

## Structural and large-scale analysis unveil the intertwined paths promoting NMT-catalyzed lysine and glycine myristoylation

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#### 25 ABSTRACT

26 N-myristoyltransferases (NMTs) catalyze protein myristoylation, a lipid modification crucial 27 for cell survival and a range of pathophysiological processes. Originally thought to modify only N-terminal glycine α-amino groups (G-myristoylation), NMTs were recently shown to 28 29 also modify lysine ε-amino groups (K-myristoylation). However, the clues ruling NMT-30 dependent K-myristoylation and the full range of targets are currently unknown. Here we 31 combine mass spectrometry, kinetic studies, *in silico* analysis, and crystallography to identify 32 the specific features driving each modification. We show that direct interactions between the 33 substrate's reactive amino group and the NMT catalytic base promote K-myristoylation but 34 with poor efficiency compared to G-myristoylation, which instead uses a water-mediated 35 interaction. We provide evidence of depletion of proteins with NMT-dependent K-36 myristoylation motifs in humans, suggesting evolutionary pressure to prevent this modification 37 in favor of G-myristoylation. In turn, we reveal that K-myristoylation may only result from 38 post-translational events. Our studies finally unravel the respective paths towards Kmyristoylation or G-myristoylation, which rely on a very subtle tradeoff embracing the 39 40 chemical landscape around the reactive group.

#### 42 INTRODUCTION

43 Myristoylation is an essential lipidation that adds a C:14:0 fatty acid to proteins in all eukaryotes including pathogens [1-5]. The lipid moiety anchors soluble proteins to membranes, 44 45 where they interact with partners to initiate signal transduction [6-8]. N-myristoyltransferases 46 (NMTs; glycylpeptide N-tetradecanoyltransferases) are the only enzyme class known to 47 catalyze myristoylation in eukaryotes and, given their central role in pathobiology, are 48 promising therapeutic targets [9-13]. NMTs were long thought to exclusively target proteins 49 with an N-terminal glycine (G-myristoylation) usually arising from co-translational methionine 50 excision [1, 14] or, less frequently, post-translational cleavage exposing new N-terminal 51 glycines [15, 16].

52

Myristoylation, as with other lipid acylations, is notoriously difficult to systematically map in 53 54 vivo due to its hydrophobicity, poor antigenicity, low abundance, and subcellular localization 55 [1]. Tools have been difficult to develop for these types of modifications, hampering progress 56 in the field for many years. Considering that NMT activity and specificity are mainly 57 influenced by the N-termini of substrate proteins, a combination of structural, proteomic, and 58 genome-wide approaches using short peptides has delivered an exhaustive list of substrates 59 undergoing co-translational G-myristoylation. The so-called G-myristoylated proteome, or 60 myristoylome [5], covers approximately 2% of the human proteome (~600 proteoforms [17, 18]). Additionally, high-resolution co-crystallography of human NMT1 with a number of 61 62 reactive substrates displaying an N-terminal Gly [19] has established a specific water channel 63 in NMT that provides a water-mediated bond (Wat2) between the N-terminal group of the Gstarting substrate and the C-terminal carboxy group (Q496) of NMT, which acts as the catalytic 64 65 base for deprotonation and further reactivity [1, 19]. These data have been instrumental in 66 revealing that, surprisingly, NMTs further support myristoylation of lysine side chains (K-67 myristoylation), suggesting that the range of known substrates could be even larger [19, 20]. 68 Of the two mammalian NMTs, NMT1 and NMT2, NMT1 appears to be the main driver of K-69 myristoylation, as its knockout (but not that of NMT2) inhibits the modification [20]. The mammalian small G-protein ARF6, which features a K at position 3 following an N-terminal 70 71 G at position 2 unmasked after the cleavage of the first M (position 1), is the only protein currently known to undergo both N-terminal G- and K-myristoylation [20]. These 72 73 modifications allow ARF6 to attach to plasma membranes when GTP is bound and permit K-74 myristoylation erasing by sirtuin deacylase 2 upon GTP hydrolysis. In this cycle, NMT ensures 75 the novel ARF6 K-myristoylation after GTP refueling via an exclusive post-translational 76 mechanism.

77

78 NMT-dependent G-myristoylation occurs on the  $\alpha$ -amino group of the target protein via an 79 amide bond, creating an extremely stable attachment in vivo and resistance to chemical 80 cleavage *in vitro* [21-23]. Accordingly, the G-myristoylation tag is thought to be unmovable 81 and permanent. However, the discovery of IpaJ, a pathogenic cysteine-dependent protease 82 produced by several disease-causing bacteria including *Shigella flexneri*, challenged this four 83 decade-old dogma [24]. In reality, IpaJ does not cleave the amide bond between myristate and 84 G but rather cleaves the first peptide bond beyond the N-terminal myristoylated glycine from 85 several proteins, leading to irreversible protein de-myristoylation. IpaJ relies on the presence 86 of a G-myristoylated group embedded within a small dipeptide as a minimal chassis [25], with strong specificity for C:14 chains over longer (C:16) or shorter (C:10) fatty acyl chains [25]. 87 88 Since this study predated the discovery of NMT-driven K-myristoylation, only a few IpaJ 89 substrates have been characterized [25, 26]. Critically, it is unknown whether IpaJ contributes 90 to the NMT-dependent K-myristoylated proteome during *Shigella* infection. Major challenges 91 in identifying and confirming the NMT-dependent K-myristoylated proteome include our lack
92 of knowledge about its extent, the clues ruling NMT-dependent K-myristoylation, and its
93 interplay with G-myristoylation. Whether there exist K-myristoylation targets not previously
94 G-myristoylated (unlike ARF6) is unknown.

95

96 Here we exploited systematic structural and extensive biochemical analyses and a novel pipeline involving the Shigella IpaJ protease to discriminate K- and G-myristoylation and 97 98 identify the specific features driving each modification. We provide evidence that direct 99 interactions between the substrate's reactive amino group and the NMT catalytic base 100 significantly slow K-myristoylation catalysis compared with G-myristoylation. Our studies 101 also reveal that NMT-dependent K-myristoylation can only involve lysines occurring at 102 positions 1, 2, or 3, likely arising from post-translational proteolytic cleavage. Our iterative 103 analyses unravel the respective paths towards K-myristoylation or G-myristoylation, which 104 rely on a very subtle tradeoff embracing the chemical landscape around the reactive group.

105

#### 106 **RESULTS**

#### 107 Nomenclature

In this study, amino acids are indicated using the three letter code (i.e.., Lys for K, Met for M, and Gly for G) when referring to a single residue. In peptide sequences, amino acids are referred to as their single letter codes. For consistency with previous works in which the initial M of any open reading frame (ORF) is the amino acid at position 1 (Met1), we number the subsequent amino acids of all peptides, including the G of myristoylated proteins, in ascending order (e.g., Gly2/G2).

# G-myristoylation predominates over K-myristoylation on N-terminal GK-starting peptides

116 There is now compelling evidence that myristoylation studied *in vitro* with octapeptides readily 117 translates to the *in vivo* context [1, 18] (Fig. S1). For instance, G-myristoylation of a full-length protein, the small RAB G-protein, is catalyzed with similar efficiency as the N-terminal 118 119 octapeptide [27]. This approach perfectly reflects the (i) co-translational and N-terminal nature 120 of the modification taking place on short, emerging polypeptide chains [28]; and (ii) seven 121 dedicated binding clefts in NMT (pockets 2-8 in Fig. 1a) accommodating peptide substrate 122 side-chains [17]. These peculiarities allow the definition of the N-terminal G-myristoylated 123 proteome based on the dogma that NMT-dependent myristoylation only occurs on glycines 124 [17]. However, there is a recent report of possible NMT-dependent myristoylation on a lysine 125 at position 3 [19, 20].

126

127 We previously reported a model peptide with a Lys3 (G2KSFSKPR; reference, GK) as an 128 efficient NMT substrate (Fig. 1b and Table 1). In light of this new NMT activity (K-129 myristoylation), we assessed which type of myristoylation (G- and/or K-) Homo sapiens 130 (Hs)NMT1 catalyzes on this peptide by MALDI-Tof-Tof including MS-MS (MS2). G-131 myristoylation was favored in the context of this model peptide, as evidenced by the identification of y7 ions characteristic of unmodified Lys3 only in MS2 spectra of the 132 133 myristoylated product (Data S1a and Table 1). We next wondered if all natural substrates from 134 human proteins starting with N-terminal GKs behave like the reference peptide. Therefore, we examined the myristoylation status of those proteins, including the six closely related members 135 136 of the HPCA/NCS1 family and ARF6 (GKVLSKIF). In all cases, we only unambiguously 137 detected G-myristoylation (Data S1 and Table 1), with catalytic efficiencies in the same range 138 as reported for the other sequences of the G-myristoylated proteome, as exemplified by the 139 SOS3 peptide (GCSVSKKK, Fig. 1b). Moreover, the catalytic parameters measured with the 140 ARF6 octapeptide were identical to those previously obtained with the full-length GTP-bound 141 reactive protein [29], further validating the relevance of using short peptides. Remarkably, 142 most N-terminal GK-starting proteins harbored the S6K7 motif, which is known to facilitate 143 G-myristoylation [30]. Indeed, it was recently shown that the salt bridges of Lys7 with the three 144 contiguous Ds of the NMT Ab-loop promote the movement of the Ab-loop from an open to a 145 closed conformation (SuppFig.7 in [19]), favoring catalysis through distortion of the MyrCoA 146 thioester bond in the closed conformation and facilitating transition to the tetrahedral state.

