**Supplementary File 2 Strains used in this study**

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| **Strain** | **Characteristics used in this work** | **Source** |
| mc2155 | Wild-type strain of *M. smegmatis* mc2155, abbreviated as Ms | Lab stock |
| BCG | Wild-type strain of *M. bovis* BCG | Lab stock |
| H37Ra | Wild-type strain of *M. tuberculosis* H37Ra | Lab stock |
| Ms/pMV261 | mc2155 with pMV261 empty vector | This study |
| *ascarD*OE | *ascarD* overexpression strain | This study |
| Ms/pRH2521 | mc2155 with pRH2521 empty vector | This study |
| *ascarD*KD | *ascarD* knock-down strain | This study |
| *carD*OE | *carD* overexpression strain | This study |
| Ms/pRH2502*-clpP2* | mc2155 strain integrated with pRH2502*-clpP2* plasmid | This study |
| *clpP2*CM | *clpP2* conditional mutant | This study |
| AAAS\_del | CarD C-terminal “AAAS” motif deletion mutant | This study |
| Ms/pRH2502*-clpC1*-His | used for the ClpC1 protein level determination | This study |
| Δ*sigF* | mc2155 with *sigF* knocked out | This study |
| Ms/pMV261-P*ascarD*-*lacZ* | used for the promoter activity determination of *ascarD* in mc2155 strain | This study |
| Δ*sigF*/pMV261-P*ascarD*-*lacZ* | used for the promoter activity determination of *ascarD* in Δ*sigF* strain | This study |
| Ms/PPUCP | used for the promoter activity determination of PPUCP in mc2155 strain | This study |
| Ms/PPUCP\* | used for the promoter activity determination of PPUCP\* in mc2155 strain | This study |
| AsM | *ascarD* promoter mutant, with the -10 motif changed from “GGGTA” to “**C**GG**C**A” | This study |
| AsM/AAAS\_del | Double mutant of the *ascarD* promoter and CarD “AAAS” motif | This study |