Sequential one-pot enzymatic synthesis of oligo-N-acetyllactosamine and its multi-sialylated extensions

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Supporting Information

Materials and Methods	S2
Cloning and overexpression of enzymes	S2
Synthesis of UDP-Gal and UDP-GlcNAc	S 4
One-Pot synthesis of oligo-LacNAcs	S5
Figure S1	S13
Figure S2	S14
NMR data	S15-S46

Materials and Methods

The enzymes and reagents used in the molecular biology experiments, the DNA ladders and the deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs) were purchased from Violet BioScience (Taipei, Taiwan) or New England Biolabs (NEB, Ipswich, MA, USA). DNA primers for the PCR reaction were purchased from Mission Biotech (Taipei, Taiwan). The synthetic oligonucleotides encoding the β -1,3-*N*-acetyl-glucosaminyl transferase gene (*jhp1032*) from *Helicobacter pylori* were purchased from GeneArt (now Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA). The genomic DNA of Bifidobacterium longum (BCRC 11847) and Photobacterium damselae subsp. Damselae (ATCC 33539) were purchased from the Bioresource Collection and Research Centre (Hsinchu, Taiwan). Protein molecular weight standards and P-2 gel were obtained from BioRad (Hercules, CA, USA). QlAprep[®] Spin Miniprep Kit and QlAquick[®] Gel Extraction Kit were purchased from Qiagen (Hilden, Germany). The pGEM-T Easy Vector System I was purchased from Promega (Fitchburg, WI, USA). All other chemicals and enzymes were obtained from the Sigma-Aldrich Company unless otherwise stated. The procedures for standard DNA manipulation, including plasmid DNA isolation, restriction enzyme digestion, agarose gel electrophoresis, DNA ligation, and the transformation of E. coli, were performed according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer. PCR was carried out in a T3000 Thermocycler (Biometra, Göttingen, Germany). The SDS-PAGE for protein analysis was stained with InstantBlue (Expedeon, Cambridgeshire, UK). The protein concentrations were determined with the BCA protein assay kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) using bovine serum albumin as the standard.

Cloning and overexpression of enzymes

Gene resource: MtGalK,¹ RmlA,² NmGalT² and PmST³ were cloned and overexpressed as previously reported by our group. NahK and Pd2,6ST were cloned and overexpressed using the IMPACTTM system, while HpGnT was cloned and overexpressed using the pMALTM protein fusion and purification system according to the instruction manual provided by the manufacturer (NEB).

Gene cloning: DNA amplification was performed in a solution (50 μ L) that contained 50 ng of template DNA, 0.4 μ M of each primer, 0.2 mM dNTP, 1.5 mM

MgCl₂, and 2.5 U Taq DNA polymerase. PCR was performed with denaturation at 95 °C for 30 sec, annealing at 55-65 °C for 30 sec and extension at 72 °C for 1 min. The amplified fragment was sub-cloned into the pGEM-T Easy Vector. The insert was further confirmed by a blue/white screen and sequence analysis. In the case of NahK, the target gene was digested from the constructed T vector and inserted into the NdeI/SapI-treated vector pTXB1; the gene encoding Pd2,6ST was inserted into NdeI/XhoI-treated pTXB1, while the HpGnT gene was digested from the constructed T vector and inserted into the SacI/XhoI-treated vector pMYB5. The ligation mixture was then transformed into the DH5a and BL21 (DE3) strain of E. coli. DNA sequencing was used to confirm the in-frame cloning of the full length target gene. The genes for the enzymes were isolated by PCR amplification using the following primers: nahK-F: 5'-CAT ATG ACC GAA AGC AAT GAA GTT TTA TTC GGC ATC GCC T-3' and nahK-R: 5'-GCT CTT CAG CA TCC TCC TCC CTT GGC AGC CTC CAT G-3'; pd2,6ST-F: 5'-CAT ATG TGT AAT AGT GAC AAT ACC AGC TTG AAA GAA ACG GT-3'; pd2,6ST-R: 5'-CTC GAG AGC CCA GAA CAG AAC ATC TTT TTC-3'; hpGnT-F: 5'-TCG AGC TCG ATC GAG GGA AGG TGT GGG GGG GGG ATG ACC AGC GCA AGC AGC-3'; hpGnT-R: 5'-CTC GAG GCC TTT TTT CAG CAG TTT CAG TTT AAT CAG AAT TTT TTT CAC-3'.