147

148 A new crystal structure of HsNMT1 with a peptide corresponding to the N-terminus of HPCA 149 (G2KQNSKLR) confirmed G-myristoylation as the reaction product (Fig. 1a,c,d), as 150 previously also observed with NCS1 (G2KSNSKLK; [17]). The crystal structure revealed that 151 the Lys3 side chain buried tightly in pocket 3 of NMT and that its positive charge bonded the 152 catalytic base (Fig. 1c). Full occupation of pocket 3 with Lys3 slightly displaced the reactive 153 alpha amino group of Gly2 from the MyrCoA thioester group whilst retaining the Wat2 154 interaction of the reactive N-terminal  $\alpha$ -amino group required for G-myristoylation [19] (Fig. 155 1c,d).

156

To examine whether GK-starting proteins have the same recognition rules as those in the G[^K] context (where ^K means any amino acid other than Lys) [17], we analyzed HsNMT1's capacity to acylate N-terminal peptide variants derived from NCS1. G-myristoylation only occurred when Lys7 was changed into Gly or Ser6 into Ala, although HsNMT1's catalytic efficiency significantly decreased (**Table S1** and **Data S1**). The roles of Ser6 in substrate binding and Lys7 in the MyrCoA binding-induced conformational switch of the conserved flexible acidic Ab-loop of NMT are expected to be similar to those already reported for proteins 164 starting with G[^K] [19]. We next assessed whether modifying the side-chain length but 165 retaining the basic character of the primary amino group at position 7 impacted the 166 myristoylation type. Shortening the basic side chain of residue 7 to ornithine (Orn, reduced by 167 one CH<sub>2</sub>) or di-amino butyrate (Dab, reduced by two CH<sub>2</sub>s) had little impact on G-168 myristoylation (Table S1), suggesting maintenance of the salt bridge with the Ab-loop. Further 169 shortening to di-amino propionate (Dap, short basic chain CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>) or removal of the basic 170 character with homocysteine (Hcy) significantly reduced catalytic efficiency but still promoted 171 only G-myristoylation (Table S1 and Data S1).

172

173 To obtain further insights into the overall rules governing NMT-mediated G-myristoylation 174 independent of Gly at position 2, we substituted G2 with an Ala and Lys3 with an Asn 175 (A2NCFSKPR; AN) in the reference peptide to prevent K-myristoylation. Surprisingly, AN 176 was  $\alpha$ -myristoylated, as shown by both MS and crystallographic analyses (Fig. S2a, Data S1 177 and Table 1). However, catalytic data indicated that the substrate was very inefficiently modified by NMT (Fig. 1b), and the crystal structure of AN confirmed that the active site was 178 179 mainly filled with a methyl addition, improperly orientating the reactive amino group, in 180 agreement with the very reduced catalytic efficiency. To decipher whether an Ala resulted in significant A-myristoylation in another sequence context, we substituted Gly2 with Ala in 181 182 G2SSVSKKK (SOS3 series), which was not myristoylated, clearly indicating that the S6K7 183 motif was insufficient for reactivity in the Ala2 context. In all cases, the Gly2Ala substitution 184 dramatically reduced acylation but still led to myristoylation of the N-terminal  $\alpha$  group of Ala, 185 like in G-myristoylation. We therefore wondered whether the strong hindrance to the active 186 site promoted by the additional methyl chain of Ala was similar if this group was grafted 187 directly onto the N-terminus starting with G. Indeed, the N-methyl-GN peptide (meGN, meG is an isomer of A) led to very poor G-myristoylation efficiency (**Fig. 1b**, **Table 1**). Furthermore, the crystal structure of HsNMT1 in complex with meGN revealed that the methyl rotated the side chain of Asn3 around C $\alpha$ 3, which was orientated towards the catalytic base. Conversely, the methylated N-terminus was positioned in pocket 3 (**Fig. S2b,c**), explaining the low performance of this substrate for G-myristoylation. Therefore, any subtle modification around Gly2 protrudes aa2 into pocket 3, resulting in aa3 oriented in pocket 2 at the catalytic center [19]

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Together, these data indicated that GK-starting peptides led to G-myristoylation, which relied 196 197 on Gly2 and the S6K7 motif. In the Lys3 context, S6K7 was crucial for G-myristoylation, 198 consistent with previous reports suggesting strong dependence of G-myristoylation on Lys3 199 and Lys7 [20, 31]. However, considering that the N-termini of transmembrane proteins 200 T106A/B (GKSLSHLP, GKTFSQLG) were unambiguously NMT substrates (Fig. 1b and 201 Table 1) despite the absence of Lys7, the deduced motif for G-myristoylation with Lys3 was 202 GKXXSX (Fig. 1e). We noticed that both T106A/B harbored a highly hydrophobic residue at 203 position 5 (L and F, respectively), another feature favoring G-myristoylation [17, 30], probably 204 compensating for the absence of Lys7 and leading to efficient G-myristoylation. In addition, both ARF6 and GK, efficiently myristoylated peptides, possessed a hydrophobic residue at 205 206 position 5 (Fig. 1b). So, consistent with its positive role, permutation of positions 4 and 5 in 207 the GK background (GKFS) significantly reduced myristoylation efficiency (Fig. 1b). 208 Consistent with the aforementioned data, the N-terminal peptide (GKRGSRSQ) of the U3 209 small nucleolar RNA-associated protein 25 homolog UTP25, which displayed only Ser6 out of 210 the three major determinants for GK G-myristoylation, was an extremely poor NMT substrate 211 (Table 1). This dramatic effect observed despite the presence of a positively charged residue 212 (Arg) at position 7 indicated that absence of Lys7 could only be properly overcome by a
213 hydrophobic residue at position 5, like in T106A/B (motif GKX[FLYW]S[HQR].

214

#### 215 Lys3 myristoylation of N-acetylated peptides with the S6K7 motif

216 In apparent contradiction to the above results, the GK-starting protein ARF6 was recently 217 shown to accept K-myristoylation in vivo [20] if the Gly2 α-amino group was blocked due to 218 previous N-acetylation (ac) or G-myristoylation. We therefore examined any modification 219 around the reactive G2 amino group allowing K-myristoylation of the ARF6 and/or GK-220 starting peptides. As expected, ac of the two G-starting peptides led to Lys3 side chain 221 myristoylation (Fig. 2a, Table 2 and Data S1). When the Lys side chain was shortened to Orn, 222 in the context of N-acetylated peptides, side chain myristoylation was still observed at position 3 (Fig. 2a). The catalytic efficiencies of the *ac* series were two orders of magnitude lower than 223 224 those of G-myristoylation (**Tables 1-2**), with the catalytic constant ( $k_{cat}$ ) accounting for most 225 of the  $k_{cat}/K_m$  decrease in both cases. This suggested that the affinity provided by the peptide 226 core was similar but that the catalysis had a limiting step.

227

228 The crystal structures of HsNMT1 in complex with acG[Orn] or an acGN non-reactive 229 derivative were obtained and compared with the acGK variant. In both cases, there was rotation 230 around the C $\alpha$  of the aa3 side chain (C $\alpha$ 3), as expected from the *ac* addition. The acG group 231 moved to pocket 3, and the aa3 side chain contacted the catalytic base (Fig. S3a-d). The Lys 232 side chain of acGK bonded directly with the C-terminal catalytic base of NMT, unlike the G-233 myristoylation mechanism, which involves a water-mediated bond (Fig. 1c,d). acG[Orn] led 234 to a weaker salt bridge with the catalytic base than acGK as the distance was increased from 235 3.1 to 3.6 Å (**Fig. S3e**). Nevertheless, the associated side chain myristoylation mechanism still 236 involved direct interaction between the catalytic base and the ammonium group of Orn, like 237 with acGK (Fig. S3c-f). Further reduction to Dab dramatically decreased side chain 238 myristoylation (Fig. 2a, Data S1 and Table 2). Therefore, tight direct binding of the side chain 239 reactive amino group to the catalytic base most likely explains effective but slower Kmyristoylation compared with G-myristoylation. Finally, we challenged the importance of the 240 241 nature of the residues of the S6K7 motif by replacing each of them with an Ala in two different 242 peptides in the acGK context (peptides A6 and A7). In each case, myristoylation was no longer 243 measurable compared with acGK (Table 2). This indicates that the SK motif is a crucial motif 244 allowing significant K-myristoylation. Though identical to the positive role displayed for G-245 myristoylation, the S6K7 motif becomes mandatory for K-myristoylation because of the poor 246 reaction efficiency.

