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Conformational rigidity and protein dynamics at distinct timescales regulate PTP1B activity and allostery

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Summary

Protein function originates from a cooperation of structural rigidity, dynamics at different timescales and allostery. However, how these three pillars of protein function are integrated is still only poorly understood. Here we show how these pillars are connected in Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase 1B (PTP1B), a drug target for diabetes and cancer that catalyzes the dephosphorylation of numerous substrates in essential signaling pathways. By combining new experimental and computational data on wt-PTP1B and 10 PTP1B variants in multiple states, we discovered a fundamental and evolutionarily conserved CH/ π switch that is critical for positioning the catalytically important WPD loop. Furthermore, our data show that PTP1B uses conformational and dynamic allostery to regulate its activity. This shows that both conformational rigidity and dynamics are essential for controlling protein activity. This connection between rigidity and dynamics at different timescales is likely a hallmark of all enzyme function.

Graphical abstract

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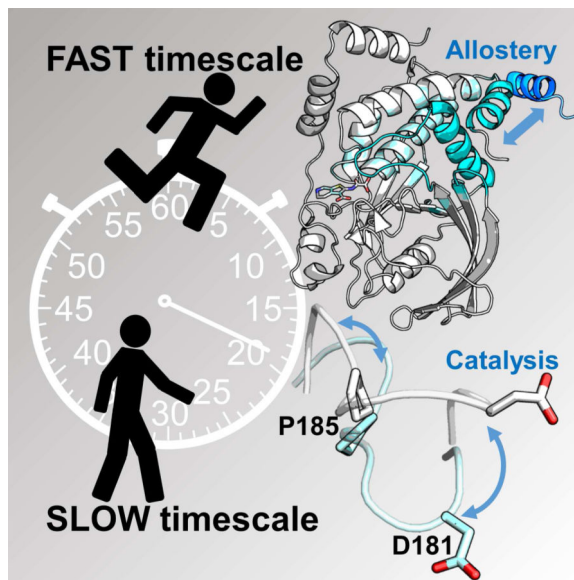
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Supplemental Information

Supplemental information includes 5 figures and 5 tables.

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Keywords

protein tyrosine phosphatase; PTP1B; enzyme; NMR spectroscopy; X-ray crystallography; allostery

Introduction

Enzymes require conformational and dynamic events to perform chemistry. Some of these events are required for catalysis and some, for a subset of enzymes, are required for the allosteric control of the catalytic cycle. Investigations on the nature of the conformations, including balance between rigidity and flexibility, and the type of motions that control enzymes have only recently been initiated (Butterwick et al., 2004; Mandel et al., 1996). Protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B (PTP1B, PTPN1), the first non-receptor bound protein tyrosine phosphatase (PTP) isolated, is the best studied member of the human PTP family (Alonso et al., 2004). Since its discovery more than 25 years ago (Tonks et al., 1988), PTP1B has been shown to play a central role in multiple cellular processes, especially glucose uptake, body mass regulation, motility and proliferation. It does so by dephosphorylating multiple substrates including scaffolding proteins and receptor tyrosine kinases. Consequently, PTP1B is a validated target for multiple diseases, especially diabetes and cancer (Feldhammer et al., 2013).

Like all members of this family, PTP1B catalyzes the hydrolysis of phosphorylated tyrosine residues using a phosphocysteine intermediate (Pannifer et al., 1998). The catalytic site is defined by: (1) the PTP loop ([I/V]HCxxGxxR[S/T]G), which includes the catalytic cysteine, C215; (2) the WPD loop, ¹⁷⁹WPD¹⁸¹, which contains the D181 that functions as the proton donor and acceptor during phosphoryl transfer; and (3) the substrate binding loop (SBL), which restricts dephosphorylation to tyrosine residues (Figures 1A and S1A) (Andersen et al., 2001). Substrate binding is accompanied by a rotation of the WPD loop from an open (hydrolysis incompetent) to a closed (hydrolysis competent) position (Figure

1B). Most human PTPs, including PTP1B, have catalytic hydrolysis rates (k_{cat}) of ~15-60 s^{-1} and it was shown that in PTP1B the motion of the WPD-loop is the rate limiting step for hydrolysis (Whittier et al., 2013).

