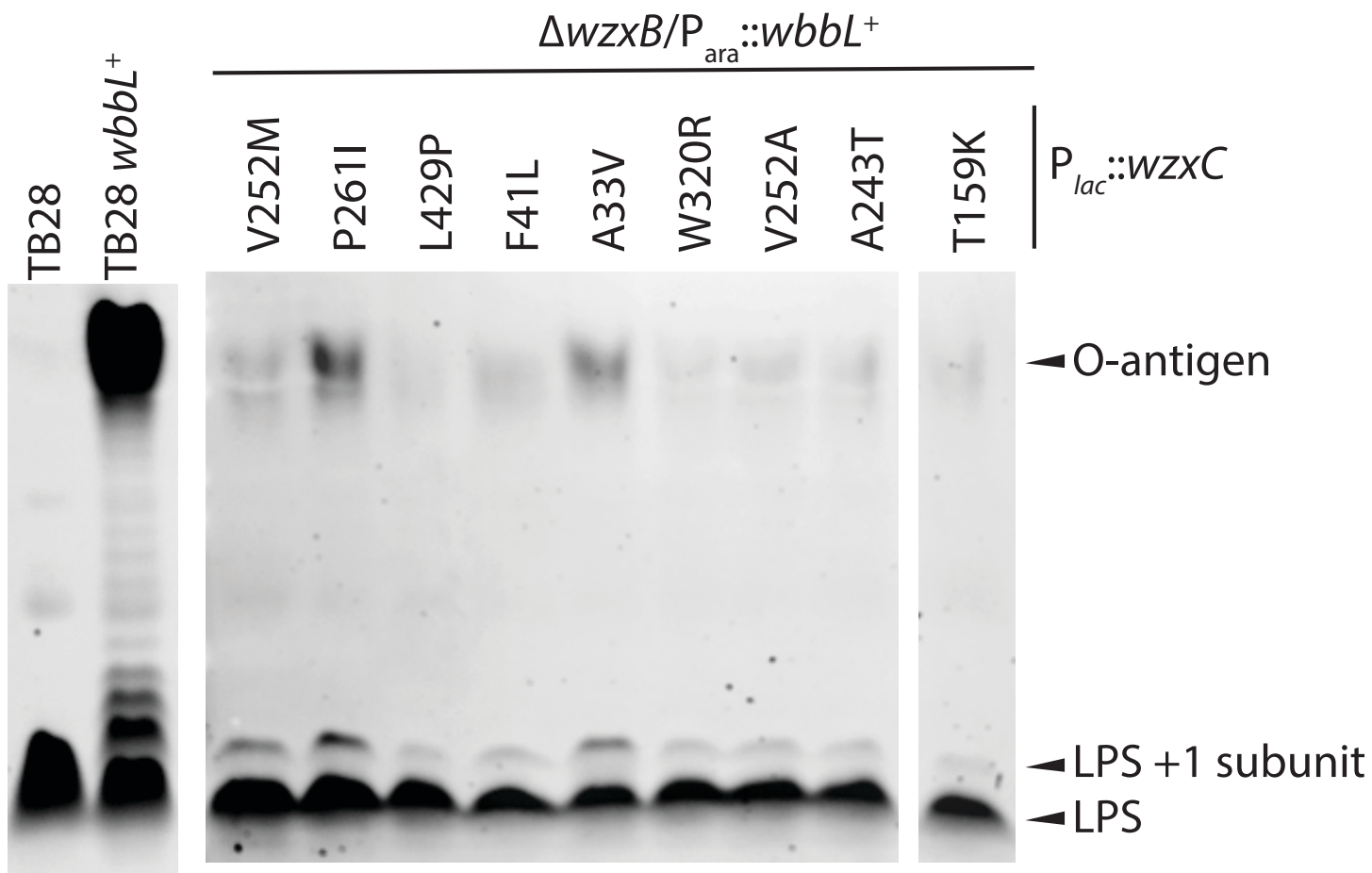
**Figure S2. WzxC variants can substitute for MurJ.** Cells of CS7 [ $P_{ara}::murJ$ ] harboring plasmids encoding C-terminally FLAG-tagged WzxC (WT) or the indicated derivatives were grown in LB medium with arabinose overnight. Following normalization for culture density, serial dilutions ( $10^{-1}$  to  $10^{-6}$ ) were prepared and 5  $\mu$ l of each were spotted onto LB plates supplemented with either glucose or the indicated IPTG concentration. Plates were photographed after incubation at 37°C for  $\approx$ 16 hours. All of the strains grew similarly on plates supplemented with arabinose under this condition.



