

iScience, Volume 25

Supplemental information

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Supplementary Figures S1-S9 and Table S1

Figure S1

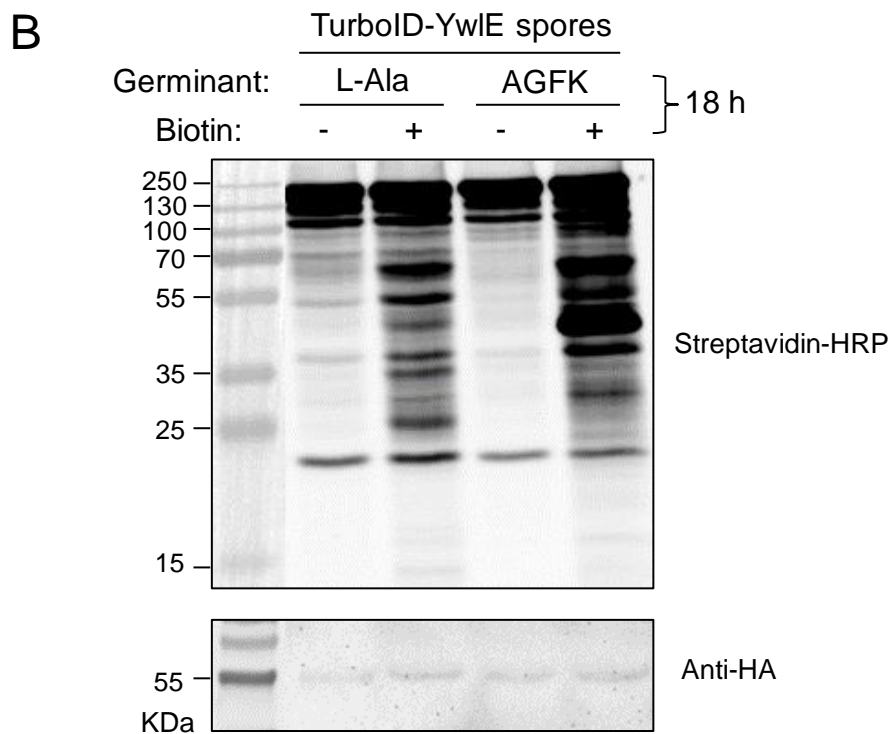
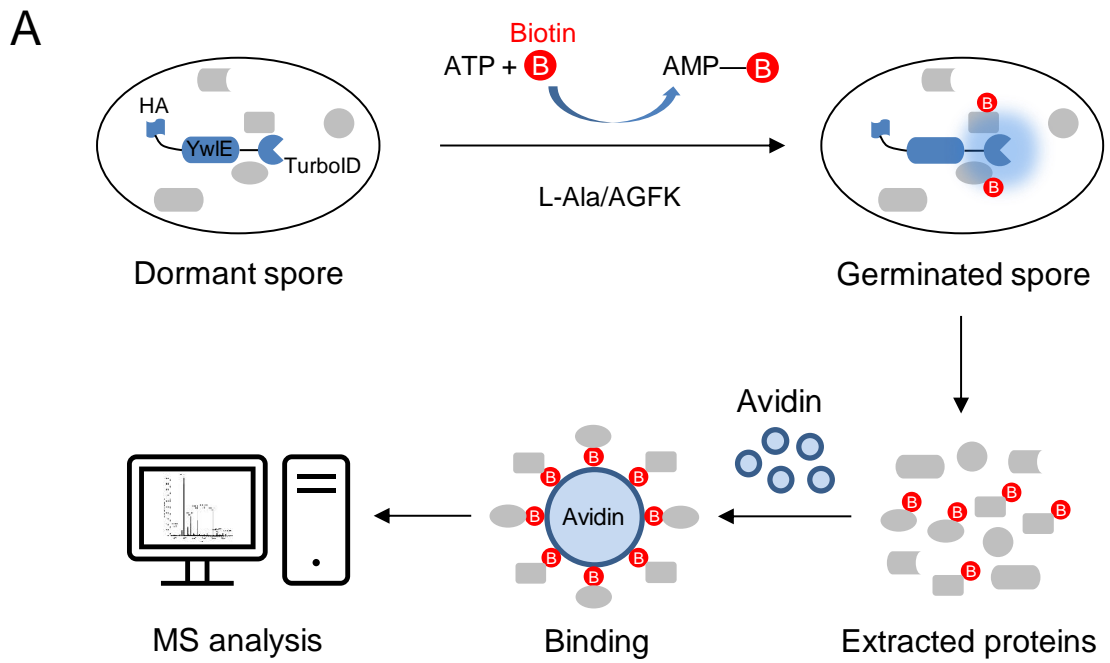