Substrate binding initiates WPD loop closure. The PTP loop residue R221 then rotates about its γ -carbon to form a salt bridge with the bound phosphate (Pannifer et al., 1998) (Figures 1C and 1D). This rotation allows the WPD loop to close about the active site and positions D181 for hydrolysis. Although the structural changes that occur upon loop closure have been well characterized (Jia et al., 1995), a comprehensive understanding of the residues that are essential for WPD loop closure and, in turn PTP1B activity, is still missing.

Nearly a decade ago, PTP1B was discovered to have an allosteric binding pocket ~20 Å away from the catalytic site, at the intersection of helices α 3- α 6- α 7 (Figure 1A) (Wiesmann et al., 2004). When benzofuran compounds bind this pocket, the activity of PTP1B is potently inhibited. Although initial molecular dynamics (MD) studies suggested that truncating and/or mutating helix α 7 affects WPD loop closure (Li et al., 2014; Olmez and Alakent, 2011; Shinde and Sobhia, 2013), there is still no molecular model that explains how perturbations from the allosteric site are propagated to the active site. Furthermore, the role of dynamics and/or conformational changes in this process remain essential, open questions. To address these gaps, we employed a comprehensive experimental approach integrating NMR spectroscopy, X-ray crystallography, molecular dynamics (MD) simulations and biochemistry. Our data enabled us to define the complete regulatory network of PTP1B, which shows that PTP1B uses both conformational and dynamic allostery to communicate between its allosteric and active sites. We also discovered that WPD loop rigidity is essential for PTP1B function. Finally, we identified a chemically inert, distal residue (>15 Å from the catalytic center) that, when mutated, results in a folded but, remarkably, catalytically dead enzyme. Together, this work lays the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of conformation and dynamics in the entire PTP family specifically, and enzyme function and protein allostery generally.

Results

PTP1B helices α 3 and α 7, but not the WPD loop, exhibit fast timescale dynamics

We previously reported the sequence-specific backbone assignment of PTP1B (~35 kDa; residues 1-301; hereafter referred to as PTP1B) (Krishnan et al., 2014). While the sequence-specific backbone assignment is ~45% complete in helix α 3 and ~50% complete in the E-loop (which contains the 100% conserved glutamic acid residue that coordinates the PTP loop and R221), the assignments for all other biologically important regions of PTP1B (PTP, WPD, Q, SBL, helices α 6 and α 7; Figures 1A and S1A) are highly complete. Missing NMR assignments in large proteins such as PTP1B are either due to slow H/D back exchange after protein expression in D₂O-based medium or intermediate conformational exchange, which broadens peaks beyond detection (Peti and Page, 2016). As loops and helices often have fast H/D back exchange, it is most likely that residues in helix α 3 and the E-loop are missing because of intermediate conformational exchange.

The chemical shift index (CSI; $^{13}\text{C}_\alpha$ and $^{13}\text{C}_\beta$ chemical shifts), which reports on protein secondary structural elements, correlates well with our PTP1B crystal structures (PTP1B; residues 1-301) for helices α 1- α 6. However, the lower than average CSI values for helix α 7 show that this helix is not fully populated in solution (Figure S1B), an observation that correlates with a lack of density for helix α 7 in multiple PTP1B crystal structures (Barford et al., 1994). Helix α 7 is also not fully populated in longer PTP1B constructs (Krishnan et al., 2014), showing that this is not an artifact from working with only the PTP1B catalytic domain.

To detect PTP1B motions, we measured ^{15}N NMR relaxation data (R_1 , R_2) that probe fast timescale backbone dynamics. The data show that PTP1B largely exhibits uniform dynamics throughout its backbone with the expected increases in loop regions. However, three regions exhibited unexpected behavior: (1) the WPD loop, (2) helix α 3 and (3) helix α 7. First, in spite of the fact that the WPD loop oscillates between an open and closed conformation at an intermediate timescale (μs ; Figures 1B-1F), its fast timescale dynamics mirrored the minimal overall dynamics of the PTP1B backbone (also clearly demonstrated by the relaxation data of PTP1B variants; see below). Second, and different from the WPD loop, the residues in helix α 3, which are distal from the catalytic site and C-terminal to the WPD loop, were either broadened beyond detectability or had increased fast timescale dynamics. Third, residues in helix α 7 exhibited much higher dynamics than the rest of PTP1B. A Bracken plot ($R_1^*R_2$ vs R_2/R_1), which indirectly reports conformational exchange, showed that ~25 residues have significant chemical exchange or motional anisotropy, many of which belong to residues in helices α 3 and α 7 (Figure S1C) (Kneller et al., 2002). Over the past decades it has become clear that motions in enzymes are often coordinated with function (Boehr et al., 2006; Henzler-Wildman and Kern, 2007; Lisi and Loria, 2016; Mittermaier and Kay, 2009). Thus, these data suggest that helices α 3 and α 7 play key roles in PTP1B activity.