247

# Side-chain myristoylation at Lys3 is preferred over N-terminal α-myristoylation when the N-terminal residue is not Gly

250 The above data indicate that the torsion angle psi ( $\psi$ ) at Ca3 tends to rotate by 180° (**Fig. 1e**) 251 and embed the N-terminal group into pocket 3 provided any change in Gly2. If aa3 displays an 252 amino group (e.g., Lys3), it becomes reactive and promotes K-myristoylation. This suggests 253 that the strong negative effect of the Gly2Ala substitution might favor K-myristoylation in the 254 presence of Lys3. To test this hypothesis, we examined Gly2Ala N-terminus versions of the 255 neuron-specific calcium-binding protein HPCA (A-HPCA), ARF6 (A-ARF6), and other GK 256 variants (AK), which all feature a Lys3. Crystallographic and/or MS analysis of AK and A-257 HPCA showed K-myristoylation (Fig. 2b-e and Table 2), while data on A-ARF6 were less 258 clear (Data S1). The K-myristoylation catalytic efficiencies with both AK and A-ARF6 were 259 of the same order of magnitude as the acetylated versions of the corresponding variants. In 260 contrast, the efficiency associated to A-HPCA was two orders of magnitude lower (Table 2). 261 Therefore, a Lys side chain was preferred over  $\alpha$ -amino myristoylation provided that a side 262 chain (e.g., methyl of Ala) was grafted onto the reactive residue at the first amino acid and it 263 was not Gly. The crystal structure of AK complexed with HsNMT1 (Fig. 2b,c) showed that the Lys3 side chain bonded to the C-terminal catalytic base (Gln496) and to Thr282 and the 264 265 Ala2 side chain buried in pocket 3. Again, direct bonding to the catalytic base likely explains 266 the reduced K-myristoylation catalytic efficiency compared with that of the G-myristoylation, 267 which involves water-mediated bonding of the different GK N-termini. The lower  $K_m$  of the 268 acG derivatives are most likely related to additional interactions of the entire Ala2 chain in 269 pocket 3 (Fig. 2b).

270

271 We next interrogated the human proteome to discover possible K-myristoylation targets 272 featuring AKXXSK immediately following a Met start residue (Met1). Only tuberin (TSC2; 273 P49815; Data S2a) was identified, but no myristoylation was observed with the corresponding 274 peptide derivative (AKPTSKDS; **Table 2**), likely due to the Pro4 residue inducing a local 275 conformational kink disfavoring both G- and K-myristoylation by misaligning S6K7 with the 276 reactive amino upstream group. The absence of a hydrophobic side chain at residue 5 (similar 277 to A-HPCA vs A-ARF6 or AK) might also explain this phenomenon, as also noted above for 278 G-myristoylation.

279

We next examined whether non-Gly N-termini other than Ala might also lead to Kmyristoylation by replacing the N-terminal Gly2 of the GK peptide with Met, Ser, and Pro. Kmyristoylation occurred in all cases, with catalytic efficiencies inversely proportional to side chain length (**Fig. 2a**, **Table 2** and **Data S1**). We concluded that the nature of the N-terminal residue was a major determinant guiding N-terminal K-myristoylation, provided that aa3

285 harbored a proximal acceptor group (Fig. 2f). Due to improper positioning of the N-terminal 286 amino group, any non-G-starting peptides with the S6K7 motif may be modified by NMT but 287 with extremely poor catalytic efficiencies several orders of magnitude lower than the 288 corresponding Gly derivative. A Lys3 downstream of any amino acid but Gly at position 2 289 permitted K-myristoylation with small but significant catalytic efficiencies (Table 2). Higher 290 efficiencies were possible when the peptide context was favorable, as with AK and A-ARF6 291 peptides (this work and [20]). Remarkably, both peptides featured a bulky, hydrophobic, 292 favorable residue at position 5 (Phe or Leu, respectively). Finally, interrogation of proteome 293 data libraries indicated that no protein with A2 (i.e., originating from M1 excision) was likely 294 to undergo K3-myristoylation in the human proteome.

295

Taken together, our *in vitro* data reveal that K-myristoylation does not require a given side chain of the first amino acid. The data also show significantly lower catalytic efficiencies compared with G-myristoylation (**Table 2**). This suggests that K-myristoylation relies on position 5-7 residues for optimal catalysis. Therefore, the [^G]KX[FL]SK motif emerges as the determinant of K-myristoylation (where ^X means any residue but X). Any non-Gly2 side chains appear to privilege pocket 3 binding, preventing their reactivity and ensuring high specificity for Gly2 undergoing G-myristoylation.

303

# 304 Mining the human proteome reveals that K-myristoylation may solely arise from a post 305 translational event

In the human proteome, 7548 hits harbored a KXXSK motif (Data S2a) corresponding to 2831
unique entries with 3615 sites in 6764 proteoforms (14-15% of the proteome). 572 sequences
displayed Phe or Leu at position 3, like in ARF6 or the GK peptide. Among the 20 unique

309 sequences with translation start sites at positions 1 or 2 (i.e., arising from cotranslational N-310 Met removal rules), 10 of the 15 known G-myristoylated N-termini starting with GK were 311 found [17] plus ten additional sequences, most not comprising Phe or Leu4. As a result, this 312 second small subset featuring proteins starting with Ala (TSC2), Phe (EVPL), Lys (ANR26, 313 FA71D), Met (CHD8, GXLT2, SIM1/2), Arg (RAB20), and Thr (LRC59) was very unlikely 314 to undergo K-myristoylation. This was demonstrated for TSC2, which displays the most 315 favorable context with its N-terminal Ala, the smallest residue of the subset (Table 2). In the 316 G-starting subset undergoing G-myristoylation, only ARF6 displayed the important 317 hydrophobic position at position 4, making it the best target for dual G- and K-myristoylation. 318 The other 3595 sequences corresponded to internal sequences starting beyond codon 3, and 319 285 were preceded by a Gly, suggesting large scope for post-translational G-myristoylation in 320 this subset. Post-translational myristoylation, however, requires prior unmasking by proteolytic 321 cleavage provided before the first XK. Indeed, a number of K-myristoylation sites among the 322 543 [^G]KX[FL]SK internal sequences were preceded by a loose motif recapitulating known 323 G-myristoylated caspase-induced substrates ([1]; **Data S2b-c**).

324

325 We next mined the human proteome for caspase 3 cleavage sites (see motifs as defined at 326 http://elm.eu.org/elms/CLV\_C14\_Caspase3-7 [32]; Data S3). This more restrictive and robust 327 motif [DSTE][^P][^DEWHFYC]D[GSAN] described and encompassed most known caspase-328 induced cleavages including those generating G-myristoylation sites (Data S3a). In addition, 329 caspase 3 leads to neo-protein N-termini showing not only G but also A, S, and T, which are 330 compatible with either G- or K-myristoylation (Figs 1e, 2f). The best candidates for G-331 myristoylation are displayed in **Data S3b**, and all possible K-myristoylation sites are displayed 332 in **Data S3c**. There were only a few putative primary K-myristoylation sites following non-G 333 residues and none displayed the optimal motif (**Data S3d**). Further data analysis and filtering 334 (Data S3e) revealed only a couple of putative secondary K-myristoylation sites following G335 starting sequences as in ARF6 (NUF2, TCOF; Data S3f).

336

337 Of all the known myristoylated proteins resulting from post-translational myristoylation, the 338 only GK-starting G-myristoylated protein was RNA-binding protein FUS, which displays a 339 non-canonical caspase 3 motif (DWFDGK). When extracting a subset with the motif including a Phe at position 2 behind GK, none of the 5 retrieved proteins - including FUS - displayed the 340 341 optimal motif for K-myristoylation (Data S3e). A similar survey performed with the caspase 342 6 motif ([VLIT][EDQ][^DENQRKAPGS]D[ASGMP]) - which retrieved a couple of 343 additional G-myristoylated post-translational proteins including the pro-apoptotic protein BID 344 and the interleukin enhancer-binding factor 3 (ILF3) - led to the same conclusion (Data S4).

345

We conclude that K-myristoylation catalyzed by NMT most likely results from a (i) secondary myristoylation, as in the case of ARF6 and at most affecting some of the 10 G-myristoylated proteins displaying Lys3 and Ser6Lys7, and/or (ii) cleavage by proteases other than caspases. In both cases, the associated K-myristoylation mechanism is post-translational and we obtained no evidence for cotranslational K-myristoylation in the human proteome.

351

#### 352 Myristoylation may occur on Lys4

We next wondered whether extending the amino acid sequence upstream of the reactive Lys might lead to K-myristoylation, provided that a two-amino acid spacer between the accepting K and the S6K7 motif was retained. We therefore grafted an extra N-terminal Ala or Gly to the GK peptide (A- or G-GKSFSKP; AGK or GGK) and checked whether HsNMT1 could acylate the Lys at position 4. K-myristoylation of both was assessed by either MS or crystallography

(Table 2,e, Supplementary Fig 4, and Supplementary Figure 5a). K-myristoylation was as 358 359 efficient with these A/G-grafted peptides as with the acG peptides (Fig. 2a and Table 2). We 360 concluded that the pocket usually hosting residue 3 could host a dipeptide moiety as large as 361 AG, provided that a close and available Lys-reactive side chain was properly spaced from the 362 crucial S6K7 motif. We noted that, with five bonds and a positive charge, a Lys side chain was 363 the most bulky moiety tolerated in NMT pocket 3 for G-myristoylation. With seven bonds, the 364 AG backbone was much bulkier than K but still promoted K-myristoylation (Fig. 2f). To 365 establish whether larger chains would make K-myristoylation possible, we examined large, 366 poorly-branched N-terminal grafts larger than GG or AG (AcGGK, AcGGGK, AcGGGGK, 367 and AcGGGGGK with 9, 12, 15, and 18 bonds, respectively) upstream of Lys3 in the GK 368 series. With AcGGK and AcGGGK, there was unequivocal K-myristoylation by MALDI 369 analysis (Data S1). K-myristoylation catalytic efficiency progressively decreased with 370 increasing chain length to very low values, and K-myristoylation was not detected for 371 AcGGGGK or AcGGGGGK (Table 2). The crystal structure obtained with the GGK derivative 372 showed that the GG chain was fully buried in pocket 3 and propelled the main backbone peptide 373 chain into a more remote location at  $C\alpha 3$  (**Fig. S5a,b**); there was also a greater distance between 374 the reactive K amino group and both the catalytic base and T282. The 7-bond GG or AG chain 375 corresponded to the bulkiest chains accepted by pocket 3 for efficient K-myristoylation (Fig. 376 **2f**).