Figure S2

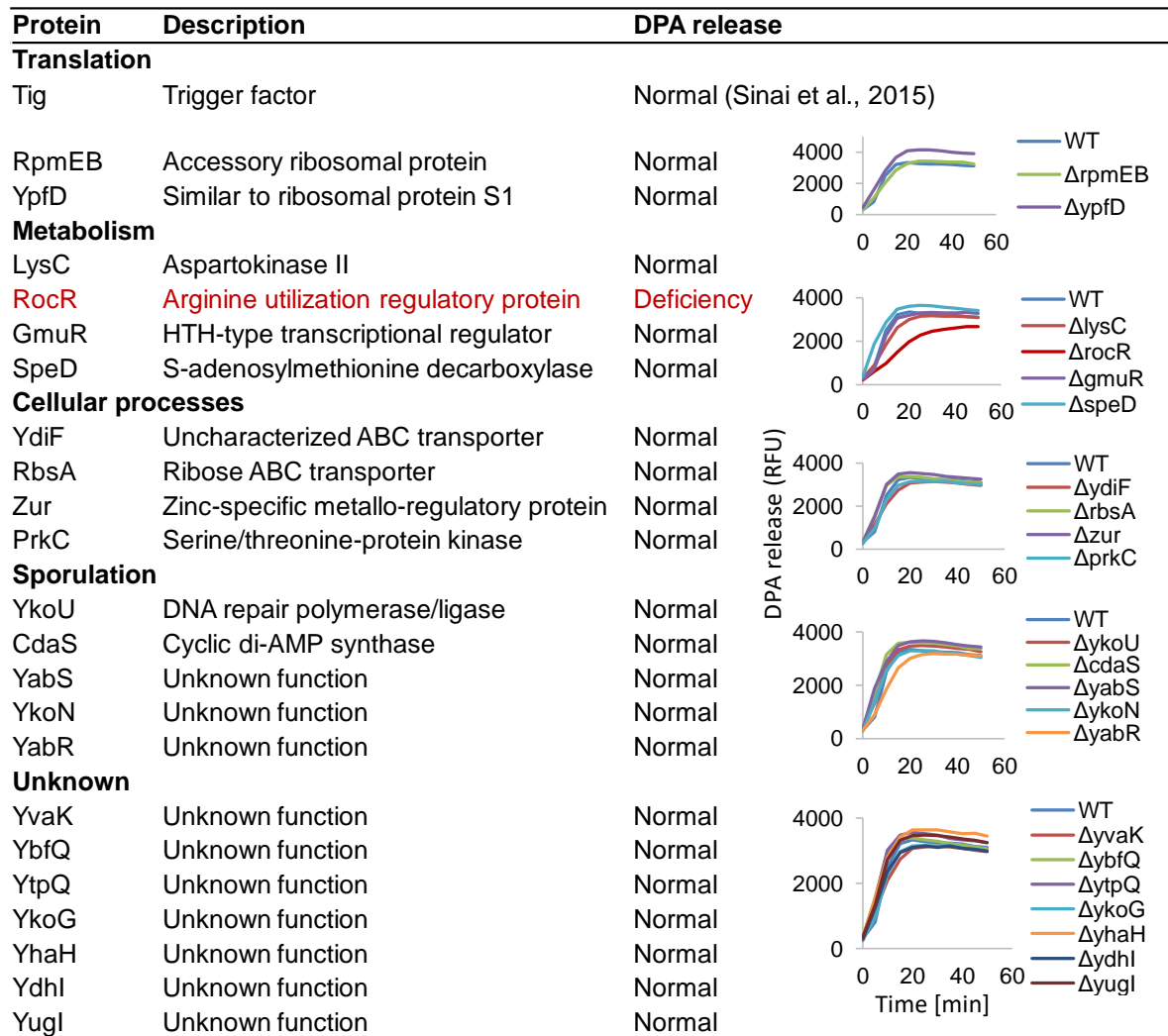
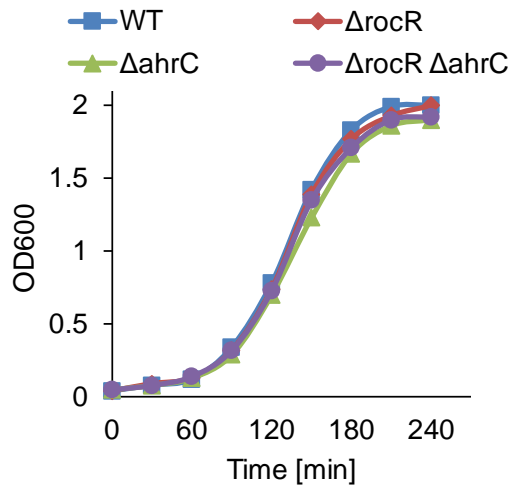
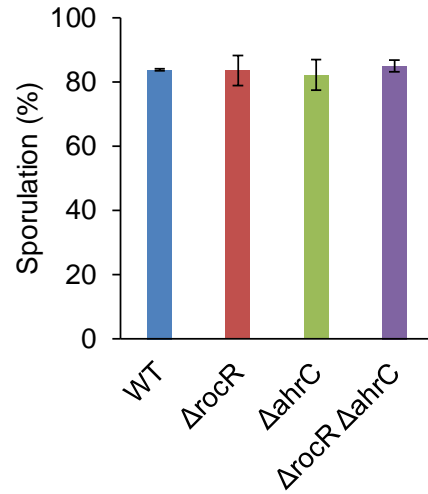


Figure S3

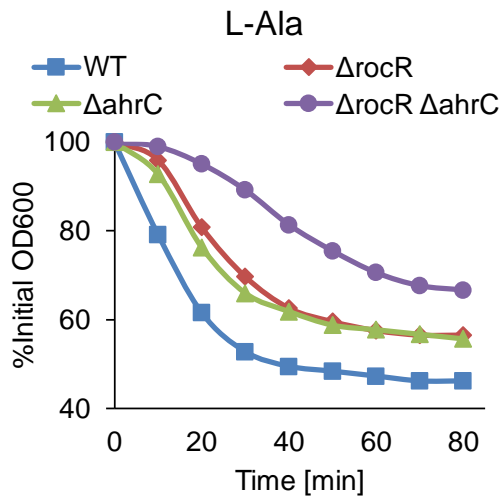
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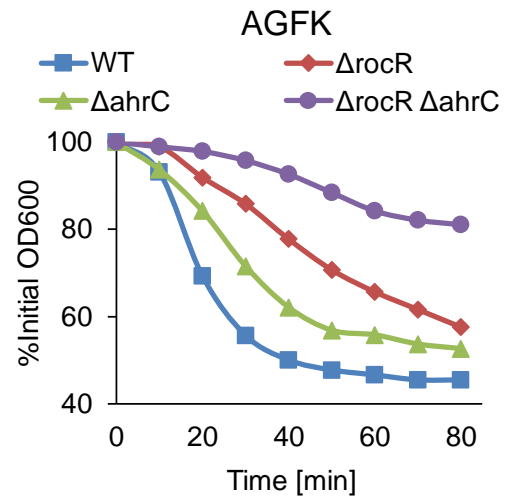
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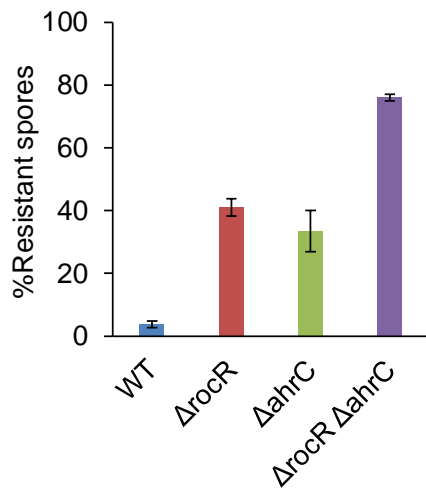
C



