Supplementary information

Potential role of the host-derived cell-wall binding domain of endolysin CD16/50L as a molecular anchor in preservation of uninfected *Clostridioides difficile* **for new infection rounds**

Wichuda Phothichaisri, Jirayu Nuadthaisong, Tanaporn Phetruen, Tavan Janvilisri, Robert Fagan, Surang Chankhamhaengdecha, Sittinan Chanarat

Supplementary information includes:

Figures S1-S5

Tables S1-S6

Supplemental references

Figure S1

 $\boldsymbol{\mathsf{A}}$

 $\, {\bf B} \,$

Figure S4

Figure S4 (cont.)

 25.300 **Supernatant Pellet (**!**) (**!!**)** $\overline{}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ **SDS-PAGESDS-PAGE**

242

444

B

A

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

FIG S1 The CD16/50L is distinct from well-characterized endolysins of *C. difficile* **phages**

(A) Multiple sequence alignment of CD10L, CD16-1L, CD50L and other endolysins isolated from phages infecting *C. difficile, C. tyrobutyricum, and C. sordellii.* Sequences of EAD (top panel) and CBD (bottom panel) were aligned separately by Clustal Omega (version 1.2.4) (1). Jalview was used to virtualize the results (version 2.11.1.4) (2). The aligned amino acid sequences, conservation scores, and the consensus sequences are shown.

(B) The CD119L and CD16/50L CBD displayed two extended loops distinct from related *C. difficile* phage endolysins. The CBD structure models of CD11, PlyCD, CD119L, CD10L and CD16/50L were predicted using AlphaFold (3). Protein structure comparison and visualization were performed by using the UCSF ChimeraX-daily version 1.3 (2021-09-07) (4). Insets show the magnified images of the extended loop regions.

(C) A false positive result in zymogram assay. A five-fold dilution of crude lysate from *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) was resolved by SDS-PAGE followed by Coomassie blue stain (left) and by zymogram analysis using of *C. difficile* cells as peptidoglycan substrate (middle and right). The purified CD16/50L serves as a positive control. The SDS gel containing *C. difficile* peptidoglycan was analyzed in an absence (middle) or presence (right) of renaturation treatment. Asterisk indicates a highly positively charged protein band showing a false positive result.

FIG S2 CD16/50L CBD interacts with the polysaccharide type II (PS-II) and its characteristics is distinct from reported endolysins.

(A) CBD of CD16/50L binds to the PS-II component of *C. difficile* cell wall**.** Analysis similar to Fig. 2D, but the cell-wall components of *C. difficile* strain 630 was used.

(B) Scheme of an alternative start codon of the endolysins of phages infecting clostridial species. The mRNA sequence shows the upstream region of the endolysin CBD. The Shine-Dalgarno sequence is indicated in red, and the predicted alternative start codon underlined. Amino acid is denoted relative to respective mRNA sequence. Numbers indicate nucleotide or amino acid positions.

FIG S3 The dimerization of CD16/50 CBD confers by a hydrophobic interaction

(A) The dimerization of CD16/50 CBD is most likely via a hydrophobic interaction. The homo-dimeric conformation of CBD is shown as ribbon and hydrophobic surface models (left panel). Hydrophobicity of surface areas was calculated and displayed as a spectrum from cyan (hydrophilic) to goldenrod (hydrophobic). The hydrophobic residues located at the dimer interface are shown as a stick model. Two views of the structures are related by a 90-degree rotation.

(B) The dimer interface of CD16/50 CBD is enriched with hydrophobic amino acid residues. Ribbon model shows the homodimeric structure model of the CD16/50L CBD. Close-up of the dimer interface is shown in the red inset. The hydrophobic residues located at the dimer interface are labeled.

FIG S4 A range of cytolytic activity of CD16/50L.

(A) Similar to Fig. 1C, but CD16/50L protein variants were analyzed against Gram-negative bacterial cells. (B) Similar to Fig. 1C, but CD16/50L protein variants were analyzed against Gram-positive bacterial cells. (C) Similar to Fig. 1C, but CD16/50L protein variants were analyzed against different strains of *C. difficile.* (D) Similar to Fig. 1C, but CD16/50L protein variants were analyzed against relative *Clostridial* species. Mean \pm SD are shown (n = 2).

FIG S5 Competitive binding study of the CD16/50L CBD and CWB2 to PG-PS complex.

