Supplementary Information for:

Identification and characterization of the Bacillus subtilis spore germination protein GerY

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Supplementary Methods

Strain Construction

BDR4313 (Δ*gerP*) was generated by direct transformation of *B. subtilis* 168 with an isothermal assembly product derived from 3 PCR products: (1) a PCR product containing an upstream region of *gerPA* amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR217/oFR218 and *B. subtilis* 168 genomic DNA as template; (2) a PCR product containing the Erm cassette; (3) a PCR product containing a downstream region of *gerPF* amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR219/oFR220 and *B. subtilis* 168 genomic DNA as template.

BDR4376 [ΔgerY::lox72, amyE::gerY (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR4328 (ΔgerY) with pFR57.

BDR4377 [$\Delta yqeF::lox72$, amyE::yqeF (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR4324 ($\Delta yqeF$) with pFR54.

BDR4378 [ΔyodN::lox72, amyE::yodN (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR4305 (ΔyodN) with pFR56.

BDR4381 [$\Delta ydgB$, amyE::ydgB (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR4306 ($\Delta ydgB$) with pFR58.

BDR4406 [yycR::PydgB-optRBS-yfp (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR2413 (WT) with pFR60.

BDR4407 [yycR::P_{gerY}-optRBS-yfp (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR2413 WT) with pFR61.

BDR4408 [yycR::PyodN-optRBS-yfp (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR2413 (WT) with pFR62.

BDR4409 [yycR::PyqeF-optRBS-yfp (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR2413 (WT) with pFR63.

BDR4412 [$\Delta ydgB::lox72$, ycgO::ydgB-yfp (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR4306 ($\Delta ydgB$) with pFR66.

BDR4444 [$\Delta gerY::lox72$, $ycgO::P_{gerY}-optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY$ (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR4328 ($\Delta gerY$) with pFR73.

BDR4461 [gerT Ω gerT-gfp (spec)] was generated by back-crossing (2x) gDNA from CF172 (PY79 bearing the construct gerT Ω gerT-gfp (1) into BDR2413 (WT).

BDR4466 [gerT Ω gerT-gfp (spec) Δ safA::tet] and BDR4470 [gerT Ω gerT-gfp (spec) Δ cotE::cat] were generated by transforming BJA020a and BJA018 (2) with gDNA from BDR4461 (gerT Ω gerT-gfp (spec)], respectively.

BDR4460 [ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec)] was generated by transforming BDR2413 (WT) with pFR74.

BDR4465 [ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec) $\Delta safA::tet$] and BDR4469 [ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec) $\Delta cotE::cat$] were generated by transforming BJA020a ($\Delta safA::tet$) and BJA018 ($\Delta cotE:cat$) with pFR74, respectively.

BDR4467 [$\Delta gerY + ycgO::P_{gerY}$ -optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec) $\Delta safA::tet$] and BDR4471 [$\Delta gerY + ycgO::P_{gerY}$ -optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec) $\Delta cotE::cat$] were generated by transforming BJA020a and BJA018 with pFR73, respectively.

Plasmids construction

pFR54 [amyE::yqeF (spec, amp)], **pFR57** [amyE::gerY (spec, amp)] and **pFR58** [amyE::ydgB (spec, amp)] were constructed in a two-way ligation with pLD30 cut with BamHI and EcoRI and BamHI-EcoRI PCR products containing the yqeF, gerY and ydgB genes, respectively. These PCR products were amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR229/oFR230 for yqeF, oFR235/oFR236 for gerY, and oFR243/oFR244 for ydgB and gDNA from B. subtilis 168 as template. pLD30 is a double-crossover vector for ectopic integration at the amyE locus (Rudner lab stock).

pFR56 [amyE::yodN (spec, amp)] was constructed in a two-way ligation with a BamHI-BamHI PCR product containing the yodN gene (amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR233/oFR234 and gDNA from B. subtilis 168 as template) and pLD30 cut with BamHI.

pFR60 [yycR::PydgB-optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)], **pFR61** [yycR::Pgery-optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)], **pFR62** [yycR::PydN-optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)] and **pFR63** [yycR::PyqeF-optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)] were constructed in a two-way ligation with pCB138 cut with EcoRI and HindIII and EcoRI-HindIII PCR products containing the promoters of ydgB, gerY, yodN and yqeF, respectively. These PCR products were amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR347/oFR348 for ydgB, oFR349/oFR350 for gerY, oFR351/oFR352 for yodN, and oFR353/oFR354 for yqeF and gDNA from B. subtilis 168 as template. pCB138 [(yycR::PsspB-optRBS-yfp spec)] is a double-crossover vector for ectopic integration at the yycR locus, containing the promoter of the sspB gene (which was removed with the EcoRI-HindIII cut) and an optRBS-yfp reporter (Barajas-Ornelas and Rudner, unpublished).

pFR66 [ycgO::ydgB-yfp (spec, amp)] was constructed in a three-way ligation with an EcoRI-XhoI PCR product containing the ydgB gene without stop codon (amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR345/oFR346 and gDNA from *B. subtilis* 168 as template), a BamHI-XhoI fragment containing the yfp gene cut from pFR20 [ycgO::P_{spoIVF}-spoIVFBΔ10-yfp (erm, amp)] and pKM083 cut with BamHI-EcoRI. pKM83 is an ectopic integration vector for double crossover integration at the ycgO locus (Rudner lab stock)

pFR73 [ycgO::P_{gerY}-optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec, amp)] was constructed in a three-way ligation with an EcoRI-Xhol PCR product containing the promoter of gerY fused to an optRBS-yfp reporter without stop codon (amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR411/oFR349 and pFR61 as template), a Xhol-BamHI fragment containing the LEGSGSG linker fused to the gerY gene without start codon and pKM083 cut with EcoRI-BamHI.

pFR74 [ycgO:: gerPA-yfp (spec, amp)] was constructed in a two-way ligation with an EcoRI-XhoI PCR product containing the gerPA gene without stop codon (amplified with oligonucleotide primers oFR418/oFR419 and gDNA from *B. subtilis* 168 as template) and pFR66 cut with EcoRI-XhoI.

