# Template-directed ligation on repetitive DNA sequences: a chemical method to probe the length of Huntington DNA

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Materials and general procedures	S2
Synthesis and characterization data of the amino cytidine building block (c*)	
Synthesis of the PNA conjugates	S22
Measurements with PNA probes	S26
Melting Temperature (Тм) measurements	S26
Kinetic measurements of templated reaction	S27
Polymerase Chain Reaction	S29
PCR conditions	S30
Purification of amplified dsDNA	S30
Streptavidin binding procedure	S30
Abbreviation	S31
References	S32

# Materials and general procedures

**Materials**: MBHA-resin was purchased from *NovaBiochem* (Schwalbach, Germany). PNA monomers were purchased from *Applied Biosystems* (Darmstadt, Germany), ASM (Burgwedel, Germany) and *Panagene* (Daejeon, Korea). Protected standard amino acids (Fmoc-Gly-OH, Boc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH, Boc-βAla-OH, Boc-Cys(Trt)-OH) were purchased from ASM, *NeoMPS* (Strasbourg, France) and *Panagene*. PyBOP was used as coupling reagent and purchased from *Chemcube* (Bochum, Germany). DNA and the biotin-containing primer was purchased HPLC purified from *BioTeZ* Berlin-Buch GmbH. Alexa700-containing primer was

purchased HPLC purified from IBA-lifesciences GmbH (Göttingen, Germany). Genomic Huntington DNA was purchased from the Coriell Cell Repositories and genomic wild-type DNA was purchased from Roche Applied Sciences (Mannheim, Germany). Concentration of DNA was calculated by Lambert-Berr law with the mean of the absorbtion measured by UV-Vis spectrometry at 260 nm. The molar extinction coefficients were given by the supplier. Water was purified by a MembraPure Milli-Q purification system from Astacus (Impedance 14.5  $\Omega$ ).

Synthesis: Chemicals were purchased in either *puriss.*, *p.a.* or *purum* grade from *Fluka* (Steinheim, Germany), *Aldrich* (Steinheim, Germany), *Merck* (Darmstadt, Germany), *Acros* (Geel, Belgium), *Alfa-Aesar* (Karlsruhe, Germany) and *Lancaster* (Ward Hill, USA). Column chromatography was performed with *Merck* Silica Gel 60 (0.063 – 0.200 mm). TLC was performed with *Merck* Silica Gel 60 F254 plates. Ninhydrin and Seebach reagent was used as staining solution for UV inactive compounds. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were recorded with *Avance II-300* or *Avance II-500* spectrometer. The signals of the residual protonated solvent ([D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, MeOD and [D<sub>1</sub>]TFA) were used as reference signal. High-resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were measured with a LTQ FT- or LTQ FT Ultra-spectrometer from *Therma Finnigan*.

Solid-phase synthesis according to Boc/Cbz-strategy: Manual solid-phase synthesis was performed using 5 mL polyethylene syringe reactors from *MultiSynTech* equipped with a fritted disc and was performed at room temperature. The MBHA-resin (100 – 200 mesh, 1.2 mmol g<sup>-1</sup>) was preloaded with Fmoc-Gly-OH or Boc-Lys(Fmoc)-OH (approx. 0.16  $\mu$ mol mg<sup>-1</sup>) according to standard protocols. The PNA conjugates were synthesized in 5  $\mu$ mol scale by using standard Boc/Cbz-protected monomers. *Boc-cleavage*: The resin was treated with TFA/*m*-cresol (19:1, 2 × 5 min) and subsequently washed (10 × CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 10 × DMF). *Coupling*: 4 eq. building block (final concentration approx. 0.2 M), 4 eq. PyBOP and 8 eq. NMM in DMF was added to the resin, after 1 h shaking the resin was washed (5 × DMF, 5 × CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 5 × DMF). *Capping*: free amino groups were acetylated by treatment with 5 % Ac<sub>2</sub>O, 6 % lutidine in DMF for 3 min followed by washing step (5 × DMF, 10 × CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>). After synthesis the crude PNA conjugate was cleaved from the MBHA resin (16:3:1, TFA:TFMSA:*m*-cresol, 0.5 mL, 2 h), extracted with TFA and the combined TFA phases precipitated in cold Et<sub>2</sub>O (30 mL) and dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O.

**Purification and characterization**: The crude product was purified by semipreparative HPLC performed on an Agilent 1100 series instrument (column: Machery-Nagel Nucleodur Gravity C18 250 × 21 5µ) using A (98.9 % H<sub>2</sub>O, 1 % acetonitrile, 0.1 % TFA) and B (98.9 % acetonitrile, 1 % H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.1 % TFA) as eluents in a linear gradient (3 – 30 % B in 30 min) with a flow rate of 15 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, lyophilized and dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O. The product purity was analyzed by UPLC Acquity system from *Waters* (column: *Waters*Acquity UPLC BEH C18 1.7µ) in a linear gradient (3-30 % B in 2 min) with a flow rate of 0.5 mL·min<sup>-1</sup> with eluent A (98.9 % H<sub>2</sub>O, 1 % acetonitrile, 0.1 % TFA) and B (98.9 % acetonitrile, 1 % H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.1 % TFA). Mass analysis was performed either with an ESI-MS instrument from Agilent 1100 series (VL quadrupole in positive scan mode) with A (98.9 % H<sub>2</sub>O, 1 % acetonitrile, 0.1 % formic acid) and B (98.9 % acetonitrile, 1 % H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.1 % formic acid) with isocratic flow (50 % B) of 0.3 mL·min<sup>-1</sup> in 2 min or with Maldi-Tof/MS using a Voyager-DE Pro Biospectrometry Workstation (*PerSeptive Biosystems*) and AXIMA Confidence (*Shimadzu Scientific Instruments*) with sinapinic acid as matrix. The collected fractions were lyophilized and stored at -20 °C. **Determination of yields**: The yield was determined by measuring the optical density at 260 nm of a diluted aliquot of the PNA conjugate in degassed buffer (10 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 150 mM NaCl, pH adjusted to 7.4) by using a quartz cuvette with 1 cm path length. The concentration of the PNA conjugate was determined by means of Lambert-Beer law. The molar extinction coefficient of each PNA conjugate at 260 nm was calculated using the following equation:<sup>1, 2</sup>

