



# Conserved salt-bridge competition triggered by phosphorylation regulates the protein interactome

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Phosphorylation is a major regulator of protein interactions; however, the mechanisms by which regulation occurs are not well understood. Here we identify a salt-bridge competition or “theft” mechanism that enables a phospho-triggered swap of protein partners by Raf Kinase Inhibitory Protein (RKIP). RKIP transitions from inhibiting Raf-1 to inhibiting G-protein-coupled receptor kinase 2 upon phosphorylation, thereby bridging MAP kinase and G-Protein-Coupled Receptor signaling. NMR and crystallography indicate that a phosphoserine, but not a phosphomimetic, competes for a lysine from a preexisting salt bridge, initiating a partial unfolding event and promoting new protein interactions. Structural elements underlying the theft occurred early in evolution and are found in 10% of homo-oligomers and 30% of hetero-oligomers including Bax, Troponin C, and Early Endosome Antigen 1. In contrast to a direct recognition of phosphorylated residues by binding partners, the salt-bridge theft mechanism represents a facile strategy for promoting or disrupting protein interactions using solvent-accessible residues, and it can provide additional specificity at protein interfaces through local unfolding or conformational change.

phospho-swap | protein interaction | salt-bridge competition | Raf Kinase Inhibitory Protein | conformational change

Phosphorylation is a ubiquitous posttranslational modification implicated in the regulation of innumerable processes (1). Phosphorylation often acts as a switch, controlling the formation of protein complexes that mediate function. However, beyond directly forming either favorable or unfavorable interactions at the binding interface, the possible modes of phospho-regulation are not clear (2, 3). Here, we investigate how phosphorylation of RKIP (PEBP1), a member of the phosphatidylethanolamine protein family, reorganizes a salt-bridge network to bring about a localized conformational change and an exchange of signaling partners. Bioinformatic analyses demonstrate the broader significance of this mechanism, which represents a general mechanism to regulate both homo-oligomeric and hetero-oligomeric protein interactions.

As a regulator of MAP kinase and G-Protein-Coupled Receptor (GPCR) signaling, RKIP prevents numerous pathological conditions including metastatic cancer (4–6) and heart disease (7, 8) (Fig. 1A). Well-characterized structurally by crystallography and NMR (9–11), RKIP assumes a highly conserved conformation with a pocket composed of a loop that interacts noncovalently with its C-terminal  $\alpha$ -helix (Fig. 1B). Phosphorylation at S153 by protein kinase C (PKC) switches RKIP from binding Raf-1 to binding G-protein-coupled receptor kinase 2 (GRK2) (12–14), thus activating a new pathway (Fig. 1A).

To observe the effects of phosphorylating RKIP at S153 by NMR, we mixed the catalytic subunit of PKC with RKIP and analyzed the heteronuclear single quantum coherence (HSQC) spectra over 10 h. We also inserted a minimally perturbing P74L

mutation shown previously to increase the phosphorylation rate of RKIP (10). Several lines of evidence indicate that phosphorylation, which had the proper mass shift (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S1), was nearly complete. These include the previously published result that only position S153 is phosphorylated by PKC (12–14) and a reduction in the S153 NMR peak height by greater than 80% (Fig. 2A and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S1).

Comparison of the NMR <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N HSQC spectra of unphosphorylated and phosphorylated RKIP<sup>P74L</sup> revealed pronounced differences at more than one-third of the amide NH (NH) peaks (Fig. 2A). Changes included peak movement, line broadening, and disappearance of peaks for residues located near S153; however, these effects extended out to residues in the C-terminal helix located more than 30 Å away. These changes indicated that a subset of amide NHs experienced different chemical environments due to altered conformation(s), with some undergoing

## Significance

Phosphorylation is a ubiquitous modification that has been implicated in signaling and other functions, but the atomic-level mechanisms are not completely understood. We identify a salt-bridge competition or “theft” mechanism wherein a phosphoserine, but not a phosphomimetic, breaks a pre-existing salt bridge, initiating a partial unfolding event and promoting new protein interactions. Structural elements underlying the theft occurred early in evolution and are found in 10% of homo-oligomers and 30% of hetero-oligomers. These findings identify a facile and evolutionarily accessible mechanism for reorganizing salt bridges and other electrostatic networks with only a single mutation to trigger a functional switch.

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Data deposition: The atomic coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the RCSB Protein Data Bank, [www.rcsb.org](http://www.rcsb.org) [PDB ID codes 6ENS (RKIP) and 6ENT ( $\Delta$ 143-146 variant)].

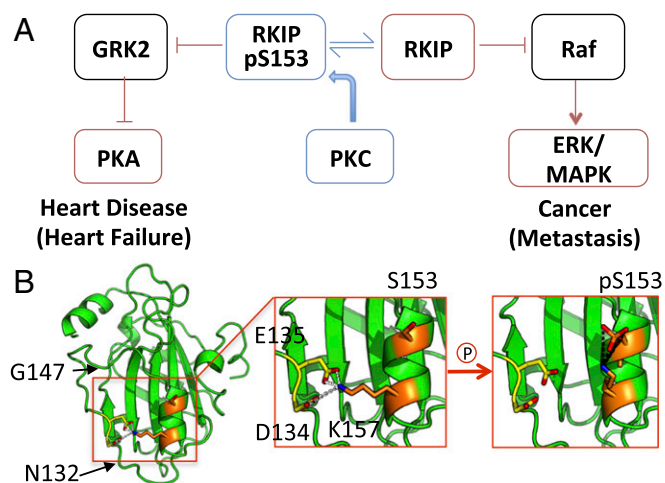
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**Fig. 1.** RKIP function and structure. (A) Phosphorylation of S153 causes RKIP to inhibit GRK2 rather than Raf. RKIP acts to suppress heart disease and cancer. (B) Model of salt-bridge interactions and the proposed effects of S153 phosphorylation of RKIP. (B, Left) Key residues mapped onto the WT RKIP structure. (B, Middle) K157 interacts with D134-E135 in the WT RKIP crystal structure (yellow). (B, Right) A model of how pS153 could outcompete D134 and E135 for interaction with K157 (orange). Images were generated using PyMOL (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Version 2.0, Schrödinger, LLC).

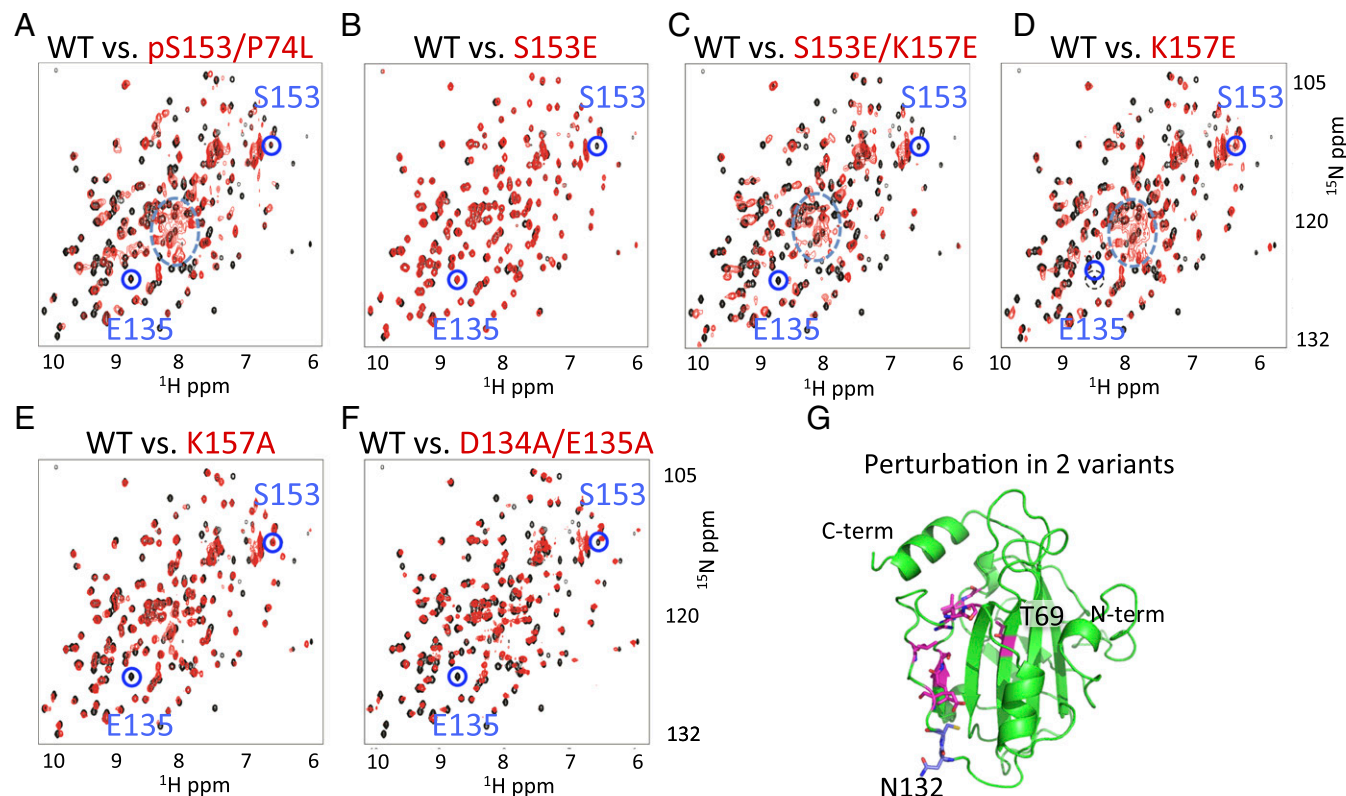
dynamical averaging between alternative conformations on the millisecond to microsecond timescale. An increase in the number of peaks in the random coil region (Fig. 2A, dashed circle)

suggested a partial unfolding of residues 132–147 located in a well-folded loop region in the crystal structure. These findings indicated that the protein undergoes a large-scale perturbation upon PKC-induced phosphorylation of S153.