Supplemental references

- 1. Ferguson CC, Camp AH and Losick R. 2007. *gerT*, a newly discovered germination gene under the control of the sporulation transcription factor σ^{K} in *Bacillus subtilis*. J Bacteriol 189: 7681-7689
- 2. Amon JD, Yadav AK, Ramírez-Guadiana FH, Meeske AJ, Cava F, Rudner DZ. 2020. SwsB and SafA are required for CwlJ dependent spore germination in *Bacillus* subtilis. J Bacteriol 202:e00668-19. https://doi.org/10.1128/JB.00668-19

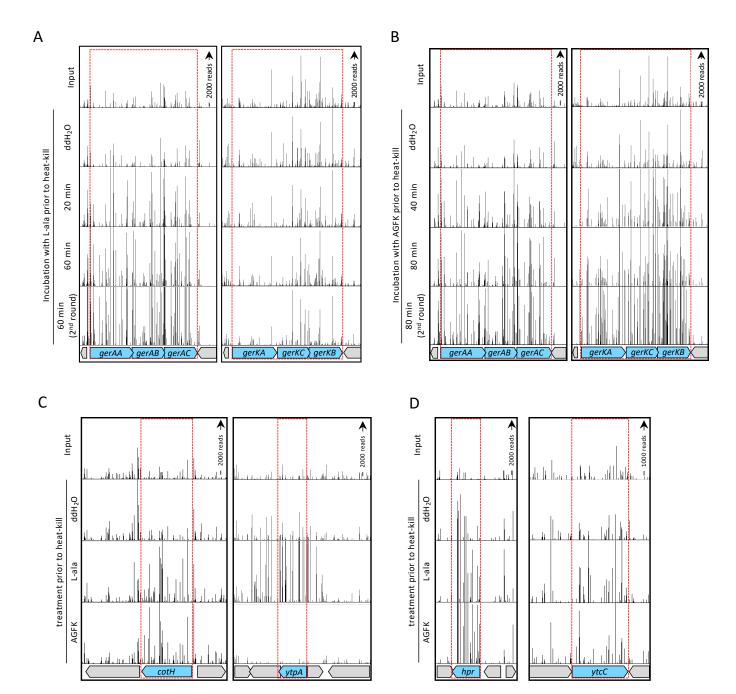


Figure S1. Transposon insertion profiles from six regions of the *B. subtilis* chromosome.

Red boxes highlight the *gerA* and *gerK* operons and *cotH*, *ytpA*, *hpr* and *ytcC*. (A) Transposon insertions were overrepresented in the *gerA* genes after 20min incubation with L-alanine prior to heat-kill compared to incubation with H₂O. Transposon insertions became more overrepresented after 60 min incubation with L-alanine and even more so after a second round of enrichment. By contrast, the transposon insertion profile of the *gerK* locus was unchanged under the same conditions. (B) Transposon insertions in the *gerK* genes were enriched when AGFK was the germinant and the incubation times were 40 and 80 min. Insertions in the *gerA* locus were also enriched in the presence of AGFK under these conditions. (C) Examples of genes in which transposon insertions were overrepresented after incubation with germinant but spores derived from in-frame deletions were only modestly (*cotH* and *ytpA*) or weakly (*hpr* and *ytcC*) impaired in germination as assessed by drop of optical density (Fig. S2). Transposon insertion profiles after the second round of enrichment are shown in panels C and D.