**Figure S3. WzxC-FLAG variants accumulate to levels similar to wild-type WzxC-FLAG.** Cells of CS7 [*P<sub>ara</sub>::murJ*] harboring plasmids encoding C-terminally FLAG-tagged WzxC (WT) or the indicated derivatives were grown in LB medium with chloramphenicol, 0.2% (w/v) arabinose, and 500  $\mu$ M IPTG at 37°C with aeration. When cultures reached an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.4, cells were harvested and resuspended in sample buffer followed by heating at 50°C. The protein concentration in each extract was determined and the indicated amount of total protein was subjected to SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting for the detection of the FLAG epitope. Shown are representative blots from three independent experiments. The relative amount of <sup>MJ</sup>WzxC-FLAG compared to wildtype WzxC-FLAG and the standard deviation between replicates is shown at the bottom of the blot. As a negative control, strain CS7 harboring plasmid encoding the untagged WzxC was included.

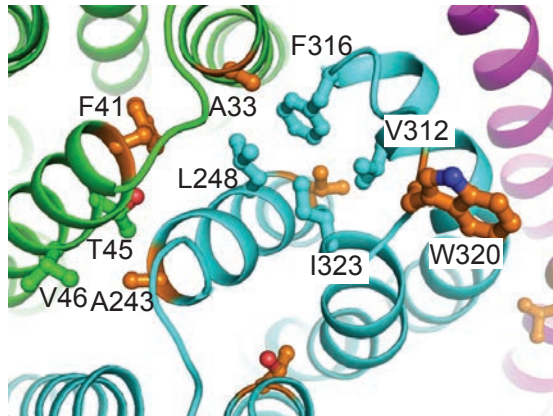


**Figure S4. WzxC variants can compensate for the deletion of chromosomal *murJ*.** Cells harboring plasmids encoding the indicated *wzxC-flag* variants were used as recipients in a P1 transduction from a  $\Delta murJ::kan^R$  donor. Transductants were selected on LB kanamycin plates supplemented with 100  $\mu$ M IPTG. Successful replacement of the chromosomal *murJ* gene was confirmed by diagnostic PCR using primers 1 and 2 for detection of the *murJ* gene (628bp product) or primers 3 and 4 to detect the *kan<sup>R</sup>* cassette at the *murJ* locus (1.2 kb product). As shown in the agarose gel, the native *murJ* gene was detected in the TB28 [WT] parent but not the transductants. Conversely, the *kan<sup>R</sup>* cassette was detected in the *murJ* locus in the transductants but not the WT strain. Thus, all of the WzxC variants tested were able to support growth upon the complete loss of MurJ.

