**Supplementary File 1. E. coli K-12 MG1655-derived strains constructed for this study**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Strain name** | **Plasmid name** | **Insert sequence (histone CDS)** |
| Ec-hmfA | pD681-hmfA | ATGGGCGAGCTGCCAATTGC  GCCGATCGGCCGCATTATCA  AAAATGCCGGTGCGGAGCGT  GTGAGCGACGACGCACGTAT  CGCGCTGGCAAAGGTTCTGG  AAGAAATGGGTGAAGAAAT  TGCCTCCGAAGCTGTCAAAT  TGGCAAAACACGCGGGTCGT  AAGACGATCAAAGCCGAAGA  TATCGAGCTGGCGCGCAAAA  TGTTTAAGTAA |
| Ec-hmfB | pD681-hmfB | ATGGAACTGCCAATTGCCCC  TATCGGTCGTATTATTAAAG  ACGCTGGTGCCGAGCGCGTG  AGCGATGACGCGCGCATCAC  CCTGGCAAAGATTCTGGAAG  AAATGGGCCGTGACATTGCG  TCCGAGGCCATCAAACTGGC  ACGTCACGCGGGTCGTAAGA  CGATCAAAGCTGAAGATATC  GAGCTGGCAGTTCGTCGCTT  CAAAAAGTGA |
| Ec-EV | pD681 | no insert |
| Ec-hmfAnb | pD681-hmfAnb | ATGGGCGAGCTGCCGATTGC  GCCGATTGGTCGTATTATCA  CCAACGCTGGCGCGGAGAGC  GTTTCCGACGACGCGCGCAT  TGCATTGGCAAAGGTCCTGG  AAGAAATGGGTGAAGAAATC  GCAAGCGAAGCCGTGAAACT  GGCGAAACACGCGGGTCGTA  AGAAAATCAAAGCTGAAGAT  ATCGAGCTGGCCCGTAAAAT  GTTCAAGTAA |
| Ec-hmfBnb | pD681-hmfBnb | ATGGAACTGCCGATTGCGCC  GATCGGCCGCATTATCACCG  ACGCGGGTGCCGAGAGCGTG  AGCGATGACGCACGCATCAC  GCTGGCGAAGATTCTGGAAG  AAATGGGCCGTGACATCGCG  TCCGAGGCCATTAAACTGGC  ACGTCACGCGGGTCGTAAAA  AGATCAAAGCTGAAGATATT  GAGTTGGCAGTTCGCCGTTT  CAAGAAATAA |