To probe the nature of the perturbation, we introduced mutations at or near S153. We first compared the HSQC spectrum of RKIP<sup>pS153,P74L</sup> to the phosphomimetic mutant RKIP<sup>S153E</sup>. We showed previously that the RKIP<sup>S153E</sup> variant bound Raf-1 instead of GRK2, and its HSQC spectrum was nearly identical to that of wild-type (WT) RKIP (10). Consistent with these findings, the singly charged RKIP<sup>S153E</sup> was insufficient to induce the large-scale perturbation of the HSQC spectrum observed with the authentic phosphorylation of S153 (compare Fig. 2A and B).

To investigate why the phosphomimetic was insufficient, we examined the RKIP structure and noted that K157, located one helical turn away from S153, could be involved in the phosphorylation-induced structural changes. In the crystal structure, K157 forms a salt bridge with D134 and E135 on a nearby loop (Fig. 1B). We posited that the K157 side chain, upon phosphorylation of S153, could rotate and form a salt bridge with the double charged phosphate on pS153. Such a rotation of K157 would leave the negatively charged ends of D134 and E135 near each other without a compensating positive charge. As a result, the acidic groups should have a tendency to separate, and the loop containing the two residues would become partially disordered.

Support for the ability of pS153, but not the S153E phosphomimetic, to outcompete residues D134 and E135 for K157 comes from peptide studies showing that the salt bridge formed between a phosphoserine and a lysine located at positions *i* and *i*+4 along a helix is unusually stable ( $\sim 2$  kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup>) relative to a standard K-E salt bridge (15). For RKIP, we propose that this



**Fig. 2.** <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>15</sup>N HSQC NMR spectra. (A–F) Comparison of WT RKIP (black) to variants (red) indicates that RKIP adopts different conformational states upon S153 phosphorylation or mutation of residues involved in the salt bridge, whereas the phosphomimetic RKIP<sup>S153E</sup> is insufficient to induce the change. Peaks corresponding to S153 and E135 and the random coil region (dashed circle in A, C, and D) are highlighted. In the variants, the E135 peak is unperturbed only in S153E. Spectra were obtained at 25 °C. (G) Location of residues perturbed in the HSQC spectra of RKIP<sup>K157A</sup> (magenta) and RKIP<sup>D134A,E135A</sup> (magenta and blue).

enhanced stability enabled the pS153-K157 salt bridge to out-compete the D134/E135-K157 salt bridge and initiate the events leading to partial unfolding of the loop. Since typical single (+, -) salt bridges are generally weak (15), this result also provided a rationale for why some S-to-E phosphomimetics do not function as well as the phosphorylated versions.

In our “salt-bridge theft” model, the breakage of the D134/E135-K157 salt bridge is the critical event. To test the model, we disrupted the triad with an additional K157E substitution. As anticipated, this RKIP<sup>S153E,K157E</sup> variant had an HSQC spectrum matching that of RKIP<sup>pS153</sup> (Fig. 2 C and D and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S2). Furthermore, few spectral differences were observed between the single RKIP<sup>K157E</sup> and the double RKIP<sup>S153E,K157E</sup> variants, indicating that the single K157E substitution was sufficient to trigger the conformational switch. We also examined less disruptive alanine substitutions on either the helix or the loop side, K157A and D134A/E135A, respectively. These substitutions caused structural changes approaching those seen in RKIP<sup>K157E</sup>, consistent with the loss of the salt bridge (Fig. 2 E and F and *SI Appendix*, Fig. S2). Substitution with larger tyrosine residues (D134Y/E135Y) also resulted in perturbations similar to those seen in K157E (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2).

To clarify the nature of the differences between the K157 mutants substituted with charged versus uncharged residues, we analyzed an overlay of the K157E and K157A NMR spectra (*SI Appendix*, Fig. S2). This overlay highlights the differences observed between K157E and K157A, which are especially notable in the random coil region in the NMR spectrum of K157E and indicative of increased unfolding (Fig. 2D). This difference likely was a reflection of the more disruptive effects of three colocalized carboxylic acids in K157E versus two colocalized carboxylic acids in K157A.

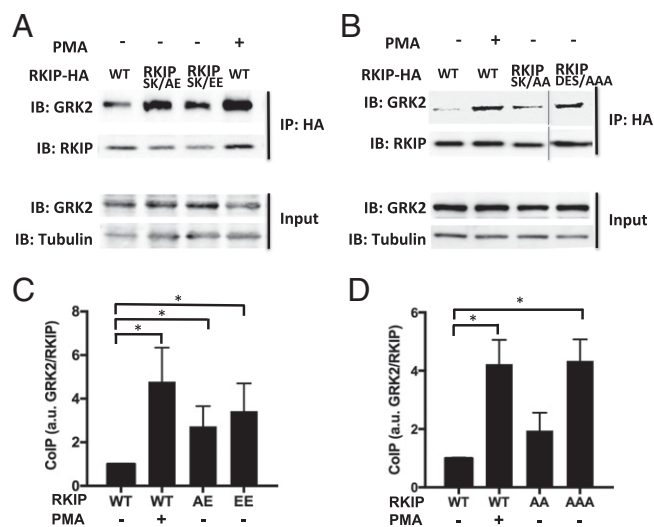
Salt-bridge disruption in RKIP<sup>K157A</sup> caused a near-complete or total loss of NMR peak intensity for various residues including L68, L103, S104, V107, G108, E135, L138, R146, G147, and L184 (peaks for the intervening residues E105-Y106 and P136-N145 could not be resolved) (Fig. 2G). The perturbed residues in the RKIP<sup>D134A,E135A</sup> HSQC spectrum overlapped with those seen for RKIP<sup>K157A</sup> but also included N132 and C133 (Fig. 2G). Some peaks in the mutants were selectively lost while others had native-like intensities, suggesting that the region from L103 to G147 is partially unfolded upon disruption of the native salt-bridge triad.

The disruption of the D134/E135 loop upon the theft of K157 likely resulted from an electrostatic repulsion of the adjacent D134 and E135 residues. Studies of the pK<sub>a</sub> shifts for a pair of neighboring glutamic acids by McIntosh and coworkers (16) noted a pK<sub>a</sub> increase for a glutamic acid of two units. This shift translates into an ~3 kcal·mol<sup>-1</sup> increase in proton affinity to the carboxylic acid, presumably resulting from the heightened negative potential due to the presence of the second glutamic acid. To create the heightened negative potential, additional energy is required to fold the protein with two nearby glutamic acids. There are also several other examples of single ionic locks that trigger dramatic structural reorganizations within a protein to facilitate protein activity-state transitions. For example, a similar E/DRY motif can be found in GPCRs with salt-bridge interactions between R and both E and D residues in consecutive positions (17). This salt bridge creates an ionic lock, maintaining the receptors in an inactive state. Mutagenesis of R is sufficient to transition the receptor to an active state. This motif is on the cytosolic face of the GPCR and therefore is not shielded from the influence of polar solvent or ionic interactions. Together, these studies suggest that RKIP has evolved to use the repulsion of two nearby glutamic acids to drive partial unfolding of a loop region.

Analysis of GRK2 binding provided further evidence for the functional role of residues within the salt-bridge triad. To determine the degree to which RKIP<sup>K157E</sup> is a surrogate for RKIP<sup>pS153</sup>, we

compared the ability of RKIP<sup>K157E</sup> to bind GRK2 with that of RKIP<sup>pS153</sup> and the double variant RKIP<sup>S153E,K157E</sup> in 293T cells by coimmunoprecipitation (14). For all cell studies, we mutated S153 to either an alanine or a glutamic acid to prevent S153 phosphorylation. As previously observed (14), the RKIP<sup>S153E,K157E</sup> variant bound GRK2 instead of Raf-1 (Fig. 3). No significant difference in GRK2 binding was noted between RKIP<sup>pS153</sup>, generated by treating cells with phorbol-12-myristate-13-acetate (PMA), and the two variants RKIP<sup>S153A,K157E</sup> and RKIP<sup>S153E,K157E</sup> (Fig. 3 A and C). The triple alanine variant RKIP<sup>S153A,D134A,E135A</sup> was similarly able to bind to GRK2 (Fig. 3 B and D). By contrast, GRK2 binding to the double-alanine variant RKIP<sup>S153A,K157A</sup> was not statistically significant, possibly reflecting the more limited structural perturbation noted above. These findings provide additional support for both the disruption of the salt-bridge triad and the partial unfolding of the associated region as critical events leading to the GRK2-binding-competent state.