 $\epsilon_{260 \text{ nm}} = \{(8.8 \times \# \text{ T}) + (7.3 \times \# \text{ C}) + (11.7 \times \# \text{ G}) + (15.4 \times \# \text{ A})\} \times 0.9 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

In the equation, # represents the number nitrogenous base, whereupon T represents thymine, C represents cytosine, G represents guanine and A represents adenine.

## Synthesis of aminoethyllysine cytidine building block (c\*)

ΟН 10 N H Cbz H Boc. 13 Cbz 11 12 Cbz Cbz. 14 Cbz. 13 + 15 R = H: Boc Cbz

The synthesis of the PNA building block was partly adapted from procedures mentioned elsewhere.<sup>35</sup>

**Figure S1**: Synthesis of aminoethyllysine cytidine building block $c^*$ ; a) Boc<sub>2</sub>O, EtOH, 70 %; b) NaIO<sub>4</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O, 47 %; c) NaOH, CuSO<sub>4</sub>, NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, Cbz.-Cl, EDTA-Na, 70 %; d) MeOH, SOCl<sub>2</sub>, quant.; e) MeOH, NaCNBH<sub>3</sub>, 56 %; f) pyridine, Cbz-Cl, 46 %; g) K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, BrCH<sub>2</sub>COOCH<sub>3</sub>, NaOH, 30 %; h) acetonitrile, DMF, *t*BuCOCl, 55 %; i) THF, LiOH, 72 %.

**3-**(*tert***butyloxycarbonyl)aminopropane-1,2-diol (9)**<sup>6, 7</sup>**:** To a solution of 3-aminopropane-1,2-diol (3.00 g, 33 mmol) in EtOH (50 mL) was added Boc<sub>2</sub>O (8.60 g, 39.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 h. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the remaining solid

extracted with ethyl acetate and  $H_2O$ . The combined organic extracts were dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated to yield 70 % (4.35 g, 23 mmol) of the product 9 as colourless oil.

R<sub>f</sub> = 0.43 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (9:1)); HRMS: m/z = 192.1230 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 192.1230); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 5.38 (brs, 1H, NH), 3.94 – 3.73 (m, 1H, CHOH), 3.72 – 3.59 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 3.57 – 3.18 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>NH), 3.18 (s, 2H, 2 × OH), 1.42 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 157.17 (CO), 79.82 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 71.17 (CHOH), 63.52 (CH<sub>2</sub>OH), 42.63 (CH<sub>2</sub>NH), 28.21 (CH<sub>3</sub>).







3-(*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl)aminoacetaldehyde (10)<sup>7</sup>: To a solution of 3-(*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl)aminopropane-1,2-diol (9) (4.35 g, 23 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL) was added NaIO<sub>4</sub> (4.70 g, 23 mmol). The solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 h. The precipitate was filtered and the filtrate extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The combined organic extracts were washed with brine and dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated under reduced pressure to yield 47 % (1.67 g, 11 mmol) of product 10 as colourless oil.

R<sub>f</sub> = 0.50 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (9:1)); HRMS: m/z = 230.0788 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 230.0789); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):δ [ppm] = 9.45 (s, 1H, CHO), 7.22 - 7.19 (t, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 6 Hz, 1H, NH), 3.74 - 3.72 (d, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.40 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 201.12 (CHO), 146.42 (CO), 78.77 (C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 50.79 (CH<sub>2</sub>NH), 28.57 (CH<sub>3</sub>).



Figure S4. 1H-NMR spectrum of compound 10.



Figure S5. 13C-NMR spectrum of compound 10.

*N*<sup>6</sup>-(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine hydrochloride (11):L-lysine hydrochloride (5.07 g, 27.8 mmol) and NaOH (2.31 g, 57.8 mmol) were dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (20 mL). A solution of CuSO<sub>4</sub> × 5 H<sub>2</sub>O (2.16 g, 13.7 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (15 mL) was added. After addition of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2.82 g, 33.5 mmol) the reaction mixture was cooled on ice bath followed by slow addition of benzylchloroformat (5.3 mL, 35.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature. The blue precipitate was filtrated, washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), acetone (25 mL) and suspended in a prior made solution of EDTA (8.98 g, 30.8 mmol) and NaOH (2.53 g, 63.3 mmol) in H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL), the pH was adjusted to 7.0 with concentrated HCl. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature subsequently filtrated and washed several times with H<sub>2</sub>O. The white product 11was dried under reduced pressure to yield 70 % (5.41 g, 19.3 mmol) of white product 11.