D



E



F

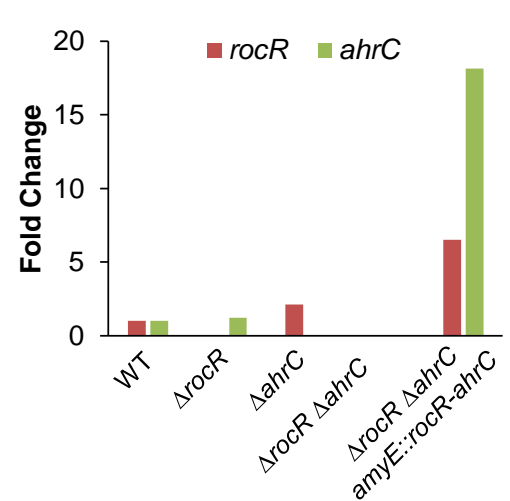


Figure S4

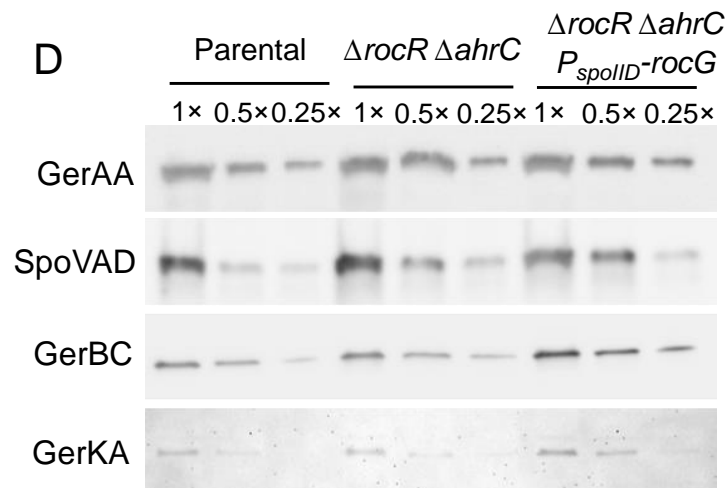
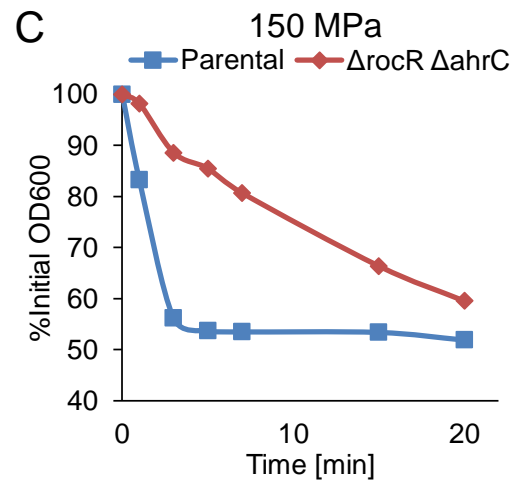
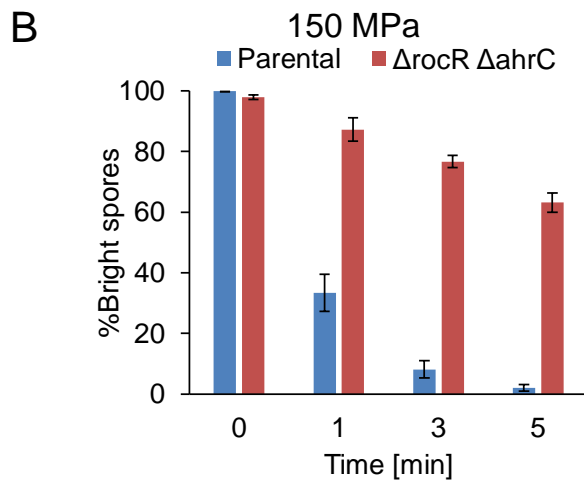
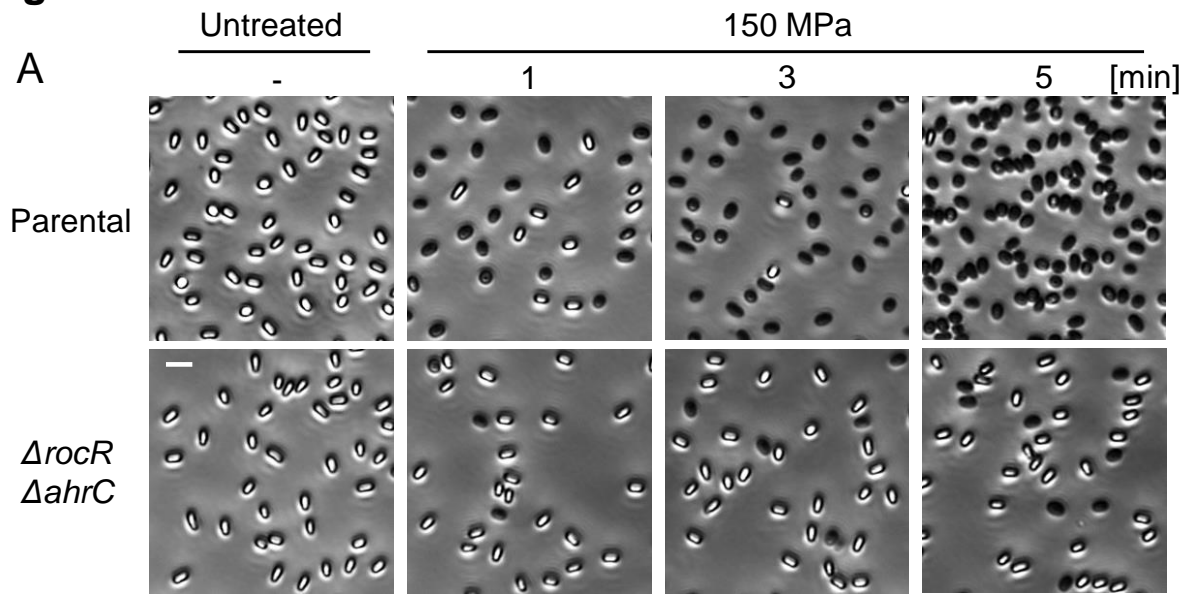


