

1 **Metabolic Control of Glycosylation Forms for Establishing Glycan-Dependent Protein Interaction** 2 **Networks**

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16 **SUMMARY**

17 Protein-protein interactions (PPIs) provide essential insights into the complex molecular mechanisms and
18 signaling pathways within cells that regulate development and disease-related phenotypes. However, for
19 membrane proteins, the impact of various forms of glycosylation has often been overlooked in PPI studies.
20 In this study, we introduce a novel approach, glycan-dependent affinity purification followed by mass
21 spectrometry (GAP-MS), to assess variations in PPIs for any glycoprotein of interest under different
22 glycosylation conditions. As a proof of principle, we selected four glycoproteins—BSG, CD44, EGFR, and
23 SLC3A2—as baits to compare their co-purified partners across five metabolically controlled glycan
24 conditions. The findings demonstrate the capability of GAP-MS to identify PPIs influenced by altered
25 glycosylation states, establishing a foundation for systematically exploring the Glycan-Dependent Protein
26 Interactome (GDPI) for other glycoproteins of interest.

27

28 **INTRODUCTION**

29 Following the success of the Human Genome Project, researchers have achieved significant
30 advancements in the Human Proteome Project over the past decade (Smith et al. 2021). As of today, over
31 90% of the human proteome has been uncovered. The next challenge lies in functional characterization of
32 each identified protein and proteoform. Given that proteins do not operate in isolation within living
33 organisms, a crucial aspect for investigating protein functions is through their protein-protein interactions
34 (PPIs) (Armingol et al. 2021). Mass spectrometry (MS) has been a pivotal technology in the high-throughput
35 approaches to identify PPIs. Common approaches often coupled with MS to study PPIs include affinity
36 purification, proximity-based labeling, and cross-linking. Each method has its optimal application in
37 detecting PPIs (Low et al. 2021; Smits and Vermeulen 2016). For instance, proximity-based labeling
38 methods like BioID are suitable for detecting transient interactions, whereas crosslinking methods can be
39 employed in cases where genetic editing is not feasible. On the other hand, affinity purification coupled with
40 quantitative mass spectrometry analysis (AP-MS) is a classic and highly practical approach for many types
41 of PPI studies (Dunham, Mullin, and Gingras 2012). This method is also highly flexible, easily combinable
42 with other techniques, or streamlined for systematically constructing PPI networks. A milestone in
43 constructing proteome-wide PPI networks was established by Huttlin and colleagues using the AP-MS
44 approach (Huttlin et al. 2021; Huttlin et al. 2017; Huttlin et al. 2015). While all MS-based methods for
45 mapping PPIs and their variations have their advantages and limitations, a significant challenge for almost
46 all of them is resolving the changes caused by protein modifications. Most proteins undergo co-translational
47 or post-translational modifications, generating different proteoforms and strongly influencing the parent
48 protein function or activity (Lin and Carroll 2018). These protein modifications introduce a new dimension
49 due to their inherent complexity, and the impact of the modification is inevitably overlooked during the
50 construction of PPI networks (Wang, Osgood, and Chatterjee 2022).

51 A key example of this complexity is glycosylation, and the glycosylated proteins are crucial components of
52 the highly interactive outer cell membrane layer known as the glycocalyx. (Varki et al. 2022) The biological
53 functions of the glycocalyx can be significantly affected by variations in glycosylation. For example,

54 glycosylation of the integrin beta 1 (ITGB1) is essential for protein expression and heterodimeric formation
55 (Isaji et al. 2009). Glycans are also crucial for disintegrin and metalloprotease 10 (ADAM10) processing
56 and resistance to proteolysis (Escrevente et al. 2008). Recent work has put forth different approaches to
57 monitor glycoprotein interactions. For example, we and MacMillan groups introduced proximity-based
58 techniques, POSE, POFE, and GlycoMap, to modify the sialylated and fucosylated glycoprotein and to
59 profile their local microenvironments (Xie et al. 2024; Li et al. 2019; Meyer et al. 2022). Sun *et al.* also
60 presented a system that relied on labeling galactose oxidase (GAO) and enables the interrogation of
61 pertinent glycoprotein counter-receptors on the surface (Sun, Suttapitugsakul, and Wu 2021). In addition,
62 we and others demonstrated the detection of different chemical crosslinking between sialic acids and their
63 interacting proteins (Li et al. 2023; Xie et al. 2021). These techniques enabled the capture of the direct
64 interaction between glycan and proteins. Glycosylation also induces conformational changes in proteins,
65 thus affect their PPIs besides those directly mediated by glycans (Shental-Bechor and Levy 2008). The
66 treatment of tunicamycin or PNGase F allows the discrimination of protein-protein and protein-glycan
67 interactions (Joeh et al. 2020). Classic mutagenesis of the amino acid that carries glycosylation followed
68 by the AP-MS approach can also help to resolve the glycan-dependant protein-protein interactions;
69 however, the complete loss of glycosylation barely happens during biological processes, and, instead,
70 glycoproteins mostly undergo the alternation of glycan types they carry (glycoform change), which can
71 affect the protein state and its binding partners and thus exhibit different biological functions. Therefore, a
72 platform that enables the deciphering of protein-protein interactions with different glycoforms is urgently
73 desired and has great potential to impact glycoscience.

74 Recently, we employed a set of glycan modifiers for metabolic manipulation of glycan phenotype in cultured
75 cells (Lebrilla et al. 2024). In this system, we took advantage of a human colorectal carcinoma cell line,
76 HCT116, which bears the fucosylation deficiency caused by the mutation in GDP-mannose-4,6-
77 dehydratase (GMDS) (Moriwaki, Shinzaki, and Miyoshi 2011). Treating the HCT116 cells with different
78 glycan modifiers, including fucose, 3fluorinated sialic acid (3-F-Sia), and Kifunensine (Kif), could generate
79 cells with different global glycan states. This approach produced five major glycan phenotypes: sialylated
80 (S), neutral (Neu), fucosylated (F), sialofucosylated (FS), and high mannose (HM) types. Under each type,
81 cells carry a dominant form of glycosylation. We reasoned that this system for controlling glycan phenotypes
82 could be integrated with AP-MS to identify changes in PPIs resulting from specific types of glycosylations
83 for theoretically any glycoprotein of interest (**Figure 1**). We name this new technique glycan-dependent
84 affinity purification mass spectrometry (GAP-MS) analysis, a comprehensive platform that allows us to
85 explore the glycoprotein interactome under different glycan phenotypes and provides novel insights into
86 interactions affected by the various glycosylation forms (**Figure 1B-C**). We selected four bait glycoproteins,
87 including BAS1 (Basigin), EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor), CD44, and SLC3A2 (amino acid
88 transporter heavy chain SLC3A2), spanning 156 high confident interactions as the initial study (**Figure 1D-**
89 **E**). While many of these interactions have been covered by existing databases, nearly 45% are newly
90 identified. This validates the methodology and demonstrates the sensitivity of our workflow for monitoring
91 glycoprotein interactions. Importantly, we found that most of the interactions (131 out of 156) were involved
92 in constructing the glycan-dependent protein interactome (GDPI), exhibiting strong preferences or dislikes
93 across different glycan phenotypes. These results can be visualized on our website
94 (www.glycointeractome.org). Finally, we performed mutagenesis on the glycosylation sites of BSG followed
95 by AP-MS analysis, and compared the results with the BSG data from GAP-MS. The outcomes showed
96 rare overlaps in the affected PPIs. Our results highlight the utility of the GAP-MS technique for revealing
97 unprecedented insights into the glycoprotein interaction network.

98 RESULTS

99 *Establishing glycan phenotypes on HCT116 membrane.*

100 We first created different glycan phenotypes on the membrane of the human colorectal carcinoma cell line,
101 HCT116. We chose the HCT116 cell line over other cells because of its unique feature that the mutation of
102 dehydratase GMDS leads to failure synthesizing GDP-fucose from GDP-mannose *via* the *De*
103 *Novo* pathway and causes the lack of fucose source and fucosylation deficiency (Moriwaki, Shinzaki, and
104 Miyoshi 2011). Importantly, the fucose can still be incorporated *via* the *Salvage* pathway by treating cells
105 with exogenous fucose monosaccharide. We took advantage of these features and combined glyco-
106 inhibitors of sialic acid and mannosidase to generate the system with five different glycan phenotypes on

107 the cell membrane. Specifically, HCT116 cells are dominated by sialylated glycans without any treatment,
108 while the glycans can be replaced with the SF type with external fucose added. With the treatment of a
109 sialic acid inhibitor, 3-F-Sia, the Neu type can be generated, and with a combination of 3-F-Sia and Fuc,
110 the F type is initiated. Lastly, the Kif treatment disturbs the mannosidase activity, the downstream
111 biopathway is hindered, and Man9 and Man10 type of HM glycans are retained.

112 To examine whether the glycan profile could be altered with glycan modifiers, we perform glycomic analysis
113 to profile the *N*-glycans under five conditions. We extracted the cell membrane, released the *N*-glycan using
114 PNGase F, and mapped the *N*-glycans profile (**Supplementary Data 1A**). As shown in **Figure 2A-B**, the
115 natural HCT116 showed a complete deficiency of fucosylation and was dominated by sialylated glycans (S
116 form). At the same time, the treatment of fucose yielded cells with sialofucosylated glycans (SF form), while
117 the co-treatment of 3-F-Sia and fucose converted the glycan with fucosylation (F form). The sole treatment
118 of 3-F-Sia produced more than 55% neutral glycans without sialic acid or fucose (Neu form). Notably, four
119 major glycan phenotypes were observed, with variations in the relative abundance of high mannose
120 glycans, attributed to differences in glycan ionization efficiency. Lastly, the mannosidase inhibitor generated
121 cells with more than 95% of high mannose glycans (HM form).

122 For a deeper investigation of the resulting glycan phenotypes at the glycopeptide level, we applied the
123 glycan information from global glycan release as a focused library search and elucidated the information
124 about both glycan and peptides with high confidence. The HILIC cartridge was employed to enrich
125 glycopeptides specifically, and MS analysis enabled sensitive detection of glycopeptides and the site-
126 specific glycoproteomic information (Li et al. 2020). As a result, we successfully identified 682 *N*-glycosites
127 on 440 cell membrane glycoproteins, giving rise to over 2800 nonredundant glycopeptides in total
128 (**Supplementary Data 1B**). The correlation between glycoprotein and different glycan types showed that
129 glycan phenotypes are successfully produced for different glycoproteins at different glycosites. Collectively,
130 the glycomic and glycoproteomic results both demonstrated the five major glycan phenotypes can be
131 efficiently generated using the glycan modifiers.