MS: m/z = 281.14 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 281.30); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, [D<sub>1</sub>]TFA, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.24 - 7.21 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 5.29 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 4.28 - 4.19 (m, 1H, CH), 3.20 - 3.16 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 2.14 - 2.08 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.82 - 1.81 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.68 - 1.55 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>1</sub>]TFA, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 174.56 (COOH), 134.33 (CO), 130.99 (C<sub>q</sub>-Cbz), 130.31 (CH-Cbz), 130.07 (CH-Cbz), 129.35 (CH-Cbz), 126.79 (CH-Cbz), 72.74 (OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 55.65 (CH), 42.35 (NCH<sub>2</sub>), 30.92 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 27.94 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 23.26 (CH<sub>2</sub>).







 $N^{\circ}$ -(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine methylester hydrochloride (12)<sup>8</sup>:N<sup> $\circ$ </sup>-(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine (11) (10.00 g, 36 mmol) was suspended in MeOH (50 mL) and thionyl chloride (2.60 mL, 36 mmol) dropwise added under ice bath cooling. The reaction mixture was refluxed at 80 °C for 24 h. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure obtaining the yellow product 12 in 100 % (10.6 g, 36 mmol) yield.

HRMS: m/z = 295.1652 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 295.1652); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 8.50 (s, 2H, NH<sub>2</sub>), 7.38 - 7.27 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 5.00 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 4.00 (m, 1H, CH), 3.74 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.00 - 2.97 (d, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.80 - 1.77 (d, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 6 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>) 1.40 - 1.39 (m, 4H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 170.38 (COOMe), 156.28 (CO), 137.57 (C<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> Cbz), 128.69 (CH-Cbz), 128.07 (CH-Cbz), 65.47 (OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 53.09 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 52.15 (CH), 38.35 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH) 26.57 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.81 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 21.51 (CH<sub>2</sub>).



Figure S9. 13C-NMR spectrum of compound 12.

 $N^{e}$ -(*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl)aminoethyl- $N^{e}$  (benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine methylester (13):  $N^{e}$ -(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine methylester (12) (1.85 g, 6.30 mmol) was dissolved in MeOH (10 mL) and added to a solution of 3-(*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl)aminoacetaldehyde (5) (1.07 g, 6.30 mmol) in MeOH (30 mL). The reaction mixture was cooled on an ice bath and stirred for 30 min before acetic acid (0.37 mL) and NaCNBH<sub>3</sub> (0.22 g, 3.5 mmol) were added. The reaction mixture was stirred for 20 h at room temperature. After evaporation of the solvent the crude product was purified by flash column chromatography (cyclohexane/ethyl acetate, 1:5) to yield 56 % (1.54 g, 3.5 mmol) of the product 13as yellow oil.

R<sub>f</sub> = 0.30 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH (9:1)); HRMS: m/z = 438.2597 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 438.2599); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 7.36 – 7.34 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 7.34 – 7.31 (t, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, NH), 6.71 (t, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.00 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 3.62 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.33 – 3.14 (t, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, NH), 5.00 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 3.62 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.33 – 3.14 (t, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 2.98 – 2.94 (m, 4H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 2.52 – 2.50 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.49 – 1.39 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>) 1.37 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.27 – 1.25 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 175.17 (COOMe), 156.03 (CONH), 155.58 (COtBu), 137.27 (C<sub>q</sub>-Cbz), 128.68 (CH-Cbz), 128.29 (CH-Cbz), 77.44 (Cq-tBu), 65.05 (OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 60.56 (CH<sub>2</sub>NH), 59.72 (CH), 51.23 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 47.10 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 32.35 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 29.20 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.20 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 22.55 (CH<sub>2</sub>).



Figure S10. 1H-NMR spectrum of compound 13.



Figure S12. 2D-NMR (HH-COSY) spectrum of compound 13.



Figure S13. 2D-NMR (HSQC) spectrum of compound 13.

 $N^4$ -(benzyloxycarbonyl)cytosine (14): Benzylchloroformate (14 mL, 90.0 mmol) was added dropwise to a cooled (ice bath) suspension of cytosine (5.00 g, 45.0 mmol) in dry pyridine (200 mL . The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The crude product was suspended in H<sub>2</sub>O (50 mL) and the pH adjusted to pH 1 with concentrated HCl. The precipitated product was collected by filtration and dried under reduced pressure to yield 46 % of 14 (5.10 g, 20.8 mmol) as white product.

HRMS: m/z = 246.0871 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 246.0873); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 7.81 - 7.79 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 5 Hz, CH), 7.41 - 7.35 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 6.93 - 6.92 (d, 1H, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 5 Hz, CH), 5.18 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 3.33 (s, 1H, NH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 163.61 (CO), 146.69 (CH), 136.00 (CO), 128.44 (CH-Cbz), 128.09 (CH-Cbz), 127.87 (CH-Cbz), 93.47 (CH), 66.36 (OCH<sub>2</sub>).







100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 -30

Figure S15. 13C-NMR spectrum of compound 14.