The crystal structure of an RKIP variant lacking residues 143–146 further validated our model. R146 is highly conserved, and this region is altered by the P74L mutation that increases S153 phosphorylation (10). The initial motivation for designing this deletion mutant was to mimic the conformational changes induced by S153 phosphorylation to further dissect the molecular mechanism of the Raf1-to-GRK2 switch of RKIP. The RKIP<sup>Δ143–146</sup> deletion variant does indeed mimic the phosphorylated RKIP<sup>pS153</sup> state (14). RKIP<sup>Δ143–146</sup> binds GRK2 to a comparable level as RKIP<sup>pS153</sup> and similarly to RKIP<sup>pS153</sup>, binds poorly to Raf1 (14). In addition, the deletion variant does not require S153 phosphorylation for these effects (14), further demonstrating that Δ143–146 largely simulates the structural change in RKIP<sup>pS153</sup> induced by phosphorylation. We solved the crystal structure of RKIP<sup>Δ143–146</sup> at a moderate resolution (2.7 Å) (Fig. 4 B and C and *SI Appendix*, Table S1). Notably, E135 now points away from K157 and no longer participates in the salt bridge (Fig. 4 D and E), leaving a salt



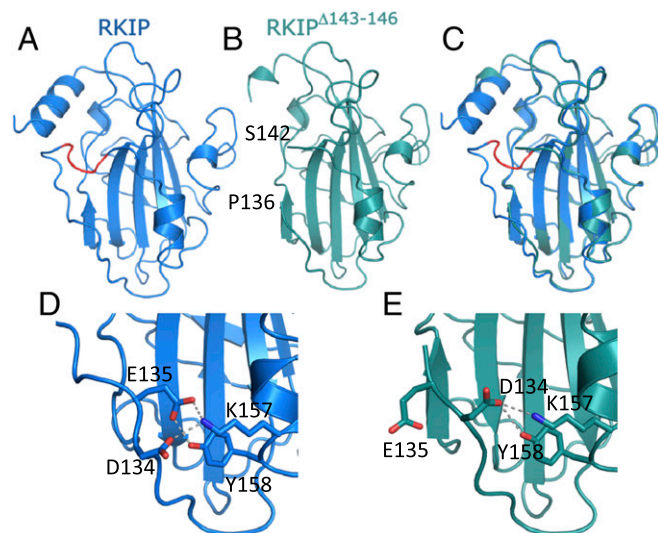
**Fig. 3.** In vivo interactions between GRK2 and salt-bridge mutants of RKIP. (A and B) Cells expressing WT HA-RKIP or HA-RKIP variants were incubated with or without PMA (1  $\mu$ M) for 10 min before precipitation with an anti-HA antibody and blotted for GRK2. Input represents 10% of total lysates used for immunoprecipitation assays: Representative coimmunoprecipitation assays using RKIP mutants (A) S153A/K157E (SK/AE) or S153E/K157E (SK/EE) or (B) S153A/K157A (SK/AA) or D134A/E135A/S153A (DES/AAA) are shown. (C and D) Plots of GRK2 bound to RKIP mutants: S153A/K157E (AE); S153E/K157E (EE); S153A/K157A (AA); D134A/E135A/S153A (AAA). Average of blot densities for GRK2 normalized to RKIP using (C) four or (D) three independent experiments including A is shown. Error bars indicate SEM. \* $P < 0.05$  by a one-tailed Student's  $t$  test.



bridge only between D134 and K157. Evidently, this interaction is too weak to maintain the original Raf-binding structure in solution (14). In addition, regions near R146 seem to be more flexible compared with other regions of the crystal structure indicated by larger B-factors relative to the average B-factor of the entire structure, suggesting that this part of the protein is perturbed. The RKIP $\Delta 143-146$  variant therefore serves as a useful tool to underscore the importance of local perturbation and partial unfolding of RKIP for GRK2 binding.

Since oligomerization could alter the interpretation of the NMR data, we examined whether RKIP forms a dimer by size-exclusion chromatography, multi-angle light scattering, and SDS/PAGE (SI Appendix, Figs. S3 and S4). Reduced RKIP $K^{157E}$  and RKIP $S^{153E},K^{157E}$  were nearly identical in size and molecular weight to monomeric WT RKIP (SI Appendix, Fig. S4). Furthermore, RKIP $\Delta 143-146$  crystallized as a monomer. Whereas RKIP may form oligomers in cells (14), phosphorylation at S153 transitions RKIP between monomeric states under reducing conditions.

The salt-bridge theft mechanism in RKIP involves breaking a salt bridge, which subsequently enables a switch in protein partners. We reasoned that a similar disruption of a salt bridge formed across a binding interface could be widespread in complexes controlled by phosphorylation. Consequently, we performed a bioinformatic search on ~5,000 hetero-oligomers taken from a curated data set (18) to look for key features involving a phosphorylatable S/T *pSite*, a K or R *Switch*(+) and at least one D or E salt-bridge *Partner*(-) (Fig. 1B). The salt-bridge theft motif is defined as follows: (i) the *pSite* and *Switch*(+) are on the same chain at least two residues apart, while the *Partner*(-) is on another chain; (ii) the *Switch*(+) and *Partner*(-) are in contact with side chains within 3 Å (19); (iii) the C $\alpha$  atoms of the *pSite* and the *Switch*(+) are within 8 Å (20, 21); (iv) the *pSite* is on the surface with a relative solvent accessible area above 25% (22, 23); (v) the *pSite* is a known or predicted phosphorylation site (24, 25); and (vi) the *pSite* is not at the binding interface, having no heavy atoms within 3 Å from any interfacial residue (19).



**Fig. 4.** Crystal structures of WT RKIP (6ENS) and the RKIP deletion mutant (6ENT). (A) Ribbon presentation of the WT structure of RKIP. Highlighted in red are the residues deleted in the RKIP $\Delta 143-146$  variant. (B) Ribbon presentation of the RKIP $\Delta 143-146$  variant. The location of the residues flanking the deletion are noted. (C) Superposition of WT RKIP (blue) and the RKIP $\Delta 143-146$  variant (green). (D) Interactions of residue E135 with K157 and D134 in WT RKIP. Dashed lines indicate salt bridges and hydrogen bonds. (E) Interactions of residue D134 with K157 and Y158 in the RKIP $\Delta 143-146$  variant.

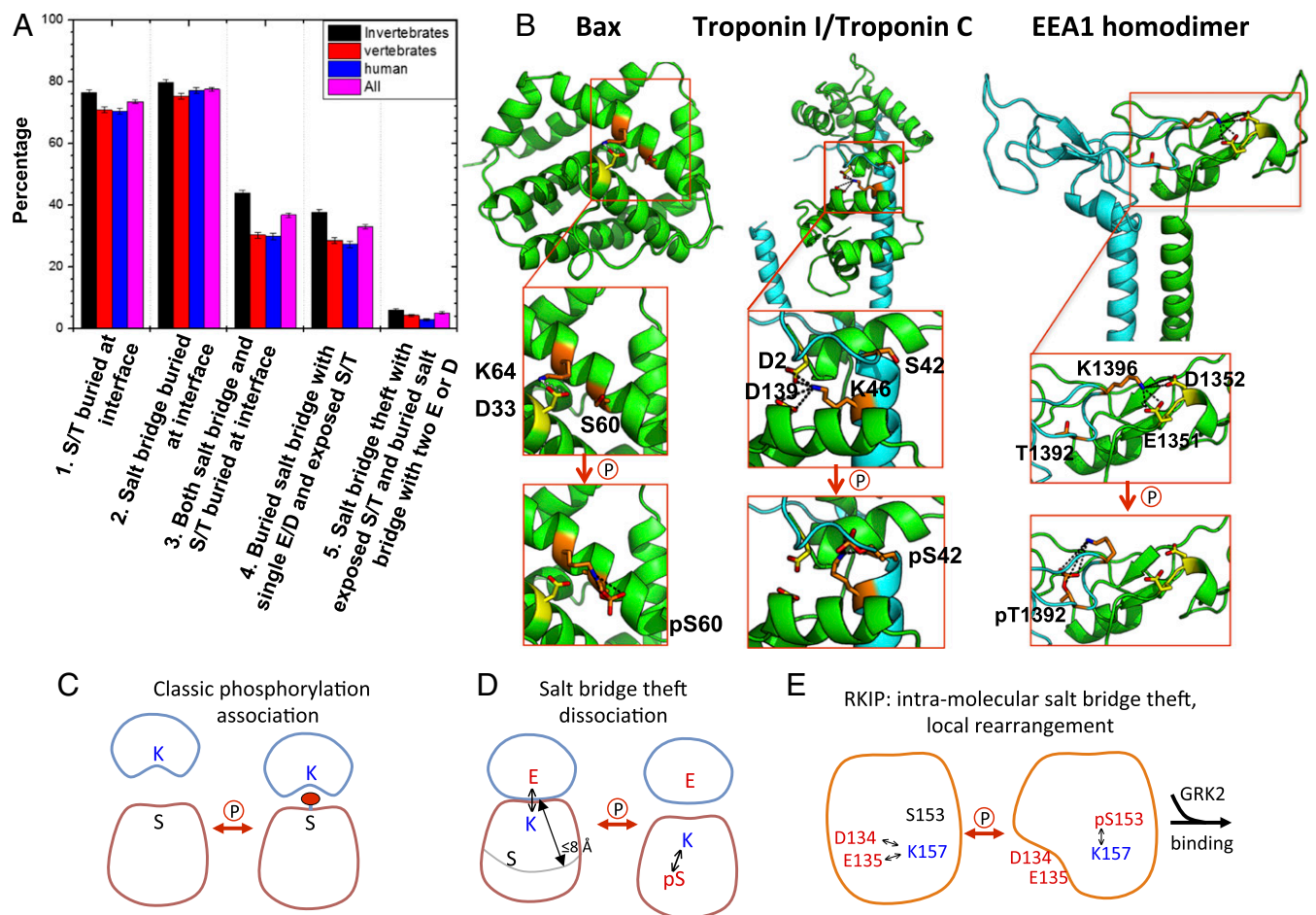
This analysis identified 33% (1,602/4,857) of total hetero-oligomers as having the necessary criteria for the salt-bridge theft mechanism with either known (5%) or predicted (28%) phosphorylation sites (Fig. 5A and SI Appendix, Tables S2 and S3). A similar analysis of homo-oligomers (18) revealed a 10% occurrence of the salt-bridge theft motif (2,048/20,685). From this set, along with additional criteria found in RKIP (namely, i and i+4 are in a helix and have two D/E in contact with K/R), we identified three candidates that had been previously studied by mutation or phosphorylation: Bax (1F16.pdb), Troponin I and C (1J1D, chains A and C), and Early Endosome Antigen 1 (EEA1) (1JOC, chains A and B). In RKIP, Bax, and Troponin I, the S/T-K pair was located at positions i and i+4 on an  $\alpha$ -helix, whereas in EEA1, the i, i+4 pair was present in a  $\beta$ -turn.