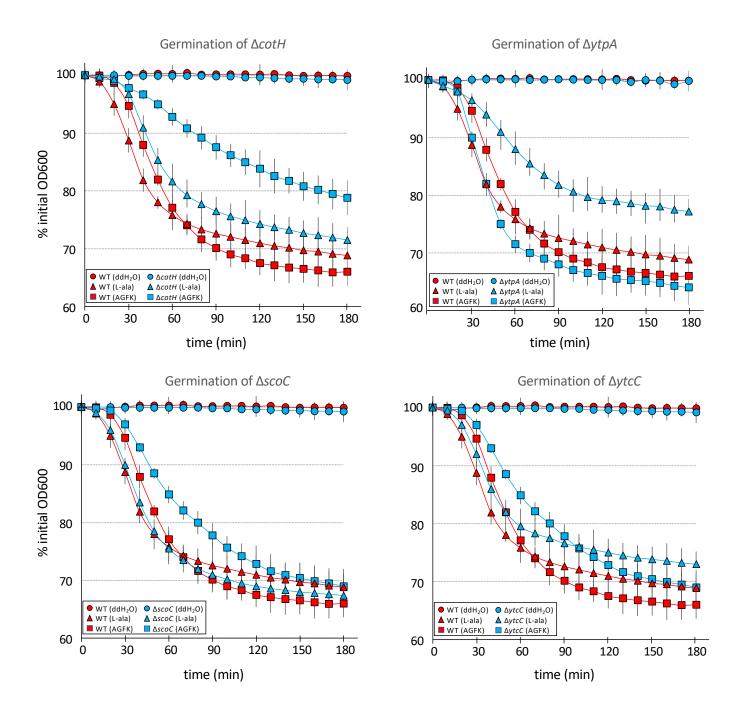


Figure S2. Germination assays for four mutants identified in the Tn-seq screen. Germination assays of wild-type (WT), $\Delta cotH$, $\Delta ytpA$, $\Delta scoC$ and $\Delta ytcC$ spores in response to L-alanine or AGFK as assessed by the percent reduction in OD₆₀₀ over time. Purified spores from the indicated strains were incubated with germinant at 37 °C and the drop in optical density was monitored over time. Representative data from one of three biological replicates are shown. Error bars indicate \pm SD of three technical replicates.

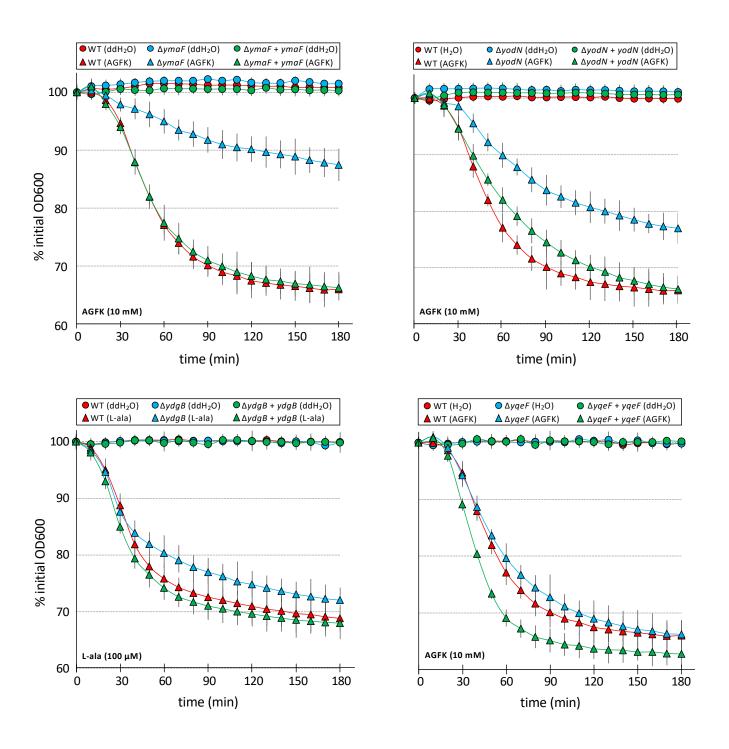
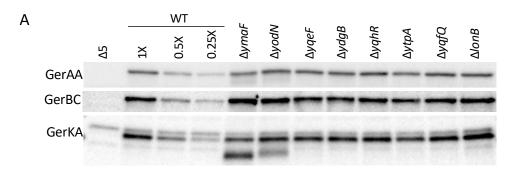


Figure S3. YmaF, YodN, YdgB and YqeF are required for efficient spore germination. Germination of wild-type (WT), $\Delta ymaF$, $\Delta yodN$, $\Delta ydgB$ and $\Delta yqeF$ spores in response to L-alanine (100 μ M) or to AGFK (10 mM) was assessed by the percent reduction in OD₆₀₀ over time. Purified spores from the indicated strains were incubated with the indicated germinant at 37 °C and the drop in optical density was monitored over time. The germination defect of all four mutants could be complemented *in trans*. Representative data from one of three biological replicates are shown. Error bars indicate \pm SD of three technical replicates.



В													
	Protein	Δ5	WT (1x)	WT (0.5x)	WT (0.25x)	ΔymaF	ΔyodN	ΔyqeF	ΔydgB	ΔyqhR	ΔytpA	ΔyqfQ	ΔlonB
	GerAA	0	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.8
	GerBC	0	1.0	0.4	0.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9
	GerKA	0	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.9

Figure S4. Levels of the germinant receptors in spores remain largely unchanged in the germination defective mutants. (A) Representative immunoblots of spore lysates. Purified spores from the indicated strains were mechanically lysed, normalized based on total protein, and ~10 μ g were subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblot analysis to detect of GerAA, GerBC and GerKA. The wild-type (WT) spore lysate was diluted 2-fold and 4-fold into a spore lysate from a strain lacking all 5 germinant receptors (Δ 5) to maintain the same amount of total protein loaded. (B) Quantification of GerAA, GerBC, and GerKA using Fiji-ImageJ software is shown. In virtually all cases, the level of each germinant receptor was within ~10% of wild-type.