132 Considering that the interacting protein level will be quantified and compared under these five conditions
133 for the following AP-MS experiment, we want to ensure that the different glycan modifier treatments do not
134 lead to a significant change in proteome profile. Hence, we employed the proteomic analysis under five
135 conditions and evaluated protein abundance changes. Compared to the control condition (S type), we
136 observed minimal changes in protein levels after treatment with glycan modifiers (**Figure S1** and
137 **Supplementary Data 2**), which is consistent with previous observations from Caco-2 and A549 cell lines
138 (Zhou et al. 2021). To be noted, FucFSia and Kif treatments generated more protein level floating compared
139 to all the others, while there was no apparent enrichment of membrane proteins in significantly changed
140 proteome under any condition. Taken together, our results emphasize the glycan modifiers only lead to the
141 glycan expression level change instead of the whole proteome change.

142 *Producing bait glycoprotein with glycan phenotype expression on the cell membrane.*

143 As a proof of concept, we initiated the identification of glycan-dependent PPIs using GAP-MS with several
144 examples of glycoproteins of interest as baits. As guided by the identified hub proteins from previous
145 studies, we selected four bait proteins in this initial study, including CD44, BAS1, EGFR, and SLC3A2 (Xie
146 et al. 2021). Importantly, these baits are common glycoproteins found in various cells and with relatively
147 high abundance in native environments, while glycans are crucial in regulating their diverse biological
148 functions as observed previously (Varki 2017; Xie et al. 2020). Thus, we could map a comprehensive
149 subnetwork of PPIs on the cell membrane from the interactions of these four proteins before systematically
150 applying GAP-MS to a larger collection of bait proteins.

151 To perform affinity purification, we overexpressed selected glycoproteins of interest with HaloTag® in
152 HCT116 cells. To minimize the interference of the tag to the glycosylation sites of the bait proteins, which
153 often fall in the extracellular regions of transmembrane proteins, the HaloTag® was fused to the cytoplasmic
154 termini of each bait. HaloTag® is a versatile tag that can also be used for fluorescent imaging of the tagged
155 protein (Liu et al. 2024; Liu et al. 2020). This feature allows us to check the overexpressed bait proteins
156 localized to the cytoplasmic membrane (**Figure S2A**). We employed the Flp-In™ technology to generate
157 HCT116 cells that stably express Halo-tagged proteins. All stable-expression cell lines were derived from
158 the same clone of HCT116 that carries the flippase recognition target (FRT) recombinant site, thus each

159 bait glycoprotein was integrated at the same locus in the genome. The treatments of glycan modifiers to
160 the stable-expression cells were the only experimental procedure before cells were collected as materials
161 for affinity purification. This system minimized sample variations by avoiding changes caused by different
162 glycan modifiers.

163 To confirm the glycans on the over-expressed bait proteins were sufficiently regulated by the glycan
164 modifiers, we elucidated the site-specific glycopeptide information of the four proteins in the stable bait-
165 expressed cell lines. Consistent with the results above, bait glycoproteins with different N-glycoforms were
166 predominantly generated under five conditions. As an example shown in **Figure 2C**, the SLC3A2 bait owed
167 over 50% of sialylated glycan natively, and the treatment of Fuc and 3-F-Sia converted those glycans into
168 sialofucosylated and undercoated glycans, respectively. With the treatment of both Fuc and 3-F-Sia, cells
169 were present with fucosylated glycans, while the high-mannose glycans were dominant in cells with the
170 addition of Kif. The data confirmed the glycans on the bait glycoproteins were exquisitely controlled in our
171 system.

172 *Deciphering glycoprotein interaction network.*

173 *Next*, we identified and quantified the membrane proteins purified with the bait protein using the data-
174 independent acquisition (DIA) proteomics workflow, which provides better quantitative measurements and
175 is beneficial for comparing the strength of interactions under different glycan conditions. Integrating the
176 quantitative results with the Significance Analysis of INteractome (SAINT) analysis, we could, with high
177 confidence, identify the main interactors enriched by bait proteins compared to HaloTag mock control
178 (**Supplementary Data 3A and B**). Using a SAINT score cutoff of 0.90, we identified a total of 85 interacting
179 proteins and 156 interactions from GAP-MS analysis of the 4 bait proteins. This global PPI network is shown
180 in **Figure 3A**. As the bait proteins are known to be interacting with each other in existing PPI databases,
181 we first checked the module only containing BSG, CD44, EGFR, and SLC3A2 in our new network (**Figure**
182 **S2B**). We could capture the known interactions between our baits including BSG-EGFR, BSG-CD44,
183 EGFR-CD44, and BSG-SLC3A2. Examining the overlap between our network and the established
184 database, over 46% of interactions (72 out of 156) from our platform were found on the STRING database
185 with high confidence scores, 43 out of 156 interactions were recorded in the BioGRID database, and 66
186 interactions were newly identified by GAP-MS (Mering et al. 2003; Stark et al. 2006) (**Figure S2C-D**).

187 In addition, the cell membrane is a highly interactive environment, and many glycoconjugates have been
188 found to form microdomains on the cell surface (Chai et al. 2024). We predicted a high possibility that
189 glycosylated prey proteins could be enriched in our experiments. Therefore, we examined the number of
190 enriched glycoproteins from four baits and found that 26 proteins are glycosylated, spanning 53 interactions.
191 We calculated and compared the glycoprotein enrichment percentage in our experiment to the general
192 membrane proteome, and found the glycosylated protein is indeed more enriched employing our four baits
193 (30% vs 12%). We also counted the interaction edge for different prey proteins, and 47 out of 85 (>55%)
194 were found to have more than one interaction (**Figure S2E**). Interestingly, nearly 60% of the glycoproteins
195 (15 out of 26) were enriched by more than one bait, demonstrating the integrative and complex environment
196 of the cell membrane glycocalyx (**Figure S2F**). Furthermore, clustering proteins based on their biological
197 processes revealed a significant overrepresentation of categories associated with transport, localization,
198 cell adhesion, and cellular process. (**Figure 3B**). As shown in **Figure 3C**, molecular function analysis
199 identified highly enriched categories, including transporter activity, catalytic activity, and different binding
200 events, which closely align with the functions of an active environment on the cell surface. Overall, our
201 results highlight that the GAP-MS workflow facilitates the elucidation of glycoprotein interaction networks.

202 *Constructing glycan-dependent subnetwork*

203 We then considered the glycan modifier treatments to compare how interactions vary across different
204 glycan phenotypes. Changes in prey protein abundance under various glycan phenotypes were correlated
205 with the effects of glycosylation on specific interaction pairs. For instance, in the EGFR-ACIN1 and BSG-
206 LGALS3 interactions (**Figure S3A**), ACIN1 was more enriched by EGFR in the HM type compared to other
207 types, while LGALS3 was less captured by BSG pulldown in HM. This observation indicates that GAP-MS
208 data can reveal the enhancement and suppression of interactions when the glycan phenotype is altered.

209 Since samples under different treatments for each replicate were handled in the same batch, we further
210 normalized the quantification values for each interaction pair to the HM type by replicate (**Figure S3B** and
211 **Supplementary Data 3C**) to reduce batch variations. To systematically assess the impact of glycans on
212 the 156 interactions in the network, we applied the topological scoring (TopS) algorithm to these relative
213 quantification results (**Supplementary Data 4A**) (Sardiu et al. 2019). TopS gathers information from the
214 entire input dataset and generates positive and negative scores that reflect the likelihood of whether an
215 interaction pair is true under each glycan phenotype (**Figure S3C**). The wide range of TopS scores provides
216 a clearer indication of whether a certain form of glycosylation plays a positive or negative role in glycoprotein
217 interactions. A larger positive TopS score indicates higher confidence that the interaction pair is enhanced
218 under that glycan phenotype while a more negative score suggests that the interaction is more likely to be
219 suppressed in that type.

220 In theory, under each glycan phenotype, the 156 interactions in the total network can be categorized into
221 three main groups: (a) interactions boosted by the dominant form of glycans, (b) interactions hampered in
222 that type, and (c) interactions not strongly affected. Based on TopS scores, we generated 5 enhanced
223 subnetworks for all glycan phenotypes, containing interactions with a TopS score > 20, and 5 suppressed
224 subnetworks with interactions having a TopS score < -20 (**Figure 3D-M** and **Supplementary Data 4A**).
225 The 25 interactions that were not included in either the enhanced or suppressed networks in any type were
226 considered independent of the glycan forms we included in the current GAP-MS platform (**Figure S3D** and
227 **Supplementary Data 4A**). With this cutoff criterion, it is legitimate for an interaction pair to be included in
228 multiple subnetworks as long as it is not in the independent network, such as the example of BSG-LGALS3.
229 From an overview of the subnetworks (**Figure 3D-M**), however, we observed no high similarity between
230 any two subnetworks of different glycan phenotypes. For example, there are 25 interactions in the FS type
231 enhanced network, 20 in the F type enhanced network, and 30 in the S type enhanced network; however,
232 only 4 interactions overlap between the F and FS types, and 11 between the S and FS types.

233 To reveal any existing patterns of co-occurring glycan dependency within our current dataset, we applied
234 k-means clustering on TopS scores for the 156 interactions under all 5 conditions (**Supplementary Data**
235 **4B**). As shown in **Figure 4A**, all interactions in the total network were consistently divided into 6 clusters
236 according to how they were affected by different glycan phenotypes. Examples of interactions from each
237 cluster are displayed in **Figure 4B**, and a summary of each cluster is provided in the table in **Figure 4C**.
238 Clusters 1, 2, and 3 each contain interactions strongly enhanced in one specific glycan phenotype (HM type
239 for Cluster 1, F type for Cluster 2, and Neu type for Cluster 3) while being either moderately suppressed or
240 not notably affected in other types. In Cluster 4, interactions are generally not drastically impacted by any
241 phenotype; the overall pattern suggests they are mostly suppressed in HM and Neu types while mostly
242 enhanced in S and FS types. Cluster 5 contains two distinct modules: interactions are suppressed in HM,
243 Neu, and F types but are strikingly enhanced when sialylation is present (in S and FS types). There are
244 only 5 interactions in Cluster 6, all of which are greatly suppressed in HM type but noticeably enhanced in
245 Neu type.