Active site inhibitor binding perturbs the allosteric pocket

We then investigated the consequences of active site inhibitor binding, which results in a closed conformation of the WPD loop, on PTP1B chemical shifts and dynamics. TCS401 is a small (306 Da) active site inhibitor that binds PTP1B with a K_D of $\sim 26 \pm 2 \mu\text{M}$ (Table S1) (Iversen et al., 2000). As expected, chemical shift perturbations (CSPs, reflecting local and global changes in PTP1B structure) and the broadening of peak line widths beyond detectability were observed for residues at the TCS401 binding site, including the PTP-, WPD-loops and helix α 4 (Figures 1G and S2A). However, CSPs were also detected in distal residues, including residues from loop L11 (150-153) and at the allosteric site (helices α 3, α 6 and α 7), both ~ 20 - 25 \AA away from catalytic cysteine, C215 (Figure 1A and 1B). These data show that active site inhibitor binding and WPD loop closure alter the chemical environment of allosteric site residues and also suggest that these changes are mediated by an allosteric path that includes residues from L11.

Inhibitor binding quenches the dynamics of helix α 7

To see if altered dynamics accompanies active site inhibitor binding, we repeated the NMR dynamics measurements with TCS401-saturated PTP1B. The most significant changes were

observed in helix $\alpha 7$, where the dynamics detected in the TCS401-free state were quenched in the TCS401-saturated state (Figures 1E and 1F). Additionally, residues in the WPD loop, the PTP loop and helix $\alpha 4$ broadened beyond detectability, likely due to intermediate exchange. The Bracken plot for TCS401-saturated PTP1B shows nearly no difference to that obtained for TCS401-free PTP1B (Figure S1D). Thus, for those residues that are accessible using NMR measurements, i.e. not broadened beyond detection, the data show that the change in dynamics in helix $\alpha 7$ relies primarily on fast timescale dynamics.

We also determined the crystal structures of PTP1B (residues 1-301) in both the free and TCS401-bound states. Free PTP1B lacks electron density for helix $\alpha 7$ (Barford et al., 1994), suggesting that this helix is flexible and/or adopts multiple states in the crystal, consistent with the intermediate CSI values obtained by NMR for this region. In contrast, in the PTP1B:TCS401 complex, the electron density for helix $\alpha 7$ is present, allowing helix $\alpha 7$ to be readily modeled (Figure S2B and S2C). This shows that helix $\alpha 7$ transitions from a flexible to an ordered conformation between the free and inhibitor bound complexes, correlating perfectly with the observed quenched dynamics for this helix upon TCS401 binding. Together, these results show that both altered dynamics and CSP detected conformational changes contribute to PTP1B allostery. The results also suggest that helix $\alpha 7$ and its intrinsic dynamics are central elements of the allosteric network of PTP1B.