We postulate that the salt-bridge theft mechanism in Bax regulates local conformational changes along a single polypeptide chain that eventually leads to Bax oligomerization (26). Bax, an apoptotic protein that triggers release of cytochrome *c* from mitochondria (27), forms a salt bridge between K64 and D33 on two adjacent helices in its inactive “closed” conformation (Fig. 5B) (28). We expect that phosphorylation of S60 should appropriately trigger the separation of the two helices to generate the active “open” conformation. This event facilitates oligomerization leading to cytochrome *c* release. In support of the theft mechanism, the loss of the interhelical salt bridge upon either a K64D or D33A mutation triggers cytochrome *c* release whereas the S60A mutation, which prevents phosphorylation, inhibits cytochrome *c* release (29). As in RKIP, a phosphomimetic substitution of the serine residue (S60D) was insufficient to fully activate Bax or trigger cytochrome *c* release, presumably because the singly charged residue, unlike the authentic phosphorylated serine, cannot outcompete the K64-D33 salt bridge (29).

The phosphorylation of Troponin I regulates heterodimer formation with Troponin C. Troponin C is a calcium-binding protein that interacts with Troponin I, eliciting a conformational change in Troponin I and muscle contraction (30). Phosphorylation of Troponin I at S42 on an  $\alpha$ -helix in chain C disrupts the Troponin C/I interaction, releasing myofibril tension and decreasing sliding speed (31). K46 on Troponin I likely forms a salt bridge with D2 and D139 on Troponin C that is lost upon phosphorylation of S42 (Fig. 5B). Consistent with the theft mechanism, combining S42E and S44E substitutions decreases fiber tension and calcium sensitivity, whereas the S42A mutation enhances both parameters (32).

The phosphorylation of the homodimer EEA1 controls binding to phospholipids (33, 34), mediating endosomal trafficking by binding to phospholipid vesicles via phosphatidylinositol-3-phosphate (35). Phospholipid binding requires phosphorylation of T1392, and its mutation to alanine (T1392A) decreases this interaction (36, 37). The T1392 phosphorylation should attract K1396 (both on chain B), triggering a salt-bridge theft and freeing the salt-bridge partners (the adjacent D1352 and E1351 on chain A) to undergo local rearrangement and generate a new homodimer interface that interacts with endosomes (Fig. 5B) (33, 34).

The high frequency of the salt-bridge theft motif in hetero-oligomers suggests that it occurred early in evolution. Consistently, our motif search revealed a higher prevalence among invertebrates ( $38 \pm 1\%$ ) relative to vertebrates ( $28 \pm 1\%$ ) (Fig. 5A and SI Appendix, Table S2). However, RKIP (PEBP1) acquired S153 later in evolution whereas E135 and K157 are two of the most conserved residues within the PEBP family (SI Appendix, Fig. S5 and Table S4), indicating that this salt bridge antedates acquisition of the salt-bridge theft mechanism. Bax, EEA1, and Troponin I similarly acquired the salt-bridge theft motif at the vertebrate stage (SI Appendix, Fig. S5 and Tables S5–S7). Thus, the salt-bridge theft motif as a mediator of protein interactions is poised for regulation by the nascent kinome but



**Fig. 5.** Salt-bridge theft mechanism observed in RKIP and other proteins. (A) Bar plot of the frequencies of different interfacial properties among hetero-oligomers on a per-complex basis. Errors are the SD calculated assuming a binomial distribution. See *SI Appendix, Table S2*, for details. (B) Phosphorylation of Bax at S60 by PKA attracts K64, destabilizing the  $\alpha$ -helix and activating translocation and cytochrome *c* release. Residues involved in the salt bridge (K64, D33) are indicated. Phosphorylation at S42 by PKC prevents the interaction of Troponin I (blue) with Troponin C (green) and inhibits Troponin I activity. Residues involved in the salt bridge are indicated (K46 on chain C; D2 and D139 on chain A). Phosphorylation of EEA1 at T1392 on chain B by the kinase p38 attracts K1396 on chain B, thus freeing D1352 on chain A to interact with phosphatidylinositol-3-phosphate within the endosomal membrane. Residues involved in the salt bridge are indicated (K1396 on chain B; D1352 and possibly E1351 on chain A). (C–E) Alternative models for phosphorylation-controlled protein association.

may also be acquired later in evolution along with an expanded role for the kinome.

The salt-bridge theft mechanism that we describe here differs from the classic view of phosphorylation-controlled binding through protein domains, as exemplified by SH2 and 14–3–3 domains (38). In the latter case, the phosphorylation of a serine or threonine situated at the interface promotes binding (Fig. 5C). This mechanism involves an initially solvent-exposed serine or threonine. Possibly, the phosphorylation of residues at the interface could lead to dissociation; in this situation, however, the residues would not be as solvent-accessible. The high frequency (73%) of a hetero-oligomeric protein interface having either a serine or a threonine suggests that this is a viable mechanism for regulating oligomeric protein interactions (Fig. 5A and *SI Appendix, Table S3*), as supported by recent studies (3).

In contrast, our salt-bridge theft mechanism involves solvent-exposed serine or threonine residues that are not directly on the binding interface (Fig. 5D and E). The mechanism builds on the high frequency of salt bridges (77%) at hetero-oligomeric protein interfaces (Fig. 5A and *SI Appendix, Table S3*). These charged residues are enriched two- to threefold at binding interfaces, as noted previously (39). By contrast, the frequency of

S/T residues is the same throughout the protein whether on or near the interface or buried within the protein (*SI Appendix, Table S3*). If a solvent-exposed S/T is close enough to an interfacial salt bridge, then a pSer/pThr can compete for the bridge. Because only  $\sim 30\%$  of the protein interfaces feature the salt-bridge theft motif whereas salt bridges are present 77% of the time, the availability of S/T residues near the interface appears to be a limiting condition. When two acidic residues participate in the salt bridge, more extensive conformational changes can occur. This option is present at lower levels than the salt-bridge dyads for both hetero-oligomers (5%) and homo-oligomers (1%) (*SI Appendix, Table S2*).

Whereas the traditional model posits that phosphorylation modulates protein interactions by directly altering the binding interface, the salt-bridge theft mechanism has several advantages as an additional route for regulation by the kinome. Due to solvent accessibility, the theft allows for facile removal or addition of the phosphate whereas direct binding across the interface allows only for facile phosphorylation. Therefore, phosphorylation leading to interface disruption would be more likely to occur with the salt-bridge theft mechanism. In support of this hypothesis, the examples that we have highlighted here for the salt-bridge theft all



involve phosphorylation-induced disruption of protein interactions. Troponin I phosphorylation dissociates a heterodimer, and EEA1 disrupts a homodimer (Fig. 5D), whereas RKIP and Bax phosphorylation disrupt interacting polypeptide chains within a single protein, enabling local unfolding that facilitates binding to GRK2 (Fig. 5E) or Bax, respectively.

Finally, disruption of the salt bridge, especially one that involved two negative charges, may induce protein remodeling through partial unfolding due to the colocalization of two negatively charged side chains. Similar reorganizations of electrostatic networks and allosteric effects resulting from disrupted charge clusters have also been observed in other systems, including PKA and VraR (40, 41). These examples as well as others (42) suggest that neither mono- nor divalent cation binding would completely recover the energy invested in the colocalization of D134 and E135 in RKIP, and, thermodynamically, the partial unfolding of the loop is favored.

In this article, we have demonstrated the presence of a phosphorylation-triggered salt-bridge competition or “theft” mechanism for regulating RKIP/GRK2 association. The motif exists in one-third of hetero-oligomers and is enriched in invertebrates. The mechanism could be an early mode of introducing phosphorylation-controlled binding, in part as it uses an existing salt bridge, an interaction known to be enhanced at protein–protein interfaces (39). The original salt bridge is left intact, in contrast to serine phosphorylation that directly participates in the salt bridge

across an interface (43). Thus, the regulation using the theft mechanism is controlled through a nearby solvent-accessible residue that would be easier to substitute or phosphorylate. Our computational analysis suggests that this mechanism may be broadly operative in controlling protein oligomerization.

## Materials and Methods

**NMR Experiments.** All HSQC spectra were collected on a 500-MHz magnet with a Bruker AVANCE III console at 25 °C with a typical protein concentration of 0.5 mM. Spectra were processed using NMR Pipe and CARRA software packages.

**Phosphorylation for NMR Studies.** A 400  $\mu\text{M}$   $^{15}\text{N}$  RKIP<sup>P74L</sup> solution was prepared in 20 mM Hepes, pH 7.5, with 0.5 mM EGTA, 2 mM DTT, and 200 mM PKC.  $\text{MgCl}_2$  and ATP were then added to final concentrations of 5 mM each. Phosphorylation was carried out at 37 °C for 10 h before being reduced to 25 °C for NMR measurements.

Further descriptions of the methods are listed in *SI Appendix, SI Materials and Methods*.