246 As mentioned earlier, glycoproteins on the cell membrane are highly interactive, resulting in some prey
247 proteins being captured by more than one bait. Intriguingly, the interactions of a single prey protein with
248 various bait proteins do not always fall within the same cluster. For example, as shown in **Figure 4B (1)**
249 and **(3)**, the interaction between BSG and ARF4 is in Cluster 1, whereas the interaction between EGFR
250 and ARF4 is in Cluster 3. Another instance involves the prey EPCAM [**Figure 4B (4) and (7)-(9)**], which
251 was captured by all four baits. Notably, the BSG-EPCAM interaction is in Cluster 4, while the other three
252 pairs are in Cluster 3. This observation suggests that glycoproteins do not necessarily respond to glycan
253 alterations in the same manner. This is also apparent in **Figure 4D**, where the distribution of pairs in the
254 enhanced or suppressed subnetworks under each glycan phenotype varies for different baits.

255 *Comparison of GAP-MS with AP-MS combined with glycosite mutagenesis on BSG.*

256 Finally, we compared our GAP-MS results with another frequently used approach to study the effect of PTM
257 on protein interactions, wherein we could remove glycosylation from a known site of the bait protein by
258 mutating the asparagine to glutamine. We employed BSG mutagenesis as an example; there are two
259 validated glycosylation sites on BSG, N160 and N268 (corresponding to N44 and N152 in the isoform we
260 expressed). We expressed Halo-tagged BSG containing N160Q, N268Q, or double mutations (DM) in

261 HCT116 cells for AP-MS analysis (**Figure S4A**). One concern with this mutagenesis-based approach is
262 that mutations of certain amino acids in the bait protein could severely compromise its folding and cellular
263 localization. Fortunately, the three forms of BSG with glycosylation site mutations can be normally localized
264 to the membrane like the wild type (**Figure S4B**).

265 We then evaluated the differences in co-purified proteins of BSG with glycosylation site mutations compared
266 to the wild type (**Supplementary Data 5**). As shown in **Figure S4C-E**, using a limma p -value cutoff of 0.05,
267 only 18 proteins were significantly affected by the N160Q mutation, whereas more than 60 proteins were
268 significantly changed in the N268Q and double-mutated BSG pulldown. These results suggest that the
269 second glycosylation site has a greater impact on the protein interactions of BSG. Therefore, we compared
270 the changes in N268Q and double-mutated conditions with the changes in BSG interactions caused by our
271 glycan modifier treatments.

272 BSG co-purified proteins under different treatments (Neu, F, FS, and HM glycan phenotypes) were
273 compared to the control treatment (S type). Using the same limma p -value cutoff of 0.05, significantly
274 changed BSG co-purified proteins in each treatment condition were determined (**Supplementary Data 5**).
275 Shared PPI changes of BSG caused by glycosylation site mutations or global glycan changes are displayed
276 in **Figure S5A**. As also illustrated in the volcano plots (**Figure S4C-E**), the loss of glycosylation sites mainly
277 induces a decrease in many co-purified proteins of BSG. On the other hand, different glycan modifier
278 treatments caused various upregulations or downregulations of interactions. The treatment with Kif or 3-F-
279 Sia mainly enhanced many interactions, while treatment with fucose or both fucose and 3-F-Sia caused a
280 similar number of increased and decreased interactions. Most increased or decreased interactions caused
281 by the N268Q and double mutations overlapped. However, it's worth noting that very few changes were
282 shared between the mutagenesis conditions and any of the glycan modifier treatments. These results
283 demonstrate that our GAP-MS workflow provides distinct insights compared to those obtained from the
284 mutagenesis approach.

285 DISCUSSION

286 In this study, we introduced the GAP-MS system, designed to systematically investigate the glycoprotein
287 interactome using AP-MS under five conditions with controlled alterations of global glycosylations (**Figure**
288 **1A-D**). This novel AP-MS-based workflow enabled the uncovering of GDPI for any glycoprotein of interest
289 (**Figure 1E**), providing information that has been difficult to obtain with existing approaches. The critical
290 feature of GAP-MS lies in the integration of metabolic manipulation of glycan types in cell culture (**Figure**
291 **1B-C**). Treatments with one or a combination of glycan modifiers for a sufficient period have been tested
292 to consistently change the glycan profiles (**Figure 2A**). We introduced the concept of glycan phenotype to
293 describe these outcome changes in cells. The glycan modifiers can be directly fed to cells, thus avoiding
294 the introduction of genetic variations when comparing different glycan phenotypes. This manipulation
295 approach, combined with DIA-based high-resolution mass spectrometry analysis, allows GAP-MS data
296 collected at different time points to be aggregated later. Beginning with this study, the GDPI-derived
297 networks can continue to expand in the future as more glycoproteins of interest are analyzed as baits and
298 additional glycan phenotypes are generated.

299 Using BSG, CD44, EGFR and SLC3A2 as baits to prove the principle, we identified 156 interactions with
300 high confidence and illustrated how they were influenced by the five glycan phenotypes involved in this
301 study (**Figure 3**). In each type, interactions were either enhanced or suppressed (**Figure 3D-M**). This key
302 observation clearly shows that different glycan forms play distinct roles in different proteins or interactions.
303 This is even more evident when examining glycan-dependent interactions by bait (**Figure 4D**). For example,
304 the HM type predominantly enhances interactions of BSG, CD44, and EGFR, while it plays a negative role
305 in most interactions of SLC3A2. Increased protein binding mediated by high-mannose glycosylation has
306 been reported to play critical biological roles (Heller et al. 2003; Park et al. 2020). Our data suggest that an
307 overabundance of high-mannose glycans may also lead to the loss of certain protein interactions, potentially
308 contributing to the molecular and cellular changes associated with dysregulated high-mannose levels. This
309 observation is not unique to the HM type, similarly, none of the other types of glycosylations exhibit the
310 same effects across all baits. This can also be seen in some of the interaction examples shown in **Figure**
311 **4B**, where interactions with the same prey protein respond differently to glycan phenotype changes
312 depending on the bait. Since the manipulation of glycans in GAP-MS affects all glycoproteins that undergo
313 glycosylation after the treatments, it becomes challenging to determine whether the glycans on the bait or

314 the prey protein—or even the specific glycosylation site—play the more pivotal role. In such cases, other
315 approaches may serve as useful complements to further investigate the specific interactions identified by
316 GAP-MS. For instance, we applied mutagenesis to the glycosylation sites of BSG and performed AP-MS
317 analysis (**Figure S4**). This data clearly indicates that the loss of the N268 site has a more pronounced
318 impact on interactions than the loss of the N160 site. For example, the loss of only N160 barely affected
319 the pulldown of LGALS3, whereas the additional loss of N268 caused a substantial reduction in the same
320 prey (**Figure S5C**). There are also interactions affected by both sites; for instance, the loss of either N160
321 or N268 significantly increased the pulldown of CDCP1, and losing both resulted in an even more significant
322 increase (**Figure S5D**). Despite this limitation, GAP-MS provides unique insights. Taking the interaction
323 between BSG and CDCP1 as an example, GAP-MS reveals that the HM type significantly increased the
324 co-purification of CDCP1 with BSG (**Figure S5E**), suggesting that the glycosylation of BSG does not always
325 inhibit this interaction.

326 In GAP-MS, for each pair of confident interactions, the influence of various glycan phenotypes is also
327 illustrated in parallel (**Figure 4A**). This allows for observing how different glycans may employ similar or
328 opposing effects on the same interaction pair. The clustering analysis highlights groups of interactions
329 regulated by glycans similarly (**Figure 4C**). Among the 156 interactions across the 5 glycan phenotypes we
330 examined, we found that HM, F, and Neu each play a major role in enhancing interactions within their
331 corresponding clusters (Clusters 1, 2, and 3). For interactions in these three clusters, the other glycan types
332 do not exhibit drastic effects. Interactions in Cluster 4 are not strongly impacted by any single glycan
333 phenotype, though there is a slight boost for glycans with fucose or sialic acid units (F, S, and FS) compared
334 to HM and Neu. Intriguingly, only small groups of interactions seem to be predominantly influenced by the
335 presence of a single type of monosaccharide (Clusters 5 and 6). In Cluster 5, interactions are strongly
336 enhanced by sialylation (present in S and FS), while in Cluster 6, interactions are clearly dependent on the
337 presence of galactose, leading to strong suppression in HM. However, only 13 interactions from these two
338 clusters are found out of a total of 156. In other words, GAP-MS results suggest that, in most cases, it is
339 the overall glycan structure that determines how glycosylation affects protein interactions.

340 The application of controlling glycan phenotypes is also versatile. In this work, we combined it with AP-MS
341 for robust and confident identification of PPIs, but it can also be integrated with other methods such as
342 proximity-based labeling and crosslinking mentioned earlier. Due to the nature of affinity purification,
343 interactions mediated either directly or indirectly by glycans are all captured. For proteins that bind to
344 glycans or regions near glycosylation sites, it is reasonable to expect that their interactions will be affected
345 when glycan structures change. Taking the BSG-LGALS3 pair as an example (**Figure S3A-C**), this
346 interaction is strongly downregulated in the HM type, while the other four types enhance it. This is due to
347 the lack of galactose in the HM type, which is consistent with the fact that LGALS3 is a galactose-specific
348 lectin (Joeh et al. 2020). On the other hand, proteins that interact indirectly with glycoproteins or bind far
349 from the glycosylation sites can also be captured by AP-MS. It is also reasonable to expect that these
350 interactions may not be affected by changes in glycan phenotypes. This explains the interactions in **Figure**
351 **S3D**, which we classified as independent of glycans. However, one of the most intriguing aspects of GAP-
352 MS is that some of these interactions, which are not expected to be influenced by glycans, are found to be
353 glycan-dependent. One example is shown in **Figure 4B(3)**, where the interaction between EGFR and ARF4
354 is strongly enhanced in the Neu type. It is known that ARF4 binds to the cytoplasmic domain of EGFR,
355 while the glycosylation occurs on the extracellular part of EGFR (Kim et al. 2003). This might be explained
356 by conformational changes induced by glycosylation, which could be further investigated using the glycan
357 modifiers with other structural analysis approaches in future studies.

358 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

359 ***Lead contact***

360 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by
361 the lead contact, Yixuan Xie (xieyixuan@ipm-gba.org.cn).

