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Enzymatic and Chemoenzymatic Syntheses of Disialyl Glycans and Their Necrotizing Enterocolitis Preventing Effects

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ABSTRACT: Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is one of the most common and devastating intestinal disorders in preterm infants. Therapies to meet the clinical needs for this special and highly vulnerable population are extremely limited. A specific human milk oligosaccharide (HMO), disialyllacto-*N*-tetraose (DSLNT), was shown to contribute to the beneficial effects of breastfeeding as it prevented NEC in a neonatal rat model and was associated with lower NEC risk in a human clinical cohort study. Herein, gram-scale synthesis of two DSLNT analogs previously shown to have NEC preventing effect is described. In addition, four novel disialyl glycans have been designed and synthesized by enzymatic or chemoenzymatic methods. Noticeably, two disialyl tetraoses have been produced by enzymatic sialylation of chemically synthesized thioethyl β -disaccharides followed by removal of the thioethyl aglycon. Dose-dependent and single-dose comparison studies showed varying NEC-preventing effects of the disialyl glycans in neonatal rats. This study helps to refine the structure requirement of the NEC-preventing effect of disialyl glycans and provides important dose-dependent information for using DSLNT analogs as potential therapeutics for NEC prevention in preterm infants.

1. INTRODUCTION

Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is one of the most common and devastating intestinal disorders in preterm infants.^{1,2} It affects nearly 10% of all very low-birth-weight infants and leads to a severe and often fatal destruction in the infant's intestine.³ Therapies to meet the clinical needs for this special and highly vulnerable population are extremely limited. Current treatment of NEC includes cessation of enteral feeding, antibiotic therapy, and surgical removal of the necrotic intestine, but all of these treatments are accompanied by devastating long-term complications.⁴⁻⁶

It has been known that formula-fed infants have up to 10-fold higher risk of developing NEC than breast-fed infants.^{7,8} A major difference between infant formula and human milk is the lack of human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) in common infant formula. This led to the hypothesis that HMOs contribute to the protective effects of breast-feeding against NEC.⁹ Indeed, recent studies have shown that a specific human milk oligosaccharide (HMO) called disialyllacto-*N*-tetraose (DSLNT, **1**, in Fig. 1) contributes to the beneficial effects of breastfeeding in preventing NEC in preclinical neonatal rat model studies⁹ and in a human clinical cohort study.¹⁰ DSLNT has also been shown to be a potential marker for NEC-diagnosis.¹¹ Due to challenges in obtaining DSLNT in large amounts for potential clinical therapeutic applications, five synthetic disialyl glycans have been produced by convenient enzymatic methods. Among these, two

disialyl hexasaccharide analogs of DSLNT, disialyllacto-*N*-neotetraose (DSLNTnT, **2**) and DS'LNT (**3**), have shown promising effects in preventing NEC in a preclinical neonatal rat model.¹²

Herein, gram-scale synthesis of the two promising compounds DSLNTnT (**2**) and DS'LNT (**3**) using highly efficient one-pot multienzyme (OPME) systems is described. Both contain two α 2-6-linked *N*-acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac), the most common sialic acid form. These compounds have been used for dose-dependent studies in the established NEC neonatal rat model.¹²

To search for additional compounds with potentially enhanced NEC-preventing function, four additional novel disialyl glycans **4-7** (Fig. 1) have been designed and synthesized by chemoenzymatic or enzymatic methods. Their NEC-preventing effects have been compared to HMOs, DSLNT (**1**), DSLNTnT (**2**), and DS'LNT (**3**). These include Neu5Gc-DSLNT (**4**), a disialyl hexaose designed to replace the Neu5Ac residues in DS'LNT (**3**) by a non-human sialic acid form, *N*-glycolylneuraminic acid (Neu5Gc), which is presented in most animals and animal products including cow milk. The compound is designed to probe whether the sialic acid form affects the NEC-preventing effect of disialyl glycan. DS'LNTnT (**5**) is also included. It is a disialyl glycan mimic of DSLNTnT (**2**) in which the α 2-6-sialyl linkage at the non-reducing end is replaced by an α 2-3-sialyl linkage and the resulting terminal disaccharide structure resembles DSLNT (**1**) in human milk better. In addi-

tion, disialyl T-antigen tetraose (DSTa, **6**) and disialyl galactobiose (DSGalB, **7**) are designed to mimic the tetrasaccharide structure at the non-reducing end of DSLNT (**1**).

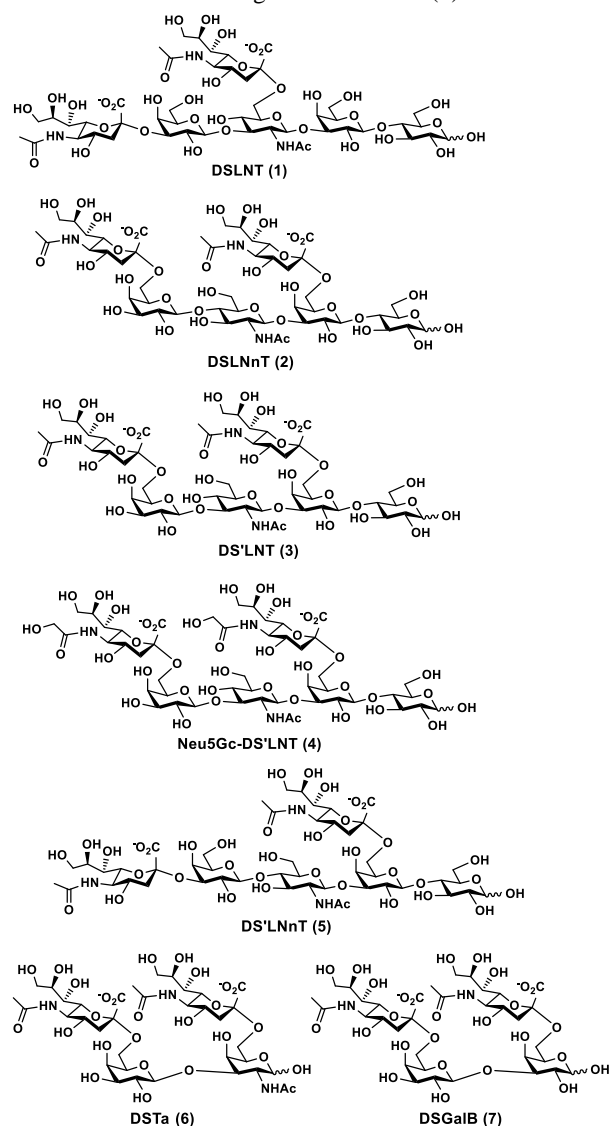


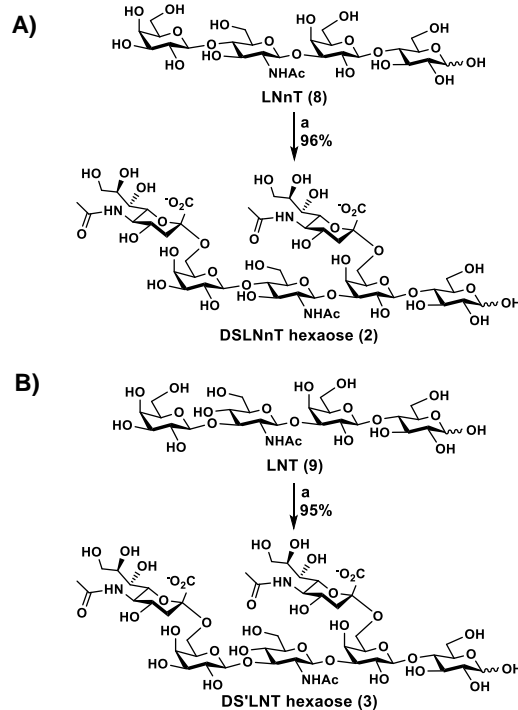
Fig. 1. Structures of disialyllacto-*N*-tetraose (DSLNT, **1**) found in human milk and disialyl glycans (**2–7**) synthesized and tested for NEC-preventing effects in this study.

2. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Gram-Scale Enzymatic Synthesis of DSLNnT (2**) and DS'LNT (**3**).** Gram-scale syntheses of DSLNnT and DS'LNT were carried out by sialylating lacto-*N*-neotetraose (LNnT, **8**)¹² and lacto-*N*-tetraose (LNT, **9**), respectively, with two Neu5Ac residues in a one-pot two-enzyme (OP2E) system containing *Neisseria meningitidis* cytidine 5'-monophosphate (CMP)-sialic acid synthetase (NmCSS)¹³ and *Photobacterium damsela* α 2-6-sialyltransferase (Pd2,6ST).¹⁴ As shown in Scheme 1A, Pd2,6ST-catalyzed OP2E sialylation of LNnT using *N*-acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac) as the donor precursor (3 equivalents) produced 1.7 grams of the desired product Neu5Ac α 2-6Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3(Neu5Ac α 2-6)Gal β 1-4Glc (DSLNT, **2**) in an excellent 96% yield, comparable to the previous 99% yield for 236 mg-scale synthesis.¹²

Gram-scale synthesis of disialyl LNT (DS'LNT) hexaose (**1.79 g**) containing two Neu5Ac residues, Neu5Ac α 2-6Gal β 1-3GlcNAc β 1-3(Neu5Ac α 2-6)Gal β 1-4Glc (**3**), was completed similarly in an excellent yield (95%) using the OP2E sialylation system containing NmCSS and Pd2,6ST with a ratio of 3 to 1 for Neu5Ac to LNT (Scheme 1B). The yield for the gram-scale synthesis was also comparable to the previous 98% yield for 268 mg-scale synthesis.¹²

Scheme 1. One-Pot Two-Enzyme (OP2E) Synthesis of A) DSLNnT (**2**) and B) DS'LNT (**3**).

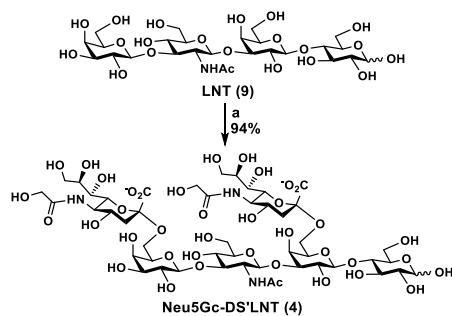


Reagents and conditions: (a) Neu5Ac, CTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), NmCSS, Pd2,6ST, 37 °C. Enzymes used: NmCSS, *Neisseria meningitidis* CMP-sialic acid synthetase; Pd2,6ST, *Photobacterium damsela* α 2-6-sialyltransferase.

Enzymatic Synthesis of Neu5Gc-Containing DS'LNT (4**).** In addition to the most abundant and the most common sialic acid form *N*-acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac), non-human sialic acid *N*-glycolylneuraminic acid (Neu5Gc) is also broadly presented in tissues of animals other than human.¹⁵ Neu5Gc has also been shown to be expressed on glycoproteins and gangliosides in human melanoma, colon, retinoblastoma and breast cancers.¹⁶ As rats present both Neu5Ac and Neu5Gc on cell surfaces, it is interesting to test whether Neu5Ac and Neu5Gc-containing DS'LNT have noticeable differences in protecting neonatal rats from NEC.

To obtain Neu5Gc-DS'LNT (**4**), the synthesis was carried out in the OP2E sialylation system containing NmCSS and Pd2,6ST using Neu5Gc as the donor precursor and LNT (**9**) as the acceptor substrate for Pd2,6ST. As shown in Scheme 2, hexasaccharide Neu5Gc α 2-6Gal β 1-3GlcNAc β 1-3(Neu5Gc α 2-6)Gal β 1-4Glc (Neu5Gc-DS'LNT, **4**) (272 mg) was obtained in an excellent 94% yield.

Scheme 2. One-Pot Two-Enzyme (OP2E) Synthesis of Neu5Gc-DS'LNT (**4**).

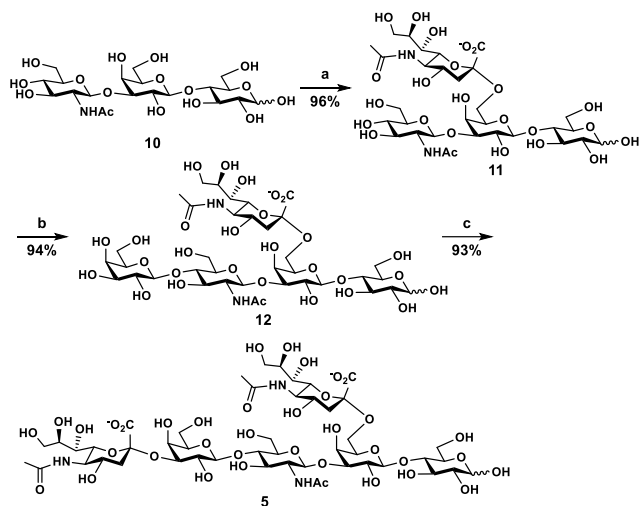


Reagents and conditions: (a) Neu5Gc, CTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), NmCSS, Pd2,6ST, 37 °C. Enzymes used: NmCSS, *Neisseria meningitidis* CMP-sialic acid synthetase; Pd2,6ST, *Photobacterium damsela* α 2–6-sialyltransferase.

Enzymatic Synthesis of DS'LNnT (5) Using a Sequential One-Pot Multienzyme (OPME) Glycosylation Approach.

DS'LNnT (5) is a hexasaccharide containing the LNnT (8) core with a Neu5Ac α 2–6-linked to the internal galactose (Gal) residue and a Neu5Ac α 2–3-linked to the terminal Gal. This hexasaccharide is designed to better mimic the natural DSLNT (1) found in human milk. Enzymatic sialylation with different sialyl linkages in DS'LNnT (5) was achieved by using a glycosylation sequence different from the one used for the synthesis of DSLNnT (2). Instead of carrying out α 2–6-sialylation to introduce two α 2–6-linked Neu5Ac simultaneously after the formation of LNnT using a β 1–4-galactosyltransferase-catalyzed one-pot multienzyme (OPME) reaction, the formation of α 2–3- and α 2–6-linked Neu5Ac in DS'LNnT (5) was accomplished by α 2–6-sialylation of the trisaccharide core GlcNAc β 1–3Gal β 1–4Glc (Lc₃, 10) followed by sequential extension of the core with β 1–4-galactosylation and α 2–3-sialylation.¹⁷ As shown in Scheme 3, trisaccharide GlcNAc β 1–3Gal β 1–4Glc (Lc₃, 10) obtained from lactose in a one-pot four-enzyme GlcNAc-activation and transfer reaction¹² containing recombinant enzymes *Bifidobacterium longum* strain ATCC55813 *N*-acetylhexosamine-1-kinase (BLNahK),¹⁸ *Pasteurella multocida* *N*-acetylglucosamine uridylyltransferase (PmGlmU),¹⁹ *Pasteurella multocida* inorganic pyrophosphatase (PmPpA),²⁰ and *Neisseria meningitidis* β 1–3-*N*-acetylglucosaminyltransferase (NmLgtA)²¹ was used for α 2–6-sialylation by the OP2E system containing NmCSS and Pd2,6ST. Tetrasaccharide GlcNAc β 1–3(Neu5Ac α 2–6)Gal β 1–4Glc (11) (0.3 g) was obtained in an excellent 96% yield. Next, galactosylation of this tetrasaccharide using a one-pot four-enzyme galactosylation system containing *Escherichia coli* galactokinase (EcGalK),²² *Bifidobacterium longum* UDP-sugar phosphorylase (BLUSP),²³ *Pasteurella multocida* inorganic pyrophosphatase (PmPpA),²⁰ and *Neisseria meningitidis* β 1–4-galactosyltransferase (NmLgtB)²⁰ produced pentasaccharide Gal β 1–4GlcNAc β 1–3(Neu5Ac α 2–6)Gal β 1–4Glc (12) (0.167 g) in 94% yield. This showed that oligosaccharides such as tetrasaccharide 11 is a better acceptor substrate than monosaccharide GlcNAc²⁰ for NmLgtB. Finally, further sialylation of the pentasaccharide (12) using an OP2E α 2–3-sialylation system containing NmCSS and *Pasteurella multocida* α 2–3-sialyltransferase 1 (PmST1) M144D (PmST1_M144D) mutant²⁴ produced the desired DS'LNnT (5) (121 mg) in 93% yield.