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## Supplementary Material and Methods

**Cell culture.** HEK293T cells were maintained in DMEM high glucose supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Gibco), penicillin (50 U/ml, Life Technology), and streptomycin (50 µg/ml, Life Technology). For stable cell lines, cells were transfected with lenti-viral shRNA to silence human endogenous RKIP, followed by puromycin selection (0.2 µg/ml) for one week. Then rat wild type RKIP or RKIP mutants were transiently transfected using the *TransIT*-LT1 transfection reagent (Mirus) and OPTI-MEM (Gibco).

**RKIP mutations.** RKIP mutants (S153A/K157A, S153A/K157E, S153E/K157E, D134A/E135A/S153A) were generated using a QuikChange II site-directed mutagenesis kit (Agilent Technologies) with a wild type (WT) RKIP carrying a HA tag in the pCDNA3.1 vector. All of the RKIP mutants generated were sequence validated at the University of Chicago Comprehensive Cancer Center (cancer-seqbase.uchicago.edu).

**Antibodies and Chemicals.** GRK2 (sc-13143, Santa Cruz), RKIP (sc-5423, Santa Cruz), HA high affinity (Roche), alpha tubulin (sc-8035, Santa Cruz) and Normal IgG (sc-2027, Santa Cruz) were used for *in vivo* protein analyses. Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) was purchased from Sigma.

**Co-immunoprecipitation (CoIP) assays.** HEK293T-shRKIP cells ( $1 \times 10^6$ ) were transiently transfected for exogenous expression of wild type (WT) and mutant rat RKIP-HA tag along with a GRK2 expressing plasmid (2 µg). Transfected cells were followed by serum starvation overnight and treated for PMA (0.1 µM) for 10 min before collection of lysates in IP buffers (50 mM Tris pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.25% Na-deoxycholate, 1% NP40, 1 mM EDTA) containing a protease inhibitor cocktail (Millipore) and phosphatase inhibitors (Goldbiosystem). Sonicated cell lysates were centrifuged at 11,000 *g* for 30 minutes at 4 °C and incubated with 25% protein G-sepharose 4 fast flow (GE Healthcare) with rabbit IgG for 1 hour at 4 °C to block non-specific binding with 25% G-sepharose. Precleared supernatants were precipitated using anti-HA antibody overnight at 4 °C followed by incubation with 25% G-

shearose. Anti-HA immunoprecipitated proteins were assayed for GRK2 blotting on nitrocellulose membrane (Amersham Hybond ECL). Bands in the western blots were detected and quantified using Li-Cor Image studio.

**Protein purification for crystallization.** cDNAs coding for N-terminal His<sub>6</sub>-tagged WT mouse RKIP (His-RKIP) and the rat RKIP variant (His-RKIP<sup>Δ143-146</sup>) were cloned into the expression vector pET3c (Novagen). His-RKIP and the RKIP variants were expressed in *Escherichia coli* BL21(DE3)pLysS cells. For purification of His-RKIP and the His-RKIP<sup>Δ143-146</sup> variant the bacteria were thawed, resuspended and lysed in 50 mM Tris pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl and 20 mM imidazole. The soluble fraction of the cell lysate was loaded onto a Ni Sepharose affinity column (Histrap, GE Healthcare/ ÄKTA), and eluted with a gradient to 500 mM imidazole (20 column volumes). The proteins were further purified by SEC (Superdex 200 26/60, GE Healthcare/ ÄKTA) in 20 mM PIPES pH 6.5, 150 mM NaCl and 1 mM EDTA. The protein samples were concentrated to up to 40 mg/ml, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

**Crystallization, Data collection and Structure Determination.** 1 µl of WT RKIP at a concentration of 11 mg/ml in ddH<sub>2</sub>O was mixed with 1 µl of the reservoir solution containing 25% PEG 6000 and 100 mM NaAcetate pH 4.6. The mixture was equilibrated in hanging drop vapor diffusion experiments at 20 °C against 1 ml of the reservoir solution. Crystals were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen utilizing mother liquor supplemented with 20% glycerol and data collection was performed at 100 K. The WT RKIP dataset was collected at beamline MX 14.1 (Bessy, Berlin).

His-RKIP<sup>Δ143-146</sup> was crystallized at a protein concentration of 15 mg/ml in a buffer containing 150 mM NaCl and 100 mM NaAcetate. 1 µl of the protein solution was mixed with 1 µl of the reservoir and the mixture was equilibrated in hanging drop vapor diffusion experiments at 20 °C against 1 ml of the reservoir solution, containing 17.5% PEG3350 and 100 mM NaF. Crystals were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen utilizing mother liquor supplemented with 20% glycerol and data collection was



performed at 100 K, and processed with iMOSFLM (44, 45). The dataset of the His-RKIP<sup>Δ143-146</sup> variant was collected at beamline MX 14.1 (Bessy, Berlin).

The structure of the WT protein was solved by molecular replacement using the program Phaser (46) and the structure of rat RKIP as a search model (pdb entry 2IQY). WT RKIP was refined with REFMAC5 (47, 48) and adjusted with Coot (49) incorporating anisotropic B-factor refinement. The structure of the His-RKIP<sup>Δ143-146</sup> variant was solved by molecular replacement with MOLREP (50) using the WT protein as search model and was refined with REFMAC5 (47). Structures of RKIP (6ENS) and the Δ143-146 variant (6ENT) were deposited in the Protein Data Bank.

**Multi-angle light scattering (MALS).** Studies of the oligomeric state used MALS coupled with SEC and were conducted with a Wyatt DAWN Heleos II Static Light Scattering unit and a WTC-05S5 column (100 Å pore size, 100-100,000 MW range) at room temperature.

#### **Methods for the algorithms and analyses.**

##### Blast algorithm:

All multiple sequence alignments (MSA) are extracted from UniProt BLAST(51, 52):

<http://www.uniprot.org/blast/> with parameters as follows:

target DB | E-value | Matrix | Filtering | Gapped | TopHits

-----  
UniProtKB | 0.001 | BLOS-62 | Filter\_Low | Gap\_Yes | 1000\_Hits

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##### Select TopHits:

We extract top 500 sequences according to the ranking order of the Bit Scores (or, E-values). It should be noted that a high Bit Score or low E-value would indicate high sequence identity to the query sequence.

##### Multiple Sequence Alignment

We run Mafft (53) for these top 500 sequences to generate the final multiple sequence

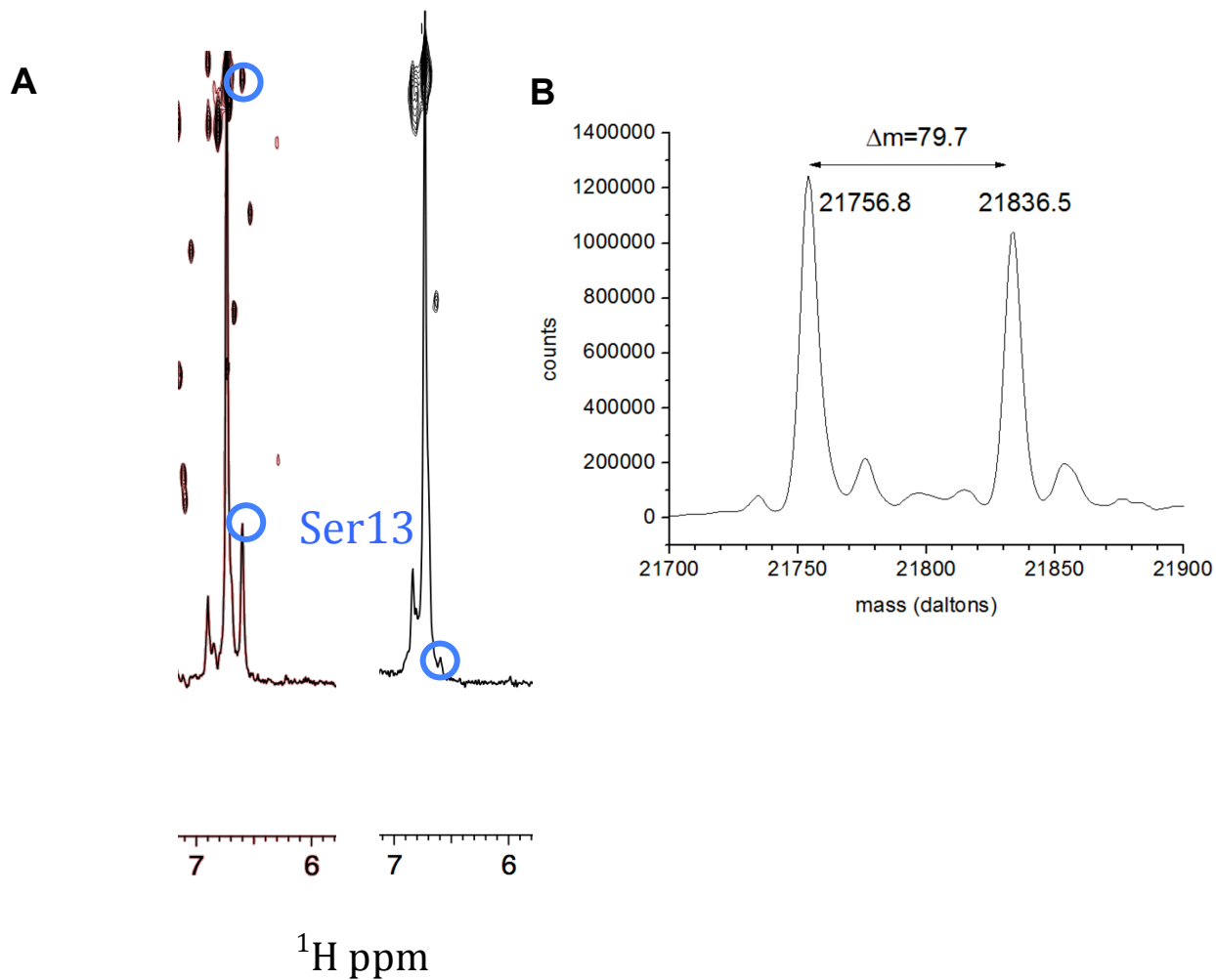
alignment (MSA).

