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- In accordance with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Honor Code and the requirements for integrity and honesty laid out in the College of Graduate Health Sciences' Electronic Thesis & Dissertation (ET/D) Learning Portal, I, Yumei Zheng, declare that this dissertation titled "Biochemical and Structural Characterization of the Atg8/LC3 Lipidation Pathway" and the work presented therein are my own. I confirm that:
- This work was done wholly or mainly while being a candidate for a terminal degree at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.
- There is clear and full disclosure in the thesis/dissertation for any part that was previously submitted for a degree or any other qualification at this University or any other institution or that has been accepted for publication.
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- I have acknowledged all other main sources of help (e.g., lab assistance, joint work on projects, consultations/discussions with colleagues/experts, funding).
- Where the dissertation is based on work done jointly with others, I have made clear what I contributed (see next page).

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See digital reply with confirmation.

Advisor Name: Brenda A. Schulman

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**Declaration of Personal Contributions to Previously Published Articles
with Several Authors Incorporated into the ET/D
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Please provide below the Chapter number of the incorporated article(s), the List of References citation, and your significant contributions as first or second author, or indicate Not Applicable. If part of your accepted submission to the journal was a statement of author contributions, you may quote that and at the end indicate [As submitted and accepted by *Journal title*.]

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Articles with several authors incorporated into my ET/D and my contributions to them:

- **Chapter 2**
- **Citation:** Zheng, Y., Qiu, Y., Gunderson, J.E.C., and Schulman, B.A. (2017). Production of Human ATG Proteins for Lipidation Assays. In *Methods in Enzymology*, (Elsevier), pp. 97–113. <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.mie.2016.09.055>
- **My significant contributions:** Zheng, Y. and Qiu, Y. contributed equally in the whole study: Methodology, Validation, Formal Analysis, Investigation, Resources, Data Curation, Writing - Original Draft as well as Review & Editing, and Visualization.

- **Chapter 3**
- **Citation:** Zheng, Y., Qiu, Y., Grace, C.R.R., Liu, X., Klionsky, D.J., and Schulman, B.A. (2019). A switch element in the autophagy E2 Atg3 mediates allosteric regulation across the lipidation cascade. *Nature Communications* 10, 1–14. <https://doi-org.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/10.1038/s41467-019-11435-y>
- **My significant contributions:** As submitted and accepted by *Nature Communications*: “B.A.S., Y.Z. and Y.Q. conceived and planned this study. The paper was written by B.A.S. and Y.Z. with essential feedback from all other authors. Y.Z. and Y.Q. built up plasmids for in vitro recombinant protein expressions, expressed and purified proteins, and performed in vitro biochemistry assays. C.R.R.G., Y.Z. and Y.Q. participated in NMR titration experiments, with backbone atoms assigned by Y.Q. and C.R.R.G. X.L. created one of the yeast strains and preformed all in vivo lipidation assays, with over-expression vectors designed and made by Y.Z. Y.Z. and Y.Q. performed crystallography experiments. B.A.S. and D.J.K. supervised this work.”

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