

## Supplementary data

### Materials and methods

**Cloning cDNA.** Briefly, the purified cDNAs were mixed with: 50 ng of the cloning vector pGEM-T Easy (Fig.1), T4 DNA ligase, 2X Rapid Ligation Buffer (Tris-HCl 60 mM, pH 7.8, MgCl<sub>2</sub> 20 mM, DTT 20 mM, ATP 2 mM, 10% polyethylene glycol), and sterile water, until a volume of 10  $\mu$ l. The ligation reaction was performed at 4 °C for 16 hours

**Extraction of plasmid DNA:** Plasmid DNA was extracted using the Miniprep DNA Purification System (Promega). The grown bacterial cells were placed in 1.5 ml tubes and centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 5 min.; the supernatant was discarded and 250  $\mu$ l of Cell Resuspension Solution were added, pipetting to re-suspend the pellet. Cell Lysis Solution (250  $\mu$ l of) was added and the tubes mixed by inversion (4 times) and left for 5 min at room temperature. Ten  $\mu$ l of alkaline proteases were then added, and the tubes inverted 4 times and left for 5 min at room temperature, subsequently 350  $\mu$ l of Neutralization Solution were added and samples were centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 10 min. Clarified supernatants were transferred to columns provided by the kit, and centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 1 min., then 750  $\mu$ l of Wash Solution were added and samples were centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 1 min. The washing was repeated with 250  $\mu$ l of Wash Solution and samples were centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 2 min. A centrifugation in vacuum was performed to remove all ethanol; then the columns were moved in new tubes, adding 70-100  $\mu$ l of water "nuclease-free" for each sample, following placing at room temperature for 1 min. and then centrifuging at 14,000 rpm for 1 min. The DNA was stored at -20 °C.

**Fig. 1 supp. Map of vector.** Ori: origin of bacterial replication, lacZ: codifying region of the  $\alpha$ -peptide  $\beta$ -galactosidase, lacO: lac operator, Sp6: promoter and codon of transcription start of Sp6 polymerase. In the MCS multiple cloning site T7: promoter and start codon of the transcription polymerase T7, f1: origin of replication of f1 phage, Amp: ampicillin resistance site. .