(A) (Left panel) A diagram depicts a competitive co-incubation assay. (Right panel) Fifty µg of the purified PG-PS complex was mixed with indicated concentrations of 6xHis-CBD and 6xHis-CWB2. The mixtures were incubated at 37℃ for 20 min with agitation rate of 200 rpm. The PG-PS bound proteins were precipitated by centrifugation, resulting a supernatant (I) and pellet (II) fractions. The pellets were washed and resuspended in a one-tenth of the original volume (x10). Then an equal volume of input (IN), supernatant (S), and pellet (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by Coomassie blue stain. The 6xHis-CWB2 and 6xHis-CBD positions are marked as arrowhead. The asterisk denotes a degraded fragment of the purified protein.

(B) Similar to Fig. S5A, but the concentration of 6xHis-CBD was set constant at 5 µM and 6xHis-CWB2 concentrations were varied as indicated.

(C) (Left) A diagram depicts a competitive displacement assay. (Right) First, 10 µg of purified PG-PS complex was mixed with 50 µl of 20 µM of 6xHis-CBD and incubated at 37℃ for 20 min. After centrifugation, supernatant and part of pellet fraction (I) were collected for SDS-PAGE analysis. After a washing step, the PG-PS bound pellets were treated with purified native or heat-treated 6xHis-CBD (serving as control) at indicated concentrations. The mixtures were incubated at 37 ℃ for 20 min and then precipitated by centrifugation, resulting supernatant (II) and pellet fractions. The pellets were washed and resuspended in a one-fifth of the original volume (x5) (III). Then equal volumes of input (IN), supernatant (S), and pellet (P) were subjected to SDS-PAGE, followed by Coomassie blue stain.

Table S1 CBD is necessary for hydrolytic activity of certain, but not all endolysins. It has been demonstrated that removing of CBD from endolysin enhanced cytolytic activity. While the activity of some endolysins was reduced or abolished when the CBD was deleted.

Table S2 The CBD of *C. difficile* **phage endolysins shows the secondary structure similarity to CWB2 domain.** Sequence similarity searching was performed using HHpred (5). The CBD sequences from CD16/50L and CD27L were used as a query for protein remote homology detection. The *C. difficil*e cellwall proteins such as Cwp8, Cwp6, Cwp11, and Cwp29 in addition to endolysins were detected as homologous proteins with high probability score from 72% to 93% to be true positives. Based on Hidden Markov model, the aligned region of the protein templates was identified as the CWB2 domain, a cell-wall binding domain 2 (Pfam: PF04122) of *C. difficile* surface and cell-wall proteins.

Table S3 The CBD of phage endolysins is likely to derived from their bacterial host proteins. The CBD of endolysin was analyzed against their respective host protein using Pfam and UniProt database.

Table S4 Strains used in this study. Table S5 Plasmids used in this study. Table S6 Primers used in this study.

Table S1 CBD is necessary for hydrolytic activity of certain, but not all endolysins.

^a FL, full-length; EAD, enzymatically active domain; Cytolytic activity: +++, high; +, low; -, no.

^bCHAP, a cysteine, histidine-dependent amidohydrolases/peptidase

Table S2 The CBD of *C. difficile* phage endolysins shows the secondary structure similarity to CWB2 domain.

^a Probability of the template being a true positive.

b Percent sequence identity between the template and query sequences.

HMM, hidden Markov model; CBD, Cell wall binding domain; CWB2, Cell wall binding domain_2.

Table S3 The CBD of phage endolysins is likely to derived from their bacterial host proteins.

^a Unassigned domain in Pfam database

CWB2, Cell wall binding domian_2; SLH, S-layer homology domain; CB, Choline-binding repeat; PG_binding, Peptidoglycan binding domain; LysM, Lysin motif domain; SH3b, Bacterial src-homology 3 domain; CW_7, Cell wall repeat_7; PAS CBD, PSA endolysin cell wall binding domain; CBD_PlyG, PlyG cell wall binding domain; DUF, Domain of unknown function; PlyCB, PlyCB cell wall binding domain

Table S4 Strains used in this study.

ATCC, American Type Culture Collection, USA; DMST, Department of Medical Sciences Thailand, Thailand

