Chimeric RNA Oligonucleotides Incorporating Triazole-Linked Trinucleotides: Synthesis and Function as mRNA in Cell-Free Translation Reactions

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S Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: A method for the synthesis of chimeric oligonucleotides was developed to incorporate purine nucleobases and multiple triazole linkers in natural, phosphate-linked structures of RNA. A solution-phase synthesis method for triazole-linked RNA oligomers via copper-catalyzed azide–alkyne cycloaddition reaction was optimized and tolerated purine nucleobases and protecting groups for further transformations. Three ^{TL}RNA trinucleotides with 5'-protected hydroxy and 3'-phosphoramidite groups were prepared, and one congener with a representative sequence was subjected to automated, solid-phase phosphoramidite synthesis. The synthesis allowed the efficient preparation of 13-mer chimeric RNA oligonucleotides with two triazole linkers, ten phosphate



linkers and purine/pyrimidine nucleobases. The chimeric oligonucleotide was found applicable to a cell-free translation system as mRNA and provided the genetic code for dipeptide production.

INTRODUCTION

Oligonucleotide analogues with artificial molecular structures are attracting much interest in life science and biotechnology.¹ Particularly, phosphate-replaced analogues of oligonucleotides are interesting as potential substrates for enzymatic reactions, which are enabled by their furanose-mimicking units.² Considering the obvious requirement of synthetic robustness for the preparation of functional analogues, we previously introduced click chemistry³ in elongation reactions and designed triazole-linked DNA (^{TL}DNA) through the molecular design of deoxyribose-mimicking monomer units.^{4,5} The multiple copper-catalyzed azide–alkyne cycloaddition (CuAAC) reactions, sequentially performed with 3'-azide and 5'-alkyne on solid supports, allowed us to synthesize oligothymine ^{TL}DNA 1 (Figure 1).^{4,6}

A second analogue, an RNA congener, was then introduced to assemble ribofuranose-mimicking units in the form of oligomers via CuAAC. Although the synthesis of the triazolelinked RNA (^{TL}RNA) oligonucleotides (2) was synthetically improved from the ^{TL}DNA synthesis,⁷ an inherent problem of low solubility with electroneutral linkers hindered the examination of the full potential of triazole-linked oligonucleo-



Figure 1. Triazole-linked DNA and RNA.

tides.⁸ We thus investigated chimeric RNA oligonucleotides to combine triazole linkages with phosphate linkages and

Received: July 6, 2016 **Published:** August 31, 2016 developed a method to introduce a single triazole linker in chimeric RNA oligonucleotides (3, Figure 2).⁹ This method



Figure 2. Structure and retrosynthesis of chimeric oligonucleotides with triazole linkers.

assembled a 5'-jointing unit (4, with 5'-OH and 3'-azide) and a 3'-jointing unit (5, with 5'-alkyne and 3'-OH) by solutionphase click synthesis and utilized a phosphoramidite protocol to synthesize chimeric RNA oligomers with a single triazole linker. To further expand the scope of the synthesis and the potential applications of the chimeric RNA, we herein explore a synthesis method to introduce multiple triazole linkers in chimeric RNA analogues. To introduce multiple triazole linkers, we adopted solution-phase synthesis to assemble ^{TL}RNA oligomers via a combination of **4**, **5** and an elongation unit **6** and applied oligomers with 5'-OH/3'-OH termini to the phosphoramidite protocol. Albeit a subtle change, the synthesis required careful reinvestigation of the solution-phase reactions, which may be informative for examinations of CuAAC reactions in the presence of biologically relevant substances. After succeeding in diversifying the nucleobases in the ^{TL}RNA trinucleotides, we synthesized chimeric 13-mer RNA oligonucleotides with two triazole linkers (7) and investigated their function as the mRNA substrate in translation reactions using a cell-free translation system.¹⁰

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The synthesis routes for monomer units (4, 5, 6) from D-xylose were previously established,⁹ and we prepared pyrimidine ^{TL}RNA dinucleotides using a combination of the pyrimidinebearing 5'- and 3'-jointing units (4 and 5) from the previous study for siRNA.⁹ The next steps for synthetic developments involved: (1) inclusion of purine nucleobases and (2) inclusion of elongation units (6). We thus investigated the appropriate reaction conditions to combine all three monomer units and explored a synthetic route to utilize the phosphoramidite protocol for chimeric assembly.

The synthesis of ^{TL}RNA dinucleotides with purine nucleobases required substantial reoptimization of the reaction conditions. The reaction of 3'-jointing cytosine monomer **SC** and elongation uracil monomer **6U** proceeded under the previously optimized conditions to afford dinucleotide **8UC** in 97% yield (substrate concentration = 1.0 M; Table 1).





However, the reaction with 3'-jointing guanine monomer **5G** failed to proceed to completion under identical conditions. Assuming poor solubility of **5G** in the reaction medium as the origin of the low reactivity, we performed the reaction at lower substrate concentrations of 200 and 50 mM and obtained **8UG** in improved yields of 78% and 90%, respectively (Table 1).

The hydroxy groups of the ^{TL}RNA dinucleotides (**8UC** and **8UG**) were then modified to be compatible with the phosphoramidite protocol. Thus, after removal of the trimethylsilyl group of **8UC** at the acetylene moiety, we

protected the 2'-hydroxy group of the dinucleotide alkyne 9UC with a TBDMS protective group to give dinucleotide 10UC (Scheme 1). Removal of the 3'-benzyl group from 10UC

Scheme 1. Modification of TLRNA Dinucleotides



afforded ^{TL}RNA dinucleotide 11UC in 89% yield (3 steps). The purine-containing ^{TL}RNA dinucleotide 11UG was likewise transformed via a three-step route to afford 11UG in 65% yield. The ^{TL}RNA dinucleotides were then furnished with 5'-jointing units. Although a protocol for similar coupling reactions has been investigated in our previous studies,⁹ we faced the issue of reproducibility of the synthesis. For instance, the yields of 12UUC from a coupling reaction between 11UC

Table 2. Solution-Phase Synthesis of ^{TL}RNA Trinucleotides

and 4U varied from 51% to 99% (Table 2). Careful analysis of the crude materials showed that an undesired, detritylated trinucleotide was included in the byproducts, and we envisioned that removal of acid contaminants would improve the reproducibility. We thus added Hünig's base (N,Ndiisopropylethylamine) to the reaction mixture and found that the desired TLRNA trinucleotide 12UUC was obtained reproducibly in 97% yield. The revised coupling conditions were used to prepare TLRNA trinucleotide 12CUC in 94% yield. The conditions for purine-containing congeners required further revision of the conditions: the reaction was sluggish and failed to complete even after 24 h. Assuming that the copper catalyst was captured by the purine nucleobase,¹¹ we doubled the amounts of the copper catalyst and Hünig's base to obtain 12AUG in 77% yield.¹² The established protocols should allow us to access longer ^{TL}RNA oligonucleotides simply by increasing the number of elongation units.

