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(54) **MOLECULAR ENGINEERING METHOD FOR IN VITRO EVOLUTION OF MEMBRANE PROTEIN**

(57) The objective of the present invention is to improve the efficiency of screening/selection of a membrane protein in molecular evolutionary engineering (for example, an enzyme evolutionary method).

The above-described objective is achieved by providing a unilamellar liposome comprising:

(a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a

membrane protein;

(b) an RNA polymerase;

(c) a ribonucleotide; and

(d) a cell-free protein synthesis system. In one aspect of the present invention, the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

(e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

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Description

[Technical Field]

5 **[0001]** The present invention relates to the field of novel unilamellar liposomes for utilization in in-vitro molecular evolutionary engineering of membrane proteins. The present invention further relates to novel molecular evolutionary engineering, particularly enzyme evolutionary engineering, targeting membrane proteins that uses the unilamellar liposomes.

10 [Background Art]

[0002] As a method of improving an enzyme by evolutionary engineering, a method using liposomes in which a gene library and a cell-free protein synthesis system are enclosed, and a cell sorter has been utilized. In this method, a gene library in which random mutation is introduced into an enzyme gene and a cell-free protein synthesis system are enclosed
15 in liposomes for internal expression of an enzyme. Further, a liposome that contains an enzyme having a higher function is selected by the cell sorter to enable selection of a gene encoding an enzyme having a higher function. By repeating this selection, a gene encoding an enzyme can be evolved (Non Patent Literature 1). This conventional method is solely targeted to soluble proteins.

[0003] It is well known that membrane proteins play an important role in functions of cells. Thus, novel molecular
20 evolutionary engineering, particularly enzyme evolutionary engineering, targeting membrane proteins has been required.

[Citation List]

[Non Patent Literature]

25 **[0004]**
[NPL 1] Sunami, T. , Sato, K. , Matsuura, T. , Tsukada, K. , Urabe, I., and Yomo, T. (2006) Analytical biochemistry
30 357, 128-136

[Summary of Invention]

[Technical Problem]

35 **[0005]** The objective of the present invention is to provide a novel molecular evolutionary engineering technique, particularly an enzyme evolutionary engineering technique, targeting membrane proteins.

[Solution to Problem]

40 **[0006]** The above-described objective has been achieved by providing the following.

(Item 1)

45 **[0007]** A unilamellar liposome comprising:

- (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;
- (b) an RNA polymerase;
- (c) a ribonucleotide; and
- 50 (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system.

(Item 2)

55 **[0008]** The unilamellar liposome of item 1, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

- (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

(Item 3)

[0009] The unilamellar liposome of item 1 or 2, wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease.

5 (Item 4)

[0010] The unilamellar liposome of item 3, wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

10 (Item 5)

[0011] The unilamellar liposome of item 4, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

(Item 6)

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[0012] A library comprising a plurality of unilamellar liposomes, wherein the unilamellar liposome comprises:

(a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;

20

(b) an RNA polymerase;

(c) a ribonucleotide; and

(d) a cell-free protein synthesis system.

(Item 7)

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[0013] The library of item 6, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

(e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

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(Item 8)

[0014] The library of item 6 or 7, wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease.

35 (Item 9)

[0015] The library of item 8, wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

40 (Item 10)

[0016] The library of item 9, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

(Item 11)

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[0017] A unilamellar liposome comprising:

(a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein; and

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(d) a cell-free protein synthesis system.

(Item 12)

[0018] The unilamellar liposome of item 11, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

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(e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

(Item 13)

[0019] The unilamellar liposome of item 11 or 12, wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease.

5 (Item 14)

[0020] The unilamellar liposome of item 13, wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

10 (Item 15)

[0021] The unilamellar liposome of item 14, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

(Item 16)

15

[0022] A library comprising a plurality of unilamellar liposomes, wherein the unilamellar liposome comprises:

- (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein; and
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system.

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(Item 17)

[0023] The library of item 16, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

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- (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

(Item 18)

30 **[0024]** The library of item 16 or 17, wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease.

(Item 19)

[0025] The library of item 18, wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

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(Item 20)

[0026] The library of item 19, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

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(Item 21)

[0027] A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

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(1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;
- (b) an RNA polymerase;
- (c) a ribonucleotide; and
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and

50

(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease.

55

(Item 22)

[0028] A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

(1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein that is a transporter;
- (b) an RNA polymerase;
- (c) a ribonucleotide;
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and
- (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein; and

(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease.

(Item 23)

[0029] The method of item 21 or 22, wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

(Item 24)

[0030] The method of item 23, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

(Item 25)

[0031] A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

(1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein; and
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and

(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease.

(Item 26)

[0032] A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

(1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein that is a transporter;
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and
- (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein; and

(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease.

(Item 27)

[0033] The method of item 25 or 26, wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

(Item 28)

[0034] The method of item 27, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

(Item 29)

[0035] A screening method using a library of unilamellar liposomes, comprising:

- (i) providing a library of any of items 6 to 10;

- (ii) selecting a unilamellar liposome having a desired feature from the library;
- (iii) amplifying a DNA included in the unilamellar liposome; and
- (iv) isolating the amplified DNA.

5 (Item 30)

[0036] A screening method using a library of unilamellar liposomes, comprising:

- (i) providing a library of any of items 16 to 20;
- (ii) selecting a unilamellar liposome having a desired feature from the library;
- (iii) generating a DNA by operating a reverse transcriptase on an RNA included in the unilamellar liposome;
- (iv) amplifying the generated DNA; and
- (v) isolating the amplified DNA.

15 [Advantageous Effects of Invention]

[0037] The present invention enables an in-vitro molecular evolutionary engineering technique targeting membrane proteins that utilizes liposomes. The present invention further enables large-scale screening/selection of a gene encoding a membrane protein having a desired function.

20 **[0038]** If a membrane protein is a transporter, a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein would be enclosed within a liposome to capture the transported ligand within the liposome, thereby enhancing the sensitivity of screening/selection.

[0039] Further, by using unilamellar liposomes that are processed by a nuclease according to the present invention, screening efficiency will be enhanced. While not wishing to be bound by theory, the following reason can be mentioned as a reason that the present invention exerts a remarkable effect. Conventionally-used liposomes are multilamellar liposomes that are prepared by a freeze-drying method, and since those liposomes internally have a multiple structure, the volume of a reaction vessel is not possible to be controlled. The volume of liposomes affects the internal enzymatic kinetics. Thus, in order to efficiently improve an enzyme, the use of unilamellar liposomes which do not have a multiple structure is preferable. However, in methods so far, when unilamellar liposomes that are prepared by a centrifugal sedimentation method are used as reaction vessels, selection and collection of a gene encoding an enzyme, having a high function were not possible even by selecting liposomes that were more reactive than others by a cell sorter. In contrast, in the present invention, treatment of unilamellar liposomes with a nuclease enables further highly-efficient screening compared to unilamellar liposomes that are not treated with an enzyme and multilamellar liposomes used in conventional methods, thereby allowing selection and collection of a gene encoding a highly-functional enzyme.

35 **[0040]** In addition, by optimizing the composition/ratio of a lipid forming a liposome and the magnesium concentration when preparing the liposome according to the disclosure of the present invention, the sensitivity of screening/selection will be further enhanced.

[Brief Description of Drawings]

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[0041]

[Fig. 1] Figure 1 is the result of using a DNA comprising an EmrE-myc-his sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1) or a DNA comprising a GUS sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3), wherein a labeling anti-Myc tag antibody is added to liposomes before and after the expression of proteins, and an analysis is performed by a cell sorter. The vertical axis shows the internal volume of liposomes and the horizontal axis shows the fluorescence intensity of Alexa 488. A and B show the results of using the GUS sequence, and C and D show the results of using the EmrE-myc-his sequence. A and C are results of liposomes before the expression of proteins by incubation at 37° C, and B and D are results of liposomes that expressed proteins by an hour incubation at 37° C.

50 [Fig. 2] Figure 2 is the result of measuring the transport activity of EtBr with different pH, in liposomes comprising a DNA comprising an EmrE-myc-his sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1; Figure 2A) or a DNA comprising a GUS sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3; Figure 2B), wherein proteins are expressed.

