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Recycling to grow

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DOI:
[10.33612/diss.645664160](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.645664160)

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are advised to consult the publisher's version (publisher's PDF) if you wish to cite from it. Please check the document version below.

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2023

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Bailoni, E. (2023). *Recycling to grow: cofactor conservation for sustainable phospholipid biosynthesis in synthetic cells*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen. <https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.645664160>

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Propositions accompanying the thesis

Recycling to grow

Cofactor conservation for sustainable phospholipid biosynthesis
in synthetic cells

By Eleonora Bailoni

1. **W**ith a volume comparable to that of *E. coli*, giant-unilamellar vesicles of $\sim 1\text{-}2\ \mu\text{m}$ diameter are ideal compartments for a sustainable metabolism. – *This thesis, Chapter 1.*
2. **H**aving nice and supportive colleagues makes all the difference.
3. **A**rginine breakdown-mediated glycerol 3-phosphate formation in compartment is limited by phosphate depletion but can be avoided by co-reconstituting the glycerol 3-phosphate/phosphate antiporter GlpT. – *This thesis, Chapter 2-4.*
4. **T**he multi-chamber dynamic dialysis setup developed for bottom-up synthetic cells ensures continuous substrate feed and waste product wash from the external environment, thus promoting sustained metabolic activities in confinement. – *This thesis, Chapter 2.*
5. **I**ncreasing the number of reconstituted components has the cost of an enhanced stochastic distribution in large-unilamellar vesicles. – *This thesis, Chapter 1-2.*
6. **S**ynthetic cells with an internal volume of $0.05\ \text{fL}$ would require several days to undergo a full growth cycle if they were to rely exclusively on arginine breakdown for ATP formation. – *This thesis, Chapter 4.*
7. **L**ong-chain fatty acids do not diffuse through dialysis filters as free monomers, making dynamic dialysis an unsuitable technique to feed these substrates in combination with the retention of lipid vesicles. – *This thesis, Chapter 3.*
8. **I**n reconstituted systems, poor protein preparation significantly limits reproducibility and experimental progress. – *This thesis, Chapter 5.*
9. **F**reeze-thaw-extrusion is not a suitable technique to encapsulate membrane-associated PlsB and PlsC into large-unilamellar vesicles. – *This thesis, Chapter 4.*
10. **E**ventually, the construction of an autonomous, life-like synthetic cell will reveal more mechanistic complexities than initially anticipated and raise further unforeseen questions.