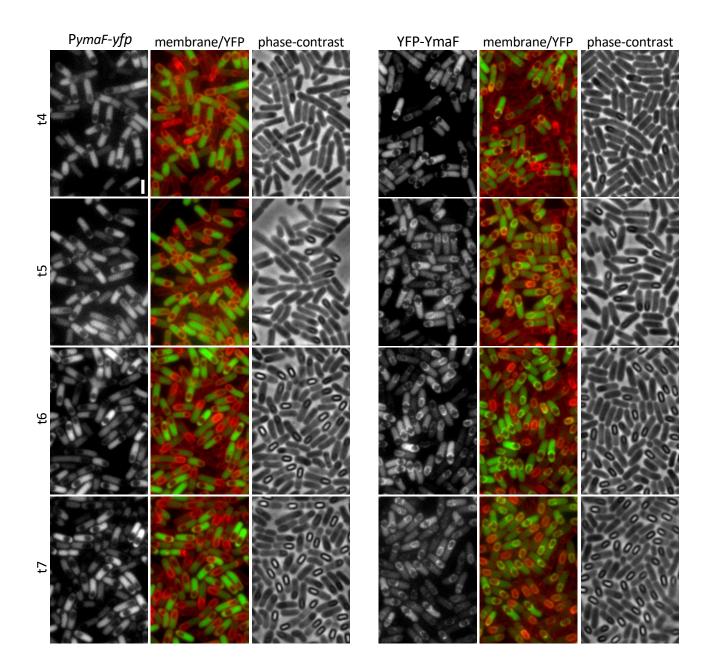


Figure S5. Expression of ymaF, yodN, ydgB, and ygeF during sporulation.

(A) Representative fluorescence and phase-contrast images of strains harboring a *yfp* fusion to the *ymaF* promoter (left) or a translational YFP-YmaF fusion (right) during a sporulation time-course. (B) Representative fluorescence and phase-contrast images of strains harboring either a *yfp* fusion to the *ydgB* promoter (left) or a translational YdgB-YFP fusion (right) during a sporulation time-course. (C) Representative fluorescence and phase-contrast images of a strain harboring a *yfp* fusion to the *yodN* promoter during a sporulation time-course. (D) Representative images during a full sporulation time-course of a strain harboring a *yfp* fusion to the *yqeF* promoter and a strain lacking a *yfp* reporter as control for the weak signal of the P*yqeF-yfp* fusion. The membranes (false-colored red) were stained with the fluorescent dye TMA-DPH and merged with the YFP signal (false-colored green). Scale bars indicate 2 μm.

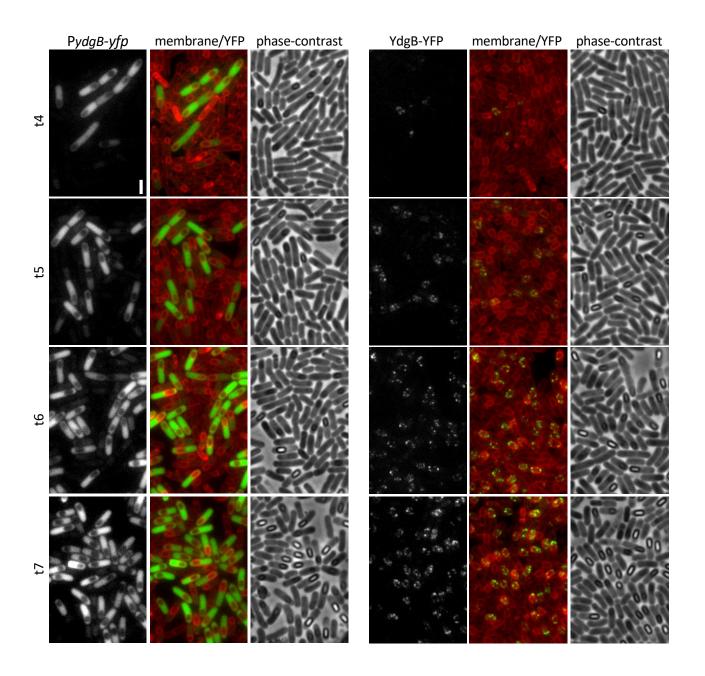


Figure S5C Ramírez-Guadiana et al.

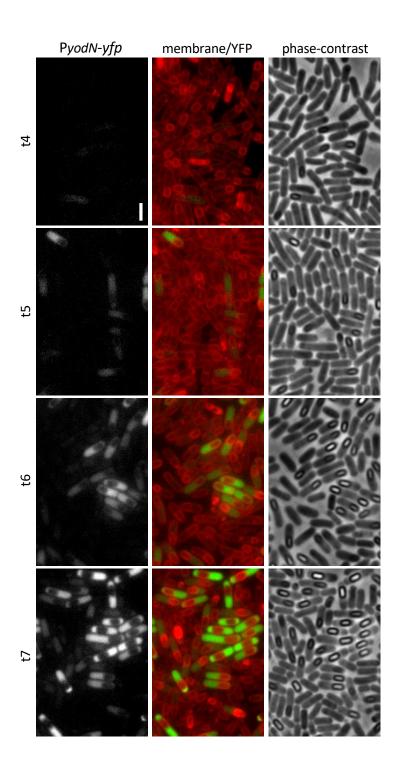
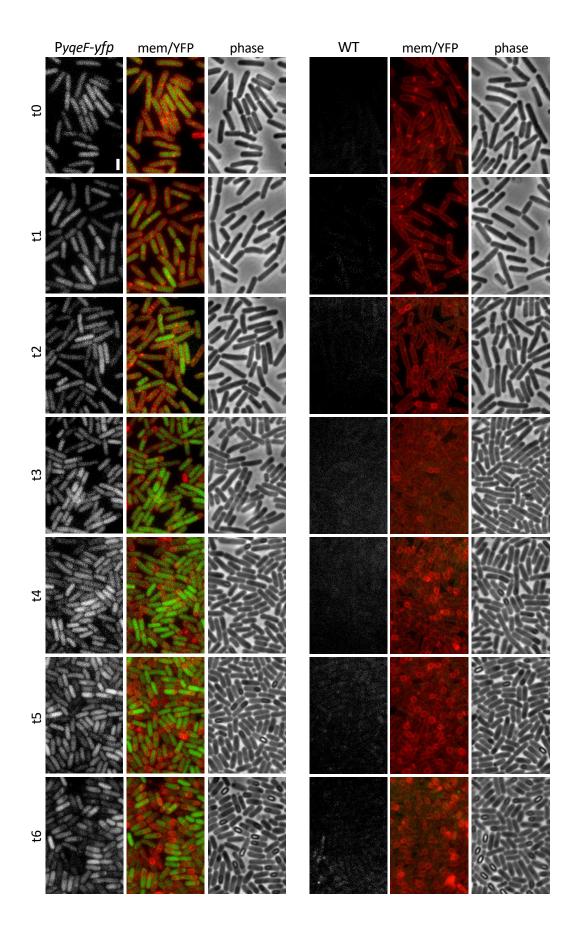