 $N^4$ -(benzyloxycarbonyl)cytosine-1-ylacetic acid (15):  $N^4$ -(benzyloxycarbonyl)cytosine (14) (8.37 g, 34.1 mmol) and K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (4.74 g, 34.1 mmol) were suspended in DMF (80 mL). Subsequently, methylbromoacetate (3.30 mL, 34.1 mmol) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture stirred for 48 h at room temperature. The precipitate was filtered and the filtrate concentratied to dryness under reduced pressure. The obtained solid was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (40 mL) and acidified with HCl (4 M) until the product precipitated. The solid was collected by filtration and subsequently dissolved in aqueous NaOH (50 mL, 1 M) and H<sub>2</sub>O (25 mL) and stirred for 30 min at room temperature. The reaction mixture was cooled on an ice bath and filtered. The filtrate was acidified with HCl (4 M) until precipitation was complete. The white solid was filtered and dried under reduced pressure to yield 30 % (3.09 g, 10.1 mmol) of the product 15.

HRMS: m/z = 304.0927 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 304.0928); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 10.83 (brs, 1H, C<sup>4</sup>NH), 7.81–7.79 (d, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.43 – 7.35 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 7.03 – 7.02 (d, <sup>3</sup>J (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.19 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 4.35 (s, 3H, CH<sub>2</sub>COOH); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C):  $\delta$  [ppm] = 169.36 (CO), 163.30 (C<sup>2</sup>O), 146.68 (C<sup>6</sup>H), 136.95 (CO), 128.49 (CH), 128.16 (CH), 127.94 (CH), 94.00 (C<sup>5</sup>H), 66.51 (OCH<sub>2</sub>), 50.52 (CH<sub>2</sub>COOH).



Figure S16. 1H-NMR spectrum of compound 15.



Figure S17. 13C-NMR spectrum of compound 15.

#### $N^{*}$ -(( $N^{*}$ -benzyloxycarbonyl)cytosine-1-yl)acetyl)-N(2-*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl)aminoethyl)- $N^{*}$ -

(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine methylester (16):  $N^4$ -((benzyloxycarbonyl)cytosine-1-yl)acetic acid (15) (1.27 g, 4.18 mmol) was suspended at -15 °C (MeOH/ice) in acetonitrile/DMF (1:1, 80 mL) and stirred for 5 min. Subsequent, pivaloyl chloride (673 µL, 5.1 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture stirred at -15 °C for further 15 min. Afterwards,  $N^{\alpha}$ -(*tert*-butyloxycarbonyl)aminoethyl- $N^{\epsilon}$ -(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine methylester (13) (1.22 g, 2.80 mmol) dissolved in acetonitrile/DMF (1:1, 20 mL) was added dropwise and the reaction mixture stirred for 20 h at room temperature. After the reaction was complete the crude mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (300 mL) and extracted with HCl (0.1 M, 3 × 100 mL). The combinded organic phases were dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and purified by flash column chromatography (ethyle acetat) to yield 55 % (1.11 g, 1.50 mmol) of the product 16.

 $R_f$  = 0.30 (ethyle acetate); HRMS: *m*/*z* = 723.3343 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 723.3348); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (300 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 7.63 – 7.53 (m, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.38 – 7.23 (m, 10H, 2 × CH-Cbz) 7.22 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 6 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.49 (brs, 1H, NH), 5.40 (brs, 1H, NH), 5.21 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 5.08 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 4.77 – 4.52 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 4.13 – 4.10 (t, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 6 Hz, 1H, CH), 3.71 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.37 – 3.31 (m, 2H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 3.30 – 3.29 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-NBoc), 3.18 – 3.16 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>-NCbz), 1.55 – 1.52 (m, 4H, 2 × CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.43 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.33 – 1.31 (m, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 175.17 (COOMe), 167.51 (CO), 163.53 (C<sub>9</sub>), 156.03 (CONH), 155.58 (CO-tBu), 137.27

(C<sub>q</sub>-Cbz), 128.29 (CH), 127.68 (CH-Cbz), 77.44 (C<sub>q</sub>-tBu), 60.05 (OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 59.72 (CH), 51.23 (OCH<sub>3</sub>), 47.10 (CH<sub>2</sub>N-tBu), 32.35 (CH<sub>2</sub>N-Cbz), 29.20 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.20 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 22.55 (CH<sub>2</sub>).



Figure S18. 1H - NMR spectrum of compound 16.



Figure S18. 13C - NMR spectrum of compound 16.



Figure S19. 2D - NMR (HH-COSY) spectrum of compound 16.



Figure S20. 2D-NMR (HSQC) spectrum of compound 16.

#### $N^{t}$ -(( $N^{t}$ -benzyloxycarbonyl)cytosine-1-yl)acetyl)-N(2-tert-butyloxycarbonyl)aminoethyl)- $N^{t}$ -

(benzyloxycarbonyl)-L-lysine ( $c^*$ ): To a cooled (ice bath) solution of 16 (53 mg, 0.71 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was added an aqueous solution of LiOH (2 mL, 1 M). The mixture was stirred for 3 h at room temperature. The volatiles were removed at reduced pressure, H<sub>2</sub>O (10 mL) was added and the pH adjusted with HCl (1 M) to pH 3.0. The product was extracted with ethyl acetate, dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> and purified by flash column chromatography (ethyl acetate/MeOH/ formic acid, 95:5:1). The purified product was washed with HCl (0.1 M), dried with anhydrous MgSO<sub>4</sub> to yield 72 % (356 mg, 0.51 mmol) of aminoethyllysine cytidine building block ( $c^*$ ).