Figure S5

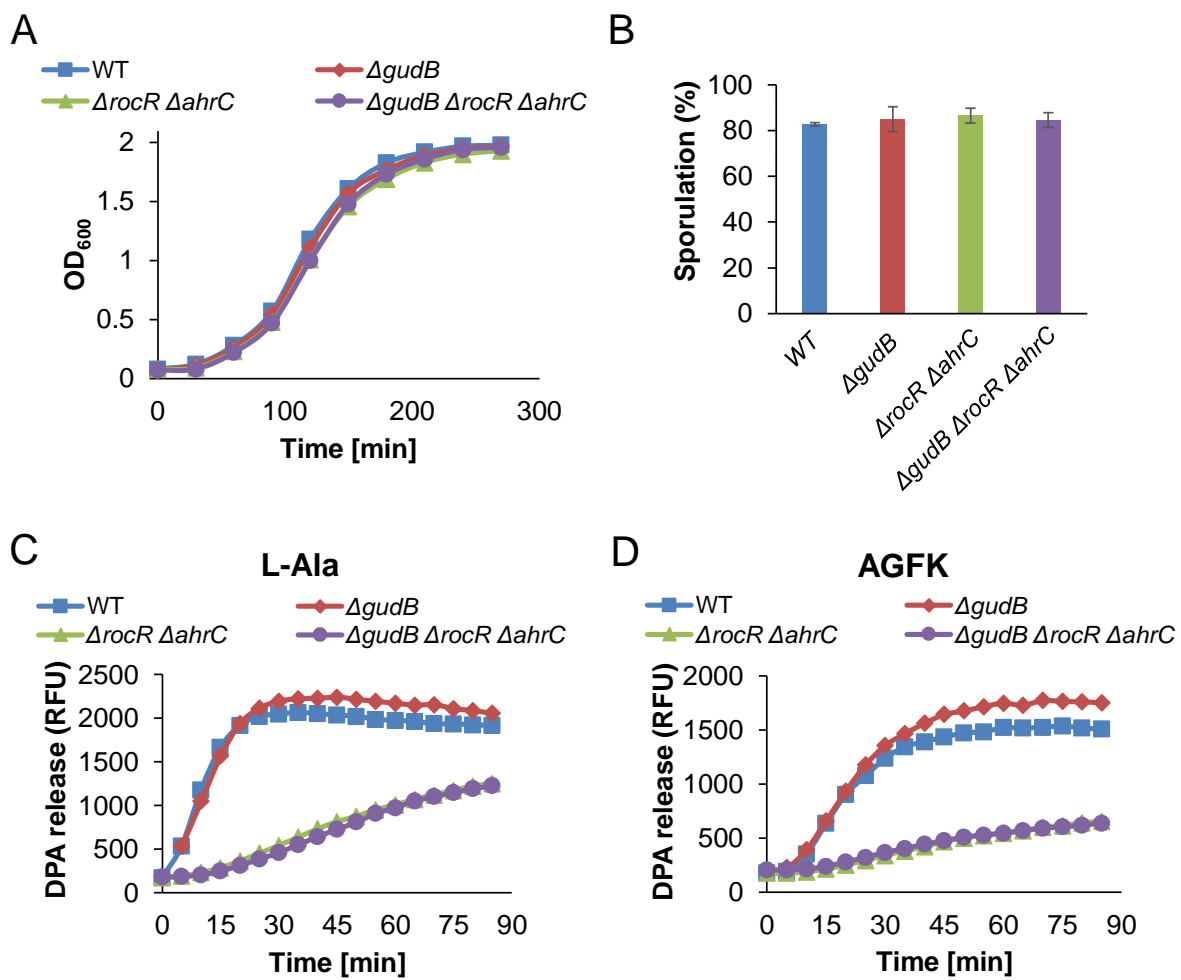


Figure S6

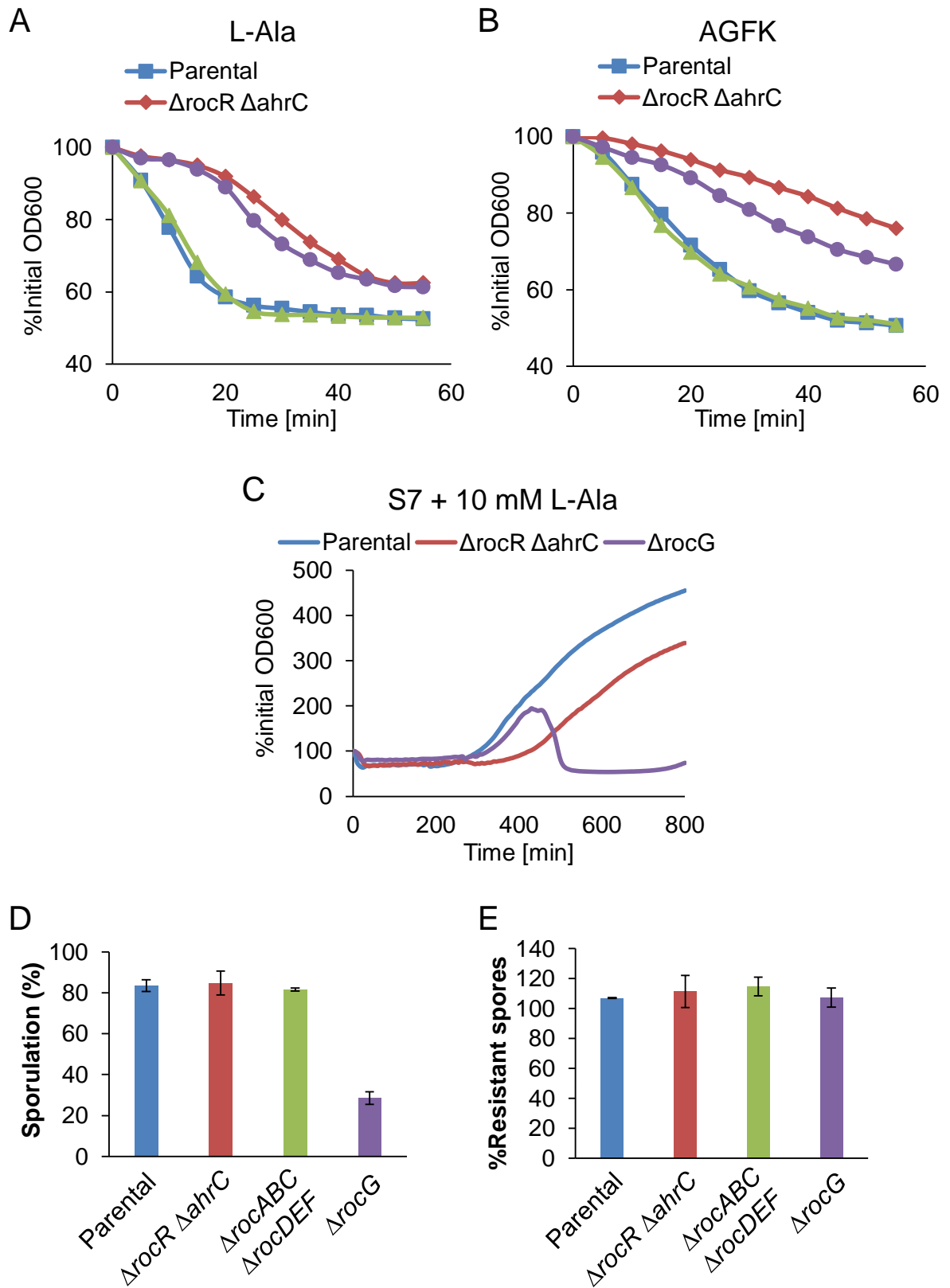


Figure S7

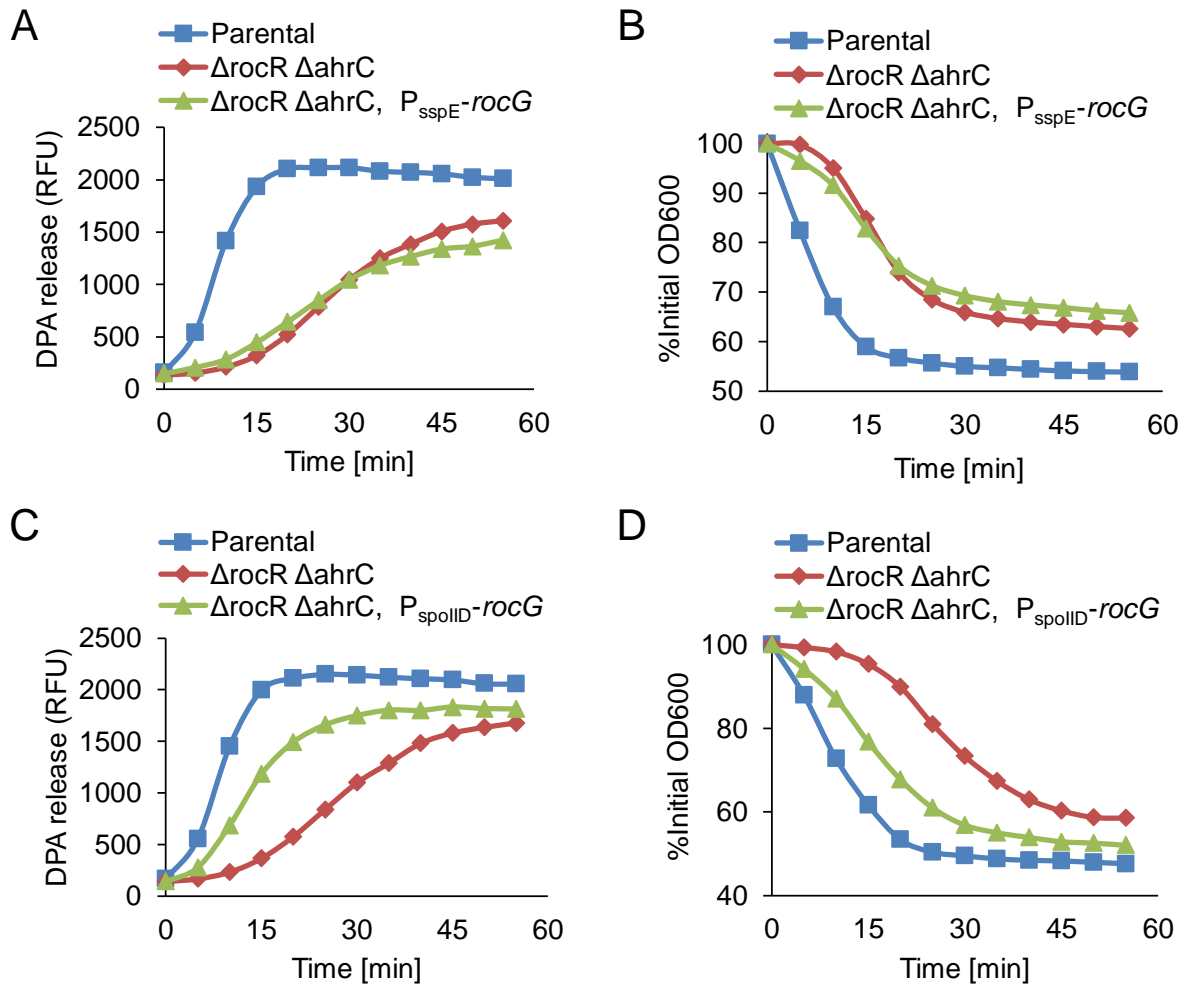


Figure S8

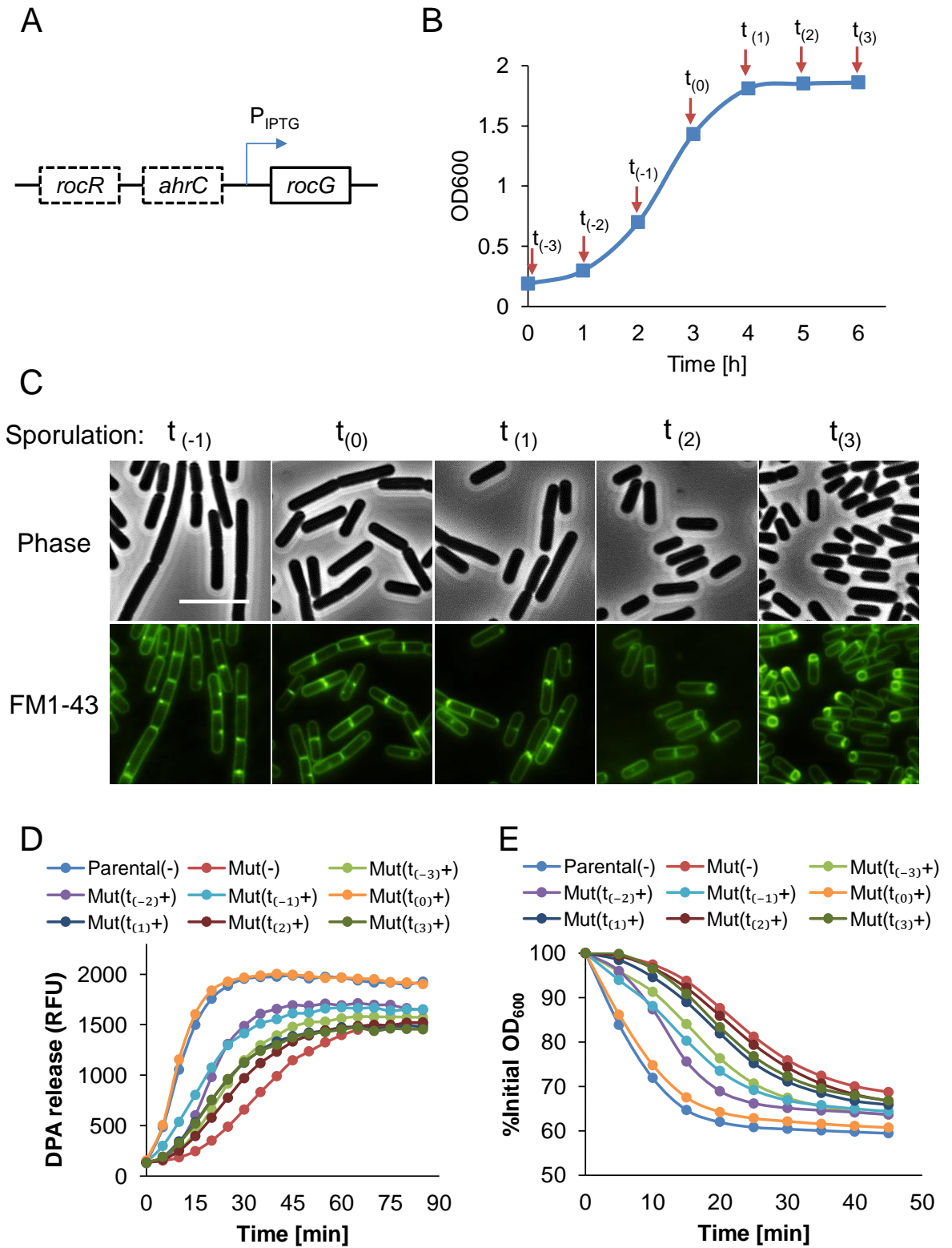
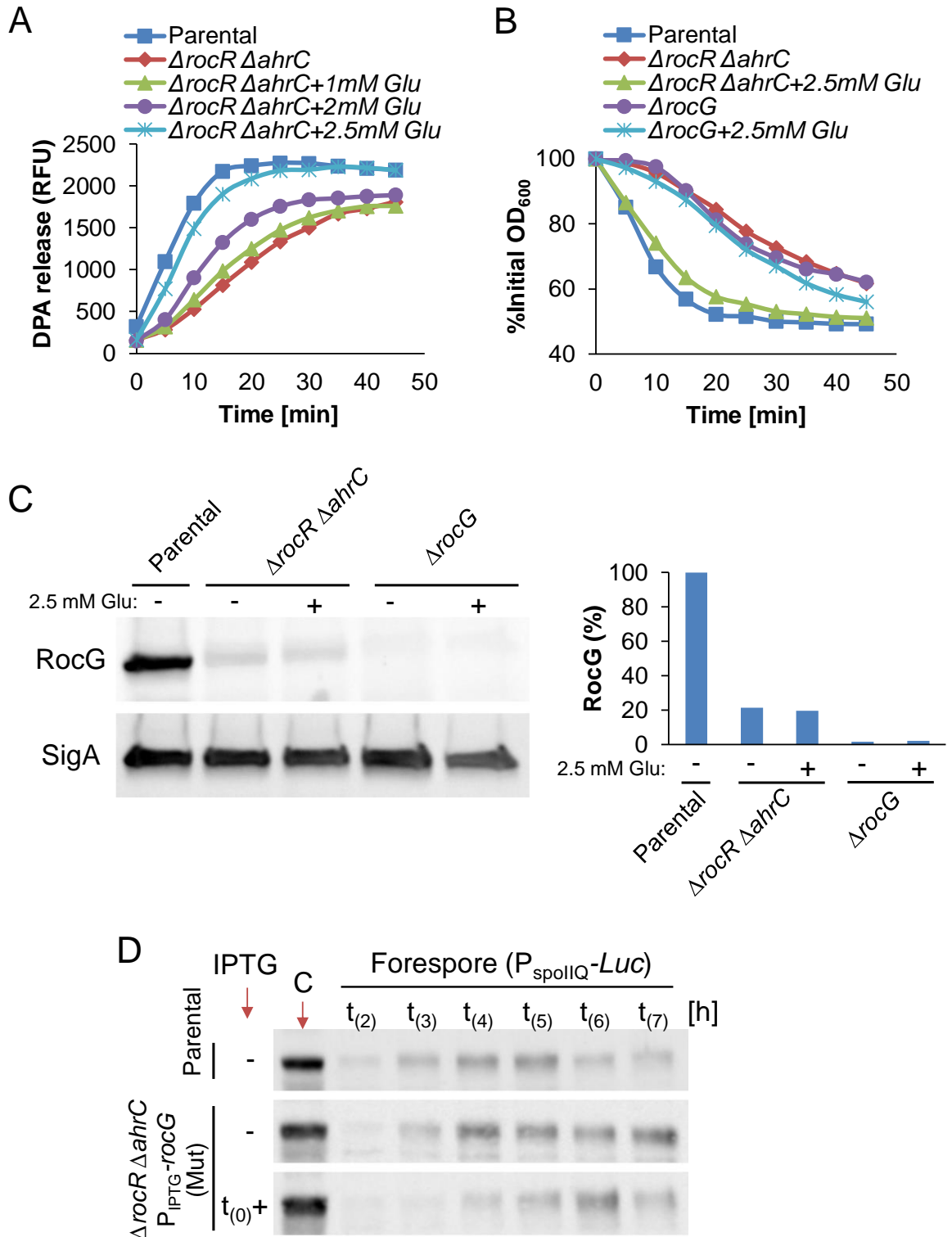


Figure S9



Supplementary Figure Legends

Figure S1. TurboID-based proximity labelling of YwIE interactome, related to Figure 1.

(A) Schematic description of the main steps in defining TurboID-based proximity labelling of YwIE interactome. Spores harboring HA-labeled YwIE fused to TurboID were induced to germinate in the presence of Biotin and ATP. TurboID uses ATP and biotin to generate biotin-5'-AMP, a reactive intermediate that can covalently label the proximal proteins. The germinated spores were disrupted for protein extraction, and the biotinylated proteins were separated and enriched using Avidin beads and identified by mass spectrometry.