Protein overexpression: *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) carrying the above recombinant plasmids was cultured in Luria-Bertani (LB) medium (10 g L⁻¹ peptone, 5 g L⁻¹ yeast extract, 10 g L⁻¹ NaCl; 5 mL) with ampicillin (100 μ g mL⁻¹) overnight at 37 °C in an orbital shaking incubator S300R (Firstek, New Taipei City, Taiwan) with vigorous shaking at 200 rpm, then transferred to fresh LB medium (500 mL) with ampicillin for another 2 h at 37 °C. When the optical density OD₆₀₀ value reached 0.6–0.8, the culture was induced with 0.5 mM IPTG for 16–24 h at 16 °C. The bacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4 °C and 5000 x *g* for 15 min. The cell pellet was resuspended at 25 mL per liter of cell culture in column buffer (pH 8.0, 20 mM HEPES containing 0.1% Triton X-100, 500 mM NaCl, and 0.1 mM EDTA). The cells were disrupted by sonication on ice for 20 min in 3-s intervals, and then the debris was removed by centrifugation for 60 min at 24000 x *g* and 4 °C.

Protein purification: For the IMPACT system purification, the cell lysate was

collected and applied to a 6-mL chitin bead column that was pre-equilibrated with column buffer. After the sample was loaded onto the chitin column and incubated with chitin affinity beads for 30 min at 4 °C, the column was washed with 20 column volumes of the same buffer. The resin was then quickly washed with 1 column volume of the same buffer containing 80 mM DTT, and the effluent was reloaded. The column was clamped at both ends, and on-column cleavage of the intein tag from the fusion protein was performed by incubating the column at 4 °C for 16 h. The purified protein was eluted using the same buffer without DTT. The effluent was concentrated by centrifugation with a centrifugal filter device (Amicon Ultra, Millipore), divided into aliquots, and stored at -30 °C.

For the pMAL system, the supernatant was applied to amylose resin equilibrated in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5 with 500 mM NaCl). MBP-HPGnT was eluted with 10 mM maltose in the same buffer, and the fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. Fractions with significant amounts of MBP-HPGnT were pooled and then concentrated by centrifugation, divided into aliquots, and stored at -30 °C.

Synthesis of UDP-Gal and UDP-GlcNAc

The synthesis of UDP-gal was performed in a 10 mL reaction buffer containing 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 20 mM MgCl₂, 20 mM ATP, 20 mM UTP, 20 mM Gal, 10 enzyme units (EU) of inorganic pyrophosphatase (IP), 200 µg MtGalK and 20 mg RmlA. The reaction was carried out at 55 °C for 4 h and monitored by RP-HPLC coupled with a UV detector, according to our previous literature reports.² For the synthesis of UDP-GlcNAc, the reaction was performed in a 10 mL reaction buffer containing 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 20 mM MgCl₂, 20 mM ATP, 20 mM UTP, 20 mM GlcNAc, 10 EU IP, 5 mg NahK, and 20 mg RmlA. The reaction was first carried out at 37 °C for 2 h and then was increased to 55 °C. The reaction mixture was incubated for another 2 h. The formation of UDP-GlcNAc was monitored by RP-HPLC.

To isolate the UDP-Gal/UDP-GlcNAc, the reaction mixture was centrifuged for 5 min at 16,200 x g at room temperature, and the clear supernatant was collected. The diluted solution was first desalted by P-2 Gel followed by Q FF anion-exchange column purification (GE Healthcare, Little Chalfont, UK) eluted with a gradient of NH₄HCO₃ solution ($0\rightarrow$ 500 mM). The fraction containing UDP-Gal/UDP-GlcNAc

was collected and lyophilized.