Helix $\alpha 7$ is the hub of the PTP1B allosteric network

To define the role of helix $\alpha 7$ in PTP1B activity and allostery, we studied a variant of PTP1B in which helix $\alpha 7$ is deleted, PTP1B $\Delta 7$ (residues 1-284). As previously observed (Wiesmann et al., 2004), helix $\alpha 7$ is important for PTP1B function as the catalytic activity of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ is ~40% lower than that of PTP1B (Figures 2A; Table S1). However, this is not due to a change in structure, as the structures of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ and PTP1B are identical (RMSD = 0.19 Å; RMSDs are for residues 1-280; Figure 2B; Table S2). To determine if the deletion of helix $\alpha 7$ alters PTP1B conformation and dynamics in solution, we used NMR spectroscopy. The quality of the 2D [^1H , ^{15}N] TROSY spectrum of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ is excellent, with peak intensities that are more uniform than those observed for PTP1B, allowing for the sequence-specific backbone assignment to be readily completed. The residues affected by the absence of helix $\alpha 7$ were then determined using CSP mapping. As expected, CSPs were observed for residues abutting helix $\alpha 7$ (helices $\alpha 1'$, $\alpha 2'$ and $\alpha 6$). However, CSPs were also observed for A189 and S190 in helix $\alpha 3$ (Figure 2C). Furthermore, ^{15}N backbone dynamics showed that PTP1B $\Delta 7$ exhibits remarkably uniform dynamics throughout its backbone (Figures S3A and S3B). Consistent with this, the Bracken plot showed only ~10 residues, about 15 fewer than in PTP1B, with chemical exchange or motional anisotropy (Figure S3C). Together, these data show that helix $\alpha 7$ influences helices $\alpha 3$ and $\alpha 6$ and that this interaction is strictly required for the majority of the intermediate timescale dynamics observed in PTP1B, explaining the reduction of activity in PTP1B $\Delta 7$.

We then examined the closed state of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ by studying TCS401-saturated PTP1B $\Delta 7$. PTP1B $\Delta 7$ binds TCS401 with the same binding affinity ($K_D = 33 \pm 6 \mu\text{M}$) and in the same conformation as PTP1B (Table S1). Likewise, the CSP analysis between the free and TCS401-saturated PTP1B $\Delta 7$ was highly similar to that observed for free and TCS401-

saturated PTP1B (Figure 2D); namely, CSPs were largely confined to active site residues, including a complete loss of WPD-loop resonances due to line broadening. However, there were unexpected differences. Unlike TCS401-saturated PTP1B, TCS401-saturated PTP1B Δ 7 lacked CSPs in loop L11 and in helices α 3 and α 6 (L267 broadens beyond detectability, G277 has a small CSP). The lack of these CSPs show that TCS401 binding does not directly perturb the chemical shifts of residues in helices α 3 and α 6, but instead results from a shifted conformational ensemble that requires helix α 7 to communicate between the PTP1B active and allosteric sites. As expected, fast timescale ^{15}N backbone dynamics of TCS401-saturated PTP1B Δ 7 showed no differences when compared to unbound PTP1B Δ 7, supporting the CSP results (Figures S3A, S3B and S3D). Together, these data provide additional evidence that the protein dynamics of helix α 7 constitute a critical and necessary component of the communication pathway between the PTP1B active and allosteric sites.

The PTP1B allosteric pathway includes L11

TCS401 binding to PTP1B resulted in CSPs in L11, a loop distal from the active site (Figure 1G). To determine the role of L11 in the PTP1B allosteric pathway, we generated different L11 variants and tested their activities (Table S1). While the activities of all variants were reduced, the variant with the lowest activity was Y152AY153A (PTP1B_{YAYAY}) (Figures 2A; Table S1). The structure of PTP1B_{YAYAY} is identical to PTP1B (RMSD = 0.37 Å) and its 2D [^1H , ^{15}N] TROSY spectrum is of excellent quality. A CSP analysis of PTP1B_{YAYAY} with PTP1B showed that most CSPs are local to the L11 mutations (residues 147-155). However, we also identified CSPs for WPD loop residues (Y176, T177, T178 and W179; Figure 3A) and throughout helix α 7. ^{15}N backbone dynamics of PTP1B_{YAYAY} mirrored that of PTP1B (Figure 3A) as did the Bracken plot (Figure S4A and S4B). Thus, the CSPs revealed the presence of a communication network between the WPD loop and helix α 7 that is mediated by residues in L11; i.e., L11 constitutes a key component of the allosteric pathway.