Figure S5D Ramírez-Guadiana et al.



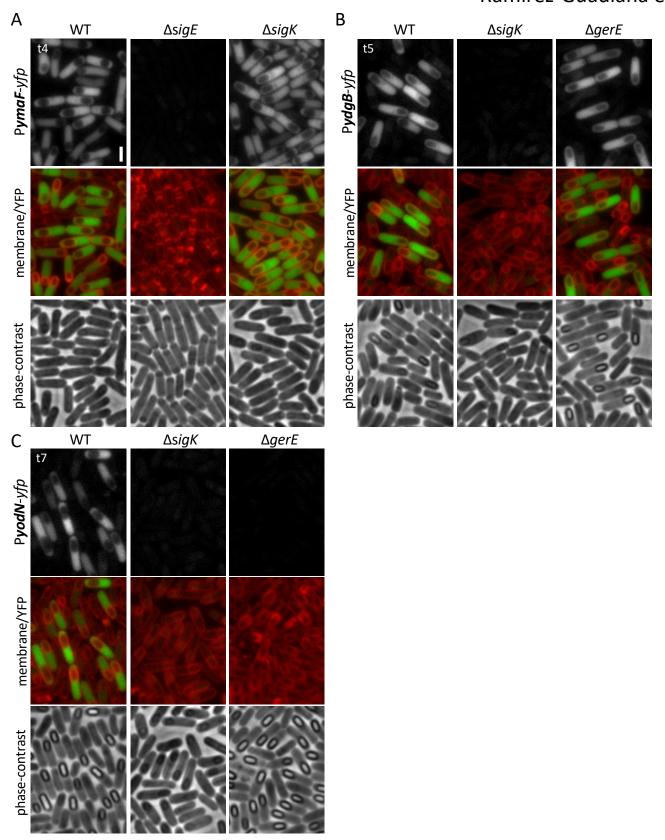


Figure S6. YmaF, YdgP and YodN are produced in the mother cell under the control of SigE, SigK, and GerE, respectively. Representative fluorescence and phase-contrast images of strains harboring *yfp* fusions to the promoters of *ymaF*, yodN and *ydgB* during at the indicated times in hours after the onset of sporulation. (A) Sporulating cells lacking SigE but not SigK fail to activate the P*ymaF*-YFP reporter. (B) Sporulating cells lacking SigK but not GerE fail to activate the P*ydgB*-YFP reporter. (C) Sporulating cells lacking SigK and GerE fail to activate the P*yodN*-YFP reporter. The membranes (false-colored red) were stained with the fluorescent dye TMA-DPH and merged with the YFP signal (false-colored green). Scale bars indicate 2 μm.