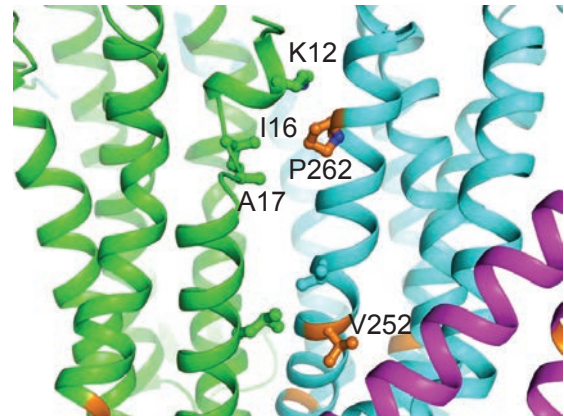


**Figure S5. <sup>MJ</sup>WzxC variants can substitute for WzxB in O-antigen production.** Cells of TB28 [*wbbL*], AAY1 [TB28 *wbbL*<sup>+</sup>], or CS39/pCS160 [ $\Delta wzxB/P_{ara}::wbbL$ ] harboring plasmids encoding the indicated <sup>MJ</sup>WzxC variants were grown in LB medium with 0.2% (w/v) arabinose and 100  $\mu$ M IPTG. The medium for plasmid containing cells also included spectinomycin and chloramphenicol. When the cultures reached an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.4, cells were then harvested, lysed by SDS, and treated with proteinase K. O-antigen and LPS was detected by ProQ Emerald staining after resolution on a 4/13% Tris-Tricine gel. Loading of each lane was normalized such that they included an equivalent amount of total protein as assessed prior to proteinase K treatment. This experiment was performed three times with similar results. Note that CS39/pCS160 [ $\Delta wzxB/P_{ara}::wbbL$ ] cells harboring plasmids encoding WzxC(WT), WzxC(T384M), and WzxC(P262R) failed to grow when *wbbL* was induced for O-antigen synthesis and thus were not included in this assay.

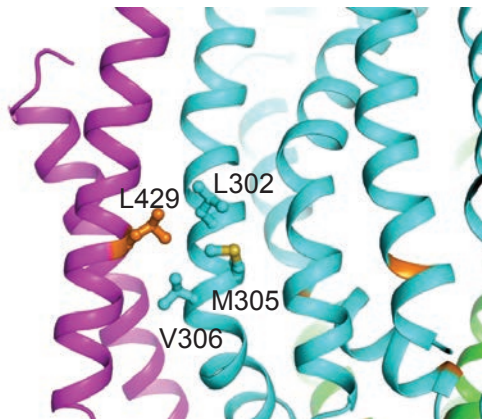
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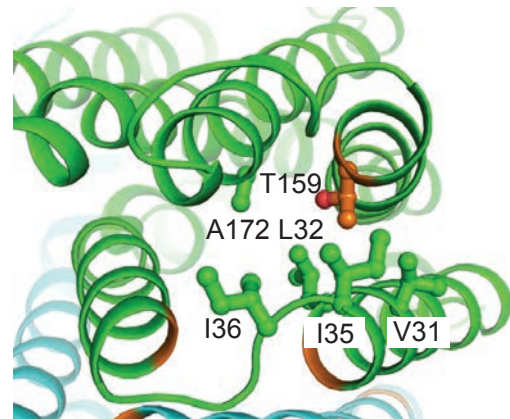
B



C



D



**Figure S6. Close-up views of residues altered in the <sup>MJ</sup>WzxC variants.** Shown are zoomed in views of the model WzxC structure highlighting the positions of residues altered in the <sup>MJ</sup>WzxC derivatives. Coloring of the structure is as in **Figure 4**.

**Table S1. WzxC variants isolated that can substitute for MurJ**

<b>Mutant<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Amino acid change(s) identified in WzxC</b>
D2	<b>V252M</b>
D3	L57I <b>A243T</b>
D4	<b>P262I</b>
D6	<b>W320R</b>
D7	<b>L429P</b>
D8	<b>F41L</b> T117R A163V V292I
D9	V46M <b>F422S</b>
D10	<b>A235V</b> V312L
D11	<b>A243V</b> P257T
D12	<b>L429P</b>
D13	<b>F41L</b>
D15	<b>A33V</b>
D16	F187L <b>L327P</b>
D17	<b>A33V</b>
D18	F190Y <b>A235V V252L</b>
D19	<b>V252M</b>
D21	<b>W320R</b>
D22	<b>V252A</b>
D24	S14W <b>F41I</b> L471V
D25	<b>F41L</b>
D27	<b>P262S</b> G379D
D28	<b>A243T</b>
D29	<b>A243V</b> Q376L
D30	<b>A33V</b>
NF3	<b>T159K</b>
NF12	<b>K143E L327P</b>
NF15	<b>T384M L389P</b>

<sup>a</sup> The amino acid changes highlighted in bold are predicted to be the causative and were further studied.