[Fig. 3] Figure 3 is the result showing the percentage of expression of a membrane protein having a function when various lipid compositions are used. When hemolysin exerts the activity, Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand is taken in with high intensity, and thus the vertical axis shows the percentage (%) of liposomes that taken in ligands with high intensity. That is, the vertical axis shows the percentage of exertion of membrane protein activity in liposomes. The results of using the mixture of POPC:Chol = 9:1; the mixture of POPC:Chol = 7:3; the mixture of POPC:Chol = 5:5; and the mixture of POPC:Chol = 3:7 are shown in order from the left. Further, POPC is an abbreviation of 1-

palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine, and Chol is an abbreviation of cholesterol.

[Fig. 4] The vertical axis of Figure 4 shows the percentage (%) of liposomes that taken in Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand with high intensity among all the liposomes when various lipids are used. That is, Figure 4 is a graph showing the relative activity of channels. The lipids that are used are as follows: EggPC is an abbreviation of phosphatidylcholine purified from a hen's egg; POPC is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine; PS is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphoserine; PE is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphoethanolamine; and Chol is an abbreviation of cholesterol. PC mix is an abbreviation of the mixture of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine: 1-palmitoyl-2-linoleoylphosphatidylcholine: 1-stearoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine: 1-stearoyl-2-linoleoylphosphatidylcholine = 129:67:48:24 (mass ratio); EggPC/PS/PE is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 3:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; EggPC/PS/PE/Chol is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; PCmix/PS/PE is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 3:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; PCmix/PS/PE/Chol is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; POPC/PS/PE is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 3:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; and POPC/POPE/POPS/Chol is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (mass ratio) in order.

[Fig. 5] Figure 5 is a graph showing the result of an evolutionary experiment. The vertical axis shows the percentage of high intensity liposomes (the percentage of red dots). By repeating the cycle, the percentage of a group having high activity increased.

[Description of Embodiments]

[0042] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described. It should be understood that unless particularly stated otherwise, the terms used in the present specification have the meanings that are conventionally used in the art.

[0043] Hereinafter, the definitions of the terms that are used particularly in the present specification will be listed.

(Definition)

[0044] The term "micro-compartment" as used herein refers to a closed minute space composed of a lipid layer and an internal aqueous layer. Examples of the "micro-compartment" include liposomes, but are not limited thereto.

[0045] The term "liposome" as used herein generally means a closed vesicle composed of a lipid layer gathered in a membrane state and an internal aqueous layer. Other than phospholipid which is representatively used, cholesterol, glycolipid and the like can be incorporated. In the present invention, a liposome preferably contains cholesterol as the component. In the present invention, in order to have a modifying group, a liposome may have a constitutional unit having a functional group that allows ester bond (for example, glycolipid, ganglioside and phosphatidylglycerol) or a constitutional unit having a functional group that allows peptide bond (for example, phosphatidylethanolamine). The liposome that is used in the present invention is a "unilamellar liposome" consisting of a single membrane consisting of a lipid bilayer. As the preparation method of the unilamellar liposome, various well-known methods can be utilized.

[0046] The term "promoter sequence" as used herein refers to a region on a DNA that determines an initiation site of transcription of a gene and that directly regulates the frequency thereof, which is a base sequence to which an RNA polymerase bound and starts transcription. Although a putative promoter region varies in each structural gene, a putative promoter region is generally located in the upstream of a structural gene. However, the location is not limited thereto, and a putative promoter region also may be located in the downstream of a structural gene. The promoter may be inducible, structural, site-specific or stage-specific. The promoter may be any promoter as long as the promoter is able to be expressed in a host cell such as a mammalian cell, a colon bacillus and yeast. Representative promoter sequences include a T7 promoter sequence, a T5 promoter sequence, a Sp6 promoter sequence and a T3 promoter sequence, but are not limited thereto.

[0047] The "RNA polymerase" as used herein may be any RNA polymerase as long as it adapts to a promoter sequence to be used, that is, performs transcription from the promoter to be used. Preferably, the promoter sequence and the RNA polymerase are derived from the same or close species. For example, when a promoter sequence derived from a prokaryote is used, an RNA polymerase to be used is also preferably derived from a prokaryote. Alternatively, when a promoter sequence derived from a bacteriophage is used, an RNA polymerase to be used is also preferably derived from the same or similar bacteriophage.

[0048] The term "translational initiation sequence" as used herein means any sequence that is able to provide a functional ribosome entry site. In the system of bacteria, this region is also referred to as Shine-Dalgarno sequence.

[0049] The term "cell-free protein synthesis system" as used herein is a component derived from a cell that has lost autonomous replication ability by treating the cell, and is a component that is able to synthesize a protein. As the cell-free protein synthesis system, for example, PURESYSYSTEM (registered trademark) (BioComber Co., Ltd.; Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo) that is commercially available can be utilized. Alternatively, the cell-free protein synthesis system is possible to

be prepared by performing purification and/or recombinant expression of a component that is required for the cell-free protein synthesis system.

[0050] The term "operably linked" as used herein refers to a state in which the expression (operation) of a desired sequence is disposed under the control of a certain transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence (for example, a promoter and an enhancer) or a translational regulatory sequence. In order to allow for a promoter to be operably linked to a gene, the promoter is generally disposed in just upstream of the gene. However, the promoter is not necessarily adjacently disposed.

[0051] The term "membrane protein" as used herein refers to a protein that is attached to a lipid bilayer. The membrane protein may be a protein that contains a transmembrane region or may be a protein that does not contain a transmembrane region.

(Membrane protein)

[0052] The present invention is applicable to various membrane proteins. Representative membrane proteins include, for example, transporters and receptors, but are not limited thereto. The sequence encoding the membrane protein of the present invention may comprise a leader sequence for inserting a protein into a membrane, as necessary.

(Transporter)

[0053] The membrane protein of the present invention may be or may not be a transporter. Examples of the transporter of the present invention include proteins related to substance transportation in cells (for example, EmrE protein) and proteins that allow permeation of a substance that does not permeate a lipid bilayer (for example, hemolysin), but are not limited thereto.

(Production of unilamellar liposome)

[0054] The unilamellar liposome used in the present invention is possible to be prepared by using the centrifugal sedimentation method described in the Examples. However, the preparation method is not limited thereto. For example, other than the centrifugal sedimentation method, a swelling hydration method (P. Mueller and T. F. Chien, *Biophys. J.*, 1983, 44, 375-381) and an electro-formation method (Miglina I. Angelove and Dimiter S. Dimitrov, *Faraday Discuss. Chem. Soc.*, 1986, 81, 303-311) can be utilized.

[0055] The swelling hydration method is a method that representatively encompasses the following steps: (1) a step of dissolving a lipid in a solvent for natural drying within a flask to form a lipid membrane on a surface of the flask; and (2) a step of adding an aqueous solution to enlarge the lipid membrane. By this second step, a liposome in which the lipid membrane taken in the aqueous solution floats up.

[0056] The electro-formation method is a method that representatively encompasses the following steps: (1) a step of applying a lipid solution on a conductive electrode for drying to form a lipid film; (2) a step of placing a conductive electrode also in the opposite side intervened by an insulating spacer and filling an aqueous solution therebetween; and (3) a step of applying an electric field between the two electrodes to remove the lipid film from the electrodes and prepare a giant thin film liposome.

(Component/composition of lipid used in production of unilamellar liposome)

[0057] The component/composition of a lipid used in the production of unilamellar liposomes preferably include, although not particularly limited, phospholipid and cholesterol. Examples of the lipid include L-alpha-phosphatidylcholine, cholesterol, L-alpha-dilauroylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-dilauroylphosphatidylethanolamine, L-alpha-dilauroylphosphatidylglycerol sodium, L-alpha-monomyristoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-dimyristoylphosphatidylethanolamine, L-alpha-dimyristoylphosphatidylglycerol ammonium, L-alpha-dimyristoylphosphatidylglycerol sodium, L-alpha-dimyristoylphosphatidic acid sodium, L-alpha-dioleoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine, L-alpha-dioleoylphosphatidylserine sodium, L-alpha-monopalmitoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-dipalmitoylphosphatidylethanolamine, L-alpha-dipalmitoylphosphatidylglycerol ammonium, L-alpha-dipalmitoylphosphatidylglycerol sodium, L-alpha-dipalmitoylphosphatidic acid sodium, L-alpha-stearoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-distearoylphosphatidylcholine, L-alpha-distearoylphosphatidylethanolamine, L-alpha-distearoylphosphatidylglycerol sodium, L-alpha-distearoylphosphatidylglycerol ammonium, L-alpha-distearoylphosphatidic acid sodium, L-alpha-dierucoylphosphatidylcholine, 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine, beta-oleyl-gamma-palmitoyl-L-alpha-phosphatidylethanolamine, beta-oleyl-gamma-palmitoyl-L-alpha-phosphatidylglycerol sodium, sphingomyelin and stearylamine, but are not limited thereto.