Plasmid	Genotype ^a	Reference
pWP017	lacI P_{T7} CD16/50L _{full-length} ; amp	This study
pWP018	lacI $P_{T7}CD16/50L_{EAD}$; amp	This study
pWP019	lacI $P_{T7}CD16/50L_{CBD}$; amp	This study
pWP024	lacI P _{T7} CD16/50L ^(W257A) ; amp	This study
pWP022	lacI P _{T7} CD16/50L _{CBD} ^(W257A) ; amp	This study
pWP023	lacI P _{T7} CD16/50L _{CBD} ^(Y202, W257A) ; amp	This study
pWP020	lacI P_{T7} cwp8 ₂₉₀₋₆₀₀ ; amp	This study
pWP021	$lacI P_{T7}$ mCherry-CBD; km	This study
pJAK175	xylR P_{xyl} -bitluc ^{opt} ; catP	JA. Kirk, UK
pAF256	tetR P_{tet} -hupA-smbit/lgbit; catP	(24)
pAF257	tetR P_{tet} -smbit/hupA-lgbit; catP	(24)
pAP118	tetR P_{tet} -hupA-smbit/hupA-lgbit; catP	(24)
pWP001	xy IR P _{xyl} -CBD-smbit/-lgbit; catP	This study
pWP002	xy IR P _{xvl} - CBD-smbit/hupA-lgbit; catP	This study
pWP003	xylR P _{xyl} -smbit/CBD-lgbit; catP	This study
pWP004	xylR Pxyl-CBD-smbit/CBD-lgbit; catP	This study
pWP005	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(Y202A) -smbit/CBD ^(Y202A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP006	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(C234A) -smbit/CBD ^(C234A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP007	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(E238A) -smbit/CBD ^(E238A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP008	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(E248A) -smbit/CBD ^(F248A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP009	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(Q250A) -smbit/CBD ^(Q250A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP010	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(W257A) -smbit/CBD ^(W257A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP011	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(M260A) -smbit/CBD ^(M260A) -lgbit; catP	This study
pWP016	xylR P _{xyl} -CBD ^(Y202A, W257A) -smbit/CBD ^(Y202A, W257A) -lgbit; catP	This study

Table S5 Plasmids used in this study.

a amp, ampicillin resistance cassette; catP, chloramphenicol resistance cassette; km, kanamycin resistance cassette; *lacI*, *lac* repressor; *tetR*, *tet* repressor; *xylR*, *xylose* repressor; P_{T7}, T7 promoter; P_{xyl}, *xylose-inducible promoter*; P_{tet}, anhydrotetracycline-inducible promoter

^a Restriction enzyme site is underlined; Ribosome binding site is shown in bold; Homology arm is shown in italics; Mutation point is denoted by a lowercase.