377

We concluded that to allow K-myristoylation, the [^G]KX[FL]SK motif may be associated with a one amino acid extension or *ac* at the N-terminus, provided that an *ad hoc* proteolytic cellular machinery can produce such extremities. In addition, one dozen internal XXKXXSK K-myristoylation motifs were noted in the human proteome displaying an upstream classic caspase cleavage site (**Data S2d**). Only one of the six protein components of the signal recognition particle complex, SRP54, displayed a putative K-myristoylation site upon caspase
3 cleavage (**Data S3h**).

385

386 With the knowledge that Lys4 may be reactive in the context of a G2XK4 derivative, we next 387 assessed whether Gly2- and Lys4-myristoylation could compete within the same protein. For 388 this, we first altered the G-myristoylation S6K7 motif of the GK peptide by introducing an additional Ser between Ser6 and Lys7, pushing the Lys back to position 8 389 390 (G2G3K4F5S6S7K8PR). The resulting peptide therefore featured two overlapping 391 myristoylation motifs separated by a two amino acid spacer, one for modification of the  $\alpha$ -392 group of G2, relying on motif S6S7, and a second on the  $\varepsilon$ -amino of Lys4, relying on motif 393 S7K8. This modification reduced the catalytic efficiency compared with the GK peptide (Table 394 1). Furthermore, the MS2 spectra of the 1173 Da myristoylated product evidenced only a major 395 G-myristoylation product, as unambiguous characteristic b2, y7, and y8 ions were identified 396 (Fig. S6a,b; Data S1). Nevertheless, we could not exclude the possibility of K-myristoylation, 397 as associated prototypic K-myristoylation ions could be identified at intensities lower than the 398 threshold. Therefore, other experimental approaches were required to assess for simultaneous 399 K-myristoylation.

400

### 401 The IpaJ protease as a tool to unravel ε-myristoylation

The above data indicate that, whatever the context, G-myristoylation appears to be systematically favored over K-myristoylation when in competition. This implies that Kmyristoylation is unlikely to originate from a co-translational event, as myristoylation of human proteins on residue 2 appears to be promoted solely on sequences featuring Gly2. To date, two physiological proteolytic processes have been shown to impact myristoylation,

407 caspases and IpaJ proteolytic cleavage, and indeed several internal K-myristoylation sites like
408 in SRP54 may arise from caspase cleavage. Therefore, we decided to assess conditions
409 favoring possible post-translational K-myristoylation.

410

The virulence factor IpaJ from *Shigella flexneri* is a cysteine protease that specifically recognizes the myristoyl (Myr)-G moiety of several human proteins *in vivo* [26]. As a result of its activity on Myr-G-peptides (**Fig. S7a**), IpaJ is predicted to induce a 267 Da shift (Myr-Gly product) in MALDI MS spectra. Since it cleaves off G-myristoylation sites, we anticipated that IpaJ - provided it specifically processes any G-myristoylated peptide – could be used to unravel unambiguous and undiscovered K-myristoylation modification sites.

417

418 The S. flexneri IpaJ gene was cloned and the protein overexpressed and purified to 419 homogeneity (Fig. S7b,c). An inactive variant (IpaJ-C64S) was also produced as a control. 420 Under specific conditions (Fig. S7d), IpaJ was sufficient to cleave off the G-myristoylated 421 moiety from any tested peptide in vitro, unlike IpaJ-C64S (Fig. S8a,b,c). Additionally, IpaJ 422 was inactive on an N-acetylated G-peptide, an Ala2-myristoylated peptide, and a Lys3-423 myristoylated peptide derived from ARF6 (Fig. S8d and Tables S2-3). Due to its unique and 424 high specificity for G-myristoylation and the observed complete cleavage of any G-425 myristoylated peptide, we concluded that IpaJ could be used as a powerful tool to distinguish 426 G-myristoylation from K-myristoylation and, additionally, investigate IpaJ-dependent post-427 translational K-myristoylation.

428

429 We therefore established an IpaJ pipeline that determined the myristoylation type of any 430 peptide subjected to NMT (**Fig. 3a**). The workflow faithfully reproduced the sequence of 431 events occurring in the context of cellular IpaJ activity. As proof-of-concept, a dozen peptides were carefully chosen for their sequence diversity and ability to undergo G-myristoylation
(Fig. S9a,b; see ARF6 in Fig. S10). Combined with previous data [25], IpaJ efficiently cleaved
any G-myristoylated peptide regardless of the sequence downstream of the Gly residue (Fig.
S9c).

436

437 Taking the double myristoylation of ARF6 at both the N-terminus of Gly2 and the side chain of Lys3 into account [20], we used the IpaJ pipeline to assess double myristoylation of other 438 439 GK-starting NMT substrates. We identified dual myristoylation of only a peptide derived from 440 the calcium sensor family HPCA/HPCL1/NCALD at T2 (Fig. 3b; Fig. S11). Finally, double 441 myristoylation was not observed with other closely related substrates of HPCA in the same 442 NCS1 family of calcium sensors sharing the GK motif (Data S1). We cannot exclude that the 443 extremely high hydrophobicity of such acylated products prevented their crystallization in the 444 matrix and consequently their identification. Myristoyl-Gly cleavage by IpaJ at T2 contributes 445 to decrease the overall hydrophobicity and may help to reveal double myristoylation.

446

#### 447 Competition between G- and K-myristoylation

448 With the IpaJ/NMT pipeline in hand, we next examined the ambiguous myristoylation state of 449 the GGKFSSKPR peptide. At T1, MS2 analysis unambiguously revealed G-myristoylation as 450 a product (Fig. S6b). At T2 (i.e., after incubation with NMT and IpaJ), both an uncleaved 451 myristoylated peptide and a shorter, 267 Da peptide resulting from G-myristoylation cleavage 452 were identified (T2, 1173 and 906 Da ions Fig. S6c). There was also unambiguous and unique 453 K-myristoylation at Lys4 of the GGKFSSKPR peptide at T3 (1059 Da ion, Extended Data 454 4c,d). IpaJ, therefore, decomplexed the 1173 Da ion observed at T1 and evidenced K-455 myristoylation within this ion, which was otherwise only barely visible (Fig. S6b, Data S1a).

456

457 Interestingly, the IpaJ product of G-myristovlation of this peptide started with GK to form 458 GKFSSKPR (GKFS), which displayed reduced myristoylation efficiency (Fig. 1b). This 459 peptide could be further myristoylated at T3 to produce a 1116 Da form. MS2 analysis revealed 460 K-myristoylation at the N-terminal Lys3 of this peptide (Fig. S6d). To obtain a simpler set of 461 products for the pipeline, we further characterized the myristoylation profile of GKFS in the 462 IpaJ workflow (Fig. 3c,d,e). Though clearly myristoylated at T1 (1116 Da ion), the type of 463 myristoylation could not be deciphered by MS2 (Data S1). The 849 Da ion at T2 revealed that 464 part of the 1116 ion corresponded to G-myristoylation of the peptide. MS/MS data of the 1116 465 ion remaining on part of the peptide at T3 showed that it had undergone K-myristoylation. We 466 speculated that the GKFS-starting peptide displayed a double identity for G- and K-467 myristoylation due to the bulky residue at position 4 (Phe) and a small residue at position 5 468 (Ser). We hypothesized that while a spacer is mandatory for both myristoylation types, either 469 myristoylation might be favored depending on as yet unknown amino acid requirements 470 occurring in that spacer (i.e., aa4-5, the two residues switched in the GK series). This is likely, 471 as both pockets 4 and 5 are large enough to accommodate all side chains [17], so some 472 combinations could favor K-myristoylation in a GK-starting context.

473

We found no straightforward natural chassis in human sequences starting with a Gly2 that led to competition between K- and G-myristoylation and a systematic preference for Gmyristoylation in sequences originating from co-translational myristoylation. When we applied the IpaJ pipeline to GK-starting peptides derived from the human G-myristoylated proteome and exploited its enhanced sensitivity to detect K-myristoylation, we observed that most displayed the myristoylated peptide at T3 after IpaJ cleavage (**Table S3**). Therefore, there was competition between G- and K-myristoylation on GK-starting peptides. Furthermore, none of 481 these peptides displayed a hydrophobic residue at position 4, explaining why the K-482 myristoylation/G-myristoylation ratio was smaller than with the GKFS peptide and why 483 prototypic K-myristoylation ions were not detected in MS2 spectra. Nevertheless, as 484 myristoylation can also arise from post-translational addition, provided that a cleavage 485 generates a new K-accepting site, competition favoring K-myristoylation is likely. Indeed, as 486 noted above, hundreds of internal proteins displayed a Phe/Leu4 profile (Data S2a; see 487 columns aa3, Phe3, and Leu3 corresponding to this position, as all sequences start at the 488 cleavage site and not the unprocessed M1).