(B) Spores of LR14 (*turboID-ywIE-2×HA*) strain were germinated with L-Ala or AGFK in PBS × 1 supplemented with biotin and ATP. Proteins extracted from the germinated spores were analyzed by Western blot using anti-biotin (streptavidin-HRP) (upper panel) or anti-HA (lower panel) antibodies. Samples without biotin addition were processed as a control.

Figure S2. Screening for mutants defective in germination, related to Figure 1.

Shown is a table summarizing the germination capacity of potential YwIE-interacting factors. Spores of the indicated mutant strains were induced to germinate with L-Ala (10 mM), and germination was followed by monitoring the relative fluorescence units (RFU) of Tb³⁺-DPA. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats. Similar results were obtained when germination was triggered by AGFK.

Figure S3. RocR and ArhC are required for spore germination, related to Figure 1.

(A) PY79 (WT), LR31 ($\Delta rocR$), LR30 ($\Delta arhC$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta arhC$) strain cultures were grown in LB

medium, and OD₆₀₀ was measured at the indicated time points. Shown is a representative out of three independent biological repeats.

(B) PY79 (WT), LR31 ($\Delta rocR$), LR30 ($\Delta ahrC$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains were induced to sporulate in DSM for 24 hrs. Next, cultures were subjected to heat treatment (80°C, 30 min), serial decimal dilutions were plated on LB, and colonies were counted after 24 hrs of incubation at 37°C. Percentage of sporulation was calculated by the number of colonies after heat treatment/number of colonies before heat treatment. Shown are average values and SD obtained from three independent biological repeats.