To probe the closed state, we studied TCS401-saturated PTP1B_{YAYAY}. PTP1B_{YAYAY} binds TCS401 with an identical affinity and conformation as PTP1B ($K_D = 26 \pm 3 \mu\text{M}$; RMSD = 0.18 Å). The CSPs were largely unchanged from those observed for PTP1B. Namely, TCS401 binding resulted in CSPs around the active site and a complete loss of WPD-loop resonances due to line broadening. However, and very different from PTP1B, no CSPs were detected in helices α 3 or α 7 (CSPs were observed for helix α 6 residue L267; Figure 3A); i.e., PTP1B_{YAYAY} is more similar to PTP1B Δ 7 than PTP1B. The ^{15}N backbone dynamics of TCS401-saturated PTP1B_{YAYAY} mirrored those of TCS401-saturated PTP1B, with the notable exception that helix α 7 remained flexible in the inhibitor-bound state (Figure 3A). Thus, these data show that the altered dynamics accompanying allosteric signaling is communicated by L11 residues Y152 and Y153. Interestingly, these residues were previously reported to be phosphorylated by the insulin receptor tyrosine kinase (Bandyopadhyay et al., 1997; Dadke et al., 2000; Li et al., 2005), suggesting they might form a feedback signaling module within the insulin pathway via this allosteric network.

To confirm that these residues are critical for allostery, we measured CSPs of different PTP1B variants (PTP1B, PTP1B Δ 7, PTP1B_{YAYAY}) in the presence and absence of an

allosteric inhibitor, 3-(3,5-Dibromo-4-hydroxy-benzoyl)-2-ethyl-benzofuran-6-sulfonicacid-(4-(thiazol-2-ylsulfamyl)-phenyl)-amide, hereafter referred to as the allosteric inhibitor (Wiesmann et al., 2004). This inhibitor binds PTP1B with a K_D of $7.8 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{M}$, while it binds PTP1B variants with 2- to 4-fold lower affinities (Table S1). As expected, a CSP analysis of allosteric inhibitor saturated PTP1B showed CSPs and peak broadening beyond detectability for all peaks in the allosteric inhibitor binding pocket. However, CSPs and peak broadening were also detected for residues outside this site, including L11 residues Y152, Y153, residues in the WPD loop, residues in helices $\alpha 4$ and $\alpha 6$ as well as A189, S190 and V198 (helix $\alpha 3$). In contrast, these same CSP measurements with PTP1B⁷ and PTP1B_{YAYA} showed far fewer (or nearly no) CSPs, other than in the allosteric inhibitor binding pocket, as well as far fewer peaks that broadened beyond detectability (Figure 3B). This confirms that helix $\alpha 7$ and L11 residues Y152 and Y153 define the key elements of the allosteric pathway in PTP1B.

L11 connects the allosteric binding pocket to the WPD loop via N193 and T178

Our crystals structures show that a hydrogen bond network is formed between Y152 (L11), S295 ($\alpha 7$) and N193 ($\alpha 3$) when PTP1B binds TCS401. This suggests that N193 is also part of the allosteric network. Like PTP1B_{YAYA}, PTP1B_{N193A} has reduced activity (Figures 2A; Table S1). This was not due to a change in conformation, as the CSI (data not shown) and stability analysis of PTP1B_{N193A} (Tables S2 and S3) showed that the mutation did not change the overall fold. A CSP analysis with PTP1B revealed CSPs throughout helix $\alpha 7$ and in the WPD loop (Figure 3C), confirming that helix $\alpha 3$, along with L11, the WPD loop and helix $\alpha 7$, defines the allosteric pathway between the active and allosteric binding sites. ¹⁵N backbone dynamics of PTP1B_{N193A} mirrors the dynamics of PTP1B (Figure 3C), as does the Bracken plot (Figure S4C and S4D).

PTP1B_{N193A} binds TCS401 with an affinity and conformation similar to that observed for PTP1B ($K_D = 37 \pm 4 \mu\text{M}$, Table S1; the increased RMSD, 0.88 Å, is due to changes in loops away from the active site as, in this variant, helix $\alpha 7$ is not ordered in the closed state). The CSPs observed between free and TCS401-saturated PTP1B_{N193A} mirrored the PTP1B results. Namely, CSPs were localized to the active site, including the hallmark loss of peak intensities corresponding to WPD-loop residues. Similarly, L11 residues also showed CSPs, with Y152 showing a larger CSP in PTP1B_{N193A} than PTP1B, possibly due to its inability to form a hydrogen bond with N193. In contrast, PTP1B_{N193A} helices $\alpha 3$ and $\alpha 7$ were much less affected by TCS401 binding than they were in PTP1B. Rather, the CSP pattern was similar to that observed for PTP1B_{YAYA} (Figure 3C). The ¹⁵N backbone dynamics of TCS401-saturated PTP1B_{N193A} were also similar to PTP1B_{YAYA}. Namely, helix $\alpha 7$ stayed fully flexible in the TCS401-bound state (Figure 3C). Together, the data demonstrate that N193 ($\alpha 3$), via Y152 (L11) and helix $\alpha 7$, is an essential component of the communication pathway between the active and allosteric sites.