362

363 ***Materials availability***

364 All the MS raw data generated in this study have been deposited to the Mass Spectrometry Interactive
365 Virtual Environment (MassIVE) repository with the dataset identifier MSV000096043

366

367 ***Data and code availability***

368 All the interactome results have been deposited at: www.glycointeractome.org.

369

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377 School of Medicine.

378

379 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

380 X.L. and Y.X. conceived the project. X.L., B.A.G., and Y.X. designed the overall plan. X.L., L.Y., S.C., S.Y.,
381 and Y.X. performed the experiments. X.L., L.Y., Z.L., S.W., and Y.X., analyzed data. X.L., L.Y., and Y.X.
382 produced figures. X.L. and Y.X. drafted the manuscript. L.Y., Z.L., S.C., S.W., C.B.L., and B.A.G. reviewed
383 and edited the manuscript. C.B.L., B.A.G., and Y.X. supervised the overall project.

384

385 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

386 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest with the contents of this article.

387

388 **FIGURE TITLES**

389 **Figure 1. Schematic diagram of GAP-MS.** GAP-MS employed glycan modifiers (e.g., fucose, 3-fluorinated
390 sialic acid, and Kifunensine) to manipulate glycan phenotypes in HCT116 cells, generating five distinct
391 phenotypes: sialylated (S), neutral (Neu), fucosylated (F), sialofucosylated (FS), and high mannose (HM).
392 Integrating this approach with HaloTag-based affinity purification mass spectrometry (AP-MS) and data-
393 independent acquisition (DIA) allows for the exploration of Glycan-Dependent Protein Interactome (GDPI).

394
395 **Figure 2. Glycomics and glycoproteomics monitored the glycan profiles after treating HCT116 cells
396 with different modifiers.**

397 (A) Chromatogram of N-glycome profiles under five glycan conditions.
398 (B) The relative abundance of N-glycans from glycomic analysis confirmed the generation of S, SF, F, and
399 Neu phenotypes, with an additional HM phenotype induced by a mannosidase inhibitor.
400 (C) The phenotypes of the bait glycoproteins were further confirmed through glycoproteomic analysis. As
401 an example of the SLC3A2 bait glycoprotein, the glycans were altered with different treatments.

402
403 **Figure 3. GDPI profile from GAP-MS.**

404 (A) Overall protein interaction network from AP-MS analysis covering 156 interactions and 85 proteins from
405 four bait glycoproteins, including BAS1 (Basigin), EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor), CD44, and
406 SLC3A2 (amino acid transporter heavy chain SLC3A2).
407 (B) Annotation of identified proteins by their biological processes revealed an overrepresentation of
408 categories related to transport, localization, cell adhesion, and cellular processes.
409 (C) Molecular function analysis identified enriched categories such as transporter activity, catalytic activity,
410 and various binding events.
411 (D)-(H) The enhanced protein subnetworks under HM, Neu, F, S, and FS glycan conditions.
412 (I)-(M) The suppressed protein subnetworks under HM, Neu, F, S, and FS glycan conditions. (All the data
413 is available at www.glycointeractome.org).

414
415 **Figure 4. GAP-MS data revealed that different glycan phenotypes have varying effects on interaction
416 pairs.**

417 (A) Heatmap illustrating the responses of the 156 interaction pairs to each glycan phenotype. A larger
418 positive average TopS score indicates higher confidence that the interaction pair is enhanced, while a more
419 negative TopS score suggests stronger suppression. Based on TopS scores, the 156 interactions were
420 divided into 6 clusters using the k-means method.
421 (B) Example interaction pairs from each cluster.
422 (C) Summary of interactions within each cluster.
423 (D) Summary of interactions in each glycan-dependent subnetwork by bait protein. The percentage was
424 calculated from the number of interactions with each bait in that subnetwork relative to the total number of
425 interactions for the corresponding bait.

426
427 **Figure S1. Volcano plots displaying changes in whole proteome abundance following treatment
428 with glycan modifiers.**

429 Changes with p-values ≤ 0.05 and an absolute fold change greater than 2 are considered significant and
430 are highlighted in color in the plots.
431

432 **Figure S2. Supplementary figures for performing GAP-MS analysis on selected glycoproteins using
433 HCT116 cells stably expressing Halo-tagged baits.**

434 (A) Fluorescent confocal microscopy images of HaloTag in cell lines stably expressing each Halo-tagged
435 bait protein. Bait proteins are shown in magenta (pseudo color) and nuclear staining is shown in blue
436 (pseudo color). All scale bars represent 20 microns. All four Halo-tagged bait proteins (BSG, CD44, EGFR,
437 and SLC3A2) marked the cell outlines, indicating that the tag and overexpression did not disrupt the
438 localization of these glycoproteins to the cell membrane. Halo-tagged BSG, EGFR, and SLC3A2 also
439 displayed puncta inside the cells, not overlapping with the nucleus, which may represent accumulation of
440 the overexpressed proteins in the Golgi.
441 (B) The extracted module from the total PPI network containing only the bait proteins.

442 (C) and (D) GAP-MS results compared to String and BioGrid Databases, respectively.
443 (E) and (F) Summary of egde counts for total and glycosylated prey proteins and prey proteins.
444

445 **Figure S3. Supplementary figures demonstrating the use of GAP-MS data to reveal glycan-**
446 **dependent PPI networks.**

447 (A)-(C) Different stages of data processing from Spectronaut-reported MS2 quantifications, illustrated with
448 two example interaction pairs: EGFR-ACIN1 and BSG-LGALS3. In panel A, the abundance of the co-
449 purified prey in each type was normalized by the bait abundance in the corresponding sample. In panel B,
450 the normalized abundance in the HM type was set to 100, and the other types within the same batch
451 (replicate) were transformed to relative abundance compared to the HM type. Finally, these relative
452 abundances were used as input to compute the average TopS scores, shown in panel C.
453 (D) The glycan-independent interactions identified by the current GAP-MS data.
454

455 **Figure S4. Glycosite mutagenesis on BSG followed by AP-MS analysis.**

456 (A) Schematic overview of the workflow.
457 (B) Live-cell fluorescent imaging of HCT116 cells transiently expressing Halo-tagged wild-type or mutated
458 BSG, or HaloTag alone. Each Halo-tagged protein or the tag alone is shown in magenta (pseudo color),
459 the CellMask reagent staining the cell membrane is shown in green (pseudo color), and nuclear staining is
460 shown in blue (pseudo color). All scale bars represent 20 microns. The images show that wild-type and
461 glycosylation site-mutated versions of BSG localize to the cell membrane as expected, while HaloTag alone
462 is distributed throughout the cell.
463 (C)-(E) Volcano plots displaying changes in co-purified proteins with BSG when its glycosylation sites were
464 removed by mutagenesis. Changes with p-values ≤ 0.05 are considered significant and are highlighted in
465 color in the plots. Proteins with an absolute fold change greater than 2 are labeled.
466

467 **Figure S5. Comparison of the GAP-MS approach to glycosite mutagenesis followed by AP-MS.**

468 (A) and (B) UpSet plots illustrating the overlaps of significantly changed co-purified proteins with BSG under
469 each glycan modifier treatment or with glycosylation site mutations on the bait protein. Panel A compares
470 the significantly increased preys, while panel B compares the significantly decreased preys.
471 (C)-(E) Additional examples of interactions shown in unprocessed MS2 quantifications presented as bar
472 plots. In addition to the limma method (results included in Supplementary Data 5), paired t-tests were also
473 performed for these examples. Two-tailed p-values were used, and significant differences between
474 conditions are marked in the plots.
475

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604
605

606 EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

607 Mammalian cell culture

608 HCT116 cells were maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10%
609 Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), MEM nonessential amino acids (NEAA) and GlutaMAX™.

610

611 METHOD DETAILS

612 **Fluorescent imaging.** Wildtype HCT116 cells or cells stably expressing Halo tagged proteins were plated
613 in a 35-mm MatTek dish with No. 1.5 glass bottom coated by poly-d-lysine. For transient expression,
614 transfection was performed on the next day after plating cells. Cells expressing Halo proteins were stained
615 with HaloTag® TMRDirect™ Ligand (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) overnight in their regular culture
616 medium. On imaging day, cells were stained with CellMask™ Green Plasma Membrane Stain (Invitrogen,
617 Carlsbad, CA, USA) and Hoechst33342 for 15 minutes in a 37 °C incubator. For the stable cell lines, stained
618 samples were fixed with 4% formaldehyde and washed with PBS. Fixed samples were imaged in
619 VECTASHIELD® Antifade Mounting Medium (Vector Laboratories, Newark, CA, USA). For transiently
620 transfected samples, cells were washed with a warm culture medium after staining and imaged as live cells
621 in FluoroBrite™ DMEM (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) supplied with 10% FBS. Imaging of both fixed and
622 live cell samples was performed on a Zeiss LSM 880 Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope (Carl Zeiss Inc.
623 Thornwood, NY, USA). The base of the microscope is inverted and cells were imaged through a Plan-
624 Achromat 40x/1.4 Oil objective. HaloTag® TMRDirect™ was excited by 543nm helium-neon laser and
625 detected at 553-753 nm. Hoechst33342 was excited by 405nm diode laser and detected at 415-470 nm.
626 CellMask™ Green was excited by 488nm argon laser and detected at 491-553 nm. ZEN black software
627 (version 2.1 SP3) was used for multichannel image acquisition and analyses. Single color control
628 experiments were performed separately for HaloTag® TMRDirect™ and CellMask™ Green to make sure
629 no crosstalk between channels.

630 **Affinity purification.** Each cell line stably expressing Halo only or Halo-tagged bait protein was plated at
631 a density of 2 million cells per 100mm plate in medium without Hygromycin B. Glycan modifiers were fed
632 to cells at working concentration on the next day and cells were collected 3 days after treatment. Halo
633 purification was performed according to the manual of HaloTag® Mammalian Pull-Down Systems
634 (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) with minor optimizations. In detail, each cell pellet from the 100-mm plate
635 was lysed with the Mammalian Lysis Buffer by passing by a 28 gauge needle 5 times. Crude lysates were
636 centrifuged at 10,000 × g at 4 °C for 10 min, supernatants were collected to bind with Magne® HaloTag®
637 Beads. After rotating at 4°C overnight, beads were washed with cold Wash Buffer 5 times then eluted with
638 AcTEV Protease (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) at room temperature for 1 hour with shaking. Eluates
639 were subjected to sample processing for mass spectrometry analysis. For transient expression, HCT116
640 cells were plated in the medium without any antibiotics. Cells were collected 48 hours after transfection,
641 and halo purification was performed the same as described above.