 $R_f$  = 0.76 (ethyle acetate/MeOH/formic acid, 95:5:1); HRMS: *m*/*z* = 709.3194 ([M<sup>+</sup>]: 709.3192); <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 10.82 (brs, 1H, COOH), 7.96 – 7.95 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.41 – 7.38 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 7.36 – 7.34 (m, 5H, CH-Cbz), 7.26 (brs, 1H, NH), 7.03 – 7.01 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 7.01 (d, <sup>3</sup>*J* (H,H) = 5 Hz, 1H, CH), 5.19 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 5.00 (s, 2H, OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 4.97 (s, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 4.81 – 4.34 (m, 1H, CH), 3.35 – 2.73 (m, 6H, NCH<sub>2</sub>), 1.35 (s, 9H, C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 1.91 – 1.17 (m, 6H, CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (75 MHz, [D<sub>6</sub>]DMSO, 25 °C): δ [ppm] = 172.36 (COOH), 167.43 (CO), 163.36 (CONH), 156.26 (CONH), 155.89 (CO-tBu), 151.17 (CH), 137.47 (C<sub>q</sub>-Cbz), 136.15 (C<sub>q</sub>-Cbz), 128.65 (CH-Cbz), 128.51 (CH-Cbz), 128.31 (CH-Cbz), 128.09 (CH-Cbz ), 127.89 (CH-Cbz ), 93.97 (CH), 70.22 (C<sub>q</sub>-tBu), 66.65 (OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 65.28 (OCH<sub>2</sub>-Cbz), 60.43 (CH), 59.03 (CH<sub>2</sub>CH), 57.21 (CH<sub>2</sub>N-tBu), 33.70 (CH<sub>2</sub>N-Cbz), 29.34 (CH<sub>2</sub>N), 28.44 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 28.35 ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>), 23.31 (CH<sub>2</sub>).



Figure S21. 1H-NMR spectrum of compound c\*.



Figure S22. 13C-NMR spectrum of compound c\*.



Figure S23. 2D-NMR (HH-COSY) spectrum of compound c\*.



Figure S24. 2D-NMR (HSQC) spectrum of compound c\*.

# Synthesis of PNA conjugates

The PNA oligomers, both the non-modified and the aminoethyllysine modified PNA oligomers, with Nterminal cysteine and C-terminal thioester moieties were synthesized on the solid phase by using Bocchemistry on Fmoc-Gly or Fmoc-Lys derivatized MBHA resin. The C-terminal thioester moiety was assembled by coupling of S(Trt)-mercaptopropionic acid on Fmoc-Gly derivatized MBHA resin, the trityl group was removed upon treatment with trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and triisopropylsilane (TIS) (19:1, v:v), followed by coupling of Boc-beta-alanine. The linear PNA synthesis was carried out by using PyBOP (4 equiv.) and NMM (8 equiv.) as coupling reagent in DMF. The deprotection of Cbz-protecting group on the side-chain amine and exocyclic amine was achieved simultaneously during the final step of cleavage of the PNA oligomer from the resin using TFA, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid (TFMSA) and m-cresol as scavenger in the ratio 16:3:1. The crude product was precipitated in cold diethyl ether and cooling with dry ice. The precipitate was collected by decanting. After drying with argon the precipitate was dissolved in water (0.1 % TFA) and purified by reversed-phase (RP) HPLC. The final purity was checked by analytical RP-UPLC (C18). The identity and purity of products was assessed by ESI-MS or MALDI-TOF. For ESI-MS: Values are given in mass-to-charge ratio (m/z). Molecular weights were calculated from the peak set of the corresponding multiple charged ions using the deconvolution tool of Chemstation. Ligation products, for melting curve measurements, were synthesised by reaction of corresponding reactive PNA probes for 24 h in 180 μM concentration in 200 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 50 mM MesNa, pH 7.4 and purified by RP-HPLC. To transform the thioester moiety of the mercaptopropionic thioester into the more reactive mercaptoethanesulfonic acid thioester the mercaptopropionic thioester was incubated for 3 h in 150 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 30 mM MesNa, pH 7.4 and subsequently purified by RP-HPLC.

**1a**: Ac-cagcag- $\beta$ Ala-S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO-Gly; OD<sub>260</sub> = 56.3; 2645 nmol; 26 % yield; $\epsilon_{260}$  = 57800 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 0.69 min; Formula: C<sub>74</sub>H<sub>95</sub>N<sub>41</sub>O<sub>20</sub>S, ESI-MS: [M+5H]<sup>5+</sup>: 383.0 (calcd. = 383.0); [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 478.1 (calcd. = 478.4); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 637.3 (calcd. = 637.6); [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup>: 956.0 (calcd. = 955.9); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 1910.77 (calcd. = 1910.87).



Figure S25. A) UPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 1a.

**1b**: Ac-cagcag- $\beta$ Ala-S(CH<sub>2</sub>)SO<sub>3</sub>H; OD<sub>260</sub> = 7.94; 186 nmol; 56 % yield ;  $\epsilon_{260}$  = 57800 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 1.51 min; Formula: C<sub>71</sub>H<sub>90</sub>N<sub>39</sub>O<sub>21</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, ESI-MS: [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 472.9 (calcd. = 473.2); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 630.2 (calcd. = 630.6); [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup>: 956.0 (calcd. = 945.3); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 1889.75 (calcd. = 1889.85).



Figure S26. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 1b.

