

Mechanism of LolCDE as a molecular extruder of bacterial triacylated lipoproteins

Stuti Sharma^{1,*}, Ruoyu Zhou^{2,*}, Li Wan², Kang Kang Song^{3,4}, Chen Xu^{3,4}, Yanyan Li^{2,#} & Maofu Liao^{1,#}

¹Department of Cell Biology, Blavatnik Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston MA, USA

²Key Laboratory of Structural Biology of Zhejiang Province, School of Life Sciences, Westlake University, Hangzhou 310024, China

³Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Univ

³Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester MA, USA

⁴Cryo-EM Core Facility, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester MA, USA

*These authors contributed equally to this work

[#]Correspondence to: liyanyan@westlake.edu.cn; maofu_liao@hms.harvard.edu

Abstract

Present in all bacteria, lipoproteins are central in bacterial growth and antibiotic resistance. These proteins use lipid acyl chains attached to the N-terminal cysteine residue to anchor on the outer surface of cytoplasmic membrane. In Gram-negative bacteria, many lipoproteins are transported to the outer membrane (OM), a process dependent on the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporter LolCDE which extracts the OM-targeted lipoproteins from the cytoplasmic membrane for subsequent trafficking across the periplasm. Lipid-anchored proteins pose a unique challenge for transport machinery as they have both hydrophobic lipid moieties and soluble protein component, and the underlying mechanism is poorly understood. Here we determined the cryo-EM structures of nanodisc-embedded LolCDE in the nucleotide-free and nucleotide-bound states at 3.8-Å and 3.5-Å resolution, respectively. The structural analyses, together with biochemical and mutagenesis studies, uncover how LolCDE specifically recognizes its substrate by establishing multiple interactions with the lipid and N-terminal peptide moieties of the lipoprotein, and identify the amide-linked acyl chain as the key element for LolCDE interaction. Upon nucleotide binding, the transmembrane helices and the periplasmic domains of LolCDE undergo large-scale, asymmetric movements, resulting in extrusion of the captured lipoprotein. Comparison of LolCDE and MacB reveals the conserved mechanism of type VII ABC transporters and emphasizes the unique properties of LolCDE as a molecule extruder of triacylated lipoproteins.

31 **Introduction**

32 Found in all bacteria, lipoproteins are anchored in the cytoplasmic membranes using the lipid moiety attached to
33 the N-terminal cysteine residue. Lipoproteins are a significant proportion (1% - 3%) of bacterial proteomes¹ and
34 play central roles in bacterial physiology, including cell envelope formation, lipopolysaccharide biogenesis,
35 nutrition acquisition, biofilm formation, stress response, and modulation of immune response of the host^{2,3}. After
36 being generated in the cytosol, lipoproteins are translocated across the membrane through SecYEG or twin-
37 arginine systems, and subsequently acylated by sequential actions of a series of modification enzymes^{4,5} (Fig. 1a).
38 These enzymatic reactions result in tri-acylation of the N-terminal invariant cysteine residue in the lipoproteins,
39 with two acyl chains ester-linked to the cysteine side chain and one acyl chain amide-linked to the N-terminus of
40 lipoprotein. However, variable enzymes in different bacteria can lead to variation in the number and position of
41 lipoprotein acylation^{6,7}.

42 In Gram-negative bacteria, many lipoproteins are transported to the outer membrane (OM), being positioned in
43 the periplasmic leaflet to face the periplasm or in the outer leaflet to become surface exposed⁸. Lipoprotein
44 transport from the inner membrane (IM) to the OM depends on a set of proteins in the Lol (localization of
45 lipoprotein) pathway and is best studied in *E. coli*⁹ (Fig. 1a). The OM-targeted lipoproteins are first extracted out
46 of the IM, a process driven by the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporter complex LolCDE. All ABC
47 transporters contain two transmembrane domains (TMDs) and two nucleotide binding domains (NBDs). The
48 transmembrane helices (TMs) of LolC and LolE form the TMDs, and two LolD proteins function as the NBDs. In
49 addition, LolC and LolE each have a large periplasmic domain. The periplasmic chaperone LolA binds to the
50 periplasmic domain of LolC, picks up extracted lipoprotein, and delivers it to the OM acceptor LolB which itself
51 is a lipoprotein. Finally, the lipoprotein is inserted into the OM. While *E. coli* can grow without LolA and LolB
52 under certain conditions, LolCDE is strictly essential for bacterial survival¹⁰. Due to its importance in OM
53 localization of lipoproteins and antibiotic resistance, LolCDE is an attractive target for developing novel class of
54 antibacterial drugs¹¹⁻¹³.

55 To fulfill its physiological function, LolCDE must not only specifically recognize mature lipoproteins, but also
56 distinguish the lipoproteins that are destined to the OM from those which remain in the IM. The mechanism
57 underlying these two fundamental aspects of LolCDE is poorly understood. In *E. coli*, the final acylation enzyme
58 Lnt, which adds the third acyl chain to the N-terminal amine group, is an essential protein for bacterial growth,
59 unless LolCDE is overexpressed¹⁴. Thus, N-acylation of lipoprotein likely serves as a checkpoint to ensure that
60 LolCDE interacts with only mature lipoproteins. For the determinants of specific interaction between LolCDE and
61 OM lipoproteins, our knowledge is limited. In *E. coli*, the presence of an aspartate residue in the second amino
62 acid position (i.e., +2 position) immediately after the invariant cysteine residue, causes lipoprotein retention in the
63 IM⁹. However, this well-known “+2 rule” is applicable to only *E. coli* and related enterobacteria. For other
64 species, analyses based on primary amino acid sequence of the N-terminal lipoprotein residues fails to generate
65 definitive patterns to predict the outcome of lipoprotein transport¹⁵⁻¹⁸, suggesting that lipoprotein sequence alone
66 is not sufficient for determining lipoprotein interaction with the transporter.

67 While numerous transporters that mediate cross-membrane movement of lipids or proteins have been extensively
68 studied, lipoproteins containing both lipid and protein moieties represent a special group of substrates for
69 membrane transport, and the underlying mechanism remains an enigma. The topological organization of LolCDE
70 is distinct from that of most ABC transporters, and LolCDE is predicted to have similar folding as MacB, a
71 homodimeric ABC transporter in a tripartite multidrug transporter complex in Gram-negative bacteria¹⁹. Based on
72 TMD architecture, MacB is assigned as the only type VII ABC transporter with known structures^{20,21}. Mainly due
73 to the lack of a substrate bound MacB structure, the mechanisms underlying substrate recognition and transport of
74 this type of ABC transporters remain obscure. Importantly, unlike MacB which accepts a variety of compounds

75 from the periplasm, LolCDE specifically extracts lipoproteins from the IM, and thus the functional mechanisms
76 for these two ABC transporters must be divergent.

77 In this work, we determined the cryo-EM structures of nucleotide-free and ADP-vanadate-bound *E. coli* LolCDE
78 in a native-like lipid bilayer, at 3.8-Å and 3.5-Å resolutions, respectively. Structural analyses reveal the
79 architecture of LolCDE, high-resolution details of lipoprotein-transporter interaction at the interface between
80 LolC and LolE, and large-scale conformational transition induced by nucleotide binding. Together with
81 biochemical assays and mutagenesis studies, our results reveal the fundamental mechanism of LolCDE by which
82 the lipoprotein substrate is specifically captured and extracted from the membrane. Furthermore, the comparison
83 between LolCDE and MacB provides important insights of how type VII ABC transporters function.

84

85 **Purification and structural determination of LolCDE in nanodiscs**

86 *E. coli* LolCDE complex was overexpressed in *E. coli* strain BL21(DE3), purified in dodecyl maltoside (DDM)
87 detergent, reconstituted into nanodiscs with palmitoyl-oleoyl-phosphatidylglycerol (POPG), and screened in
88 negative stain for monodisperse particles of similar size and shape (Supplementary Fig. 1a, b). The analysis of the
89 kinetics of ATP hydrolysis by LolCDE in nanodiscs yielded a *Km* value of 0.19 +/- 0.05 mM and a *Vmax* value of
90 242.8 +/- 15.3 mole phosphate per min per mole protein (Fig. 1c). This activity is ~2.7 times the activity of
91 LolCDE in DDM (Fig. 1b), suggesting that membrane environment is important to maintain the native
92 conformation and full activity of the transporter. LolCDE was sensitive to the inhibition by vanadate, and 0.1 mM
93 orthovanadate led to ~90% suppression of the activity of LolCDE (Fig. 1b and Supplementary Fig. 1c). The
94 nanodisc-embedded LolCDE was subjected to single-particle cryo-EM analysis, generating a cryo-EM three-
95 dimensional (3D) reconstruction at an overall resolution of 3.8 Å (Fig. 1d and Supplementary Fig. 2). The TMs of
96 LolC and LolE are with higher resolution and have well-defined side-chain densities for most amino acid
97 residues, enabling *de novo* model building and unambiguous registry of amino acids (Supplementary Fig. 2g).
98 LolD and the periplasmic domains of LolC and LolE are with lower resolution, likely due to higher mobility, and
99 their models were built based on published domain structure and homology model as detailed in Methods.

100

101 **Overall structure of LolCDE**

102 The structure of *E. coli* LolCDE displays pseudo-two-fold symmetry (Fig. 1d), and the homologous LolC and
103 LolE each interact with one LolD protein in the cytosol, using coupling helix between TM2 and TM3 and C-
104 terminal sequence (Fig. 1g). As shown in the domain arrangement (Fig. 1e), LolC and LolE each contain an N-
105 terminal elbow helix, four TMs (TM1-4), a large periplasmic domain between TM1 and TM2, and a shoulder
106 sequence between TM3 and TM4. In the center of LolCDE are TM1 and TM2, against which TM3 and TM4 are
107 packed (Fig. 1f). The overall structure and TMD topology of LolCDE are similar to those of MacB, the founding
108 member of type VII ABC transporters^{19, 20} (Supplementary Fig. 3).

109 While the structures of LolC and LolE, particularly in their TMDs, are highly homologous, with a root-mean-
110 square-deviation (RMSD) of 1.12 Å over 145 C α atoms of all TMs (Supplementary Fig. 3a-c), notable differences
111 lie in their periplasmic domains and shoulder sequences. The periplasmic domains of LolC and LolE are oriented
112 differently (Supplementary Fig. 3d). The β -hairpin loop in LolC (termed the “Hook”), which binds to LolA for
113 lipoprotein transport²², is positioned sideway, while the Hook counterpart in LolE, not involved in LolA binding,
114 is pointed upward (Fig. 1d). The shoulder sequence between the TM3 and TM4 of LolC has 18 amino acid
115 residues (342-360) forming a loop structure. In comparison, the shoulder sequence of LolE is much longer and
116 contains two parts: a 12-residue shoulder helix (344-356), which is located at the membrane surface, and a highly

117 ordered 21-residue shoulder loop (357-378), which rises above the membrane surface by ~16 Å. As detailed
118 below, the shoulder sequences play a crucial role in lipoprotein interaction.

119

120 **Three acyl chains of lipoprotein accommodated in two hydrophobic pockets**

121 A density of co-purified lipoprotein was clearly resolved in our cryo-EM structure of LolCDE, showing all three
122 acyl chains sandwiched between LolC and LolE (Fig. 1d, f, and Fig. 2a). Notably, the three acyl chains attached
123 to the invariant cysteine residue are lifted to the level of membrane surface, adopting a nearly horizontal
124 orientation (Fig. 2c, h). Thus, our structure captured an intermediate transport state of LolCDE, in which the
125 lipoprotein substrate has been elevated to the interface between the IM and the periplasm but not yet released
126 from the TMDs of the transporter.

127 The N-terminal cysteine residue and its three acyl chains are the conserved features of all mature *E. coli*
128 lipoproteins, and thus expected to contribute to specific recognition of lipoproteins by LolCDE. This is consistent
129 with the observation that the N-terminal peptide of lipoprotein and the acyl chains form intimate interactions with
130 LolCDE and are well resolved in the cryo-EM map. The three acyl chains are separated into two groups and
131 accommodated in two hydrophobic pockets (Fig. 3a, b). One of the two cysteine side chain-connected acyl chains
132 (termed “R1”) is located in the “front pocket” formed by the TM1 and shoulder loop of LolC and the TM2 of
133 LolE (Fig. 2a, d, e and Supplementary Fig. 4f). The other side chain-connected acyl chain (termed “R2”) and the
134 N-terminal amine group-linked acyl chain (termed “R3”) are packed together in the “back pocket” formed by the
135 TM1 and shoulder loop of LolE and the TM2 of LolC (Fig. 2b, f, g and Supplementary Fig. 4g). Due to longer
136 shoulder sequence in LolE and greater distance between the TMs, the back pocket accommodates a much larger
137 volume than the front one. In the front pocket, R1 forms close contact with several hydrophobic residues from
138 LolC (Val44, Val47, Met48 and Phe51 in TM1 and Leu351 in shoulder loop) and from LolE (M267 and Ile271 in
139 TM2) (Fig. 2d, e). In the back pocket, the interactions are predominantly mediated between R3 and the shoulder
140 loop of LolE, involving Phe360, Leu361, Ile365, Tyr366, Phe367 and Leu 371 (Fig. 2g). In comparison, R2
141 makes much less contact. Additional hydrophobic interactions with R3 and R2 are contributed by the TM2 of
142 LolC (Met262, Met266 and Leu270) and the TM1 of LolE (Val43, Met48 and Phe51) (Fig. 2f). Most of the
143 hydrophobic residues that form the substrate-binding pocket are highly conserved (Supplementary Fig. 5). Using
144 single-site mutagenesis, the hydrophobic residues in close contact with the acyl chains of lipoprotein were
145 changed to asparagine residue and tested for their stable interaction with the OM lipoprotein Lpp by co-
146 purification (Fig. 2j, k). On either side of R1, F51N of LolC suppressed Lpp binding (Fig. 2j), but M267N of LolE
147 had no effect (Fig. 2k). Interestingly, all single mutations in the shoulder loop of LolE (F360N, L361N, Y366N
148 and L371N) abolished Lpp binding (Fig. 2k), and, also in the back pocket, M266N of LolC showed moderate
149 decrease in Lpp interaction (Fig. 2j). These results indicate the critical importance of the LolE shoulder loop and
150 back pocket in lipoprotein interaction.

151 Our structure reveals that three acyl chains of lipoproteins occupy two hydrophobic pockets in LolCDE with the
152 last attached acyl chain (R3) making the most extensive interactions. These observations explain the preference of
153 LolCDE for mature, triacylated lipoprotein, as well as the differential functional requirement of individual acyl
154 chains in lipoprotein for transport. In *E. coli*, deletion of Lnt, and thus removal of R3 from lipoproteins (Fig. 1a),
155 is lethal, and can be rescued by overexpression of LolCDE¹⁴. Interestingly, the lack of Lnt can also be
156 complemented by expressing a transacylase, Lit, which transfers one of the two side chain-linked acyl chains to
157 the amine group (R3)²³. These findings corroborate the notion that, among the three acyl chains in lipoprotein, R3
158 in the back pocket forms the strongest interaction with LolCDE and is crucial for lipoprotein transport.

159

160 **Interaction of N-terminal peptide of lipoprotein with LolCDE**

161 In our cryo-EM map of LolCDE, a strong density is resolved following the triacylated cysteine residue,
162 corresponding to 6 N-terminal amino acid residues of lipoprotein. This density is not with sufficient resolution for
163 accurate amino acid assignment, likely due to different lipoproteins bound to the purified LolCDE. Lpp is the
164 most abundant lipoprotein in *E. coli*^{24, 25}, and can form stable complex in our co-purification assay (Fig. 2j, k).
165 Because Lpp contains a serine residue in the +2 position, we modeled the first 6 residues of the lipoprotein as
166 Cys-Ser-Ala-Ala-Ala-Ala.

167 The first four residues (+1 to +4 positions) are at approximately the same height above the membrane surface.
168 They adopt a kinked conformation to tightly fit into a relatively shallow hydrophobic pocket (Fig. 3b, best shown
169 in the fourth panel), which is formed by the TM1 and TM2 of LolC and the shoulder loop and TM2 of LolE (Fig.
170 2i and Supplementary Fig. 4h). While the +1 cysteine residue is in closer proximity to the TM2 of LolE, the +2
171 residue is rotated away and positioned near Ile365 and Tyr366 (shoulder loop) of LolE. The following N-terminal
172 peptide takes a right-handed turn such that the +3 and +4 residues come in close contact with Val260 (TM2) and
173 Phe51 (TM1) of LolC, respectively. The following ~10 residues extend upward and reach the periplasmic domain
174 of LolE, where it makes contact with a patch of hydrophobic residues consisting of Ile247, Tyr248, Val249 and
175 Tyr250 (Supplementary Fig. 4d). The further C-terminal region of lipoprotein is not resolved, suggesting that the
176 main body of lipoproteins is located outside the periplasmic domains and does not interact with LolCDE. These
177 are consistent with the notion that LolCDE recognizes highly variable lipoproteins through specific interactions
178 with only their N-terminal peptide and lipid moieties. Furthermore, localization of N-terminal region of
179 lipoprotein on the front side of LolCDE, together with the large shoulder sequence of LolE shielding the back
180 side, seems to suggest that lipoproteins enter the transporter from the front side through the interface between the
181 TM1 of LolC and the TM2 of LolE.

182 Above the acyl chain binding pockets, the surface property at the interface of LolC and LolE transitions sharply
183 from hydrophobic to hydrophilic with predominantly negative charge (Fig. 3c, d). The N-terminal cysteine
184 residue is sandwiched between Glu263 in LolC and Asp264 in LolE (Supplementary Fig. 4b, c). Changing these
185 two residues individually to alanine or lysine residue completely blocked Lpp co-purification (Fig. 2j),
186 demonstrating the importance of negative charge for lipoprotein interaction. Additional negatively charged
187 residues include Asp352 (shoulder loop of LolC), Glu54 (LolE-TM1) and Asp364 (shoulder loop of LolE) (Fig.
188 3d). While the mechanism by which the negatively charged surface supports lipoprotein binding is not clear,
189 charge repulsion with the phosphate groups of the phospholipids in the IM may limit their entry to LolCDE and
190 help select for lipoproteins with an uncharged cysteine residue at the +1 position.

191
192 **LolCDE extrudes lipoprotein via drastic conformational transition**

193 To understand how LolCDE extracts the bound lipoprotein out of the TMDs, we determined the cryo-EM
194 structure of vanadate-trapped *E. coli* LolCDE at 3.5-Å resolution (Fig. 4a and Supplementary Fig. 6). The cryo-
195 EM sample contained 1 mM vanadate, a concentration sufficient for ~90% inhibition of LolCDE (Supplementary
196 Fig. 1c). Such inhibition is caused by ADP-vanadate complex trapped in ATP site and stabilizing an intermediate
197 conformation of ATPase.

198 In the vanadate-trapped LolCDE structure, the two LolD proteins move towards each other and associate together,
199 with one ADP-vanadate complex in each of the two ATP sites at the dimer interface (Supplementary Fig. 7d).
200 LolD engages three regions of both LolC and LolE: coupling helix, C-terminal sequence, and elbow helix. Among
201 these three structural elements, coupling helices display the most pronounced conformational shift, which in turn
202 causes an upward and inward movement of TM2 helices (Fig. 4b, d and Supplementary Video 1). The

203 conformational changes in TM2 and coupling helix of LolC and LolE are asymmetric, with more movements
204 observed in LolE than LolC. Specifically, the coupling helix in LolC pushes TM2 up by ~4 Å, and such
205 movement in LolE leads to a remarkable upward shift of TM2 by ~6 Å, which is more than one helical turn (Fig.
206 4d). In addition to vertical movement, the TM2 helices of LolC and LolE also shift inward at the membrane-
207 periplasm interface by ~6.3 Å and ~8 Å, respectively (Fig. 4b, d). In sharp contrast to the substantial
208 conformational transition of TM2, all other TMs demonstrate little movement, with the exception of the TM1 of
209 LolE, which displays an inward shift by ~6 Å following the TM2 of LolE but no upward movement (Fig. 4b). In
210 nucleotide-free LolCDE, the lipoprotein bound between the two TM2 helices is already elevated to the level of
211 membrane surface (Fig. 2c). Upon nucleotide binding, the upward shift of TM2 would push the lipoprotein out of
212 the TMDs and into the space between the periplasmic domains. Therefore, the power stroke is initiated when two
213 NBDs (i.e., LolD) dimerize upon ATP binding, and, via the TM2 helices across the membrane, the movement of
214 NBDs in the cytosol is coupled to the extrusion of the bound lipoprotein in the periplasm.

215 The inward movement of TM2 helices results in a two-helix bundle in the center of the transporter, thereby
216 collapsing all three pockets which, in the nucleotide-free conformation, accommodate three acyl chains and the N-
217 terminal peptide of the bound lipoprotein. Accordingly, we do not observe lipoprotein in the structure of
218 vanadate-trapped LolCDE. When the catalytically important Glu171 in LolD was mutated to glutamine residue
219 (E171Q), LolCDE lost stable Lpp binding (Fig. 2k). This is consistent with the notion that the mutant LolCDE in
220 the IM is stabilized in the ATP-bound conformation which cannot bind lipoprotein. Notably, TM2 closes the
221 lateral opening between LolC and LolE in the outer membrane leaflet and blocks access of both shoulder loops to
222 the substrate (Supplementary Fig. 7c, e), and the resulting destabilization of the shoulder loops is clearly
223 manifested by the weaker cryo-EM density in the vanadate-trapped conformation (Supplementary Fig. 7f).
224 Complete elimination of all lipoprotein accommodating pockets and closure of substrate entry gate may be
225 important to prevent lipoprotein backloading and ensure transport completion before accepting a new substrate.
226 Taken together, our cryo-EM structure of vanadate-trapped LolCDE represents a functional state after the
227 extrusion of lipoprotein.

228

229 Large-scale movements of LolCDE in the periplasmic space

230 The drastic shifts of TM2 propagate into the periplasmic regions of LolCDE. In the position of Tyr260 at the
231 periplasmic end of TM2 of LolE, ~10 Å above the membrane surface, a local structural rearrangement creates a
232 90° kink, which travels 10.5-Å distance upward and to the center (Fig. 4c). A corresponding 90° kink in LolC is
233 present in the nucleotide-free conformation, and, upon vanadate trapping, also moves upward and inward to join
234 the 90° kink from LolE. These two kinks together form a T-shaped structure, closing the membrane-proximal
235 space and shrinking the opening on the front side of the inter-periplasmic domain space (Supplementary Fig. 7c).

236 The upward and inward movements of TM2 cause remarkable translocation and rotation of periplasmic domains,
237 resulting in an overall closure of these two domains. The asymmetrical transitions of the two TM2 helices are also
238 reflected in distinct movements of the two periplasmic domains. While the motion of LolC periplasmic domain is
239 predominantly a translation toward the center by ~12 Å with a small rotation of ~6° (Fig. 4e), the periplasmic
240 domain of LolE moves mainly by a rotation of ~29.5° (Fig. 4f and Supplementary Video 1). The motion in LolC
241 relocates the LolA-binding Hook near the top of the transporter (Fig. 4e). The crystal structure of LolA in
242 complex with the periplasmic domain of LolC²² can be docked on our nucleotide-free and vanadate-trapped
243 LolCDE structures without obvious clashes (Supplementary Fig. 8), which is consistent with the previous findings
244 that LolA-LolCDE interaction is not affected by the nucleotide binding to LolCDE²². Thus, the release of LolA-
245 lipoprotein complex from LolC is likely caused by the conformational change of LolA upon lipoprotein loading,
246 rather than the periplasmic domain movements alone. In addition, the lipoprotein linker-binding loop in the

247 periplasmic domain of LolE moves diagonally upward by ~8 Å, likely facilitating lipoprotein extraction by
248 directly pulling the N-terminal peptide (Supplementary Fig. 4e). Together, the structural rearrangements of LolC
249 and LolE in the periplasmic space seem to help lipoprotein extrusion, protect the acyl chains of extracted
250 lipoprotein from the aqueous environment of the periplasm, and reorient the lipoprotein for interaction with the
251 LolC-bound Lola.

252

253 Discussion

254 Bacterial lipoproteins represent a special group of macromolecules for cross-membrane translocation, due to their
255 amphipathic nature. Our results provide insights of how lipoproteins are specifically transported by a dedicated
256 molecular machine. We propose a model of lipoprotein extraction by *E. coli* LolCDE (Fig. 5) in which (1)
257 lipoprotein in the periplasmic leaflet of the IM laterally enters the transporter through the interface between LolC
258 and LolE on the front side; (2) the acyl chains of lipoproteins form extensive hydrophobic interactions with the
259 front and back pockets in the transporter, resulting in elevation of the lipoprotein to the level of membrane
260 surface; (3) ATP binding-induced LolD dimerization causes TM2 to move upward, which in turn pushes the
261 bound lipoprotein out of the TMDs and into the space between the two rearranged periplasmic domains. Finally,
262 ATP hydrolysis leads to dissociation of NBD dimer, resetting the conformation of LolCDE for the next cycle of
263 transport.

264 Our results reveal how LolCDE recognizes highly variable OM-targeted lipoproteins through three distinct
265 pockets that interact with the conserved structural features in lipoproteins: acyl chains and the N-terminal peptide.
266 Importantly, we identified the N-terminal amine group-linked acyl chain (R3) as the predominant element to
267 mediate hydrophobic interaction with the transporter, which explains why LolCDE prefers fully mature
268 lipoproteins after the final acylation step. The first four residues of lipoprotein form a kink to fit tightly in a
269 hydrophobic pocket with a front opening, suggesting that the N-terminal peptide must adopt a structure with
270 complementary properties with respect to the pocket. Thus, whether a lipoprotein is captured or avoided by
271 LolCDE is likely reflected upon the combinatory effect of the sequence and folding of the N-terminal peptide as
272 well as the shape and surface property of the peptide-accommodating pocket in the transporter. This likely
273 contributes to the highly divergent Lol avoidance signals in different bacteria.

274 The structures of MacB in different functional states were resolved, and demonstrate how ATP binding causes
275 large-scale conformational changes of the periplasmic domain, presumably harnessing mechanotransmission to
276 drive the movement of MacA in the periplasm and expel the drug substrates²⁶⁻²⁹. The observed conformational
277 change of LolCDE upon vanadate trapping is similar to that of MacB between its nucleotide-free and ATP-bound
278 states^{26, 29} (Supplementary Videos 1, 2). In both cases, NBD dimerization causes the upward movement of TM2
279 and subsequent rearrangement of periplasmic domains, which appear to be the common and distinct features of
280 type VII ABC transporters. However, there are several important differences between MacB and LolCDE. First,
281 while all 8 TMs of MacB move inward for its “bellows-like” function, with two TM1s and two TM2s forming a
282 four-helix bundle in the center (Supplementary Fig. 9a, b), the inward movement in LolCDE is limited to 3 TMs,
283 with two TM2s forming a central two-helix bundle (Fig. 4b). Second, while the rotation of MacB periplasmic
284 domain is facilitated by upward TM2 motion against inward TM1 motion, corresponding rotation in LolE is
285 largely facilitated by the formation of the 90° kink at the periplasmic end of TM2 (Fig. 4c). Third, while MacB
286 moves both TM1 and TM2 to close the periplasmic domains through symmetrical translation and rotation
287 (Supplementary Fig. 9c, d), LolCDE predominantly uses the upward TM2 motion to extrude the bound
288 lipoprotein and produce an asymmetrical movement of the two periplasmic domains which may have additional
289 functions in protecting and reorienting the extracted lipoprotein to facilitate its loading onto Lola. In summary,

290 all these differences highlight the distinct functions of LolCDE and MacB as membrane extractor and
291 mechanotransducer, respectively.

292

293 **Acknowledgements**

294 We thank L. Huang, X. Wang, and Z. Jiang from Westlake University cryo-EM facility for help in cryo-EM data
295 acquisition for vanadate-trapped LolCDE. The dataset of nucleotide-free LolCDE was collected at cryo-EM core
296 facility at University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). We are grateful to all Liao lab members for
297 their helpful feedback throughout this project and A. Plummer and A. Culbertson for helpful comments on the
298 manuscript. Y.L. was supported by the Zhejiang Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China
299 (LR20C050001).

300

301 **Author contribution**

302 M.L. conceived the project. M.L. and Y.L. supervised the project. S.S. and R.Z. performed molecular cloning,
303 protein purification, nanodisc reconstitution, mutagenesis and co-purification. S.S., R.Z. and L.W collected the
304 cryo-EM data. K.S. and C.X. helped cryo-EM data acquisition. S.S processed cryo-EM data and built models. All
305 authors contributed to data analysis. S.S., Y.L. and M.L. wrote the manuscript with the input from all authors.

306

307 **Author information**

308 The authors declare no competing financial interests. Correspondence and requests for materials should be
309 addressed to Y.L. (liyanyan@westlake.edu.cn) or M.L. (maofu_liao@hms.harvard.edu).

310

311 **Materials and methods**

312 **Cloning, expression and purification of LolCDE.** The genes encoding LolC, LolE and LolD with flanking
313 restriction sites BamHI and NotI were amplified individually from *E. coli* K12 genomic DNA by PCR. The C-
314 terminus of LolD was extended using the linker sequence GGGAA and a 6x His tag. LolC, LolE and LolD
315 amplicons were individually inserted into pQlinkN vectors (Addgene). The recombinant vectors pQlinkN-LolD-
316 His, pQlink-LolE and pQlink-LolC were individually digested using the restriction enzymes PacI and SwaI, and
317 the digested products were linked using ligation independent cloning as previously described³⁰. The final
318 recombinant vector pQLink-LolCD(6xHis)E was transformed into *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells for over-expression.
319 Transformed *E. coli* was grown in terrific broth supplemented with 100 µg/ml ampicillin at 37 °C until the cells
320 reached an OD₆₀₀ of ~2. LolCDE expression was induced by addition of 0.1 mM Isopropyl β-D-1-
321 thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) and the cells were grown at 18 °C for 48 hours. Cells were collected by
322 centrifugation and the pellets resuspended in buffer A (25 mM Tris pH 7.4, 250 mM NaCl and 10% glycerol).
323 Resuspended cell pellets were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C until use. Thawed cells were
324 supplemented with 0.5 mg/ml lysozyme, 0.1 mg/ml DNase I, incubated on ice for 30 minutes, supplemented with
325 protease inhibitors and lysed by passing through an LM20 microfluidizer (Microfluidics) once. Lysed cells were
326 subjected to low-speed centrifugation at 12,000 g for 30 minutes to remove unbroken cells and debris followed by
327 ultracentrifugation at 100,000 g for 1 hour to collect membranes. Membrane pellets were resuspended in buffer A,
328 supplemented with protease inhibitors and solubilized in 1% n-Dodecyl-β-D-Maltoside (Anatrace), for 1 hour at
329 4 °C. Unsolubilized material was removed by ultracentrifugation at 100,000 g for 1 hour. Solubilized membranes
330 were subjected to affinity column chromatography using Ni-IMAC resin (Profinity) and eluted using buffer
331 containing 25 mM Tris pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% DDM and 250 mM Imidazole. The eluted protein was
332 further purified by size-exclusion chromatography on a Superdex 200 column in a buffer containing 25 mM Tris,
333 pH7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% DDM and 5% glycerol.

334 **Co-purification of LolCDE and Lpp.** Gene encoding *lpp* was amplified from *E. coli* K-12 genomic DNA. The
335 C-terminal lysine residue (K58) was deleted (LppK58del) to inhibit the formation of a covalent linkage with
336 peptidoglycan and prevent cell toxicity. The fragment of *lpp* with C-terminal Flag tag was inserted into pQLink-
337 LolCDE vector. All site-directed mutations were generated following the protocol of NEB Q5 site-directed
338 mutagenesis kit. The final recombinant vector pQLink-LolCD(6xHis)E-Lpp (C-Flag) was transformed into *E. coli*
339 BL21(DE3) cells for co-expression. The LolCDE-Lpp or relevant mutant proteins were expressed and purified
340 using the same methods as described for LolCDE above. His tag purified LolCDE-Lpp fractions were detected by
341 western blot using anti-His and anti-Flag antibodies.

342 **Nanodisc reconstitution.** 1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylglycerol (POPG) (Avanti Polar Lipids)
343 in chloroform was dried under argon gas and stored in vacuum overnight. The dried lipid film was re-suspended
344 in nanodisc buffer (25 mM Tris pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl), sonicated in a water bath for 1 hour (until homogeneous)
345 and solubilized in 25 mM sodium cholate. MSP1D1 membrane scaffold protein and purified LolCDE were added
346 to the reconstitution mixture at a final molar ratio of 1:2:130 (LolCDE: MSP1D1: POPG) and incubated at 4 °C
347 for 1 hour. Detergent was removed by incubation with 0.6 g/ml Bio-Beads SM-2 (Bio-Rad) at 4 °C for 2 hours.
348 Nanodisc-reconstituted LolCDE was further purified by size exclusion chromatography using a Superdex 200
349 column in nanodisc buffer. The purity of LolCDE in nanodiscs was assessed using SDS-PAGE and negative stain
350 electron microscopy.

351 **ATPase assay.** ATPase activity of LolCDE in DDM detergent or nanodiscs was measured using a colorimetric
352 ATPase kit (Sigma Aldrich) according to manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 1 µg of LolCDE was incubated in
353 25 mM Tris, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 4 mM ATP, and 4 mM MgCl₂ for 30 minutes at 37 °C. The reaction was
354 stopped by the addition of 200 µl of reagent provided in the kit, incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes and
355 the absorbance at 620 nm was measured using a SpectraMax M5 spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices).

356 Phosphate standard curve was constructed using stock solutions provided in the kit according to manufacturer's
357 instructions and used to determine the total concentration of released phosphate. ATPase activities of all samples
358 were determined using the mean value of the samples according to the linear regression of standards. Data was
359 plotted and analyzed in GraphPad Prism 8.

360 **Electron microscopy sample preparation and data acquisition.** Nanodisc-embedded LolCDE at a
361 concentration of 1.6 - 2 mg/mL was used for freezing cryo-EM grids. A 2.5 μ L volume of sample was applied to
362 glow-discharged Quantifoil R1.2/1.3 holey carbon grids and blotted for 3.5 s at 100% humidity using a Mark IV
363 Vitrobot (Thermo Fisher Scientific) before being plunge frozen in liquid ethane cooled by liquid nitrogen. For
364 vanadate trapping, the samples were incubated in a buffer containing 2 mM ATP, 2 mM MgCl₂ and 1 mM sodium
365 orthovanadate for 30 min at room temperature before applying the samples to cryo-EM grids. Cryo-EM images
366 were collected at liquid nitrogen temperature on a Titan Krios (Thermo Fisher Scientific) equipped with a K3
367 detector (Gatan) and a BioQuantum imaging filter, using image shift and beam tilt to collect one shot per hole and
368 nine holes per stage move. Movies were recorded in super-resolution mode with SerialEM³¹ or AutoEMation³². A
369 slit width of 20 eV for energy filter was set during the data collection. The details of EM data collection
370 parameters are listed in Supplementary Table 1.

371 **Electron microscopy image processing.** EM data were processed as previously described with minor
372 modifications³³. For both negative-stain EM and cryo-EM, particle images were initially selected using a semi-
373 automated procedure implemented in Simplified Application Managing Utilities for EM Labs (SAMUEL
374 v21.01)³⁴, and two-dimensional (2D) classification of selected particle images was performed with
375 “samclasscas.py”, “samtree2dv3.py” or 2D classification in RELION-3.0³⁵. For processing cryo-EM images,
376 dose-fractionated super-resolution movies were binned over 2 \times 2 pixels, and beam-induced motion was corrected
377 using the program MotionCor2³⁶. Defocus values were calculated using the program CTFFIND4³⁷. Initial models
378 for 3D classification were generated by refinement of 2D class averages against a random density using projection
379 matching. 3D classification and refinement were carried out in RELION-3.0. Following two rounds of global 3D
380 classification, masks were constructed to focus 3D classification on LolCDE, omitting the signal from nanodisc.
381 The orientation parameters of the homogenous set of particle images in selected 3D classes were iteratively
382 refined to yield higher resolution maps using the “auto-refine” procedure in RELION. All refinements followed
383 the gold-standard procedure, in which two half datasets are refined independently. The overall resolutions were
384 estimated based on the gold-standard Fourier shell correlation (FSC) = 0.143 criterion. Local resolution variations
385 were estimated from the two half data maps using ResMap³⁸. The final map of nucleotide-free LolCDE was
386 subjected to a density-modification procedure³⁹. The final map of vanadate-trapped LolCDE was corrected for
387 amplitude information by using “relion_postprocess” in RELION3.0. The detailed workflows of processing the
388 cryo-EM datasets are illustrated in Supplementary Figs. 2c and 6c. The number of particles in each dataset and
389 other details related to data processing are summarized in Supplementary Table 1.

390 **Model Building and refinement.** The crystal structure of MacB with ATP γ S bound (PDB: 5LIL) was used as a
391 template to generate homology models for LolC and LolE using SWISS-MODEL⁴⁰. The homology models were
392 fit into the cryo-EM maps for LolCDE in the nucleotide-free and nucleotide-bound conformations using UCSF
393 Chimera⁴¹. Manual adjustment of the models was performed in COOT⁴², followed by iterative rounds of real
394 space refinement in PHENIX⁴³ and manual adjustment in COOT.

395 The crystal structure of the periplasmic domain of LolC (PDB: 6F3Z) was docked into the corresponding
396 density in our maps, manually adjusted in COOT and real space refined in PHENIX. The refined model for the
397 periplasmic domain of LolC was used as a template to generate a homology model for the periplasmic domain of
398 LolE using SWISS-MODEL. Similarly, a template-independent homology model was generated for LolD. The
399 homology models were fit into their corresponding densities in UCSF Chimera, manually adjusted in COOT and
400 real space refined in PHENIX.

401 A SMILES string for the triacyl-peptide ligand was generated using the PubChem draw structure tool and
402 restraints for the molecule were generated using PHENIX eLBOW⁴⁴. For the ADP-Vanadate complex, the pdb
403 three-letter-code (AOV) was used to generate restraints in eLBOW. The ligands were roughly fit into their
404 corresponding densities in UCSF Chimera, manually adjusted with the CIF restraints in COOT and real space
405 refined in PHENIX.

406 **Map visualization and structure analysis.** Maps were visualized in UCSF Chimera⁴¹. The nucleotide-free and
407 nucleotide-bound conformations of LolCDE were aligned based on the transmembrane domain using the
408 Matchmaker tool in Chimera. Distances between C α atoms to measure conformational change induced
409 displacement was measured using the Structure analysis (distances) tool in Chimera. To measure the angle of
410 rotation for the periplasmic domains of LolC a two-dimensional plane was generated using the residues Leu256
411 and Met175 (Hook) in the nucleotide-free and nucleotide-bound conformations, using the Structure analysis
412 (axes/planes/centroids) tool. The angle between the selected planes was measured using the *angle* command. A
413 similar procedure was used to measure rotation of the periplasmic domain of LoLE using the amino acid residues
414 Tyr260 and Leu110. Hydrophobicity of surfaces was measured using the *rangecolor* command. All figures and
415 videos were generated using Chimera.

416 **Data availability**

417 Data supporting the findings of this manuscript are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable
418 request. A reporting summary for this Article is available as a Supplementary Information file. The three-
419 dimensional cryo-EM density maps of *E. coli* LolCDE in nanodiscs have been deposited in the Electron
420 Microscopy Data Bank under accession numbers: EMD-23783 (nucleotide-free) and EMD-23784 (vanadate-
421 trapped). Atomic coordinates for the atomic models of LolCDE have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank
422 under accession numbers: 7MDX (nucleotide-free) and 7MDY (vanadate-trapped).

423

424 **References**

- 425 1. Sutcliffe, I.C., Harrington, D.J. & Hutchings, M.I. A phylum level analysis reveals lipoprotein
426 biosynthesis to be a fundamental property of bacteria. *Protein Cell* **3**, 163-170 (2012).
- 427 2. Kovacs-Simon, A., Titball, R.W. & Michell, S.L. Lipoproteins of bacterial pathogens. *Infect Immun* **79**,
428 548-561 (2011).
- 429 3. Konovalova, A., Kahne, D.E. & Silhavy, T.J. Outer Membrane Biogenesis. *Annu Rev Microbiol* **71**, 539-
430 556 (2017).
- 431 4. Narita, S.I. & Tokuda, H. Bacterial lipoproteins; biogenesis, sorting and quality control. *Biochim Biophys
432 Acta Mol Cell Biol Lipids* **1862**, 1414-1423 (2017).
- 433 5. Hooda, Y. & Moraes, T.F. Translocation of lipoproteins to the surface of gram negative bacteria. *Curr
434 Opin Struct Biol* **51**, 73-79 (2018).
- 435 6. Nakayama, H., Kurokawa, K. & Lee, B.L. Lipoproteins in bacteria: structures and biosynthetic pathways.
436 *FEBS J* **279**, 4247-4268 (2012).
- 437 7. Kurokawa, K. *et al.* Novel bacterial lipoprotein structures conserved in low-GC content gram-positive
438 bacteria are recognized by Toll-like receptor 2. *The Journal of biological chemistry* **287**, 13170-13181
439 (2012).
- 440 8. Hooda, Y., Lai, C.C.L. & Moraes, T.F. Identification of a Large Family of Slam-Dependent Surface
441 Lipoproteins in Gram-Negative Bacteria. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol* **7**, 207 (2017).
- 442 9. Okuda, S. & Tokuda, H. Lipoprotein sorting in bacteria. *Annu Rev Microbiol* **65**, 239-259 (2011).
- 443 10. Grabowicz, M. & Silhavy, T.J. Redefining the essential trafficking pathway for outer membrane
444 lipoproteins. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* **114**, 4769-
445 4774 (2017).
- 446 11. Nickerson, N.N. *et al.* A Novel Inhibitor of the LolCDE ABC Transporter Essential for Lipoprotein
447 Trafficking in Gram-Negative Bacteria. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* **62** (2018).
- 448 12. Nayar, A.S. *et al.* Novel antibacterial targets and compounds revealed by a high-throughput cell wall
449 reporter assay. *J Bacteriol* **197**, 1726-1734 (2015).
- 450 13. McLeod, S.M. *et al.* Small-molecule inhibitors of gram-negative lipoprotein trafficking discovered by
451 phenotypic screening. *J Bacteriol* **197**, 1075-1082 (2015).
- 452 14. Narita, S. & Tokuda, H. Overexpression of LolCDE allows deletion of the Escherichia coli gene encoding
453 apolipoprotein N-acyltransferase. *J Bacteriol* **193**, 4832-4840 (2011).
- 454 15. Lewenza, S., Mhlanga, M.M. & Pugsley, A.P. Novel inner membrane retention signals in *Pseudomonas*
455 *aeruginosa* lipoproteins. *J Bacteriol* **190**, 6119-6125 (2008).
- 456 16. Remans, K., Vercammen, K., Bodilis, J. & Cornelis, P. Genome-wide analysis and literature-based survey
457 of lipoproteins in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. *Microbiology (Reading)* **156**, 2597-2607 (2010).
- 458 17. Schulze, R.J. & Zuckert, W.R. *Borrelia burgdorferi* lipoproteins are secreted to the outer surface by
459 default. *Mol Microbiol* **59**, 1473-1484 (2006).
- 460 18. Hooda, Y., Shin, H.E., Bateman, T.J. & Moraes, T.F. Neisserial surface lipoproteins: structure, function
461 and biogenesis. *Pathog Dis* **75** (2017).
- 462 19. Greene, N.P., Kaplan, E., Crow, A. & Koronakis, V. Antibiotic Resistance Mediated by the MacB ABC
463 Transporter Family: A Structural and Functional Perspective. *Front Microbiol* **9**, 950 (2018).
- 464 20. Thomas, C. *et al.* Structural and functional diversity calls for a new classification of ABC transporters.
465 *FEBS letters* (2020).
- 466 21. Thomas, C. & Tampe, R. Structural and Mechanistic Principles of ABC Transporters. *Annual review of
467 biochemistry* **89**, 605-636 (2020).
- 468 22. Kaplan, E., Greene, N.P., Crow, A. & Koronakis, V. Insights into bacterial lipoprotein trafficking from a
469 structure of LolA bound to the LolC periplasmic domain. *Proceedings of the National Academy of
470 Sciences of the United States of America* **115**, E7389-E7397 (2018).
- 471 23. Armbruster, K.M. & Meredith, T.C. Identification of the Lyso-Form N-Acyl Intramolecular Transferase
472 in Low-GC Firmicutes. *J Bacteriol* **199** (2017).

473 24. Braun, V. & Rehn, K. Chemical characterization, spatial distribution and function of a lipoprotein
474 (murein-lipoprotein) of the *E. coli* cell wall. The specific effect of trypsin on the membrane structure. *Eur*
475 *J Biochem* **10**, 426-438 (1969).

476 25. Li, G.W., Burkhardt, D., Gross, C. & Weissman, J.S. Quantifying absolute protein synthesis rates reveals
477 principles underlying allocation of cellular resources. *Cell* **157**, 624-635 (2014).

478 26. Crow, A., Greene, N.P., Kaplan, E. & Koronakis, V. Structure and mechanotransmission mechanism of
479 the MacB ABC transporter superfamily. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United*
480 *States of America* **114**, 12572-12577 (2017).

481 27. Okada, U. *et al.* Crystal structure of tripartite-type ABC transporter MacB from *Acinetobacter baumannii*.
482 *Nat Commun* **8**, 1336 (2017).

483 28. Yang, H.B. *et al.* Structure of a MacAB-like efflux pump from *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. *Nat Commun*
484 **9**, 196 (2018).

485 29. Fitzpatrick, A.W.P. *et al.* Structure of the MacAB-TolC ABC-type tripartite multidrug efflux pump. *Nat*
486 *Microbiol* **2**, 17070 (2017).

487 30. Scheich, C., Kummel, D., Soumailakakis, D., Heinemann, U. & Bussow, K. Vectors for co-expression of
488 an unrestricted number of proteins. *Nucleic Acids Res* **35**, e43 (2007).

489 31. Schorb, M., Haberbosch, I., Hagen, W.J.H., Schwab, Y. & Mastronarde, D.N. Software tools for
490 automated transmission electron microscopy. *Nat Methods* **16**, 471-477 (2019).

491 32. Lei, J. & Frank, J. Automated acquisition of cryo-electron micrographs for single particle reconstruction
492 on an FEI Tecnai electron microscope. *J Struct Biol* **150**, 69-80 (2005).

493 33. Mi, W. *et al.* Structural basis of MsbA-mediated lipopolysaccharide transport. *Nature* **549**, 233-237
494 (2017).

495 34. Ru, H. *et al.* Molecular Mechanism of V(D)J Recombination from Synaptic RAG1-RAG2 Complex
496 Structures. *Cell* **163**, 1138-1152 (2015).

497 35. Scheres, S.H. RELION: implementation of a Bayesian approach to cryo-EM structure determination. *J*
498 *Struct Biol* **180**, 519-530 (2012).

499 36. Zheng, S.Q. *et al.* MotionCor2: anisotropic correction of beam-induced motion for improved cryo-
500 electron microscopy. *Nat Methods* **14**, 331-332 (2017).

501 37. Rohou, A. & Grigorieff, N. CTFFIND4: Fast and accurate defocus estimation from electron micrographs.
502 *J Struct Biol* **192**, 216-221 (2015).

503 38. Kucukelbir, A., Sigworth, F.J. & Tagare, H.D. Quantifying the local resolution of cryo-EM density maps.
504 *Nat Methods* **11**, 63-65 (2014).

505 39. Terwilliger, T.C., Ludtke, S.J., Read, R.J., Adams, P.D. & Afonine, P.V. Improvement of cryo-EM maps
506 by density modification. *Nat Methods* **17**, 923-927 (2020).

507 40. Bertoni, M., Kiefer, F., Biasini, M., Bordoli, L. & Schwede, T. Modeling protein quaternary structure of
508 homo- and hetero-oligomers beyond binary interactions by homology. *Sci Rep* **7**, 10480 (2017).

509 41. Pettersen, E.F. *et al.* UCSF Chimera--a visualization system for exploratory research and analysis. *J*
510 *Comput Chem* **25**, 1605-1612 (2004).

511 42. Emsley, P., Lohkamp, B., Scott, W.G. & Cowtan, K. Features and development of Coot. *Acta Crystallogr*
512 *D Biol Crystallogr* **66**, 486-501 (2010).

513 43. Adams, P.D. *et al.* PHENIX: a comprehensive Python-based system for macromolecular structure
514 solution. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* **66**, 213-221 (2010).

515 44. Moriarty, N.W., Grosse-Kunstleve, R.W. & Adams, P.D. electronic Ligand Builder and Optimization
516 Workbench (eLBOW): a tool for ligand coordinate and restraint generation. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol*
517 *Crystallogr* **65**, 1074-1080 (2009).

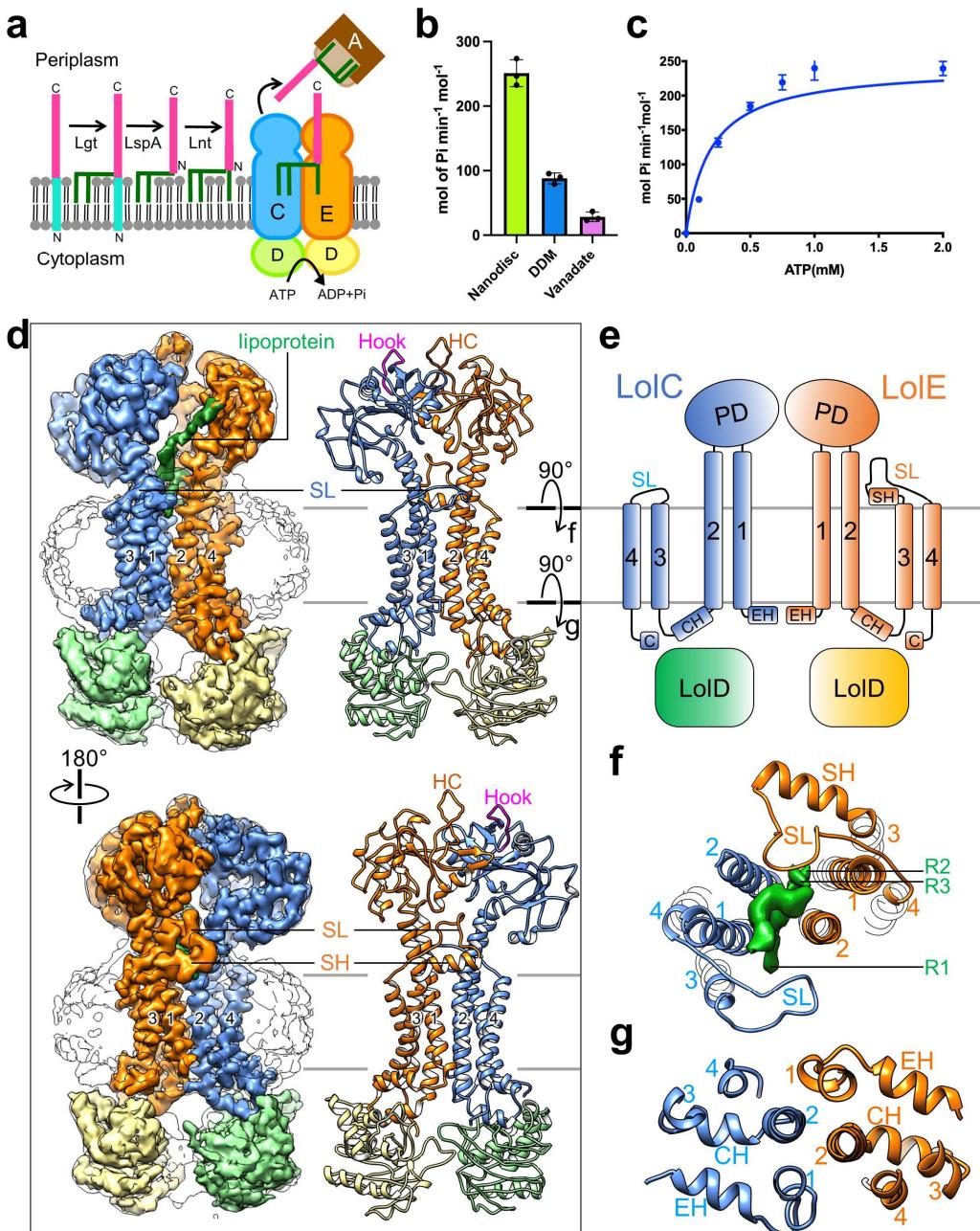
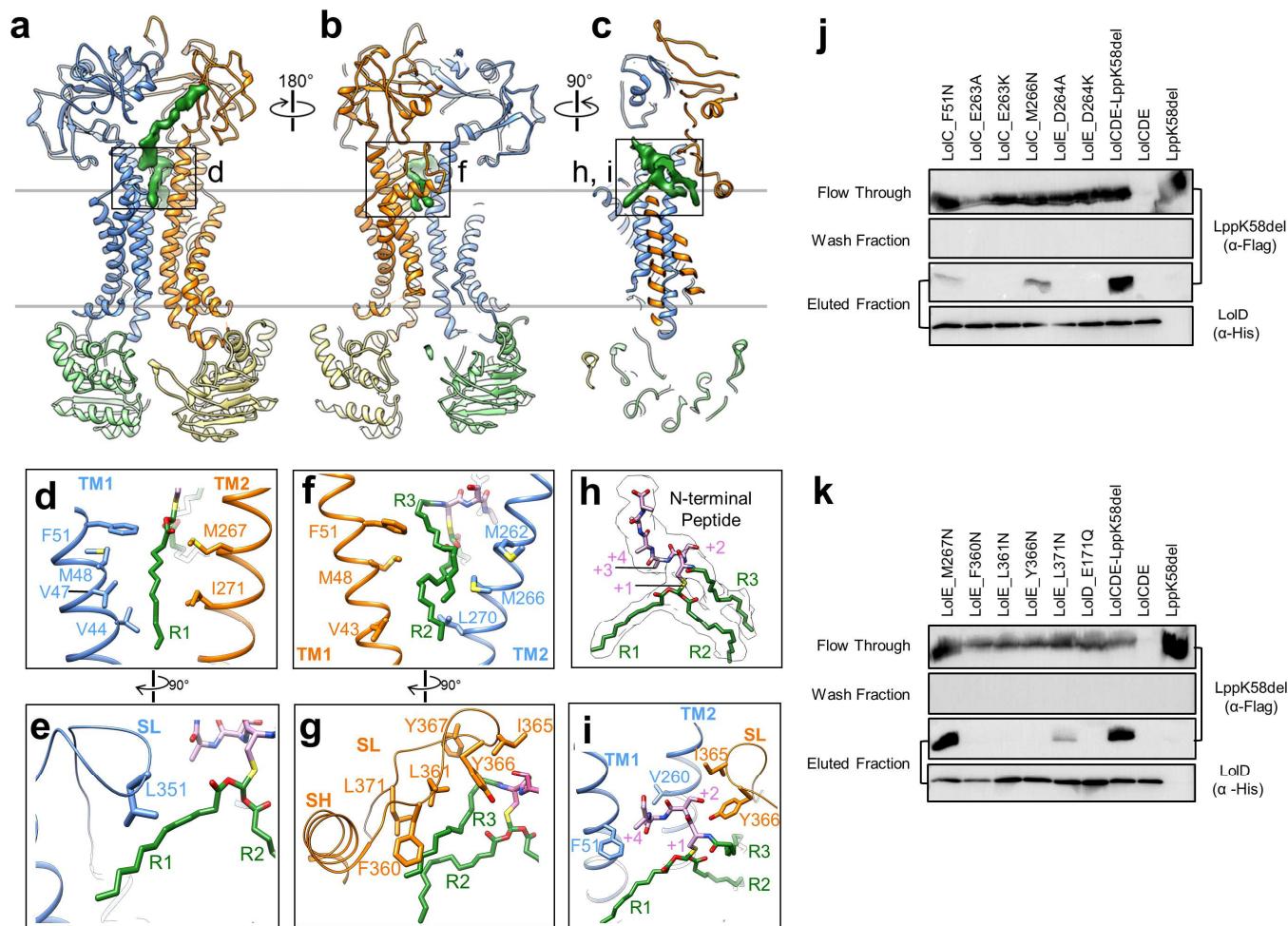


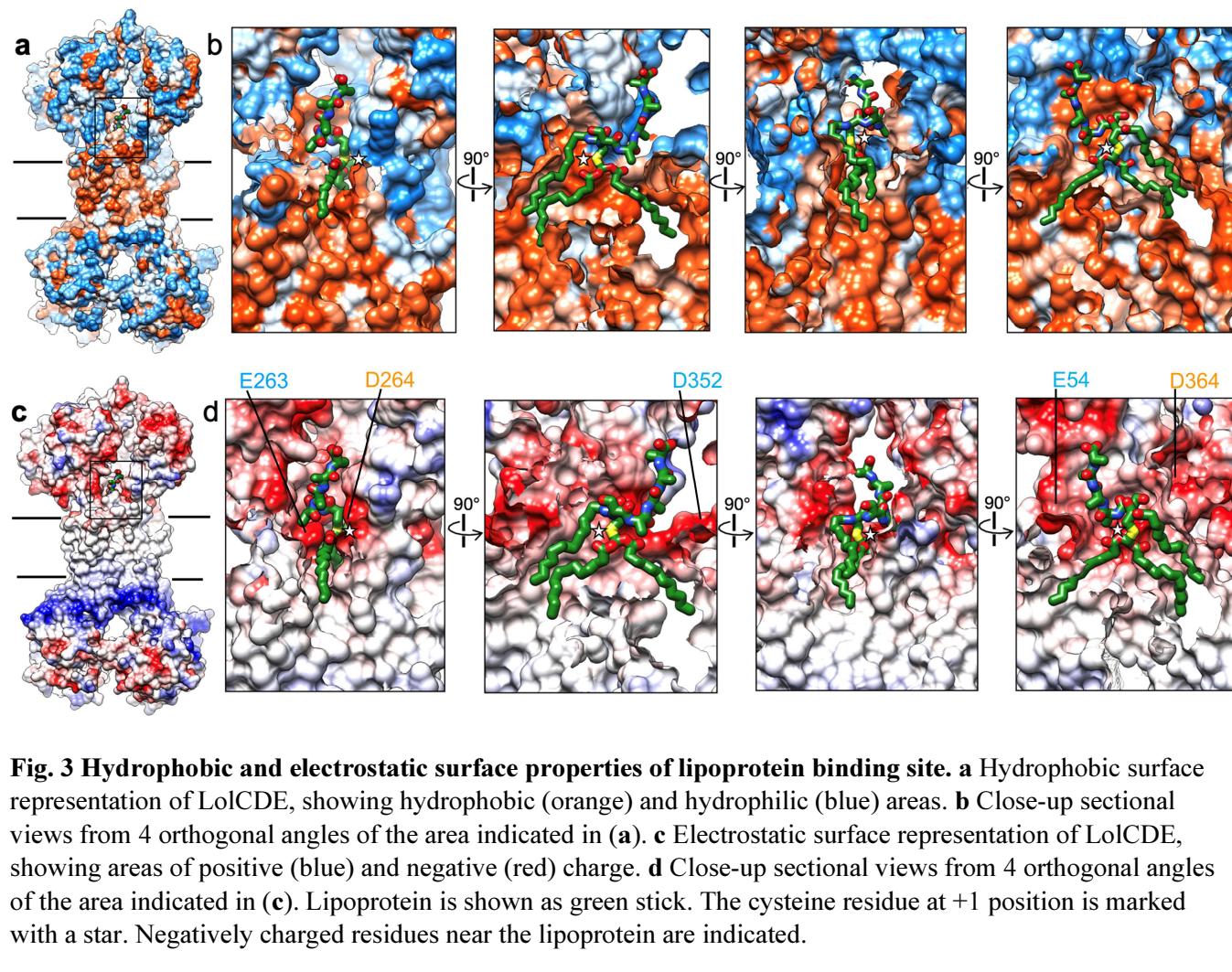
Fig. 1 Biochemical and cryo-EM studies of LolCDE. a Diagram of the steps of lipoprotein biogenesis in the inner membrane, including three enzymatic processing steps, LolCDE-mediated extraction, and delivery to LolA. The Lol proteins are labeled with letters. **b** ATPase activity of LolCDE in nanodiscs, in DDM, and in nanodiscs with 0.1 mM vanadate. Each point represents mean \pm s.d. of three separate measurements. **c** ATPase activities of LolCDE in nanodiscs. Each point represents mean \pm s.d. of three separate measurements. **d** Cryo-EM map filtered at 3.8-Å resolution and model of LolCDE, viewed from the front (top) and back (bottom). LolC, LolE, two LolD subunits, and lipoprotein are colored separately. Nanodisc is shown as outline. The boundaries of the inner membrane are indicated by gray lines. Hook in LolC, Hook counterpart (HC) in LolE, shoulder loop (SL) and shoulder helix (SH) are indicated. Transmembrane helices are labeled with numbers. **e** Topology of LolCDE. **f**, **g** Views perpendicular to the membrane plane of the cross sections indicated in (d).

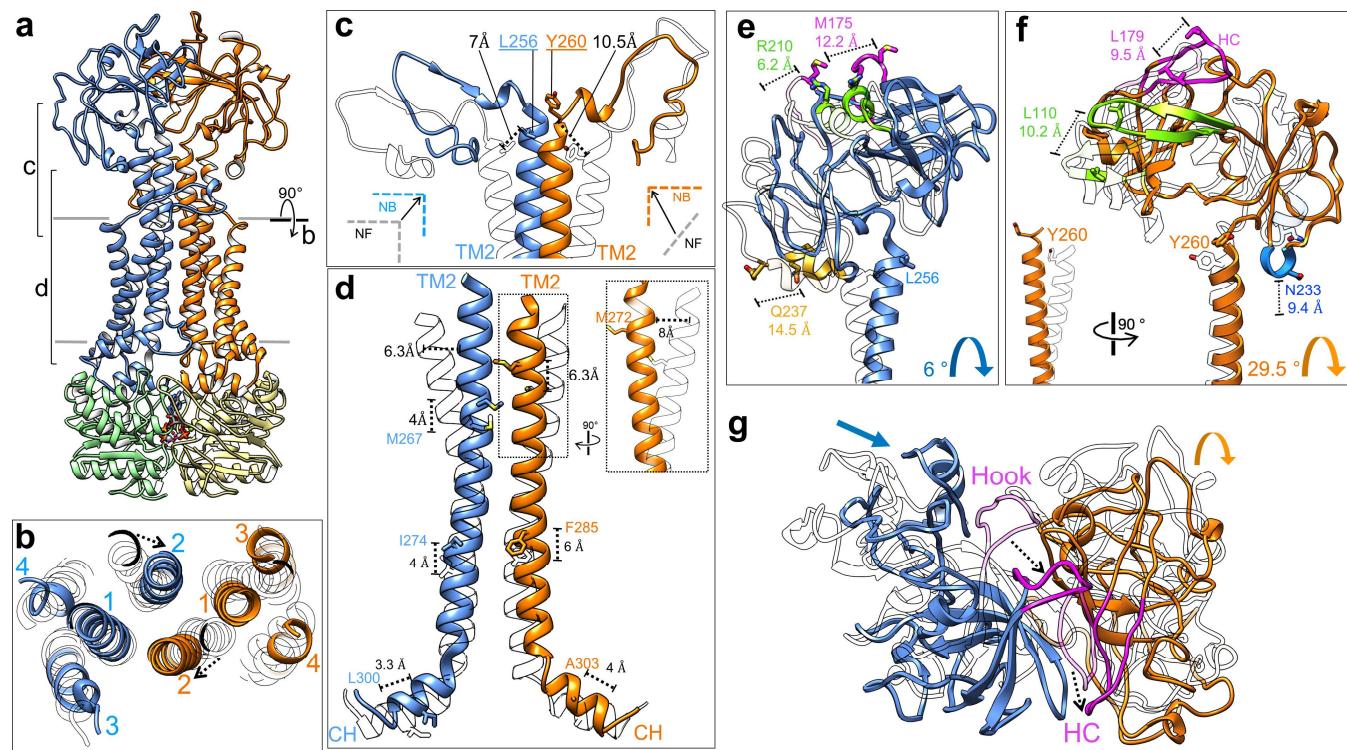


530
531

Fig. 2 Lipoprotein interaction with LolCDE. **a, b, c** Model of LolCDE with the cryo-EM density of lipoprotein (green), shown as front (**a**), back (**b**) and sectional side (**c**) views. Lol proteins are colored as in Fig. 1. **d-i** Close-up views of the selected areas indicated in (**a-c**). The lipoprotein is shown with the N-terminal peptide in purple and three acyl chains in green: the N-terminal R3 and cysteine side chain-connected R1 and R2. SH, shoulder helix (only in LoLE); SL, shoulder loop (in LolC and LoLE). **j, k** Co-purification assay to test Lpp binding to wild-type and mutant LolCDE. LppK58del without the C-terminal lysine residue was used to prevent cell toxicity. Except the last two lanes, where only wild-type LolCDE or LppK58del was individually expressed, all lanes show the results from co-expression of LolCDE and LppK58del. LolCDE was purified using Ni-NTA via the His tag on LolD. Flow-through, wash and elute were analyzed by western blot. Data are representative of 3 independent experiments.

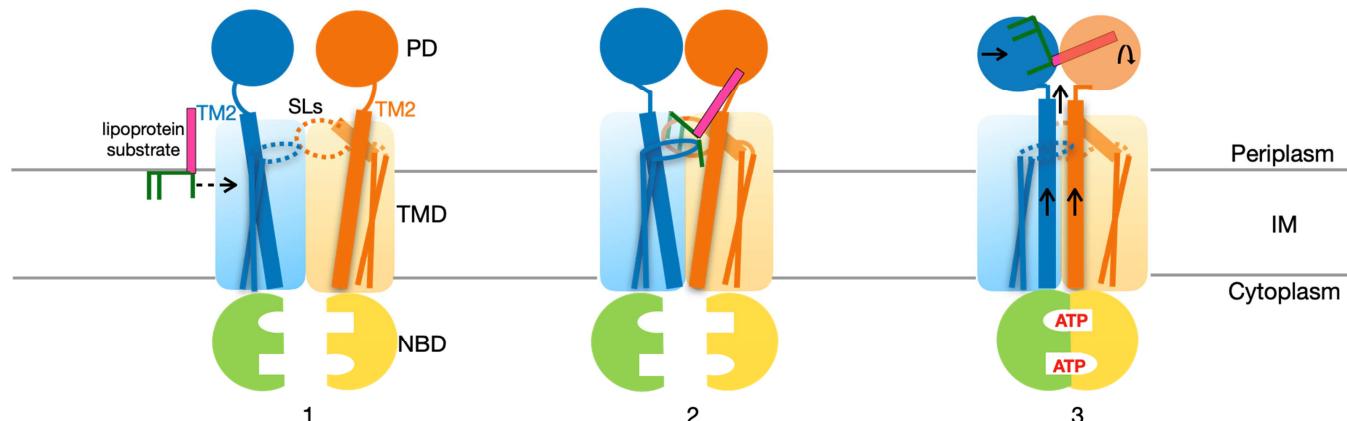
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541
542
543





555 **Fig. 4 Conformational changes in LolCDE upon vanadate trapping. a** Cryo-EM structure of vanadate-trapped
556 LolCDE with subunits colored as in Fig. 1. **b** Cross-sectional view perpendicular to the membrane plane indicated
557 in (a). **c** T-shaped structure formed by the 90° kinks of both TM2 helices. Displacement of the C α atoms of
558 selected residues is shown. **d** Propagation of upward movement from coupling helix (CH) to TM2, measured as
559 displacement of C α atoms of indicated residues. Towards the N-terminal region, both TM2 helices undergo
560 inward movement. The more pronounced inward shift of the TM2 in LolE is highlighted in dotted boxes. **e**
561 Translation and rotation of the periplasmic domain of LolC is illustrated by comparison of nucleotide-free (gray)
562 and vanadate-trapped (color) LolCDE. Selected structural regions are highlighted and the displacement of C α
563 atoms of indicated residues shown. **f** Same as (e), except for the periplasmic domain of LolE. **g** Top-down view of
564 periplasmic domains showing overall conformational changes. Hook in LolC and the hook counterpart (HC) in
565 LolE are colored magenta.

566



567

568

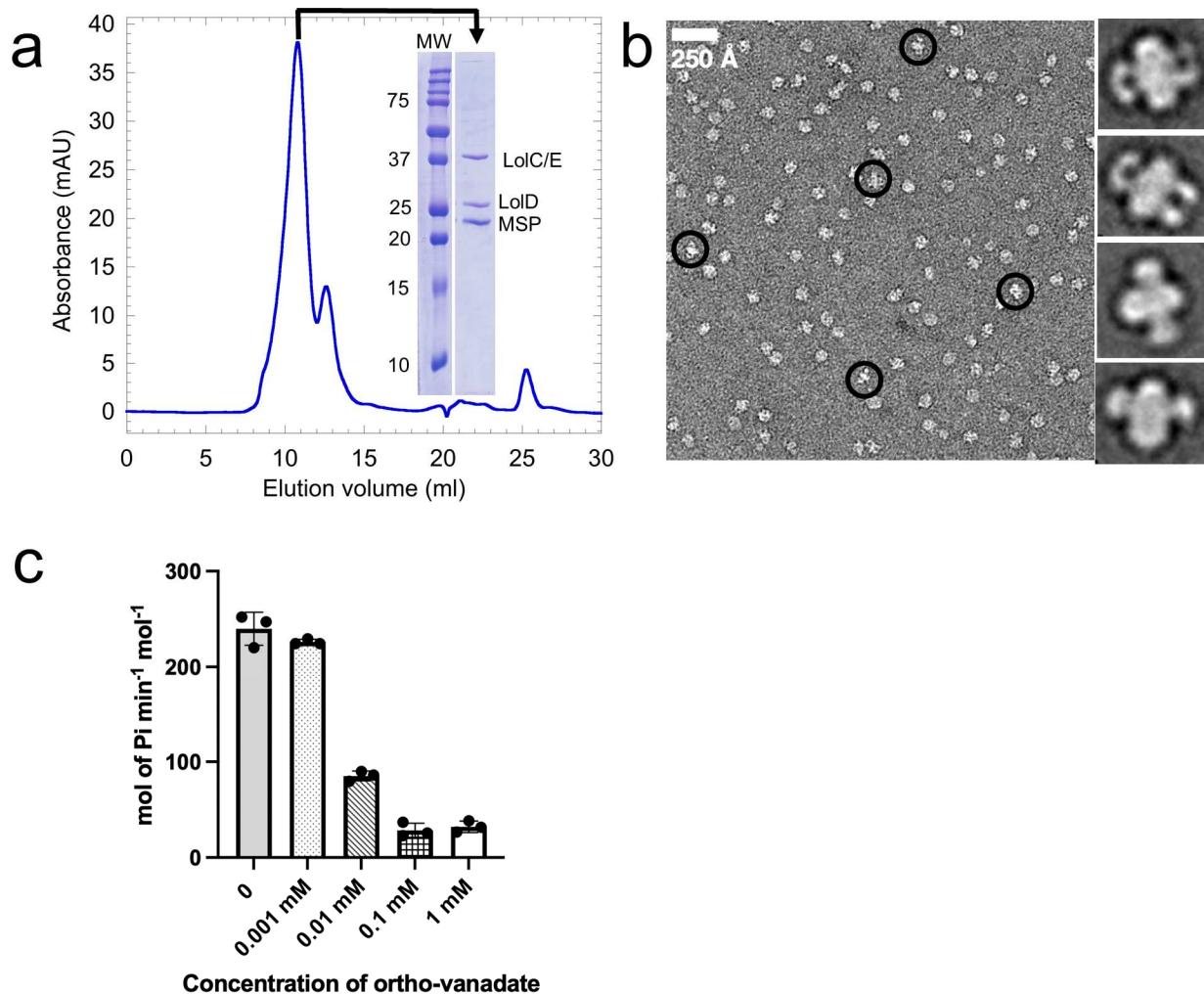
569 **Fig. 5 Proposed model for LolCDE-driven lipoprotein extraction from the inner membrane of *E. coli*.** Lol
570 proteins and lipoproteins are colored as in Fig. 1. See text for description of proposed steps for lipoprotein
571 transport. SL, shoulder loop (dotted oval); PD, periplasmic domain; TMD, transmembrane domain; NBD,
572 nucleotide-binding domain; IM, inner membrane.

573

574

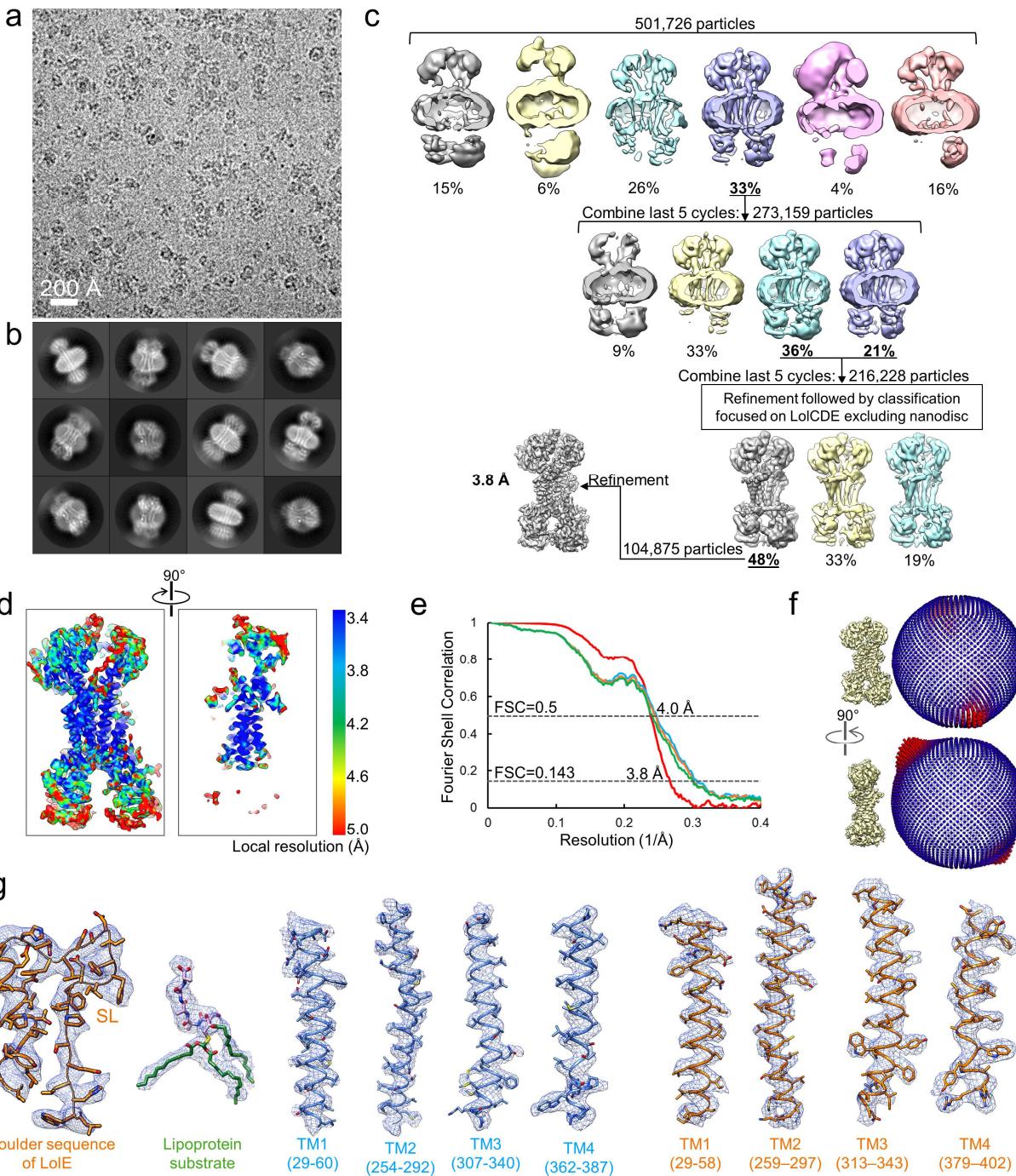
575

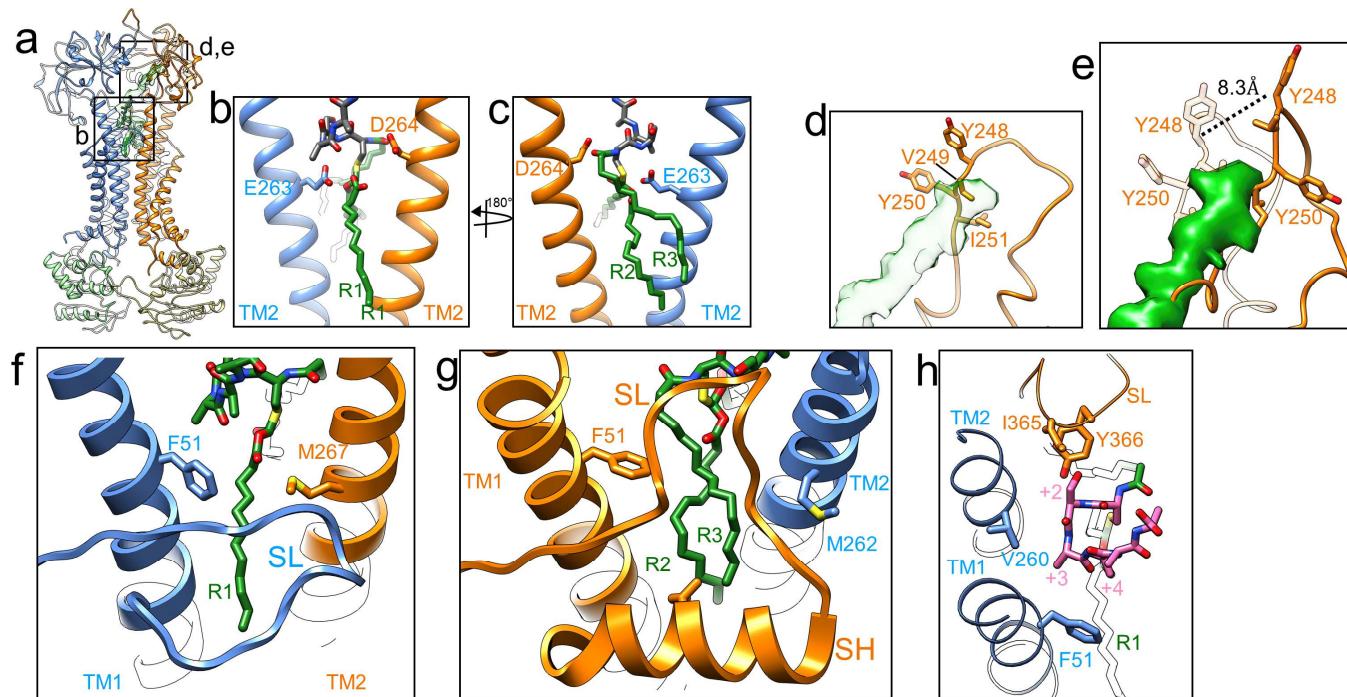
576



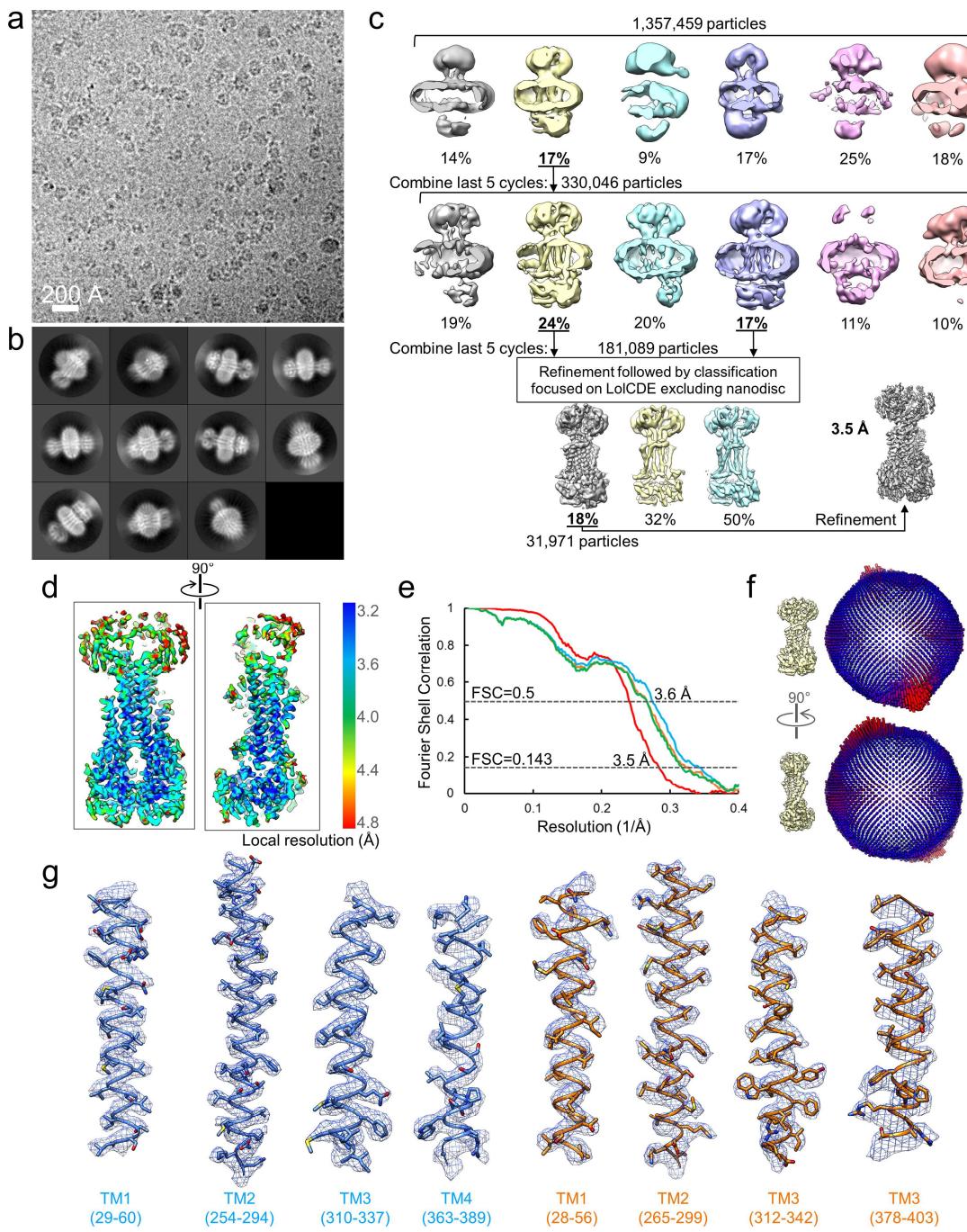
577
578
579
580
581
582
583

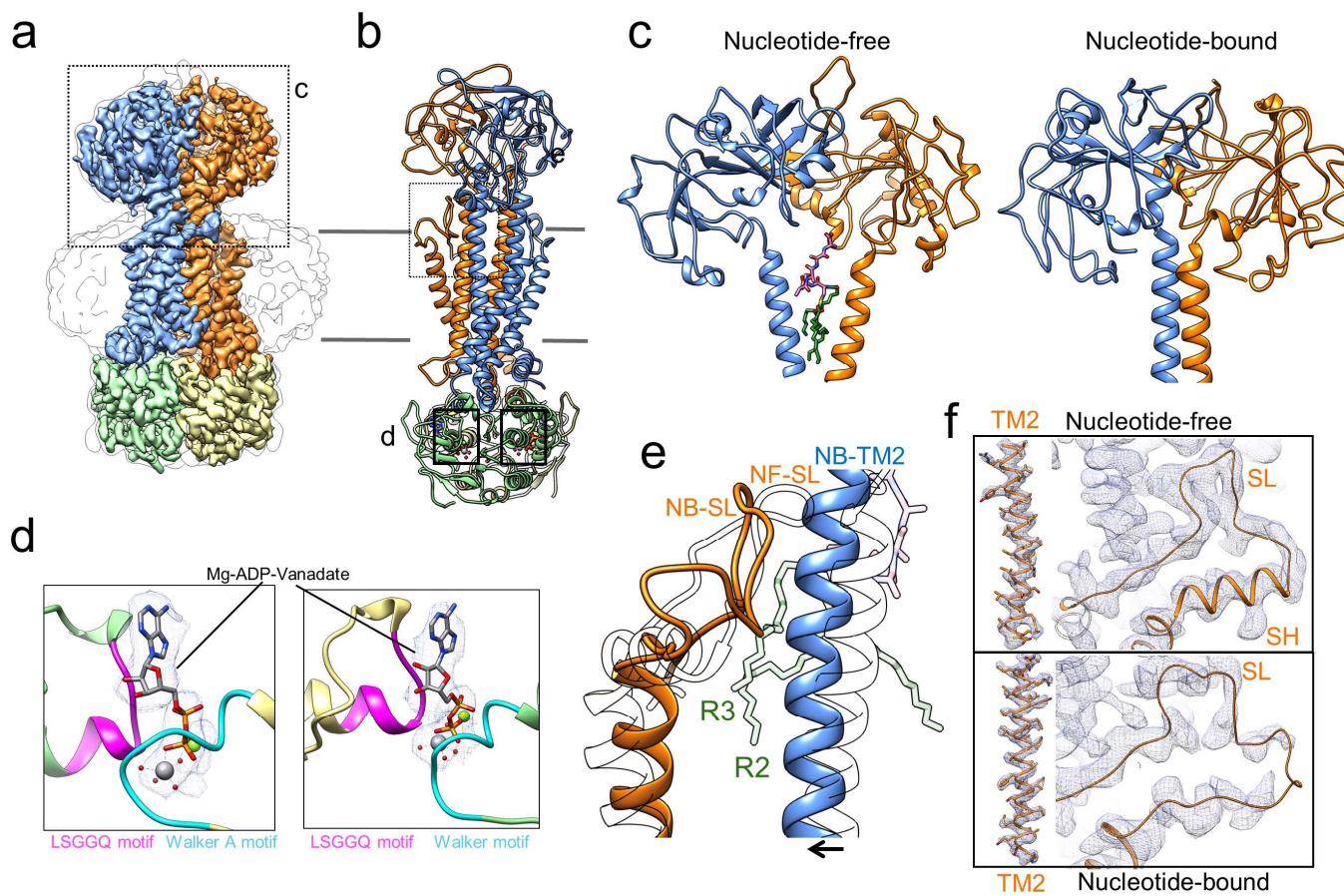
Supplementary Figure 1. Purification and functional characterization of LolCDE in nanodiscs. a, Size exclusion chromatography profile of LolCDE in lipid nanodiscs and SDS-PAGE of the peak fraction shown in inset. **b,** Representative negative-stain EM image and 2D class averages of LolCDE in nanodiscs. **c,** Inhibition of ATPase activity of nanodisc-embedded LolCDE with increasing concentration of sodium orthovanadate.





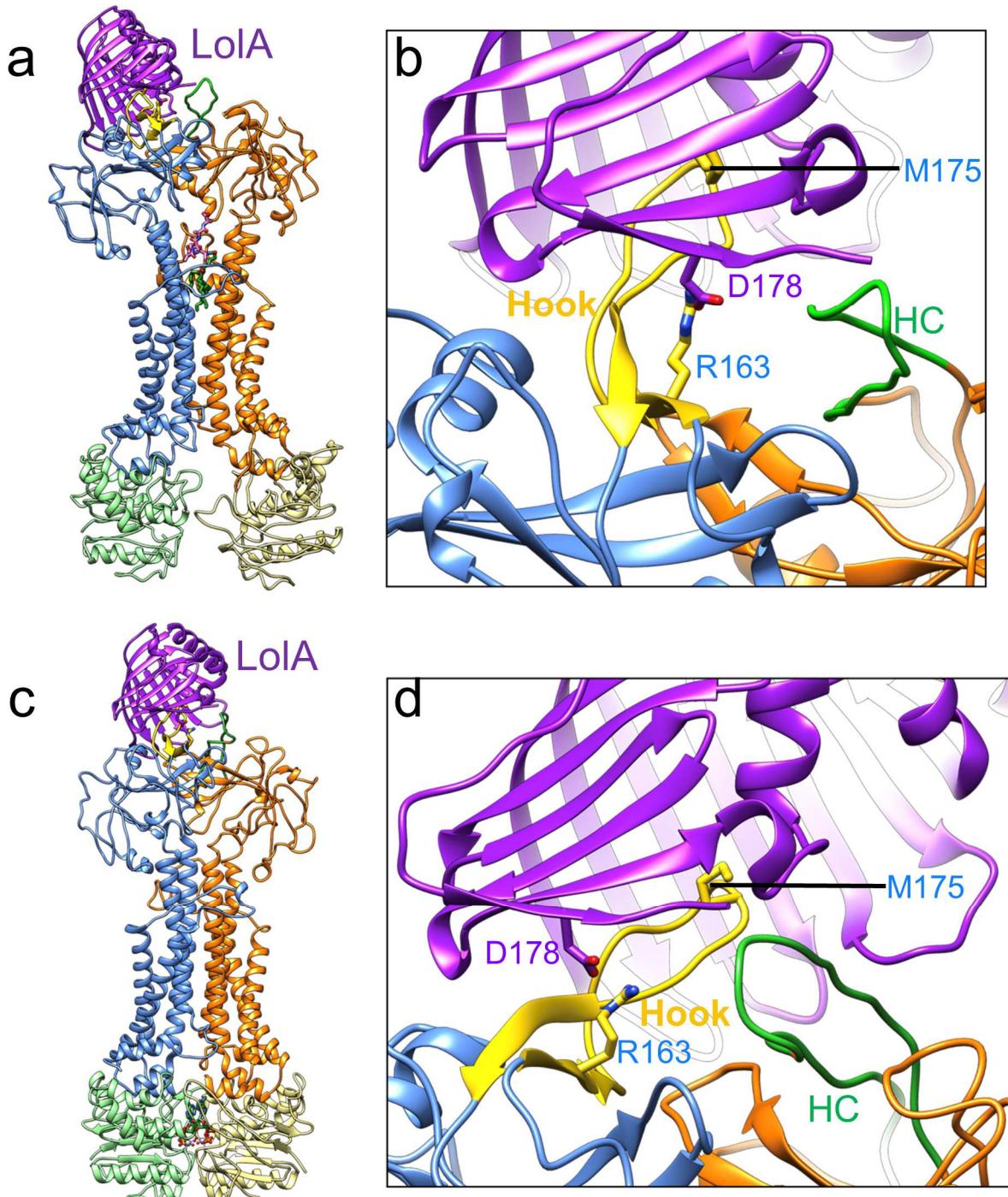
609 **Supplementary Figure 4. Structural details of LolCDE.** **a**, Structure of nucleotide-free LolCDE in nanodiscs.
610 **b, c**, Close-up views of lipoprotein binding pockets as indicated in **(a)**, showing two negatively charged residues
611 near +1 cysteine. **d**, Close-up view of the lipoprotein linker interacting loop in the periplasmic domain of LoIE, as
612 indicated in **(a)**, with the linker in transparent green. **e**, Same region as in **(d)**, shown as superimposition of
613 nucleotide-free (transparent) and vanadate-trapped (solid) conformation. The displacement of Tyr248 upon
614 vanadate trapping is indicated. **f**, Lipoprotein binding front pocket enclosing acyl chain R1. The distance between
615 the C α atoms of LolC-F51 and LoIE-M267 is 14.9 Å. **g**, Lipoprotein binding back pocket enclosing acyl chains
616 R2 and R3. The distance between LoIE-F51 and LolC-M262 is 17.6 Å. **h**, N-terminal lipoprotein peptide
617 enclosing pocket composed of LolC-TM1, LolC-TM2 and LoIE-TM2.
618





639
640
641
642
643
644
645
646
647
648
649
650
651
652

Supplementary Figure 7. Conformational changes of LolCDE induced by vanadate trapping. **a**, Surface side view of cryo-EM map of vanadate-trapped LolCDE in nanodiscs, filtered at 3.5-Å resolution and colored as in Fig. 1. **b**, 90° rotated side view of model. **c**, Periplasmic region of LolCDE as indicated in (a), in nucleotide-free and vanadate-trapped conformations. **d**, Close-up views of the model of two ATP binding sites as indicated in (b), shown as superimposition with the EM density of ADP-vanadate complex that is trapped between Walker A and signature motif. **e**, Comparison of the nucleotide-free and vanadate-trapped LolCDE in the region of the shoulder loop (SL) of LolE, as indicated in (b), showing blockage of substrate access to SL by the inward movement of the TM2 of LolC. Nucleotide-free conformation is shown as transparent. **f**, Cryo-EM density (gray mesh, contoured at 5.4 σ) of the shoulder helix (SH) and SL of LolE in the nucleotide-free (top) and vanadate-trapped (bottom) conformations. The EM densities of the TM2 of LolE in two conformations are contoured at 5.4 σ for comparison.



653

654

Supplementary Figure 8. Composite models of LolCDE-LolA complex. **a**, Composite model of LolCDE-LolA in nucleotide-free state, generated by docking LolA on the nucleotide-free conformation of LolCDE. The periplasmic domain of LolC (LolC-PD) from the crystal structure of the LolC-PD-LolA complex (PDB: 6F3Z) was superimposed with LolC-PD in LolCDE. **b**, Close-up view of the binding interface of LolC-LolA with the Hook and pad on LolC highlighted in yellow. The Hook counterpart in LolC is colored green. Key residues implicated in LolA-LolC interaction are indicated. **c**, **d**, Same as (a) and (b), except for vanadate-trapped conformation of LolCDE.

655

656

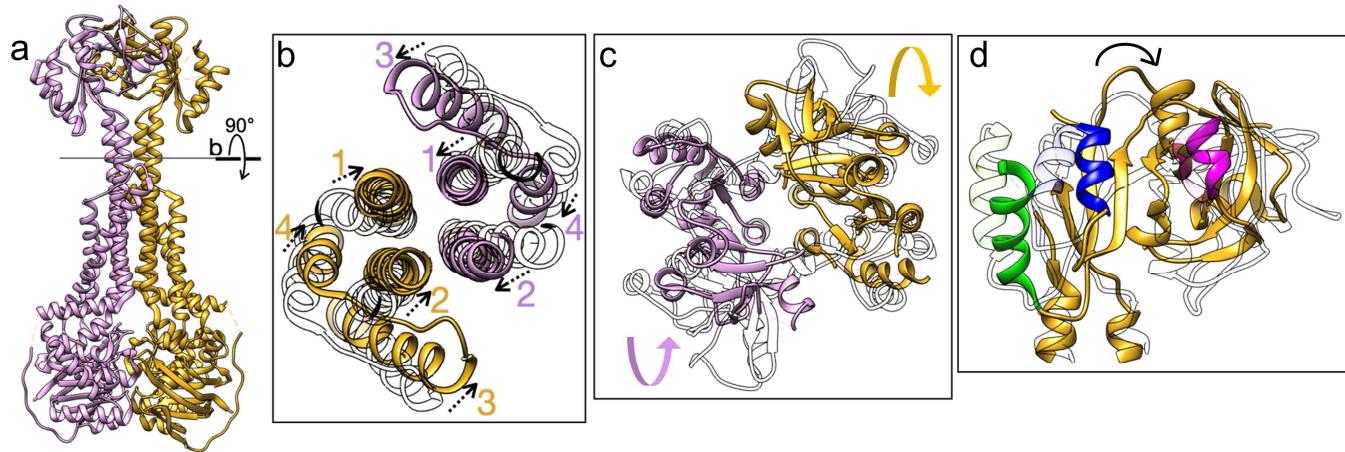
657

658

659

660

661



662
663

664 **Supplementary Figure 9. Conformational changes of MacB induced by ATP binding.** **a**, MacB in ATP-
665 bound conformation (PDB: 5LJ7). **b**, Sectional view showing TM helices in the nucleotide-free (transparent) and
666 nucleotide-bound (color) conformations. TM2 undergoes an inward and upward conformational shift, while TM1,
667 TM3 and TM4 all shift inward. **c**, Top-down view showing the motion of the periplasmic domains in nucleotide-
668 free (transparent) and nucleotide-bound (color) conformation. The direction of rotation is indicated by arrows. **d**,
669 Side view of one periplasmic domain, highlighting the shifts of various structural elements.
670
671

672 **Supplementary Table 1. Cryo-EM structure determination parameters and model statistics.**

673

Nucleotide-free LolCDE	Vanadate-trapped LolCDE
PDB ID: 7MDX	PDB ID: 7MDY
EMDB ID: 23783	EMDB ID: 23784

674 Data collection and processing

Microscope	Titan Krios (UMMS)	Titan Krios (Westlake)
Detector	K3 Summit	K3 Summit
Magnification	81,000	81,000
Voltage (kV)	300	300
Electron exposure (e ⁻ /Å ²)	46.4	50
Defocus range (μm)	-1 to -2.5	-1 to -2.2
Pixel size (Å)	1.06	1.087
Symmetry imposed	C1	C1
Initial particle images (no.)	501,726	1,357,459
Final particle images (no.)	104,875	31,971
Map resolution (Å)	3.8	3.5
FSC threshold	0.143	0.143
Map resolution range (Å)	3.4 - 5.0	3.2 - 4.8

675 Refinement

Initial model used (pdb id)	5LIL, 6F3Z	5LIL, 6F3z
Model resolution (Å)	4.0	3.6
FSC threshold	0.5	0.5
Map sharpening B factor (Å)	N/A	-126
Model composition		
Non-hydrogen atoms	9507	9741
Protein residues	1236	1266
Ligands	1	2
Mg	0	2
B-factors (Å)		
Protein	150.4	60.96
Ligand	104.58	38.28
R.M.S deviations		
Bond length (Å)	0.002	0.004
Bond angles (°)	0.549	0.772
Validation		
MolProbity score	2.08	2.37
Clashscore	11.19	9.38
Poor rotamers (%)	0.00	2.41
Ramachandran plot		
Favored (%)	91.01	88.75
Allowed (%)	8.99	11.17
Outliers (%)	0.00	0.08

674

675

676 **Supplementary Video 1. Conformational transition between nucleotide-free and vanadate-trapped *E. coli***
677 **LolCDE in nanodisces.** The animation shows a morph between the nucleotide-free and nucleotide-bound states of
678 LolCDE. The subunits are color coded as in the manuscript figures with the LolC-hook shown in magenta. The
679 lipoprotein substrate and ADP-vanadate are omitted.
680
681 **Supplementary Video 2. Conformational transition between nucleotide-free and ATP-bound MacB.** The
682 animation shows a morph between the nucleotide-free (PDB: 5NIL) and ATP-bound (PDB: 5LJ7)
683 conformations of MacB.
684