642 **Glycomic analysis.** The glycomic samples were prepared as described previously (Li et al. 2020). Briefly,
643 the enriched membrane was resuspended with 200 µL of 100 mM HEPES buffer, and the mixture was
644 heated using a thermomixer at 100 °C for 2 min. The N-glycans cleavage was performed by adding 2 µL of
645 PNGase F (500,000 units/mL), followed by incubation at 37 °C overnight. The supernatant containing the
646 released N-glycans was purified using the PGC plate using the porous graphitic carbon (PGC) SPE plate
647 (Thermo Scientific, MA) and was eluted with 60% (v/v) ACN and 0.1% (v/v) TFA in water. The purified
648 glycans were dried using the SpeedVac system (Thermo Scientific, MA) and reconstituted in water. The
649 sample was analyzed using a 1200 Series liquid chromatography chip system (Agilent, CA) coupled with a
650 6520 Accurate Mass Q-TOF system (Agilent, CA). The glycans separation was carried out at a constant
651 flow rate of 0.3 µL/min using buffer A (water containing 0.1% formic acid) and buffer B (acetonitrile
652 containing 0.1% formic acid). The chromatography gradient consists of 0–2 min, 0% B; 2–20 min, 0–16%
653 B; 20–40 min, 16%–72% B; 40–42 min, 72%–100% B; 42–52 min, 100% B; 52–54 min 100%–0% B; 54–65
654 min 0% B.

655 The glycans were identified using MassHunter Qualitative Analysis B. 07 software (Agilent, CA). Relative
656 abundances of each N-glycan subtype were calculated after normalizing the integrated peak areas to the
657 total peak areas of all glycans detected.

658 **Glycoproteomic analysis.** The glycopeptides were enriched by solid-phase extraction using iSPE®-HILIC
659 cartridges (The Nest Group, MA) after the tryptic digestion, and the samples were analyzed using a
660 Vanquish Neo UHPLC System coupled with an Orbitrap Exploris 240 mass spectrometer. 2 μ L of the
661 sample was injected, and the analytes were separated on an EASY-Spray PepMap Neo Column (3 μ m,
662 0.075 mm \times 150 mm, Thermo Scientific, CA). LC separation was performed with a binary gradient using
663 solvent A with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid (FA) in water and solvent B with 0.1% (v/v) FA in ACN at a flow rate
664 of 300 nL/min. After the separation, the peptides were analyzed with the full MS scan from 700 to 2000 in
665 positive ionization mode. The MS/MS spectra were collected for fragments with m/z values starting from
666 120. Glycopeptides were identified using Byonic software (Protein Metrics, CA). Raw files were searched
667 against a human protein FASTA database acquired from UniProt. C-Terminals of lysine and arginine were
668 used for specific cleavage sites, and missed cleavages were restricted to 2. Precursor mass tolerance was
669 limited to 10 ppm, and CID & HCD fragmentation with a mass tolerance of 20 ppm was applied.
670 Carbamidomethylation at cysteine was assigned as the fixed modification. An in-house human database
671 was applied for N-glycosylation at asparagine, and identifications with high confidence were achieved
672 through filtering with a 1% false discovery rate (FDR), score greater than 300, and DeltaMod larger than
673 10.

674 **Proteomic analysis.** The lysis buffer consisting of 5% SDS in 50 mM triethylammonium bicarbonate buffer
675 (TEAB, Sigma-Aldrich, MO) was added to the cell pellet, and the cells were fully lysed using sonication at
676 room temperature for 5 min. Reduction and alkylation of proteins were performed by adding 1 μ L of 200
677 mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride (TCEP, Sigma-Aldrich, MO) at 55 $^{\circ}$ C for 15 min and 1 μ L
678 of 400 mM iodoacetamide (IAA, Sigma-Aldrich, MO) at room temperature for 20 min. The proteins were
679 further loaded to the S-trap micro columns (ProtiFi, NY) and cleaned based on the manufacturer protocols.
680 The proteins were digested with 2 μ g of trypsin (Promega, WI) at 37 $^{\circ}$ C overnight. The digested peptides
681 were eluted using 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate buffer, 0.2% formic acid (FA, Fisher Scientific, NH), and
682 50% acetonitrile (ACN, Thermo Scientific, MA), respectively. Tryptic digested samples were reconstituted
683 in 0.1% FA and characterized using a Vanquish Neo UHPLC System (Thermo Scientific, CA) coupled with
684 an Orbitrap Exploris 240 mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, CA). The analytes were separated on an
685 EASY-Spray PepMap column (3 μ m, 0.075 mm \times 150 mm, Thermo Scientific, CA) at a flow rate of 0.3
686 μ L/min, and the column temperature was set at 45 $^{\circ}$ C. A solution of water containing 0.1% FA and
687 acetonitrile containing 0.1% FA were used as solvents A and B, respectively. The chromatography gradient
688 consisted of 2% solvent B over 0-2 min, 2-32% solvent B over 2-75 min, 32-45% solvent B over 75-80 min,
689 45-80% solvent B over 1 min, 80% solvent B over 81-86 min, and finally equilibrated with 2% solvent B
690 over 4 min. The Orbitrap Exploris 240 was equipped with an EASY-Spray Source (Thermo Scientific, CA).
691 The DIA method consisted of staggered DIA windows that spanned the mass range m/z 400-1000, and the
692 acquisition settings were as follows: MS1 accumulation time 60 ms, MS2 accumulation time 60 ms, and
693 MS2 first mass at m/z 120. All raw data were processed with Spectronaut (v18.3) using the directDIA mode
694 supplied with the additional library. The peptides were searched using the following parameters: Trypsin/P,
695 one missed cleavage allowed, N-term M excision, fixed modification: C carbamidomethylation, variable
696 modification: none, peptide length range: 7 to 30 amino acids.
697

698 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

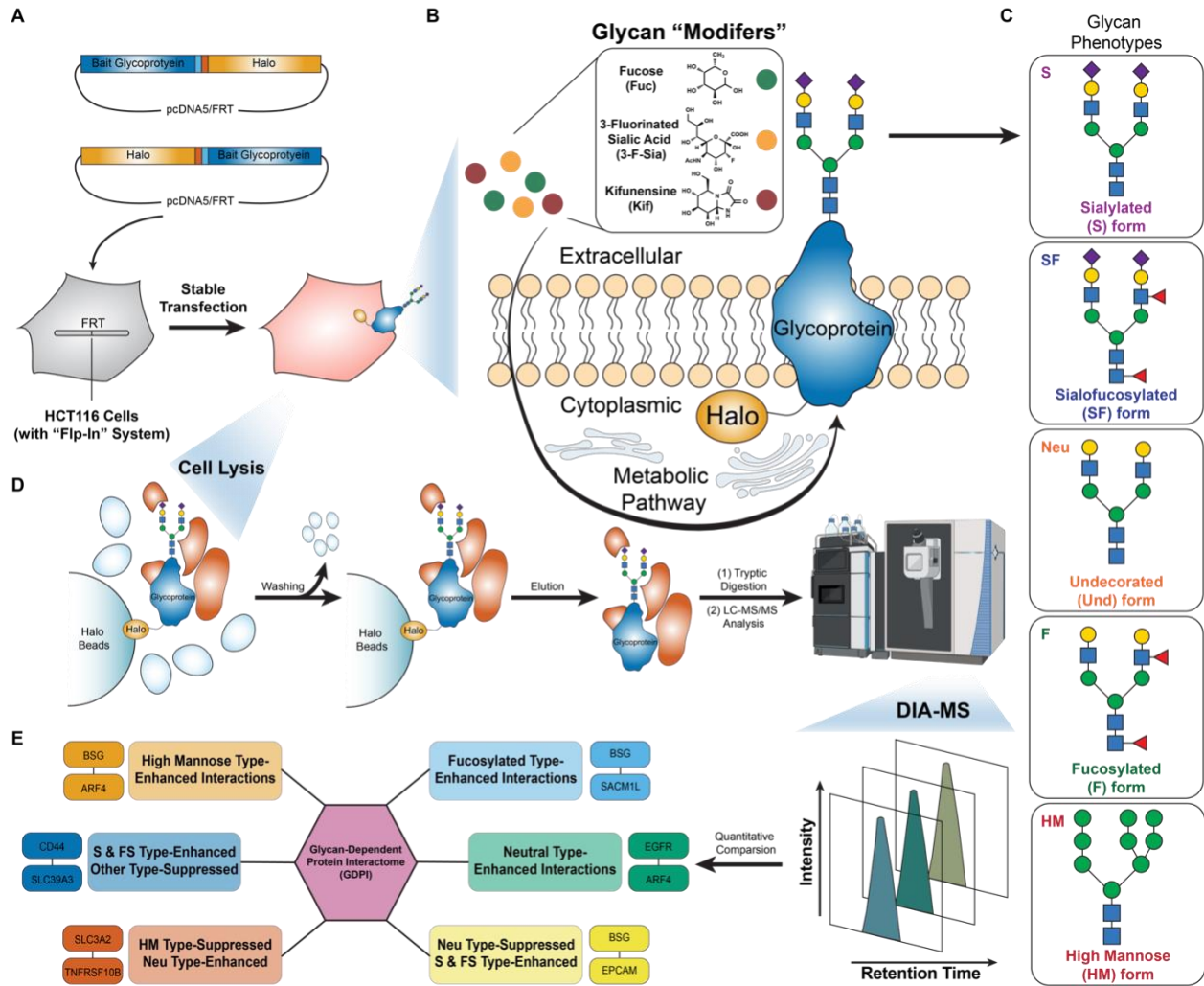
699 The identified protein was subjected to protein-protein interaction scoring with SAINTexpress with default
700 settings (Teo et al. 2014). To generate the overall interaction network, we included co-purified proteins with
701 a SAINT score \geq 0.90 for each bait. The different glycan topological networks were further established
702 based on TopS scores.(Sardiu et al. 2019) For input to TopS, raw protein quantifications exported from
703 Spectronaut were first normalized to the bait protein and then transformed into relative abundances
704 compared to the high-mannose type condition. Interactions with TopS scores above 20 or below -20 were
705 included to generate the glycan-dependent subnetworks for each glycan phenotype. The total interaction
706 network and all subnetworks were visualized using Cytoscape (v.3.9.1) (Shannon et al. 2003). For k-means
707 clustering analysis, the number of clusters ($k = 6$) was determined using the silhouette method with the R
708 package factoextra (Kassambara 2016). With the nstart parameter set to 25, the same clustering result was
709 consistently reproducible. LIMMA analysis was performed with StatsPro, using the Spectronaut-reported
710 quantifications as input (van Ooijen et al. 2018; Yang et al. 2022). For comparison of BSG AP-MS data
711 between conditions, a LIMMA p-value of 0.05 was used to determine significant differences. Only

712 significantly altered co-purified proteins for each mutation or glycan modifier treatment were included in the
713 overlap analysis. UpSet plots were generated in *R* using the ComplexHeatmap package in intersect
714 mode(Gu, Eils, and Schlesner 2016; Gu 2022).