[0058] The proportion of the cholesterol is preferably 10% or more, more preferably 30% or more, even more preferably

50% or more, and most preferably 70% or more.

(Magnesium concentration appropriate for production of unilamellar liposome)

5 **[0059]** The concentration of magnesium is preferably 15mM to 50mM, more preferably 18.88mM to 42.48mM, even more preferably 28.32mM to 37.76mM, and most preferably 33.04mM.

(Nuclease)

10 **[0060]** Examples of the nuclease used in the present invention include a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease, but are not limited thereto. The source of supply of the nuclease to be used is not particularly limited. When DNase is used as the nuclease, the enzyme activity to be used is 1U to 20U, more preferably 5U to 15U and most preferably about 12.5U per 100 μ L of a liposome solution. When RNase is used as the nuclease, enzyme activity to be used is 1 μ g to 20 μ g, more preferably 5 μ g to 15 μ g, and most preferably about 10 μ g per 100 μ L of a liposome solution. Those skilled in the art are able to readily determine the amount of an enzyme to be used.

(DNA or RNA to be used)

20 **[0061]** For example, if genetic information to be included in a liposome is a DNA, a coding sequence of a protein, a translational regulatory sequence operably linked to the coding sequence, and a transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence operably linked to the coding sequence will be included in the DNA.

25 **[0062]** Examples of the translational regulatory sequence include a translational initiation sequence, but are not limited thereto. A translation termination codon may be included as necessary. The translational regulatory sequence to be linked preferably adapts to a cell-free protein synthesis system to be used. For example, if a cell-free protein synthesis system that is derived from E.coli is to be utilized, a translational regulatory sequence to be linked is preferably a translational initiation sequence of E.coli. A translational regulatory sequence and a cell-free protein synthesis system to be used are not necessarily required to be derived from the same species. A translational regulatory sequence and a cell-free protein synthesis system to be used can be derived from any species as long as they are adaptable, that is, the cell-free protein synthesis system is able to initiate translation from the translational regulatory sequence.

30 **[0063]** Examples of the transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence include a promoter sequence, but are not limited thereto. An enhancer sequence, a suppressor sequence, an operator sequence, and a transcription termination site may be included as necessary. A transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence to be linked preferably adapts to an RNA polymerase to be used. For example, if an RNA polymerase derived from E. coli is to be utilized, a transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence to be linked is preferably a transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence of E.coli. A transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence and an RNA polymerase to be used are not necessarily required to be derived from the same species. The transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence and the RNA polymerase to be used can be derived from any species as long as they are adaptable, that is, the RNA polymerase is able to initiate (or control) transcription from the transcriptional/translational regulatory sequence.

35 **[0064]** For example, if genetic information to be included in a liposome is an RNA, a coding sequence of a protein, and a translational regulatory sequence operably linked to the coding sequence will be included in the RNA. Examples of the translational regulatory sequence include a translational initiation sequence, but are not limited thereto. A translation termination codon may be included as necessary. A translational regulatory sequence to be linked preferably adapts to a cell-free protein synthesis system to be used. For example, if a cell-free protein synthesis system derived from E.coli is to be utilized, a translational regulatory sequence to be linked is preferably a translational initiation sequence of E.coli. A translational regulatory sequence and a cell-free protein synthesis system to be used are not necessarily required to be derived from the same species. A translational regulatory sequence and a cell-free protein synthesis system to be used can be derived from any species as long as they are adaptable, that is, the cell-free protein synthesis system is able to initiate translation from the translational regulatory sequence.

50 (Application of liposome of the present invention to molecular evolutionary engineering)

[0065] The liposomes of the present invention can be utilized for molecular evolutionary engineering.

55 **[0066]** For example, unilamellar liposomes treated by a nuclease are incubated under the condition that the internal DNA or RNA generates protein products, and (1) by using the presence of proteins expressed on the surface of the liposomes as an indicator, or (2) by measuring the activity of the generated membrane proteins and using this activity as an indicator, selection (screening) of unilamellar liposomes including high-functional genetic information is performed. Activity to be utilized is representatively activity of a protein that is encoded by a DNA or an RNA within the unilamellar liposomes. For example, if a DNA or an RNA within the unilamellar liposomes encodes a transporter, activity to be

utilized is representatively the transport activity thereof. If the transport activity of a transporter is used as an indicator, for example, substances that are transported into the liposomes by the transporter are labeled (for example, fluorescent labeling), and liposomes in which the labeled substances are accumulated are selected by using a cell sorter (FACS: fluorescence-activated cell sorter). For example, a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the transporter can be enclosed within the liposomes to capture the transported ligand within the liposomes, thereby enhancing the sensitivity of screening/selection.

[0067] Alternatively, the enzyme activity possessed by a membrane protein may be used as an indicator.

[0068] In order to detect phosphorylation of a protein or bonding with other proteins as an indicator of the activity of a membrane protein, for example, the following methods are used: a step of labeling an edge of a target protein with fluorescent dye that causes FRET; and when conformation is changed by phosphorylation or bonding with other proteins and the degree of FRET is changed, a step of selection by using the fluorescence change as an indicator. Alternatively, by disposing a GFP gene in the downstream of a T3RNA polymerase promoter for example, and using a T3RNA polymerase RNA at the same time, a T3RNA polymerase having higher RNA synthetic activity is possible to be obtained.

[0069] In addition, by introducing mutation into sequences (sequences related to the control of gene expression such as a promoter sequence, an enhancer sequence, a ribosome-binding sequence, and a translation initiation site) other than a coding sequence of a protein, and selecting the sequence to which mutation is introduced, a sequence can be evolved to have high activity (for example, high promoter activity, enhancer activity and translation activity).

[0070] The unilamellar liposome obtained as a result of screening is used to isolate genetic information included therein as a DNA or an RNA. If the genetic information is a DNA, the isolation can be performed by using a primer that specifically amplifies the DNA, thereby amplifying the genetic information by PCR. Alternatively, if the DNA includes a sequence that is required for autonomous replication within a host cell, the DNA can be introduced into an appropriate host cell, and the isolation can be performed after the amplification.

[0071] If genetic information is an RNA, (1) the RNA may be converted into a DNA using a reverse transcriptase, and then the DNA may be amplified by PCR using a thermostable DNA polymerase enzyme, or (2) genetic information of the RNA may be amplified in a single step using a thermostable reverse transcriptase. If the RNA includes a sequence that is required for autonomous replication within a host cell, the RNA can be introduced into an appropriate host cell, and the isolation can be performed after the amplification.

[0072] Genetic information is not necessarily required to be isolated (purified) after a first round of screening. For example, instead of obtaining a monoclonal DNA or RNA by the first round of screening, a second round of screening may be performed by obtaining a group of DNAs or RNAs and using the group as a starting material. A group of DNAs or RNAs obtained by the second round of screening or the subsequent rounds of screening may be used as a starting material of the next round.

[0073] Alternatively, mutagenesis may be performed on a clone (purified clone) obtained after the screening to prepare a group comprising a plurality of different clones, and the group may be used as a starting material of the screening of the next round.

[Examples]

[0074] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail by Examples and the like. However, the present invention is not limited thereto.

(Example 1: Preparation of unilamellar liposome)

[0075] Unilamellar liposomes were prepared by the centrifugal sedimentation method described below.