Scheme 3. Sequential One-Pot Multienzyme (OPME) Synthesis of DS'LNnT (5).



Reagents and conditions: (a) Neu5Ac, CTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), NmCSS, Pd2,6ST, 37 °C; (b) Gal, ATP, UTP, 20 mM MgCl₂, Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.0), EcGalK, BLUSP, NmLgtB, PmPpA, 30 °C; (c) Neu5Ac, CTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), NmCSS, PmST1_M144D, 37 °C. Enzymes used: NmCSS, *Neisseria meningitidis* CMP-sialic acid synthetase; Pd2,6ST, *Photobacterium damsela* α 2–6-sialyltransferase; EcGalK, *Escherichia coli* galactokinase; BLUSP, *Bifidobacterium longum* UDP-sugar phosphorylase; PmPpA, *Pasteurella multocida* inorganic pyrophosphatase; NmLgtB, *Neisseria meningitidis* β 1–4-galactosyltransferase; PmST1_M144D, *Pasteurella multocida* α 2–3-sialyltransferase 1 M144D mutant.

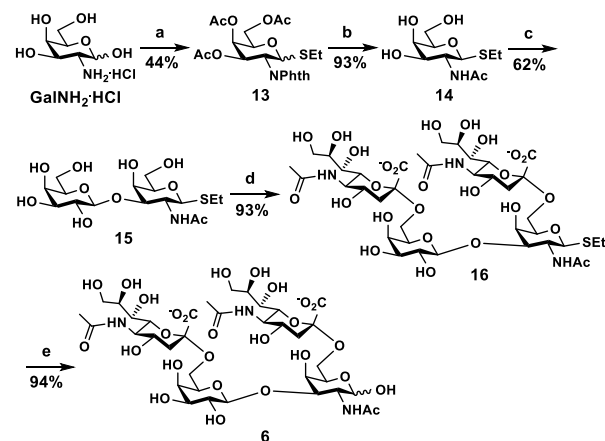
Chemoenzymatic synthesis of tetrasaccharide DSTa (6).

The next disialyl glycan target is a tetrasaccharide containing a Gal β 1–3GalNAc (T antigen or Ta) core. Ta is an essential component of glycans presented on glycoproteins (e.g. O-GalNAc glycan core-2 structure) and glycolipids, and also an important carbohydrate epitope involved in cell adhesion, signaling, fertilization, differentiation, development, and cancer metastasis.²⁵ The disialyl Ta tetrasaccharide (DSTa, 6) has two α 2–6-linked Neu5Ac residues on neighboring monosaccharide units in the disaccharide core, mimicking the situation of the terminal tetrasaccharide component in human milk DSLNT (1). It will be interesting to test whether it has NEC-preventing effects.

Gal β 1–3GalNAc was synthesized in gram-scale from *N*-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc), galactose (Gal), and adenosine 5'-triphosphate (ATP) using a one-pot two-enzyme (OP2E) galactosylation system containing EcGalK and *Bifidobacterium infantis* D-galactosyl- β 1–3-*N*-acetyl-D-hexosamine phosphorylase (BiGalHexNAcP).²⁶ Silica gel filtration and crystallization were used to obtain the pure product. Attempts for adding two Neu5Ac residues simultaneously by sialylating disaccharide Gal β 1–3GalNAc using an excess amount (three equivalents) of Neu5Ac in the OP2E α 2–6-sialylation system containing NmCSS and Pd2,6ST led to the formation of mono-sialylated glycan as the major product and the disialyl glycan was formed in a low yield. This was most likely due to the predominant presence of the α -anomer at the free reducing end of the Gal β 1–3GalNAc (Ta) in the crystallized disaccharide. As Gal β 1–3GalNAc β OR with a beta-linkage at the reducing end of the disaccharide is a suitable glycan for direct disialylation,²⁷ disaccharide Gal β 1–3GalNAc β SEt with a thioethyl group at the reducing end which can be selectively removed after the sialylation reaction was designed as the acceptor substrate for disialylation reactions. As shown in Scheme 4, GalNAc β SEt (14) was readily synthesized from galactosamine (GalNH₂) using a

reported method.²⁸ The disaccharide Gal β 1-3GalNAc β SEt (**15**) was then enzymatically synthesized from GalNAc β SEt via the OP2E galactosylation reaction containing EcGalK and BiGalHexNAcP.²⁶ OP2E α 2-6-sialylation of Gal β 1-3GalNAc β SEt (**15**) using three equivalents of Neu5Ac formed the desired disialyl tetrasaccharide Neu5Ac α 2-6Gal β 1-3(Neu5Ac α 2-6)GalNAc β SEt (**16**) in an excellent 93% yield. Removal of the thioethyl group in compound **16** using *N*-bromosuccinimide (NBS) in acetone-water led to the formation of DSTa (**6**) in 94% yield.

Scheme 4. Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of Disialyl T-Antigen DSTa (**6**).



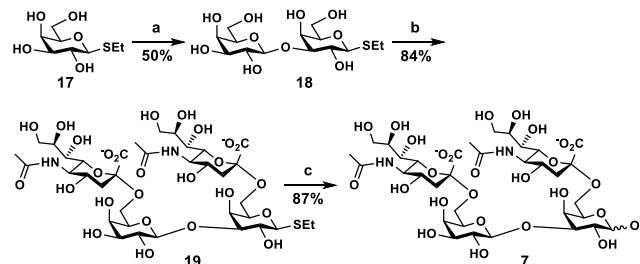
Reagents and conditions: (a) i) Phthalic anhydride, NaOH (1 M); ii) Ac₂O, pyridine; iii) EtSH, BF₃·Et₂O, CH₂Cl₂, 44% in three steps; (b) i) N₂H₄·H₂O, MeOH; ii) Ac₂O, MeOH, 93% in two steps; (c) Gal, ATP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 6.8), EcGalK, BiGalHexNAcP, 37 °C; (d) Neu5Ac, CTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), NmCSS, Pd2,6ST, 37 °C; (e) NBS, acetone, H₂O. Enzymes used: EcGalK, *Escherichia coli* galactokinase; BiGalHexNAcP, *Bifidobacterium infantis* D-galactosyl- β 1-3-*N*-acetyl-D-hexosamine phosphorylase; NmCSS, *Neisseria meningitidis* CMP-sialic acid synthetase; Pd2,6ST, *Photobacterium damsela* α 2-6-sialyltransferase.

Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of Disialyl Galactobiose DSGalB (7**).** Gal β 1-3Gal (galactobiose, GalB) exists in nature as a part of galactan structures in some bacteria and plants.²⁹ It also constitutes galacto-oligosaccharide (GOS) structures that are currently used as prebiotics.^{30,31} Structurally, galactobiose differs from Gal β 1-3GalNAc (Ta) only at the carbon-2 substitution of the monosaccharide at the reducing end (OH of the Gal in GalB versus NHAc of the GalNAc in Ta). It will be interesting to test whether a single substitution in the core disaccharide structure of DSTa tetrasaccharide (**6**) affects its NEC preventing efficiency.