The final solution-phase transformation before the solidphase synthesis was the installation of the phosphoramidite moiety at the 3'-hydroxy group. Using 2-cyanoethyl *N*,*N*diisopropyl chlorophosphoramidite, we converted **12UUC** to a ^{TL}RNA trinucleotide **13UUC** with a 3'-phosphoramidite moiety in 92% yield (Scheme 2). The other two ^{TL}RNA trinucleotides, **12CUC** and **12AUG**, were likewise converted to phosphoramidites **13CUC** and **13AUG** in 86% and 94% yields, respectively. With the synthetically robust procedures from abundantly available D-xylose, we synthesized a few hundred milligrams of each trinucleotide from a single set of synthetic operations.

With ^{TL}RNA trinucleotides possessing three nucleobases, we decided to examine their function as a codon for translation reactions. We thus designed a short chimeric RNA oligonucleotide comprising 13 nucleobases (Scheme 3). The 13-mer oligonucleotide possessed a nucleobase sequence (5'-G AUG UUC UAA GCU-3'; **19**) to describe the genetic code for a dipeptide, *N*-formyl-L-methionine-L-phenylalanine (fMet-Phe), and the ^{TL}RNA was installed as the second codon for Phe in the dipeptide. The 13-mer oligonucleotide was prepared by



Scheme 2. Conversion of ^{TL}RNA Trinucleotides to Phosphoramidites



solid-phase synthesis on an automated synthesizer (M-2-MX, Nihon Techno Service).⁹ After elongation of a 6-mer RNA oligonucleotide on CPG beads from the 3'-end, the ^{TL}RNA trinucleotide **13UUC** was incorporated, and subsequent elongation of four nucleotides afforded the target chimeric RNA oligonucleotide **19**. The yield was determined by a standard protocol to quantify the removed trityl cation from **1**7



using a UV-vis spectrometer, which showed a total yield of 60% for the 10 elongation reactions. The yield of a natural RNA oligonucleotide with an identical sequence (19-nat) was 62%, which showed that the triazole linkers did not affect the coupling efficiency of the phosphoramidite elongation.

Finally, the 13-mer chimeric RNA oligonucleotide 19 was subjected to translation reactions with the cell-free translation system using an in vitro protein synthesis kit (PURExpress, New England Biolabs).¹⁰ The translation system was reconstructed with purified components for the synthesis of peptides encoded on oligonucleotides (mRNA and/or DNA). The 13-mer RNA oligonucleotide 19 was introduced in the translation reaction, and radioactive L-methionine, [³⁵S]Met, was added to label the translation products with radioactive fMet encoded in the initiation codon of AUG. The translation products were separated by HPLC equipped with an ODS column, and the fractions were analyzed by a scintillation detector to produce a radiochromatogram, as shown in Figure 3a. We also synthesized a nonradioactive dipeptide, fMet-Phe, and used it as a reference for the HPLC analysis (Figure 3b). As shown in Figure 3a and 3b, the target dipeptide was detected at ca. 22 min under the present HPLC conditions. The translation products were also analyzed by LC-MS, and the extracted-ion chromatogram for fMet-Phe, with an m/z of 323 ($[M - H]^{-}$), identified the target dipeptide, fMet-Phe, at an identical elution time (22 min; Figure 3c). The results showed that the chimeric RNA oligonucleotide was recognized as mRNA by the



^{*a*}The triazole linkage is represented as *t*.



Figure 3. Chromatograms for the product analysis of the translation reaction. The analytical conditions for the HPLC were identical for all chromatograms. Column = ODS, eluent = 33% v/v methanol/water containing 0.1% v/v trifluoroacetic acid, flow rate = 1 mL/min. (a) Radiochromatograms of the translation products from the cell-free translation reaction using 13-mer chimeric RNA oligonucleotide 19. The peptide products were labeled with $[^{35}S]$ Met. The peak around 10 min in the radiochromatogram originated from contamination in [³⁵S]Met (PerkinElmer, NEG009A). (b) Reference chromatogram of the synthetic dipeptide, fMet-Phe, monitored by absorption at 225 nm. (c) Chromatogram of the translation products when monitoring the dipeptide, fMet-Phe, by MS at $m/z = 323.11 \pm 0.01 ([M - H]^{-})$. (d) Chromatogram of the translation products when monitoring the dipeptide, fMet-Leu/fMet-Ile, by MS at $m/z = 289.12 \pm 0.01$ ($\lceil M -$ H]⁻). (e) Reference chromatogram of the synthetic dipeptide, fMet-Leu, monitored by absorption at 225 nm. (f) Reference chromatogram of the synthetic dipeptide, fMet-Ile, monitored by absorption at 225 nm.

reconstructed translation system and that the triazole-linked codon of UUC was translated into Phe in the peptide product.

In addition to an intense, broad peak originating from the tailing peak of the starting materials (fMet, < 12 min), the radiochromatogram showed a second major peak at ca. 15 min (Figure 3a). As shown in the MS chromatogram in Figure 3d, the peak contained a compound with an m/z of 289 that corresponded to dipeptides fMet-Leu/fMet-Ile. These dipeptides were synthesized separately and were detected at 15 (fMet-Ile) and 16 (fMet-Leu) min (Figure 3e and 3f). Although the present analysis precluded further, decisive assignments of the 15 min peak in the radiochromatogram, the results showed that both or one of the dipeptides were produced in the translation reaction. Misreading of a single nucleotide at the triazole-linked codon (UUC) could produce the corresponding dipeptides. Thus, Ile can be translated from <u>A</u>UC, and Leu can

be translated from <u>CUC</u>, UU<u>A</u> or UU<u>G</u>. Quantification of the radioactivities of the target and misread products in the radiochromatograms allowed us to estimate the production ratio as target:misread = 57:43 (see below). The results indicated that chimeric RNA oligonucleotides with triazole-linkages may tolerate misreading of the encoding sequence in the translation reaction.¹³

Performing a control translation reaction with natural RNA **19-nat**, we compared the target-to-misread ratio and the production efficiency. A quantitative data from quadruplicate reactions are shown in Figure 4. The target-to-misread ratio was



Figure 4. Quantitative data for the dipeptide products. The data were obtained from quadruplicate translation reactions. See Figure S45 for the representative chromatogram.

57:43 and 77:23 for **19** and **19**-*nat*, respectively,¹⁴ which showed a higher frequency of the misread production with ^{TL}RNA. Despite the misread production, the target dipeptide was produced with ^{TL}RNA more effectively, and the amount of the fMet-Phe translated from **19** was 2.0-fold higher than that from **19**-*nat*.