- 10mg of lipid (phosphatidylcholine:cholesterol = 9:1) was dissolved into 100 μ l of chloroform for mixture with 2ml of liquid paraffin.
- Incubation was performed for 30 minutes at 80°C.
- An extraliposomal solution (333mM glucose, and a solution in which a group of translated proteins and tRNA are removed from a cell-free protein synthesis system) and an intraliposomal solution (330mM sucrose, 1 μ M Transferrin Alexa 647, a cell-free protein synthesis system, 40U/ μ l RNase inhibitor (Promega), 0.4 μ M ribosome S1 subunit and 50pM DNA) were prepared. A DNA comprising an EmrE-myc-his sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1; a sequence comprising a myc tag and a his tag in the C-terminus of an EmrE gene) or a DNA comprising a GUS sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3; negative control comprising a myc sequence and a GUS sequence) was used. This condition is a condition that a single molecule of DNA is enclosed in each liposome. The composition of the cell-free protein synthesis system that was used is as follows: amino acids 0.3mM each (alanine, glycine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, serine, threonine, proline, tryptophan, phenylalanine, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, lysine, arginine, histidine, methionine, cysteine, tyrosine); 3. 6 μ g/ μ l tRNA; 2mM ATP; 2mM GTP; 1mM CTP; 1mM UTP; 14mM magnesium

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acetate; 50mM Hepes-KOH (pH7.8); 100mM potassium glutamate; 2mM spermidine; 20mM creatine phosphate; 2mM dithiothreitol; 10ng/ μ l 10-formyl-5.6.7.8.-tetrahydrofolic acid; a group of translated proteins (2500nM IF1, 411nM IF2, 728nM IF3, 247nM RF1, 484nM RF2, 168nM RF3, 485nM RRF, 727nM AlaRS, 99nM ArgRS, 420nM AsnRS, 121nM AspRS, 100nM CysRS, 101nM GlnRS, 232nM GluRS, 86nM GlyRS, 85nM HisRS, 365nM IleRS, 99nM LeuRS, 115nM LysRS, 109nM MetRS, 134nM PheRS, 166nM ProRS, 99nM SerRS, 84nM ThrRS, 102nM TrpRS, 101nM TyrRS, 100nM ValRS, 588nM MTF, 926nM MK, 465nM CK, 1307nM NDK, 621nM Ppiase2, 1290nM EF-G, 2315nM EF-Tu, 3300nM EF-Ts, 529nM Tig, 22nM HrpA, 1440nM TrxC).

- 20 μ l of intraliposomal solution was put into 400 μ l of liquid paraffin in which a lipid is dissolved, and the solution was placed on ice for 1 minute.
- Emulsion was prepared by stirring for 40 seconds at the maximum strength of a vortex mixer, and the emulsion was placed on ice for 10 minutes.
- 150 μ l of extraliposomal solution was put into a new tube and the prepared emulsion was laminated thereon, and they were placed on ice for 10 minutes.
- Centrifugation was performed for 30 minutes at 14k \times g, 4°C.
- A hole was made at the bottom of the tube, and 80 μ l of liposome suspension accumulated at the bottom was collected.
- 2 μ l of 5U/ μ l DNase or 4mg/ml RNase was added to the liposome suspension.
- The liposome suspension was incubated for 3 hours at 37°C, and protein synthesis was performed.
- An antibody (anti-Myc tag antibody (mouse IgG1) labeled with Alexa Fluor 488) was diluted with a PBS+1% BSA solution and added to the liposome suspension such that the final concentration becomes 5 μ g/ml (1 μ l of 50g/ml antibody was added to 9 μ l of liposome solution).
- After standing for 30 minutes at room temperature, the antibody was observed by microscopy (Ex: 470-490 Em: 510-550).

[0076] As a result, Alexa 488 fluorescence that is caused by an antibody bound to a polypeptide consisting of a sequence comprising a myc tag and a his tag in the C-terminus of an EmrE gene was confirmed as being localized in a liposome membrane. That is, by the above-described method, it was confirmed that a membrane protein was in-vitro synthesized within the liposome, and the membrane protein was incorporated into the liposome membrane.

[0077] Next, a DNA comprising an EmrE-myc-his sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1; a sequence comprising a myc tag and a his tag in the C-terminus of an EmrE gene) or a DNA comprising a GUS sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3: negative control comprising a myc sequence and a GUS sequence) was used, and an antibody (anti-Myc tag antibody (mouse IgG1) labeled with Alexa Fluor 488, final concentration 5 μ g/ml) diluted with a PBS+1% BSA solution was added to liposomes before and after the expression of proteins (1 μ l of 50g/ml antibody was added to 9 μ l of liposome solution) followed by 30 minutes of standing at room temperature for analysis by a cell sorter. The results are shown in Figure 1. The vertical axis shows the internal volume of liposomes and the horizontal axis shows the fluorescence intensity of Alexa 488. A and B show the results of using the GUS sequence, and C and D show the results of using the EmrE-myc-his sequence. A and C are results of liposomes before the expression of proteins by incubation at 37°C, and B and D are results of liposomes that expressed proteins by an hour incubation at 37°C. As is apparent from Figure 1, liposomes are prepared under the condition that a single molecule of DNA is enclosed in each liposome, and it was confirmed that a membrane protein was expressed and the membrane protein was able to be detected by an antibody.

(Example 2: Confirmation of function of membrane protein expressed in unilamellar liposome)

[0078] 5nM of a DNA comprising an EmrE-myc-his sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1; a sequence comprising a myc tag and a his tag in the C-terminus of an EmrE gene) or a DNA comprising a GUS sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3: negative control comprising a myc sequence and a GUS sequence) and a PURE system were enclosed within liposomes. The liposomes were incubated for 2 hours at 37°C to express EmrE-myc-his and GUS-myc. After the preparation of the liposomes, external solution 1 was replaced with external solution 2 containing EtBr 5 μ g/ml. Fluorescence was measured every minute, and the intake of EtBr was observed. Subsequently, the same sample was observed with a fluorescence microscope (Ex: 520-550 Em: 580-).

[0079] The composition of external solution 1 (that is, the external solution at the time of synthesis of liposomes) is as follows: HEPES-KOH(pH7.6)100mM; K-Glu 200mM; spermidine 4mM; magnesium acetate 25mM; CP 40mM; DTT 2mM; FD 20 μ g/ml; 20 types of amino acids 0.4mM each; ATP 8mM; GTP 8mM; UTP 4mM; CTP 4mM.

[0080] The composition of external solution 2 (that is, the external solution for making a proton gradient) is as follows: Tris-HCl (pH9.0 or 7.6) 100mM; K-Glu 200mM; spermidine 4mM, magnesium acetate 25mM; CP 40mM; DTT 2mM; FD 20 μ g/ml; 20 types of amino acids 0.4mM each; ATP 8mM; GTP 8mM; UTP 4mM; CTP 4mM.

[0081] The results are shown in Figure 2. Figure 2A shows the result of using the DNA comprising the EmrE-myc-his sequence (SEQ ID NO: 1), and Figure 2B shows the result of using the DNA containing the GUS sequence (SEQ ID NO: 3). In the liposomes that expressed a membrane protein from the EmrE-myc-his sequence, pH-dependent fluores-

cence intensity was observed. This result verifies that the membrane protein expressed in the liposomes exerted transport ability.

(Example 3: Examination on Mg concentration)

[0082] DNA5nM comprising a hemolysin sequence, a halo tag protein and a PURE system were enclosed within liposomes. At this time, liposomes were prepared under 9 conditions of Mg concentration of an intraliposomal solution and an extraliposomal solution, which are 18.88, 23.6, 28.32, 33.04, 37.76, 42.28, 47.2, 51.92, 56.64mM. After the preparation of liposomes, incubation was performed for 16 hours at 37° C to express hemolysin. 1μM of Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand was added to the extraliposomal solution to measure the function of expressed alpha hemolysin, and after 3 hours, the amount of fluorescence of Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand accumulated within the liposomes was measured. As a result, Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand was accumulated the most in liposomes that were prepared by the Mg concentration value of 33.04mM. Accordingly, it was ascertained that the condition for the detection of activity of hemolysin is preferably 18.88mM-23.6mM, more preferably 23.6mM-28.32mM, and most preferably 28.32-42.48mM.

(Example 4: Examination on lipid component/composition-1)

[0083] Instead of the EmrE-myc-his sequence used in Example 1, a sequence encoding hemolysin (SEQ ID NO: 5) was used to express a transporter. Further, a halo tag protein (SEQ ID NO: 7) was used as a factor to which Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand, which is the ligand transported by hemolysin, bound. Hemolysin is a membrane protein that creates a pore in a membrane, and hemolysin allows permeation of substances smaller than 3kDa. Thus, when hemolysin is expressed, a pore is generated in liposomes, and as a result, permeation of Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand, which is unable to permeate lipid membranes, is allowed. Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand that permeated through the pore binds to the halo tag protein, and as a result, Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand that moved into the liposomes accumulate within the liposomes.

