A synthetic biology approach to develop recombinant E. coli for the production of 3-hydroxypropionic acid from glycerol

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3-hydroxypropionic acid (3-HP), also called as hydracrylic acid, is one of the valuable platform chemicals and widely used in industrial application. As chemical synthesis of 3-HP requires expensive starting materials and high energy consuming process, its production through microorganism based bio-process has been developed. Although one of the recent reports showed commercially available 3-HP production in Escherichia coli, with heterologous enzyme expression and process optimization, there is still room for improvement on its productivity and titer. In this research, glycerol which is a waste from bio-fuel production process was used as a substrate as well as sole carbon source and novel pathway was introduced and reconstructed in Escherichia coli for increased 3-HP production. 6 genes encoding pathway enzymes and the enzyme reactivase were expressed under constitutive strong promoters and maximized 5'-untranslated regions (5'-UTR). The engineered strain was able to convert glycerol to 3-HP successfully.