2: Cys-cagcag-Gly; OD<sub>260</sub> = 2.14; 146 nmol; 12 % yield;  $\epsilon_{260}$  = 57800 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 0.67 min; Formula: C<sub>69</sub>H<sub>89</sub>N<sub>41</sub>O<sub>18</sub>S, ESI-MS: [M+5H]<sup>5+</sup>: 354.1 (calcd. = 363.3); [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 452.8 (calcd. = 453.9); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 605.2 (calcd. = 604.9); [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup>: 956.0 (calcd. = 906.9); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 1812.34 (calcd. = 1812.77).



Figure S27. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 2.

3: Ac-cagcag- $\beta$ AlaCys-cagcag-Gly; OD<sub>260</sub> = 0.15; 120 pmol; 42 % yield (peak area);  $\epsilon_{260}$  = 127600 L·mol<sup>-1</sup> ·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 1.62 min; Formula: C<sub>138</sub>H<sub>174</sub>N<sub>80</sub>O<sub>36</sub>S, ESI-MS:[M+7H]<sup>7+</sup>: 508.9 (calcd. = 509.5); [M+6H]<sup>6+</sup>:

594.2 (calcd. = 594.0);  $[M+5H]^{5+}$ :713.8 (calcd. = 712.9);  $[M+4H]^{4+}$ : 891.3(calcd. = 890.9);  $[M+3H]^{3+}$ : 1187.6 (calcd. = 1187.5);  $MW_{dec}$  = 3561.61 (calcd. = 3561.43).



Figure S28. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 3.

**4a**: Ac-c<sup>\*</sup>agc<sup>\*</sup>ag-βAla- S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO-Gly; OD<sub>260</sub> = 635.6; 664 nmol; 26 % yield;  $ε_{260}$  = 57800 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 1.51 min; Formula: C<sub>79</sub>H<sub>108</sub>N<sub>41</sub>O<sub>21</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, ESI-MS: [M+5H]<sup>5+</sup>: 411.6 (calcd. = 411.6); [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 514.3 (calcd. = 514.3); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 685.2 (calcd. = 685.4); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 2053.04 (calcd. = 2053.11).



Figure S29. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 4a

**4b**: Ac-c<sup>\*</sup>agc<sup>\*</sup>ag-βAla-S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H; OD<sub>260</sub> = 47.5; 52.6 nmol; 40 % yield;  $ε_{260}$  = 57800 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 1.62 min; Formula: C<sub>79</sub>H<sub>108</sub>N<sub>41</sub>O<sub>21</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, ESI-MS: [M+5H]<sup>5+</sup>: 407.3 (calcd. = 407.4); [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 509.1 (calcd. = 509.0); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 678.1 (calcd. = 678.4); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 2032.87 (calcd. = 2032.09).



Figure S30. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 4b.

5: Cys-cagcag-Lys;  $OD_{260} = 331$ ; 258 nmol; 13 % yield;  $\epsilon_{260} = 57800 \text{ L} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $t_R = 1.09 \text{ min}$ ; Formula:  $C_{73}H_{98}N_{42}O_{18}S$ , ESI-MS:  $[M+5H]^{5+}$ : 376.9 (calcd. = 377.8);  $[M+4H]^{4+}$ : 471.8 (calcd. = 471.9);  $[M+3H]^{3+}$ : 628.9 (calcd. = 628.9);  $[M+2H]^{2+}$ : 941.9 (calcd. = 942.9);  $MW_{dec}$  = 1883.88 (calcd. = 1883.89).



Figure S31. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 5.

**6**: Ac-c<sup>\*</sup>agc<sup>\*</sup>ag-βAlaCys-cagcag-Lys; OD<sub>260</sub> = 6.1; 460 pmol; 2 % yield;  $ε_{260}$  = 127600 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 3.98 min; Formula: C<sub>150</sub>H<sub>201</sub>N<sub>83</sub>O<sub>36</sub>S, Maldi/Tof-MS: [M+H]<sup>1+</sup> = 3775.06 (calcd. = 3774.80).



Figure S32. A) HPLC and B) Maldi/Tof-MS analysis of purified compound 6.

**17a**: Ac-cagcagcag-βAla- S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO-Gly; OD<sub>260</sub> = 29.8; 403 nmol; 30 % yield;  $\epsilon_{260}$  = 95700 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 0.87 min; Formula: C<sub>106</sub>H<sub>134</sub>N<sub>60</sub>O<sub>28</sub>S, ESI-MS: [M+5H]<sup>5+</sup>: 546.8 (calcd. = 546.7); [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 683.2 (calcd. = 682.7); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 910.1 (calcd. = 910.0); [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup>: 1365.1 (calcd. = 1364.3); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 2728.80 (calcd. = 2728.65).



Figure S33. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 17a.

17b: Ac-cagcagcag-βAla- S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H; OD<sub>260</sub> = 426; 45 nmol; 23 % yield;  $ε_{260}$  = 95700 L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>; t<sub>R</sub> = 0.69 min; Formula: C<sub>103</sub>H<sub>129</sub>N<sub>58</sub>O<sub>29</sub>S<sub>2</sub>, ESI-MS: [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 677.5 (calcd. = 677.5); [M+3H]<sup>3+</sup>: 903.0 (calcd. = 903.0); [M+2H]<sup>2+</sup>: 1354.1 (calcd. = 1353.9); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 2708.39 (calcd. = 2707.62).



Figure S34. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 17b.