[0084] As a lipid forming liposomes, a mixture of POPC:Chol = 9:1, a mixture of POPC:Chol = 7: 3, a mixture of POPC:Chol = 5:5, and a mixture of POPC:Chol = 3:7 were used. Further, POPC is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine, and Chol is an abbreviation of cholesterol. As a result, as shown in Figure 3, the percentage of exertion of membrane protein activity in liposomes comprising a DNA raised as the ratio of cholesterol increased.

(Example 5: Examination on lipid component/composition-2)

[0085] Next, liposomes were synthesized using various lipids by the same technique as Example 4, and the activity of the expressed membrane protein was compared. The results are shown in Figure 4.

[0086] The vertical axis of Figure 4 shows the percentage (%) of liposomes that taken in Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand with high intensity among all the liposomes when various lipids were used. The lipids that were used are as follows: EggPC is an abbreviation of phosphatidylcholine purified from a hen's egg; POPC is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine; PS is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphoserine; PE is an abbreviation of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphoethanolamine; and Chol is an abbreviation of cholesterol. PC mix is an abbreviation of the mixture of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine:

1-palmitoyl-2-linoleoylphosphatidylcholine:

1-stearoyl-2-oleoylphosphatidylcholine:

1-stearoyl-2-linoleoylphosphatidylcholine = 129:67:48:24 (mass ratio); EggPC/PS/PE is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 3:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; EggPC/PS/PE/Chol is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; PCmix/PS/PE is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 3:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; PCmix/PS/PE/Chol is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; POPC/PS/PE is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 3:1:1 (mass ratio) in order; and POPC/POPE/POPS/Chol is an abbreviation of the mixture of each of them at the ratio of 2:1:1:1 (mass ratio) in order.

[0087] These results ascertained that change in types of phosphatidylcholine and mixture of a plurality of types, and mixture of 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphoserine and 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoylphosphoethanolamine do not significantly affect the exertion of activity of hemolysin.

(Example 6: Concentration of desired nucleic acid)

[0088] An experiment was performed by using wild type hemolysin (SEQ ID NO: 5) and lethal mutation type hemolysin

(SEQ ID NO: 8) and by using the same technique as Example 4. The proportion of wild type to lethal mutation type was set to 1:12, and tenfold or more of lethal mutation type were used. Culturing was performed for 160 minutes at 37° C to express a membrane protein, and then liposomes that showed transport activity were selected by a cell sorter to determine the percentage of wild type genes and mutated genes included in the liposomes. The result was wild type:mutant type = 8:1. This result verifies that hundredfold concentration was performed by the screening/selection of the present invention.

[0089] For example, by selecting a liposome showing a desired property and performing mutation induction (for example, random mutation) on the included DNA (or RNA), selection by a cell sorter can be performed by using the group to which mutation is induced as a starting material. By repeating this procedure, concentration of mutated genes having a desired property is possible.

(Example 7: Evolutionary experiment)

[0090] An evolutionary experiment was performed by using the following procedures.

[0091]

1) Liposomes are created by a centrifugal sedimentation method.

POPC:Chol = 1:1 (wt/wt) was used as the lipid composition. As the composition of the internal solution, the same composition as the cell-free protein synthesis system described in Example 1 (except that the magnesium acetate concentration was changed to 33.04mM) was used. Further, 100nM T7 RNA polymerase, 200mM sucrose, 5mM β -glucuronidase conjugated halo peptide, 1mM transferrin conjugated alexa fluor 647, 5pM DNA (ORF of hemolysin was disposed under the control of a T7 promoter) were used. As the composition of the external solution, a solution containing only a small molecule having the same composition as the cell-free protein synthesis system described in Example 1 (except that the magnesium acetate concentration was changed to 33.04mM), and 200mM glucose was used.

2) The external solution was replaced to remove the intraliposomal solution that was mixed into the external solution. Centrifugation was performed for 5 minutes at 6000G, and after the supernatant was thrown away, the precipitation was resuspend with 300ml of new extraliposomal solution.

3) A hemolysin protein was synthesized within the liposomes and the hemolysin protein was presented in the lipid membrane. Incubation was performed for 16 hours at 37°C.

4) DNase was added to degrade the DNA remained in the extraliposomal solution. 4 μ l of DNase (TAKARA recombinant Dnase1) was added to the liposome solution.

5) A fluorescent substrate was added to the external environment. 900 ml of new external solution was added to the liposome solution such that the final volume becomes 1.2ml. The final concentration was set to 2nM, and Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand was added to the external solution. The fluorescence intensity of liposomes was successively measured with a flow cytometer.

6) The intake of the fluorescent substrate was suspended by competitive inhibitory substrate that is non-fluorescent and that is permeable to lipid bilayer. When appropriate fluorescence intensity was obtained, final concentration 200nM halo tag biotin ligand was added to the external solution.

7) Concentration of the liposome solution. Centrifugation was performed for 5 minutes at 6000G, and after the supernatant was thrown away, the precipitation was resuspended with 300ml of new external solution.

8) 10,000 high-intensity liposomes were sorted from the highest intensity value with a cell sorter (BD, FACS Aria 2).

9) Genetic information was amplified. The sorted liposome solution was purified by using a simplified DNA purification column (QIAGEN MinElute PCR Purification Kit). Subsequently, PCR was performed for 40 cycles (TOYOBO KOD FX Neo was used for the DNA polymerase). PCR was purified by using the DNA purification column again. Subsequently, a gel band was purified by using agarose electrophoresis (life technologies, E-Gel CloneWell SYBR Safe Gel was used). After performing purification by using the DNA purification column again, PCR was performed again for 20 cycles. The PCR product was purified by DNA purification column again for reuse as the DNA stock of the next cycle.

[0092] The results are shown in Figure 5. Figure 5 is a graph showing the percentage of a group of high-intensity liposomes in which the fluorescence intensity is 260 or over. The upper limit of fluorescence values in which Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand adheres to negative-control liposomes not having hemolysin activity is 260. Thus, samples that showed a value over this fluorescence value are samples that showed specific Halo Tag Alexa Fluor 488 ligand intake by hemolysin.

[0093] It was shown that the percentage of genes having higher activity increased by repeating the cycle of screening/selection. Further, mutation may be introduced after the isolation of the DNA.

[Industrial Applicability]

[0094] By the use of unilamellar liposomes treated with a nuclease, further highly-efficient screening is enabled, and a gene encoding a membrane protein having a desired function can be selected and obtained.

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[Sequence Listing Free Text]

[0095]

- 10 SEQ ID NO: 1: the nucleotide sequence of EmrE-myc-his
- SEQ ID NO: 2: the amino acid sequence of EmrE-myc-his
- SEQ ID NO: 3: the nucleotide sequence of GUS derived from Escherichia coli
- SEQ ID NO: 4: the amino acid sequence of GUS derived from Escherichia coli
- 15 SEQ ID NO: 5 : the nucleotide sequence encoding hemolysin derived from Staphylococcus aureus
- SEQ ID NO: 6: the amino acid sequence of hemolysin derived from Staphylococcus aureus
- SEQ ID NO: 7: the amino acid sequence of the halo tag protein
- SEQ ID NO: 8: the nucleotide sequence encoding the lethal mutation type hemolysin derived from Staphylococcus aureus
- 20 SEQ ID NO: 9: the amino acid sequence of the lethal mutation type hemolysin derived from Staphylococcus aureus