A similar thioethyl β -glycoside acceptor strategy for the production of disialyl glycan DSTa (**6**) was used for the synthesis of DSGalB (**7**). Gal β SEt (**17**)³² was synthesized chemically and used for producing Gal β 1-3Gal β SEt (**18**) using a one-pot four-enzyme (OP4E) galactosylation system containing EcGalK, BLUSP, PmPpA, and *Campylobacter jejuni* β 1-3-galactosyltransferase (CjCgtB)³³ (Scheme 5). To our delight, the monosaccharide galactoside Gal β SEt (**17**) was a suitable acceptor for CjCgtB. A moderate 50% yield was obtained for the OP4E galactosylation reaction. The relatively low yield was due to Gal β SEt (**17**) being a less optimal acceptor than GalNAc β OR in GM2 or GD2 ganglioside oligosaccharides.³⁴

Disialylation of Gal β 1-3Gal β SEt (**18**) using the OP2E α 2-6-sialylation system containing NmCSS and Pd2,6ST formed the desired tetrasaccharide Neu5Ac α 2-6Gal β 1-3(Neu5Ac α 2-6)Gal β SEt (**19**) in 84% yield. Removal of the thioethyl group using *N*-bromosuccinimide in acetone-water followed by purification produced DSGalB (**7**) in 87% yield.

Scheme 5. Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of Disialyl Galactobiose (DSGalB (**7**)).



Reagents and conditions: (a) Gal, ATP, UTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.0), EcGalK, BLUSP, PmPpA, CjCgtB, 37 °C; (b) Neu5Ac, CTP, MgCl₂ (20 mM), Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.5), NmCSS, Pd2,6ST, 37 °C; (c) NBS, acetone, H₂O. Enzymes used: EcGalK, *Escherichia coli* galactokinase; BLUSP, *Bifidobacterium longum* UDP-sugar phosphorylase; PmPpA, *Pasteurella multocida* inorganic pyrophosphatase; CjCgtB, *Campylobacter jejuni* β 1-3-galactosyltransferase.

In vivo Efficacy of Disialyl Glycans in Preventing Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) in a Preclinical Neonatal Rat Model. The *in vivo* efficacy in preventing NEC in the neonatal rat model of the four new disialyl glycans Neu5Gc-DSLNT (**4**), DSLNnT (**5**), DSTa (**6**), and DSGalB (**7**) was tested and compared to two synthetic disialyl hexasaccharides DSLNnT (**2**), and DSLNT (**3**), as well as HMOs. A single concentration of 300 μ M was used for this purpose. The choice of this concentration was based on the concentration of DSLNT (**1**) determined by HPLC in the pooled HMOs supplemented to formula (10 mg/mL, similar to the level of HMO concentrations in mature milk) for *in vivo* neonatal rat feeding studies in a previous study.⁹ As shown in Fig. 2, similar to previously reported findings,¹² DSLNnT (**2**) and DSLNT (**3**) reduced the pathology scores significantly, although less effectively compared to HMOs. Replacing the Neu5Ac in DSLNT (**3**) by Neu5Gc in Neu5Gc-DSLNT (**4**) decreased the efficiency slightly. Replacing the terminal α 2-6-linked Neu5Ac in DSLNnT (**2**) by the terminal α 2-3-linked Neu5Ac in DSLNnT (**5**) led to moderately decreased efficacy. On the other hand, disialyl tetraoses including DSTa (**6**) and DSGalB (**7**) did not have obvious NEC-preventing effect. These results indicate that Neu5Ac is a better sialic acid form than Neu5Gc for NEC-preventing disialyl compounds. In addition, disialyl hexasaccharides are more effective NEC-preventing compounds than disialyl tetrasaccharides. Furthermore, the distance between two sialic acid residues on the disialyl hexasaccharide is also important.

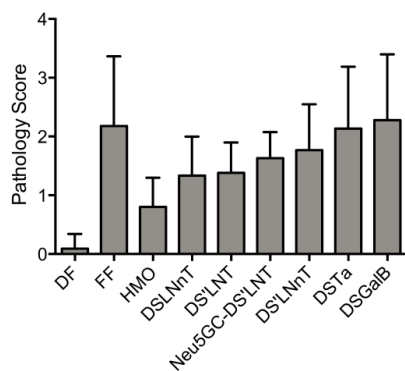


Figure 2. *In vivo* efficacy testing in preclinical rat model of NEC. A. Comparing all synthesized glycans at a concentration of 300 μ M. Number of animals per group: dam fed (DF): 22; formula fed (FF): 14; HMO: 20; DSLNnT: 18; DS'LNT: 17; Neu5GC-DS'LNT: 15; DS'LNNt: 13; DSTa: 11; DSGalB: 9.

Dose-dependent responses to DSLNnT (**2**) and DS'LNT (**3**) were tested at five different concentrations (30, 100, 300, 1,000, and 2,000 μ M). These concentrations represent the range of DSLNT (**1**) in 10-fold diluted HMO sample to 7-fold concentrated HMO sample. As shown in **Fig. 3**, DSLNnT effects plateaued at high concentrations between 300 and 2,000 μ M without reaching the maximum beneficial effects of HMOs. The effects of DS'LNT, however, continued to improve with higher concentrations, reaching similar protective effects as HMOs.

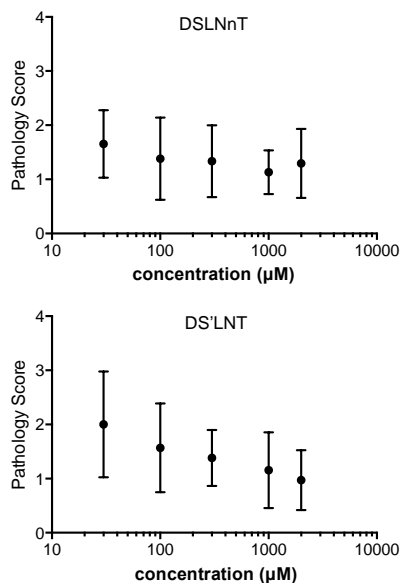


Figure 3. Dose-dependent studies of DSLNnT and DS'LNT in the established neonatal rat NEC model. Each compound at each concentration was orally administered to 15 neonatal rats.

3. CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have herein shown the efficient production of a group of disialyl glycans by chemoenzymatic or enzymatic synthetic approaches. Among them, DSLNnT (**2**) and DS'LNT (**3**) have been synthesized in gram-scales. Disialyl tetrasaccharides including disialyl Ta (DSTa, **6**) and disialyl galactobiose

(DSGalB, **7**) have been synthesized using a novel chemoenzymatic method involving disialylation of β -thioethyl glycosides followed by removal of the thioethyl group. The effects of all six compounds synthesized have been studied in an established neonatal rat NEC model. The glycan size, sialyl linkages, the distance of two sialic acid residues, and sialic acid forms have been indicated as important factors for the NEC-preventing effects of disialyl glycans. The study helps to refine the structure requirement of the NEC-preventing effect of disialyl glycans and provides important dose-dependent information for using DSLNT analogs as potential therapeutics for NEC prevention in preterm infants. Longer disialyl glycans and glycans with more sialic acid residues can be explored further for potentially improved NEC-preventing effect.

4. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials and general methods. Chemicals and reagents were purchased from commercial sources and used without further purification unless stated otherwise. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-800 NMR spectrometer and Bruker Avance-400 NMR spectrometer. High resolution electrospray ionization (ESI) mass spectra were obtained using Thermo Electron LTQ-Orbitrap Hybrid MS at the Mass Spectrometry Facility in the University of California, Davis. Silica gel 60 \AA (230–400 mesh, Sorbent Technologies) was used for flash column chromatography. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC, Sorbent Technologies) was performed on silica gel plates using anisaldehyde sugar stain or 5% sulfuric acid in ethanol stain for detection. Gel filtration chromatography was performed using a column (100 cm \times 2.5 cm) packed with Bio-Gel P-2 Fine resins (Bio-Rad). Lac, Gal, and GalNAc were purchased from Fisher Scientific, Neu5Ac was from Atomole Scientific, UTP and CTP were from Chemfun Medical Technology Co., and ATP was from Beta Pharm Inc. Lacto-*N*-tetraose (LNT) was from Elicityl (Crolles, France). Recombinant enzymes *Bifidobacterium longum* strain ATCC55813 *N*-acetylhexosamine-1-kinase (BLNahK),¹⁸ *Pasteurella multocida* *N*-acetylglucosamine uridyltransferase (PmGlmU),¹⁹ *Pasteurella multocida* inorganic pyrophosphatase (PmPpA),²⁰ *Neisseria meningitidis* β 1–3-*N*-acetylglucosaminyltransferase (NmLgtA),²¹ *Escherichia coli* galactokinase (EcGalK),²² *Bifidobacterium longum* UDP-sugar pyrophosphorylase (BLUSP),²³ *Neisseria meningitidis* β 1–4-galactosyltransferase (NmLgtB),²⁰ *Neisseria meningitidis* CMP-sialic acid synthetase (NmCSS),¹³ *Photobacterium damsela* α 2–6-sialyltransferase (Pd2,6ST),¹⁴ *Pasteurella multocida* α 2–3-sialyltransferase 1 M144D mutant (PmST1 M144D),²⁴ *Bifidobacterium infantis* D-galactosyl- β 1,3-*N*-acetyl-D-hexosamine phosphorylase (BiGalHexNAcP),²⁶ and *Campylobacter jejuni* β 1–3-galactosyltransferase (CjCgtB)³³ were expressed and purified as described previously. HMOs used were obtained previously.⁹ Major components are 2'-fucosyllactose (2'-FL), lacto-*N*-fucopentaose 1 (LNFP1), lacto-*N*-tetraose (LNT), lacto-*N*-fucopentaose 2 (LNFP2), 3'-sialyllactose (3'-SL), lacto-*N*-neotetraose (LNnT), 3-fucosyllactose (3FL), sialyllacto-*N*-tetraose c (LSTc), sialyllacto-*N*-tetraose b (LSTb), and disialyl lacto-*N*-tetraose (DSLNT).

One-pot two-enzyme gram-scale synthesis of Gal β 1–3GalNAc (GNB). A reaction mixture in Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 6.9) in a total volume of 270 mL containing GalNAc (3.00 g, 13.6 mmol), galactose (3.17 g, 17.6 mmol), ATP (9.73

g, 17.6 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), EcGalK (30 mg), and BiGalHexNacP (50 mg) was incubated in a shaker at 37 °C by agitating at 140 rpm. The reaction was monitored by mass spectrometry. When an optimal yield was achieved (after 1 day), the enzyme reaction was terminated by incubating the reaction mixture in a boiling water bath for 15 min and the mixture was centrifuged to remove the precipitates. The supernatant was concentrated and purified by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 2:1:0.1 by volume) to produce crude disaccharide Galβ1-3GalNac as α- and β-anomers (4.6 g, over 90% purity). The crude product was further crystallized from water:EtOH = 1:1 (20 mL, 60 °C) to produce 1.63 g of GNB crystal as the α-anomer. The spectroscopic data coincided with a previous report.²⁶

One-pot two-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-4GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc (DSLNNt, 2). A reaction mixture in a total volume of 50 mL containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.5), LNNt¹² (1.05 g, 1.48 mmol), Neu5Ac (1.37 g, 4.43 mmol), CTP (2.35 g, 4.43 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), NmCSS (13 mg), and Pd₂6ST (16 mg) was incubated in a shaker at 37 °C for 2 d. The reaction was monitored by mass spectrometry. When an optimal yield was achieved, 50 mL of ethanol was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The precipitates were removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was concentrated and purified by a Bio Gel P-2 gel column (water was used as an eluent). Further purification was achieved by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:3:2 by volume) and by Bio-Gel P-2 column (eluted with H₂O) in the final step to produce Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-4GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc hexasaccharide as white powder (2, 1.70 g, 96%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.21 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.4H), 4.71 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 1H), 4.00–3.28 (m, 37H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 4.8 and 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.66 (dd, *J* = 4.8 and 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 6H), 1.72 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.71 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.8, 173.4, 173.4, 103.4, 103.1, 103.1, 102.5, 100.1, 100.0, 95.5, 91.7, 82.0, 80.4, 79.6, 79.5, 74.5, 74.5, 74.1, 73.5, 73.1, 72.4, 72.4, 72.2, 72.2, 71.6, 71.6, 71.5, 70.9, 70.6, 69.8, 69.5, 69.5, 68.2, 68.2, 68.1, 68.0, 68.0, 63.3, 63.2, 62.5, 62.4, 60.1, 60.0, 59.9, 54.8, 51.7, 51.6, 40.0, 39.9, 22.1, 21.9, 21.8. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₄₈H₇₈N₃O₃₇ [M-H]⁻ 1288.4320, found 1288.4305.

One-pot two-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of DS'LNT Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-3GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc (DS'LNT, 3). A reaction mixture in a total volume of 50 mL containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.5), LNT (1.0 g, 1.41 mmol), Neu5Ac (1.31 g, 4.24 mmol), CTP (2.23 g, 4.24 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), NmCSS (12 mg), and Pd₂6ST (15 mg) was incubated in a shaker at 37 °C for 2 d. The reaction was monitored by mass spectrometry. When an optimal yield was achieved, 50 mL of ethanol was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The precipitates were removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was concentrated and purified by a Bio Gel P-2 gel column (water was used as an eluent). Further purification was achieved by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:3:2 by volume) and by Bio-Gel P-2 column (eluted with H₂O) in the final step to produce Neu5Acα2-3Galβ1-3GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc hexasaccharide as white powder (3, 1.79 g, 95%). ¹H

NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.21 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.4H), 4.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.43 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (s, 1H), 3.99–3.28 (m, 37H), 2.72–2.69 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 6H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.73 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.9, 174.8, 174.8, 173.4, 103.8, 103.1, 103.1, 102.5, 100.2, 100.1, 95.5, 91.7, 83.6, 82.0, 79.7, 79.6, 75.2, 74.6, 74.5, 74.2, 73.6, 73.5, 73.2, 72.4, 72.4, 72.3, 71.7, 71.7, 71.5, 70.9, 70.4, 69.9, 69.7, 69.7, 69.3, 68.6, 68.4, 68.3, 68.3, 68.2, 68.1, 68.1, 63.4, 63.4, 62.6, 60.6, 60.2, 60.0, 54.4, 51.7, 51.7, 40.1, 40.0, 22.2, 22.0. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₄₈H₇₈N₃O₃₇ [M-H]⁻ 1288.4320, found 1288.4315.

One-pot two-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of Neu5Gcα2-6Galβ1-3GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Gcα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc (Neu5Gc-DS'LNT, 4). A reaction mixture in a total volume of 10 mL containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.5), LNT (150 mg, 0.21 mmol), Neu5Gc (206 mg, 0.63 mmol), CTP (335 mg, 0.63 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), NmCSS (3.0 mg), and Pd₂6ST (5.0 mg) was incubated in a shaker at 37 °C for 2 d. The reaction was monitored by mass spectrometry. When an optimal yield was achieved, 10 mL of ethanol was added to the reaction mixture and the resulting mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The precipitates were removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was concentrated and purified by a Bio Gel P-2 gel column (water was used as an eluent). Further purification was achieved by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:3:2 by volume) and by Bio-Gel P-2 column (eluted with H₂O) in the final step to produce Neu5Gcα2-6Galβ1-3GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Gcα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc hexasaccharide as white powder (4, 272 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.21 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.4H), 4.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.17 (s, 1H), 4.10 (s, 4H), 3.99–3.28 (m, 37H), 2.73–2.70 (m, 2H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.74 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.70 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (201 MHz, D₂O) δ 175.6, 175.5, 174.8, 173.4, 173.4, 103.8, 103.1, 103.1, 102.5, 100.2, 100.0, 95.5, 91.7, 83.5, 81.9, 79.7, 79.6, 75.2, 74.6, 74.5, 73.6, 73.5, 73.2, 72.3, 72.1, 72.1, 71.8, 71.7, 71.5, 70.9, 70.4, 69.8, 69.7, 69.6, 68.6, 68.3, 68.2, 68.1, 68.1, 68.0, 67.9, 63.4, 62.5, 60.9, 60.5, 60.1, 60.0, 54.4, 51.4, 51.4, 40.1, 40.0, 22.1. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₄₈H₇₈N₃O₃₉ [M-H]⁻ 1320.4218, found 1320.4210.

One-pot two-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of Neu5Acα2-3Galβ1-4GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc (DS'LNT, 5).