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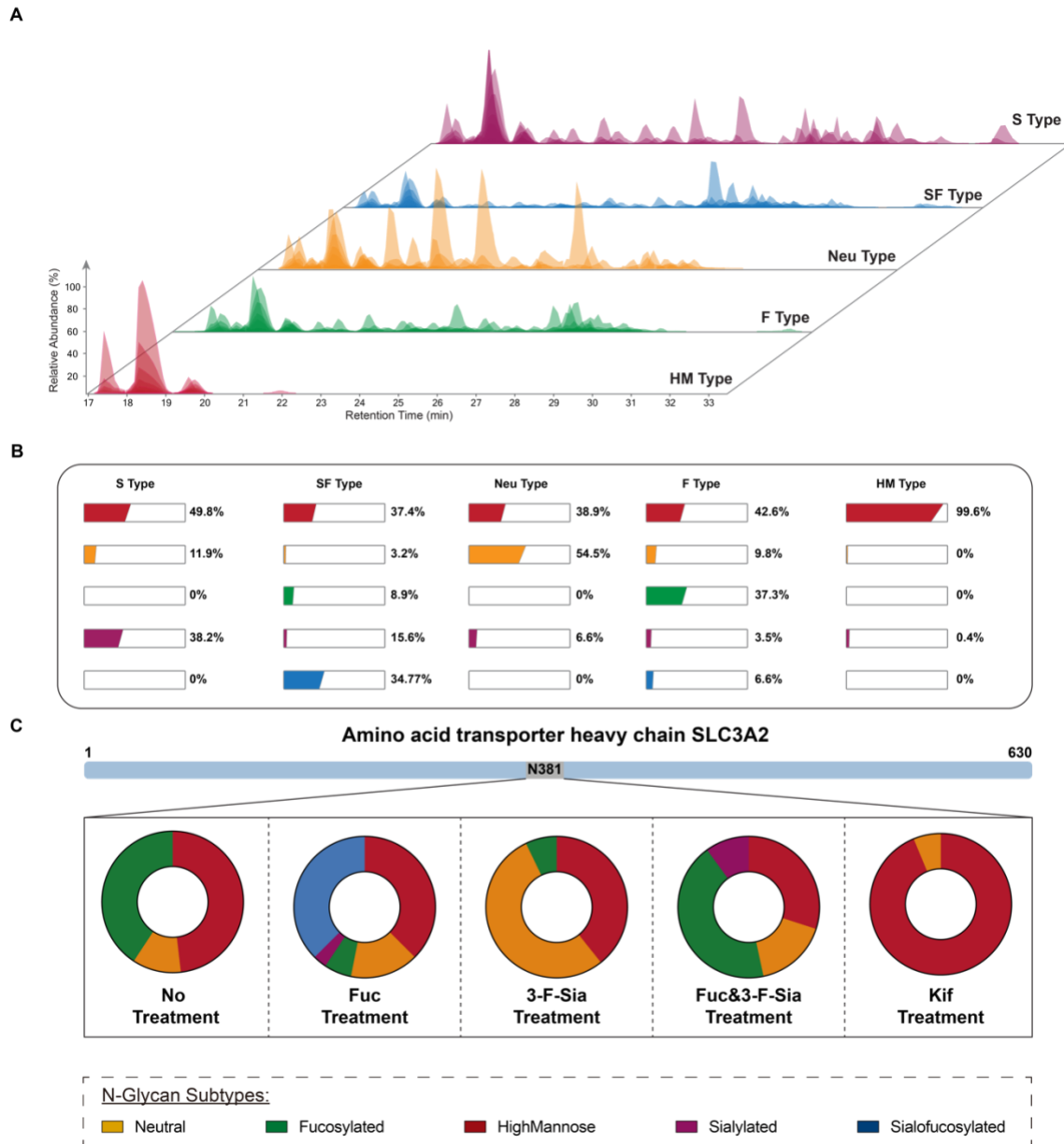
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Figures



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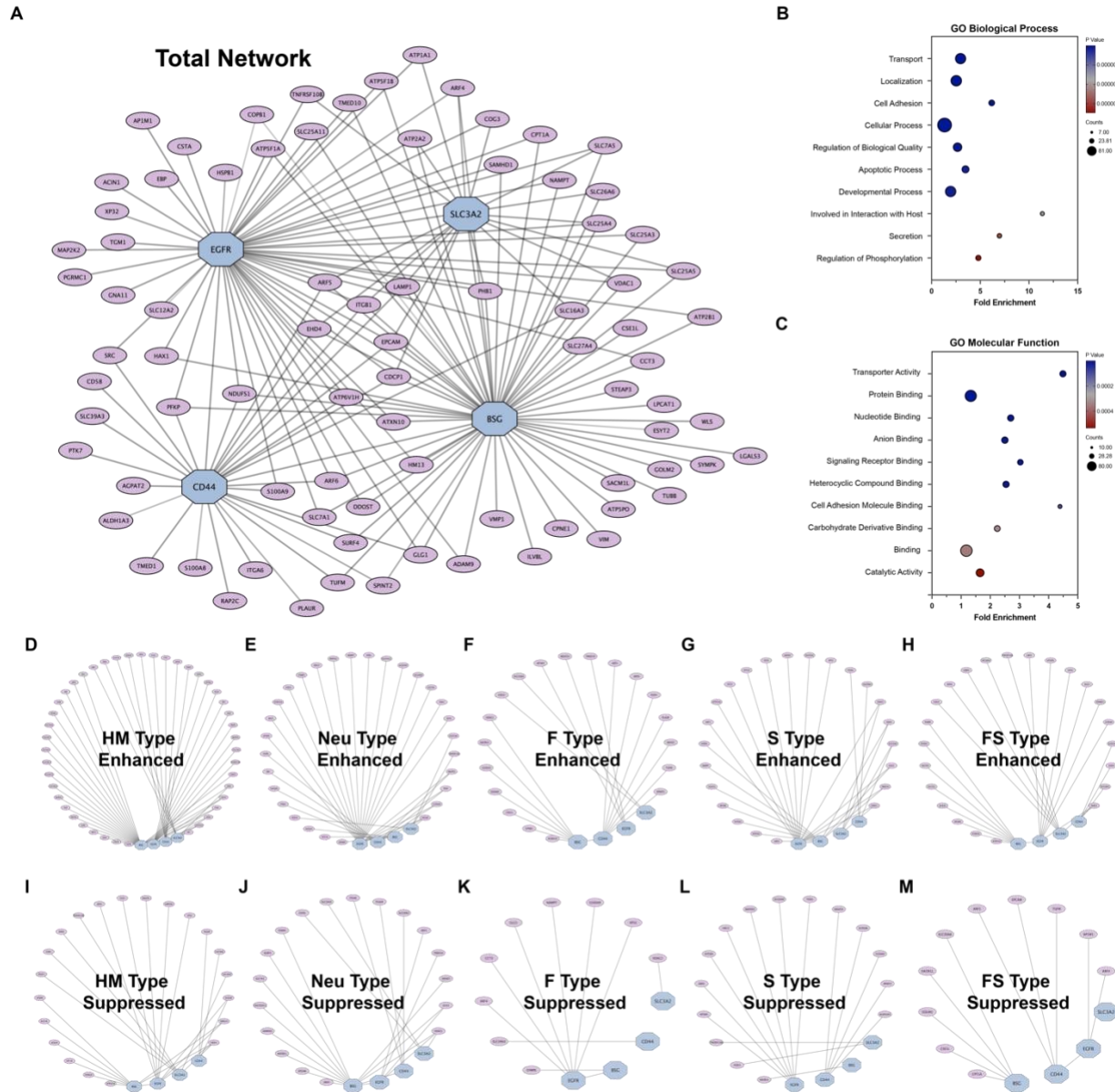
Figure 1



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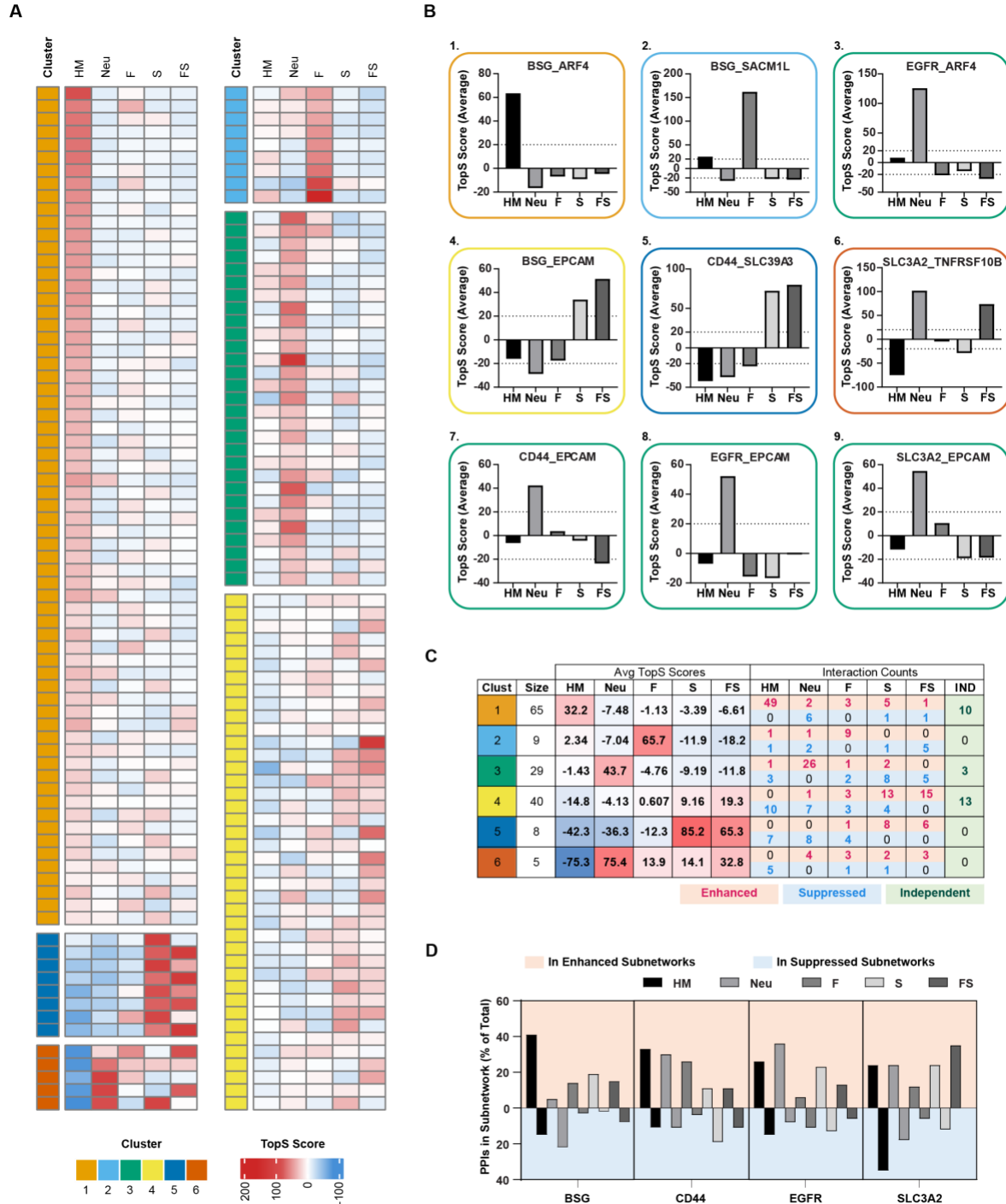
722 **Figure 2**