One-Pot synthesis of oligo-LacNAcs

The one-pot synthesis of oligo-LacNAc was performed in two steps. In one vessel, the UDP-Gal synthesis was performed in 10 mL of reaction buffer containing 200 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 200 mM MgCl₂, 200 mM ATP, 200 mM UTP, 200 mM Gal, 320 μ g MtGalK, 20 mg RmlA, and 10 EU IP. The reaction proceeded as according to the aforementioned procedures. In another vessel, the UDP-GlcNAc reaction was performed in 10 mL of reaction buffer containing 200 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 200 mM MgCl₂, 200 mM ATP, 200 mM UTP, 200 mM GlcNAc, 320 μ g NahK, 20 mg RmlA, and 10 EU IP. The reaction proceeded according to the aforementioned procedures. When the yield of UDP-Gal and UDP-GlcNAc reached 50%, the two vessels were combined as one. The solution temperature was cooled to 25 °C, followed by the addition of azido-GlcNAc 1 (10 mM), 200 μ g of NmGalT, 400 μ g of HpGnT, and dithiothreitol (DTT) to a final concentration of 0.2 mM. The reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC: methanol (MeOH)/dichloromethane (DCM) = 1/1). The product was desalted by the P-2 gel and then analyzed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

Synthesis of LacNAc (2)

A buffered (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH of 7.5) solution of Gal (20 mM) containing MgCl₂ (40 mM) was incubated at 55 °C with ATP (20 mM) and UTP (20 mM) in the presence of IP (10 EU), MtGalK (10 μ g mL⁻¹) and RmlA (1 mg mL⁻¹) for 4 h. The solution was cooled to 25 °C, followed by the addition of azido-GlcNAc **1** (35 mg, 0.1 mmol), DTT (0.2 mM), and NmGalT (20 μ g mL⁻¹). The resulting mixture was incubated at 25 °C for 4 h. When TLC analysis (MeOH/DCM = 1/1) indicated the completion of the reaction, the reaction solution was centrifuged (10,000 x *g*, 10 min) to remove the proteins and insoluble precipitates. The supernatant was filtered (0.45- μ m filter; Millipore), concentrated, and passed through a P-2 gel to obtain the desired product. The product-containing fractions were identified by TLC analysis and were pooled together then lyophilized to give an isolation yield of 90% (46 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.21-1.26 (m, 4H), 1.43 (q, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.47 (q, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.40 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 10.2 Hz, 1H),

3.43-3.48 (m, 2H), 3.53 (dd, J = 3.3, 10.1 Hz, 1H), 3.56-3.66 (m, 6H), 3.70 (dd, J = 5.2, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 3.75-3.79 (m, 2H), 3.85 (dd, J = 1.9, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 4.34 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 22.02, 24.47, 25.40, 27.81, 28.25, 50.97, 54.96, 59.92, 60.85, 68.38, 70.22, 70.80, 72.29, 72.34, 74.58, 75.18, 78.31, 100.88, 102.71, 174.22; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₂₀H₃₇N₄O₁₁ [M+H]⁺ = 509.2459; found 509.2451.

Synthesis of GlcNAc-LacNAc (3)

A buffered (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH of 7.5) solution of GlcNAc (20 mM) containing MgCl₂ (40 mM) was incubated at 37 °C with ATP (20 mM) and UTP (20 mM) in the presence of NahK (1 mg mL⁻¹) and RmlA (1 mg mL⁻¹) for 2 h. The reaction temperature was increased to 55 °C and reacted for another 4 h. The reaction was cooled to 25 °C, followed by the addition of 2 (51 mg, 0.1 mmol), DTT (308 µg, 2 μ mol), and HpGnT (40 μ g mL⁻¹). The resulting mixture was incubated at 25 °C for 4 h. When TLC analysis (MeOH/DCM = 1/1) indicated the completion of the reaction, the reaction solution was centrifuged (10,000 x g, 10 min) to remove the proteins and insoluble precipitates. The supernatant was filtered (0.45-µm filter; Millipore), concentrated, and passed through a P-2 gel to obtain the desired product. The product-containing fractions were identified by TLC analysis and pooled together then lyophilized to give an isolation yield of 99% (70 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D_2O) δ 1.12-1.27 (m, 4H), 1.39-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.89 (s, 6H), 3.18 (t, J = 6.6 Hz, 2H), 3.30-3.36 (m, 2H), 3.41-3.47 (m, 4H), 3.55-3.64 (m, 9H), 3.68 (dd, J = 4.4, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 3.74-3.79 (m, 2H), 3.84 (d, J = 11.9 Hz, 2H), 4.00-4.02 (m, 1H), 4.31 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.53 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.68 (x2), 24.12, 25.06, 27.46, 27.91, 50.64, 54.59, 55.17, 59.60, 59.99, 60.44, 67.92, 69.20, 69.51, 69.88, 71.94, 73.08, 74.24, 74.38, 75.16, 78.04, 81.48, 100.54, 102.33, 102.41, 173.87, 174.45; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₂₈H₄₈N₅O₁₆ [M-H]⁻: 710.3096; found 710.3101.