<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/mafft/>

### **Statistics**

The errors listed for Supplementary Tables 2 and 3, and Figure 4A are the standard deviations calculated assuming a binomial distribution.

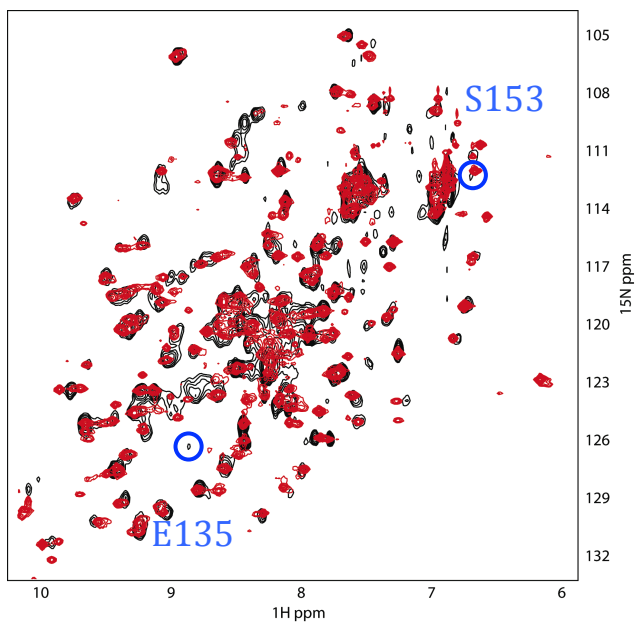
## Supplementary Figures S1-S5 and Tables S1-S7



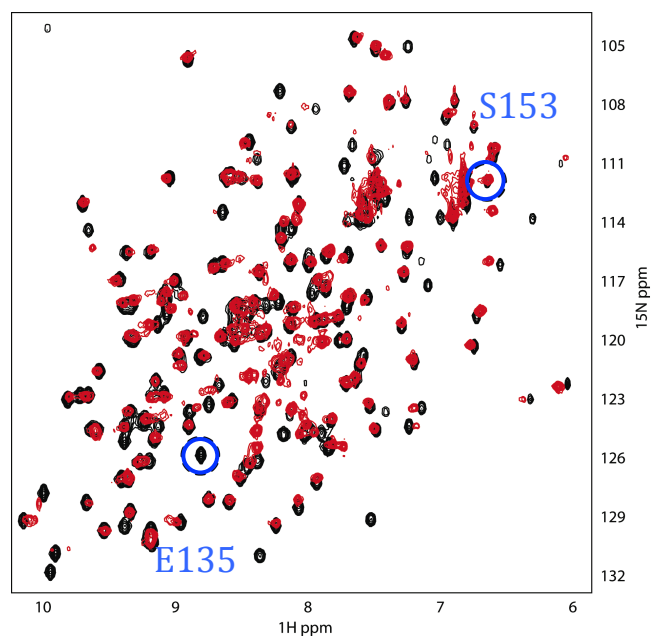
**Supplementary Figure S1. Phosphorylation of S153. (A)** Decrease in S153 NMR peak height due to phosphorylation (overlaid on the HSQC) **(B)** Mass spectrum of RKIP during phosphorylation process showing appropriate mass change (theoretical 80.0 daltons).



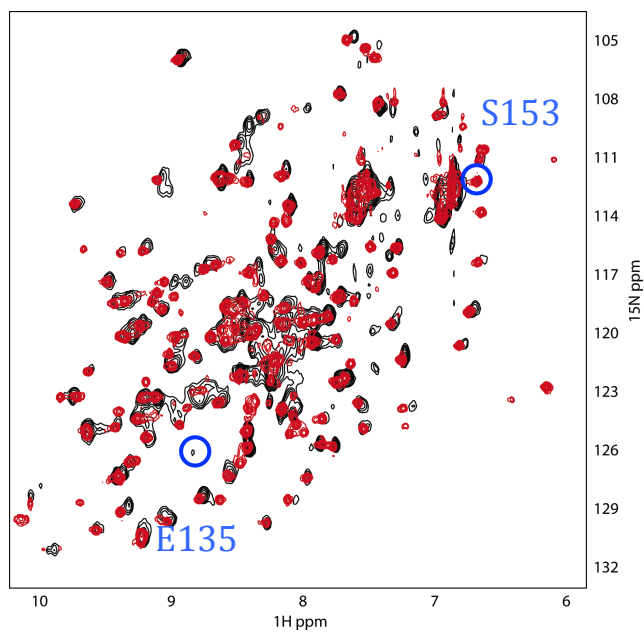
pS153,P74L versus K157E



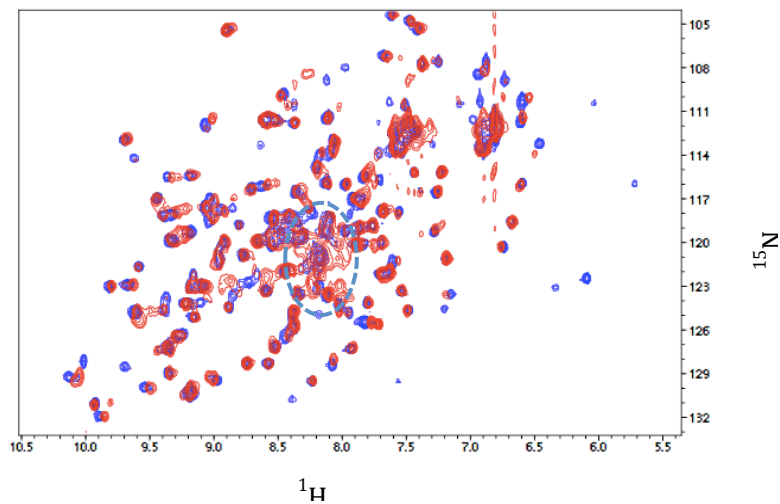
WT versus D134Y,E135Y



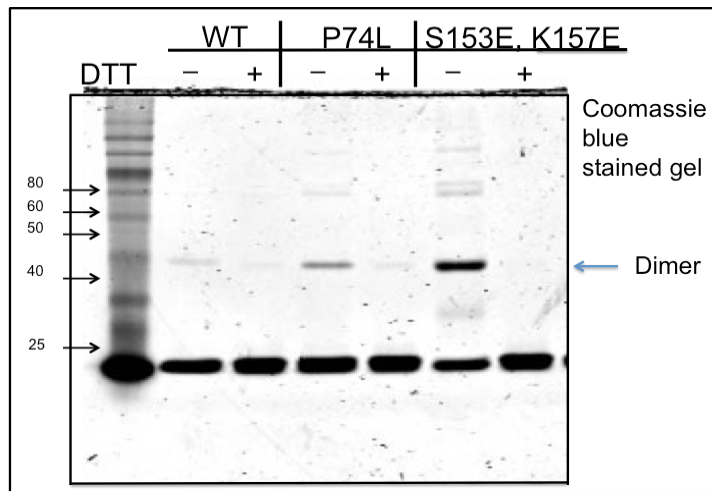
pS153,P74L versus D134Y,E157Y



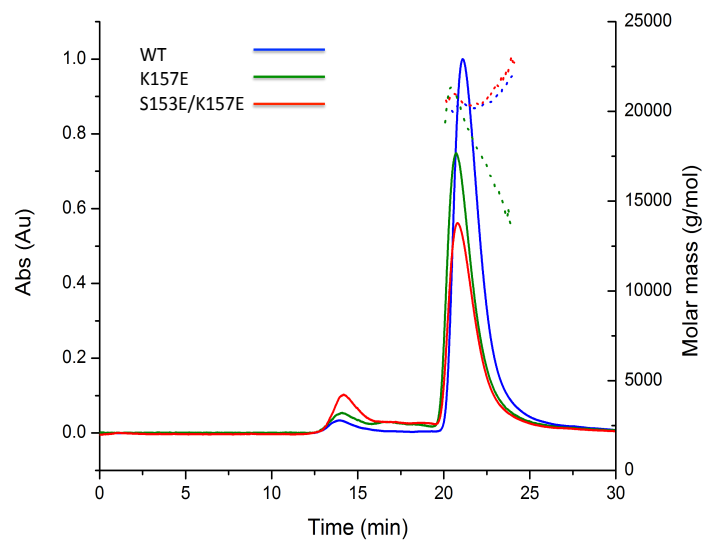
K157A versus K157E



**Supplementary Figure S2.** Comparison of  $^{15}\text{N}$ - $^1\text{H}$  HSQC spectra at 25°C. The random coil region is highlighted (blue dashed circle).



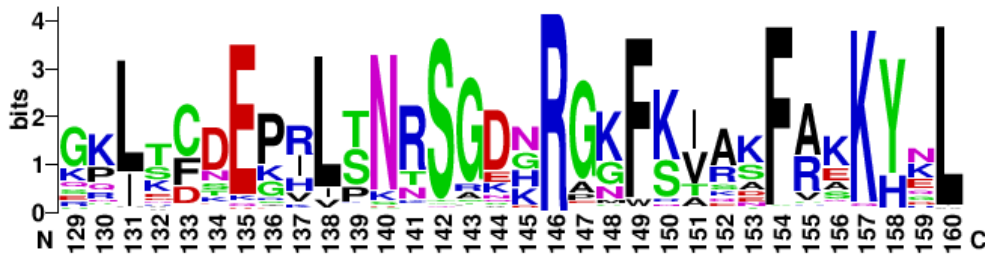
**Supplementary Figure S3. Formation of RKIP oligomers is sensitive to reducing agents.** Lysates from cells transfected with WT, P74L or S153E, K157E RKIP variants were boiled in the presence or absence of DTT. Samples were resolved by SDS PAGE and stained with Coomassie blue.