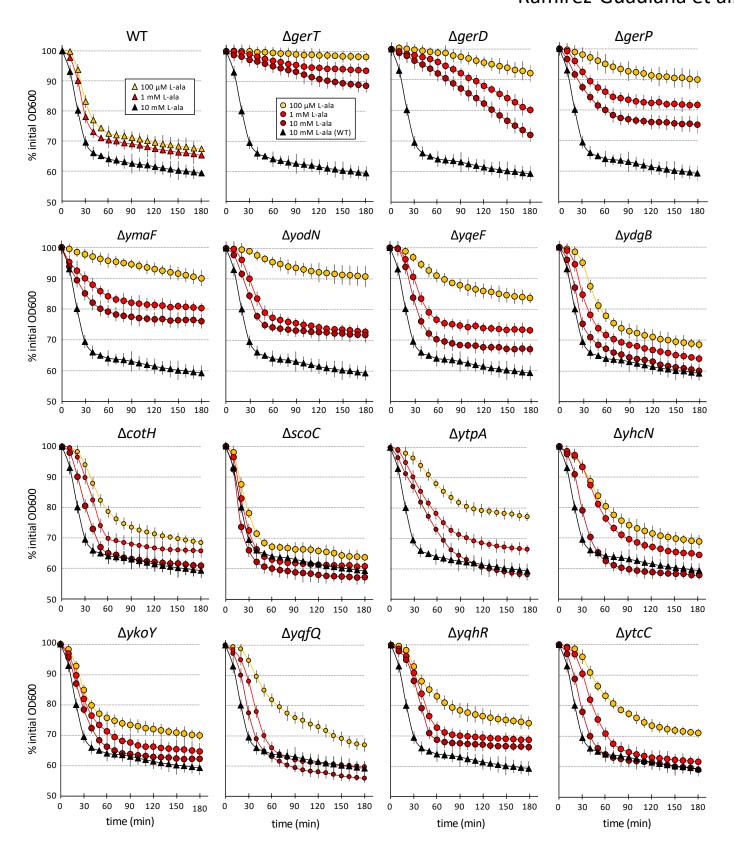


Figure S7. Germination assays of mutants identified in the Tn-seq screen with different concentrations of L-alanine. Germination of wild-type (WT) and the indicated mutant spores in response to 100 μ M, 1 mM, and 10 mM L-alanine was assessed by the percent reduction in OD₆₀₀ over time. Purified spores from the indicated strains were incubated with germinant at 37 °C and the drop in optical density was monitored over time. Representative data from one of three biological replicates are shown. Error bars indicate \pm SD of three technical replicates.

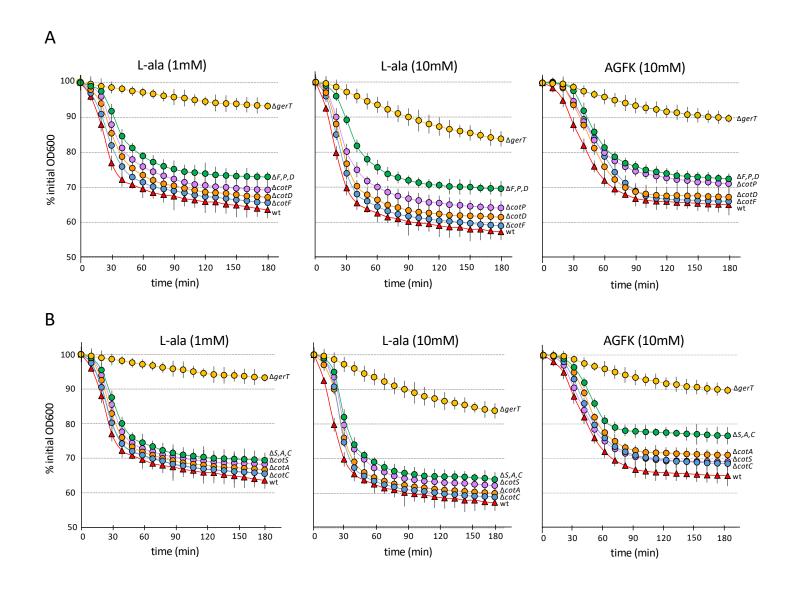


Figure S8. Germination response of inner and outer coat protein mutants to L-alanine and AGFK. Spores of wild-type, $\Delta gerT$, the inner coat mutants $\Delta cotP$, $\Delta cotP$, $\Delta cotP$, $\Delta cotP$, $\Delta cotP$, and the outer coat mutants $\Delta cotS$, $\Delta cotA$, $\Delta cotC$ (B) were germinated with L-alanine or AGFK and the drop in optical density was monitored over time. Representative data from one of three biological. Error bars indicate \pm SD of three technical replicates.

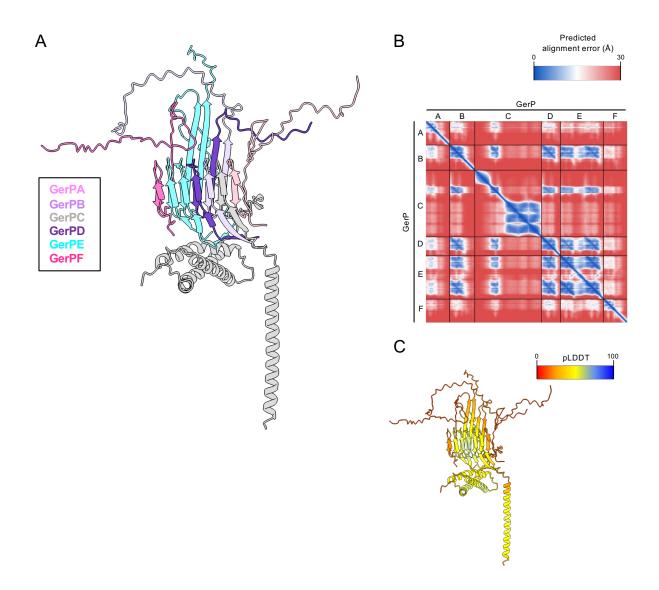


Figure S9. Alphafold2 predicts that the proteins in the GerP operon form a complex.

(A) Alphafold2 predicted model of the GerP complex. The chain of each subunit is colored as indicated. (B) Predicted alignment error (PAE) plot of the predicted structure shown in (A). The plot displays the alignment error predicted between each residue of the complex from N to C-terminus. The black lines indicate the start/end of the annotated GerP protein. PAE values for each subunit are the lowest (dark blue) in the region of the beta strands that make contacts in the predicted complex. (C) Predicted structure in (A) colored according to the predicted local distance difference test (pLDDT).