Synthesis of (LacNAc)₂(4)

Compound **4** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of LacNAc (**2**), with an isolated yield of 96% (84 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.19-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.42-1.51 (m, 4H), 1.91 (s, 6H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.41 (dd,

J = 7.8, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 3.45-3.49 (m, 4H), 3.54 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, J = 3.5, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.57-3.67 (m, 12H), 3.68-3.74 (m, 3H), 3.76-3.79 (m, 1H), 3.80 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.83 (dd, J = 2.0, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.86 (dd, J = 2.0, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, J = 3.24 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.93 (x2), 24.38, 25.31, 27.72, 28.16, 50.89, 54.83, 54.94, 59.61, 59.83, 60.69, 60.78, 68.06, 68.30, 69.71, 70.14, 70.72, 71.94, 72.19, 72.26, 74.30, 74.49, 74.62, 75.10, 77.92, 78.25, 81.82, 100.80, 102.50, 102.62, 102.66, 174.14, 174.66; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₄H₅₈N₅O₂₁ [M-H]⁻: 872.3624; found 872.3635.

Synthesis of GlcNAc-(LacNAc)₂(5)

Compound **5** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of GlcNAc-LacNAc (**3**), with an isolated yield of 89% (49 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.19-1.26 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.89 (s, 9H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.29-3.35 (m, 2H), 3.41-3.48 (m, 6H), 3.54-3.64 (m, 16H), 3.65-3.66 (m, 1H), 3.70 (dd, *J* = 4.8, 12.2 Hz, 2H), 3.74-3.78 (m, 2H), 3.81 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 12.6 Hz, 1H), 3.84 (dd, *J* = 1.8, 12.2 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 2H), 4.31 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 4.56 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.98 (x3), 24.42, 25.36, 27.76, 28.21, 50.94, 54.89, 54.96, 55.47, 59.68, 59.74, 59.89, 60.29, 60.74 (x2), 68.12, 69.50, 69.77, 69.80, 70.19, 71.98, 72.24, 73.37, 74.35, 74.54, 74.68 (x2), 75.47, 78.02, 78.32, 81.78, 81.86, 100.85, 102.53, 102.64, 102.70 (x2), 174.18, 174.70, 174.76; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₄₂H₇₂N₆O₂₆Na [M+Na]⁺: 1099.4394; found 1099.4402.

Synthesis of (LacNAc)₃(6)

Compound **6** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of LacNAc (**2**), with an isolated yield of 99% (62 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.16-1.23 (m, 4H), 1.37-1.45 (m, 4H), 1.87 (s, 9H), 3.15 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.36-3.45 (m, 6H), 3,50 (dd, *J*= 3.3, 9.9 Hz, 2H), 3.51-3.57 (m, 14H), 3.58-3.70 (m, 10H), 3.72-3.83 (m, 5H), 3.98-4.00 (m, 2H), 4.28-4.32 (m, 3H), 4.36 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.52-4.54 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 22.09 (x3), 24.47, 25.42, 27.78, 28.30, 51.05, 55.03, 55.10, 55.14, 59.91 (x2), 60.12, 60.78 (x2), 60.86, 68.19 (x2), 68.47, 69.88 (x2), 70.24, 70.88, 72.10 (x2), 72.32, 72.48, 74.47 (x2), 74.63, 74.75

(x2), 75.23, 78.37 (x2), 78.69, 81.93 (x2), 100.90, 102.47 (x2), 102.79 (x2), 174.20, 174.72 (x2); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for $C_{48}H_{82}N_6O_{31}Na [M+Na]^+$: 1261.4922; found 1261.4926.