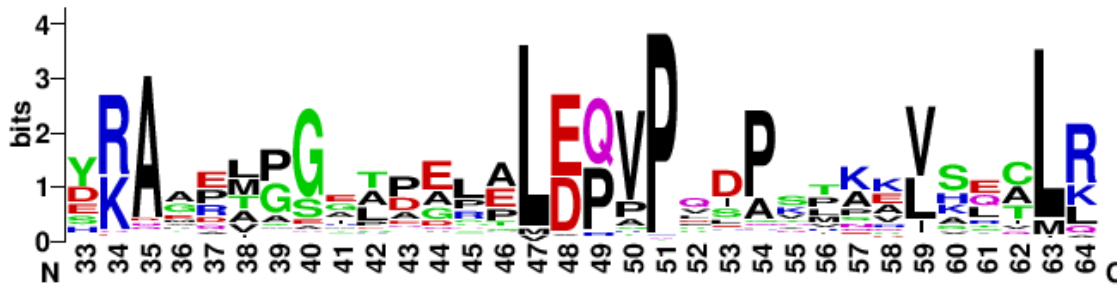
**Supplementary Figure S4. Multi-angle light scattering (MALS) data indicating that RKIP is monomeric under reducing conditions.** The small, high molecular weight peak observed by scattering did not exhibit UV absorbance (dotted line), suggesting that it is not proteinaceous.



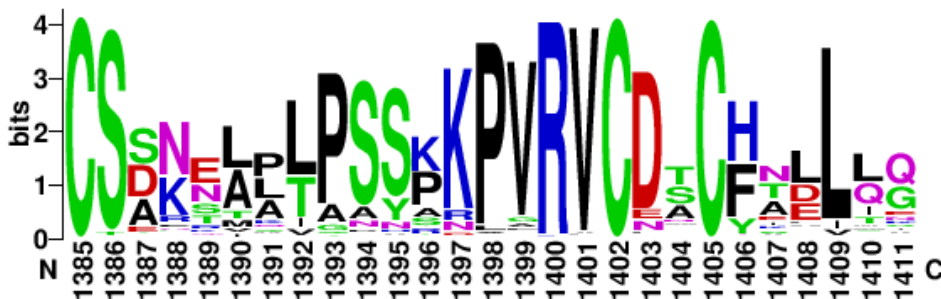
a) RKIP (S153 and K157)



b) Bax (S60 and K64)



c) EEA1 (T1392 and K1396)



d) Troponin I (S42 and K46)



**Supplementary Figure S5. Conserved Residues in Proteins with a Phosphotheft Motif.** (a) Conserved residues within the RKIP (PEBP) family. (b) Conserved residues within the Bax family. (c) Conserved residues within the EEA1 family. (d) Conserved residues within the Troponin I family.

**Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics for RKIP wt and the His-RKIP<sup>Δ143-6</sup> variant.**

<b>Data collection</b>	<b>Wild-type RKIP</b>	<b>RKIP<sup>Δ143-6</sup></b>
Wavelength	0.91841	0.91841
Space group	P2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub>	I23
Unit cell parameters		
a/b/c (Å)	32.58 / 54.09 / 97.95	111.25/ 111.25/ 111.25
Resolution (Å)	23.06 - 1.3	55.63 – 2.66
Total reflections	172197	81287
Unique reflections	42630 (6048)	6706 (965)
Completeness (%)	98.5 (97.3)	100 (100)
Redundancy	4.0 (4.0)	12.1 (11.5)
R <sub>merge</sub> (%)	8.2 (64.4)	10.6 (146.5)
R <sub>pim</sub> (%)	4.6 (36.6)	3.2 (45.0)
<I/σ(I)>	8.6 (2.0)	14.7 (1.8)
<b>Refinement</b>		
Total number of atoms	1717	1404
Protein	1451	1396
Water molecules	250	6
Glycerol	2	-
Acetate	1	-
Zn	-	1
Cl	-	1
R <sub>cryst</sub> (%) <sup>2</sup>	12.48	20.96
R <sub>free</sub> (%) <sup>2</sup>	16.81	25.04
r.m.s.d. from ideal values in		
Bond lengths (Å) <sup>2</sup>	0.011	0.009
Bond angles (°)	1.559	1.322
Planar groups (Å)	0.008	0.005
Chiral centers (Å <sup>3</sup> )	0.106	0.078
Coordinate error (Å)	0.035	0.293
Average B-values (Å <sup>2</sup> )		
Protein	15.60	87.14
Water	27.54	70.71
Glycerin	28.57	-
Acetate	16.42	-
Zn	-	59.82
Cl	-	68.24
Ramachandran plot (favored/allowed/disallowed)	98.55/0.72/0.72	96.34/2.44/1.22
PDB code	5M0F	5M0G

**Table S2.**  
**Analysis of Phosphotheft Motif Among Hetero-oligomers on a per complex basis<sup>1</sup>**

Parameter <sup>1</sup>	Invertebrates	Vertebrates	Human	All
S/T at interface (Complex)	1790/2344=76.4 ± 0.88	1779/2513=70.8 ± 0.91	1426/2025=70.4 ± 1.01	3569/4857=73.5 ± 0.63
	1068/1419=75.2 ± 1.14	1189/1633=72.8 ± 1.10	980/1376=71.2 ± 1.22	2257/3052=74.0 ± 0.79
Salt bridge at interface (Complex)	1869/2344=79.7 ± 0.83	1893/2513=75.3 ± 0.86	1561/2025=77.1 ± 0.93	3762/4857=77.5 ± 0.60
	1137/1419=80.1 ± 1.06	1277/1633=78.2 ± 1.02	1076/1376=78.2 ± 1.11	2414/3052=79.1 ± 0.74
Both S/T and Salt bridge at interface (Complex)	1026/2344=43.8 ± 1.02	762/2513=30.3 ± 0.92	606/2025=29.9 ± 1.02	1788/4857=36.8 ± 0.69
	637/1419=44.9 ± 1.32	533/1633=32.6 ± 1.16	423/1376=30.7 ± 1.24	1170/3052=38.3 ± 0.88
Phosphotheft Mechanism with one D/E (Complex)	882/2344=37.6 ± 1.00	720/2514=28.6 ± 0.90	553/2025=27.3 ± 0.99	1602/4857=32.9 ± 0.67
	533/1419=37.6 ± 1.28	490/1636=30.0 ± 1.13	389/1376=28.3 ± 1.21	1023/3052=33.5 ± 0.85
Phosphotheft Mechanism with two D/E's (Complex)	144/2344=6.1 ± 0.50	107/2513=4.3 ± 0.40	58/2025=2.9 ± 0.37	251/4857=5.2 ± 0.32
	95/1419=6.7 ± 0.66	80/1633=4.9 ± 0.53	44/1376=3.2 ± 0.47	175/3052=5.7 ± 0.42

<sup>1</sup> Each entry contains two results: the upper one is for all complex structures ± S,D. error, and the lower one is for all complex structures ± relative error that pass a 40% sequence identity cutoff to minimize redundancy within protein families. S.D. is calculated assuming a binomial distribution.



**Table S3.**  
**Analysis of Phosphotheft Motif Among Hetero-oligomers on a per residue basis<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Parameter<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Invertebrates</b>	<b>Vertebrates</b>	<b>Human</b>	<b>All</b>
<i>S/T anywhere but not at interface</i> <i>(normalized to total number of residues; not at interface in all complexes)</i>	2571447/ 21643739=11.9	1487175/ 10611252=14.0	998990/ 6811633=14.7	4058622/ 32254991=12.6
	1799382/ 14924935=12.1	1194373/ 8402776=14.2	843368/ 5648894=14.9	2993755/ 23327711=12.8
<i>S/T anywhere on surface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	121342/ 1043735=11.6	109288/ 764972=14.3	85265/ 587353=14.5	230630/ 1808707=12.8
	77031/ 667512=11.5	78634/ 551258=14.3	64087/ 435144=14.7	155665/ 1218770=12.8
<i>S/T anywhere on interface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	11276/ 90025=12.5	7149/ 49736=14.4	4783/ 35979=13.3	18425/ 139761=13.2
	6636/ 53131=12.5	5323/ 36736=14.5	3585/ 26699=13.4	11959/ 89867=13.3
<i>R/K anywhere but not at interface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	2249948/ 21643739=10.4	1086342/ 10611252=10.2	718216/ 6811633=10.5	3336290/ 32254991=10.3
	1550733/ 14924935=10.4	857682/ 8402776=10.2	593357/ 5648894=10.5	2408415/ 23327711=10.3
<i>R/K anywhere on surface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	194023/ 1043735=18.6	142649/ 764972=18.6	110973/ 587353=18.9	336672/ 1808707=18.6
	126232/ 667512=18.9	102391/ 551258=18.6	81832/ 435144=18.8	228623/ 1218770=18.8
<i>R/K anywhere on interface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	22285/ 90025=24.8	11298/ 49736=22.7	8037/ 35979=22.3	33583/ 139761=24.0
	13191/ 53131=24.8	8316/ 36736=22.6	6011/ 26699=22.5	21507/ 89867=23.9
<i>D/E anywhere but not at interface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	2589417/ 21643739=12.0	1169997/ 10611252=11.0	788140/ 6811633=11.6	3759414/ 32254991=11.7
	1799721/ 14924935=12.1	928233/ 8402776=11.0	649706/ 5648894=11.5	2727954/ 23327711=11.7
<i>D/E anywhere on surface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	204152/ 1043735=19.6	138772/ 764972=18.1	109378/ 587353=18.6	342924/ 1808707=19.0
	133400/ 667512=20.0	100335/ 551258=18.2	80594/ 435144=18.5	233735/ 1218770=19.2
<i>D/E anywhere on interface</i> <i>(Residue)</i>	27402/ 90025=30.4	14744/ 49736=29.6	10481/ 35979=29.1	42146/ 139761=30.2
	16379/ 53131=30.8	10761 36736=29.3	7639/ 26699=28.6	27140/ 89867=30.2

<sup>1</sup> Each entry contains two results: the upper one is for all individual residues within the complex, while the lower one is for all individual residues within the complex that pass a 40% sequence identity cutoff to minimize redundancy within protein families.