(a) **One-pot two-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of GlcNacβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc (11).** The reaction mixture in a total volume of 15 mL containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.5), Lc₃ trisaccharide GlcNacβ1-3Galβ1-4Glc (0.2 g, 0.367 mmol), Neu5Ac (0.17 g, 0.55 mmol), CTP (0.29 g, 0.55 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), NmCSS (4 mg), Pd₂6ST (5 mg) was incubated in a shaker with agitation (100 rpm) at 37 °C for 24 h. The product formation was monitored by TLC (*i*-PrOH:H₂O:NH₄OH = 5:2:1 by volume, and detected by *p*-anisaldehyde sugar stain) and mass spectrometry. When an optimal yield was achieved, ethanol (15 mL) was added and the mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The precipitates were removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was concentrated and purified by a Bio-Gel P-2 gel column (water was used as an eluate). Further purification was achieved by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:1 by volume) and

1 finally Bio-Gel P-2 column (eluted with H₂O) to produce Glc-
 2 NAcβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc as white powder (**11**,
 3 0.30 g, 96%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.20 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz,
 4 0.4H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.65 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.41
 5 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.19–3.28 (m, 25H), 2.68 (dd, *J* = 4.8 and
 6 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (s, 6H), 1.72 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR
 7 (201 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.8, 173.4, 103.1, 102.8, 100.2, 95.5, 91.7,
 8 82.0, 79.6, 79.5, 75.5, 74.6, 74.5, 73.6, 73.5, 73.1, 72.4, 71.7,
 9 70.9, 69.9, 69.6, 68.2, 68.1, 63.3, 62.5, 60.4, 60.1, 55.5, 51.7,
 10 40.0, 22.0, 21.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₃₁H₅₁N₂O₂₄
 [M-H]⁻ 835.2837, found 835.2833.

11 (b) *One-pot four-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of*
 12 *Galβ1-4GlcNAcβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc (12)*. The reac-
 13 tion mixture in a total volume of 10 mL containing Tris-HCl
 14 buffer (100 mM, pH 8.0), tetrasaccharide **11** (0.15 g, 0.175
 15 mmol), galactose (0.047 g, 0.261 mmol), ATP (0.144 g, 0.261
 16 mmol), UTP (0.138 g, 0.261 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), EcGalK
 17 (3 mg), BLUSP (4 mg), NmLgtB (3 mg), and PmPpA (2 mg)
 18 was incubated in a shaker with agitation (100 rpm) at 30 °C for
 19 2 days. The product formation was monitored by TLC (*n*-
 20 PrOH:H₂O:NH₄OH = 5:2:1 by volume, and detected by *p*-
 21 anisaldehyde sugar stain) and mass spectrometry. When an op-
 22 timal yield was achieved, ethanol (10 mL) was added and the
 23 mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The precipitates were
 24 removed by centrifugation and the supernatant was concen-
 25 trated and purified by a Bio-Gel P-2 gel column (water was used
 26 as an eluate). Further purification was achieved by silica gel
 27 chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:1 by volume) and
 28 finally Bio-Gel P-2 column (eluted with H₂O) to produce
 29 Galβ1-4GlcNAcβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-4Glc as white
 30 powder (**12**, 0.167 g, 94%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.22
 31 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.4H), 4.68 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 8.0
 32 Hz, 0.6H), 4.47 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H),
 33 4.19–3.28 (m, 31H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 4.8 and 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.02
 34 (s, 6H), 1.72 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H). ¹³C NMR (201 MHz, D₂O) δ
 35 174.8, 174.8, 173.4, 173.4, 103.1, 102.8, 102.7, 100.2, 95.5,
 36 91.7, 82.1, 79.6, 79.5, 78.0, 75.2, 74.6, 74.5, 74.4, 73.6, 73.1,
 37 72.4, 72.4, 72.1, 71.7, 71.5, 70.9, 70.9, 69.9, 69.6, 69.6, 68.5,
 38 68.4, 68.2, 68.1, 63.3, 62.5, 60.9, 60.1, 60.0, 59.7, 55.1, 51.8,
 39 51.7, 40.0, 22.1, 22.0. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for
 40 C₃₇H₆₁N₂O₂₉ [M-H]⁻ 997.3365, found 997.3360.

41 (c) *One-pot two-enzyme preparative-scale synthesis of*
 42 *DS'LNnT Neu5Acα2-3Galβ1-4GlcNAcβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-*
 43 *6)Galβ1-4Glc (5)*. To prepare DS'LNnT, a reaction mixture in
 44 a total volume of 10 mL containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM,
 45 pH 8.5), pentasaccharide **12** (100 mg, 0.098 mmol), Neu5Ac
 46 (45 mg, 0.145 mmol), CTP (78 mg, 0.145 mmol), MgCl₂ (20
 47 mM), NmCSS (3.0 mg), and PmST1_M144D (3.0 mg) was in-
 48 cubated in a shaker at 37 °C for 24 h. The reaction was moni-
 49 tored by TLC (*n*-PrOH:H₂O:NH₄OH = 4:2:1 by volume and de-
 50 tected by *p*-anisaldehyde sugar stain) and mass spectrometry.
 51 When an optimal yield was achieved, 10 mL of ethanol was
 52 added to the reaction mixture and the resulting mixture was in-
 53 cubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The precipitates were removed by
 54 centrifugation and the supernatant was concentrated and puri-
 55 fied by a Bio Gel P-2 gel column (water was used as an eluent).
 56 Further purification was achieved by silica gel chromatography
 57 (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:3:2 by volume) and by Bio-Gel P-2
 58 column (eluted with H₂O) in the final step to produce
 59 Neu5Acα2-3Galβ1-4GlcNAcβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Galβ1-
 60 4Glc hexasaccharide as white powder (**5**, 121 mg, 93%). ¹H
 NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.21 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.4H), 4.68 (d, *J*

= 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.66 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz,
 1H), 4.41 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.18–3.26 (m, 38H), 2.74 (dd, *J*
 = 4.8 and 12.0 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (dd, *J* = 4.8 and 12.0 Hz, 1H),
 2.01 (s, 9H), 1.80 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 1.72 (t, *J* = 12.0 Hz, 1H).
¹³C NMR (201 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.9, 174.8, 174.8, 173.8, 173.5,
 173.4, 173.4, 103.1, 102.8, 102.7, 102.4, 100.2, 99.7, 95.5, 91.7,
 82.0, 79.6, 79.5, 77.9, 75.3, 75.0, 74.6, 74.5, 74.4, 73.6, 73.1,
 72.8, 72.4, 72.1, 71.7, 71.6, 70.9, 70.6, 69.6, 69.3, 68.1, 68.0,
 67.4, 63.4, 63.4, 62.6, 62.5, 62.4, 60.9, 60.9, 60.1, 60.0, 59.7,
 55.1, 51.7, 51.6, 40.0, 40.0, 39.5, 39.5, 22.1, 22.0, 22.0. HRMS
 (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₄₈H₇₈N₃O₃₇ [M-H]⁻ 1288.4320, found
 1288.4318.