Synthesis of GlcNAc-(LacNAc)₃(7)

Compound 7 was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of GlcNAc-LacNAc (**3**), with an isolated yield of 93% (34 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.18-1.28 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.90 (s, 12H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.30-3.36 (m, 2H), 3.41-3.38 (m, 8H), 3.55-3.61 (m, 22H), 3.62-3.72 (m, 10H), 3.75-3.77 (m, 2H), 3.81-3.85 (m, 3H), 4.02 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 3H), 4.32-3.34 (m, 3H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.54-4.57 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 23.25 (x4), 25.71, 26.64, 29.06, 29.49, 52.22, 56.17, 56.23 (x2), 56.74, 60.40 (x3), 60.93 (x2), 61.15, 61.56, 62.04 (x2), 62.53, 69.41 (x2), 70.77, 71.05 (x2), 71.48, 73.26 (x2), 73.53, 74.65, 75.63 (x2), 75.83, 75.96 (x2), 76.74, 79.24 (x2), 79.56, 83.07, 83.14 (x2), 102.13, 103.84 (x2), 103.97 (x4), 175.48, 176.00 (x3); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₅₆H₉₃N₇O₃₆Na₂ [M+2Na]²⁺: 743.7807; found 743.7816.

Synthesis of (LacNAc)₄ (8)

Compound **8** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of LacNAc (**2**), with an isolated yield of 43% (15 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.13-1.22 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.49 (m, 4H), 1.85 (s, 12H), 3.14 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 3.34-3.43 (m, 18H), 3.49-3.59 (m, 24H), 3.60-3.68 (m, 8H), 3.69-3.81 (m, 6H), 3.94-3.99 (m, 3H), 4.25-4.30 (m, 4H), 4.33 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 4.49-4.53 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 23.26 (x4), 25.72, 26.65, 29.06, 29.50, 52.22, 56.17, 56.23 (x2), 56.27, 60.93 (x3), 61.15, 62.04 (x2), 62.12, 62.93 (x2), 69.41 (x2), 69.64, 71.05 (x2), 71.48, 72.05, 73.26 (x2), 73.53, 73.59, 75.64 (x2), 75.83, 75.96 (x2), 76.44, 79.23 (x2), 79.55, 83.15 (x2), 102.14, 103.85 (x3), 103.98 (x4), 175.48, 176.00 (x3); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₆₂H₁₀₆N₇O₄₁ [M+H]⁺: 1604.6425; found 1604.6416.

Synthesis of α-2,3-Sialyl LacNAc (9)

A buffered (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH of 8.5) solution of **2** (10 mM) containing MgCl₂ (10 mM) was incubated at 37 °C with CMP-Neu5Ac (15 mM) in the presence of PmST

 $(50 \ \mu g \ mL^{-1})$ for 8 h. The reaction was quenched by the addition of an equal volume of EtOH when TLC analysis (EtOAc/MeOH/H₂O/HOAc=3/2/1/0.5) indicated the completion of the reaction. The reaction solution was centrifuged (10,000 x g, 10 min)to remove any proteins and insoluble precipitates. The supernatant was filtered (0.45-µm filter; Millipore), concentrated, and passed through a P-2 gel to obtain the desired product. The product-containing fractions identified by TLC analysis were pooled together and then lyophilized to give 9 with an isolation yield of 82% (12.9 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.21-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.42-1.51 (m, 4H), 1.68 (t, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 6H), 2.63 (dd, J = 4.6, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.43-3.53 (m, 6H), 3.55-3.65 (m, 8H), 3.71-3.75 (m, 2H), 3.76-3.80 (m, 2H), 3.83 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.88 (dd, J = 2.2, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (dd, J = 3.1, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 22.01, 22.15, 24.59, 25.53, 27.94, 28.38, 39.60, 51.11, 51.66, 55.08, 60.05, 60.18, 60.99, 62.56, 67.45, 68.08, 68.31, 69.36, 70.34, 71.73, 72.39, 72.86, 74.72, 75.14, 75.46, 78.32, 99.79, 101.06, 102.54, 173.83, 174.34, 174.99; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₁H₅₂N₅O₁₉ [M-H]⁻: 798.3257; found 798.3248.