18: Cys-cagcagcag-Gly;  $OD_{260} = 9.16$ ; 115 nmol; 6 % yield;  $\varepsilon_{260} = 95700 \text{ L}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\cdot\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $t_R = 0.93 \text{ min}$ ; Formula:  $C_{101}H_{128}N_{60}O_{26}S$ , ESI-MS:  $[M+5H]^{5+}$ : 527.2 (calcd. = 527.1);  $[M+4H]^{4+}$ : 658.4 (calcd. = 658.5);  $[M+3H]^{3+}$ : 876.9 (calcd. = 877.8);  $[M+2H]^{2+}$ : 1315.8 (calcd. = 1316.2);  $MW_{dec} = 2630.63$  (calcd. = 2630.54).



Figure S35. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 18.

19: Ac-cagcagcag-βAlaCys-cagcagcag-Gly;  $OD_{260} = 1.15$ ; 1.8 nmol; 64 % yield (peak area);  $ε_{260} = 191400$ L·mol<sup>-1</sup>·cm<sup>-1</sup>;  $t_R = 2.97$  min; Formula:  $C_{202}H_{252}N_{118}O_{52}S$ , ESI-MS: [M+8H]<sup>8+</sup>: 650.3 (calcd. = 650.3); [M+7H]<sup>7+</sup>: 743.5 (calcd. = 743.4); [M+6H]<sup>6+</sup>: 867.0 (calcd. = 867.1); [M+5H]<sup>5+</sup>: 1040.3 (calcd. = 1040.4); [M+4H]<sup>4+</sup>: 1300.4 (calcd. = 1300.2); MW<sub>dec</sub> = 5196.83 (calcd. = 5196.98).



Figure S36. A) HPLC and B) ESI-MS analysis of purified compound 19.

## **Measurements with PNA probes**

#### Melting temperature (T<sub>M</sub>) measurements

The PNA-DNA duplexes (1:1 stoichiometry) were dissolved in 1  $\mu$ M concentration in 10 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> buffer pH 7.4 containing 150 mM NaCl. TCEP (20 mM) was added in case of cysteinyl-containing probes. Absorbance versus temperature profiles were obtained by monitoring at 260 nm by using a Varian Cary 100 UV spectrophotometer equipped with a peltier block, scanning from 95 °C to 20 °C with temperature increments of 0.5 °C per minute. The data (triplicates) were proceeded using OriginPro8 form OriginLab Corporation and  $T_{\rm M}$  values derived from the maximum of the derivative curves.

**Table S1.**  $T_M$  values of PNA·DNA duplexes (R = (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub>H).

PNA	sequence	DNA	$T_{\rm M}$ / °C
1	Ac-cagcag-βAla-SR	5'-CTGCTG-3'	39
2	Cys-cagcag-Gly	5'-CTGCTG-3'	38
3	Ac-cagcag-βAla-Cys-cagcag-Gly	5'-CTGCTGCTGCTG-3'	56
17	Ac-cagcagcag-βAla-SR	5'-CTGCTGCTGCTG-3'	67
18	Cys-cagcagcag-Gly	5'-CTGCTGCTGCTG-3'	69
19	Ac-cagcagcag-βAla-Cys-cagcagcag-Gly	5'-CTGCTGCTGCTGCTGCTG-3'	74
4	Ac-c*agc*ag-βAla-SR	5'-CTGCTG-3'	40
5	Cys-cagcag-Lys	5'-CTGCTG-3'	45
6	Ac-c*agc*ag-βAla-Cys-cagc g-Lys	5'-CTGCTGCTGCTG-3'	59

### Kinetic measurements of templated reactions

Reactive PNA probes were dissolved in 10  $\mu$ M stock solution in ligation buffer (10 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM MesNa, pH adjusted to 7.4). Mercaptopropionic thioester were incubated for 3 h with mercaptoethanesulfonate (10 mM) prior to use. The cysteinyl-PNA was incubated for 10 min in ligation buffer prior to use. For kinetic measurements appropriate amounts of PNA probes (final concentration 1  $\mu$ M) and template (final concentration 200 nM or 100 nM) were mixed and incubated at 50 °C (or other *T* if mentioned different). The solution was agitated by means of a thermoshaker. Samples were withdrawn at certain time and quenched with 1.3 % TFA and subsequently analyzed by UPLC and Maldi-Tof/MS. In case partial blocker DNA was used the template was incubated with partial blocker DNA prior in 1:1 stoichiometry for 30 min prior to addition of reactive probes. The yield of ligation product was determined by means of HPLC analysis. For kinetic analysis data was submitted to nonlinear Michaelis-Menten fitting.



Figure S37. Time course of background ligation between reactive PNA probes 1 and 2 (dashed line) or between the aminomodified PNA probes 4 and 5 (full line) at different reaction temperatures.



**Figure S38.** A) Native chemical ligation between size-expanded PNA probes 17 and 18; B) Time course of background reaction in the absence of DNA template at different reaction temperatures,.

The background reaction rate is high, even at 50 °C. Increasing the reaction temperature to 65 °C results in reduced background but at this temperature the thioester hydrolyzes rapidly (data not shown) and is therefore not available for native chemical ligation.



Figure S39. UPLC traces of native chemical PNA ligation reaction of aminoethyllysine modified PNA probes in presence of A) (CTG)<sub>12</sub> template or B) (CTG)<sub>32</sub> template.



**Figure S40.** A) Native chemical ligation reaction between **4** and **5** in absence or in presence of DNA template ((CTG)<sub>12</sub>); B) Maldi/Tof-MS analysis after 180 min reaction time.