**Synthesis of Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Gal-
 NAc (DSTa, 6).**

(a) *Synthesis of ethyl-3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-2-deoxy-2-
 phthalimido-1-thio-β-galactopyranoside (13)*. D-Galactosa-
 mine hydrochloride (3.0 g, 13.9 mmol) was dissolved in a solu-
 tion of 1 M NaOH (aq) (1.02 g, 24.7 mmol) (24 mL). Phthalic
 anhydride was added (3.1 g, 20.9 mmol) and the reaction mix-
 ture was stirred at room temperature for overnight to form a
 clear yellow aqueous solution which was washed with 3 ×
 EtOAc (10 mL). The water was removed under reduced pres-
 sure to produce 2-(2-carboxybenzamido)-2-deoxy-D-galacto-
 pyranose as a yellow foam. The crude compound was dissolved
 in pyridine (20 mL) and acetic anhydride (14 mL, 0.15 mol) was
 added at 0 °C. The mixture was left to attain ambient tempera-
 ture and was stirred for overnight. The reaction was quenched
 with MeOH at 0 °C. Solvents were evaporated and co-evapora-
 ted with toluene, and the brown suspension was dissolved in
 EtOAc and washed with brine, HCl solution (1 M), brine, satd.
 NaHCO₃ (aq), and brine again. The solution was dried over
 MgSO₄ and to remove residue solvent by treatment under re-
 duced pressure to produce 1,3,4,6-tetra-*O*-acetyl-2-deoxy-2-
 phthalimido-D-galactopyranoside as a yellow foam. The crude
 compound (4.6 g, 9.6 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (45
 mL). At 0 °C, BF₃·OEt₂ (6.6 mL, 48 mmol) was added drop-
 wily and the mixture was stirred for 10 min under argon.
 EtSH (2.2 mL, 29 mmol) was added and the reaction was stirred
 at room temperature for 20 h. TLC analysis indicated comple-
 tion of the reaction and quenching was done with Et₃N at 0 °C.
 After removal of the solvent, the crude residue was purified by
 flash chromatography (EtOAc:Hexane = 2:3 by volume) to pro-
 duce pure compound ethyl-3,4,6-tri-*O*-acetyl-2-deoxy-2-
 phthalimido-1-thio-β-galactopyranoside **13** as white foam (2.9
 g, 6.05 mmol). Yield was 43.5% over 3 steps. ¹H NMR (400
 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.92–7.82 (m, 2H), 7.81–7.71 (m, 2H), 5.85
 (dd, *J* = 11.0 and 3.3 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (d,
J = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (t, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 1H), 4.27–4.08 (m, 3H),
 2.80–2.60 (m, 2H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.07 (s, 3H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.23
 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 170.4, 170.3,
 169.8, 168.0, 167.4, 134.4, 134.3, 131.6, 131.3, 123.7, 123.6,
 81.7, 74.5, 68.8, 67.0, 61.7, 50.2, 24.6, 20.8, 20.7, 20.5, 15.0.

(b) *Synthesis of ethyl 2-deoxy-2-acetimido-1-thio-β-D-ga-
 lactopyranoside (14)*. Ethyl 3,4,6-tri-*O*-acetyl-2-deoxy-2-
 phthalimido-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (**13**) (2.8 g, 5.17
 mmol) was dissolved in dry MeOH (65 mL), and hydrazine
 monohydrate (15 mL, 0.31 mol, 5 eq.) was added. The mixture
 was refluxed under argon for 8 h. The reaction mixture was con-
 centrated and co-evaporated 2 × with EtOH (10 mL). The resi-
 due was purified by silica gel flash chromatography
 (NH₄OH:MeOH:EtOAc = 1:5:30 by volume) to yield ethyl 2-
 deoxy-2-amino-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside as a pale-yellow

solid. The crude material was dissolved in MeOH, acetic anhydride (1.55 mL, 15.3 mmol) was added at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for overnight. Upon solvent evaporation under reduced pressure, the crude product was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH/H₂O = 60:10:1) to produce ethyl 2-deoxy-2-acetamido-1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside as white foam (**14**, GalNAcβSet) (1.44 g). Yield was 92.9% over two steps. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.49 (d, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.90 (d, *J* = 3.3 Hz, 1H), 3.87 (t, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.75–3.59 (m, 3H), 2.75–2.56 (m, 2H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.6, 84.4, 78.9, 72.1, 67.9, 61.1, 51.3, 24.5, 22.2, 14.3.

(c) *Synthesis of ethyl β-D-galactopyranosyl-(1-3)-2-acetamido-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranoside (15)*. GalNAcβSet **14** (200 mg, 0.75 mmol), Gal (203 mg, 1.13 mmol), ATP (574 mg, 1.13 mmol) were dissolved in water in a 50 mL centrifuge tube containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 6.8) and MgCl₂ (20 mM). After the addition of appropriate amount of EcGalK (5.4 mg), BiGalHexNAcP (15 mg), water was added to bring the volume of the reaction mixture to 30 mL. The reaction was carried out by incubating the solution in an incubator shaker at 37 °C with agitating at 100 rpm. After 36 h, the reaction was quenched by adding methanol (30 mL) and incubating at 4 °C for 30 min. The mixture was then centrifuged to remove precipitates. The supernatant was concentrated and purified by silica gel chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 7:3:0.3 to 6:4:0.4 by volume) to produce a white solid. Then it was purified by Bio-Gel P-2 gel filtration column (2.5 × 80 cm) to produce ethyl β-D-galactopyranosyl-(1→3)-2-acetamido-2-deoxy-β-D-glucopyranoside as white powder (**15**, Galβ1-3GalNAcβSet) (199 mg, 62%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.53 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.13 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.00 (t, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 3.82 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (dd, *J* = 10.4 and 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.73–3.60 (m, 5H), 3.57 (dd, *J* = 7.8 and 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.53 (dd, *J* = 10.0 and 3.6 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 9.8 and 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.76–2.56 (m, 2H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.16 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.5, 104.8, 84.2, 80.9, 78.6, 75.0, 72.5, 70.6, 68.6, 68.2, 61.0, 61.0, 50.0, 24.4, 22.3, 14.3. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₁₆H₂₉NNaO₁₀S [M+Na]⁺ 450.1410, found 450.1422.

(d) *Synthesis of tetrasaccharide thioglycoside 16*. Galβ1-3GalNAcβSet **15** (106 mg, 0.25 mmol), Neu5Ac (230 mg, 0.75 mmol), and CTP (392 mg, 0.75 mmol) were dissolved in water in a 15 mL centrifuge tube containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.5) and MgCl₂ (20 mM). After the addition of appropriate amounts of NmCSS (3 mg) and Pd2,6ST (4 mg), water was added to bring the volume of the reaction mixture to 10 mL. The reaction was carried out by incubating the solution in an incubator shaker at 37 °C by agitating at 100 rpm. After 3 day, the reaction was quenched by adding 10 mL of methanol and the mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The mixture was then centrifuged to remove precipitates. The supernatant was concentrated and purified by silica gel (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:0.8 by volume) and Bio-Gel P-2 gel filtration column (2.5 × 80 cm) to produce a white solid (**16**, 249 mg, 93%). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.49 (d, *J* = 10.5 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.10 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 4.01 (t, *J* = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.89 (dd, *J* = 10.4 and 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.85 (dd, *J* = 6.9 and 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.83–3.69 (m, 8H), 3.68–3.47 (m, 13H), 3.42 (dd, *J* = 9.9, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 2.76–2.58 (m, 4H), 1.96 (s, 6H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.62 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.61 (t, *J* = 12.1 Hz, 1H), 1.18 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (101 MHz, D₂O) δ 175.1, 175.0, 174.5, 173.5,

173.4, 104.5, 100.6, 100.4, 84.6, 80.1, 80.1, 77.2, 74.3, 73.1, 72.7, 72.6, 72.3, 71.8, 71.6, 70.5, 69.5, 68.4, 68.3, 68.2, 68.2, 68.1, 64.0, 63.2, 62.7, 59.3, 52.0, 51.9, 50.0, 40.2, 40.2, 24.7, 22.3, 22.0, 14.4. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₃₈H₆₂N₃O₂₆S [M-H]⁻ 1008.3348, found 1008.3351.

(e) *Synthesis of Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)GalNAc (6)*. Tetrasaccharide thioglycoside **16** (100 mg, 0.099 mmol) was dissolved in acetone/water (5 mL, 50% v/v). The reaction mixture was cooled down to 0 °C and NBS (35 mg, 0.20 mmol) was added in one portion in the dark. After 30 min of vigorous stirring, acetone was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:1 by volume) to produce the desired disialyl glycan DSTa **6** as a white powder (90 mg, 94%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.18 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.6H), 4.64 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.4H), 4.49 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.42 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.4H), 4.29–3.48 (m, 26H), 2.74–2.70 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.01 (s, 3H), 1.71–1.66 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (201 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.9, 174.9, 174.9, 174.8, 174.5, 173.4, 173.4, 173.3, 104.4, 104.2, 100.5, 100.5, 100.3, 100.3, 95.1, 91.1, 79.2, 76.2, 73.4, 73.0, 72.6, 72.6, 72.5, 72.5, 72.3, 72.3, 71.7, 71.6, 71.4, 70.4, 70.4, 68.9, 68.6, 68.3, 68.2, 68.2, 68.1, 68.1, 68.1, 68.1, 68.1, 68.0, 64.2, 64.1, 63.1, 63.0, 62.6, 62.5, 62.5, 52.3, 51.9, 51.9, 51.7, 49.0, 40.2, 40.1, 40.1, 40.0, 22.2, 22.0, 21.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₃₆H₅₈N₃O₂₇ [M-H]⁻ 964.3263, found 964.3241.