**Table S2. Strains used in this study**

Strain	Genotype <sup>a</sup>	Source/Reference <sup>b</sup>
DH5α	<i>F</i> - <i>hsdR17 deoR recA1 endA1 phoA supE44 thi-1 gyrA96 relA1 Δ(lacZYA-argF)U169 φ80dlacZΔM15</i>	Gibco BRL
MG1655	<i>rph-1 ilvG rfb-50</i>	(Guyer <i>et al.</i> , 1981)
NR2528	<i>F</i> - <i>araD139 Δ(argF-lac)U169 rpsL150 relA1 flB5301 deoC1 ptsF25 rbsR wbbL<sup>+</sup>::kan</i>	from Natividad Ruiz
AAY1	TB28 <i>wbbL<sup>+</sup>::kan</i>	P1(NR2528) x TB28
TB10	MG1655 <i>λΔcro-bio nad::Tn10</i>	(Johnson <i>et al.</i> , 2004)
TB28	MG1655 <i>ΔlacZYA::frt</i>	(Bernhardt and de Boer, 2004)
JW2022	BW25113 <i>ΔwzxB::kan</i>	(Baba <i>et al.</i> , 2006)
JW3758	BW25113 <i>ΔwecA::kan</i>	(Baba <i>et al.</i> , 2006)
CS7	TB28 <i>bla-araC-P<sub>ara</sub>::murJ</i>	(Sham <i>et al.</i> , 2014)
CS31	TB28 <i>ΔmurJ::kan</i>	(Meeske <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
CS38	TB28 <i>ΔwzxC::kan</i>	P1(λRed allele) x TB28
CS39	TB28 <i>ΔwzxB::kan</i>	P1(JW2022) x TB28

<sup>a</sup> The Kan<sup>R</sup> cassette is flanked by *frt* sites for removal by FLP recombinase. An *frt* scar remains following removal of the cassette using FLP recombinase expressed from pCP20.

<sup>b</sup> Strain constructions by P1 transduction are described using the shorthand: P1(donor) x recipient. Transductants were selected on LB Kan, LB Tet, or LB Cm plates where appropriate. λRed indicates strains constructed by recombineering (see Experimental Procedures for details). Strains resulting from the removal of a drug resistance cassette using pCP20 are indicated as: Parental strain/pCP20.

**Table S3. Plasmids used in this study**

Plasmid	Genotype <sup>a</sup>	Origin	Source or Reference
pBAD43	<i>spec araC</i> P <sub>ara</sub>	pSC101	(Guzman <i>et al.</i> , 1995)
pCP20	<i>bla cat cl875 repA</i> (Ts) P <sub>R</sub> :: <i>flp</i>	pSC101	(Datsenko and Wanner, 2000)
pCS123	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>+</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS124	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>+</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS126	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>murJ</i> <sup>+</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS133	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> E <sup>+</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS134	<i>amp araC</i> P <sub>ara</sub> :: <i>wecA</i> <sup>+</sup>	pBR	This study
pCS158	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> B <sup>+</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS160	<i>spec araC</i> P <sub>ara</sub> :: <i>wbbL</i> <sup>+</sup>	pSC101	This study
pCS161	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>K143E</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS162	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>T159R</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS163	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>P262R</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS164	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>P262S</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS165	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>S308L</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS166	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>L327P</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS167	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>T384M</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS168	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>L389P</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS169	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>F422S</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pCS170	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>F422C</sup> - <i>flag</i>	p15A	This study
pD2	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>V252M</sup>	p15A	This study
pD4	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>P262I</sup>	p15A	This study
pD12	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>L429P</sup>	p15A	This study
pD13	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>F41L</sup>	p15A	This study
pD15	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>A33V</sup>	p15A	This study
pD21	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>W320R</sup>	p15A	This study
pD22	<i>cat lacI</i> P <sub>lac</sub> :: <i>wzx</i> C <sup>V252A</sup>	p15A	This study

Plasmid	Genotype <sup>a</sup>	Origin	Source or Reference
pD28	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CA243T</sup></i>	p15A	This study
pDF2	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CV252M</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF4	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CP262I</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF12	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CL429P</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF13	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CF41L</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF15	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CA33V</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF21	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CV252M</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF22	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CV252A</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pDF28	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CA243T</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pNF3	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CT159K</sup></i>	p15A	This study
pNFF3	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CT159K</sup>-flag</i>	p15A	This study
pNF12	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CK143E L327P</sup></i>	p15A	This study
pNF15	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzx<sup>CT384M L389P</sup></i>	p15A	This study
pMT77	<i>cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub></i>	p15A	This study

<sup>a</sup> P<sub>ara</sub>, P<sub>λR</sub>, and P<sub>lac</sub> indicate the arabinose, λR, and lactose promoters, respectively.