489

In conclusion, a Gly at the N-terminus of peptides with GKFXSK motifs might sustain
competition between K- and G-myristoylation. These data also indicate that the KXXSK motif
– not only [^G]KX[FL]SK – is indicative of K-myristoylation independent of the residue
preceding the K.

494

#### 495 IpaJ reveals that K-myristoylation may also occur on free or acetylated Lys1

496 When the IpaJ/NMT pipeline was applied to either the myristoylated GGKFSSKPR or the 497 GKFSSKPR peptides (see above and Fig. 4a), IpaJ-induced cleavage of this reaction product 498 also led to myristoylation of an unexpected K-starting peptide resulting from reiterated G-499 myristoylation IpaJ cleavage of each new G-myristoylation product. Although we could not 500 distinguish alpha and epsilon myristoylation on this K-starting peptide, its side-chain 501 myristoylation was expected. Indeed, taking into account the S6K7 clamping of the peptide at 502 the peptide-binding site, 3D molecular modeling indicated that the N-terminal free amino 503 group would be too distant from the catalytic base to promote  $\alpha$ -myristoylation. To test the 504 hypothesis of K-myristoylation, we first prepared an acetylated (i.e., N- $\alpha$ -blocked) derivative

505 of the GK peptide starting with K3 (acK). In the presence of MyrCoA and NMT, this peptide 506 was myristoylated with a catalytic efficiency similar to the previously tested peptides (Fig. 2a, 507 Table 2). An acetylated (i.e., N-alpha-blocked) derivative of a peptide with the aa4-5 spacer 508 shortened to only one residue was no longer myristoylated, as expected (acK $\Delta$ S, Table 2). 509 Finally, we checked that such Lys-starting peptides derived from the GK (K) and HPCA 510 chassis (K-HPCA) underwent K-myristoylation (Fig. 2a, Table 2). The crystal structure of the 511 complex between NMT and an acK derivative revealed two alternative structures, both of which supported a K-myristoylation mechanism involving direct interaction between the Lys 512 513 side chain and the catalytic base (Fig. 4b). The group around  $C\alpha 3$  could be retrieved in two 514 opposite directions: the first showed the *ac* group entering either pocket 3 mimicking an Asn 515 side chain (Fig. 4c) while the overall active site positioning mimicked that observed with GK; 516 and the second revealed the *ac* moiety occupying part of pocket 4, which was large enough to 517 host two moieties (i.e., ac and Ser4 in acK) from the same peptide (Fig. 4b,c, right). We 518 concluded that side chain myristoylation can also occur on an N-terminal lysine (Lys1) 519 regardless of acetylation status. Lys1 myristoylation might result from post-translational 520 proteolytic cleavages such as those induced by IpaJ during Shigella infection.

521

522 Substitution of the Ser6 into Ala of the IpaJ cleavage product of NCS1 prevented K-523 myristoylation. This reinforces the conclusion of the strict requirement for the S6K7 motif to 524 achieve K-myristoylation (**Table 2**). The similar change with the Gly-starting NCS1 variant 525 also revealed a dramatic decrease but not fully abolished G-myristoylation (**Table S1**). This 526 confirmed the overlap of the recognition motifs for both myristoylation types.

We next interrogated the 15 GK starting peptides derived from different human proteins using the IpaJ pipeline (**Table S3**). As noted above, because they mostly resulted in Gmyristoylation, all of them are likely to generate Lys1 N-termini after IpaJ cleavage. **Fig. S11** summarizes such behavior with HPCA. As expected, there was evidence of K-myristoylation at T3, further indicating that all such peptides might undergo K-myristoylation after IpaJ cleavage (**Data S1**). We conclude that all GK-starting proteins might undergo posttranslational K-myristoylation after IpaJ cleavage.

- 535
- 536

#### 537 **DISCUSSION**

538 N-myristoyltransferases (NMT), also known as glycylpeptide N-tetradecanoyltransferases (EC 539 2.3.1.97; see BRENDA resource [33]), are the only enzymes known to catalyze N-540 myristoylation in eukaryotes [5]. This modification mostly occurs co-translationally and 541 involves the transfer of a lipid (myristate) to the  $\alpha$ -amino group of the N-terminal amino group 542 of G-starting proteins exposed mainly by the prior action of methionine aminopeptidases 543 (MetAP) at the ribosome. NMT, if unbound to the ribosome, can also act post-translationally 544 on proteolytically-processed folded proteins. For a long time, all known post-translational 545 targets of NMTs were associated with proteolytic cleavages induced by caspases during apoptosis [16, 34-39]. Both human NMTs (NMT1 and NMT2) undergo caspase-3 cleavage, 546 547 which removes their N-terminal ribosome binding motif [40], decreasing co-translational 548 activity and strengthening their post-translational properties. To date, caspases - mostly caspase 549 3 and to a lesser extent caspase 6 [18] - are the only proteases known to promote post-550 translational myristoylation. This apoptosis-induced post-translational G-myristoylation subset now comprises a couple of dozen protein targets, while there are hundreds of putative sites in 551

552 the human proteome [5, 18]. The physiological relevance of apoptosis-induced post-553 translational myristoylation of these targets is still unclear, except for the BH3-interacting 554 domain death agonist cBID [34]. Whether post-translational myristoylation exists under 555 constitutive or inducible physiological conditions other than apoptosis is unknown, as are the 556 possible proteases other than caspases involved. If this non-apoptotic post-translational 557 myristoylation exists, the major NMT (NMT1), the only NMT expressed in cells in different 558 truncated versions (some devoid of the ribosome binding domain) under standard physiological 559 conditions, likely fulfills this housekeeping post-translational activity [5].

560

561 Recent crystal structures of NMTs co-crystallized with G-starting substrates have revealed how 562 the side chains of these substrates are recognized and lie within dedicated cavities (pockets 3-563 8; [1, 17, 19]), characteristics that contribute to the G-starting recognition pattern. Although 564 this G-starting recognition pattern appeared to clearly define a global specificity, it did not 565 explain the entire NMT-dependent myristoylation landscape. This was even more evident when 566 we and others reported the possibility that NMTs catalyze K-myristoylation in vitro and in vivo on a couple of targets, including ARF6 [19, 20]. Although this K-myristoylation function 567 568 should expand the range of NMT substrates, the extent and clues ruling NMT-dependent K-569 myristoylation are unknown. It was recently shown that both NMTs similarly achieve the 570 second K-myristoylation step in vitro, in keeping with their overlapping substrate specificity 571 [17]. However, when overexpressed in HEK293T cells, NMT2 appears more efficient than 572 NMT1 for K-myristoylation of overexpressed ARF6 [20]. This may reflect either (i) a distinct 573 subcellular localization of NMT2, which its slightly different N-terminal extension compared 574 with NMT1 might promote (there is currently no evidence to support this hypothesis) or (ii) preferential binding of NMT2 over NMT1 to ARF6, though NMT2 and NMT1 are both part 575 576 of the ARF6 interactome [18, 41].

577

578 So far, NMT-catalyzed K-myristovlation can be described as a post-translational secondary 579 event acting on G-myristoylated, fully folded, and active ARF6 forms. Secondary ARF6 myristoylation is therefore post-translational but mechanistically very different from the 580 581 aforementioned caspase-induced post-translational G-myristoylation. In as much as K-582 myristoylation is reversible *in vivo* [5, 19], definitive proof of NMT-induced K-myristoylation 583 under standard physiological conditions (i.e., without either overexpression of an NMT or one 584 of its targets such as ARF6, a G2A variant, or a sirtuin deacetylase knockout) is still lacking, 585 as are the targets undergoing this modification.

586

587 Here, we reveal the unique and common specificities underlying NMT-dependent G- and K-588 myristoylation. We found that the main specificity rules for NMT-dependent G- and K-589 myristoylation partially overlap, leading to competition between the two types of 590 myristoylation in GK-starting contexts. The myristoylation rules are summarized in Figs. 1e 591 and **2f**. The very narrow shape of pocket 2 ensures reactivity of a primary amino borne only on 592 unbranched moieties such as N-terminal glycine or side chains like lysine, which facilitates the 593 70° rotation of the amino-reactive group from the catalytic base towards the thio-reacting group 594 of MyrCoA. This motion allows Wat3 to enter from the water channel and play a crucial role 595 at the transition state [19]. The addition of a methyl group such as in Ala2 or meGly variants 596 makes this motion unlikely and dramatically decreases catalysis. The rules directing G or side 597 chain myristoylation are predominantly determined by the  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  chemical groups branched 598 at C $\alpha$ 3. NMT usually favors G- over K-myristoylation on proteins starting with Gly, while K-599 myristoylation dominates on any other N-terminal chain.

