PIONEERING TRANSFORMATIVE **PROTEIN DEGRADATION THERAPIES**





Targeting disease-causing proteins to deliver hope

Computational Methods for Degrader Ternary Complex Prediction using HDX Data

PSDI November 2020

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Introduction

Dissecting targeted protein degradation as a modality



Ternary Complexes

How does the field study and visualize this crucial intermediary step?



C4T's approach

Case study: using HDX-MS to interrogate degraderinduced ternary complexes





The Catalytic Cycle of a Degrader – Importance of the Ternary Complex



The Catalytic Cycle of a Degrader – Importance of the Ternary Complex



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The Catalytic Cycle of a Degrader – Importance of the Ternary Complex



Understanding ternary complexes is essential for optimization of degraders

Guides strategy

- Rational degrader design •
- Selectivity ٠
- Catalysis ٠
- Linkerology •

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The Ternary Complex Framework

Ternary complex formation is governed by the thermodynamic features of ligand binding



Measured and computed data can be used to guide degrader optimization

Fisher and Phillips, Curr Opin Chem Biol. 2018, 44: 47-55



Cooperativity & Protein Dimerization

Most proteins are not optimized to interact with each other. How does this influence dimerization?

POSTIVE COOPERATIVITY NEGATIVE COOPERATIVITY NON-COOPERATIVE (antagonistic) (neutral) (synergistic) c 0.4 α=5 α=0.15 **α=1** tio tio tio υ 0.3 ს 0 υ 0.3 . 3 fra æ ⊢ 0.2 ∞ **⊢**0.2 **⊢** 0 . 2 Φ D D .E 0.1 n m 0.1 0.1 0.0 0.0 0.0 10[°] 10° - 1 2 10⁻¹ 10 10 10 10 10 10¹ 10 10 1 0 10 10 10 10 10 10 [Degrader], n M [Degrader], n M [Degrader], n M Experimental $\alpha = K_{exp} / K_{pred}$ Predicted/computed

Positive cooperativity (α >1) enhances dimerization, negative cooperativity (α <1) decreases dimerization





Examples from the Literature: Structural Investigation of Ternary Complexes



Ternary Complex Crystals with VHL-PROTAC 6-Bcl-xL shows Conformational Collapse



Ternary Complex Crystals with VHL-PROTAC-SMARCA2 show Similar Geometry with two PROTACS <u>Linker</u> **PROTAC1** PROTAC2 \sim_{N} H_2N VHL HO ŇН Linker HO Green – SM2 + PROTAC1 (6hay) 0 ŃН Purple – SM2 + PROTAC2 (6hax) Ref: Farnaby et al., Nat Chem Bio. 2019, 15: 672-680 F--4 Therapeutics



SBDD Focused on the Linker helps Improve Degrader while maintaining ternary complex

VHL Demonstrates Versatility of Ligases to Form Noncognate Complexes





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Bcl-xL (6zhc) BRD4_BD2 (5t35) SMARCA2 (6hr2)

Ternary Complex Crystal Structures with CRBN-degrader-BRD4(BD1)



Ref: Nowak et al., Nat Chem Bio. 2018, 14:706-714



CRBN-degrader-BRD4(BD1) Crystals Maintain Ternary Complex Despite Changes to Degrader Chemistry



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How Does C4T Interrogate Degrader-induced Ternary Complexes?

In addition to crystallography...





Grant et al., *Biopolymers*. 2011, 95: 517-530 UniSR.it/en/news/2020/6 Narang, Lento, Wilson., *Biomedicines*. 2020, 8: 224-244

How Does C4T Interrogate Degrader-induced Ternary Complexes?

In addition to crystallography...



Protein-protein interfaces

Dimerization interfaces

Utilizing HDX-MS to Interrogate Degrader-induced Protein-protein Interfaces



HDX Provides an Enormous Amount of Information

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CFT1297 HDX Story – A Tale of Two (similar) Degraders







CFT1297 HDX Story – A Tale of Two (similar) Degraders









CFT1297 rivals other BRD4 degraders

- Potent BRD4 degrader
- Exhibits positive cooperativity

Binary

Observed Shielding Effect in the Presence of Degrader CFT1297 (binary)



CFT1297 HDX Ternary Complex Reveals Shielding on BRD4 (BD1) BRD4 (BD1) BRD4 (BD1) Peptides 63 67 BC 67 71 70 88 138-145 70 89 loop Binary Uptake (Da) 72 88 **IYNKPGDD** 72 89 Ternary -74 88 ₃-BC loop 74 89 79 88 79 89 83 89 89 107

δ 30

Labeling

Time (min)

No HDX

data







10

Relative

0-

0

Difference in

fractional uptake (%)

CFT1297 HDX Ternary Complex Reveals Protein-protein Interface on CRBN



Ternary

dBET6 Shows no Additional Shielding due to the Ternary Complex



Binary



63 67

67 71

70 88

70 89

72 88

74 88

74 89

79 88

79 89

89 98

90 97

90 98

90 106

90 107

91 97

92 97

95 107

98 106 98 107

98 109

107 117

107 118

107 119

108 117

108 118

108 119

108 124

108 125

110 118

118 122

118 124

118 125

119 124

119 125

124 128

124 129

125 131

126 132

129 133

133 137

137 145

138 145

139 145

146 151

152 156

153 158

154 158

155 168

159 168

164 168

пп 9₅ 5 30

Labeling

Time (min)



No additional shielding observed due to dBET6 degrader-induced ternary complex No changes to BD1 or CRBN peptides

Ternary Complex Modeling for CFT1297 – Funnel to Triage Results

- (1) Conformational search of target degrader
 - Target ligand binding mode constrained
 - 10,000 conformations
- (2) Steric clash check of each conformation against target protein
 - 3,249 conformations
- (3) Superimpose CRBN onto glutarimide moiety
 - Remove molecules with predefined clash count
 - 439 conformations





CFT1297

439 models

Ternary Complex Modeling – Degrader Docking & Scoring

- For each passing ternary complex score interface using P-P docking scoring functions pre / post refinement
 - Rdocker / Zdocker / Piper







Computational Modeling & HDX Profiles Explain Selectivity



Summary

- Degradation is a powerful strategy exhibiting numerous favorable characteristics as a therapeutic modality
- Ternary complex formation is a crucial step during targeted protein degradation
- Understanding ternary complexes is essential for optimization of degraders and critical for guiding future designs
- Can visualize ternary complexes through various techniques
 - Crystallography, HDX-MS, CryoEM, & SAXS

Therapeutics

- C4T has successfully used HDX-MS to identify degrader-induced protein-protein interfaces
- Computational modeling plus HDX-MS has powerful synergy
- Applied HDX-MS approach to identify selective vs unselective degraders



The C4 Therapeutics Team