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	Leu	Asp	Trp	Ala	Asp	Glu	His	Gly	Ile	Val	Val	Ile	Asp	Glu	Thr	Ala	
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	Ala	Val	Gly	Phe	Asn	Leu	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ile	Gly	Phe	Glu	Ala	Gly	Asn	
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	Lys	Pro	Lys	Glu	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Glu	Glu	Ala	Val	Asn	Gly	Glu	Thr	Gln	
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	Pro	Gln	Gly	Ala	Arg	Glu	Tyr	Phe	Ala	Pro	Leu	Ala	Glu	Ala	Thr	Arg	
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55	aaa	ctc	gac	ccg	acg	cgt	ccg	atc	acc	tgc	gtc	aat	gta	atg	ttc	tgc	1344
	Lys	Leu	Asp	Pro	Thr	Arg	Pro	Ile	Thr	Cys	Val	Asn	Val	Met	Phe	Cys	
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	Asp	Ala	His	Thr	Asp	Thr	Ile	Ser	Asp	Leu	Phe	Asp	Val	Leu	Cys	Leu	
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	Leu Asp Met Tyr His Arg Val Phe Asp Arg Val Ser Ala Val Val Gly	
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	Glu Gln Val Trp Asn Phe Ala Asp Phe Ala Thr Ser Gln Gly Ile Leu	
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	Arg Val Gly Gly Asn Lys Lys Gly Ile Phe Thr Arg Asp Arg Lys Pro	
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	Ala Trp Leu Asn Ala Tyr Phe His Gln Pro Glu Ala Ile Glu Glu Phe	
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55	ccg gtt ccg gcg ctg cat cat ccg gtg ttt cag cag gag agc ttt acc	2112
	Pro Val Pro Ala Leu His His Pro Val Phe Gln Gln Glu Ser Phe Thr	
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60	cgt cag gtg ctg tgg aaa ctg ctg aaa gtg gtt aaa ttt ggc gaa gtg	2160
	Arg Gln Val Leu Trp Lys Leu Leu Lys Val Val Lys Phe Gly Glu Val	
	705 710 715 720	
65	att agc tat cag cag ctg gcg gcc ctg gcg ggt aat ccg gcg gcc acc	2208
	Ile Ser Tyr Gln Gln Leu Ala Ala Leu Ala Gly Asn Pro Ala Ala Thr	
	725 730 735	
70	gcc gcc gtt aaa acc gcg ctg agc ggt aac ccg gtg ccg att ctg att	2256
	Ala Ala Val Lys Thr Ala Leu Ser Gly Asn Pro Val Pro Ile Leu Ile	
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75	ccg tgc cat cgt gtg gtt agc tct agc ggt gcg gtt ggc ggt tat gaa	2304
	Pro Cys His Arg Val Val Ser Ser Ser Gly Ala Val Gly Gly Tyr Glu	
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	Gly Gly Leu Ala Val Lys Glu Trp Leu Leu Ala His Glu Gly His Arg	
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	Phe Glu Ala Asp Val Thr Pro Tyr Val Ile Ala Gly Lys Ser Val Arg	
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	Ile Thr Val Cys Val Asn Asn Glu Leu Asn Trp Gln Thr Ile Pro Pro	
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50	Gly Met Val Ile Thr Asp Glu Asn Gly Lys Lys Lys Gln Ser Tyr Phe	
	145 150 155 160	
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 5 Ala Gln Asp Cys Asn His Ala Ser Val Asp Trp Gln Val Val Ala Asn
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 Thr Gly Gln Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Leu Gln Val Val Asn Pro His Leu
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 15 Trp Gln Pro Gly Glu Gly Tyr Leu Tyr Glu Leu Cys Val Thr Ala Lys
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 20 Ser Gln Thr Glu Cys Asp Ile Tyr Pro Leu Arg Val Gly Ile Arg Ser
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 Val Ala Val Lys Gly Glu Gln Phe Leu Ile Asn His Lys Pro Phe Tyr
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 25 Phe Thr Gly Phe Gly Arg His Glu Asp Ala Asp Leu Arg Gly Lys Gly
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 355 360 365
 45 Lys Pro Lys Glu Leu Tyr Ser Glu Glu Ala Val Asn Gly Glu Thr Gln
 370 375 380
 50 Gln Ala His Leu Gln Ala Ile Lys Glu Leu Ile Ala Arg Asp Lys Asn
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 His Pro Ser Val Val Met Trp Ser Ile Ala Asn Glu Pro Asp Thr Arg
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 55 Pro Gln Gly Ala Arg Glu Tyr Phe Ala Pro Leu Ala Glu Ala Thr Arg

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		450					455					460					
15	Asn	Arg	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	Trp	Tyr	Val	Gln	Ser	Gly	Asp	Leu	Glu	Thr	Ala	
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20	Glu	Lys	Val	Leu	Glu	Lys	Glu	Leu	Leu	Ala	Trp	Gln	Glu	Lys	Leu	His	
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25	Gln	Pro	Ile	Ile	Ile	Thr	Glu	Tyr	Gly	Val	Asp	Thr	Leu	Ala	Gly	Leu	
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40	Glu	Gln	Val	Trp	Asn	Phe	Ala	Asp	Phe	Ala	Thr	Ser	Gln	Gly	Ile	Leu	
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	Ala	Trp	Leu	Asn	Ala	Tyr	Phe	His	Gln	Pro	Glu	Ala	Ile	Glu	Glu	Phe	
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		690					695					700					
10	Arg	Gln	Val	Leu	Trp	Lys	Leu	Leu	Lys	Val	Val	Lys	Phe	Gly	Glu	Val	
	705					710					715					720	
15	Ile	Ser	Tyr	Gln	Gln	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Ala	Gly	Asn	Pro	Ala	Ala	Thr	
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20	Ala	Ala	Val	Lys	Thr	Ala	Leu	Ser	Gly	Asn	Pro	Val	Pro	Ile	Leu	Ile	
				740					745					750			
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		770					775					780					
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	Ser	Asn	Thr	Thr	Val	Lys	Thr	Gly	Asp	Leu	Val	Thr	Tyr	Asp	Lys	Glu	
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	His	Asn	Lys	Lys	Leu	Leu	Val	Ile	Arg	Thr	Lys	Gly	Thr	Ile	Ala	Gly	
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	Tyr Met Ser Thr Leu Thr Tyr Gly Phe Asn Gly Asn Val Thr Gly Asp	
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	Pro Thr Asp Lys Lys Val Gly Trp Lys Val Ile Phe Asn Asn Met Val	
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	Asn Gln Asn Trp Gly Pro Tyr Asp Arg Asp Ser Trp Asn Pro Val Tyr	
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	Gly Asn Gln Leu Phe Met Lys Thr Arg Asn Gly Ser Met Lys Ala Ala	
	195 200 205	
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	Asp Asn Phe Leu Asp Pro Asn Lys Ala Ser Ser Leu Leu Ser Ser Gly	
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	Phe Ser Pro Asp Phe Ala Thr Val Ile Thr Met Asp Arg Lys Ala Ser	
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	Lys Gln Gln Thr Asn Ile Asp Val Ile Tyr Glu Arg Val Arg Asp Asp	
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	Tyr Gln Leu His Trp Thr Ser Thr Asn Trp Lys Gly Thr Asn Thr Lys	
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20	Gly	Asp	Val	Ser	Val	Glu	Leu	Arg	Asp	Ala	Asp	Gln	Gln	Val	Val	Ala
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35	Ser	Gln	Thr	Glu	Cys	Asp	Ile	Tyr	Pro	Leu	Arg	Val	Gly	Ile	Arg	Ser
				260					265					270		
40	Val	Ala	Val	Lys	Gly	Glu	Gln	Phe	Leu	Ile	Asn	His	Lys	Pro	Phe	Tyr
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65	Ala	Val	Gly	Phe	Asn	Leu	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ile	Gly	Phe	Glu	Ala	Gly	Asn
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 5 Pro Gln Gly Ala Arg Glu Tyr Phe Ala Pro Leu Ala Glu Ala Thr Arg
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Claims

1. A unilamellar liposome comprising:
 - (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;
 - (b) an RNA polymerase;
 - (c) a ribonucleotide; and
 - (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system,

wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease, and the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.
2. The unilamellar liposome of claim 1, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises
 - (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.
3. The unilamellar liposome of claim 1, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.
4. A library comprising a plurality of unilamellar liposomes, wherein the unilamellar liposome comprises:
 - (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;
 - (b) an RNA polymerase;
 - (c) a ribonucleotide; and
 - (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system,

wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease, and the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.
5. The library of claim 4, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

(e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

6. The library of claim 4, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

5 7. A unilamellar liposome comprising:

- (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein; and
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system,

10 wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease, and the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

8. The unilamellar liposome of claim 7, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

15 (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

9. A library comprising a plurality of unilamellar liposomes, wherein the unilamellar liposome comprises:

- (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein; and
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system,

20 wherein the unilamellar liposome is treated with a nuclease, and the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

10. The library of claim 9, wherein the membrane protein is a transporter, and the unilamellar liposome further comprises

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(e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein.