600

601 Overall, NMT-dependent K-myristoylation is less efficient than G-myristoylation whatever the 602 context. Although the two myristoylation types may directly act on an N-terminal residue, K-603 myristoylation appears less strict than G-myristoylation in this regard; indeed, K-604 myristoylation does not require a given side chain of the first amino acid but relies on optimized 605 residues at positions 5-7. A major difference between the two myristoylation types is that K-606 myristoylation needs the KXXSK-restricted pattern. This is unlike G-myristoylation, which 607 allows the modification of many proteins not exhibiting the S6K7 motif by NMT on their N-608 terminal G (see [17] and Table 1). The KXXSK motif of K-myristoylation can be associated 609 with a one amino acid extension or acetylation at the N-terminus provided that an *ad hoc* 610 proteolytic machinery can produce these extremities. The specificity of MetAPs - which 611 remove the first Met from proteins - favors new N-terminal residues with short side chains like 612 Ala, Gly, Pro, or Ser. However, a survey of the human proteome reveals no K-myristoylation 613 on Lys2, Lys3, or Lys4 and 15 G-myristoylation substrates in the subset of proteins arising 614 from MetAP-guided co-translational cleavage rules. Among MetAP unprocessed substrates, 615 four MK-starting proteins were identified, but we ruled out that they might undergo K-616 myristoylation. A very reduced number of internal KXXSK K-myristoylation motifs are 617 preceded by caspase cleavage sites in the human proteome, suggesting that K-myristoylation -618 in contrast to mostly co-translational G-myristoylation – might not result from primary post-619 translational addition, for instance initiated by cleavage by specific caspases during apoptosis 620 [16, 34]. K-myristoylation motifs resulting from cotranslational Met removal or 621 posttranslational caspase cleavage are therefore apparently significantly depleted from the 622 human proteome. This is unlike G-myristoylation motifs, which are enriched and represent 2% 623 of the proteome [18].

624

625 Our current data suggest that post-translational myristoylation might occur after initial G-626 myristoylation, possibly for few additional proteins such as HPCA exhibiting the G2K3 motif, 627 in addition to ARF6, causing double myristoylation. Alternatively, it might occur upon proteolytic cleavage caused by a protease with a specificity different from MetAP or any 628 629 caspase. While such proteases in the human proteome have yet to be discovered, we show here 630 that the bacterial protease IpaJ - a virulent factor expressed in human cells during Shigella 631 infection - might correspond to such a protease. In this report, we used IpaJ both as a case study 632 and a unique tool to discriminate between G- and K-myristoylation. Our data confirm that 633 ARF6 is myristoylated before and after IpaJ cleavage [19, 20], in contrast to the other ARFs 634 (ARF1/3/4/5) or ARL1, which do not feature a K3 like ARF6. The insensitivity of ARF6 – but 635 not the other ARFs - to IpaJ was initially proposed to be due to ARF6 not being located at the 636 ER/Golgi, unlike the other members of the ARF/ARL family, but rather at the plasma 637 membrane. ARF6 translocates to endosomes, where it acts as a major regulator of endocytosis 638 [42, 43]. Our data indicate that ARF6 resistance to IpaJ might also result from the unmasking 639 of a myristoylatable Lys3 upon G-myristoylation cleavage. As a result, we surmise that ARF6 640 would still be myristoylated and retained on myristoylation affinity azido-biotin prior to and 641 after IpaJ cleavage. IpaJ would therefore not act as a myristoyl eraser of G-myristoylated 642 proteins displaying a Lys3. Indeed, NMT would be still able of adding a myristoyl group on 643 the side-chain of the neo N-terminal K.

644

Overall, our data indicate that, unlike G-myristoylation, NMT-catalyzed K-myristoylation
should be rare in humans, as it may only occur as a secondary myristoylation on a few already
G-myristoylated proteins or induced after IpaJ cleavage of the same subset. So far, ARF6
remains the only K-myristoylation clear-cut target of the human proteome.

650 To conclude, this study extents our knowledge of the subproteome, which is sensitive to NMT-651 guided myristoylation. Unlike G-myristoylation, which may arise by NMT-catalyzed addition 652 after caspase cleavage, our current data suggest that K-myristoylation in the GK context might 653 arise in vivo from secondary myristoylation after primary myristoylation of a Gly residue, 654 mostly unmasked by Met cleavage, or after the action of proteases distinct from caspases able 655 to unravel new K-myristoylation sites. Such proteases - yet to be discovered - might be induced 656 under defined physiological conditions and, like caspases during apoptosis, not be 657 constitutively active like the methionine aminopeptidases that trigger cotranslational G-658 myristoylation.

#### 659 MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 660 Chemicals

All peptides (see all sequences in **Tables 1-2** and **S1-S3**) were purchased at 95% purity (Genscript, Leiden, Netherlands). NAD was purchased from Roche (Basel, Switzerland). All other chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Quentin, France). Stock solutions of myristoyl-CoA (0.2 mM) were prepared in sodium acetate, pH 5.6, and 1% Triton X-100, except for MALDI analysis, where cholate was used to reduce background.

#### 666 *IpaJ* cloning

667 Wild-type full-length IpaJ numbering is used throughout the text. The nucleotide sequence 668 encoding residues including the final TGA stop codon of S. flexneri IpaJ ORF (UniProt code 669 Q54150) was optimized for *E. coli* expression (**Table S4**) and synthesized *in vitro* (Genscript). 670 For protein expression, the 30-259 fragment was cloned between the NcoI and HindIII restriction sites of expression vector pETM30 as a C-terminal fusion with glutathione S-671 672 transferase (GST, Fig. S7b). A His-tag was placed at the N-terminus of the fusion to facilitate protein purification (see below). A TEV cleavage sequence inserted between the two ORFs 673 674 allowed release of IpaJ from GST with only an additional N-terminal Gly-Ala-Met-Ala 675 tetrapeptide sequence upstream of Arg30, the first residue of IpaJ. Two variants were created by site-directed mutagenesis using a QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene, 676 677 San Diego, CA) with the primer pairs displayed in Table S4. The first variant was inactive 678 (C64S), while the other (3M) was fully active with improved solubility and stability over time 679 (Leu97Asn/Leu99Asn/Cys103Ser).

#### 680 Enzyme production and purification

*HsNMT1*. The HsNMT1*l* isoform containing residues 81-496 corresponds to the major isoform
[3]. HsNMT1*l* was cloned into pET16b as an N-terminal His-tag fusion [3], and the

recombinant protein was expressed and purified as described [17]. Isoform HsNMT1s
containing residues 99-496 was cloned into pET28 and purified as described [19].

685

686 The three soluble 30-259 variants of the protease IpaJ were produced as follows. Rosetta2pLysS cells expressing the pETM30 derivative were grown in 1 L of 2xTY medium 687 688 supplemented with kanamycine (50 µg/mL) and chloramphenicol (34 µg/mL) at 37°C under vigorous shaking. Protein overexpression was induced with 0.5 mM IPTG at OD<sub>600</sub>=0.4. Cells 689 690 were transferred at 20°C and grown for 20 hours. Cells were centrifuged at 10,000 x g, and the 691 pellet was resuspended (10 mL/g) in lysis buffer (20 mM Tris pH=8.0, 0.2 M NaCl, 5 mM 2-692 mercaptoethanol, 5 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol). Cells were lysed with a sonicator Q700 693 (amplitude 50%, 10 s on and 20 s off) for 3 min at 4°C. The sample was then centrifuged at 694 40,000 x g (Rotor JA20) for 30 min and the pellet discarded. The supernatant was loaded on a Ni-IMAC-HisTrap<sup>TM</sup> FF 5 mL column (GE Healthcare, Chicago, IL) at 3.5 mL/min; elution 695 696 was achieved with a liner 0-0.5M imidazole gradient run over 100 ml. Purified proteins were 697 dialyzed in Spectra-Por7 semi-permeable dialysis membranes (8 kDa cut-off; Thermo Fisher 698 Scientific, Waltham, MA) for 48 hours against conservation buffer (20 mM Tris pH=8.0, 0.2 699 M NaCl, 5 mM dithiothreitol, 55% glycerol) at 4°C. The sample was stored at -20°C. 700 Protein concentrations were measured with the Bio-Rad Protein Assay Kit using bovine serum

701 albumin (Sigma-Aldrich) as reference.

#### 702 **Protein crystallization and structure determination**

*HsNMT1:MyrCoA:X structure.* HsNMT1s was used to solve the structures of the complexes
with seven different peptides in the course of this study (HPCA, AK, AcK, AcG[Orn], AN,
meGN and GGK) with PDB entries 70WM, 70WN, 70WO, 70WP, 70WU, 70WQ and
706 70WR, respectively. Suitable crystals of HsNMT1:MyrCoA:peptide substrates were obtained