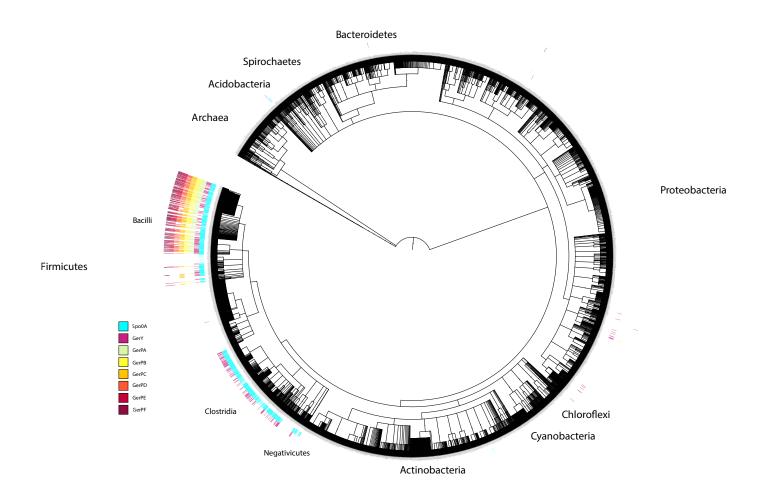


Figure S10. GerY is conserved among Bacilli and Clostridia

Phylogenetic tree showing the co-occurrence of GerY and GerP in a diverse set of 5,767 bacterial taxa. The amino acid sequences of B. subtilis GerY and the GerP proteins and the C-terminal domain of Spo0A (amino acids 127-247) served as queries in a PSI-BLAST search against the NCBI 'RefSeq' database with 6 iterations and an e-value cutoff of $1x10^{-5}$. GerT was not included in the analysis because its α -crystallin/Hps20 domain is extremely well conserved in prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms. This analysis was performed through the Harvard Medical School Research Computing Orchestra cluster. The phylogenetic tree was constructed in PhyloT (http://phylot.biobyte.de/) and the PSI-BLAST search results were plotted against the tree. The tree was visualized and annotated using the Interactive Tree Of Life web-based tool (iTOL, v3; http://itol.embl.de).

Table S2. Bacillus subtilis strains used in this study.

Strain	Genotype	Source	Figures
BDR2413	Wild-type 168 (trpC2)	Zeigler et al. 2008	2, 4A, 4C, 5, S2, S3, S4, S5D, S7, and S8
BDR4328	ΔgerY::lox72	This work	1A, 2, 4A, 5, S3, S4, and S7
BDR4376	ΔgerY::lox72 amyE::gerY (spec)	This work	2 and S3
BDR4306	ΔydgB::lox72	This work	1A, S3, S4, and S7
BDR4381	ΔydgB amyE::ydgB (spec)	This work	2 and S3
BDR4305	ΔyodN::lox72	This work	1A, 2, S3, S4, and S7
BDR4378	ΔyodN amyE::yodN (spec)	This work	2 and S3
BDR4324	ΔyqeF::lox72	This work	1A, S3, S4, and S7
BDR4377	ΔyqeF::lox72 amyE::yqeF (spec)	This work	2 and S3
BDR4307	ΔcotH::lox72	This work	S2 and S7
BDR4323	ΔytpA::lox72	This work	S2, S4, and S7
BDR4327	ΔscoC::lox72	This work	S2 and S7
BDR4329	ΔytcC::lox72	This work	S2 and S7
BDR4347	ΔyqhR::lox72	This work	S4 and S7
BDR4330	ΔyqfQ::lox72	This work	S4 and S7
BDR4326	ΔlonB::lox72	This work	S4
BDR4406	yycR::P _{ydgB} -optRBS-yfp (spec)	This work	3A and S5B
BDR4407	yycR::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp (spec)	This work	3A and S5A
BDR4408	yycR::P _{yodN} -optRBS-yfp (spec)	This work	3A and S5C
BDR4409	yycR::P _{yqeF} -optRBS-yfp (spec)	This work	3A and S5D
BDR4444	ΔgerY::lox72 ycgO::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec)	This work	3B, 4B and S5A
BDR4412	ΔydgB ycgO::ydgB-yfp (spec)	This work	3B and S5B
BDR4486	yycR::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp (spec) ΔsigE::erm	This work	S6
BDR4487	yycR::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp (spec) ΔsigK::erm	This work	S6
BDR4488	$yycR::P_{ydgB}-optRBS-yfp (spec) \Delta sigK::erm$	This work	S6
BDR4489	$yycR::P_{ydgB}-optRBS-yfp (spec) \Delta gerE::erm$	This work	S6
BDR4490	yycR::P _{yodN} -optRBS-yfp (spec) ΔsigK::erm	This work	S6
BDR4491	yycR::P _{yodN} -optRBS-yfp (spec) ΔgerE::erm	This work	S6
BDR4313	ΔgerP::lox72	This work	4A, 5, and S7
BDR4310	ΔgerT::lox72	This work	4A, 4C, 5, S7, and S8
BDR4332	ΔgerD::lox72	This work	1A and S7
BDR4325	ΔyhcN::lox72	This work	S7
BDR4343	ΔykoY::lox72	This work	S7
BDR4461	$gerT\Omega gerT$ - gfp ($spec$)	This work	4B
BDR4466	gerTΩgerT-gfp (spec) ΔsafA::tet	This work	4B
BDR4470	$gerT \Omega gerT$ - $gfp (spec) \Delta cotE$:: cat	This work	4B
BDR4460	ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec)	This work	4B
BDR4465	ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec) ΔsafA::tet	This work	4B
BDR4469	ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec) ΔcotE::cat	This work	4B
BDR4467	ΔgerY::lox72 ycgO::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec) ΔsafA::tet	This work	4B