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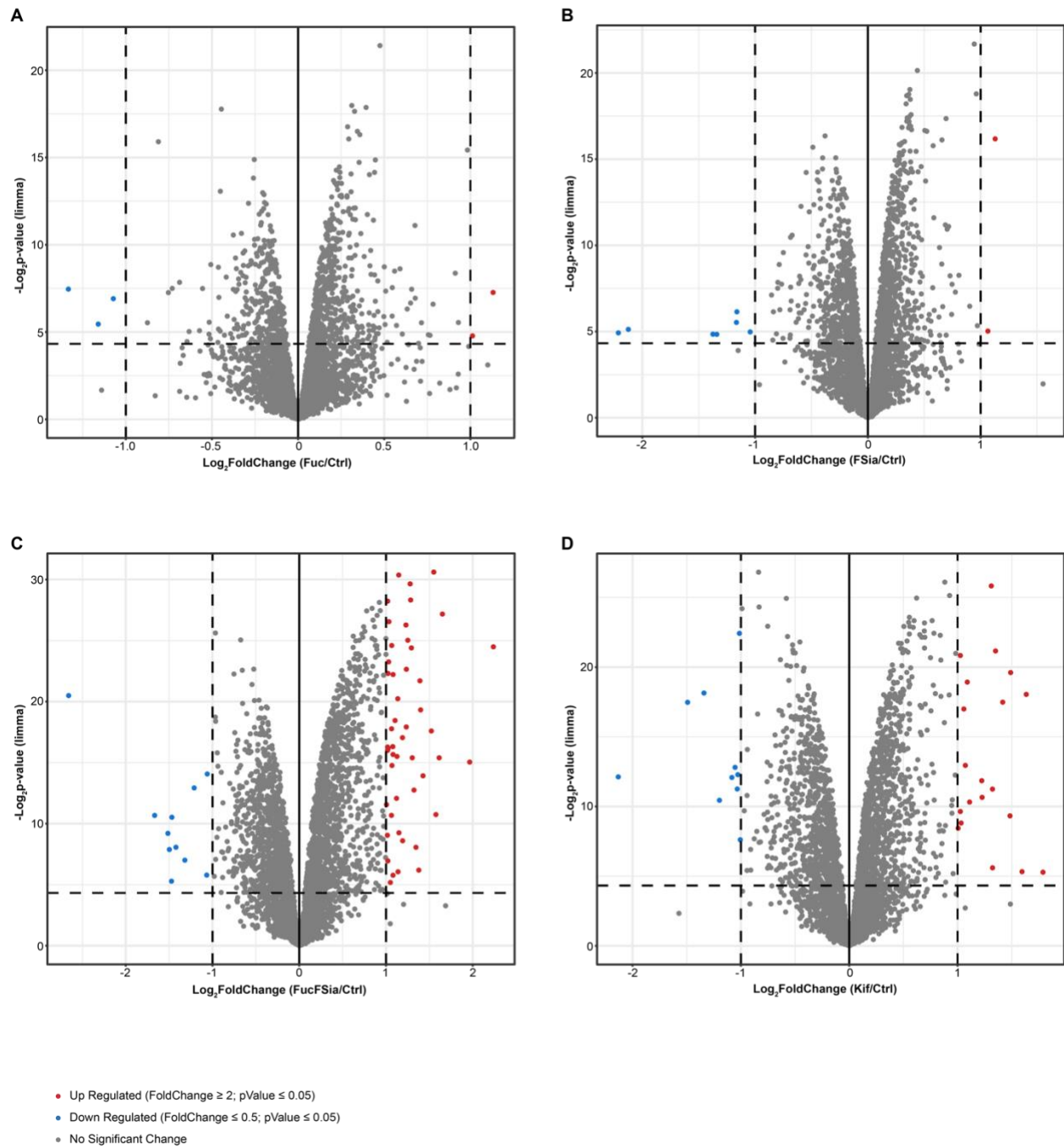
Figure 3