Synthesis of α-2,3-Sialyl (LacNAc)₂(10)

Compound **10** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of α -2,3-Sialyl LacNAc (**9**), with an isolated yield of 54% (6.4 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.19-1.27 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.67 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.90 (s, 9H), 2.63 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.19 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.43-3.48 (m, 6H), 3.50 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 3.52 (dd, *J* = 1.9, 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.53-3.62 (m, 12H), 3.62-3.65 (m, 2H), 3.66-3.71 (m, 3H), 3.72-3.78 (m, 5H), 3.83-3.87 (m, 3H), 3.99 (dd, *J* = 3.2, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.03 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 22.00, 22.14 (x2), 24.59, 25.52, 27.93, 28.37, 39.61, 51.10, 51.65, 55.04, 55.15, 59.82, 60.05, 60.93, 61.00, 62.55, 67.45, 68.06, 68.26, 68.31, 69.35, 69.94, 70.35, 71.73, 72.12, 72.41, 72.86, 74.53, 74.72, 74.86, 75.14, 75.47, 77.99, 78.49, 82.04, 99.78, 101.02, 102.52, 102.76, 102.87, 173.82, 174.35, 174.86, 174.99; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₄₅H₇₅N₆O₂₉ [M-H]⁻: 1163.4578; found: 1163.4567.

Synthesis of α-2,3-Sialyl (LacNAc)₃(11)

Compound **11** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of α -2,3-Sialyl LacNAc (**9**), with an isolated yield of 73% (9 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.29-1.36 (m, 4H), 1.51-1.59 (m, 4H), 1.76 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (s, 12H), 2.72 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.52-3.57 (m, 8H), 3.59-3.61 (m, 2H), 3.62-3.64 (m, 1H), 3.65-3.74 (m, 21H), 3.75-3.80 (m, 4H), 3.81-3.83 (m, 2H), 3.84-3.87 (m, 3H), 3.90-3.95 (m, 4H), 4.08 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.12-4.13 (m, 2H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.48 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.65-4.67 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 22.02, 22.16 (x2), 24.51, 25.54, 27.95, 28.39, 39.63, 51.12 (x2), 51.67, 55.07, 55.13, 55.17, 59.53, 59.84 (x2), 60.06, 60.94 (x2), 61.02, 62.57, 67.46, 68.08, 68.30 (x2), 69.37, 69.95 (x2), 70.37, 71.75, 72.16 (x2), 72.43, 72.88, 74.54 (x2), 74.73, 74.86 (x2), 75.16, 75.48, 78.00, 78.17, 78.48, 82.05 (x2), 99.80, 101.03, 102.54, 102.73, 102.78, 102.88 (x2), 173.84, 174.37, 174.88 (x2), 175.01; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₅₉H₉₈N₇O₃₉ [M-H]⁻: 1528.5900; found 1528.5914.

Synthesis of α-2,6-Sialyl LacNAc (12)

Compound **12** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of α -2,3-Sialyl LacNAc (**9**), except using Pd2,6ST (50 µg mL⁻¹), with an isolated yield of **12** of 99% (16.4 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.21-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.41-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.59 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 2.55 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.40-3.45 (m, 3H), 3.47-3.57 (m, 7H), 3.58-3.62 (m, 4H), 3.66-3.72 (m, 3H), 3.74-3.79 (m, 3H), 3.85-3.88 (m, 2H), 4.33 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.96, 22.23, 24.56, 25.49, 27.90, 28.35, 40.02, 51.07, 51.83, 54.84, 59.33, 60.33, 62.59, 63.27, 68.13, 68.33, 70.28, 70.67, 71.63, 72.36, 72.41, 72.48, 73.61, 74.40, 80.69, 100.09, 100.81, 103.40, 173.44, 174.32, 174.87; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₁H₅₂N₅O₁₉ [M-H]⁻: 798.3257; found 798.3265.

Synthesis of α-2,6-Sialyl GlcNAc-LacNAc (13)

Compound **13** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of **12**, with an isolated yield of 57% (15.1 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.18-1.26 (m, 4H), 1.40-1.48 (m, 4H), 1.56 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 2.52 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.37-3.42 (m,

3H), 3.43-3.52 (m, 6H), 3.54-3.59 (m, 6H), 3.61-3.63 (m, 2H), 3.65-3.68 (m, 3H), 3.71-3.78 (m, 5H), 3.82-3.85 (m, 2H), 4.02 (d, J = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 4.29 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.40 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.51 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.85, 21.99, 22.12, 24.45, 25.39, 27.79, 28.24, 39.94, 50.97, 51.72, 54.70, 55.49, 60.23, 60.31, 62.48, 63.05, 67.87, 68.02, 68.22, 69.45, 69.53, 70.18, 71.49, 72.33, 72.38, 73.08, 73.47, 74.30, 75.48, 80.61, 82.05, 99.99, 100.72, 102.71, 103.31, 173.33, 174.22, 174.74, 174.77; HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₃₉H₆₅N₆O₂₄ [M-H]⁻: 1001.4050; found 1001.4043.

