

Fig. S1 mNG mutations in 2D and 3D structure. A. 2D structure of mNG.  $\beta$ -sheets are shown as arrows and  $\alpha$ -helices are shown as cylinders. Mutations are shown as stars. B. structure of mNG (PBD entry 5LTR). A-B. mNG3A colored in green, mNG3K in red, and shared mutation in orange,  $\beta$ -strand 11 labelled in cyan.



Fig S2. CloGFP mutations in 2D and 3D structure. A. 2D structure of sfGFP,  $\beta$ -sheets are shown as arrows and  $\alpha$ -helices are shown as cylinders. Mutations are shown as stars. B, 3D structure of sfGFP from Protein Data Bank, ID 2B3P. A-B. mClover3 mutations in pink and CloGFP colored in green.  $\beta$ -strand 11 labelled in cyan.



**Fig S3.** Flow Cytometry analysis of CloGFP<sub>1-10</sub> background in the 405 nm excitation (blue) and 488 nm excitation (green) channels. A. Raw flow cytometry events. B. Scatter gating. C. Singlet gating. D. Negative control without transfection. E.Transfected with CloGFP<sub>1-10</sub> only. F. Positive control with full length sfGFP. G. Fitting of full length GFP in BFP+ cells. H. CloGFP with wild type GFP<sub>11</sub>. I. CloGFP with Y9F mutant GFP<sub>11</sub>. J-L. Data from panels G-I rescaled for comparison.



Fig S4. H2B labelling with new split proteins. Scale bars are 200  $\mu$ m. Boxes indicate regions shown in Fig S5. Note that CloGFP is shown on a different intensity scale.



Fig S5. H2B labelling with new split proteins. Zoomed in images from the square box of Fig S4. White lines in the images are scale bars of 30  $\mu$ m. Note the scale difference for the CloGFP compared with other images

| Rounds | Genotype                 | Brightness              |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| R0     | CloGFP0                  | 805                     |
| R1     | K101R                    | 3000                    |
| R2     | K101R, S202L             | 15300                   |
| R3     | G32Q, F46L, K101R, S202L | 34000                   |
|        | Y9F(GFP11)               |                         |
| R4     | G32Q, F46L, K101R, S202L | 30000/30700/35000/36000 |
|        | Y9F(GFP11)               |                         |

Table S1. Mutation sites in each round of directed evolution for CloGFP.

## Table S2 Protein sequences

| Name      | Sequences   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| mNG       | MVSKGEEDNMASLPATHELHIFGSINGVDFDMVGQGTGNPNDGYEELNL   |  |
|           | KSTKGDLQFSPWILVPHIGYGFHQYLPYPDGMSPFQAAMVDGSGYQVHR   |  |
|           | TMQFEDGASLTVNYRYTYEGSHIKGEAQVKGTGFPADGPVMTNSLTAAD   |  |
|           | WCRSKKTYPNDKTIISTFKWSYTTGNGKRYRSTARTTYTFAKPMAANYLK  |  |
|           | NQPMYVFRKTELKHSKTELNFKEWQKAFTDVMGMDELYK             |  |
| mNG2      | MVSKGEEDNMASLPATHELHIFGSINGVDFDMVGQGTGNPNDGYEELNL   |  |
|           | KSTKGDLQFSPWILVPHIGYGFHQYLPYPDGMSPFQAAMVDGSGYQVHR   |  |
|           | TMQFEDGASLTVNYRYTYEGSHIKGEAQVMGTGFPADGPVMTNTLTAAD   |  |
|           | WCMSKKTYPNDKTIISTFKWSYTTVNGKRYRSTARTTYTFAKPMAANYLK  |  |
|           | NQPMYVFRKTELKHSMTELNFKEWQKAFTDMM                    |  |
| mNG3A     | MVSKGEEDNMASLPATHELHIFGSINGVDFDMVGQGTGNPNDGYEELNL   |  |
|           | KSTKGDLQFSPWILVPHIGYGFHQYLPYPDGMSPFQAAMVDGSGYQVHR   |  |
|           | TMQFEDGASLTVNYRYTYEGSHIKGEAQVMGTGFPADGPVMTNTLTAAD   |  |
|           | LCVSKMTYPNDKTIISTFKWSYTTVNGKRYRSTARTTYTFAKPMAAKYLKN |  |
|           | QPMYVLRKTELKHSMTELNFKEWQKAFTDMM                     |  |
| mNG3K     | MVSKGEEDNMASLPATHELHIFGSINDVDFDMVGQGTGNPNEGYEELNL   |  |
|           | KSTKGDLQFSPWILVPHIGYGFHQYLPYPDGMSPFQAAMVDGSGYQVHR   |  |
|           | TMQFEDGASLTVNYRYTYEGSHIKGEAQVIGTGFPADGPVMTNTLTAAD   |  |
|           | WCMSKMTYPNDKTIISTFKWSYITVNGKRYRSTARTTYTFAKPMAANYLK  |  |
|           | NQPMYVFRKTELKHSMTELNFKEWQKAFTDMM                    |  |
| sfGFP     | MSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVRGEGEGDATNGKLTLKFICTT  |  |
|           | GKLPVPWPTLVTTLTYGVQCFSRYPDHMKRHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTIS   |  |
|           | FKDDGTYKTRAEVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNFNSHNV |  |
|           | YITADKQKNGIKANFKIRHNVEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHYL |  |
|           | STQSVLSKDPNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITHGMDELYK               |  |
| mClover3  | MVSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVRGEGEGDATNGKLTLKFICT  |  |
|           | TGKLPVPWPTLVTTFGYGVACFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTI   |  |
|           | SFKDDGTYKTRAEVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGIDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNFNSHY |  |
|           | VYITADKQKNCIKANFKIRHNVEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHY |  |
|           | LSHQSKLSKDPNEKRDHMVLLEFVTAAGITHGMDELYK              |  |
| CloGFP0.2 | MSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVRGEGEGDATIGKLTLKFICTTG |  |
|           | KLPVPWPTLVTTFGYGVACFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTISF   |  |
|           | KDDGKYKTRAVVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGTDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNFNSHYV  |  |
|           | YITADKQKNCIKANFTVRHNVEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHY  |  |
|           | LSHQTKLSKDPNEKRDHMVLHEYVNAAGIT                      |  |
| CloGFP    | MSKGEELFTGVVPILVELDGDVNGHKFSVRGQGEGDATIGKLTLKLICTTG |  |
|           | KLPVPWPTLVTTFGYGVACFSRYPDHMKQHDFFKSAMPEGYVQERTISF   |  |
|           | RDDGKYKTRAVVKFEGDTLVNRIELKGTDFKEDGNILGHKLEYNFNSHYV  |  |
|           | YITADKQKNCIKANFTVRHNVEDGSVQLADHYQQNTPIGDGPVLLPDNHY  |  |
|           | LLHQTKLSKDPNEKRDHMVLHEYVNAAGIT                      |  |