In summary, we have developed synthesis methods for ^{TL}RNA oligonucleotides that can be incorporated in chimeric RNA oligonucleotides through phosphoramidite protocols. Three monomer units, i.e., 5'-jointing unit 4, elongation unit 6 and 3'-jointing unit 5, with pyrimidine and purine nucleobases were assembled by solution-phase click reactions under reoptimized, reproducible conditions. This method is versatile and can be extended to synthesize phosphoramiditecompatible ^{TL}RNA oligonucleotides with longer sequences. The TLRNA trinucleotide was successfully incorporated in the 13-mer chimeric RNA oligonucleotide 19 using the automated synthesizer. The chimeric RNA oligonucleotide was applicable as an mRNA substrate in the cell-free translation reaction. During the translation reaction, single nucleotide misreading was noted, and further investigation may identify its unique utility as a biological tool, for instance, as an error-prone mRNA in translation reactions.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Methods. Compounds from solution-phase synthesis were purified by flash column chromatography with 60N (spherical and neutral gel, 40–50 μ m) and/or by MPLC with a Biotage SNAP Ultra column (50 g). Compounds from solid-phase synthesis (oligonucleotides and dipeptides) were purified by HPLC with a COSMOSIL 5C₁₈-MS-II column (20 × 250 mm). Translation products, dipeptides and oligonucleotides were analyzed by HPLC with a COSMOSIL 5C₁₈-MS-II column (4.6 × 250 mm). IR spectra were recorded on an FT-IR instrument and were reported as wavenumbers (ν) in cm⁻¹. NMR spectra were recorded at 400 MHz (¹H), 100 or 150 MHz (¹³C) and 160 MHz (³¹P) and were reported as chemical shift values with respect to chloroform (δ 7.26: ¹H NMR; δ 77.16: ¹³C NMR), DMSO (δ 2.50: ¹H NMR; δ 39.52: ¹³C NMR) or

85% v/v aqueous H₃PO₄ (δ 0.0: ³¹P NMR, external standard). MS spectra were obtained by ESI-TOF MS.

Anhydrous THF (stabilizer free), DMF and toluene were purified by a solvent purification system equipped with columns of activated alumina and supported copper catalyst. Water was purified by a Milli-Q ultrapure water system. Other solvents were purified by distillation from calcium hydride and were dried over 4 Å molecular sieves. Phosphoramidite 16 and 500 Å controlled pore glass (CPG) support for the solid-phase oligonucleotide synthesis were purchased from Glen Research. The *in vitro* protein synthesis kit (PURExpress) was purchased from New England Biolabs.

Monomer Units (4, 5, 6). Monomer units were synthesized by procedures previously reported in the literature.^{7,9,15} The characterization data of the newly prepared compounds are as follows.

5G. Yield 31% (853 mg, 3 steps from glycosylation); IR (neat) 2940, 1679, 1607, 1557, 1438, 1111 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 2.18 (s, 3H), 2.59 (ddd, J = 2.6, 6.0, 18.8 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (ddd, J = 2.6, 7.2, 18.8 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd, J = 2.6, 2.6 Hz, 1H), 4.02 (dd, J = 2.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.19 (ddd, J = 2.4, 6.0, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.76 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (ddd, J = 4.8, 5.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.72 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.85 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 7.29–7.43 (m, 5H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 11.6–12.0 (br s, 1H), 11.6–12.0 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 23.0, 23.8, 71.2, 72.2, 73.2, 79.7, 80.5, 80.7, 86.5, 120.2, 127.5, 127.6, 128.2, 137.8, 138.3, 148.1, 149.0, 154.8, 173.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₂₁H₂₁N₅O₅Na 446.1440, found 446.1457.

6*U*. Yield 97% (6.72 mg, 1 step from glycosylation); IR (neat) 3197, 2177, 2116, 1693, 1222, 843 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.19 (s, 9H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.69 (dd, *J* = 4.1, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, *J* = 4.5, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 4.06 (ddd, *J* = 4.1, 4.5, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.28 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (dd, *J* = 5.4, 5.7 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (dd, *J* = 2.2, 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 1H), 7.65 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 8.11–8.46 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.0, 20.5, 24.4, 62.1, 75.0, 79.9, 87.3, 89.7, 100.9, 103.3, 139.9, 150.0, 162.4, 169.9; HRMS (ESITOF) *m*/*z* [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₁₆H₂₁N₅O₃SiNa 414.1210, found 414.1229.

Click Assembly of Dinucleotides. Dinucleotide 8UC was synthesized from 5C and 6U using a procedure reported in the literature,⁴ and dinucleotide 8UG was synthesized using reoptimized conditions as follows. A solution of 5G (20.0 mg, 47.2 μ mol), 6U (18.5 mg, 47.2 μ mol) and copper(I) bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (2.42 mg, 11.8 μ mol) in *t*-butanol/DMF (1:2 v/v, 0.94 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 21 h. After the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride (0.94 mL), the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (4 × 10 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: 7% v/v methanol/dichloromethane) to give the dinucleotide (8UG; 35.2 mg, 43.2 μ mol, 90%) as an amorphous solid.

8UC. Yield 97% (104 mg); IR (neat) 3421, 2923, 1697, 1485, 1300, 1100 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.17 (s, 9H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 2.74 (dd, J = 4.0, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.91 (dd, J = 4.0, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 7.4, 15.4 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 4.0, 15.4 Hz, 1H), 3.45–3.65 (br s, 1H), 4.04 (dd, J = 5.8, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 4.39 (dd, J = 6.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.44 (ddd, J = 4.0, 7.0, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.00 (ddd, J = 4.0, 4.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 5.36 (dd, J = 3.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.58 (dd, J = 5.2, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 5.71 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.17 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.43 (s, 1H), 7.46-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.82 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 8.49 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.0, 20.2, 24.4, 29.3, 61.5, 72.8, 73.7, 74.5, 77.3, 78.9, 79.8, 81.1, 88.4, 89.5, 94.2, 97.6, 100.9, 103.3, 124.3, 128.0, 128.2, 128.3, 128.7, 129.0, 133.0, 133.3, 137.3, 140.2, 143.5, 145.2, 150.2, 162.7, 162.9, 163.3, 169.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) $m/z [M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{41}H_{44}N_8O_{10}SiNa 859.2847$, found 859.2865.

8*U*G. Yield 90% (35.2 mg); IR (neat) 2940, 1679, 1607, 1557, 1251, 1112 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.17 (s, 9H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 2.37 (s, 3H), 2.68 (dd, J = 3.6, 18.2 Hz, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 3.6, 18.2

Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 3.6, 15.4 Hz, 1H), 3.50 (dd, J = 3.6, 15.4 Hz, 1H), 4.33 (dd, J = 6.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (ddd, J = 3.6, 3.6, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.68 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.89 (dd, J = 3.6, 3.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (dd, J = 6.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.25–5.35 (br s, 1H), 5.34 (dd, J = 6.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (dd, J = 5.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 6.19 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 7.33–7.37 (m, 5H), 7.44 (s, 1H), 7.52 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.70–8.95 (br s, 1H), 10.7–10.9 (br s, 1H), 13.0 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.0, 20.1, 24.4, 24.7, 30.0, 61.7, 72.8, 73.1, 74.4, 79.2, 80.7, 82.5, 87.9, 89.6, 90.8, 100.9, 103.4, 121.3, 123.9, 128.0, 128.0, 128.6, 137.9, 139.1, 140.2, 144.2, 147.7, 148.0, 150.3, 155.4, 163.2, 169.5, 173.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₃₇H₄₂N₁₀O₁₀SiNa 837.2752, found 837.2751.