Synthesis of Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Gal (DSGalB, 7).

(a) *Synthesis of disaccharide thioglycoside 18*. The reaction mixture in a total volume of 10 mL containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.0), GalβSet³² (**17**, 60 mg, 0.27 mmol), galactose (0.072 g, 0.40 mmol), ATP (0.221 g, 0.40 mmol), UTP (0.212 g, 0.40 mmol), MgCl₂ (20 mM), EcGalK (2 mg), BLUSP (3 mg), PmPpA (2 mg), and CjCgtB (3 mg) was incubated in a shaker with agitation (100 rpm) at 37 °C for 2 days. The reaction was quenched by adding 10 mL of ethanol and the mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. The mixture was then centrifuged to remove precipitates. The supernatant was concentrated and purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:0.2 by volume) to produce disaccharide **18** as white solid (52 mg, 50%). ¹H NMR (600 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.48 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.07 (d, *J* = 3.1 Hz, 1H), 3.76 (d, *J* = 2.6 Hz, 1H), 3.67 (dd, *J* = 9.4 and 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.64–3.36 (m, 9H), 2.68–2.53 (m, 2H), 1.12 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (151 MHz, D₂O) δ 104.2, 85.2, 83.2, 78.5, 75.0, 72.4, 71.0, 68.6, 68.6, 68.5, 60.9, 60.9, 24.0, 14.4.

(b) *Synthesis of tetrasaccharide thioglycoside 19*. Galβ1-3GalβSet **18** (20 mg, 0.052 mmol), Neu5Ac (64 mg, 0.21 mmol), and CTP (109 mg, 0.21 mmol) were dissolved in water in a 15 mL centrifuge tube containing Tris-HCl buffer (100 mM, pH 8.5) and MgCl₂ (20 mM). After the addition of appropriate amounts of NmCSS (2 mg) and Pd2,6ST (3 mg), water was added to bring the total volume of the reaction mixture to 5 mL. The reaction was carried out by incubating the solution in an incubator shaker at 37 °C by agitating at 100 rpm. After 2 day, the reaction was quenched by adding 5 mL of methanol and the mixture was incubated at 4 °C for 30 min. After being centrifuged for 30 min at 7,000 × g in a Sorvall legend T/RT bench-top centrifuge, the clear supernatant was transferred to a 100 mL round-bottom flask. The protein precipitates were washed with 4 mL of deionized water. The mixture was then

centrifuged to remove precipitates. The supernatant was concentrated and purified by Bio-Gel P-2 gel filtration column (2.5 × 80 cm) and flash chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:0.8 by volume) to produce compound **19** as a white solid (38 mg, 84%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 4.63 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 1H), 4.20 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 3.95 (dd, *J* = 10.1 and 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.92 (d, *J* = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 3.92–3.77 (m, 9H), 3.76–3.61 (m, 10H), 3.60–3.53 (m, 4H), 2.82–2.68 (m, 4H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 1.70 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.69 (t, *J* = 12.2 Hz, 1H), 1.28 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (201 MHz, D₂O) δ 174.9, 174.9, 173.2, 173.1, 103.8, 100.3, 100.2, 95.1, 85.4, 82.7, 77.0, 73.2, 72.6, 72.5, 72.3, 71.5, 71.4, 70.9, 68.6, 68.4, 68.2, 68.1, 68.0, 68.0, 63.9, 63.1, 62.6, 62.5, 51.9, 51.7, 40.1, 40.0, 24.3, 21.9, 21.9, 14.5. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₃₆H₅₉N₂O₂₆S [M-H]⁻ 967.3082, found 967.3078.

(c) **Synthesis of Neu5Acα2-6Galβ1-3(Neu5Acα2-6)Gal (7)**. Tetrasaccharide thioglycoside **19** (18 mg, 0.019 mmol) was dissolved in acetone/water (1 mL, 50% v/v). The reaction mixture was cooled down to 0 °C and NBS (8 mg, 0.046 mmol) was added in one portion in the dark. After 20 min of vigorous stirring, acetone was evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (EtOAc:MeOH:H₂O = 4:2:1 by volume) to produce DSGalB (**7**) as a white powder (15 mg, 87%). ¹H NMR (800 MHz, D₂O) δ 5.25 (d, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 0.4H), 4.61 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 0.6H), 4.60 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.25–3.51 (m, 26H), 2.74–2.69 (m, 2H), 2.03 (s, 6H), 1.73–1.66 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (201 MHz, D₂O) δ 175.0, 174.9, 174.9, 173.4, 173.4, 173.3, 103.8, 100.4, 100.3, 100.3, 100.3, 96.0, 92.0, 88.9, 81.9, 78.9, 74.4, 73.3, 73.1, 73.1, 72.5, 72.5, 72.5, 72.5, 72.3, 72.3, 71.6, 71.6, 71.4, 70.9, 70.9, 70.8, 68.9, 68.8, 68.4, 68.3, 68.2, 68.1, 68.0, 67.4, 64.2, 64.1, 63.1, 63.0, 62.6, 62.5, 59.4, 51.9, 51.9, 51.7, 40.2, 40.1, 40.0, 21.9, 21.9. HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calculated for C₃₄H₅₅N₂O₂₇ [M-H]⁻ 923.2998, found 923.2991.

In vivo Efficacy of Disialyl Glycans in Preventing Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) in a Preclinical Neonatal Rat Model. *In vivo* efficacy was tested in an established NEC model in neonatal rats as previously described.⁹ Single dose (300 μM) and dose-dependent (30, 100, 300, 1,000, and 2,000 μM) studies were carried out in the same manner. The concentration of HMOs used was 10 mg/mL, the same as that used previously.^{9,12} Briefly, pregnant time-dated Sprague-Dawley rats were induced at term using Pitocin (1–2 U per animal). Immediately after birth, neonatal rats were randomized into the different study groups. Animals in the dam-fed (DF) group remained with the dam. All other animals were separated from the dam, housed in a temperature- and humidity-controlled incubator and orally gavaged with a special rodent formula (0.2 mL; without and with different oligosaccharides) twice daily. The formula approximates the protein and caloric content of rat breast milk and consists of 15 g Similac 60/40 (Ross Pediatrics, Columbus, Ohio, USA) in 75 mL of Esbilac canine milk replacer (Pet-Ag, Hampshire, Illinois, USA). All animals, dam-fed and gavaged, were exposed to 10 min of hypoxia (5% O₂, 95% N₂) thrice daily in a modular chamber. All animals were sacrificed 96 h post-partum; their intestines were collected and inspected for the presence of gross necrotic changes or *pneumosis intestinalis*. A 0.5 cm section of the terminal ileum was prepared for H&E staining per standard protocols and scored blindly by two investigators based on morphological changes that included epithelial sloughing, villus oedema, infiltration of neutrophils,

apoptosis of villus enterocytes, crypt hyperplasia and misaligned nuclei in the epithelium. If at least one pathology sign was observed, a score of 0.5–1.5 was assigned depending on severity. Two or three signs together resulted in a score of 2–3. The maximum score of 4 was given in case of complete obliteration of the epithelium with or without intestinal perforation. The animal protocol was approved by The University of California San Diego Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), and complied with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the glycans synthesized. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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Notes

HY, YL, and XC are co-founders of Glycohub, Inc., a company focused on the development of carbohydrate-based reagents, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

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