**Table S4. Oligonucleotides used in this study**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sequence (5' to 3')</b>
CS163	CGTCTGACTGGACGTTACAAG
CS165	GAACACCGATGAATTTATTAAAATCGC
CS166	TGCGGTAGCTGATACACCAGC
CS201	TTCCCCTCTAGATTTAAGAAGGAGATATACATATGAATTTATTAAAA TCGCTGGCCGCCG
CS203	CCCCTCTAGATTTAAGAAGGAGATATACATATGAGCTTACGTGAA AAAACCATCAGC
CS204	TACCAAGCTTTACCCCCGCCCGTAAAAGC
CS233	TACCAAGCTTTTCATTTATCATCATCATCTTTATAATCCTCGAGCCC CGCCCGTAAAAGCA
CS237	TACCAAGCTTTTCATTTATCATCATCATCTTTATAATCCTCGAGCAC CGTCCGGCGGGCAA
CS249	TCCCCTCTAGATTGCGACTTTGTTGAACTACTTTTCCTG
CS250	TAATCCTCGAGTGCCCGCCTACGCCAGAGTAAAAAC
CS302	ATATACATATGAATACGAATAAATTATCTTTAAGAAGAAACG
CS303	ATAATCCTCGAGTCAGCAAACCAGTAATTTATTATTTCTTAC
CS308	ATATACATATGGTATATATAATAATCGTTTCCCA
CS309	CAGCCAAGCTTTTACGGGTGAAAACTGATGAAATTC
CS319	CATGCCGATTTTCGTTGAACTCCAGCTCTTTTTGC
CS320	ATCGAAACCAGCGCGGTGCTGGC
CS321	GCTAACCACGCTACAAGTGAAGCCCGCCA
CS322	GCCCATTTCTGGCCGCTGGC
CS323	TGATGATGCGGTTTCAGCTTCATCGGTGGC
CS324	CCCGCGTGTTGTTTCCGGCATTTC
CS325	GGGTGATGATAGAGTTTCAGCTTCATCGGTGGC
CS326	GCGTGTTGTTTCCGGCATTTCG
CS327	TACAAAGTTATTCAGCACACCATTAGCCC

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Sequence (5' to 3')</b>
CS328	CCGCTGGTCTTTGGTGAGAAGTG
CS329	GCAATTGCGGCACCGGAATAATGCTGTTCC
CS330	TGTGTGTGGTGGGTCTGCTGCGC
CS331	AAGCCAAGCATGACGCCGATCGCGCCCG
CS332	CCTGCTGGTGCAAATTATCAACACCA
CS333	ATAATTTGCACCGGCAGGAAGCCAAGCGTGACG
CS334	CAACACCATTCTGAGTTACTTCGTG
CS335	GCGAGAGATAGCTCGGCAGCCATAAACTCAGG
CS336	TGCCGACGCTGGTGGTCAGTTATGCGC
CS337	GCGAGAGATAGCACGGCAGCCATAAACTCAGG
CS338	TGCCGACGCTGGTGGTCAGTTATG
CS365	TCCCCTCTAGATTTAAGAAGGAGATATACATATGAATACGAATAAA TTATCTTTAAGAAG
kan5'extout	CACTGCAAGCTACCTGCTTTCTC
p15AR	CGCCGGTGATGCCGGCCACGATGCGTCCGG
pMLB5'a	TTAGGCACCCCAGGCTTTACAC

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## SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

### Growth conditions, bacterial strains and plasmids.

Strains used in this study are listed in **Table S2**. Unless otherwise specified, *E. coli* cells were grown in lysogeny broth (LB) under aeration at 37°C. Whenever appropriate, arabinose and glucose are added to a final concentrations of 0.2% (w/v). When indicated, ampicillin, chloramphenicol, and kanamycin are added to a final concentrations of 25 µg/ml.

Spectinomycin was added to a final concentration of 40 µg/ml. Plasmids and oligonucleotides used in this study are listed in **Table S3** and **Table S4**, respectively. Unless otherwise indicated, genomic DNA from strain MG1655 was used as a template for PCR.