Synthesis of mono-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₂ (14)

Compound **14** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of **12**, with an isolated yield of 72% (8.6 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.20- 1.28 (m, 4H), 1.43-1.51 (m, 4H), 1.60 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 6H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 2.56 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.40-3.54 (m, 11H), 3.58-3.62 (m, 12H), 3.66-3.71 (m, 5H), 3.74-3.90 (m, 8H), 4.03-4.06 (m, 1H), 4.34 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 4.40 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.99, 22.14, 22.25, 24.58, 25.52, 27.93, 28.37, 40.04, 51.10, 51.85, 54.91, 55.02, 59.83, 60.03, 60.11, 60.65, 60.92, 62.62, 63.31, 68.17, 68.26, 68.37, 69.94, 70.34, 70.70, 71.68, 72.20, 72.40, 72.50, 73.66, 74.23, 74.71, 74.84, 78.48, 80.43, 81.97, 100.11, 101.02, 102.54, 102.87, 103.42, 173.50, 174.34, 174.89 (x2); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₄₅H₇₅N₆O₂₉ [M-H]⁻: 1163.4578; found 1163.4557.

Synthesis of di-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₂(15)

Compound **15** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of **12** but using 2.5 equivalents of CMP-NeuAc, with an isolated yield of 99% (16.6 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.20-1.28 (m, 4H), 1.43-1.52 (m, 4H), 1.58 (t, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.60 (t, J = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 6H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 2.54 (dd, J = 4.3, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 2.55 (dd, J = 4.0, 12.4 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.40-3.56 (m, 16H), 3.57-3.62 (m, 7H), 3.66-3.72 (m, 7H), 3.74-3.89 (m, 10H), 4.05 (d, J = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.43 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.90 (x2), 22.17 (x2), 24.49, 25.43, 27.83, 28.28, 39,98, 51.01, 51.76 (x2), 54.74, 54.82, 59.59 (x2), 60.02, 60.26, 62.54 (x2), 63.12, 63.20, 67.91, 68.08 (x2), 68.28 (x2), 69.49, 70.22, 70.61,

71.52, 71.58, 72.20, 72.29, 72.42 (x2), 73.13, 73.54, 74.14, 74.36, 80.40, 80.66, 82.12, 100.03 (x2), 100.77, 102.49, 103.35, 103.39, 173.40 (x2), 174.26, 174.74, 174.79 (x2); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₅₆H₉₃N₇O₃₇ [M-2H]²⁻: 726.7727; found 726.7730.

Synthesis of mono-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₃ (16) and di-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₃ (17) Compounds 16 and 17 were prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of 12 but using 2 equivalents of CMP-NeuAc, with isolated yields of 32% (5.1 mg) and 56% (10.6 mg), respectively; for mono-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₃ (16): ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.22-1.31 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.54 (m, 4H), 1.63 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 6H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 2.58 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 12.3 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.43-3.48 (m, 3H), 3.49-3.58 (m, 10H), 3.59-3.61 (m, 6H), 3.62-3.67 (m, 11H), 3.68-3.75 (m, 9H), 3.76-3.81 (m, 5H), 3.83-3.85 (m, 2H), 3.87-3.92 (m, 3H), 4.06-4.08 (m, 2H), 4.35-4.39 (m, 3H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.60-4.62 (m, 2H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.87, 22.02 (x2), 22.14, 24.45, 25.39, 27.79, 28.25, 39.93, 50.98, 51.74, 54.81, 54.93, 54.98, 59.71, 59.93 (x2), 60.01, 60.79 (x2), 62.52, 63.19, 68.05, 68.14, 68.27 (x2), 69.82 (x2), 70.22, 70.59, 71.55, 72.03, 72.07, 72.28 (x2), 72.39, 73.54, 74.13, 74.40, 74.58, 74.72 (x2), 78.09, 78.39, 80.32, 81.85, 81.90, 100.00, 100.88, 102.40, 102.57, 102.74 (x2), 103.29, 173.36, 174.21, 174.76 (x3); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₅₉H₉₈N₇O₃₉ [M-H]⁻: 1528.5900; found 1528.5914.

