the allosteric inhibition is released and fI oriented for cleavage.

In addition to explaining how circulating fI is limited to cleaving only C3b/C4b, our model explains the molecular basis of disease-associated polymorphisms in fI and its cofactors.

Keywords: complement, factor I, allostery

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Protein complex structures inform about the reactivity of the hemoprotein MauG

Lyndal Jensen,[a] Ruslan Sanishvili,[b] Nafez Abu Tarboush,[c] Victor Davidson[c] and Carrie Wilmot,[a] *[a]Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, (USA). [b]General Medicine and Cancer Institutes Collaborative Access Team (GM/CA-CAT), Biosciences Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, IL 60439, (USA). [c]Department of Biochemistry, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS 39216, (USA).* E-mail: hillx439@umn.edu

Many proteins require organic transformations of select amino acid residues for maturation. The enzyme methylamine dehydrogenase (MADH) is an example whereby oxygen-atom insertion and covalent linking of specific residues produce its cofactor, TTQ (tryptophan tryptophyl quinone). The hemoprotein MauG catalyzes TTQ biosynthesis. While the sequence of modifications in TTQ synthesis is unknown, the final step is hypothesized to be the oxidation of quinol-TTQ to the active quinone form. X-ray crystal structures of wild type and point-mutant forms of MauG in complex with various forms of its large protein substrate MADH have provided insight into the reactivity of MauG.

Crystallization of MauG has been achieved in complex with a precursor-form of MADH, preMADH, its native substrate. The crystal structure revealed large separations between the two *c*-hemes of MauG and nascent TTQ site of preMADH. Biochemical studies and spectroscopy indicated that the reactive form of MauG during turnover is an unusual bis-Fe(IV) intermediate. Unlike established paradigms for direct oxygen-atom transfer from an Fe(IV)=O heme, the MauG/preMADH complex uses long range electron-transfer in TTQ formation. TTQ formation occurred *in crystallo* upon addition of hydrogen peroxide, indicating that MauG could catalyze cofactor synthesis within the crystallized complex.[1] The processive nature of TTQ synthesis in the MauG/preMADH complex has been further examined. The quinol-MADH and quinone-MADH forms also co-crystallize with MauG and represent a reaction intermediate and the product form, respectively, for TTQ synthesis. The structures of the complexes with the three forms of MADH are essentially identical, and collectively suggest that the MauG/MADH complexes represent the physiological form that remains intact during turnover.

The X-ray crystal structure of MauG/preMADH enabled identification of potential electron transfer chain components. Point mutants at a MauG Trp residue implicated in the reaction pathway rendered the enzyme inactive. However, these mutants retained the native fold of MauG and co-crystallized with preMADH. The high degree of similarity between their X-ray crystal structures and that of MauG/preMADH confirmed that disruption of the electron transfer process results in loss of TTQ synthesis activity. Point mutants at the unusual His/Tyr-ligated heme of MauG also resulted in loss of native reactivity, suggesting a critical role for Tyr at the six-coordinate heme in stabilizing the Fe(IV) state of the reactive MauG intermediate.[2]

The bis-Fe(IV) MauG intermediate has been characterized in solution by XAS. Spectral comparisons with the Fe(IV)=O form of cytochrome c peroxidase have confirmed the presence of a short Fe-O bond in high valent MauG. The full spectral analyses for MauG solution samples will enable application of this technique to single crystal samples in future characterization of the bis-Fe(IV) MauG intermediate.

[1] L.M.R. Jensen, R. Sanishvili, V.L. Davidson, C.M. Wilmot, *Science* **2010,** *327,* 1392. [2] N. Abu Tarboush, L.M.R. Jensen, M. Feng, H. Tachikawa, C.M. Wilmot, V.L. Davidson, *Biochemistry* **2010**, *49,* 9783.

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Structures of glucoside hydrolases from human gut microbiome

Andrzej Joachimiak, Kemin Tan, Karolina Michalska and Gyorgy Babnigg, Midwest Center for Structural Genomics and Structural Biology Center, Biosciences Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois 60439

Metagenomics aims to analyze, reconstruct and characterize how microbial communities organize and evolve their collective genomes to thrive in the environments they co-habit. The human intestine harbors a large number of microbes forming a complex microbial community that greatly affects the physiology and pathology of the host. Many of which are uncharacterized or unculturable. The human gut microbiome represents a highly complex microbial community that has a significant impact on human health. The gut microbiome performs a diverse set of functions supplementing those performed by the host and is believed to significantly enhance the metabolism of amino acids, carbohydrates, xenobiotics, methanogenesis, biosynthesis of vitamins and other compounds. Therefore, microbiomes represent a potential pool of genes coding for novel proteins and functions. In the human gut microbiome, the enrichment in certain protein gene families appears to be widespread. They include enzymes involved in carbohydrate metabolism such as glucoside hydrolases of dietary polysaccharides and glycoconjugates. The Midwest Center for Structural Genomics (MCSG) (a component of Protein Structure Initiative:Biology project) targets proteins from microbes found in human gut microbiome in healthy and diseased individuals. The MCSG structure determination pipeline is being applied to the microbial proteins that emanate from these projects. We have analyzed gut metagenomic data to identify novel, previously uncharacterized, human microbiome-specific protein families. The analysis revealed an abundance of carbohydrate metabolizing enzymes. A set of reagent genomes was used to extract genes from gut microbiome and produce proteins for structural studies. A number of structures from normal and enteric microflora have been determined. The structural and functional results will be discussed.

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Keywords: Glucoside Hydrolases, Human Microbiome, Enzyme Specificity

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Structure of FoxE, a Fe(II) oxidoreductase involved in anoxygenic photosysnthesis

Luís Pereira,[a] Ivo H. Saraiva,[b] Ricardo Coelho,[a] Dianne K. Newman,[c] Ricardo O. Louro,[b] Carlos Frazão[a] *[a]Structural Biology and [b]Inorganic Biochemistry and NMR Laboratories at the Instituto*