(C-D) Spores of PY79 (WT), LR31 ($\Delta rocR$), LR30 ($\Delta ahrC$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains were incubated with L-Ala (10 mM) (C) or AGFK (D) to trigger germination, and OD₆₀₀ was measured at the indicated time points. Data are presented as percentage of the initial OD₆₀₀ of spore suspension. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(E) Spores of PY79 (WT), LR31 ($\Delta rocR$), LR30 ($\Delta ahrC$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains were purified, incubated with L-Ala (10 mM) for 10 min, and heat treated at 80°C for 30 min. The percentage of non-germinating heat resistant spores was determined by the number of colonies after heat treatment/number of colonies before heat treatment.

(F) PY79 (WT), LR31 ($\Delta rocR$), LR30 ($\Delta ahrC$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) and LR205 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$, *amyE::rocR-ahrC*) strains were induced to sporulate in DSM medium. At t_0 of sporulation, cells of each strain were collected, RNA was extracted, and the mRNA levels of *rocR* and *ahrC* were determined by quantitative RT-PCR. The results are presented as the fold expression change of the investigated genes relative to that of PY79 (WT).

Figure S4. $\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$ mutant spores exhibit germination defect when exposed to high pressure, related to Figure 2 and Figure 3.

(A) Spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were induced to germinate by high pressure treatment at 150 MPa for various times, and spores were collected by centrifugation and examined by phase contrast microscopy. Shown are phase contrast images captured at the indicated time points from a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats. Scale bar, 1 μm .

(B) Quantification of the experiment describe in (A). Data are presented as percentages of the initial number of the phase bright spores. Shown are average values and SD obtained from three independent biological repeats ($n \geq 300$ for each strain).

(C) Spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were induced to germinate by high pressure treatment at 150 MPa for various times, and spore suspensions were tested for OD_{600} decrease. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(D) Equal amounts of protein extracts from spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) and LR133 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$, $P_{\text{spoIID-rocG}}$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were subjected to SDS-PAGE. Western blot analysis using antibodies against GerAA, GerBC, GerKA, and SpoVAD was conducted. Dilutions of the different samples were loaded on the same gel for comparison.

Figure S5. Sporulation and germination are unaffected by *gudB* deletion, related to Figure 2.

(A) PY79 (WT), LR33 ($\Delta gudB$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR38 ($\Delta gudB \Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains were grown in LB medium, and OD_{600} was measured at the indicated time points. Shown is a representative out of three independent biological repeats.

(B) PY79 (WT), LR33 ($\Delta gudB$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR38 ($\Delta gudB \Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains were induced to sporulate in DSM for 24 hrs. Next, cultures were subjected to heat treatment (80°C, 30 min), serial decimal dilutions were plated on LB, and colonies were counted after 24 hrs of incubation at 37°C. Percentage of sporulation was calculated by the number of colonies after heat treatment/number of colonies before heat treatment. Presented are average values and SD obtained from three independent biological repeats.

(C-D) Spores of PY79 (WT), LR33 ($\Delta gudB$), LR32 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR38 ($\Delta gudB \Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains were incubated with L-Ala (10 mM) (C) or AGFK (D) to trigger germination, and DPA release was followed by monitoring the relative fluorescence units (RFU) of Tb³⁺-DPA. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

Figure S6. RocG affects sporulation and spore revival, related to Figure 2.

(A-B) Spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR203 ($\Delta rocABC \Delta rocDEF$), LR137 ($\Delta rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were incubated with L-Ala (10 mM) (A) or AGFK (B) to trigger germination, and OD₆₀₀ was measured at the indicated time points. Data are presented as percentage of the initial OD₆₀₀ of spore suspension. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(C) Spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR137 ($\Delta rocG$) strains were incubated in S7 minimal medium supplemented with 10 mM L-Ala and OD₆₀₀ was measured at 5 min intervals. Decreasing OD₆₀₀ signifies spore germination, and increasing OD₆₀₀ indicates spore outgrowth. Data are presented as percentage of the initial OD₆₀₀ of spore suspension. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(D) LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR203 ($\Delta rocABC \Delta rocDEF$), LR137 ($\Delta rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*,

were induced to sporulate in DSM for 24 hrs. Next, cultures were subjected to heat treatment (80°C, 30 min), serial decimal dilutions were plated on LB, and colonies were counted after 24 hrs incubation at 37°C. Percentage of sporulation was calculated by the number of colonies after heat treatment/number of colonies before heat treatment. Presented are the average sporulation percentage from three independent biological repeats.

(E) Purified spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR203 ($\Delta rocABC \Delta rocDEF$), LR137 ($\Delta rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were heat treated at 80°C for 30 min. The percentage of heat resistant spores was determined by the number of colonies after heat treatment/number of colonies before heat treatment.

Figure S7. RocG expression at early stages of sporulation could partially rescue the $\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$ germination deficiency, related to Figure 3.

(A-B) Spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR134 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC, P_{sspE}-rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were incubated with L-Ala (10 mM), and the germination was followed by monitoring the relative fluorescence units (RFU) of Tb³⁺-DPA (A), and by OD₆₀₀ decrease (B). Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(C-D) Spores of LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR133 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC, P_{spolID}-rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were incubated with L-Ala (10 mM), and the germination was followed by monitoring the relative fluorescence units (RFU) of Tb³⁺-DPA (A), and by OD₆₀₀ decrease (B). Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

Figure S8. RocG induction at onset of sporulation could fully rescue the $\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$ germination deficiency, related to Figure 4.

(A) Schematic of the genotype of strain LR127 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$, $P_{IPTG}\text{-rocG}$) (lacking *gudB*).

(B-C) LR127 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$, $P_{IPTG}\text{-rocG}$) strain, lacking *gudB*, was incubated in DSM medium and OD₆₀₀ was measured during growth at the indicated time points (B). At each time point, cells were collected for microscopic examination by phase contrast (upper panels) and FM 1-43 membrane staining (lower panels) (C). Shown is a representative out of three independent biological repeats.

(D-E) LR33 (Parental) and LR127 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$, $P_{IPTG}\text{-rocG}$) (Mut) strains, lacking *gudB*, were incubated in DSM medium. IPTG was added to LR127 cultures at the indicated sporulation time points to induce *rocG* expression, and the corresponding spores were purified. The spores were then incubated with L-Ala (10 mM), and the germination was followed by monitoring the relative fluorescence units (RFU) of Tb³⁺-DPA (D), and by OD₆₀₀ decrease (E). Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

Figure S9. The effect of glutamate supplementation during sporulation on $\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$ germination, related to Figure 5 and Figure 6.

(A) LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were grown in DSM medium with or without glutamate at the indicated concentrations. The corresponding spores were purified, and germination was followed by monitoring the relative fluorescence units (RFU) of Tb³⁺-DPA. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(B) LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR137 ($\Delta rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were grown in DSM sporulation medium with or without 2.5 mM glutamate. After 20 hrs of incubation, spores were

purified, induced to germinate by L-Ala (10 mM) ($t=0$), and germination was followed by monitoring OD_{600} decrease. Shown is a representative experiment out of three independent biological repeats.