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Figure 4

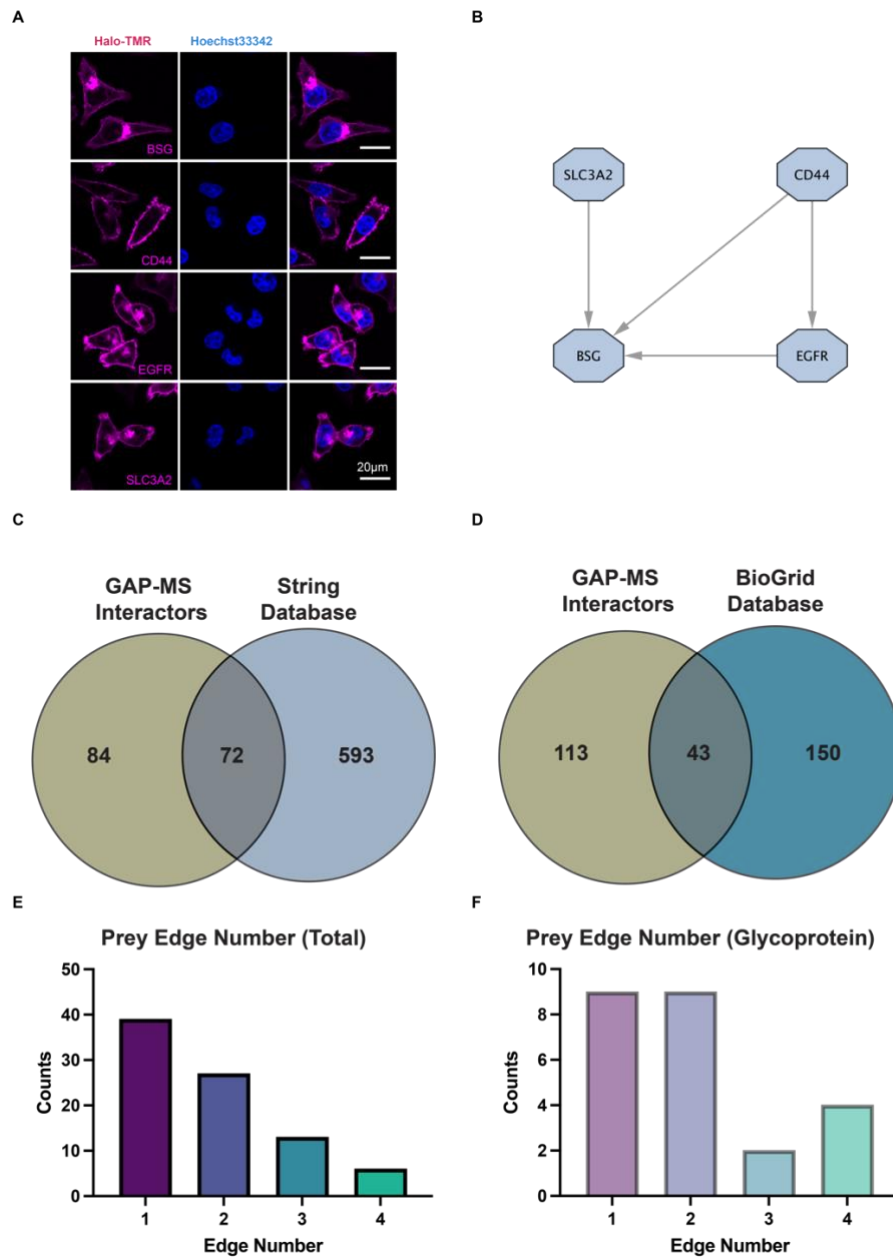
730 **Supplementary Figures**



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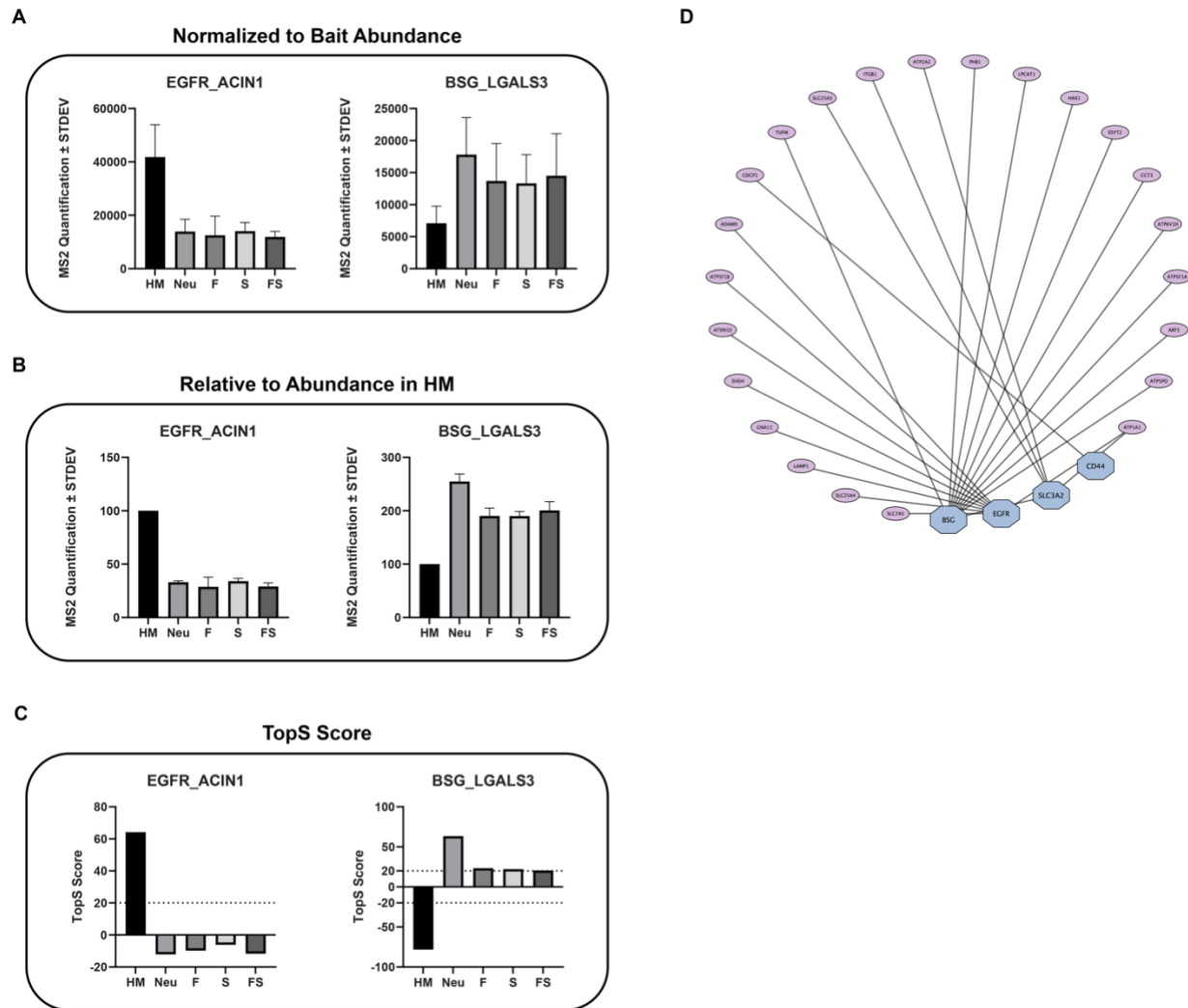
732 **Figure S1**

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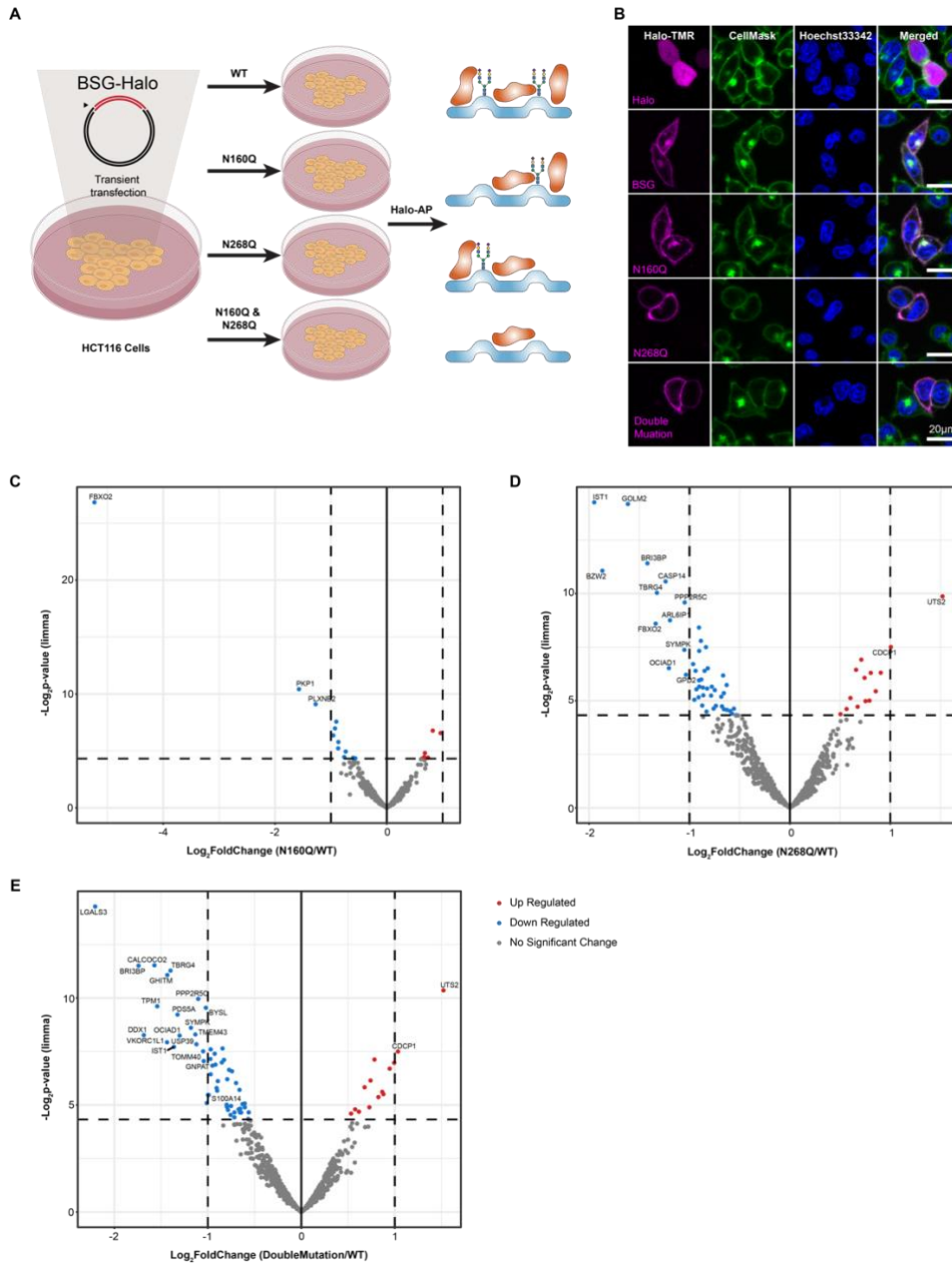
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735 **Figure S2**



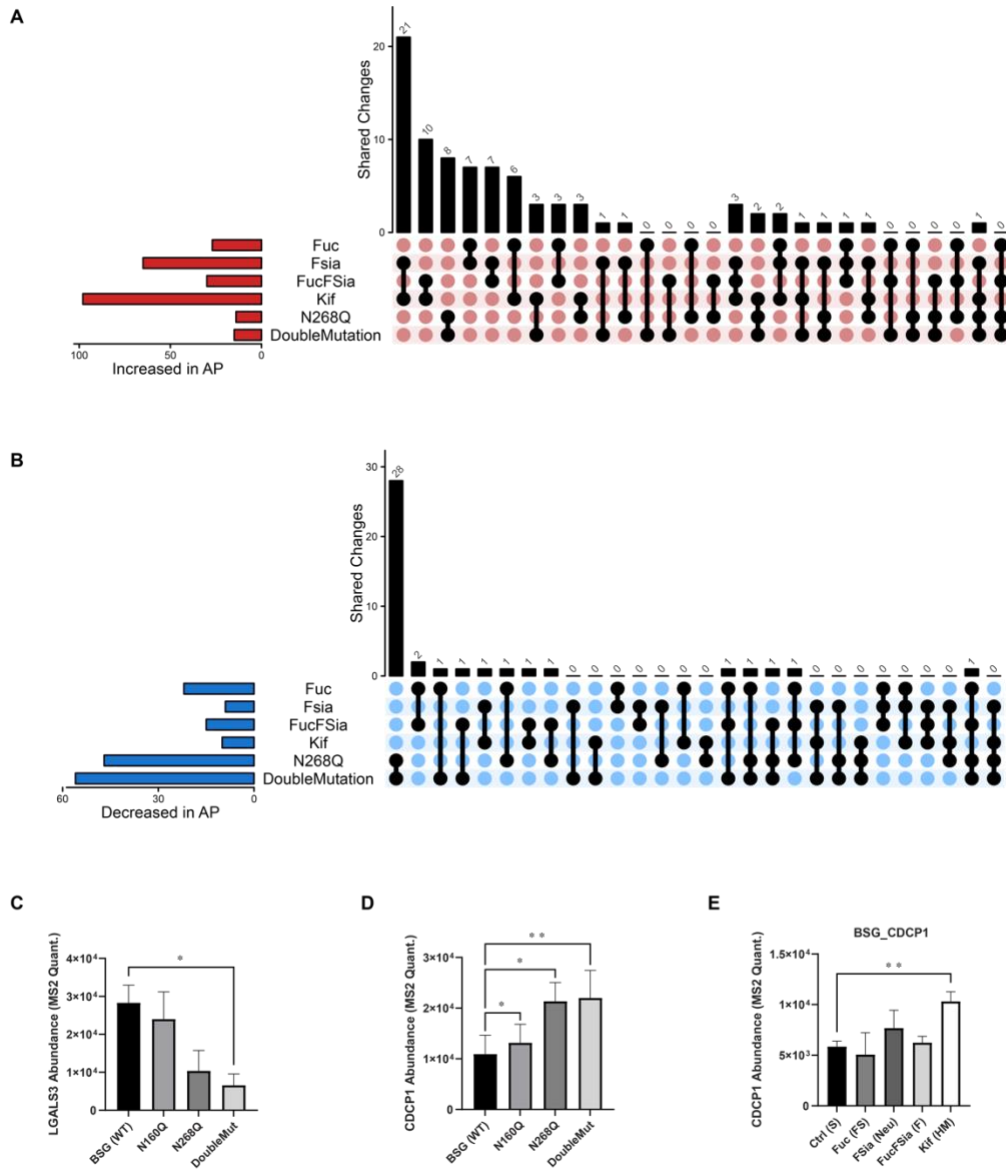
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737 **Figure S3**



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739 **Figure S4**



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741 **Figure S5**

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