We then set out to identify the residues from the WPD loop that participate in this pathway. We generated multiple WPD variants and tested their effect on PTP1B activity. PTP1B_{T178A} exhibited significantly reduced activity (Figure 2A; Table S1). The PTP1B_{T178A} crystal structure was identical to PTP1B (RMSD = 0.46 Å), with the exception of an unusually long

distance between the side chains of N193 and Y152 (7.9 Å compared to 4.0 Å in PTP1B). Furthermore, the 2D [¹H, ¹⁵N] TROSY spectrum of PTP1B_{T178A} allowed for NMR analysis. An overlay of the PTP1B_{T178A} and PTP1B spectra showed only minor changes in chemical shifts, with the exception of the expected CSPs localized about T178 in the WPD loop. Additional CSPs were identified for Y152 and Y153, demonstrating that the mutation of T178 to an alanine alters the chemical environment of L11 residues (Figure 3D). ¹⁵N backbone dynamics of PTP1B_{T178A} mirrors the dynamics of PTP1B (Figure 3D), as does the Bracken plot (Figure S4E and S4F).

PTP1B_{T178A} binds TCS401 with a slightly lower affinity, but with a conformation identical to that observed for PTP1B ($K_D = 45 \pm 3.5 \mu\text{M}$, Table S1; RMSD = 0.12 Å). A CSP analysis between free and TCS401-saturated PTP1B_{T178A} shows CSPs in the active site and a loss of peaks of WPD loop residues due to line broadening. CSPs were also observed in peaks corresponding to E loop residues, demonstrating that changes in the WPD loop directly affect the E loop environment. Furthermore, CSPs were observed in peaks corresponding to L11 residues Y152 and Y153. Correlating well with the results of other PTP1B variants, fewer residues in helices $\alpha 3$ (only F196, V198), $\alpha 6$ (L267, S270, G277) and $\alpha 7$ (Q290, W291) showed CSPs or line broadening (Figure 3D). We also performed ¹⁵N backbone dynamics of TCS401-saturated PTP1B_{T178A}; helix $\alpha 7$ stayed flexible in the inhibitor-bound state. This confirms a role for residue T178 in the altered dynamics that supplements the allosteric signaling in PTP1B (Figure 3D).

Finally, while PTP1B_{N193A}, PTP1B_{YAYAY} and PTP1B $\gamma 7$ have catalytic activities that are lower than PTP1B, their affinities for the active site inhibitor TCS401 are essentially identical. This suggests that while phosphate binding is comparable, the phosphate release step is slower in these variants, as confirmed by the higher K_i values (competition between substrate and TCS401) measured for PTP1B_{N193A}, PTP1B_{YAYAY} and PTP1B $\gamma 7$ (Figure S4G, Table S3). Thus, these data show that the allosteric network likely enhances the phosphate release step in the PTP1B catalytic cycle.

PTP1B activity requires intermediate timescale dynamics and rigidity in the WPD loop

Our unexpected discovery that the WPD loop is rigid on the ps-ns timescale led us to test the role of WPD loop residues that border the ¹⁷⁹WPD¹⁸¹ sequence on PTP1B function. Previous studies showed that intermediate timescale WPD loop dynamics play an important role in PTP1B activity (Brandao et al., 2012; Whittier et al., 2013). We tested this by studying variants designed to increase loop dynamics; namely by inserting flexible glycine residues adjacent to the WPD sequence. Surprisingly, only a single variant, T177G, increased the activity of PTP1B (~5 fold; Figure 4A; Table S1); all others either reduced (Y176G, V184G) or abolished (P185G; catalytically dead) catalysis. The activities of the variants (T177G, V184G and P185G) in allosterically dead PTP1B $\gamma 7$ were identical to the PTP1B variants, confirming that these changes in activity were due solely to changes in WPD loop conformation and dynamics.