A Typical Procedure for the Desilylation of 5'-Silylalkyne of Dinucleotides. A 1.0 M aqueous solution of acetic acid (5.05 mL, 5.05 mmol) and tetra-*n*-butylammonium fluoride (1.0 M in THF, 4.04 mL, 4.04 mmol) were added to a solution of dinucleotide **8UC** (847 mg, 1.01 mmol) in THF (50 mL) at 0 °C. The mixture was allowed to warm to ambient temperature and stirred for 6 h. After the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride (50 mL), the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (4×100 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: 5% v/v methanol/dichloromethane) to give the desilylated dinucleotide (**9UC**; 723 mg, 0.944 mmol, 94%) as an amorphous solid.

9UC. Yield 94% (723 mg); IR (neat) 3283, 1694, 1485, 1261, 1101 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.83 (s, 3H), 2.13 (dd, J = 2.4, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (ddd, J = 2.6, 4.4, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 2.89 (ddd, J = 2.6, 4.4, 17.8 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J = 7.4, 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 4.4, 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.46-3.65 (br s, 1H), 4.05 (dd, J = 6.4, 6.6 Hz, 1H), 4.38 (ddd, J = 2.6, 4.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (ddd, J = 4.4, 6.6, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 5.05 (ddd, J = 3.4, 4.4, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.39 (dd, J = 7.0, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 5.65 (dd, J = 4.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (d, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H), 5.77 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.96 $(d, J = 4.0 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H}), 7.30-7.40 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.41 \text{ (s, 1H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.41 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.41 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.41 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.41 \text{ (s, 2H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text{ (m, 5H)}, 7.50-7.65 \text$ 5H), 7.81 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.11 (s, 1H), 8.70-8.80 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 10% v/v CD₃OD/ CDCl₃) δ 20.0, 22.4, 29.0, 61.4, 72.4, 72.6, 73.2, 74.2, 78.2, 78.3, 79.4, 80.9, 90.2, 93.9, 97.7, 102.9, 124.3, 127.9, 128.1, 128.2, 128.6, 128.8, 132.9, 133.2, 137.1, 141.1, 143.4, 144.7, 150.2, 156.2, 163.4, 163.8, 167.4, 169.5; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₃₈H₃₇N₈O₁₀ 765.2633, found 765.2635.

9UG. Yield 99% (21.4 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 10% v/v CD₃OD/ CDCl₃) δ 1.68 (s, 3H), 2.10 (dd, J = 2.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.19 (s, 3H), 2.58 (ddd, J = 2.8, 4.4, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (ddd, J = 2.8, 4.4, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 4.18 (dd, J = 4.8, 5.2 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (ddd, J = 5.2, 5.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 4.55 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.64 (d, J =11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.84 (ddd, J = 4.8, 4.8, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (dd, J = 6.8, 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.50 (dd, J = 4.0, 6.4 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.90 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.32 (m, 5H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.52 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), three protons overlapped with solvent signals; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, 10% v/ v CH₃OD/CDCl₃) δ 19.8, 22.5, 23.7, 29.3, 29.6, 61.6, 72.4, 72.7, 73.1, 74.3, 78.2, 78.4, 80.0, 81.3, 89.8, 102.9, 121.2, 124.4, 128.0, 128.2, 128.6, 137.2, 138.2, 141.0, 143.4, 147.7, 148.3, 150.2, 155.9, 163.9, 169.5, 173.2; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₃₄H₃₄N₁₀O₁₀Na 765.2357, found 765.2360.

A Typical Procedure for the Silyl Protection of the 2'-Hydroxy Group of Dinucleotides. A solution of 9UC (77.3 mg, 101 μ mol), *t*-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (45.7 mg, 303 μ mol) and imidazole (41.3 mg, 606 μ mol) in THF (0.79 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 6 h. After the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride (0.79 mL), the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (4 × 5 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: 3% v/v methanol/dichloromethane) to give the silyl-protected dinucleotide (10UC; 86.7 mg, 98.6 μ mol, 98%) as an amorphous solid.

10UC. Yield 98% (86.7 mg); IR (neat) 3395, 2923, 1696, 1464, 1260 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.15 (s, 3H), 0.20 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 2.16 (dd, J = 2.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.72 (ddd, J = 2.8, 4.4, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (ddd, J = 2.8, 4.4, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd, J = 8.6, 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.29 (dd, J = 3.6, 15.6 Hz, 1H), 3.69 (dd, J = 4.2, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.46 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 4.50 (ddd, J = 3.6, 7.8, 100) 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.67 (dd, J = 1.8, 4.2 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (d, J = 12.0 Hz, 1H), 5.01 (ddd, J = 4.4, 4.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.38 (dd, J = 6.8, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.61 (dd, *J* = 4.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (d, J = 4.6 Hz, 1H), 7.25-7.40 (m, 5H), 7.45 (s, 1H), 7.47-7.68 (m, 5H), 7.72 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 8.80–8.95 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.3, -4.5, 18.0, 20.1, 22.5, 25.7, 29.2, 61.1, 72.3, 72.5, 73.2, 74.4, 78.3, 78.7, 80.1, 80.5, 89.4, 94.0, 96.6, 102.8, 124.6, 127.7, 127.9, 128.4, 128.8, 132.9, 133.0, 137.4, 140.5, 140.5, 143.5, 144.9, 150.3, 154.6, 162.7, 163.4, 166.9, 169.4; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C44H50N8O10SiNa 901.3317, found 901.3293.

10UG. Yield 87% (7.3 mg); IR (neat) 2926, 1686, 1611, 1560, 1251 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -0.23 (s, 3H), -0.03 (s, 3H), 0.85 (s, 9H), 1.74 (s, 3H), 2.13 (dd, J = 2.4, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 2.38 (s, 3H), 2.66 (ddd, J = 2.4, 4.0, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (ddd, J = 2.4, 4.0, 17.2 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd, I = 3.8, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.59 (dd, I = 9.6, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 4.08 (dd, J = 2.8, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.57 (ddd, J = 2.8, 3.8, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (dd, J = 4.0, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 4.86 (d, J = 11.6 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (ddd, J = 4.0, 4.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (dd, J = 6.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.53 (dd, J = 4.4, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.78 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, J = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.33-7.39 (m, 5H), 7.41 (s, 1H), 7.50 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.25 (s, 1H), 10.0 (s, 1H), 11.9 (s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -5.2, -4.8, 18.0, 20.1, 22.8, 24.4, 25.7, 30.5, 61.6, 72.5, 72.7, 74.5, 74.5, 78.7, 80.9, 82.1, 89.7, 89.9, 90.0, 103.0, 122.4, 124.3, 124.4, 127.8, 128.1, 128.6, 137.9, 138.5, 141.1, 144.1, 147.8, 148.2, 150.1, 155.8, 169.4, 172.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₄₀H₄₈N₁₀O₁₀SiNa 879.3222, found 879.3228.

A Typical Procedure for the Debenzylation of the 3'-Hydroxy Group of Dinucleotides. Boron trichloride (1.0 M in dichloromethane, 980 μ L, 980 μ mol) was added to a solution of silylprotected dinucleotide 10UC (70.4 mg, 80.2 μ mol) in dichloromethane (4.0 mL) at -78 °C, and the mixture was stirred at -78 °C for 2 d. After the addition of methanol (4.0 mL) at -78 °C, the mixture was allowed to warm to 0 °C and was mixed with a saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate (4.0 mL). The mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 4.0 mL), dried over sodium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: 95% v/v ethyl acetate/ dichloromethane and 10% v/v methanol/dichloromethane) to give the debenzylated dinucleotide (11UC; 61.1 mg, 77.5 μ mol, 97%) as an amorphous solid.

11UC. Yield 97% (61.1 mg); IR (neat) 3277, 1697, 1485, 1260, 1099, 1057 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.13 (s, 3H), 0.19 (s, 3H), 0.91 (s, 9H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 2.16 (dd, J = 2.8, 2.8 Hz, 1H), 2.74 (ddd, J = 2.8, 4.4, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 2.76 (d, J = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 2.90 (ddd, J = 2.8, 4.4, 17.6 Hz, 1H), 3.18 (dd, J = 7.6, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.33 (dd, J = 4.6, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.98 (ddd, J = 5.4, 7.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.24 (ddd, J = 4.6, 7.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.47 (dd, J = 2.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 5.07 (ddd, J = 4.4, 4.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.46 (dd, J = 7.0, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (dd, J = 4.4, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 5.70 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.97 (d, J = 4.4 Hz, 1H), 7.48–7.52 (m, 3H), 7.58 (dd, J = 8.0, 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.63 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 8.70–9.05 (br s, 1H), 9.05–9.20 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -5.1, -4.4, 18.2, 20.3, 22.7, 25.9, 29.1, 61.4, 72.6, 73.3, 74.5, 75.4, 78.6, 78.7, 82.7, 90.2, 93.5, 96.9, 103.1, 124.5, 127.9, 129.1, 133.1, 133.4, 140.9, 143.6, 145.2, 150.1, 154.8, 162.8, 163.1, 166.7, 169.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) $m/z [M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{37}H_{44}N_8O_{10}SiNa 811.2847$, found 811.2857.

11UG. Yield 93% (76.1 mg); IR (neat) 2968, 1682, 1610, 1560, 1252, 1048 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, 6% v/v CD₃OD/CDCl₃) δ –0.15 (s, 3H), –0.05 (s, 3H), 0.79 (s, 9H), 1.78 (s, 3H), 2.12 (s, 1H), 2.28 (s, 3H), 2.61–2.63 (m, 1H), 2.75–2.78 (m, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 7.6, 14.8 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, J = 6.8, 14.8 Hz, 1H), 4.26 (ddd, J = 6.8,

6.8, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 4.32 (dd, J = 4.0, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.91–4.93 (m, 2H), 5.46 (dd, J = 4.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.57 (dd, J = 3.6, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.73 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 5.75 (d, J = 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 7.73 (s, 1H), 8.27–8.35 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –4.9, –4.9, 18.1, 20.2, 22.9, 24.4, 25.7, 29.6, 61.6, 72.6, 73.4, 74.5, 75.5, 78.7, 78.7, 83.6, 89.8, 90.1, 103.1, 122.2, 124.6, 138.4, 141.1, 143.8, 148.0, 148.1, 150.2, 155.8, 163.4, 169.7, 173.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₃₃H₄₂N₁₀O₁₀SiNa 789.2752, found 789.2752.

A Typical Procedure for the Click Elongation for Trinucleotides. A solution of alkyne 8UC (20.9 mg, 26.5 μ mol), azide 9U (18.2 mg, 26.5 μ mol), copper(I) bromide dimethyl sulfide complex (1.36 mg, 6.62 μ mol) and *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (1.09 μ L, 6.62 μ mol) in *t*-butanol/DMF (1:2 v/v, 0.13 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 24 h. After the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of ammonium chloride (0.13 mL), the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (5 × 4 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography (eluent: 3–8% v/v methanol/dichloromethane) to give the trinucleotide (12UUC; 37.9 mg, 25.7 μ mol, 97%) as an amorphous solid.

12UUC. Yield 97% (37.9 mg); IR (neat) 3286, 1695, 1381, 1251, 1103, 1024 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) δ 0.12 (s, 3H), 0.17 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 2.72 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, J = 5.6, 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.25 (dd, J = 5.2, 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, J = 5.2, 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (dd, J = 4.4, 16.0 Hz, 1H), 3.46 (dd, I = 2.4, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.66 (dd, I = 2.0, 11.2 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 1)3H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 4.01 (ddd, J = 4.0, 6.8, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 4.22 (ddd, J = 4.4, 5.2, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (dd, J = 2.0, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 4.90 (ddd, J = 2.0, 2.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 5.11 (ddd, J = 5.2, 5.6, 7.8 Hz, 1H), 5.41 (dd, J = 2.0, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.44 (dd, J = 3.6, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (dd, J = 5.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.62 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.64 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.68 (dd, J = 5.6, 5.6 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, I = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.69 (d, I = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.27 (d, J = 5.6 Hz, 1H), 6.81 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d, J = 4.0 Hz, 2H), 7.21-7.25 (m, 5H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 4H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.48–7.62 (m, 6H), 7.71 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (d, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.91 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.68-8.73 (br s, 1H), 8.73–8.78 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.1, -4.5, 18.1, 20.2, 20.3, 25.8, 28.5, 28.9, 55.3, 59.8, 61.7, 62.4, 73.2, 74.0, 74.5, 75.4, 79.4, 80.8, 82.6, 87.5, 87.8, 92.4, 93.5, 97.0, 102.9, 103.1, 113.4, 124.2, 124.7, 127.3, 128.0, 128.2, 128.3, 129.0, 130.2, 130.3, 133.0, 133.3, 134.9, 135.0, 140.2, 142.4, 143.4, 144.0, 145.4, 150.1, 150.6, 154.7, 158.8, 162.9, 163.3, 163.5, 169.6, 169.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) $m/z [M + Na]^+$ calcd for $C_{69}H_{75}N_{13}O_{18}SiNa$ 1424.5020, found 1424.5049.