11. A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

30 (1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;
- (b) an RNA polymerase;
- (c) a ribonucleotide; and
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and

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(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease,

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wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

12. A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

45 (1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- (a) a DNA comprising a promoter sequence, a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein that is a transporter;
- (b) an RNA polymerase;
- (c) a ribonucleotide;
- (d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and
- (e) a factor that binds to a ligand transported by the membrane protein; and

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(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease,

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wherein the nuclease is selected from the group consisting of a ribonuclease and a deoxyribonuclease.

13. The method of claim 11 or 12, wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

14. A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

(1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- 5 (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein;
and
(d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and

10 (2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease,

wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

15 15. A method of producing a unilamellar liposome treated with a nuclease, comprising:

(1) preparing a unilamellar liposome enclosing:

- 20 (a) an RNA comprising a translational initiation sequence, and a sequence encoding a membrane protein
that is a transporter;
(d) a cell-free protein synthesis system; and
(e) a factor that binds to a ligand that is transported by the membrane protein; and

(2) treating the unilamellar liposome prepared in (1) with a nuclease,

25 wherein the nuclease is a ribonuclease.

16. A screening method using a library of unilamellar liposomes, comprising:

- 30 (i) providing a library of any of claims 4 to 6;
(ii) selecting a unilamellar liposome having a desired feature from the library;
(iii) amplifying an DNA included in the unilamellar liposome; and
(iv) isolating the amplified DNA.

17. A screening method using a library of unilamellar liposomes, comprising:

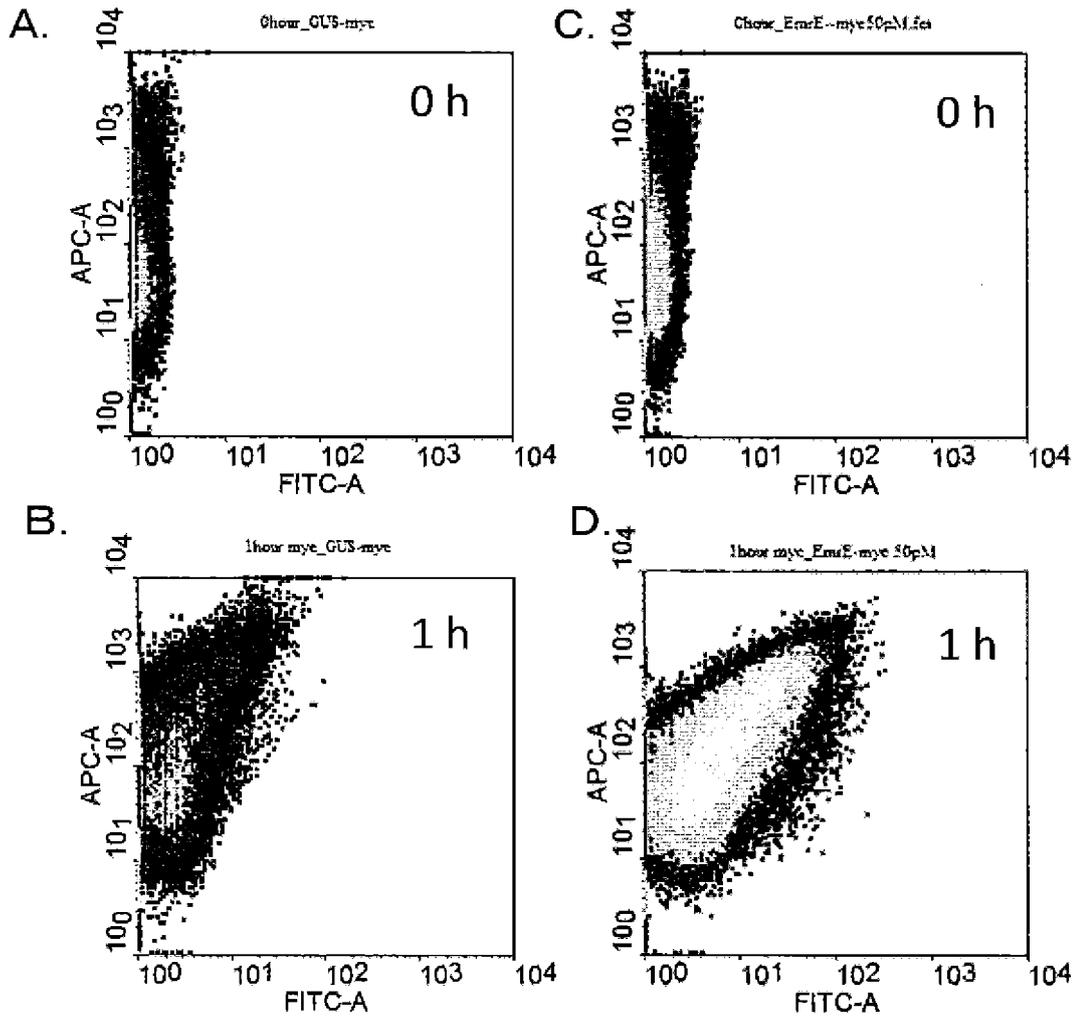
- 35 (i) providing a library of claim 9 or 10;
(ii) selecting a unilamellar liposome having a desired feature from the library;
(iii) generating a DNA by operating a reverse transcriptase on an RNA included in the unilamellar liposome;
(iv) amplifying the generated DNA; and
40 (v) isolating the amplified DNA.

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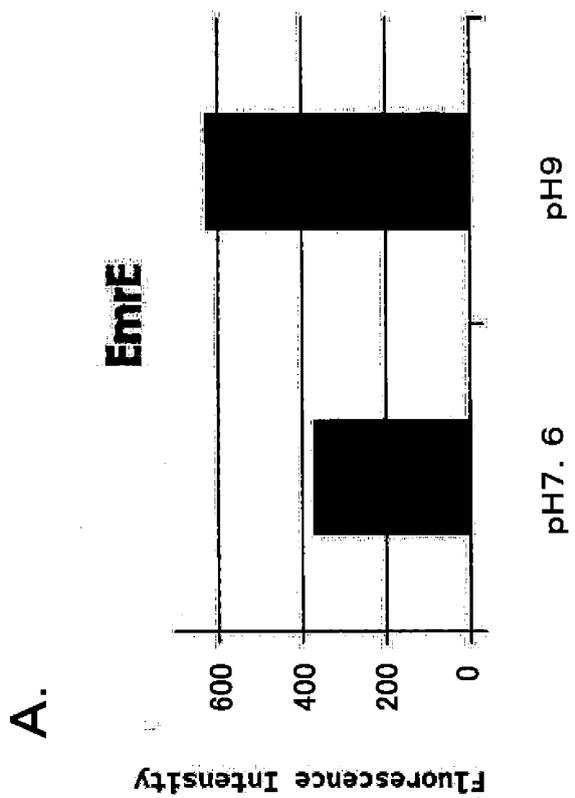
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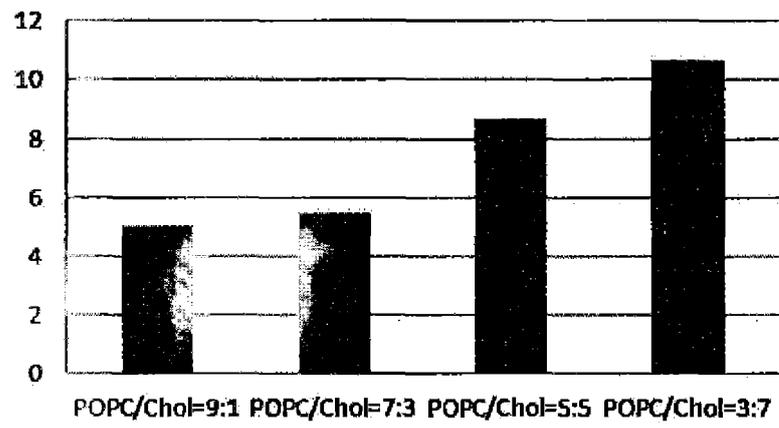
[Fig. 1]