(C) LR33 (Parental), LR38 ($\Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$), LR137 ($\Delta rocG$) strains, lacking *gudB*, were incubated in DSM medium supplemented with 2.5 mM glutamate. At t_0 of sporulation, cells were collected and disrupted for protein extraction. Equal amounts of protein extracts were subjected to Western blot analysis (left panel) with antibodies against RocG or SigA, which serves as a loading control. Quantification of the RocG signal was shown as percentage of the parental signal (right panel).

(D) LR209 [Parental ($P_{spolIQ-luc}$)], LR227 [Mut ($P_{spolIQ-luc}, P_{IPTG-rocG}, \Delta rocR \Delta ahrC$)] strains were incubated in DSM medium to induce sporulation. At t_0 of sporulation, IPTG was added to induce *rocG* expression, and samples were collected and disrupted for protein extraction at indicated sporulation time points. Equal amounts of protein extracts were subjected to Western blot analysis with antibody against Luciferase. C-indicates a loading control, derived from LR209 strain at t_5 .

Table S1. Primers used in this study

Primer name	Primer sequence
<i>P_{IPTG-rocG}</i> -P1	5'-AATTGTGAGCGGATAACAATTAAGCTTAAAGGTGGTGA ACTACT ATCCAATGAAGAAAGGAATTGGC-3'
<i>P_{IPTG-rocG}</i> -P2	5'-ATGCGGCTAGCTGTGACTATCATTAGACCCATCCGCGGAAA-3'
<i>P_{spolID}</i> -P1	5'-CAACTGGTAATGGTAGCGACCGGCGCTCAGGAATACGTAAATGACAAATAAA GTTTCTGTCC-3'
<i>P_{spolID}</i> -P2	5'-GCCAATTCCTTTCTTCATTGGATATTCAGCTGCCTCCTGCT-3'
<i>P_{sspE}</i> -P1	5'-CCA ACTGGTAATGGTAGCGACCGGCGCTCAGCGGGACGCATGGTCGAAATT AAAGAC-3'
<i>P_{sspE}</i> -P2	5'-GCCAATTCCTTTCTTCATTGGATTGTTATCACCTCCACGGTCATTAGAATGTG-3'
<i>rocG</i> -P1	5'-ATCCAATGAAGAAAGGAATTGGC-3'
<i>rocG</i> -P2	5'-GTCAAACATGAGAATTCGATAAGCTTCTAGTCATTAGACCCATCCGCGGAAA-3'
<i>P_{rocR-rocR}</i> -P1	5'-CCA ACTGGTAATGGTAGCGACCGGCGCTCAGATTTGAATTCCCCCTTGTTT TCTG-3'
<i>P_{rocR-rocR}</i> -P2	5'-GATATGCAAAAAAACTGAACAGGGG-3'
<i>P_{ahrC}</i> -P1	5'-CCCCTGTT CAGTTTTTTTTGCATATCAACGATCCTAATTTGAAGCGG-3'
<i>P_{ahrC}</i> -P2	5'-TTGTACATGAATGCAGAAAAAGGAATAAGCGGATCAACTCACTTTCA-3'
<i>ahrC</i> -P1	5'-TATTCCTTTT TTCTGCATTC ATGTACAA-3'
<i>ahrC</i> -P2	5'-GTCAAACATGAGAATTCGATAAGCTTCTAGTTACAGCAGTTCAAGGAGCCT-3'
<i>P_{spolIG}</i> -P1	5'-CCA ACTGGTAATGGTAGCGACCGGCGCTCAGGTGGAAAAAAAGCTGCCGT-3'
<i>P_{spolIG}</i> -P2	5'-CAGTGAAAAGTTCTTCTCCTTTACTCATATCTGACTCCTTTCTTTCTTGCC-3'
<i>rocR</i> -KO-P1	5'-ACATATCCGG AACAATGCCG-3'
<i>rocR</i> -KO-P2	5'-CTGAGCGAGGGAGCAGAATGTATGAACCTCCCTCAATTATTTTC-3'
<i>rocR</i> -KO-P3	5'-GTTGACCAGTGCTCCCTGTCCGGAGCAGGAAGCCTG-3'
<i>rocR</i> -KO-P4	5'-GGGCGATCCCAGTAGATTCA-3'
<i>gudB</i> -KO-P1	5'-GCGGCATATC TGATCAGCAA-3'
<i>gudB</i> -KO-P2	5'-CTGAGCGAGGGAGCAGAATTGAGTTAACCTCCTAGAATCTTCTG-3'

<i>gudB</i> -KO-P3	5'-GTTGACCAGTGCTCCCTGGTTGATGATTTGCATA AAAATAAAAAATCTCC-3'
<i>gudB</i> -KO-P4	5'-TGTTTCCCGCAGCAATAACA-3'
<i>rocABC</i> -KO-P1	5'-ATTCTCCGGGCTTTATTACAGG-3'
<i>rocABC</i> -KO-P2	5'-CTGAGCGAGGGAGCAGAAATGTAGTCCCCCTCGTGTTAT-3'
<i>rocABC</i> -KO-P3	5'-GTTGACCAGTGCTCCCTGAAAAAGCTCTCCGGGAGG-3'
<i>rocABC</i> -KO-P4	5'-ATGATAAATAAGCCCGCAGC-3'
<i>rocDEF</i> -KO-P1	5'-TGAAGGCTGAGATTCAGCGA-3'
<i>rocDEF</i> -KO-P2	5'-CTGAGCGAGGGAGCAGAAATTTGAATCCCCCTTGTTTTCTG-3'
<i>rocDEF</i> -KO-P3	5'-GTTGACCAGTGCTCCCTGTAAGAAAACCCCGCACC-3'
<i>rocDEF</i> -KO-P4	5'-AGCAGTCAAACATTCAGAGAAGA-3'
<i>rocR</i> -RT-L	5'-TTATGACTGGCCGGGAAATA-3'
<i>rocR</i> -RT-R	5'-TTGATAGGGCAGATGGGAAG-3'
<i>ahrC</i> -RT-L	5'-GATGGACGCATTTGTGAAAA-3'
<i>ahrC</i> -RT-R	5'-CCATCATTCATCCCAGTCC-3'
<i>rocG</i> -RT-L	5'-TTTGAATGGGTGCAAAACAA-3'
<i>rocG</i> -RT-R	5'-TTTCTGATGCCCGTCATGTA-3'
<i>yoxA</i> -RT-L	5'-CACAAGCAGCTGGATGATGT-3'
<i>yoxA</i> -RT-R	5'-ACCCATGTGTAAGGCTCAGG-3'

All primers were designed during this study, and synthesized by Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT).