

Molecular basis for DarT ADP-ribosylation of a DNA base

Marion Schuller¹, Rachel E. Butler², Antonio Ariza¹, Callum Tromans-Coia¹, Gytis Jankevicius^{1,3}, Tim D. W. Claridge⁴, Sharon L. Kendall⁵, Shan Goh⁵ and Graham R. Stewart^{2,*}, Ivan Ahel^{1,*}

¹Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3RE, United Kingdom

²Department of Microbial Sciences, School of Biosciences and Medicine, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH, United Kingdom

³Biozentrum, University of Basel, Basel CH - 4056, Switzerland

⁴Department of Chemistry, Chemistry Research Laboratory, University of Oxford, Oxford OX1 3TA, United Kingdom

⁵Centre for Emerging, Endemic and Exotic Disease, Pathology and Population Sciences, The Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane Hatfield Hertfordshire AL9 7TA, United Kingdom

*Correspondence: ivan.ahel@path.ox.ac.uk; g.stewart@surrey.ac.uk

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ADP-ribosyltransferases (ARTs) utilise NAD⁺ to catalyse substrate ADP-ribosylation¹, thereby regulating cellular pathways or contributing to toxin-mediated pathogenicity of bacteria²⁻⁴. Reversible ADP-ribosylation has traditionally been considered a protein-specific modification⁵, but recent *in vitro* studies have suggested nucleic acids as targets⁶⁻⁹. Here, we present evidence that specific reversible DNA ADP-ribosylation on thymidine bases occurs *in cellulo* through the DarT/DarG toxin/antitoxin system which is found in a variety of bacteria including global pathogens such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, EPEC and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*¹⁰. We report the first DarT structure which identifies this protein as a diverged member of the PARP family. Moreover, a set of high-resolution structures in ligand-free, pre- and post-reaction states reveals a specialised mechanism of catalysis that includes a key active-site arginine, extending the canonical ART toolkit. Comparison with the well-established DNA-repair protein ADP-ribosylation complex, PARP/HPF1, offers insights into how the DarT class of ARTs evolved into specific DNA-modifying enzymes. Together, the structural and mechanistic data provide unprecedented detail for a PARP family member and contribute to fundamental understanding of nucleic acid ADP-ribosylation. We furthermore show that thymine-linked ADP-ribose DNA adducts reversed by DarG antitoxin, functioning as non-canonical DNA-repair factor, are utilised not only for targeted DNA damage to induce toxicity but also as a signalling strategy for cellular processes. Using *M. tuberculosis* as an exemplar we show that DarTG regulates growth by DNA ADP-ribosylation at the origin of chromosome replication.

45 **DarT is a divergent member of the PARP family.**

46 The DNA ADP-ribosyltransferase ‘DarT’ was discovered as bacterial ADP-ribosyltransferase (‘ART’) toxin encoded in the toxin/antitoxin (‘TA’) system DarTG, which catalyses the sequence-specific ADP-ribosylation of DNA¹⁰. *In vitro*, DarT has been shown to transfer ADP-ribose from NAD⁺ onto thymidine bases present in single-stranded DNA (ssDNA) specifically at the four base motif TNTC, thereby showing no activity on RNA or protein targets¹⁰. The reaction is reversed by the antitoxin DNA ADP-ribosylglycohydrolase ‘DarG’ via the (ADP-ribosyl) hydrolase activity of its macrodomain (Figure 1A). Initial modelling and phylogenetic analysis suggested DarT as being distinct from other bacterial diphtheria toxin-like ADP-ribosyltransferases (‘ARTDs’)^{10,11} and closer to eukaryotic ARTD members, referred to as poly(ADP-ribose)polymerases (‘PARPs’) (Figure 1B). For further clarification and insight into its function, we determined the first structures of DarT from *Thermus* sp. 2.9 in ligand-free and NAD⁺-bound form, both to a resolution of 1.3 Å (Extended Data Figure 1, Extended Data Table 1). Secondary structure analysis confirmed the close similarity of DarT to ARTD family members, and PARPs in particular, with its fold-stabilising central 6-stranded β-sheet core and the ARTD-conserved helices between strand β1-2 and β2-3¹¹ (Extended Data Figure 1B), yet also highlighted structural differences. Most notably, the N-terminal extension of the β-sheet core found in PARPs, i.e. a strand-helix-strand arrangement next to β6, was found to be spatially replaced in DarT with a shorter C-terminal helix-strand extension (Extended Figure Data 1C). The NAD⁺ substrate is bound by DarT as generally observed for ARTs^{11,12} in a constrained conformation bent over the central split of the β-sheet core and is shielded from the solvent phase by a highly flexible loop-helix element (residues S35 to R53) (Extended Figure Data 1D), which structurally corresponds to the ‘donor loop’ described for other ART family members^{1,13,14}

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68 **DarT links ADP-ribose to the thymidine base nitrogen.**

69 In order to understand the mechanism of DNA ADP-ribosylation itself, we determined the structures of DarT of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 E160A in complex with the following ligands to 1.46-1.66 Å (Extended Data Table 1): (i) ADP-ribosylated ssDNA 5mer, ‘ADPr-DNA’, (ii) NAD⁺ with ssDNA 5mer and (iii) carba-NAD⁺ (a non-hydrolysable NAD⁺ analogue) with ssDNA 5mer (Figure 1C, Extended Data Figure 2).

74 Overlaying the three structures showed that DNA binding stabilises the DarT fold for the ADP-ribosylation reaction, since previously disordered regions within the loop-helix element, including the NAD⁺ ‘donor loop’, were now fully resolved. The DNA target is bound in a solvent-accessible groove orthogonally to the NAD⁺ molecule while stabilised by the ADP-ribosylating turn-turn (‘ARTT’) loop which was suggested to contribute to substrate specificity in other ARTDs¹⁵. The ARTT loop is significantly longer in DarT than in other bacterial ARTDs but comparable to the ones in human ARTDs, i.e. PARP 1, 2 and 3, thereby forming a stable scaffold for the DNA target (Extended Data Figure 3A). Notably, as PARPs 1-3 have also been shown to catalyse DNA ADP-ribosylation^{6,7,16,17}, their extended ARTT loop may also be related to this activity.

83 The carba-NAD⁺:DNA-bound DarT structure showed both ligands to be physically separate but positioned for linkage, thus representing a putative pre-reaction state (Figure 1C-left). Intriguingly, in the NAD⁺ and DNA co-crystal structure, the ADPr-DNA product of DarT was identified despite the catalytic E160A mutation, thus its post-reaction state was captured with the nicotinamide (‘NAM’) reaction by-product still present in the binding site (Figure 1C-right). *In vitro* assays confirmed that DarT E160A still possesses weak ADP-ribosylation activity, rationalising the observed reactivity *in crystallo* (Extended Data Figure 2E). Since all complexed ligands were well-resolved in the high-resolution electron density map (Extended Figure Data 2C,D), this allowed us to unambiguously reveal the so far unknown atomic ADPr-linkage to the DarT-targeted thymidine. Thus, DarT catalyses DNA ADP-ribosylation by linking ADP-ribose at the NAM ribose C1" to the in-ring nitrogen N3 of the thymidine base. The stereocentre at the C1" atom has an α configuration suggesting anomeric inversion from the β-NAD⁺-substrate as it is generally observed as a consequence of target ADP-

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95 ribosylation by ARTs¹⁸ (Figure 1C,D, Extended Data Figure 2B, Supplementary Figure 2,
96 Supplementary Discussion).

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98 **Sequence-specific ADP-ribosylation by DarT**

99 Mapping surface electrostatics and sequence conservation onto DarT showed that the DNA target is
100 bound within a groove that is highly conserved among the DarT family and lined up with a positive
101 electrostatic surface generated by several basic residues (Figure 2A). The five nucleotides of the co-
102 crystallised DNA target span the entire groove, with the thymidine targeted for ADP-ribosylation
103 pointing orthogonally to the DNA backbone deep into the active site of DarT (Figure 2B).

104 A series of interactions between the DNA fragment and DarT side-chains (Y44, H46, R50, R75, Y80,
105 R154, Q158) and main-chains, in addition to structural waters, stabilise the phosphate-ribose
106 backbone. The central R154 side-chain is thereby of particular importance through its coordination of
107 three phosphate groups around the thymidine target site (Figure 2B). Furthermore, the DarT-specific
108 four-base motif preference, i.e. TNTC for DarT of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 (and *Thermus aquaticus*¹⁰) can
109 now be rationalised. The high specificity of DarT for the first thymine in the motif¹⁰ is due to the
110 recognition of all of its functional groups by forming hydrogen bonds with surrounding backbone
111 amides and the R75 side-chain (Figure 2B-inset). Conversely, the second base does not show any
112 specific interactions (Figure 2B), consistent with the flexibility of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 and *Thermus*
113 *aquaticus* DarT with respect to the base in this position (Extended Data Figure 3B)¹⁰. The DNA-
114 complex structures may also explain the preference of DarT for DNA over RNA modification¹⁰ since
115 the 2' hydroxyl groups present in RNA would likely lead to clashes within the DNA-binding site,
116 while the methyl group of the active site thymine (absent in the corresponding uracil base) may also
117 help in the steric orientation of the base for ADPr-linkage (Extended Data Figure 3C).

118 The high coordination of DNA binding by DarT was confirmed through mutagenesis studies. Most of
119 *Thermus aquaticus* DarT mutants with single amino acids substitutions corresponding to *Thermus*
120 sp. 2.9 DNA-binding residues (Extended Data Figure 4A) inhibited bacterial growth and thus still
121 exhibited toxicity (Figure 2C), suggesting that individual mutations could not efficiently disrupt the
122 extensive protein-DNA interface. This was consistent with the *in vitro* ADP-ribosylation activity of
123 selected mutants (Figure 2D). Only mutagenesis of the central R154 to a tryptophan residue resulted in
124 complete loss of ADP-ribosylation activity, predictably by sterically preventing DNA-binding.
125 Finally, the numerous hydrogen bond interactions between DarT and ssDNA significantly increase the
126 binding affinity for its ADPr-DNA product ($K_D=961$ nM) compared to the NAD⁺ substrate ($K_D=58$
127 μ M) (Figure 2E, Extended Data Figure 5D, Supplementary Figure 3), yet, the close to micromolar
128 affinity also eases its release from DarT, enabling a higher substrate-product turnover.

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130 **The catalytic mechanism of DarT**

131 Prior to catalysing DNA ADP-ribosylation, DarT binds its NAD⁺ substrate with key interactions
132 resulting in a constrained conformation (Extended Data Figure 5C, Supplementary Discussion).
133 Analysis of reaction products after incubation of DarT in presence or absence of its DNA target, could
134 not detect any NADase activity, auto-ADP-ribosylation activity or free ADP-ribose generation by
135 DarT (Extended Data Figure 5E). This would suggest an efficient turnover of NAD⁺-cleavage and
136 ADPr-linkage in addition to NAD⁺-cleavage happening only upon DNA binding. Structural analysis
137 combined with DarT residue conservation and mutagenesis studies (Figure 3A,B,C,D, Extended Data
138 Figure 4B) revealed a coordinated action of several residues in the active site that is required for DNA
139 ADP-ribosylation catalysis. This includes (i) locking of the thymidine base in plane for reaction by
140 H119, (ii) polarisation of the NAD⁺ molecule for cleavage supported by Y71 and R51, (iii)
141 stabilisation of the oxocarbenium ion resulting from NAD⁺-cleavage by M78 and particularly
142 (iv) proton abstraction from N3 of the thymidine base by R51 which finally enables the ADPr-linkage
143 by a nucleophilic attack of the oxocarbenium ion in a S_N1-type reaction (Figure 3E). Thereby, the
144 guanidinium group of R51 appears to be functioning as catalytic base, with the required prior

145 deprotonation and pK_a lowering being a consequence of a potential interaction with E160 (Extended
146 Data Figure 3D), i.e. the ART-conserved catalytic glutamate. Interestingly, the traditional catalytic
147 role of this glutamate in NAD⁺ polarisation seems to be additionally taken over by R51 in DarT
148 (Figure 3B). This is accomplished by R51 via the high flexibility of its side-chain, allowing it to adopt
149 different and well-defined orientations in *apo* (for potential E160 interaction), NAD⁺-bound (for C1''-
150 ribose – N1 NAM bond polarisation) and DNA-bound (for thymine proton abstraction) state (Figure
151 3E, Extended Data Figure 3E, Supplementary Discussion).

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153 **DarT acts as a specific ADP-ribosyltransferase *in cellulo*.**

154 Next, we visualised specific DarT ADP-ribosylation activity in cells on its physiological target,
155 genomic DNA (gDNA). For this, we identified the first antibody capable of detecting ADP-ribose
156 modifications on DNA (Extended Data Figure 6A, methods section). Expression of *Thermus aquaticus*
157 and EPEC (a pathogenic *E. coli* strain) DarT in *E. coli* led to strong ADP-ribosylation of gDNA when
158 compared to the characterised catalytic mutants^{10,19} (Extended Data Figure 6B,C). DarT DNA ADP-
159 ribosylation is perceived as severe DNA damage; leaving ADP-ribosylated sites unrepaired was shown
160 to stall DNA replication and activates the DNA damage response¹⁹ which is indicated by up-regulated
161 RecA levels as in the DarT over-expressing cells (Extended Data Figure 6B). The phenotype could be
162 rescued by co-expression with the cognate wild-type *Thermus aquaticus* DarG antitoxin and DarG
163 homologues from EPEC and *M. tuberculosis* (Extended Data Figure 6D). In accompanying *in vitro*
164 experiments, the ADP-ribose modifications on *Thermus aquaticus* DarT ADP-ribosylated gDNA
165 could be removed by *Thermus aquaticus* DarG and DarG macrodomains from non-cognate species but
166 not by the human (ADP-ribosyl) hydrolases ARH3 or the macrodomain-containing proteins MacroD1
167 and PARG (Extended Data Figure 6E). This positions DarG as a non-canonical DNA repair enzyme
168 specific for thymine-linked DNA ADP-ribose-adducts. Together, this confirmed the targeted
169 introduction of DNA damage by DarT as well as the specific removal of those DNA adducts and
170 consequently repair by its DarG antitoxin partner.

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172 **DarT DNA ADP-ribosylation in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis***

173 We then characterised DNA ADP-ribosylation by DarT in an endogenous system using bacteria of the
174 *M. tuberculosis* complex as an exemplar. By silencing DarG and thus deregulating DarT, the
175 mycobacterial DarT was confirmed to perform gDNA ADP-ribosylation (Figure 4A) which led to
176 profound induction of the DNA damage response including the prominent DNA damage markers
177 RecA and DnaE2 amongst a regulon that incorporated all of the genes typically induced by the DNA-
178 damaging agent mitomycin C (Figure 4B, Extended Data Figure 7A,B). It is notable that DarT and
179 DarG are themselves intrinsic parts of the DNA damage response, being transcriptionally linked to the
180 *dnaB* gene (Extended Data Figure 7C) in an operon that is upregulated following DNA damage
181 (Figure 4B). Aside from its role in DNA repair, DnaB is the replicative helicase which interacts with
182 ssDNA at the chromosome origin ('OriC') to initiate and then drive DNA branch migration during
183 replication. We demonstrated that DarT preferentially ADP-ribosylates ssDNA with the motif TTTW
184 which occurs densely in the AT-rich DnaB-loading region of the *M. tuberculosis* OriC (Figure 4C,
185 Extended Data Figure 7D). The linked expression of DarT and DnaB combined with the potential for
186 shared ssDNA substrates suggested that DarTG may be involved in control of replication by ADP-
187 ribosylation of OriC. Indeed, *M. tuberculosis* DarT strongly ADP-ribosylates the OriC *in vitro* with
188 preference at the TTTT and TTTA motifs in the lower strand (Figure 4C, Extended Data Figure 7E)
189 and moreover, we confirmed that unregulated DarT activity targets the OriC for ADP-ribosylation *in*
190 *cellulo* (Figure 4D). The physiological role of DarTG in growth control is further supported by
191 experiments showing that unregulated DarT arrests the growth of mycobacteria (Figure 4E); knockout
192 of *darTG* increases growth (Figure 4F) with a 5.2 fold (± 3.3, 95% CI) competitive advantage over
193 wild-type *M. tuberculosis*; and disruption of *darT* by transposition confers increased growth in
194 genome-wide TnSeq mutagenesis studies (Figure 4G)²⁰.

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DISCUSSION

Our data provides the first evidence for the existence of specific reversible DNA ADP-ribosylation *in cellulo*. Effectively, the DarTG TA system serves as a DNA damage/repair module where DarG plays the role of a non-canonical DNA repair enzyme that specifically removes ADP-ribosylated DNA adducts, thereby counteracting DarT activity. An analogous, reversible DNA repair system has been seen for aprataxin DNA repair factors in eukaryotes. However, in this case the DNA nucleotidylation (adenylation) does not happen in a controlled, sequence-specific manner but instead is a consequence of abortive DNA ligation reactions^{21,22}.

Bacterial toxin/antitoxin systems often function as genetic stability factors, preserving the DNA molecule upon which they reside but their biochemical activities can be co-opted by ‘host’ bacteria for other cellular purposes²³. In this study, we showed that in *M. tuberculosis*, *darTG* is co-expressed with a main replicative helicase (*dnaB*) that is under the control of DNA damage inducible promoters in mycobacteria²⁴. We furthermore demonstrated that DarT is important for control of bacterial growth by ADP-ribosylation of ssDNA at the origin of chromosomal replication; carefully controlled, slow and non-replicating growth states are key for *M. tuberculosis* resulting in persistent, potentially life-long infection and antibiotic tolerance. The molecular structures presented here enable drug design and development for DarT inhibition which could potentially be a strategy to target persistent and phenotypically antibiotic tolerant tuberculosis.

Our DarT structures present the first example of a PARP-like ART captured in pre- and post-reaction states with a ssDNA target, revealing the molecular basis for specific DNA recognition and ADP-ribosylation and providing insights on how the DarT class of ARTs evolved into specific DNA-modifying enzymes (Extended Data Figure 8, Supplementary Discussion). Comparison with the PARP/HPF1 protein ADP-ribosylation complex²⁵ reveals conservation of spatial position and orientation of mechanistically relevant residues among the ART family and exposes the striking evolutionary adaption of ARTs for the specific recognition of different and unrelated macromolecular targets. Beyond DarTG, ADP-ribosylation of DNA/RNA has also been proposed for eukaryotic PARP family members⁶⁻⁸ and the established method presented in our study which enables the visualisation of DNA ADP-ribosylation *in cellulo* may foster further studies of this modification. We predict that ADP-ribosylation of nucleic acids represents a common, but largely unknown aspect of ADP-ribosylation signalling and that it will become a new and exciting area in the fields of DNA damage response, epigenetics and beyond.

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278 **LEGENDS FOR MAIN TEXT FIGURES**

279

280 **Figure 1. DarT – a PARP-like protein catalysing DNA ADP-ribosylation at the thymidine base**
281 **nitrogen.**

282 (A) Schematic representations of the DarTG Toxin-Antitoxin operon (**top**) and the DarT-catalysed
283 reaction (**bottom**).

284 (B) Dendrogram of representative members of the ART superfamily. DarT clusters in the ARTD
285 family, distinctly away from bacterial ARTDs and close to the human PARP family. (Ecto-ARTs:
286 extracellular membrane-associated ADP-ribosyltransferases)

287 (C) Co-crystal structures of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in substrate-bound state (**left**) and product-
288 bound state after NAD⁺-cleavage and reaction *in crystallo* (**right**). (**Middle**) Overlay focusing on the
289 ADPr-thymine linkage. The substrate binding ('ARTT') loop is highlighted in green, the NAD⁺-
290 binding loop-helix element in purple (set for clarity in higher transparency). The catalytic glutamate
291 E160 conserved in ARTs is modelled as red sticks.

292 (D) NMR ¹H-¹³C HMBC spectrum (**left**) and schematic representation (**right**) showing key
293 correlations establishing the connectivity between the NAM ribose C1" and N3 of the thymidine base.

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296 **Figure 2. DNA binding is highly coordinated by DarT for site-specific DNA ADP-ribosylation.**

297 (A) Amino-acid residue conservation (**top**) and surface electrostatic potential (**bottom**) mapped onto
298 the surface of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in the carba-NAD⁺:DNA-bound state.

299 (B) Cartoon-stick model showing DNA substrate coordination by *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A with
300 side- and main-chain interactions (dashed lines) including water (red spheres) contacts. The first
301 thymidine base of DarT's DNA specificity motif is shown in the circle.

302 (C) Toxicity assay monitoring growth of DH5α under repression (glucose) and induction (arabinose)
303 of expression of *Thermus aquaticus* DarT WT and DNA-binding mutants. *Thermus aquaticus* DarT
304 residues are given in white labelling, corresponding residues of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT in black.
305 Representative of three biologically independent experiments.

306 (D) *In vitro* ADP-ribosylation activity of *Thermus aquaticus* DarT DNA-binding mutants compared to
307 WT. Representative of three independent experiments.

308 (E) Integrated thermogram obtained by ITC giving ADPr-DNA binding parameters for *Thermus* sp.
309 2.9 DarT E160Q. Representative result from three independent experiments is shown, with the number
310 of binding sites N and the dissociation constant K_D calculated from the repeats (mean±SD).

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319 **Figure 3. Mechanism of DNA ADP-ribosylation.**

320 (A) Cartoon-stick model showing the active site of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A before (carba-
321 NAD⁺:DNA-bound, **left**) and after (ADPr-DNA:NAM-bound, **right**) ADPr-linkage. Active site
322 residues relevant for the catalytic mechanism are highlighted in green with the catalytic glutamate
323 E160 modelled in red.

324 (B) Comparison of the NAM ribose coordination of NAD⁺ (cyan) and carba-NAD⁺ (brown) relevant
325 for NAD⁺ substrate polarisation with interactions (dashed lines) shown in corresponding colours.
326 Carba-NAD⁺:DNA-bound structure (grey) is shown in overlay with the NAD⁺-bound structure (cyan,
327 interacting residues only).

328 (C) Toxicity assay monitoring growth of DH5 α under repression (glucose) and induction (arabinose)
329 of expression of *Thermus aquaticus* DarT active site mutants compared to WT. *Thermus aquaticus*
330 DarT residues are given in white labelling, corresponding residues of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT in black.
331 Representative of three biologically independent experiments.

332 (D) *In vitro* ADP-ribosylation activity of *Thermus aquaticus* DarT active site mutants compared to
333 WT. Representative of three independent experiments.

334 (E) Proposed molecular mechanism for catalysis of DNA ADP-ribosylation by DarT. The
335 conformational dynamics of R51 of twists and flip is indicated by orange arrows.

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338 **Figure 4. gDNA ADP-ribosylation in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.**

339 (A) *M. bovis* BCG DarT ADP-ribosylates gDNA *in cellulo* which is reversible by the *M. tuberculosis*
340 DarG macrodomain. (ATC: anhydrotetracycline inducing CRISPRi knockdown of DarG).
341 Representative of each of seven biologically independent repeats.

342 (B) Unregulated DarT activity (*darG* knockdown; **left**) in *M. bovis* BCG leads to profound induction
343 of DNA damage response (DDR) while *darTG* is itself induced alongside *dnaB* as part of the DDR
344 (mitomycin treatment; **right**). Volcano plots from RNA-Seq data show up (purple)- and down (blue)-
345 regulated genes in respective conditions. The presence/ absence of ADPr-gDNA in those conditions is
346 shown in the inset (**middle below**). Values are mean of three independent replicates.

347 (C) DarT ADP-ribosylates the OriC *in vitro* which is reversible by the *M. tuberculosis* DarG
348 macrodomain. OriC oligo sequences are provided with potential DarT modification sites highlighted
349 in purple. The preferred recognition motif of *M. tuberculosis* DarT is TTTW (underlined).
350 Representative of three independent experiments.

351 (D) Unregulated DarT activity (*darG* knockdown) modifies the OriC *in cellulo*. ADP-ribosylated
352 gDNA was immunoaffinity purified and quantified by qPCR. Data are presented as mean \pm SD, n = 3
353 biologically independent samples, ***p = 0.0009 by unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t* test.
354 Representative of three independent experiments.

355 (E) Unregulated DarT activity (*darG* knockdown) leads to growth arrest in *M. bovis* BCG. Data are
356 presented as mean \pm SD, n = 3 biologically independent samples. Representative of three independent
357 experiments.

358 (F) Knockout of *darTG* in *M. tuberculosis* provides growth advantage. Data are presented as
359 mean \pm SD, n = 3 of biologically independent samples, ***p = 0.0001 by unpaired, two-tailed Student's
360 *t* test. Competitive advantage calculated at 14 days, N = 8 independent replicates (see main text).

361 (G) Tracking abundance of mutants in a *M. bovis* BCG transposon mutant library (TnSeq)
362 demonstrates a growth advantage for *darT*-disrupted bacteria. Data from Mendum *et al.*²⁰.

363

364 METHODS

365

366 Materials, reagents and chemicals

367 The genes encoding *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG and *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT were synthesised by Thermo
368 Scientific. *E. coli* bacterial strains were purchased from Merck Millipore. High-fidelity DNA polymerase
369 Phusion and cloning reagents were obtained from New England Biolabs and Thermo Scientific. All DNA
370 primers and ssDNA substrates (Supplementary Table 1 and 2) were synthesized by Thermo Scientific.
371 Crystallisation screens were procured from Hampton Research. Carba-NAD⁺ was synthesised by Hangzhou
372 YiLu Biological technology Co., LTD. All remaining chemicals were purchased from Sigma unless stated
373 otherwise. The antibody used for detecting the ADPr modification on gDNA was selected from screening all
374 commercially available anti-ADP-ribose antibodies and the only one identified to be suitable and used in this
375 study for this purpose is the mono-clonal “Poly/Mono-ADP Ribose (E6F6A)” rabbit antibody from Cell
376 Signalling Technology (product #83732).
377

378 Constructs

379 The gene encoding full-length (FL)-DarTG E152A of *Thermosipho africanus* (residues 1-388) was cloned into a
380 pET28a expression vector with His₆-N-terminal tag and TEV protease recognition site. The gene encoding FL-
381 DarT E160A of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 (residues 1-209) was cloned into a pNIC28-Bsa4 expression vector, which adds
382 an N-terminal His₆-tag and a TEV protease recognition site for removal of the tag. *Thermus aquaticus* DarT (FL)
383 previously cloned¹⁰ into a pBAD33 expression vector containing a ribosomal binding site and a N-terminal His₆-
384 TEV cleavage site-V5 tag was used for biochemical studies. *Thermus* sp. 2.9 *darT* (FL) and *Mycobacterium*
385 *tuberculosis darT* (FL) were cloned into a pBAD33 expression vector adding a N-terminal His₆-TEV cleavage
386 site using the ‘DH5 α -macro’ strain (as described below). Expression constructs encoding EPEC DarT G49D and
387 E170A and EPEC DarG macrodomain as previously described¹⁹ were provided by Christoph Tang Laboratory
388 (University of Oxford). Mutations were introduced using the QuikChange Lightning Site-Directed Mutagenesis
389 Kit (Agilent). All plasmids were verified by Sanger sequencing. The constructs used in this study are
390 summarised in the Supplementary Table 3.
391

392 Construction of sgRNA expression plasmids and strains

393 pRH2502 (an integrative plasmid expressing dCas9Spy from a Tet-regulated promoter), and pRH2521
394 (expressing the sgRNA scaffold from a Tet-regulated promoter), are described in Singh *et al.*²⁶. sgRNAs
395 targeting *darG* were designed as previously described²⁷. A protospacer adjacent motif (PAM) site, “NGG”,
396 downstream of the start codon was identified, and 20 nucleotides downstream selected as genome specific
397 sgRNA. Complementarity to other regions of the genome was assessed using the basic logical alignment tool
398 (BLAST), demonstrating a full-length match specific to *darG*. A full length transcribed sgRNA including the
399 terminators and dCas9 handle was designed, and M-fold was used to predict the secondary structure of the full
400 length sgRNA transcript, confirming that the sgRNA was predicted to fold into the dCas9Spy and terminator
401 hairpin loops. Complementary forward and reverse primers corresponding to the 20nt sequence (without the
402 PAM) with appropriate ends for ligation into the pRH2521 vector were designed. Oligos were annealed and
403 cloned into CRISPRi plasmids using BbsI (NEB) as previously described²⁶. 1 μ g of pRH2502 (dCas9Spy
404 integrative vector) was electroporated into electrocompetent mycobacterial strains, which were selected in the
405 presence of 25 μ g/ml kanamycin, then further electroporated with 1 μ g pRH2521 expressing *darG*-sgRNA and
406 selected with hygromycin (50 μ g/ml).

407 For generation of *M. tuberculosis* Δ *darTG*, regions of DNA flanking the *darT* (Rv0059) and *darG* genes
408 (Rv0060) were PCR-amplified from genomic DNA using respective primer pairs (see Supplementary Table S4)
409 for up- and downstream regions, respectively. The regions were cloned around the hygromycin-resistance gene
410 (*hyg*) in the suicide delivery vector pG5. pG5 carries the *sacB* gene to provide counterselection for single-
411 crossover integration of the gene-replacement vector. The resulting plasmid, pG5-RV59-60-KO, was introduced
412 into *M. tuberculosis* via electroporation and gene replacement transformants were selected on 7H11 containing
413 hygromycin at 50 μ g/ml and 2% sucrose. Gene replacement was confirmed by PCR.

414 To combat the high toxicity of wild-type *M. tuberculosis* DarT for amenability to cloning and protein expression,
415 the macrodomain sequence encoding residues 1-155 of *Thermus aquaticus* DarG was chromosomally integrated
416 into *E. coli* DH5 α (NEB) as described by St-Pierre *et al.*²⁸. The DarG macrodomain DNA fragment was cloned
417 into the ‘One-Step Integration Plasmid’ (pOSIP) encoding a kanamycin resistance marker by Gibson assembly

418 for integration at the phage P21 integration site. The integration module and antibiotic resistance marker, flanked
419 by FRT sites, were removed using pE-FLP for FLP recombinase-mediated excision. Integration of *darG*
420 macrodomain was verified by Sanger Sequencing, resulting in strain 'DH5 α -macro'.
421

422 **Mycobacterial strains and culture methods**

423 *M. bovis* BCG and *M. tuberculosis* GC1237 were maintained on Middlebrook 7H11 solid medium containing
424 0.5% glycerol and 10% oleic acid-albumin-dextrose-catalase (OADC) supplement. Broth cultures were in
425 Middlebrook 7H9 supplemented with 0.05% Tween80 and 10% OADC or ADC. Competitive growth of wild-
426 type *M. tuberculosis* and Δ *darTG* was performed in shaken 7H9 broths at 37°C and cfu assessed at time intervals
427 by plating on 7H11 medium with and without hygromycin at 50 μ g/ml. Competitive index was calculated as
428 (day 14 cfu Δ *darTG*/day14 cfu wild type)/(day 0 cfu Δ *darTG*/day 0 cfu wild type). Analysis of data shown in
429 Figure 4F gives a 5.2 (\pm 3.3, 95% CI, N=8) fold competitive index.
430

431 **TnSeq of *M. bovis* BCG**

432 TnSeq of a MycoMar transposon mutant library constructed in *M. bovis* BCG was performed as previously
433 described²⁰. Sequence files were deposited at the NCBI Sequence Read Archive, SRA accession number
434 PRJNA532518 run SRR8886987. The frequency of transposon insertions per gene was plotted for the region
435 surrounding the *dnaB-darT-darG* locus to illustrate essentiality and abundance of gene mutants in the library.
436

437 **RNA-Seq**

438 Triplicate cultures of BCG *darG*-sgRNA were seeded in tissue culture flasks at OD_{600nm}=0.05, and subjected to
439 control treatment (untreated for 48h), *darG* silencing (200 ng/ml aTc for 48h), or induction of DNA damage with
440 mitomycin C (20 ng/ml for the final 24 h). Cultures were mixed with iced PBS and centrifuged at 4°C, and
441 stored in RNA Later reagent. RNA was extracted using Tri-reagent and Lysing Matrix B tubes (MP
442 Biomedicals) according to the manufacturers' instructions. After two chloroform extractions had been
443 performed, the aqueous phase was purified using RNA Clean and Concentrator columns (Zymo Research), with
444 two on-column DNA digestions performed to remove genomic DNA. RNA concentration and integrity were
445 assessed by Nanodrop and Agilent RNA Nano 6000 chips using an Agilent Bioanalyser, confirming a RIN \geq 9.0.
446 RNA was depleted of ribosomal RNA, fragmented and random primed for first and second strand cDNA
447 synthesis. cDNA was end repaired, 5' phosphorylated and dA-tailed before adapter ligation, PCR enrichment
448 and sequencing on Illumina HiSeq (GENEWIZ). Reads were trimmed and aligned to the *M. bovis* BCG Pasteur
449 1173P2 genome (GenBank: AM408590.1). After extraction of gene hit counts, DESeq2, was used to compare
450 gene expression between BCG *darG*-sgRNA uninduced and aTc-induced, and mitomycin C treated bacilli. Log₂
451 fold changes were calculated, and p-values generated with the Wald test with adjustment by Benjamini-
452 Hochberg. Genes with an adjusted p-value < 0.1 and absolute log₂ fold change > 1 were called as differentially
453 expressed genes for each comparison. The data can be accessed under the GSE number GSE174526; data page
454 link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE174526>.
455

456 **RT-qPCR**

457 2 μ g of RNA (as described in RNA-Seq) was reverse-transcribed to cDNA using a High Capacity RNA to cDNA
458 kit (ThermoFisher Scientific). An equivalent reaction was also performed omitting reverse transcriptase enzyme.
459 167 ng cDNA was amplified for 25 cycles of PCR using PowerTrack SYBR Green Master Mix (ThermoFisher
460 Scientific) on a QuantStudio7 Real Time PCR machine, using cycling conditions and primer concentrations
461 recommended by the manufacturer, and using the primers listed in Supplementary Table S4. Relative
462 Quantification of mRNA expression was calculated using the 2^{- Δ Δ ct} method, using *sigA* as the endogenous
463 control and the mean of the untreated group as the reference. Comparison of the ct values of RT+ vs RT-
464 samples demonstrated <0.5% contamination with gDNA throughout.
465

466 **Transcriptional linkage *darB-darTG***

467 Early log cultures of *M. bovis* BCG Pasteur were mixed with iced PBS, harvested by centrifugation at 4°C, and
468 stored in Bacterial RNA Protect reagent (Qiagen) at -80°C. RNA was extracted using Tri-reagent and Lysing
469 Matrix B tubes (MP Biomedicals) according to the manufacturers' instructions. After two chloroform
470 extractions, the aqueous phase was purified using RNA Clean and Concentrator columns (Zymo Research), with

471 on-column DNA digestion performed to remove genomic DNA. RT-qPCR was performed as described above
472 using the primers listed in Supplementary Table S4. Products were visualised by gel electrophoresis using a 2%
473 TAE-agarose gel with SYBR Gold.
474

475 **Recombinant DarT protein expression and purification**

476 To enable the crystallographic studies, DarT proteins were expressed and purified with the earlier described
477 catalytic-null glutamate substitution (corresponding to E160A in *Thermus aquaticus* DarT)¹⁰ to counteract the
478 inherent toxicity of DarT. *Thermosiphon africanus* DarTG E152A and *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A constructs
479 were transformed into the *E. coli* Rosetta strain BL21(DE3). *Thermosiphon africanus* DarTG E152A-expressing
480 cells were grown at 37°C in LB medium (Miller) supplemented with 2 mM MgSO₄, 0.4% glucose (w/w), 4%
481 ethanol (v/v), 50 µg/ml of kanamycin and 35 µg/ml of chloramphenicol. *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A-
482 expressing cells were grown at 37°C in Terrific Broth (Merck Millipore).

483 After reaching an OD_{600nm} of 0.5–0.6 (*Thermosiphon africanus* DarTG E152A) and 1.2 (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT
484 E160A), respectively, the temperature was lowered to 18°C prior to induction of protein expression overnight
485 (O/N) by adding 0.5 mM IPTG. Harvested cells were resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 500
486 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 20 mM imidazole, 0.5 mM TCEP, cOmplete EDTA-free protease inhibitors (Roche))
487 and stored at -20°C until purification.

488 For protein purification, pellets were gently thawed and lysed by high-pressure homogenisation. DNA was
489 digested using benzonase and lysozyme was additionally added for purification of *Thermosiphon africanus*
490 DarTG. Proteins were purified by immobilised metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) using Ni-Sepharose resin
491 (GE Healthcare) and eluted stepwise in binding buffer containing 40–500 mM imidazole. Typically, a high salt
492 wash with 1 M NaCl was combined with the first elution step including 40 mM imidazole. Removal of the
493 hexahistidine tag was carried out by addition of recombinant TEV protease during O/N dialysis into buffer
494 without imidazole, followed by purification on a second IMAC column and finally by size-exclusion
495 chromatography (SEC) (Superdex 75, GE Healthcare) in a buffer consisting of 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 300
496 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol and 0.5 mM TCEP.

497

498 *Thermus aquaticus* DarT was chosen as a model toxin for biochemical assays due its lower toxicity to the *E. coli*
499 expression strain when compared to *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT. For expression and purification of wild-type and
500 mutant *Thermus aquaticus* DarT proteins, pBAD33 plasmids were transformed into *E. coli* BL21 cells (NEB).
501 For expression and purification of wild-type *M. tuberculosis* DarT and *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT, the pBAD33
502 construct was transformed into *E. coli* 'DH5α-macro' cells. Cells were grown at 37°C in LB medium (Miller)
503 supplemented with 25 µg/mL chloramphenicol and 0.8% (w/w) glucose to an OD_{600nm} of 0.8–1.0. Cells were then
504 pelleted by centrifugation at 4000 x g for 15 min at RT and resuspended in fresh LB media containing 25 µg/ml
505 chloramphenicol and 0.8% (w/w) arabinose to induce protein expression. After 2.0 h at 37°C, cells were
506 harvested by centrifugation (4000 x g, 15 min) and resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM TRIS-Cl (pH 8.0), 500
507 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 20 mM imidazole, 0.5 mM TCEP) and stored at -20°C until purification. Cells were
508 lysed using BugBuster (Novagen) following the manufacturer's instructions after adding cOmplete EDTA-free
509 protease inhibitors (Roche) and benzonase (Novagen). The DarT proteins were purified by IMAC using Ni-
510 Sepharose resin (GE Healthcare). DarT proteins prepared for mutagenesis studies were further purified with an
511 additional IMAC purification using TALON affinity resin (Clontech) after dialysis of the protein in lysis buffer.
512 Finally, purified *Thermus aquaticus* DarT proteins were dialysed against protein storage buffer containing 50
513 mM TRIS-Cl (pH 8.0), 300 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 0.5 mM TCEP while *M. tuberculosis* DarT protein was
514 buffer-exchanged (directly after the Ni-IMAC purification step) by repeated filter concentration in storage buffer
515 containing 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 300 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 0.5 mM TCEP.

516 All proteins were characterised by SDS-PAGE, then flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until
517 required. Protein concentrations were determined by measuring absorption of the sample at 280 nm with the
518 NanoDrop1000 (Thermo Scientific).

519

520 **Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC)**

521 Binding experiments were carried out on a VP-ITC microcalorimeter (MicroCal). The protein was dialysed O/N
522 at room temperature in 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 300 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 0.5 mM TCEP using D-tube™
523 Dialysis Midi MWCO 3.5 kDa (Novagen) dialysis tubes prior to the experiment. Titrations experiments were
524 performed at 25°C, a reference power of 12 µCal/sec and a stirring speed of 307 rpm with an initial injection of

525 2 μ L followed by 28 identical injections of 10 μ L (duration of 4 s/injection and spacing of 240 s between
526 injections). Data were analysed using the MicroCal PEAQ-ITC analysis software (Malvern).
527

528 **Toxicity assays**

529 DH5 α cells transformed with *Thermus aquaticus* DarT pBAD33 expression plasmids were grown in the presence
530 of 0.8% (w/w) glucose and 25 μ g/mL chloramphenicol O/N and streaked onto LB agar plates containing
531 25 μ g/mL chloramphenicol for selection and 0.8% (w/w) glucose or 0.8% (w/w) arabinose for repression or
532 induction of protein expression, respectively. The bacteriostatic effects were assessed after incubating the plates
533 at 37°C O/N.
534

535 **Thin layer chromatography (TLC)**

536 To analyse reaction products and assess NADase activity of DarT, 1 μ M *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT wild-type and
537 E160A were incubated for 3 h at 37°C with 5 μ M β -NAD⁺ (supplemented with ³²P-NAD⁺ at 10000 Bq/reaction)
538 with (500 nM or 10 μ M) or without DNA (DNA-5mer) in ADP-ribosylation buffer (50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 50
539 mM NaCl). NADase from porcine brain (≥ 0.007 unit/mg, Sigma) was used as control. 1 μ l of the reaction was
540 spotted on a PEI cellulose plate (Macherey-Nagel) which was allowed to air dry and developed in 0.25 M LiCl
541 and 0.25 M formic acid. The plate was dried and exposed to autoradiography films.
542

543 **ADP-ribosylation activity assays**

544 ADP-ribosylation reactions were performed in ADP-ribosylation buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl)
545 supplemented with 5 mM ETDA at 37°C for 30 min unless otherwise indicated. In general, 1 μ M DarT protein
546 was incubated with oligonucleotides at a concentration of 3 μ M and β -NAD⁺ in excess (500 μ M). Reaction
547 products were analysed by separation on denaturing polyacrylamide gels run in TBE buffer, loading 0.02 nmol
548 oligonucleotide with urea loading dye (10 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 10 mM EDTA, 4 M urea), and by following
549 visualisation under UV light (340 nm) after ethidium bromide-staining.
550

551 **ADPr-IP of ADP-ribosylated gDNA**

552 BCG sgRNA-*darG* cultures were grown to late log phase, either untreated or treated with 200 ng/ml
553 anhydrotetracycline (ATC) to induce *darG* silencing for 24 h. The cultures were then diluted to OD_{600nm} 0.15 to
554 stimulate division, and fresh aTc was added as appropriate. After 3 days, the bacteria were harvested by
555 centrifugation, resuspended in TE buffer pH 8.0, and incubated for 5 min rocking with an equal volume of
556 methanol:chloroform 2:1. Bacilli were centrifuged and the pellet dried, before re-suspending in TE adding
557 phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol 25:24:1. Cells were disrupted with the Fastprep homogeniser (MP
558 Biomedicals) and lysing matrix B which was followed by centrifugation to separate the aqueous and organic
559 phases. The upper aqueous phase was re-extracted with an equal volume of phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol
560 25:24:1, followed by two further chloroform extractions. gDNA was precipitated with 0.1 volume 3 M sodium
561 acetate pH 5.2 and 1 volume propan-2-ol, pelleted by centrifugation, washed with 70% ethanol, and resuspended
562 in TE buffer pH 8.0. gDNA was then digested with AluI (NEB) in the presence of RNase (Roche), purified
563 using MinElute columns (Qiagen), and the concentration determined using the QuantiFluor dsDNA system
564 (Promega).

565 ADPr-IP was performed by adaptation of a methylated DNA immunoprecipitation protocol²⁹. 200 ng of AluI-
566 digested gDNA was retained as the “Input” sample. Digested gDNA was subjected to ADPr-IP using either
567 rabbit anti-poly/mono-ADP ribose antibody (E6F6A, Cell Signaling Technology), or rabbit IgG (isotype
568 control). 1.5 μ g of Alu-I digested gDNA was added to 500 μ l IP buffer (10 mM NaPO₄ pH 7.0, 140 mM NaCl,
569 0.05% Triton X-100) containing 1.5 μ g antibody, and rotated overnight at 4°C. 30 μ l of equilibrated
570 DynabeadsTM Protein A (ThermoFisher Scientific) were added, and rotated for a further 4 h at 4°C. The
571 DynabeadsTM bound to gDNA-IgG complexes were then washed three times with ice cold IP buffer, using a
572 DynaMag magnet device. The beads were resuspended in 400 μ l Digestion Buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.0, 100 mM
573 EDTA, 0.5% SDS, 50 mM NaCl, 100 μ g proteinase K per reaction) and digested for 2 h at 55°C. Beads were
574 removed by magnetic separation, and gDNA was recovered from the supernatant by MinElute columns
575 (Qiagen). qPCR was performed using PowerTrack SYBR Green Mastermix (ThermoFisher Scientific) using
576 primers provided in Supplementary Table S4, at concentrations and cycling conditions specified by the
577 manufacturer. The efficiency of PCR for both primer sets was assessed using gDNA; both sets were >95%

578 efficient, with efficiencies within 5% of each other. Relative quantification of the abundance of DNA fragments
579 containing the origin of replication ('OriC') was compared to the abundance of DNA fragments containing
580 Rv2129c (a probable oxidoreductase with 65.3% GC content), using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method. Data were normalised
581 to the mean of untreated input samples.

582

583 **Large scale preparation of ADPr-DNA**

584 3000 nmole oligonucleotide (5 mM assay concentration) was ADP-ribosylated by incubation at 37°C O/N with
585 *Thermus aquaticus* DarT and 15 mM β -NAD⁺ in ADP-ribosylation buffer (50 mM Tris-Cl pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl)
586 supplemented with 5 mM ETDA. The ADP-ribosylated oligonucleotide was gel-purified on denaturing
587 polyacrylamide gel run in TBE buffer, and recovered by excising from the gel and extracting from the gel pieces
588 by diffusion with several elution steps in TE buffer. Gel residuals were removed by centrifugation of the eluates
589 through 0.22 μ m filter units (GE Healthcare). Finally, eluates were desalted using Sephadex G-25 in PD-10
590 Desalting Columns (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in nuclease-free water and concentrated to the desired
591 concentrations. ADPr-DNA for NMR analysis was entirely concentrated and then dissolved in 20 mM potassium
592 phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. The average yield of purified ADPr-DNA obtained was 45% of the original
593 unmodified DNA input.

594

595 **Detection of ADP-ribosylated genomic DNA**

596 *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) were grown to OD_{600nm} of 0.2-0.3 in LB containing 0.8% (w/w) glucose before protein
597 expression was induced with 0.8% (w/w) arabinose for DarT and 50 μ M for DarG for 2 h. Cells were harvested
598 by centrifugation (4000 x g, 3 min), washed with PBS, re-suspended in boiling lysis buffer (1.0% SDS, 10 mM
599 Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0) and lysed by heating to 95°C for 5 min. Cell lysates were subjected to proteinase K
600 treatment for 1 h, 50°C. gDNA was then extracted by phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol extraction and
601 recovered by ammonium acetate/ethanol precipitation. The DNA pellets were washed twice with 70% ethanol
602 before re-suspending in TE buffer and concentration determination using a DeNovix DS-11 FX nanodrop.
603 Mycobacterial ADP-ribosylated genomic DNA were prepared from *darG*-silenced BCG (sgRNA-*darG*) cultures
604 as described above (method section: 'ADPr-IP of ADP-ribosylated gDNA'). ~1 μ g of gDNA was dotted onto a
605 nitrocellulose membrane (Amersham Protran 0.45 NC nitrocellulose) and crosslinked with 1200 J using a
606 Stratalinker UV crosslinker. Crosslinked DNA was then immunoblotted for gDNA (autoanti-dsDNA, DSHB,
607 1:200) or ADPr-gDNA (Poly/Mono-ADP ribose, E6F6A, Cell Signalling Technology, 1:1000) for 1 h at RT in
608 5% (w/v) powdered milk in PBS-T. Of note, the antibody used for detecting the ADPr modification on gDNA
609 was selected from screening all commercially available anti-ADP-ribose antibodies and was identified as the
610 only suitable one. Secondary peroxidase-couple antibodies (Dako) were incubated at RT for 1 h. ECL-based
611 chemiluminescence was detected using Hyperfilms (GE). Autoanti-dsDNA was deposited to the DSHB by Voss,
612 E.W. (DSHB Hybridoma Product autoanti-dsDNA).

613 For gDNA de-modification, gDNA was incubated with 1 μ M of the indicated hydrolase at 37°C for 30 min and
614 detection of ADPr-gDNA was performed by dot blot as described above.

615

616 **Western blot procedure**

617 For *Thermus aquaticus* DarT *in cellulose* studies, Western blot analysis was performed on samples generated for
618 gDNA analysis. Cells were lysed in lysis buffer (1.0% SDS, 10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0) by heating to
619 95°C for 5 min. Samples were treated with benzonase (0.5U/ μ L) and protein concentration determined for
620 normalisation using Bradford reagent. 5 μ g of protein lysate were resolved by SDS-PAGE and electrotransferred
621 to 0.2 μ m nitrocellulose membranes. Membranes were blocked in 5% (w/v) milk-PBS with 0.05% (v/v) Tween
622 20 (PBS-T) for 1 h before detection of RecA levels with rabbit anti-RecA polyclonal antibody (1:10 000,
623 ab63797, Abcam), DarT/DarG with mouse anti-His monoclonal antibody (1:1000, 631212, Takara), DarT with
624 rabbit anti-V5 Tag polyclonal antibody (1:2500, A190-120A, Bethyl Laboratories) and GroEL with mouse anti-
625 GroEL monoclonal antibody [9A1/2] (1:15000, ab82592, Abcam). IgG HRP conjugate secondary antibodies, i.e.
626 goat anti-mouse (1:2000, P0447, Agilent) and goat anti-rabbit (1:2000, P0399, Agilent), were used with ECL
627 western blotting detection kit (Pierce) for visualisation.

628 For *M. tuberculosis* studies, *M. tuberculosis* (GC1237) *darG* sgRNA or *M. tuberculosis* control sgRNA (non-
629 targeting) were grown in shaking culture in 7H9 broth containing hygromycin (50 μ g/ml) and kanamycin (20
630 μ g/ml) to an OD_{600nm} of ~0.3. Cultures were then treated with 200 ng/ml ATC for 48 h; grown on for 24 h and

631 then treated with mitomycin C (MMC) at 20 ng/ml for 24 h or untreated 48 h. Cells were harvested by
632 centrifugation and lysed by bead-beating in PBS containing protease inhibitors (Roche) before centrifugation.
633 Proteins in the supernatant were separated by SDS-PAGE, blotted to nitrocellulose and probed with rabbit anti-
634 RecA (1:2000, ab63797, Abcam) with secondary goat anti-rabbit IgG-HRP (1:4000, A16096, Life technologies)
635 before detection with Clarity Max ECL substrate (Bio-rad). Blots were stripped and re-probed with monoclonal
636 mouse anti-Hsp70 (1:4000, clone CosII, gift of Douglas Young) and secondary goat anti-mouse IgG-HRP
637 (1:500, 31430, ThermoFisher).
638

639 **Crystallisation, data collection, structure solution, refinement**

640 Purified *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG E152A protein was concentrated to 10.7 mg/ml in 10 mM HEPES pH
641 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT and 2 mM ADPr was added for at least 1 h prior to setting up crystallisation
642 drops. Purified *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A protein was concentrated to 21.5 mg/ml and incubated for co-
643 crystallisation with different substrates for 30 min at RT after adding either 4 mM β -NAD⁺, 4 mM carba-NAD⁺
644 or 1.3 mM (1.5x) ADPr-DNA to the sample. For co-crystallisation with unmodified DNA, proteins were first
645 pre-incubated with β -NAD⁺/4 mM carba-NAD⁺ for 30 min which was followed by incubation with 1.3 mM
646 (1.5x) DNA-5mer for another 30 min. Crystallisation trials were performed at 20°C using the sitting-drop
647 vapour-diffusion method. Crystallisation drops were set-up in MRC two-well crystallization microplates
648 (Swissci) using the Mosquito Crystal robot (TTP Labtech) with protein to reservoir ratios of 1:1 and 1:2 in 300
649 nl total volume equilibrated against 75 μ l of reservoir solution.

650 Crystals of *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG E152A protein grew in 0.2 M potassium thiocyanate, 0.1 M TRIS
651 pH 7.5, 8% (w/v) PEG 20,000, 8% (v/v) PEG 500 MME. Crystals of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A *apo* were
652 obtained in 100 mM potassium thiocyanate and 30% (w/v) PEG2000MME and *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A co-
653 crystals in crystallisation solutions of slight concentrations variations of these components, i.e. 50-200 mM
654 potassium thiocyanate and 10-20% (w/v) PEG2000MME. Crystals were harvested using reservoir solution
655 supplemented with 20% ethylene glycol (v/v) or 18% glycerol (v/v) as a cryo-protectant prior to flash freezing in
656 liquid nitrogen.

657 X-ray data were collected at beamlines I24 (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:ADPr-DNA:NAM, *Thermus* sp. 2.9
658 DarT:ADPr-DNA), I03 (*Thermosipho africanus* DarTG:ADPr), I04 (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT *apo*, *Thermus* sp. 2.9
659 DarT:NAD⁺, *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:Carba-NAD⁺) and I04-1 (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:Carba-NAD⁺:ssDNA) at the
660 Diamond Light Source (Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell, UK) with the following X-ray wavelengths:
661 0.9795 Å (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT *apo*, *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:NAD⁺, *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:Carba-NAD⁺), 0.9763
662 Å (*Thermosipho africanus* DarTG:ADPr), 0.8998 Å (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:ADPr-DNA:NAM, *Thermus* sp. 2.9
663 DarT:ADPr-DNA), and 0.9159 Å (*Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT:Carba-NAD⁺:ssDNA). Data collection statistics are
664 provided in Extended Data Table 1.

665 X-ray data were processed using the XIA2 platform³⁰ and the ccp4i suite (v7.1.014). Phase information was
666 obtained using the molecular replacement method with PHASER (v2.8.2)³¹. Density modification was
667 implemented with PARROT (v1.0.5)³² and initial models were build using the automated model building
668 programme BUCCANEER (v1.16.9)³³. Atomic models were improved following consecutive cycles of manual
669 building in COOT (v0.9.4)³⁴ and structure refinement in REFMAC (v5.8.0267)³⁵. *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG
670 E152A was solved by molecular replacement using the previously published *Thermus aquaticus* DarG
671 macrodomain structure (PDB ID: 5M31) as a search model. Initial phases for *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT *apo* were
672 obtained by molecular replacement using the toxin of *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG (residues F46-V230) as
673 search template. *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT *apo* was used as reference model for subsequently solving the ligand-
674 bound structures of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT. The structures were refined to good Ramachandran statistics without
675 outliers except for the *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG:ADPr structure, which contains 0.4% outliers.
676 MolProbity³⁶ was used to validate the models prior to deposition in the PDB. Processing and refinement statistics
677 are given in Table S1. The PDB IDs for the atomic coordinates and structure factors reported in this manuscript
678 are 7OMV, 7OMZ, 7ON0, 7OMY, 7OMW, 7OMX and 7OMU.

679

680 **NMR analysis of *Thermus aquaticus* DarT ADP-ribosylated DNA**

681 To confirm in solution the α stereospecificity of the reaction and the atomic NAM ribose C1"-N3 thymine
682 linkage established by DarT, an ssDNA oligonucleotide with sequence GATGTCAG was modified by DarT *in*
683 *vitro* and subjected to 1D and 2D NMR analyses. The ssDNA octamers (unmodified and ADP-ribosylated) were
684 prepared as solutions in 17 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4 in 90% H₂O/10% D₂O at final concentrations of a 2.8

685 mM (reference ssDNA) and 5.3 mM (modified ssDNA) in volumes of 180 μ l. Samples were placed in 3 mm
686 NMR tubes and NMR analyses were performed with a Bruker AVIII 700 spectrometer equipped with a TXI
687 H/C/N room temperature probe regulated at 298 K. 1D ^1H spectra were collected using a 1D NOESY-presat
688 scheme for solvent suppression with a 2 s pre-saturation period and a 50 Hz rf field. 2D multiplicity edited ^1H -
689 ^{13}C HSQC and ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC spectra were acquired using windows of 8 ppm (^1H) and 180 ppm (^{13}C) centred at
690 4.7 and 90.0 ppm respectively, and employed solvent pre-saturation (50 Hz rf) during the recovery delays of 1.5
691 s (HSQC) or 2 s (HMBC). J_{CH} -coupling evolution delays were optimised for 145 Hz (HSQC) and 8 Hz (HMBC).
692 2D TOCSY spectra were acquired with ^1H windows of 8 ppm centred at 4.7 ppm and employed ^1H pre-
693 saturation (50 Hz rf) during the 2 s recovery delay. Isotropic mixing was achieved using the DIPSI-2 mixing
694 sequence for 100 ms. 1D selective TOCSY experiments employed similar pre-saturation and the DIPSI-2 mixing
695 scheme. Additional suppression of zero-quantum interference was achieved using 60 kHz adiabatic CHIRP
696 pulses of 20 ms and 15 ms before and after the mixing time, each combined with gradient amplitudes of 11% and
697 13% of maximum, respectively. Mixing times were varied from 40 to 150 ms to deconvolute proton spin
698 systems. Selective excitation was achieved using 180° Gaussian pulse of 80 ms within a single gradient spin-
699 echo. 1D selective ROESY spectra used a similar selective excitation scheme with solvent pre-saturation during
700 a 3 s recovery delay and a continuous wave spin-lock of 200 to 400 ms for ROE detection. NOESY spectra of
701 the ssDNAs produced rather weak negative NOEs (consistent with their molecular masses of 2992 Da) and were
702 not pursued for structural studies. NMR data analysis was performed with Bruker Topspin 3.2.

703

704 **Data analysis and presentation**

705 Structural alignments and analyses, as well as figure preparation, were carried out using PyMol (Molecular
706 Graphics System, Version 2.3.3 Schrödinger, LLC). For multiple-sequence alignments, JalView v2³⁷ and
707 MAFFT³⁸ was used. The phylogenetic tree for the catalytic ART domains was generated with SplitsTree4
708 (v4.15.1) using the Neighbour-Joining (NJ) method³⁹ and confidence levels estimated using 1000 cycles of the
709 bootstrap method. For DarT, the sequence of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 was used. Sequence conservation mapping was
710 performed using ConSurf 2016⁴⁰. Prism (v9.0.1) was used for statistical analysis and graph representation.
711 ChemDraw (v15.0.0.106) was used for presentation of chemical structures. Inkscape (v0.91) was used for final
712 figure preparation.

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715 **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES FOR METHOD SECTION**

716

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750 DATA AVAILABILITY

751 Crystallography atomic coordinates and structure factors are deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB)
752 (www.rcsb.org) under the following accession codes: 7OMV, 7OMW, 7OMX, 7OMY, 7OMU, 7OMZ, 7ON0.
753 RNA-Seq sequence files are deposited at the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus GEO under the accession code
754 GSE174526. TnSeq sequence files are deposited at the NCBI Sequence Read Archive, SRA accession number
755 PRJNA532518 run SRR8886987. All data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper
756 and any further information will be provided upon request.

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758

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771

772 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

773 IA and GRS conceived the project and conceptualised experiments with input from MS, REB and GJ. MS
774 conducted biochemical and crystallographic studies including structure and data analysis/interpretation with
775 assistance of other authors; AA solved *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG structure and refined structural data; CTC
776 and GJ established method for detection of ADPr-DNA and supported strain construction; TDWC conducted
777 NMR experiments and analysis; REB and GRS performed mycobacteria experiments with assistance from SLK
778 and SG for DarG knockdowns. MS, IA, GRS and REB wrote the manuscript with support of all other authors.

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781 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

782 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

783

784

785 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

786 **Supplementary information:** The online version contains supplementary material.

787 **Correspondence and requests for materials and resources** should be addressed to Dr. Ivan Ahel
788 (ivan.ahel@path.ox.ac.uk) and Professor Graham R. Stewart (g.stewart@surrey.ac.uk).

789 **Peer reviewer reports** are available.

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FIGURE LEGENDS OF THE EXTENDED DATA

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Extended Data Figure 1 [related to Figure 1]. DarT structure reveals a PARP-like ADP-ribosyltransferase. (A) Crystal structure of *Thermosipho africanus* DarTG E152A fusion protein served as model for solving DarT of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 by MR. The fused DarG macrodomain is coloured in light orange with the bound ADP-ribose molecule shown as an atom-coloured stick model in black. (B, C) Comparison of DarT with eukaryotic ARTD, i.e. PARP, and bacterial ARTD fold. (B) Secondary structure analysis shows the close similarity of DarT to ARTD family members, and PARPs in particular, with its fold-stabilising central 6-stranded β -sheet core and the ARTD-conserved helices between strand β 1-2 and β 2-3. The crystal structures of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in ligand-free state (apo) was overlaid with diphtheria toxin (PDB ID: 1tox), PARP1 (PDB ID: 6bhv) and PARP13 (PDB ID: 2x5y). For clarity, only central secondary structure elements showing the similarity between the folds are depicted from diphtheria toxin, PARP1 and PARP13. (C) The N-terminal extension of the β -sheet core found in PARPs, i.e. a strand-helix-strand arrangement next to β 6, is spatially replaced in DarT with a shorter C-terminal helix-strand extension. The crystal structure of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in ADPr-DNA-bound state was overlaid with the crystal structure of PARP1 (PDB ID: 6bhv, left) and PARP13 (PDB ID: 2x5y, right). For clarity, only the secondary structure elements showing this difference between the folds are depicted from PARP1 and PARP13. (D) *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in complex with NAD⁺ and carba-NAD⁺. Overlay of the crystal structures with *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in ligand-free (apo) state is shown on the right. Unresolved regions of the NAD⁺-binding loop-helical element including the ART 'donor loop' (purple) in the DarT:NAD⁺ and DarT:carba-NAD⁺ structure are marked with asterisks.

Extended Data Figure 2 [related to Figure 1C, D]. Structural details of ADPr-DNA bound to DarT.

(A) Crystal structure of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in complex with ADPr-DNA. Co-crystallisation with ADP-ribosylated DNA 5mer after *in vitro* modification by *Thermus aquaticus* DarT and purification. The substrate binding ('ARTT') loop is highlighted in green, the NAD⁺-binding loop-helix element in purple (set for clarity in higher transparency). The catalytic glutamate E160, which is conserved in ARTs, is modelled as red sticks. (B) Overlay of the ADP-ribosylated DNA products of the ADPr-DNA:NAM-bound and the ADPr-DNA-bound DarT structures shows their perfect overlap apart from a slight tilting of the bonds which connect the NAM-ribose with the beta-phosphate. (C, D) The ADPr-DNA ligands are highly resolved in the *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A co-crystal structures revealing the ADPr linkage to the thymidine base nitrogen N3 in α -conformation. The $2F_o - F_c$ electron density maps contoured at 1.0 σ around the ligands is shown in blue. (C) The ADPr-DNA ligand in the ADPr-DNA co-crystal structure of 1.46 Å resolution. (D) The ADPr-DNA ligand in the ADPr-DNA:NAM-bound co-crystal structure at 1.66 Å resolution. The nicotinamide ('NAM') ligand left in the protein after ADP-ribosylation of the DNA is also clearly resolved. (E) ADP-ribosylation activity of the *Thermus aquaticus* DarT E160A mutant can also be observed in *in vitro* assays at low DNA (50 nM) and high protein concentrations under long incubation times. Modification of the Cy3-labelled oligo ('DarT-ADPr-27mer-Cy3') was visualised after separation of the reaction products on denaturing polyacrylamide gel. Representative of two independent experiments.

Extended Data Figure 3 [related to Figure 1,2,3]. Structural features of DarT for ssDNA binding and catalysis.

(A) The ADP-ribosylating turn-turn ('ARTT') loop of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 in the ADPr-DNA:NAM-bound structure is shown in green with its stabilised DNA substrate in magenta. Several loops form together with the few short α -helices a stable scaffold which is held in position by a network of over 100 interactions between main chains, side chains and water molecules. Cartoon representation is shown on the left, the atom-coloured stick model of the 'ARTT' loop in the middle. Interactions are indicated with grey dashes and water molecules as red spheres. A table comparing the 'ARTT' loop length of DarT with other human and bacterial ARTDs¹⁵ is provided on the right. (B) *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT preferentially modifies a TNTC motif in ssDNA which was verified by testing permutations of the motif. *In vitro* ADP-ribosylation activity of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT was assessed by visualising the modification of the oligos under UV light after separation and ethidium bromide-staining of the reaction products on denaturing polyacrylamide gel. Representative of three independent experiments. (C) Close views on the nucleotide recognition of DarT rationalising its preferred modification of DNA over RNA. Cartoon-stick models of the *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A structure in the ADPr-DNA:NAM-bound state are shown. (Left, middle) Additional 2' hydroxyl groups as in RNA strands may lead to clashes with parts of the proteins, i.e. W147 (1st nucleotide) and the α -helix between β 2 and β 3 (2nd nucleotide). (Right) As shown in previous studies the methyl group on the modified thymine base (circle) increases thymidine base modification, probably by locking the base in optimal conformation for the ADP-ribosylation reaction. Interactions are indicated with grey dashes and water molecules as red spheres. (D) Modelling of possible

851 rotamers of glutamate E160 into the *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT apo structure. Several conformations of the glutamate
852 would allow a proton transfer from arginine R51 (green) to glutamate E160 (red). Possible interactions are
853 shown with dashes in magenta. **(E)** Arginine R51 flexibility observed among different *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT
854 apo, substrate- and product-bound states. The NAD⁺:DNA-bound and as ADP-ribose unlinked state (fourth
855 imagine from left) is modelled by superimposing the NAD⁺ molecule with the NAD⁺ co-crystal structure onto
856 the carba-NAD⁺:DNA-bound structure. R51 and ligands are shown as atom-coloured stick models, with R51 in
857 green, NAD⁺ in cyan, carba-NAD⁺ in brown and higher transparency and DNA (thymine only) in magenta.
858 Interactions are indicated with grey dashes.

859

860 **Extended Data Figure 4 [related to Figure 2C,D, 3]. DarT sequence alignments.** **(A)** Sequence alignment of
861 *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT with DarT of *Thermus aquaticus*. Numbers on top of the alignments refer to *Thermus* sp.
862 2.9 DarT. Table provides a residue ID comparison for functional relevant residues. **(B)** Multiple sequence
863 alignment of DarT sequences representing five main phylogenetically diverging branches. Numbers on top of the
864 residues refer to *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT. Active site residues are highlighted in green, DNA-binding residues in
865 magenta, with functionally similar residues as the reference in lower opacity. Shared sequence identities
866 compared to *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT: group 1: 60%, group 2: 40-45%, group 3/4: 31-38%, group 5: 20-27%.

867

868 **Extended Data Figure 5 [related to Figure 3B, Result Section, Supplementary Discussion]. NAD⁺**
869 **coordination in the active site of DarT.** **(A)** Comparison of the NAD⁺-binding sites in the carba-NAD⁺-bound
870 structure and the NAD⁺-bound structure of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A. **(top)** Overlay of the carba-
871 NAD⁺:DNA-bound structure (grey) with the carba-NAD⁺-bound structure (brown) of which just the ligand and
872 the side chains are shown as atom-coloured stick model. The carba-NAD⁺ ligands of both structures perfectly
873 overlay and DarT-interacting side chains show same positioning. DNA binding does not induce conformational
874 changes upon the NAD⁺ ligand. **(bottom)** Overlay of the carba-NAD⁺:DNA-bound structure (grey) with the
875 NAD⁺-bound structure (cyan) shows slight differences in the ligand and the side chains positioning around the
876 pyrophosphate-ribose moiety of the NAD⁺ molecule which needs to be considered for analysis of NAD⁺
877 polarisation. **(B)** Molecular structures of β -NAD⁺ and carba-NAD⁺. **(C)** Cartoon-stick model showing the
878 coordination of the nicotinamide side ('NAM', left) and the adenine side (right) of the carba-NAD⁺-ligand in the
879 *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A structure with side- and main-chain interactions (dashed lines) including water (red
880 spheres) contacts. **(D)** Integrated thermogram obtained by ITC giving NAD⁺-binding parameters for *Thermus* sp.
881 2.9 DarT E160Q. A representative result from three independent experiments is shown, with the number of
882 binding sites N and the dissociation constant K_D calculated from the repeats with mean \pm SD.
883 **(E)** Autoradiography of TLC plate analysing the reaction products after incubation of *Thermus aquaticus* DarT
884 WT and E160A mutant with NAD⁺ and DNA. NADase from porcine brain was used as control for monitoring
885 NADase activity. Representative of three independent experiments.

886

887 **Extended Data Figure 6 [related to Figure 4, Result Section]. Visualisation of DarT's ADP-ribosylation**
888 **activity in cells.** **(A)** Validation of the antibody identified for detection of ADP-ribosylated DNA. ADP-
889 ribosylation of the oligonucleotide by *Thermus aquaticus* DarT was verified by analysis of the reaction product
890 on denaturing polyacrylamide gel (top panel) and visualised by immunoblotting using the Poly/Mono-ADP
891 ribose antibody, E6F6A (Cell Signalling Technology) (bottom panel). Immunodetection of ssDNA served as
892 loading control (middle panel). Representative result of four independent experiments with three individually
893 purified *Thermus aquaticus* DarT-ADP-ribosylated oligonucleotides. **(B)** Dot blot showing DNA ADP-
894 ribosylation activity by *Thermus aquaticus* and EPEC DarT WT and mutants on gDNA, its physiological target,
895 (row 1 and 2 from top) which consequently induces DNA damage (RecA marker) in cells. EPEC DarT G49D is
896 a characterised DarT mutant that retains ssDNA ADP-ribosylation activity, albeit to a lesser extent than the wild-
897 type protein, while EPEC DarT E170 is its respective catalytically inactive mutant¹⁹. See also Extended Data
898 Figure 6C. **(C)** G49D mutation in EPEC DarT reduces ssDNA ADP-ribosylation activity. Overlay of a
899 homology model of EPEC DarT with the structure of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in complex with ADPr-DNA
900 indicates that the EPEC DarT mutation G49D reduces DarT ssDNA activity due to an aspartate side-chain
901 pointing into the NAD⁺-binding site towards the second phosphate group. This may sterically but also due to its
902 negative charge impair NAD⁺-binding, resulting in a less efficient ADP-ribosylation reaction. **(D)** DNA ADP-
903 ribosylation by *Thermus aquaticus* DarT (dot blot, row 1 and 2 from top) and induction of DNA damage (RecA
904 marker) is suppressed by *Thermus aquaticus* DarG with its macrodomain (MD) including by DarG
905 macrodomains from non-cognate species (EPEC, *M. tuberculosis*). **(E)** Dot blot showing ADP-ribose removal
906 from *Thermus aquaticus* DarT ADP-ribosylated genomic DNA by *Thermus aquaticus* DarG antitoxin with its

907 macromodomain (MD) and macromodains from non-cognate species (EPEC, *M. tuberculosis*) in contrast to human
908 hydrolases MarcoD1, PARG and ARH3.
909 (B), (D), (E): Cell lysates were prepared and genomic DNA was purified from samples before (+ glucose) and
910 after (+ arabinose/IPTG) induction of protein expression and subjected to immunodetection. EV: empty vector.
911 The N22A-K80A double mutation in *Thermus aquaticus* DarG results in loss of catalytic activity of the
912 macromodomain. For gel source data, see Supplementary Figure 1. Results are representative for three biologically
913 independent experiments.

914

915 **Extended Data Figure 7 [related to Figure 4]. Characterisation of DarT gDNA ADP-ribosylation in**
916 ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.** (A) Unregulated DarT activity (*darG* silencing) and induction of DNA damage
917 (mitomycin C, i.e. MMC, treatment) led to profound DNA damage response and induces expression of *dnaB*-
918 *darT*. Gene transcription was compared by RT-qPCR of *M. bovis* BCG *darG*-sgRNA uninduced, ATC-induced,
919 and mitomycin C-treated samples. Data are mean±SD of three biologically independent replicates. (B)
920 Knockdown of *darG* expression in *M. tuberculosis* induces expression of RecA. *M. tuberculosis* were treated
921 with 200 ng/ml ATC to induce dCas9 and *darG* sgRNA or non-targeting control sgRNA for 48 hours or with
922 mitomycin C (MMC) for 24 hours. Cell-free bacterial lysates were probed by Western blotting with an anti-
923 RecA antiserum or anti-Hsp70 (DnaK) antibodies as loading control. Representative of two biologically
924 independent experiments. (C) *darTG* is transcriptionally linked to *dnaB*. PCR products were generated with the
925 indicated set of primers (see Supplementary Table 2 for details) and visualised by gel electrophoresis. The
926 presence of PCR products across the *dnaB-darT* and *darT-darG* junctions demonstrates the transcriptional
927 linkage of *dnaB*, *darT* and *darG* as a polycistronic mRNA. Representative of three independent experiments. (D)
928 *M. tuberculosis* DarT preferentially modifies a TTTW motif in ssDNA. Screening of 40 ssDNA oligo sequences
929 with potential four-base motifs for ADP-ribosylation by DarT (data not shown) identified TTTW as targeted
930 sequence which was verified by testing permutations of the TTTT motif. *In vitro* ADP-ribosylation activity of *M.*
931 *tuberculosis* DarT was assessed by visualising the modification of the oligos under UV light after separation and
932 ethidium bromide-staining of the reaction products on denaturing polyacrylamide gel. Representative of three
933 independent experiments. (E) *M. tuberculosis* DarT ADP-ribosylates the OriC *in vitro* with preference for the
934 lower strand at the TTTW motifs. ADP-ribosylation activity was assessed by visualising the modification of the
935 oligos under UV light after separation and ethidium bromide-staining of the reaction products on denaturing
936 polyacrylamide gel. Representative of three independent experiments. For gel source data, see Supplementary
937 Figure 1.

938

939 **Extended Data Figure 8 [related to Discussion Section]. DarT is a PARP-like protein that evolved novel**
940 **features that allow its specialised function as a DNA ADP-ribosyltransferase.** (A) Schematic representations
941 of the interactions between the NAD⁺ substrate and the residues of the class-defining [H-Y-E] motif in ARTD
942 members including PARPs compared to DarT. Conserved motif residues (purple) and additional active site
943 residues (green) essential for catalysis with their relative position to the NAD⁺ substrate are compared. (B) ARTs
944 seem to share the spatial position and orientation of mechanistically relevant residues. Overlay of crystal
945 structures of *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT E160A in ADPr-DNA:NAM-bound state with *Clostridium perfringens* iota-
946 toxin (Ia)-actin complex (left, PDB ID: 4h0t) and PARP2 in the PARP2-HPF1 complex (right, PDB ID: 6tx3).
947 H119 in DarT takes spatially the same position as Y375 in the iota-toxin (Ia) which was suggested to have a role
948 in target protein, i.e. actin, recognition⁴¹. Both, Y375 and H119, are accommodated in the ‘ARTT’ loops, which
949 do not show any similarity in either residue length or structural makeup. The approximate position of DarT H119
950 is occupied by E284 of HPF1 in the HPF1-PARP complex, whereby HPF1 sits on the ‘ARTT’ loop of PARP2.
951 This leads to the formation of a composite active site with the catalytic glutamate residues E284 and E545 for
952 catalysing serine ADP-ribosylation²⁵. Enlarged views of the active sites are below the respective cartoon models.
953 For clarity in the enlarged views, only the ADP-ribosylating turn-turn ‘ARTT’ loop from Ia-toxin and PARP2
954 and only a fragment of the respective binding partner, i.e. actin and HPF1 are shown as cartoon model. The
955 substrate-coordinating and catalytic residues as well as the ADP-ribose products and complex-bound ligands are
956 shown as sticks model. (rmsd (DarT-iota-toxin overlay): 2.71 Å; rmsd (DarT-PARP2 overlay): 2.58 Å).

957

958 **Extended Data Table 1. Data collection and refinement statistics for crystal structures of *Thermosiphon***
959 ***africanus* DarTG and *Thermus* sp. 2.9 DarT described in this study.**

960 (a) Data for the highest resolution shell are given in parentheses.

961 (b) $R_{\text{sym}} = \sum |I - \langle I \rangle| / \sum I$, where I is measured density for reflections with indices hkl .

962

963 **Extended Data Table 2. Data collection and refinement statistics for DNA co-crystal structures of**
964 ***Thermus sp. 2.9* DarT described in this study.**

965 (a) Data for the highest resolution shell are given in parentheses.

966 (b) $R_{\text{sym}} = \frac{\sum |I - \langle I \rangle|}{\sum I}$, where I is measured density for reflections with indices hkl .