Supplemental references

- 1. Madeira F, Park Y mi, Lee J, Buso N, Gur T, Madhusoodanan N, Basutkar P, Tivey ARN, Potter SC, Finn RD, Lopez R. 2019. The EMBL-EBI search and sequence analysis tools APIs in 2019. Nucleic Acids Research 47:W636–W641.
- 2. Waterhouse AM, Procter JB, Martin DMA, Clamp M, Barton GJ. 2009. Jalview Version 2--a multiple sequence alignment editor and analysis workbench. Bioinformatics 25:1189–1191.
- 3. Jumper J, Evans R, Pritzel A, Green T, Figurnov M, Ronneberger O, Tunyasuvunakool K, Bates R, Žídek A, Potapenko A, Bridgland A, Meyer C, Kohl SAA, Ballard AJ, Cowie A, Romera-Paredes B, Nikolov S, Jain R, Adler J, Back T, Petersen S, Reiman D, Clancy E, Zielinski M, Steinegger M, Pacholska M, Berghammer T, Bodenstein S, Silver D, Vinyals O, Senior AW, Kavukcuoglu K, Kohli P, Hassabis D. 2021. Highly accurate protein structure prediction with AlphaFold. Nature 596:583– 589.
- 4. Pettersen EF, Goddard TD, Huang CC, Meng EC, Couch GS, Croll TI, Morris JH, Ferrin TE. 2021. UCSF ChimeraX : Structure visualization for researchers, educators, and developers. Protein Science 30:70–82.
- 5. Zimmermann L, Stephens A, Nam S-Z, Rau D, Kübler J, Lozajic M, Gabler F, Söding J, Lupas AN, Alva V. 2018. A Completely Reimplemented MPI Bioinformatics Toolkit with a New HHpred Server at its Core. Journal of Molecular Biology 430:2237–2243.
- 6. Mayer MJ, Payne J, Gasson MJ, Narbad A. 2010. Genomic Sequence and Characterization of the Virulent Bacteriophage φCTP1 from *Clostridium tyrobutyricum* and Heterologous Expression of Its Endolysin. Appl Environ Microbiol 76:5415–5422.
- 7. Lee KO, Kong M, Kim I, Bai J, Cha S, Kim B, Ryu K-S, Ryu S, Suh J-Y. 2019. Structural Basis for Cell-Wall Recognition by Bacteriophage PBC5 Endolysin. Structure 27:1355-1365.e4.
- 8. Porter CJ, Schuch R, Pelzek AJ, Buckle AM, McGowan S, Wilce MCJ, Rossjohn J, Russell R, Nelson D, Fischetti VA, Whisstock JC. 2007. The 1.6 Å Crystal Structure of the Catalytic Domain of PlyB, a Bacteriophage Lysin Active Against Bacillus anthracis. Journal of Molecular Biology 366:540–550.
- 9. Bustamante N, Iglesias-Bexiga M, Bernardo-García N, Silva-Martín N, García G, Campanero-Rhodes MA, García E, Usón I, Buey RM, García P, Hermoso JA, Bruix M, Menéndez M. 2017. Deciphering how Cpl-7 cell wall-binding repeats recognize the bacterial peptidoglycan. Sci Rep 7:16494.
- 10. Romero P, Bartual SG, Schmelcher M, Glück C, Hermoso JA, Loessner MJ. 2018. Structural insights into the binding and catalytic mechanisms of the *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteriophage glycosyl hydrolase PlyP40: Structural and functional analyses of PlyP40. Molecular Microbiology 108:128– 142.
- 11. Mayer MJ, Garefalaki V, Spoerl R, Narbad A, Meijers R. 2011. Structure-Based Modification of a Clostridium difficile-Targeting Endolysin Affects Activity and Host Range. J Bacteriol 193:5477– 5486.
- 12. Wang Q, Euler CW, Delaune A, Fischetti VA. 2015. Using a Novel Lysin To Help Control Clostridium difficile Infections. Antimicrob Agents Chemother 59:7447–7457.
- 13. Wu X, Paskaleva EE, Mehta KK, Dordick JS, Kane RS. 2016. Wall Teichoic Acids Are Involved in the Medium-Induced Loss of Function of the Autolysin CD11 against Clostridium difficile. Sci Rep 6:35616.
- 14. Low LY, Yang C, Perego M, Osterman A, Liddington R. 2011. Role of Net Charge on Catalytic Domain and Influence of Cell Wall Binding Domain on Bactericidal Activity, Specificity, and Host Range of Phage Lysins. Journal of Biological Chemistry 286:34391–34403.
- 15. Schmelcher M, Tchang VS, Loessner MJ. 2011. Domain shuffling and module engineering of *Listeria* phage endolysins for enhanced lytic activity and binding affinity: Engineering of Listeria phage endolysins. Microbial Biotechnology 4:651–662.
- 16. Gaeng S, Scherer S, Neve H, Loessner MJ. 2000. Gene Cloning and Expression and Secretion of *Listeria monocytogenes* Bacteriophage-Lytic Enzymes in *Lactococcus lactis*. Appl Environ Microbiol 66:2951–2958.
- 17. McGowan S, Buckle AM, Mitchell MS, Hoopes JT, Gallagher DT, Heselpoth RD, Shen Y, Reboul CF, Law RHP, Fischetti VA, Whisstock JC, Nelson DC. 2012. X-ray crystal structure of the streptococcal specific phage lysin PlyC. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 109:12752–12757.
- 18. Loessner MJ, Kramer K, Ebel F, Scherer S. 2002. C-terminal domains of Listeria monocytogenes bacteriophage murein hydrolases determine specific recognition and high-affinity binding to bacterial cell wall carbohydrates: Cell wall binding domains of Listeria phage lysins. Molecular Microbiology 44:335–349.
- 19. Son B, Kong M, Ryu S. 2018. The Auxiliary Role of the Amidase Domain in Cell Wall Binding and Exolytic Activity of Staphylococcal Phage Endolysins. Viruses 10:284.
- 20. Oechslin F, Menzi C, Moreillon P, Resch G. 2021. The multidomain architecture of a bacteriophage endolysin enables intramolecular synergism and regulation of bacterial lysis. Journal of Biological Chemistry 296:100639.
- 21. Kirk JA, Gebhart D, Buckley AM, Lok S, Scholl D, Douce GR, Govoni GR, Fagan RP. 2017. New class of precision antimicrobials redefines role of *Clostridium difficile* S-layer in virulence and viability. Sci Transl Med 9:eaah6813.
- 22. Chankhamhaengdecha S, Hadpanus P, Aroonnual A, Ngamwongsatit P, Chotiprasitsakul D, Chongtrakool P, Janvilisri T. 2013. Evaluation of Multiplex PCR with Enhanced Spore Germination for Detection of *Clostridium difficile* from Stool Samples of the Hospitalized Patients. BioMed Research International 2013:1–6.
- 23. Pipatthana M. 2016. A Bacteriocin derived from Bifidobacterium with high antimicrobial activity against Clostridium difficile. (MSc's thesis)
- 24. Oliveira Paiva AM, Friggen AH, Qin L, Douwes R, Dame RT, Smits WK. 2019. The Bacterial Chromatin Protein HupA Can Remodel DNA and Associates with the Nucleoid in Clostridium difficile. Journal of Molecular Biology 431:653–672.