### Strain construction

Strain CS38 [TB28  $\Delta wzxC::kan$ ] was constructed by recombineering. First, a PCR amplicon was generated using primers CS231 and CS232, and Phusion DNA polymerase (NEB). After PCR purification, the product was electroporated into strain TB28/pKD46. The recombinants were plated on LB supplemented with kanamycin, and incubated at 37°C overnight. After confirming the presence of  $\Delta wzxC::kan$  at the native locus by PCR, a P1 lysate was prepared on the recombinant and used to transduce the  $\Delta wzxC::kan^R$  allele into strain TB28 [WT] to generate CS38.

### Plasmid construction

For pCS123 [*cat lacI* P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*], the *wzxC* gene was amplified with primers CS203 and CS204. The PCR amplicon was digested with XbaI and HindIII, and ligated to pMT77 digested with the same restriction enzymes. The cloned fragment was confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For pCS124 [*cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzxC-flag*], the *wzxC* open reading frame was amplified with primers CS203 and CS333. The PCR amplicon was digested with XbaI and HindIII, and ligated to pMT77 digested with the same restriction enzymes. The cloned fragment was confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For pCS126 [*cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::murJ-flag*], the *murJ* open reading frame was amplified with primers CS237 and CS201. The PCR amplicon was digested with XbaI and XhoI, and ligated to pMT77 digested with the same restriction enzymes. The cloned fragment was confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For pCS133 [*cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzxE-flag*], the *wzxE* gene was amplified with primers CS249 and CS250. The PCR amplicon was digested with XbaI and XhoI, and ligated to pCS124 digested with the same restriction enzymes. The cloned fragment was confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For pCS158 [*cat lacI P<sub>lac</sub>::wzxB-flag*], the *wzxB* gene was amplified with primers CS302 and CS303. The PCR amplicon was digested with NdeI and XhoI, and ligated to pCS124 digested with the same restriction enzymes. The cloned fragment was confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For pCS160 [*spec araC P<sub>ara</sub>::wbbL*], the *wbbL* gene was amplified with primers CS308 and CS309 using genomic DNA template from strain AAY1 (TB28 *wbbL*<sup>+</sup> kan). The PCR product

was digested with NdeI and HindIII, and ligated to pBAD43 digested with the same restriction enzymes. The cloned fragment was confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For pCS161 [*cat lacI* P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(K143E)-*flag*], site directed mutagenesis was performed on pCS124 using phosphorylated primers CS319 and CS320 and amplification with Phusion polymerase (NEB). To phosphorylate CS319 and CS320, 0.5  $\mu$ l of a 100  $\mu$ M primer stock was mixed with 1  $\mu$ l of T4 ligase buffer (NEB), 7.5  $\mu$ l of water, and 0.5  $\mu$ l of T4 PNK (NEB). The reaction was performed at 37°C for one hour, chilled on ice, and mixed with 2  $\mu$ l of purified pCS124, 0.5  $\mu$ l of 10mM dNTPs, 5  $\mu$ l of 10x Phusion polymerase buffer, 7.25  $\mu$ l of water and 0.25  $\mu$ l of Phusion polymerase. After PCR purification (QIAGEN), the amplified linearized plasmids were ligated using T4 ligase and transformed into DH5 $\alpha$ ( $\lambda$ pir) competent cells. The presence of the desired mutation was confirmed by sequencing. Plasmids pCS162 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(T159R)-*flag*), pCS163 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(P262R)-*flag*), pCS164 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(P262S)-*flag*), pCS165 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(S308L)-*flag*), pCS166 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(L327P)-*flag*), pCS167 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(T384M)-*flag*), pCS168 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(L389P)-*flag*), pCS169 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(F422S)-*flag*), and pCS170 (P<sub>lac</sub>::*wzxC*(F422C)-*flag*) were generated using the same approach. The oligonucleotides used were CS321 and CS322 (T159R), CS323 and CS324 (P262R), CS325 and CS326 (P262S), CS327 and CS328 (S308L), CS329 and CS330 (L327P), CS331 and CS332 (T384M), CS333 and CS334 (L389P), CS335 and CS336 (F422S), and CS337 and CS338 (F422C). The cloned fragments were confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

For plasmids pDF2, pDF4, pDF12, pDF13, pDF15, pDF21, pDF22, and pDF28, the inserts containing the *wzxC* variants were amplified by Phusion polymerase using primers CS233 and CS203, and DNA templates from the corresponding clones (pD2, pD4, pD12, pD13, pD15,



pD21, pD22, and pD28). The amplicons were PCR purified and digested with XbaI and HindIII, and ligated into the vector backbone of pCS124 digested with the same enzymes. The cloned fragments were confirmed by PCR and sequencing.