**Table S4. PEBP species exhibiting conservation of S153 *Homo sapiens***

*Pan troglodytes*  
*Gorilla gorilla*  
*Callithrix jacchus*  
*Pongo abelii*  
*Chlorocebus sabaeus*  
*Macaca mulatta*  
*Macaca fascicularis*  
*Papio anubis*  
*Tupaia chinensis*  
*Loxodonta africana*  
*Bos taurus*  
*Felis catus*  
*Ovis aries*  
*Mustela putorius furo*  
*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*  
*Sus scrofa*  
*Otolemur garnettii*  
*Equus caballus*  
*Cavia porcellus*  
*Desmodus rotundus*  
*Canis lupus familiaris*  
*Myotis lucifugus*  
*Neovison vison*  
*Camelus ferus*  
*Rattus norvegicus*  
*Nipponia nippon*  
*Chaetura pelagica*  
*Alligator mississippiensis*  
*Amazona aestiva*  
*Nomascus leucogenys*  
*Aptenodytes forsteri*  
*Picoides pubescens*  
*Oreochromis niloticus*  
*Gasterosteus aculeatus*  
*Larimichthys crocea*  
*Takifugu rubripes*  
*Myotis brandtii*  
*Xenopus laevis*

*Xenopus tropicalis*  
*Astyanax mexicanus*  
*Danio rerio*  
*Pygoscelis adeliae*  
*Pipa carvalhoi*  
*Pelecanus crispus*  
*Calypte anna*

**Table S5. Bax species exhibiting conservation of phosphotheft motif *Homo sapiens***

*Macaca fascicularis*

*Chlorocebus sabaeus*

*Macaca mulatta*

*Otolemur garnettii*

*Bos mutus*

*Mustela putorius furo*

*Capra hircus*

*Bos taurus*

*Canis lupus familiaris*

*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*

*Sus scrofa*

*Felis catus*

*Callithrix jacchus*

*Papio anubis*

*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*

*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*

*Heterocephalus glaber*

*Cavia porcellus*

*Pteropus alecto*

*Rattus norvegicus*

*Ovis aries*

*Mus musculus*

*Cricetulus griseus*

*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

*Tupaia chinensis*

*Camelus ferus*

*Monodelphis domestica*

*Fukomys damarensis*

*Pongo abelii*

*Myotis lucifugus*

*Pan troglodytes*

*Nomascus leucogenys*

*Loxodonta africana*

*Bubalus bubalis*

*Mesocricetus auratus*

*Equus caballus*

*Alligator mississippiensis*

*Anolis carolinensis*

*Xenopus tropicalis*

*Myotis davidii*

*Xenopus laevis*

*Taeniopygia guttata*

**Table S6. EEA1 species exhibiting conservation of phosphotheft motif *Homo sapiens***

*Sarcophilus harrisii*

*Equus caballus*

*Bos mutus*

*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*

*Mustela putorius furo*

*Papio anubis*

*Pongo abelii*

*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

*Neovison vison*

*Felis catus*

*Macaca fascicularis*

*Macaca mulatta*

*Nomascus leucogenys*

*Chlorocebus sabaeus*

*Pan troglodytes*

*Otolemur garnettii*

*Callithrix jacchus*

*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*

*Pteropus alecto*

*Sus scrofa*

*Loxodonta africana*

*Heterocephalus glaber*

*Cricetulus griseus*

*Tupaia chinensis*

*Myotis davidii*

*Fukomys damarensis*

*Desmodus rotundus*

*Canis lupus familiaris*

*Rattus norvegicus*

*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*

*Ovis aries*

*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

*Fulmarus glacialis*

*Myotis lucifugus*

*Myotis brandtii*

*Mus musculus*

*Monodelphis domestica*

*Cavia porcellus*



*Alligator mississippiensis*  
*Phaethon lepturus*  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*  
*Gallus gallus*  
*Meleagris gallopavo*  
*Eurypyga helias*  
*Pterocles gutturalis*  
*Pygoscelis adeliae*  
*Cathartes aura*  
*Mesitornis unicolor*  
*Tyto alba*  
*Calypte anna*  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Pelecanus crispus*  
*Nestor notabilis*  
*Ficedula albicollis*  
*Taeniopygia guttata*  
*Nipponia nippon*  
*Pelodiscus sinensis*  
*Amazona aestiva*  
*Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*  
*Manacus vitellinus*  
*Egretta garzetta*  
*Aptenodytes forsteri*  
*Chlamydotis macqueenii*  
*Cuculus canorus*  
*Tinamus guttatus*  
*Opisthocomus hoazin*  
*Struthio camelus australis*  
*Danio rerio*  
*Podiceps cristatus*  
*Acanthisitta chloris*  
*Charadrius vociferus*  
*Ophiophagus hannah*  
*Crotalus horridus*  
*Anolis carolinensis*  
*Lepisosteus oculatus*  
*Latimeria chalumnae*  
*Astyanax mexicanus*  
*Larimichthys crocea*

*Takifugu rubripes*  
*Oryzias latipes*  
*Gasterosteus aculeatus*  
*Tetraodon nigroviridis*  
*Poecilia formosa*  
*Xiphophorus maculatus*  
*Scleropages formosus*  
*Fundulus heteroclitus*  
*Ictalurus punctatus*  
*Oreochromis niloticus*  
*Oncorhynchus mykiss*  
*Xenopus tropicalis*  
*Callorhynchus milii*

**Table S7. Troponin I species exhibiting conservation of phosphothreonine motif *Homo sapiens***

*Nomascus leucogenys*

*Pongo abelii*

*Chlorocebus sabaeus*

*Pan troglodytes*

*Macaca fascicularis*

*Macaca mulatta*

*Callithrix jacchus*

*Canis lupus familiaris*

*Sus scrofa*

*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*

*Mustela putorius furo*

*Cavia porcellus*

*Felis catus*

*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*

*Mus musculus*

*Heterocephalus glaber*

*Rattus norvegicus*

*Otolemur garnettii*

*Oryctolagus cuniculus*

*Tupaia chinensis*

*Bos taurus*

*Bos mutus*

*Ovis aries*

*Equus caballus*

*Capra hircus*

*Papio anubis*

*Neovison vison*

*Monodelphis domestica*

*Anolis carolinensis*

*Rhinella marina*

*Xenopus laevis*

*Alligator mississippiensis*

*Xenopus tropicalis*

*Lithobates catesbeiana*

*Latimeria chalumnae*

*Meleagris gallopavo*

*Gallus gallus*  
*Coturnix coturnix japonica*  
*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*  
*Lepisosteus oculatus*  
*Ophiophagus hannah*  
*Danio rerio*  
*Callorhinchus milii*  
*Oncorhynchus mykiss*  
*Esox lucius*  
*Anas platyrhynchos*  
*Picoides pubescens*  
*Sarcophilus harrisii*  
*Salmo salar*  
*Ficedula albicollis*  
*Gasterosteus aculeatus*  
*Balearica regulorum gibbericeps*  
*Cathartes aura*  
*Egretta garzetta*  
*Haliaeetus albicilla*  
*Tinamus guttatus*  
*Cuculus canorus*  
*Loxodonta africana*  
*Coturnix coturnix*  
*Fukomys damarensis*  
*Tauraco erythrolophus*  
*Fulmarus glacialis*  
*Gavia stellata*  
*Manacus vitellinus*  
*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*  
*Nipponia nippon*  
*Charadrius vociferus*  
*Pygoscelis adeliae*  
*Tyto alba*  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos*  
*Pelecanus crispus*  
*Podiceps cristatus*  
*Taeniopygia guttata*  
*Pelodiscus sinensis*

*Buceros rhinoceros silvestris*  
*Struthio camelus australis*  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*  
*Astyanax mexicanus*  
*Oreochromis niloticus*  
*Opisthocomus hoazin*  
*Nestor notabilis*  
*Fundulus heteroclitus*  
*Scleropages formosus*  
*Dicentrarchus labrax*  
*Camelus ferus*  
*Poecilia formosa*  
*Xiphophorus maculatus*  
*Oryzias latipes*  
*Takifugu rubripes*  
*Tetraodon nigroviridis*  
*Poeciliopsis prolifica*  
*Ictalurus punctatus*  
*Larimichthys crocea*  
*Myotis davidii*  
*Amazona aestiva*  
*Anoplopoma fimbria*  
*Pelodytes ibericus*  
*Ictalurus furcatus*  
*Antrostomus carolinensis*  
*Halocynthia roretzi*  
*Ciona intestinalis*  
*Campylomormyrus compressirostris*  
*Ciona savignyi*  
*Polyandrocarpa misakiensis*  
*Chelyosoma siboja*  
*Phaethon lepturus*  
*Merops nubicus*  
*Pimephales promelas*  
*Clupea harengus*