For di-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₃ (17): ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.23-1.30 (m, 4H), 1.45-1.52 (m, 4H), 1.59 (t, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (t, J = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (s, 6H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 2.55 (dd, J = 4.1, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (dd, J = 4.2, 12.1 Hz, 1H), 3.22 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.42-3.46 (m, 5H), 3.47-3.51 (m, 6H), 3.53-3.57 (m, 7H), 3.57-3.64 (m, 10H), 3.67-3.74 (m, 11H), 3.75-3.84 (m, 8H), 3.84-3.91 (m, 3H), 4.05-4.07 (m, 2H), 4.33-4.37 (m, 3H), 4.41 (d, J = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.61 (d, J = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.89 (x2), 22.04, 22.15 (x2), 24.48, 25.42, 27.82, 28.27, 39.96, 51.01, 51.76 (x2), 54.82 (x2), 54.93, 60.02 (x2), 60.81, 62.53, 63.13, 63.20, 67.90, 68.08 x2, 68.18, 68.28 (x2), 69.49, 69.86 (x2), 70.24, 70.61, 71.53, 71.57, 72.13, 72.20, 72.30 (x2), 72.41 (x2), 73.14, 73.54, 74.15 (x2), 74.61, 74.75 (x2), 78.40, 80.36, 80.42, 80.67, 81.87, 82.12 (x2), 100.03 (x2), 100.91, 102.48 (x2), 102.76, 103.33, 103.40, 173.38 (x2), 174.24, 174.78 (x4); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₇₀H₁₁₄N₈O₄₇H₂ [M-2H]²: 909.3388; found 909.3391.

Synthesis of tri-α-2,6-Sialyl (LacNAc)₃(18)

Compound **18** was prepared by following the procedures described for the synthesis of **12** but using 5 equivalents of CMP-NeuAc, with an isolated yield of 85% (18.8 mg); ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 1.22-1.29 (m, 4H), 1.43-1.52 (m, 4H), 1.57-1.63 (m, 3H), 1.91 (s, 9H), 1.93 (s, 6H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 2.53-2.57 (m, 3H), 3.21 (t, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 3.41-3.54 (m, 24H), 3.58-3.62 (m, 9H), 3.66-3.73 (m, 11H), 3.74-3.89 (m, 16H), 4.05 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 2H), 4.32-4.34 (m, 3H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.58 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 4.59 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, D₂O) δ 21.86 (x3), 22.12 (x3), 24.45, 25.39, 27.79, 28.24, 39.93 (x2), 50.97, 51.72 (x3), 54.71 (x2), 54.76 (x2), 59.26 (x2), 59.96 (x2), 60.22, 62.50 (x2), 63.08 (x2), 63.16, 67.89, 68.04 (x3), 68.24 (x3), 69.46 (x2), 69.81, 70.18 (x2), 70.57, 71.49 (x2), 71.54, 72.16 (x2), 72.25, 72.37 x3, 73.08 (x2), 73.50, 74.10 (x2), 74.32, 80.36 (x2), 80.61, 82.03 (x2), 99.99 x3, 100.73, 102.46 (x2), 103.30, 103.35 (x2), 173.35 (x3), 174.22, 174.75 (x5); HRMS (ESI-TOF) calcd for C₈₁H₁₃₃N₉O₅₅ [M-3H]³: 702.9218; found 702.9227; Calcd for C₈₁H₁₃₃N₉O₅₅ [M-2H]²: 1054.8865; found 1054.8875.



Figure S1. MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry analysis of the one-pot synthesis of oligo-LacNAc.



Figure S2. Site Determination Analysis: DHB@Fe₃O₄ nanoparticle-assisted MALDI mass spectra of (a) disialylated (LacNAc)₃ and (b) monosialylated (LacNAc)₃ at a ratio of 1:0.1 (DHB:DHB@Fe₃O₄) matrix. The matrix-derived ("*") peaks are shown.

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