BDR4471	ΔgerY::lox72 ycgO::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec) ΔcotE::cat	This work	4B
BDR4423	$\Delta cotP::lox72$	This work	4C and S8
BDR4435	ΔcotD::lox72	This work	4C and S8
BDR4424	$\Delta cotF::lox72$	This work	4C and S8
BDR4440	$\Delta cotP::lox72 \ \Delta cotD::lox72 \ \Delta cotF::lox72$	This work	4C and S8
BDR4427	ΔcotS::lox72	This work	4C and S8
BDR4426	ΔcotA::lox72	This work	4C and S8
BDR4436	ΔcotC::lox72	This work	4C and S8
BDR4439	$\Delta cotS::lox72 \ \Delta cotA::lox72 \ \Delta cotC::lox72$	This work	4C and S8
BDR4449	$\Delta gerY::lox72 \Delta gerT::erm$	This work	5A
BDR4450	ΔgerY::lox72 ΔgerP::lox72	This work	5A
BDR4477	Δ <i>cotB</i> :: <i>lox</i> 72	This work	5B
BDR4479	ΔcotB::lox72 ΔgerT::lox72	This work	5B
BDR4480	ΔcotB::lox72 ΔgerP::lox72	This work	5B
BDR4478	ΔcotB::lox72 ΔgerY::erm	This work	5B

All *erm*(R) deletion mutants are derived from the *Bacillus subtilis* knock-out collection.

All unmarked mutants are in-frame deletions generated by Cre-mediated recombination and contain a *lox72* scar.

Table S3. Plasmids used in this study.

Plasmid	Description	Source
pFR54	amyE::yqeF (spec, amp)	This work
pFR56	amyE::yodN (spec, amp)	This work
pFR57	amyE::gerY (spec, amp)	This work
pFR58	amyE::ydgB (spec, amp)	This work
pFR60	yycR::P _{ydgB} -optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)	This work
pFR61	yycR::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)	This work
pFR62	yycR::PyodN-optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)	This work
pFR63	yycR::PyqeF-optRBS-yfp (spec, amp)	This work
pFR66	ycgO::ydgB-yfp (spec, amp)	This work
pFR73	ycgO::P _{gerY} -optRBS-yfp-linker-gerY (spec, amp)	This work
pFR74	ycgO::gerPA-yfp (spec, amp)	This work

Table S4. List of oligonucleotide primers used in this study.

Primer	Sequence	Use / gene			
oDR1049	gagggaggaaaggcagga	Erm cassette containing <i>lox71</i> and <i>lox66</i>			
oDR1050	cgccgtatctgtgctctc	sites (for isothermal assembly)			
oFR217	ggagacaagatcgcttgccgt	To build $\Delta gerP$ operon (upstream fragment			
oFR218	tcctgcctttcctccctcggccggcatacgagcacatc	for Gibson assembly)			
oFR219	gagagcacagatacggcgggaaacggataaaagcagccgct	To build $\triangle gerP$ operon (downstream fragment for Gibson assembly)			
oFR220	gccggcagagcattatcagag				
oFR229	gccGGATCCcggataacctgtttccagtgc	To build pFR54 (yqeF gene)			
oFR230	gccGAATTCtatatcactttggctgcgcgc				
oFR233	gccGGATCCgtgcacggcagataatagctg	To build pFR56 (yodN gene)			
oFR234	gccGGATCCtgatggaagcactggacgga				
oFR235	gccGGATCCgtaaccgaaccggacggtc	To build pFR57 (gerY gene)			
oFR236	gccGAATTCgccgtcggtccgactaaaat				
oFR243	gccGGATCCctgatcctgtttgccagcttc	To build pFR58 (ydgB gene)			
oFR244	gccGAATTCtaggcgaaagatcccctaagg				
oFR347	gccGAATTCccacgagtaatgttactca	To build pFR60 (ydgB promoter)			
oFR348	gccAAGCTTccatctttctgtacagtac	r			
oFR349	gccGAATTCgtaaccgaaccgaacggt	To build pFR61 (<i>gerY</i> promoter)			
oFR350	gccAAGCTTgattcgcccaatcaaatcc	1 0 1			
oFR351	gccGAATTCcttgggatcaatacgagtctg	To build pFR62 (yodN promoter)			
oFR352	gccAAGCTTccgcaacatttctcatacg				
oFR353	gccGAATTCgataacctgtttccagtgc	To build pFR63 (<i>yqeF</i> promoter)			
oFR354	gccAAGCTTgcctcactttaatgttatacc	To saile printed (yet promoter)			
oFR345	gccGAATTCaattgagcatcactccggggc	To build pFR66 (ydgB gene without stop codon)			
oFR346	cggCTCGAGatctaaaattggcggtggtgc				
oFR349	gccGAATTCgtaaccgaaccgaacggt	To build pFR73 (<i>gerY</i> promoter + <i>optRBS</i> - <i>yfp</i> without stop codon)			
oFR411	cggCTCGAGgtatagttcatccatgccatg				
oFR412	cggCTCGAG ggaagcggaagcgga aacacattgggcctgtatcag	To build pFR73 (linker + gerY without star			
oFR413	gccGGATCCCgccgtcggtccgactaaaat	codon)			
oFR418	gccGAATTCggcggatagcggcatccttcg	To build pFR74 (gerPA gene without stop			
oFR419	cggCTCGAGcgcattggccacgatcggctg	codon)			

Homology regions for isothermal assembly are indicated in italics. Restriction endonuclease recognition sites are indicated in capital letters. The linker in oligonucleotide primer oFR412 is in bold.