707 by co-crystallization using the hanging-drop vapor diffusion method at 20°C in the 708 crystallization conditions previously described [17, 19]. Briefly, crystallization droplets were 709 formed by mixing 2 µL of the of HsNMT1:MyrCoA:peptide complex (ratio 1:1.5:1.5) at 6-9 710 mg/mL with 2 µL of the precipitant solution containing either 0.1 M MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 M NaCl, 0.1 711 M sodium citrate pH 5.6, and 18-24% (w/v) PEG 6K or 0.1 M sodium acetate pH 4.6, and 18-712 24% (w/v) PEG 6K. Crystals were cryoprotected in the reservoir solution supplemented with 713 15% (v/v) glycerol and flash cooled in liquid nitrogen. Complete X-ray datasets of complex 714 were collected at 100K a single wavelength from a single crystal at the French National Synchrotron Facility (SOLEIL) PROXIMA1 (for HPCA and AcG[Orn] at  $\lambda$ =0.98400 Å and 715 AcK at  $\lambda$ =0.97856 Å) or PROXIMA2 (for AK and GGK at  $\lambda$ = 0.98012 Å) beamlines and at 716 European Radiation Synchrotron Facility (ESRF) ID30A1 (for AN at  $\lambda$ =0.96600 Å) and 717 718 ID30A3 (for me-GN  $\lambda$ =0.96775 Å) beamlines. Datasets were integrated with XDS [44] and 719 scaled and reduced using AIMLESS from the CCP4 package [45]. For crystals that suffered 720 from anisotropic diffraction (HPCA, AcK and GGK), data were processed with STARANISO 721 on unmerged data [46] before AIMLESS data reduction. Crystals belonged essentially to the 722 space group P2<sub>1</sub>2<sub>1</sub>2 with similar unit cell parameters with the exception of GGK and meGN 723 belonging both to C2 with similar unit cell parameters (summarized in **Table S5**). In both space 724 groups identified, unit cells contained two NMT molecules per asymmetric unit. Structure 725 resolution was accomplished in all cases using the molecular replacement method and solved 726 using PHASER [47] and the HsNMT1:MyrCoA:peptide ternary complex (PDB entry 5O9T or 727 6SK2) as a search model. The structure of AN was solved using MOLREP [48] and protein 728 coordinates of HsNMT1:MyrCoA (PDB entry 5O9T) as a search model. Structures were 729 subjected to alternating refinement cycles using PHENIX and manual model building using 730 COOT [49-51]. The good quality of the electron density maps also enabled the refinement of 731 substrate peptide, reaction intermediate, and reaction product molecules bound to HsNMT1 in 732 each complex. Chemical compound libraries were generated using PRODRG server [52] in combination with eLBOW from the PHENIX suite. The geometry of the final models was 733 734 validated using MOLPROBITY [53]. Figures were generated using PYMOL (DeLano Scientific LLC, <u>http://pymol.sourceforge.net/</u>). X-ray data collection and refinement statistics 735 736 are summarized in Table S5. Omit electron density maps were calculated using PolderMap 737 [54] from the Phenix suite after omitting the peptide of each active site and excluding the bulk 738 solvent around the omitted region. Omit maps of the nine crystal structures are displayed in 739 Fig. S12.

### 740 Measurements of activity and associated parameters

741 HsNMT1 activity was assayed at 30°C in a coupled assay using an updated version of the 742 previously described protocol [27]. The reaction mixture contained 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 743 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.193 mM EGTA, 0.32 mM DTT, 0.2 mM thiamine pyrophosphate, 2 mM 744 pyruvate, 0.1 mg/mL of BSA, 0.1% Triton X-100, 2.5 mM NAD<sup>+</sup>, 0.125 units/mL of porcine heart PDH (0.33 units/mg), 40 µM myristoyl-CoA, and 1-2000 µM peptides. Unless otherwise 745 746 stated for tight binding studies, the reaction mixture was pre-incubated for 3 min at 30°C before 747 starting the reaction by adding MyrCoA. A final volume of 200 µL was used in 96-well black 748 plates (Grenier Bio One and Dominique Dutscher, Brumath, France; the optical path for 0.2 mL is 0.55 cm). A value of 6300 M<sup>-1</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> was used as the molecular extinction coefficient of 749 750 NADH at 340 nm. An Infinite M Nano<sup>+</sup> plate reader equipped with micro-injectors (Tecan, 751 Lyon, France) was set at 340 nm to monitor the absorbance over time at 30°C. Briefly, a 752 reaction mixture containing HsNMT11 at different concentrations of peptide acceptors was preincubated for 3 min at 30°C before starting the reaction with MyrCoA. 753

754 Myristoylation kinetics were monitored continuously for 30 min, and the data were fitted as to 755 obtain the initial velocities associated to each peptide concentration. Curve fits to obtain kinetic 756 parameters were achieved by non-linear regression with GraphPad Prism 9.1 (GraphPad 757 Software, La Jolla, CA). Parameters with standard errors were computed for all parameters 758 using the complete dataset including replicates. Both  $k_{cat}$  and  $K_m$  kinetic parameters were 759 obtained by fitting to the Michaelis-Menten equation.  $k_{cat}/K_m$  values and the associated 760 standard deviations were obtained by taking advantage of the  $k_{SP}$  approach [55] with 761  $k_{SP}=k_{cat}/K_m$  and  $v_0/[E]=k_{SP}[S]/(1+[S]/K_m)$ , where  $v_0$  is the reaction rate measured at NMT 762 concentration  $[E_0]$ .

The NMT/IpaJ pipeline described in **Fig. 5b** first involved incubation of the peptide (100  $\mu$ M) for 1 hour in the presence of 0.5  $\mu$ M HsNMT1 or HsNMT2 (T1). The buffer was the same as for NMT activity measurement but contained cholate (5  $\mu$ M) instead of Triton X-100. Full IpaJ cleavage conditions involved further incubation at 20°C for 1 hour in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M IpaJ-3M (T2). 5  $\mu$ M HsNMT1 was finally added for 60 min at 30°C (T3). T0 corresponded to the T3 time (3 hours) with the peptide diluted in the incubation buffer but in the absence of any enzyme.

#### 771 Mass spectrometry

772 300 µL of a mixture containing 50 mM Tris (pH 8), 0.193 mM EGTA, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM 773 DTT, 5 µM sodium cholate, 40 µM Myr-CoA solution (stock solution 0.2 mM Myr-CoA, 10 774 mM sodium acetate, 2.5 µM sodium cholate), 0.5 µM NMT, and 100 µM of synthetic peptide were pre-incubated at 30°C. The myristoylation reaction was followed over time by collection 775 776 of 10 µL samples further diluted in 90 µL of water/acetonitrile (90/10) solution. The different 777 samples were then diluted five times in the matrix solution made of 5 mg/mL of  $\alpha$ -cyano-4-778 hydroxycinnamic acid solubilized in water/formic acid/acetonitrile (50/50/0.1%). 1 µL of each 779 dilution was spotted on a metal target and dried. MS and MS/MS spectra of each sample were 780 acquired with an AB SCIEX 5800 MALDI-Tof-Tof instrument in positive ion mode. Survey 781 scans were performed using delayed extraction (390 ns) in reflector mode for a total of 15,000 782 shots. MS/MS scans were operated with a collision energy of 1 kV. Peptide and fragment mass 783 tolerances were set at 10 ppm and 0.8 Da, respectively. Mass spectra were analyzed with 784 PeakView® 2.2 software (AB Sciex, Macclesfield, UK). The default threshold in MS/MS peak 785 labelling and finding was 5% (displayed with a black dot on the intensity axis) and centroid 786 height percentage was 50% as recommended by the constructor. MS/MS deviations from 787 theoretical values were on average less than 0.03 Da. MS/MS analysis and assignments of 788 peptides with non-natural aminoacids was also performed with the additional help of software 789 ProteinProspector v6.2.2 (https://prospector.ucsf.edu/prospector/mshome.htm) [56]. 790 Theoretical mass values of all fragments were double-checked at 791 https://web.expasy.org/peptide mass/. All spectra are available in **Data S1**.

792

#### 793 ACCESSION NUMBERS

The seven crystal structures of NMT in complex with MyrCoA and the peptides reported here
have been deposited at the PDB under codes 70WM, 70WN, 70WO, 70WP, 70WQ, 70WR,
and 70WU.

797

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804

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#### 816 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

817 FR conducted all MS experiments and kinetic analyses, characterized IpaJ variants, and set up

818 the IpaJ/NMT pipeline. CD undertook cloning, mutagenesis, and purification of IpaJ and

819 performed all NMT structural analyses. RFD and PM completed and consolidated the kinetic

- 820 analysis. TM and CG conceived the project, supervised the experiments and analyzed the data.
- 821 CG and TM, wrote the manuscript with contributions of FR and CD.

822

#### 823 COMPETING INTERESTS

824 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

825

#### 826 SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- 827 Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/xxxx.
- 828 The Supplementary Materials PDF file contains all Supplementary Figures (Figs S1-12) and
- 829 Tables (**Tables S1 to S5**).
- 830 The three Supplementary Data files correspond to one PDF file to mass spectrometry spectra
- 831 (Data S1), and two Microsoft Excel format files (Data S2-4) for proteome-wide analysis and

832 predictions.

833

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- 984

## 985 FIGURES AND TABLES

986 See next pages



#### 988 Fig. 1. G-myristoylation rules in the context of GK-starting substrates

989

R\_= hexapeptide (usually XXSXXX but not only)

990 All peptides are derived from the GK peptide unless otherwise stated (see short name and the associated sequence in Table 1). (a) Crystal structure of the HPCA peptide with HsNMT; the 991 various pockets and their extents are displayed and  $C\alpha 3$  is indicated. The peptide sequence of 992 HPCA is indicated in green. (b) Catalytic efficiencies  $(k_{cat}/K_m)$  values of GK-starting peptides 993 994 (see all parameters in Table 1). (c) 3D details of the active site organization of the HPCA 995 complex. The myristate moiety of MyrCoA is shown in orange, the HPCA backbone peptide 996 is colored in yellow and indicated with a green arrow, residues of NMT in the immediate 997 vicinity are in displayed grey, and the water 2 molecule (Wat2) is shown as a turquoise sphere. (d) Planar representation of panel c,  $R_2$  refers to the group defined in panel e while pocket 3 is 998 999 displayed in panel a. The color code is the same as in panel c. (e) Types of chemical groups 1000 allowed around  $C\alpha$ 3 leading to classic N-terminal myristoylation with the G acceptor residue 1001 at  $R_1$  (G-myristoylation). The  $\psi$  torsion angle C $\alpha$ 3 is indicated.