12CUC. Yield 94% (49.8 mg); IR (neat) 2931, 1697, 1482, 1251, 1108 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.14 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.75 (s, 3H), 1.77 (s, 3H), 2.87-2.95 (br s, 1H), 3.12 (dd, J = 7.2, 15.2 Hz, 1H), 3.09-3.15 (m, 1H), 3.21-3.29 (m, 2H),3.37 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.64 (d, J = 10.4 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.90–3.98 (m, 1H), 4.19 (ddd, J = 4.8, 7.0, 11.8 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (d, J = 2.8 Hz, 1H), 5.11–5.17 (m, 2H), 5.40 (dd, J = 6.8, 6.8 Hz, 1H), 5.62-5.70 (m, 4H), 5.84 (d, J = 3.6 Hz, 1H), 5.98-6.04 (m, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 6.78 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 6.80 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.17-7.25 (m, 7H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.33 (s, 1H), 7.36-7.47 (m, 7H), 7.52-7.58 (m, 4H), 7.65 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.87 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.95 (d, $J=7.6~{\rm Hz},$ 2H), 8.50 (d, $J=7.2~{\rm Hz},$ 1H), 9.10–9.40 (br s, 1H), 9.40–9.45 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.1, -4.4, 18.2, 20.2, 20.4, 25.9, 28.9, 29.0, 55.4, 58.5, 60.8, 61.8, 73.1, 73.9, 73.9, 75.4, 79.7, 80.4, 82.6, 87.5, 89.8, 89.8, 91.4, 93.8, 103.1, 103.1, 113.5, 124.9, 124.9, 127.3, 127.9, 127.9, 128.0, 128.1, 128.2, 129.0, 129.0, 130.1, 133.1, 133.1, 133.3, 133.3, 135.1, 135.2, 141.9, 142.0, 142.0, 142.1, 143.4, 144.0, 150.0, 158.8, 158.8, 162.8, 162.8, 163.1, 163.1, 169.5, 169.6; HRMS (ESI-TOF) $m/z [M + Na]^+$ calcd for C₇₆H₈₀N₁₄O₁₈SiNa 1527.5442, found 1527.5464.

12AUG. Yield 77% (113 mg); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -0.19 (s, 3H), -0.10 (s, 3H), 0.76 (s, 9H), 1.19 (s, 3H), 1.15-1.20 (m, 1H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.97-3.22 (m, 5H), 3.37-3.50 (m, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 4.11-4.22 (m, 1H), 4.17-4.26 (m, 1H), 4.72-4.82 (m, 1H), 4.92-5.06 (m, 1H), 5.08-5.26 (m, 1H),

5.22–5.40 (m, 1H), 5.46–5.70 (m, 6H), 5.66–5.78 (m, 1H), 5.72– 6.00 (m, 1H), 6.62–6.84 (m, 5H), 7.00–7.52 (m, 16H), 7.49 (s, 1H), 7.64 (s, 1H), 8.04–8.20 (br s, 1H), 8.20–8.40 (br s, 1H), 8.58–8.76 (br s, 1H), 8.74–8.98 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.1, –5.0, 18.1, 20.1, 20.4, 24.4, 25.6, 29.8, 32.1, 55.3, 59.5, 61.5, 62.2, 73.2, 73.2, 73.9, 74.0, 80.1, 80.8, 83.6, 87.3, 89.4, 90.2, 103.1, 103.1, 113.5, 125.4, 125.7, 127.2, 127.8, 127.9, 128.2, 128.5, 128.9, 129.3, 130.2, 131.0, 131.1, 132.3, 132.5, 135.1, 135.1, 141.8, 142.1, 143.0, 143.1, 144.1, 148.0, 148.2, 150.0, 155.6, 158.8, 163.0, 169.5, 169.5, 173.3, 175.9, 179.1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₇₃H₇₈N₁₈O₁₇SiNa 1529.5459, found 1529.5432.

A Typical Procedure for the Transformation of a Trinucleotide to Phosphoramidite. A solution of trinucleotide 12UUC (182 mg, 0.130 mmol), *N*,*N*-diisopropylethylamine (180 μ L, 1.03 mmol) and 2-cyanoethyl diisopropylchlorophosphoramidite (144 μ L, 0.647 mmol) in dichloromethane (1.4 mL) was stirred at ambient temperature for 4 h. After the addition of a saturated aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate (1.4 mL), the mixture was extracted with dichloromethane (4 × 2 mL). The combined organic layer was dried over sodium sulfate and concentrated in vacuo. The crude material was purified by silica gel column chromatography using silica gel treated with 0.1% v/v triethylamine (eluent: 5% v/v methanol/ dichloromethane) to give a mixture of 2:1 diastereomers of trinucleotide phosphoramidite (13UUC; 193 mg, 0.120 mmol, 93%) as an amorphous solid.

13UUC. Yield 93% (193 mg); IR (neat) 2966, 1695, 1483, 1381, 1251, 1030, 833 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) 0.13 (s, 3H), 0.13 (s, 3H), 0.89 (s, 9H), 1.12-1.30 (m, 12H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.73-2.80 (m, 2H), 3.08-3.84 (m, 8H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.83-3.96 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.38 (m, 3H), 4.86-5.00 (m, 1H), 5.04-5.18 (m, 1H), 5.42 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 5.43–5.78 (m, 7H), 6.65–6.88 (m, 4H), 7.10-8.08 (m, 20H), 8.70-10.4 (m, 3H); δ (minor diastereomer) 0.10 (s, 3H), 0.13 (s, 3H), 0.88 (s, 9H), 1.12-1.30 (m, 12H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.72 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.82 (m, 2H), 3.08-3.84 (m, 8H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.83-3.96 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.38 (m, 3H), 4.27-4.34 (m, 1H), 4.40-4.64 (m, 3H), 4.69-4.75 (m, 1H), 5.43–5.78 (m, 2H), 6.14 (s, 1H), 6.23 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.24 (d, J = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 6.65-6.88 (m, 4H), 7.10-8.08 (m, 20H), 8.70-10.4 (m, 3H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -4.9, -4.7, -4.6, -4.5, 18.1, 18.5, 20.2, 20.2, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5, 20.5, 20.6, 23.0, 23.1, 24.7, 24.8, 24.8, 24.8, 24.9, 24.9, 25.9, 25.9, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4, 43.4, 45.4, 45.4, 45.4, 45.4, 55.3, 55.3, 57.8, 58.3, 58.3, 59.8, 59.8, 60.1, 60.1, 61.4, 62.3, 62.4, 73.9, 74.3, 74.4, 74.9, 75.0, 75.2, 75.8, 79.3, 79.4, 80.8, 81.5, 81.6, 87.6, 87.7, 92.4, 92.4, 93.8, 94.5, 96.6, 96.7, 96.9, 96.9, 103.0, 103.0, 103.2, 103.2, 113.4, 113.5, 116.5, 117.1, 117.1, 117.4, 117.8, 117.9, 118.2, 118.5, 124.2, 124.2, 124.5, 124.7, 127.0, 127.3, 127.4, 128.0, 128.0, 128.1, 128.9, 130.1, 130.2, 130.3, 133.0, 133.1, 133.2, 134.8, 134.9, 140.1, 142.4, 143.7, 144.0, 144.2, 145.3, 145.4, 145.7, 145.7, 150.0, 150.5, 154.8, 154.8, 158.6, 158.8, 158.8, 162.6, 162.8, 163.2, 163.3, 166.8, 166.9, 168.6, 169.5, 169.6, 169.7, 173.2; ³¹P NMR (160 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 135.0, 135.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C78H92N15O19PSiNa 1624.6098, found 1624.6073.