### **LPS extraction and O-antigen staining**

To measure O-antigen production, cells of CS39/pCS160 [ $\Delta wzxB::kan/P_{ara}::wbbL$ ] harboring plasmids encoding *wzxC* variants were grown in 5ml of LB medium with chloramphenicol, spectinomycin, 500 $\mu$ M of IPTG, and 0.2% (w/v) glucose overnight at 37°C with aeration. Cultures were then diluted to OD of 0.01 in 3ml of the same medium, except glucose was replaced by arabinose and the level of IPTG was reduced to 100 $\mu$ M. When the culture OD<sub>600</sub> reached 0.4 and 0.6, cells were collected by centrifugation at 16,100  $xg$  for 30 seconds at room temperature, washed once with 1ml of LB, and resuspended in 100 $\mu$ l of resuspension buffer (30mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 10mM EDTA, 1% SDS). The suspension was boiled for 5 minutes and cooled to room temperature. The amount of protein was quantitated using the NI protein assay (Gbioscience) and used to normalize loading. Two microliters of proteinase K (NEB P8107S, 1.6U) was added and the mixture was incubated at 60°C for 1 hour. An equal volume of LPS sample buffer (50mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 2% (w/v) SDS, 10% (w/v) sucrose, 0.01% (w/v) bromophenol blue) was then added, and the mixture was boiled again for 5 minutes. Crude LPS extracts were resolved on a 4/13% Tris-tricine gel. The gel was first run at 60V for 1 hour, then 150V until dye front reach the bottom, approximately for 40 minutes. LPS on the gel was visualized by the Pro-Q LPS staining kit (Life technology P20495). Briefly, the gel was washed with water for 10 minutes. Destaining solution (40% methanol, 10% acetic acid) was added followed by incubation for 45 minutes. The gel was then washed twice with 3% (v/v) acetic acid for 10 minutes each, and oxidizing reagent was added. The gel was incubated for 30 minutes

with agitation, and washed two times with 3% (v/v) acetic acid for 10 minutes each. The gel was then soaked in the staining solution, which was prepared by mixing 500  $\mu$ l of the provided dye and 25 ml of Pro-Q reagent buffer. After 30 minutes of staining, the gel was washed twice with 3% (v/v) acetic acid for 5 minutes and visualize using a FluorChem R FR0162 using UV excitation (280nm) and green emission (530nm).

### **Detection of WzxC-FLAG by Immunoblotting**

To quantitate the amount of WzxC-FLAG produced, cells of CS7 [ $P_{ara}::murJ$ ] harboring plamids encoding WzxC(WT) or <sup>MJ</sup>WzxC variants were grown in LB medium supplemented with chloramphenicol and arabinose overnight at 37°C. Overnight cultures were diluted 1:100 in 3ml of LB with chloramphenicol, arabinose, and 500 $\mu$ M of IPTG. When the culture OD<sub>600</sub> reached 0.4 to 0.6, an equivalent of 0.4 OD<sub>600</sub> units of cells were collected by centrifugation at 16100  $xg$  for 30 seconds at room temperature. Spent medium was discarded and pellets were resuspended in 100  $\mu$ l of 2x buffer A+B (10mM sodium phosphate pH 7.2, 1% (v/v) beta-mercaptoethanol, 3% (w/v) SDS, 36% (w/v) urea, 10% (v/v) glycerol, 50mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8). The mixture was incubated at 45°C for 15 minutes. To reduce the viscosity, samples were pipetted up and down vigorously, then incubated again at 45°C for 15 minutes. The amount of protein in each sample was determined using the NI protein assay (Gbioscience). The amount of protein specified (5, 10, or 20  $\mu$ g) was loaded on a precast Any kD gel (Biorad) or a 4/12% SDS-PAGE gel, and transferred to a PVDF membrane. Immunoblotting was performed essentially as described (Sham *et al.*, 2014), using 1:1000 dilutions of the anti-FLAG M2 antibodies (Sigma) and a 1:1000 dilution of the Trublott anti-mouse HRP antibodies (Rockland) respectively. followed by detection with Pico Western reagent (Thermofisher) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

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