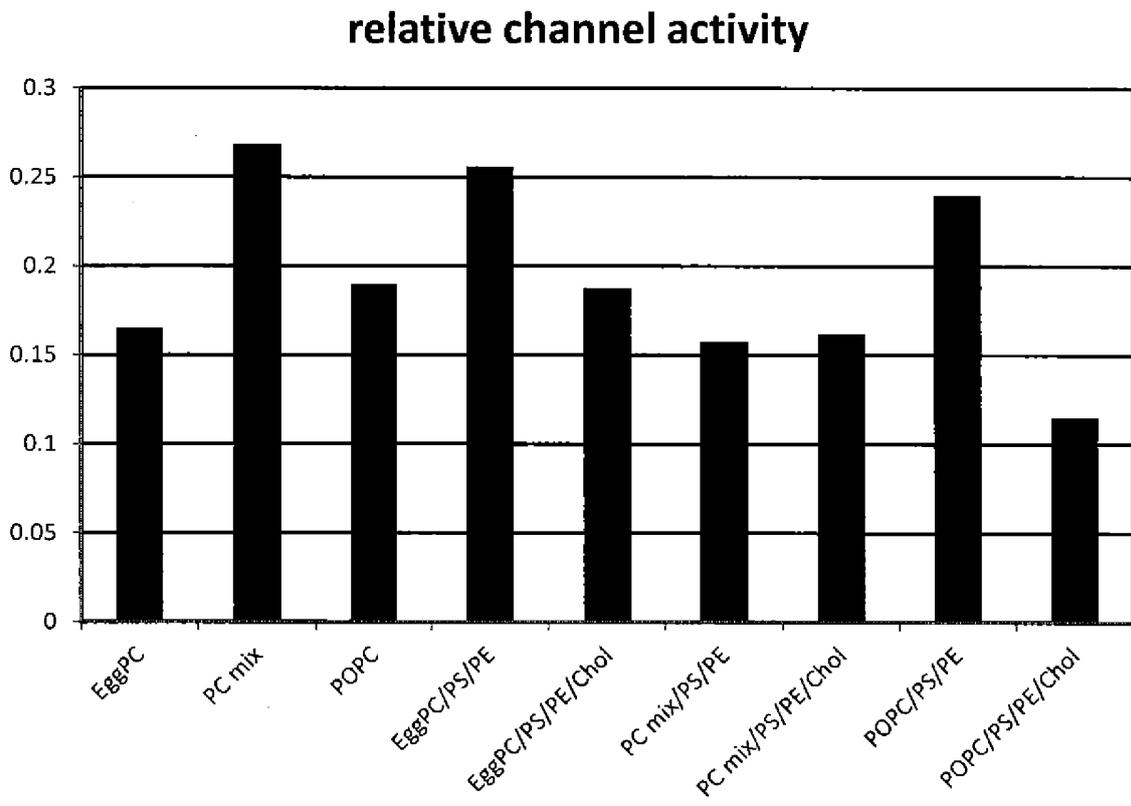
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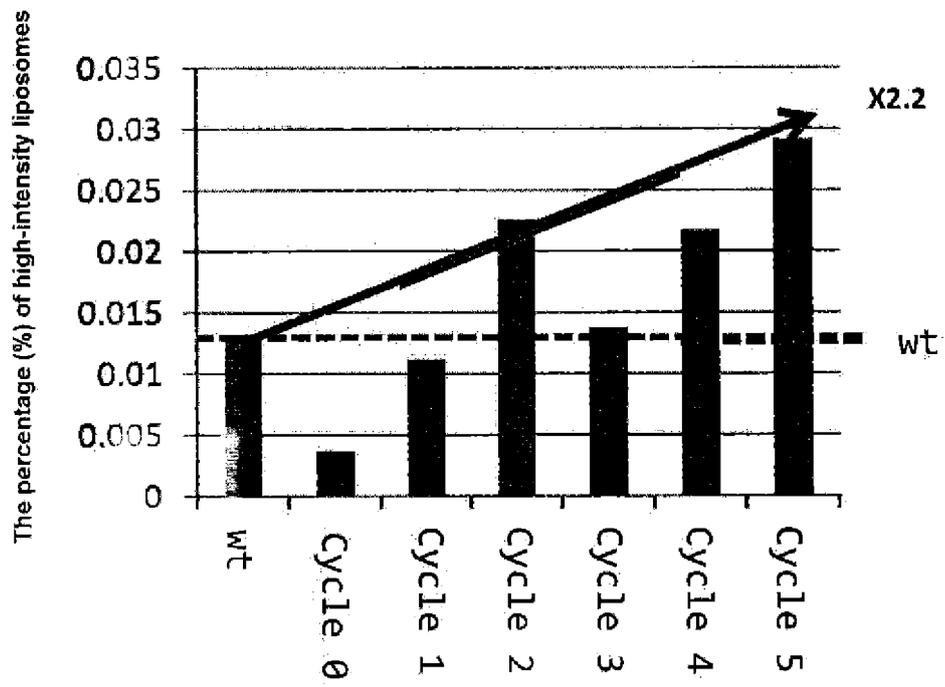
[Fig. 3]



[Fig. 4]



[Fig. 5]



INTERNATIONAL S1996H 22013T

International application No.

PCT/JP2013/003767

5	A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C12N15/09(2006.01)i, C12P21/02(2006.01)i, C12Q1/68(2006.01)i	
	According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC	
10	B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12N15/09, C12P21/02, C12Q1/68	
15	Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched	
	Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) CAplus/MEDLINE/WPIDS/BIOSIS (STN), JSTPlus (JDreamIII)	
20	C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
	Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages
25	<u>Y</u> A	Takehiro NISHIKAWA et al., "Tanso Maku Liposome o Hannoba to suru Idenshi Screening System no Teiryoteki Hyoka", Symposium on Macromolecules Yokoshu, 13 September 2011 (13.09.2011), vol.60, no.2, Disk 1, page ROMBUNNO.2U05
		1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15
30	<u>Y</u> A	KURUMA Y et al., Question 7: biosynthesis of phosphatidic acid in liposome compartments - toward the self-reproduction of minimal cells, Orig. Life Evol. Biosph., 2007, Vol.37, No.4-5, pp.409-413
		1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15
35		
40	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.	
45	* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
50	Date of the actual completion of the international search 09 September, 2013 (09.09.13)	Date of mailing of the international search report 17 September, 2013 (17.09.13)
55	Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office	Authorized officer
	Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2013/003767

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
<u>Y</u> A	NOIREAUX V et al., A vesicle bioreactor as a step toward an artificial cell assembly, PNAS, 2004, Vol.101, No.51, pp.17669-17674	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, <u>17</u> 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15
<u>Y</u> A	Takehiro NISHIKAWA et al., "Liposome o Hannoba to suru Idenshi Screening ni yoru Kasseigata Glucuronidase no Tansaku", Abstracts, Annual Meeting of The Society of Polymer Science, Japan, 15 May 2012 (15.05.2012), vol.61, no.1, page ROMBUNNO.2G26	<u>4, 6, 9, 16, 17</u> 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-15
<u>Y</u> A	NISHIKAWA T et al., Construction of a gene screening system using giant unilamellar liposomes and a fluorescence-activated cell sorter, Anal. Chem., 2012.06.05, Vol.84, No.11, pp.5017-5024	<u>4, 6, 9, 16, 17</u> 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-15
<u>P, Y</u> P, A	Haruka SOGA et al., "Construction of an in vitro gene screening system for membrane proteins", Abstracts of the Annual Meeting of the Society for Biotechnology, Japan, 25 September 2012 (25.09.2012), vol.64, page 197	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, <u>17</u> 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15
<u>P, Y</u> P, A	JP 2012-210170 A (Japan Science and Technology Agency), 01 November 2012 (01.11.2012), (Family: none)	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, <u>17</u> 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15
<u>P, Y</u> P, A	NISHIKAWA T et al., Directed Evolution of Proteins through In Vitro Protein Synthesis in Liposomes, J. Nucleic Acids, 2012, Vol.2012, Article ID 923214, doi: 10.1155/2012/923214, Epub. 2012.08.16	1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, <u>17</u> 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15
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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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- **P. MUELLER ; T. F. CHIEN.** *Biophys. J.*, 1983, vol. 44, 375-381 [0054]
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