Figure S41. UPLC analysis of native chemical ligation between PNA 4 and 5 in presence of template (CTG)<sub>32</sub> and additives A) 10 % glycerol; B) 10 % DMSO; C) 5 % formamide; D) f PCR enhancer solution containing betaine; \* markes the hydrolysis product of 4 or disulfide of 5.



Figure S42. A) Time course of native chemical ligation between PNA 4 and 5 in presence of template  $(CTG)_{32}$  and additives. B) Comparison of reactions in buffers with or without betaine-.

## Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) experiments

The PCR was performed with an iQ5 real-time PCR from BioRad. Primers were designed with Primer3 (www.bioinfo.ut.ee/primer3) to have annealing temperatures around 60 °C (Nearest Neighbor method). this study The sequences of primers used in are for the left primer, biotine-GACCCTGGAAAAGCTGATGA and for the right primer, Alexa700-GGCTGAGGAAGCTGAGGAG to amplify only across the CAG-repeat stretch of the IT15 gene. The biotin-tag is used for streptavidin-based isolation of the amplified double strand DNA and the fluorescence dye is used for quantification of amplified single strand target DNA. The genomic Huntington Disease DNA (HD-DNA) was purchased from Coriell Cell Repositories, USA and the genomic wild-type DNA (WT-DNA) was purchased from Roche. The Taq-polymerase Kit was purchased from peqlab containing reactionbuffer Y (10×), enhancer solution P, MgCl<sub>2</sub> and Taq-polymerase (5 uµL <sup>1</sup>). SYBRGold (10000×) was purchased by Invitrogen Molecular Probes and used in 10000-fold dilution. The dNTP, containing all 4 nucleobases was purchased as a premixed Kit by peqlab. Due to the high GC content of the IT15 dGTP and dCTP (both peqlab, 25 µM) were added additionally.

#### PCR conditions

The PCR reactions were performed in a volume of 100  $\mu$ L mastermix containing (5 × 20.0  $\mu$ L per well on a 96-well plate) DNA template (135 ng), reactionbuffer Y (10×, 12.0  $\mu$ L), enhancer solution P (24.0  $\mu$ L), MgCl<sub>2</sub> (25 mM, 6.0  $\mu$ L), dNTP (10 mM, 2.40  $\mu$ L), dCTP (5 mM, 0.96  $\mu$ L), dGTP (5 mM, 0.96  $\mu$ L), left primer (10  $\mu$ M, 4.80  $\mu$ L), right primer (10  $\mu$ M, 4.80  $\mu$ L), SYBRGold (6  $\mu$ L) and Taq polymerase (1.20  $\mu$ L). After an initial denaturation of 3 min at 95 °C 30 cycles of 10 sec at 95 °C, 20 sec at 60 °C and 20 sec at 72 °C were carried out followed by a cooling step at 4 °C.



**Figure S43.** Real-time PCR amplification curves; A) PCR with HD-DNA and no template control (-DNA) and B) PCR with WT-DNA and no template control (-DNA).

#### Purification of dsDNA

The content of 40 wells was combined and the PCR product was separated from low molecular weight impurities by size exclusion with pre-packed spin columns from BioRad. The concentration of dsDNA was determined by means of Alexa Fluor 700 emission measured by using a NanoDrop ND-3300 Fluorospectrometer (excitation: 650 nm, emission: 723 nm). Typical yields of PCR reactions were 326 pmol (WT-DNA) and 269 pmol (HD-DNA).

## Streptavidin binding procedure

Streptavidin-coated magnetic particles (20 mg, Roche) were washed twice with binding buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 100 mM NaCl, pH 7.5). dsDNA containing samples were diluted two-fold with binding buffer and added to the bead suspension. Suspensions were incubated for 2 h at room temperature with gently shaking. The beads were washed twice with washing buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 M NaCl, pH 7.5). Subsequently, a NaOH solution (100  $\mu$ L, 0.1 M) was added and the resulting suspension was incubated for 5 min. The suspension was neutralized with NaOAc (25  $\mu$ L, 3 M) and the released ssDNA precipitated in cold EtOH. The supernatant was removed after 15 min spin down and the precipitated ssDNA disolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (30  $\mu$ L). The ssDNA was quantified by fluorescence measurement of the Alexa Fluor 700 dye. Typical yields were 188 pmol for WT-DNA and 140 pmol for HD-DNA.



Figure S44. Kinetic measurements of HD-DNA (genomic and synthetic) in presence or absence of partial blocker DNA strand 7 or 8.



Figure S45. Kinetic measurements of WT-DNA (genomic and synthetic) in presence or absence of partial blocker DNA strand 7 or 8.

# Abbreviation

- Boc tert-butyloxycarbonyl
- Cbz benzyloxycarbonyl
- DMF N, N-dimethylformamide
- DNA deoxyribonucleic acid
- dsDNA double-stranded DNA
- EDTA ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
- Fmoc 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl
- HD Huntington Disease
- MBHA para-methylbenzhydrylamide
- MesNa 2-mercaptoethane sulfonate sodium
- n.d. not determined
- NMM N-methylmorpholine
- PyBOP benzotriazole-1-yl-oxy-tris-pyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate
- ssDNA single-stranded DNA
- TFA trifluoracetic acid
- TFMSA trifluormethanesulfonic acid
- Tris tris(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethan
- Trt trityl
- WT wild-type

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