13CUC. Yield 90% (20.3 mg); IR (neat) 2963, 1691, 1480, 1245 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) 0.11 (s, 3H), 0.12 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 1.10-1.28 (m, 12H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.68 (m, 2H), 3.04-3.97 (m, 12H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.84-3.96 (m, 1H), 4.02-4.14 (m, 1H), 5.06-5.14 (m, 2H), 5.36-5.44 (m, 1H), 5.48-5.56 (m, 1H), 5.56-5.68 (m, 3H), 5.72-5.86 (m, 1H), 5.80-5.88 (m, 1H), 6.74-6.84 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.96 (m, 26H), 8.77–9.30 (br s, 3H); δ (minor diastereomer) 0.09 (s, 3H), 0.12 (s, 3H), 0.87 (s, 9H), 1.10-1.28 (m, 12H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 2.54-2.68 (m, 2H), 2.70-2.78 (m, 2H), 3.04-3.97 (m, 9H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 4.02-4.34 (m, 3H), 4.38-4.56 (m, 3H), 4.66-4.72 (m, 1H), 5.06-5.14 (m, 1H), 5.56-5.68 (m, 1H), 6.02-6.26 (m, 3H), 6.74-6.84 (m, 4H), 7.10-7.96 (m, 26H), 8.36-8.44 (br s, 1H), 8.38-8.46 (br s, 1H), 8.77-9.30 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR $(150 \text{ MHz}, \text{CDCl}_3) \delta - 4.8, -4.7, -4.5, -4.4, 18.1, 18.1, 20.2, 20.2,$ 20.2, 20.3, 20.3, 20.5, 20.5, 20.6, 23.0, 23.1, 24.7, 24.8, 24.8, 24.8, 24.9, 24.9, 25.9, 25.9, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4, 43.5, 45.4, 45.4, 45.4, 45.4, 55.4, 55.4, 57.7, 57.9, 58.3, 58.3, 58.5, 58.5, 58.6, 60.9, 61.7, 65.7, 65.8, 73.9, 74.4, 74.9, 74.9, 75.2, 75.3, 75.4, 80.0, 80.3, 81.4, 81.5, 87.5, 89.6, 91.7, 91.7, 94.0, 94.5, 96.9, 97.0, 97.3, 97.5, 103.0, 103.0, 113.3, 113.5, 117.1, 117.8, 118.2, 124.5, 124.6, 124.9, 124.9, 125.4, 127.3, 127.9, 127.9, 127.9, 127.9, 128.1, 128.1, 128.2, 128.2, 128.3, 129.0, 129.0, 129.0, 129.0, 129.1, 130.1, 130.1, 130.1, 131.1, 132.3, 133.1, 133.2, 132.2, 135.1, 135.2, 142.1, 142.1, 142.3, 142.3, 143.7, 143.9, 143.9, 144.2, 144.8, 145.3, 145.3, 145.6, 150.0, 150.0, 154.8, 154.9, 158.8, 158.8, 158.8, 158.8, 162.6, 162.7, 163.0, 163.0, 166.7, 166.7, 167.8, 168.9, 169.4, 169.5, 169.6; ³¹P NMR (CDCl₃, 160 MHz) δ 149.6, 150.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C₈₅H₉₇N₁₆O₁₉PSiNa 1727.6520, found 1727.6554.

13AUG. Yield 94% (163 mg); IR (neat) 2963, 1670, 1252, 1031 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ (major diastereomer) -0.29 (s, 3H), -0.09 (s, 3H), 0.74 (s, 9H), 1.16-1.28 (m, 12H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.06-2.92 (m, 5H), 2.61 (t, J = 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.04-6.00 (m, 19H), 6.72-6.84 (m, 4H), 7.14-7.76 (m, 18H), 7.90 (s, 1H), 8.16-8.36 (m, 3H), 8.72 (s, 1H), 9.34–9.46 (br s, 1H); δ (minor diastereomer) –0.21 (s, 3H), -0.05 (s, 3H), 0.80 (s, 9H), 1.16-1.28 (m, 12H), 1.70 (s, 3H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 2.13 (s, 3H), 2.06-2.92 (m, 6H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 3.04-6.00 (m, 19H), 6.72-6.84 (m, 4H), 6.98 (s, 1H), 7.14-7.76 (m, 17H), 7.91 (s, 1H), 8.16-8.36 (m, 3H), 8.78 (s, 1H), 9.34-9.46 (br s, 1H); ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ -5.3, -5.1, -4.9, -4.7, 18.0, 18.0, 19.9, 20.1, 20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 20.3, 20.6, 20.6, 24.1, 24.3, 24.7, 24.7, 24.8, 24.8, 24.8, 24.8, 24.9, 24.9, 25.6, 25.7, 29.7, 29.7, 29.8, 29.8, 43.1, 43.2, 43.5, 43.5, 55.3, 55.3, 57.0, 57.0, 58.5, 58.5, 59.2, 59.5, 60.4, 61.5, 61.8, 61.9, 62.1, 74.0, 74.2, 79.5, 80.6, 80.9, 82.6, 82.7, 82.7, 82.8, 82.8, 82.9, 87.3, 87.4, 87.9, 88.0, 88.1, 89.2, 89.4, 90.3, 90.8, 90.9, 102.9, 102.9, 113.5, 113.5, 118.3, 118.5, 121.5, 122.3, 123.8, 124.7, 124.7, 125.3, 125.4, 125.7, 127.2, 127.2, 127.8, 127.8, 128.1, 128.1, 128.1, 128.1, 128.2, 128.2, 128.5, 128.5, 129.2, 129.2, 130.1, 130.1, 130.1, 130.1, 132.5, 135.0, 135.1, 135.2, 137.0, 138.4, 141.7, 142.1, 142.4, 143.2, 144.0, 144.1, 144.3, 147.7, 147.8, 148.0, 148.4, 150.0, 155.6, 155.8, 158.7, 158.7, 163.0, 163.0, 163.1, 163.1, 169.4, 169.4, 169.4, 169.5, 172.5, 172.5, 172.6, 172.6; ³¹P NMR (160 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 149.6, 150.3; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M + Na]⁺ calcd for C82H95N20O18PSiNa 1729.6538, found 1729.6532.

Solid-Phase Synthesis of Chimeric RNA Oligonucleotide (19). Chimeric oligonucleotide 19 was synthesized on an automated synthesizer by using CPG supports loaded with rU (1.02 μ mol on 32.0-mg CPG) as the starting material. The 5'-hydroxy terminus of rU was coupled with N-acetylcytidine phosphoramidite (16C) in the presence of 5-benzylthio-1H-tetrazole (BTT) activator (450 mM in acetonitrile, 440 μ L, 198 μ mol). After a 240 s coupling reaction, the residual 5'-hydroxy end of rU was capped with acetic anhydride (1.06 M in THF, 500 μ L, 530 μ mol). After oxidation of the phosphorus linker with iodine (20 mM in THF, 700 µL, 14.0 µmol), the 5'dimethoxytrityl (DMTr) group on the extended nucleoside (C) was removed with trichloroacetic acid (300 mM in dichloromethane, 1.3 mL, 390 μ mol). The DMTr cation was roughly quantified by an LED detector equipped with the synthesizer to ensure a coupling efficiency >99%. This process was repeated five times using the corresponding phosphoramidite 16 with a designated nucleobase to assemble 5'-UAAGCU-3' on CPG. The trinucleotide 13UUC was then loaded to assemble 9-mer 15 on CPG under the identical conditions for the phosphoramidite of natural ribonucleosides except for a longer coupling time of 1440 s. Elongation with phosphoramidite of natural ribonucleoside 16 was repeated four times on 15 to afford the 13-mer chimeric oligonucleotide 17 on CPG. After the final elongation with G at the 5'-end, the amount of 17 on CPG was carefully determined by quantification of the DMTr cation using a UV-vis spectrometer in the following manner. The CPG loaded with 17 was treated with a solution of 4% v/v dichloroacetic acid in 1,2-dichloroethane (2.0 mL) for 30 s to release the DMTr cation. After separation of CPG, the solvent was removed in vacuo to afford a yellow residue. The residue was dissolved in 0.1 M tosyl chloride solution in acetonitrile (5.0 mL), and 1/5 v/v of the solution was diluted with acetonitrile to 10 mL. The absorbance at 498 nm was 0.878, and using the absorption coefficient of the DMTr cation ($\varepsilon_{498} = 72\,000 \text{ mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-116}$), the

