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(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF E. COLI O18 BIOCONJUGATES

(57) Abstract: The invention pertains to host cells for producing a bioconjugate of an *E. coli* O18 antigen polysaccharide conjugated to a carrier protein. The host cells are characterized in that they comprise modified Wzy O-antigen polymerases with specific combinations of amino acid substitutions in one or more of positions 199, 377 and 395 as compared to the wild type Wzy O- antigen polymerase of SEQ ID NO: 1, which modified Wzy O-antigen polymerases improve the yield and glycosylation pattern of the O18 bioconjugates produced by the host cells. The invention further relates to methods wherein the host cells are used to produce a bioconjugate of an *E. coli* O18 antigen polysaccharide conjugated to a carrier protein, compositions comprising these bioconjugates, including multivalent compositions comprising bioconjugates of additional O antigen polysaccharide-serotypes.



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