### 1003 Fig. 2. K-myristoylation and G-myristoylation rules

1004 The peptides are derived from the GK peptide. (a) Main K-myristoylation catalytic efficiencies  $(k_{cat}/K_m)$  values) measured (see details in **Table 2**). (b) Crystal structures of HsNMT1 in 1005 complex with MyrCoA and the AK variant. The panel displays a close-up of the structural 1006 environment around the catalytic base, the C-terminus of the C-terminal residue Q496. (c) 1007 1008 Plane representation of panel b. (d) MS1 analysis of the AK derivative after incubation with 1009 HsNMT1. (e) MS2 analysis of the 1131 Da myristoylated peptide in panel d showing K-1010 myristoylation; SK refers to an internal dipeptide fragment. (f) New knowledge on the type of acceptor amino group leading to K-myristoylation. The panel shows that if a lysine side chain 1011 or a non-natural basic side-chain with reduced length occurs at R<sub>2</sub>, and depending on the 1012 1013 substitutions made around the N-terminus, i.e., while blocking it (ac derivatives) or slightly modifying its plane orientation (e.g., if G is substituted for A, S, or P), then K-myristoylation 1014 ( $\epsilon$ -myristoylation) is favored over N-terminal myristoylation ( $\alpha$ -myristoylation) [19, 20]. 1015



1016

1017 Fig. 3. A pipeline to investigate NMT/IpaJ-coupled impact on myristoylation

(a) The schematized NMT/IpaJ pipeline, expected m/z at each step, and corresponding 1018 isoforms. In brief, peptides are first incubated with NMT to allow myristoylation and 1019 visualization of the +210 Da addition (T1). Next, IpaJ is added at low temperature to allow 1020 1021 complete removal of the G-myristoylated moiety, which results in a -57 Da shortening compared with the starting peptide and a -267 Da signature of the product compared with the 1022 1023 myristoylated peptide (T2). Finally, high NMT concentrations are added to check whether 1024 substrate myristoylation results from the action of the first two steps (T3). (b) HPCA peptide 1025 at T2 (top) and MS2 spectrum of the double myristoylation product (bottom). (c) GKFS peptide (GKFSSKPR) during the different steps of the pipeline. (d) MS2 spectrum of the 1116 Da 1026 1027 peptide at T1; the missing characteristic y<sub>7</sub> (1,059 Da) ion of K-myristoylation is indicated with an arrow. (e) MS2 spectrum of the 1116 Da peptide at T3 with the 1,059 Da ion now visible. 1028





1029

1031 The crystal structure of the complex made between acK and HsNMT1 is displayed. (a) MS 1032 analysis showing myristoylation of the acK; top MS1, bottom MS2. (b) The two conformations 1033 are displayed, and the rotation point around C $\alpha$ 3 is indicated. (c) Planar representation showing 1034 how each conformation may position the *ac* chain within pocket 3 (conformation A, left hand 1035 side) or pocket 4 (conformation B, right hand side).

#### Table 1. GK-starting peptides derived from the human proteome reveal N-terminal alpha-MYR as the major modification made by NMT

	J							
Seriesª	Peptide sequence	Short name (text & Figures)	Data S1a page	Crystal structure	$k_{cat}(s^{-1})$	$K_m(\mu \mathbf{M})$	<i>k<sub>cat</sub>/K<sub>m</sub></i> (s <sup>-1</sup> .M <sup>-1</sup> )	Relative k <sub>cat</sub> /K <sub>m</sub> (%)
	GKSFSKPR	GK	2	-	$0.050 \pm 0.0002$	10±2	4931±626	165
	G[Orn]SFSKPR		3	-	0.018±0.001	6±2	2808±951	94
Reference	G[Dab]SFSKPR		4	-	$0.015 \pm 0.002$	16±7	935±362	31
GK-	ANCFSKPR	AN	5	Fig. S2a	$0.0004 \pm 0.0001$	>300	1.2±1.1	0.05
variants	me-GNCFSKPR	meGN	6	Fig. S2b	0.0018±0.0001	1068±51	$1.65 \pm 0.05$	0.06
	GKSWSKGR		7	-	$0.090 \pm 0.002$	9±1	10,000	334
	GKFSSKPR <sup>b</sup>	GKFS	8/9	-	0.11±0.02	346±75	330±33	11
	GKVLSKIF	ARF6	10	-	0.036±0.002	8±2	4320±897	144
	GKQNSKLR	HPCA	11	Fig.1a,c	-	-	5055±320	169
	GKTNSKLA	HPCL4	12	-	0.58±0.06	48±18	12026±3560	401
	GKQNSKLA	VIS	13	-	0.092±0.004	58±11	1589±265	53
Humon	GKSNSKLK	NCS1	14	PDB 509S	0.047±0.001	15±1	3157±277	105
GKX	GKSLSHLP	T106B	15	-	0.31±0.04	811±224	386±66	13
	GKTFSQLG	T106A	16	-	0.43±0.03	200±53	2147±467	72
	GKSASKQF	GAPP	17		$0.065 \pm 0.04$	69±17	952±198	32
	GKLHSKPA	NKD1	18	-	0.10±0.01	40±2	2500±200	83
	GKLQSKHA	NKD2	19	-	$0.10\pm0.01$	41±2	2501±200	83
	GKRGSRSQ	UTP25	-	-	>0.01	>1000	7±2	0.2
	GAKQSGPA	ZNRF2	20	-	-	-	103	3
CVV	GGKQSTAA	ZNRF1	21		1.45±0.23	2320±573	623	21
UAK	GGKFSSKPR		22/23	-	$0.14 \pm 0.01$	85±32	1647	21
	GGKLSKKK	BASP	24	-	-	-	3900	130
SOS3	GCSVSKKK	SOS3	25	-	0.055±0.002	18±3	2997±415	100
	ASSVSKKK		-		-	-	-	<<0.01

MS spectra are displayed in Data S1a. The corresponding page number is indicated in the corresponding column.

		a .			•	Kinetic parameters		
Series	Peptide sequence	(text & Figures)	Series sequence	Data S1c page	Crystal structure	k <sub>cat</sub> (s <sup>-1</sup> )	$K_m(\mu \mathbf{M})$	$\frac{k_{cat/}K_m}{(s^{-1}.M^{-1})}$
	ac-GKSFSKPR	acGK	GK	2	Fig. S3e,f	$0.0017 \pm 0.0002$	58±15	30±6
	ac-G[Orn]SFSKPR	acG[Orn]	GK	3	1.81, Fig. S3cd	0.0006±0.0001	22±3	29±3
	ac-G[Dab]SFSKPR	acG[Dab] <sup>c</sup>	GK	4	-	NM	NM	<<0.01
acGK	ac-GNCFSKPR	acGN	GK	5	Fig. S3a,b	NM	NM	<<0.01
	ac-GKSFAKPR	A6	GK	-		NM	NM	<<0.01
	ac-GKSFSAPR	A7	GK	-		NM	NM	<<0.01
	ac-GKVLSKIF	acARF6	ARF6	6	-	$0.0019 \pm 0.0001$	37±4	51±6
	AKQNSKLR	A-HPCA	HPCA	7	-	>0.0004	>1000	0.4
	AKVLSKIF	A-ARF6	ARF6	8	-	0.0005±0.0001*	8±3*	64±18
	AKSFSKPR	AK	GK	9	Fig.2b,c	0.0006±0.0002*	14±5*	40±11
	AKPTSKDSGLK	TSC2	TSC2	10	-	NM	NM	<<0.01
ХК	SKSFSKPR	SK	GK	11	-	$0.0025 \pm 0.0003$	43±23	60±27
	MKSFSKPR	MK	GK	12	-	>0.0001	>100	1.7
	PKSFSKPR	РК	GK	13	-	$0.00068 \pm 0.00005$	26±8	26±6
	ac-KSFSKPR	acK	GK	14	1.7, Fig.4a,b	0.0009±0.0001	24±10	37±13
	ac-KFSKPR	acK∆S	GK	15	-	NM	NM	<<0.01
	KSFSKPR	K	GK	16	-	0.00043±0.00004	16±6	27±6
	KQNSKLRP	K-HPCA	HPCA	17	-	0.0013±0.0002	133±49	9
V	KSFS[Orn]PR		GK	18	-	0.0029±0.0002	59±15	49
ĸ	KSFS[Dab]PR		GK	19	-	$0.0024 \pm 0.0009$	145±109	17
	KSFS[Dap)PR		GK	20	-	0.0012±0.00003	39±4	31
	KSNAKLKP		NCS1	21	-	NM	NM	<<0.01
	GGKSFSKP	GGK	GK	22/23	Fig.2	0.089±0.012	882±263	101±17
	AGKSFSKPR	AGK	GK	24	-	$0.0024 \pm 0.0004$	31±3	76±7
ZYCK	ac-GGKSFSKPR	acGGK	GK	25	-	0.00062±0.00005	82±24	8±2
LAGK	ac-GGGKSFSKPR	acGGGK	GK	26	-	NM	NM	<<0.01
	ac-GGGGKSFSKPR		GK	27	-	NM	NM	<<0.01
	ac-GGGGGKSFSKPR		GK	28	-	NM	NM	<<0.01

1042 Table 2. Substitutions around the N-terminus of peptides promoting side chain MYR

1043

1044 MS spectra are displayed in **Data S1c**. The corresponding page number is indicated in the 1045 corresponding column. NM, not measurable; -, not measured or obtained. Residues colored in 1046 red are those modified in the context of a series (see the corresponding fourth column).

1047 \* only concentrations lower than 50  $\mu$ M were taken into account as substrate concentration

1048 inhibition was observed at higher concentrations