amount of DMTr at the 5'-end was calculated as 0.612 μ mol. Based on this value, the total yield of 18 from the 40-step transformation was 60%. Finally, 18 on CPG was treated with a 28% solution of ammonium hydroxide/ethanol (3:1 v/v) at 55 °C for 5 h to afford 19 via cleavage from the solid support. The crude materials were then mixed with tetra-*n*-butylammonium fluoride (1.0 M) in THF (1.0 mL) at ambient temperature for 24 h to remove the 2'-TBDMS group. After removal of volatile materials from the mixture, the residual material was dissolved in water and desalted on a sep-pak column. The filtered material was purified by HPLC with an eluent of 0-34% acetonitrile in 100 mM triethylammonium acetate buffer (pH 6.8) at a flow rate of 10 mL/min. The fractions containing the target oligonucleotide were collected and freeze-dried to give the chimeric oligonucleotide 19. The purity of oligonucleotide 19 was checked by HPLC analysis at 260 nm (98% purity; Figure S44). 19: HRMS (ESI-TOF) $m/z [M + 5H]^{5-}$ calcd for $C_{127}H_{147}N_{52}O_{83}P_{10}$ 807.5257, found 807.5258. The mass spectra are shown in Figures S42 and S43.

Dipeptides (fMet-Phe, fMet-Leu, fMet-Ile). Dipeptides were synthesized using the procedures reported in the literature.¹⁷ The characterization data of the compounds are as follows.

fMet-Phe. Yield 67% (504 mg); IR (neat) 3322, 1728, 1649, 1610, 1536, 1392 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 1.77 (ddd, J = 8.0, 8.0, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (ddd, J = 8.0, 8.0, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (s, 3H), 2.43 (dd, J = 8.0, 8.0 Hz, 2H), 2.95 (dd, J = 8.0, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd, J = 4.8, 14.0 Hz, 1H), 4.30–4.36 (m, 1H), 4.43 (ddd, J = 4.8, 8.0, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.20–7.30 (m, 6H), 8.02 (s, 1H), 8.08–8.20 (br s, 1H), 8.31 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 15.0, 29.5, 32.7, 36.8, 50.5, 53.8, 126.8, 128.5, 129.4, 137.5, 161.2, 170.6, 172.7; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₅H₁₉N₂O₄S 323.1066, found 323.1078.

fMet-Leu.¹⁸ Yield 33% (53.8 mg); IR (neat) 3340, 1699, 1665, 1593, 1514 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 0.80 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 0.86 (d, J = 6.4 Hz, 3H), 1.43–1.51 (m, 2H), 1.55–1.63 (m, 1H), 1.70–1.80 (m, 1H), 1.80–1.89 (m, 1H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 2.41 (dd, J = 8.0, 8.0, 8.0, 12, 12), 4.16 (ddd, J = 5.6, 8.0, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.41 (ddd, J = 5.2, 8.0, 8.0, 12, 11), 7.97 (s, 1H), 8.20 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.40 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 14.6, 21.2, 22.9, 24.2, 29.2, 32.4, 39.7, 50.1, 50.2, 160.8, 170.7, 173.9; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₂H₂₁N₂O₄S 289.1222, found 289.1212.

fMet-lle. Yield 42% (13.9 mg); fMet-lle: IR (neat) 3295, 1716, 1650, 1538, 1213 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 0.84 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 0.85 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 3H), 1.12–1.23 (m, 1H), 1.35–1.44 (m, 1H), 1.73–1.82 (m, 2H), 1.84–1.92 (m, 1H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.43 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.15 (dd, J = 6.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 4.52 (ddd, J = 5.6, 8.0, 8.0 Hz, 1H), 8.01 (s, 1H), 8.08 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 8.28 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- d_6) δ 11.3, 14.6, 15.5, 24.7, 29.2, 32.4, 36.1, 50.2, 56.4, 160.9, 170.8, 172.8; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z [M – H]⁻ calcd for C₁₂H₂₁N₂O₄S 289.1222, found 289.1216.

Cell-Free Translation Reaction Using Chimeric Oligonucleotide 19. The cell-free translation reaction with chimeric oligonucleotide 19 was performed using PURExpress Solution A and Solution B. A mixture of 19 (270 μ M in diethylpyrocarbonate-treated (DEPC) water, 3.7 μ L, 1.00 nmol), Solution A (7.5 μ L), Solution B (10 μ L) and [³⁵S]Met (370 KBq/µL in 50 mM pH 7.4 tricine and 10 mM 2mercaptoethanol, 3.8 μ L) was incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. After the addition of DEPC water (25 μ L) at 0 °C, the mixture was applied to a 100 K nanosep device and centrifuged at 1500g at 4 °C for 30 min. The flow-through was mixed with prewashed nickel-nitrilotriacetic acid (Ni-NTA)-immobilized agarose (5.0 μ L) and was gently shaken at 4 °C for 1 h. The mixture was collected by filtration, and 24% v/v of the aliquot was analyzed on an HPLC system equipped with an ODS column to separate the translation products. Each fraction, collected per minute (1 mL), was mixed with a scintillation cocktail (Liquiscint; 1.0 mL), and the $\begin{bmatrix} 35 \\ S \end{bmatrix}$ radioactivity of the mixture was quantified using a [³⁵S] scintillation detector. The radiochromatograms are shown in Figure 3a. For the LC-MS analysis of the translation products, the translation reaction was performed in decuple scale of the abovementioned procedure without the addition of [35S]Met. After the workup procedure by centrifugal separation and treatment with

prewashed Ni-NTA agarose (50 μ L), the resulting materials were analyzed by an LC–MS system equipped with an ODS column. The extracted-ion chromatograms are shown in Figure 3c and 3d.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.6b01618.

¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds (**5G**, **6U**, **8-13**, fMet-Phe, fMet-Leu, fMet-Ile), ³¹P NMR spectra of compounds (**13**), HRMS spectra and HPLC chart of the oligonucleotide (**19**) and a radiochromatogram of translation products (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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