

Díaz-Jiménez, D.F., Mora-Montes, H.M, Hernández-Cervantes, A, Luna-Arias, J.P., Gow, N.A.R. & Flores-Carreón, A. (2012). Biochemical characterisation of recombinant *Candida albicans* mannosyltransferases Mnt1, Mnt2 and Mnt5 reveals new functions in O- and N-mannan biosynthesis. *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications* 419: 77–82.

The cell surface of *Candida albicans* is enriched with highly glycosylated mannoproteins that are involved in the interaction with host tissues. N- and O-glycosylation are post-translational modifications that initiate in the endoplasmic reticulum, and finalize in the Golgi. The KRE2/MNT1 family encode a set of multifunctional mannosyltransferases that participate in O-, N- and phosphomannosylation. In order to gain insights into the substrate specificities of these enzymes, recombinant forms of Mnt1, Mnt2, and Mnt5 were expressed in *Pichia pastoris* and the enzyme activities characterized. Mnt1 and Mnt2 showed a high specificity for α -methylmannoside and α 1,2-mannobiose as acceptor substrates. Notably, they also used *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* O-mannans as acceptors and generated products with more than three mannose residues, suggesting that Mnt1 and Mnt2 could be the mannosyltransferases adding the fourth and fifth mannose residue to the O-mannans in *C. albicans*. Mnt5 only recognized α -methylmannoside as acceptor, suggesting that it participates in the addition of the second mannose residues to the N-glycan outer chain.