To evaluate the closed state of these mutants, we tested their ability to bind to TCS401. All variants bound TCS401 with affinities identical to PTP1B; the only exception was PTP1B_{P185G}, the catalytically dead variant. To understand how this variant binds TCS401

more tightly ($K_D = 20 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{M}$; Table S1) yet is still catalytically dead, we determined its structure. Unlike PTP1B, the WPD loop in PTP1B Δ_{P185G} :TCS401 is not closed, but instead adopts an open conformation (Figures 4B and 4C). The first step of WPD loop closure is the rotation of the PTP loop R221 sidechain, which creates the space needed for the WPD loop to close about the active site. Although this rotation of R221 is observed in PTP1B Δ_{P185G} :TCS401, the WPD loop fails to close. Our PTP1B structures reveal why this is the case. In the open state, P185 forms a CH/ π interaction with F269 from helix α_6 and a hydrophobic interaction with P180 from the WPD loop (Figure S4H). In contrast, in the closed state, P180 rotates downwards towards the R221 sidechain, breaking its hydrophobic interaction with P185. This allows P185 to rotate by $\sim 50^\circ$ and form a second CH/ π interaction with W179 (Figures 4D and 4E). A movement of both P185 and W179 deeper into the central hydrophobic pocket of PTP1B accompanies this interaction. This causes both F269 and especially F191 to rotate out of the pocket away from the catalytic site and, in the case of F191, towards helix α_6 (Figure 4F). The P185 rotation and the movement of F191 allows the C-terminal portion of the WPD loop to collapse towards helix α_3 . This results in the formation of one additional helical turn accompanied by a rotation of the helix itself, both of which allow the sidechain of S187 to bind and cap the H^N backbone of S190.

In the absence of P185, however, none of these changes occur (Figures 4B-4F). This suggests that the CH/ π switch is indispensable for WPD loop function, as, in its absence, PTP1B Δ_{P185G} does not close and, consequently, cannot mediate catalysis. The importance of this interaction is consistent with the finding that the energy of prolinetryptophan stacked interactions, like that observed between P185 and W179, can be large (~ 7 kcal/mol) (Biedermannova et al., 2008); i.e., without this stabilization energy, the loop remains open. Finally, because this interaction results in the movement of F191 towards helix α_6 upon inhibitor binding, this suggests that the distance between helices α_3 and α_6 is of critical importance to allow for these changes, and as a consequence catalysis, to occur.

Chemical-shift-restrained molecular dynamics (MD) simulations capture the key elements of the PTP1B allosteric network

We performed MD simulations to derive an atomic-level description of the dynamics in PTP1B that underlies the experimentally identified allosteric network. To improve accuracy and sampling, we performed experimentally-guided simulations, where the NMR chemical shifts were used as a system-specific force field correction (Camilloni et al., 2012; Tiberti et al., 2015). Importantly, because the NMR chemical shifts are time- and ensemble-averaged over multiple, interconverting conformations, the experimental restraints were enforced such that individual conformations do not have to satisfy all data, as long as the entire ensemble of conformations is in agreement with experiment. In practice, this was achieved by replica-averaged simulations, in which we simulated multiple copies of the protein in parallel.

We used the crystal structure of PTP1B bound to TCS401 (PDB 5K9W; ligand was removed *in silico*) with a closed WPD loop as starting point for our simulations and applied chemical shift restraints over four copies. Two of the four simulations result in a WPD loop in an open-like conformation, while the other two result in a closed WPD loop. In contrast, control simulations that did not include experimental restraints showed only marginal

changes in the WPD loop conformations (closed or open) over the timescale of the simulation ($\sim 2 \mu\text{s}$; Figure S5A and S5B). Thus, the use of chemical shift restraints allows us to follow the closed-to-open transition of the WPD loop and therefore provides an independent approach to determine the motions and interactions that accompany loop closure.

The simulations confirm the crystallographic results which show that WPD loop residue P185 forms CH/ π stacking interactions with either F269 or W179. When the WPD loop is closed, P185 interacts with W179 (Figure 5A), whereas the two replicas with an open WPD loop conformation show increased dynamics of P185, now mainly interacting with F269 (Figure 5B). Interestingly, we also identified a correlation between the conformation of the WPD loop and an interaction between Y152 (L11) and N193 (helix $\alpha 3$). Namely, these residues interact primarily when the WPD loop is closed (Figures 5C and S5D). This agrees with the crystallographic and NMR data, which show that when the WPD loop is closed, helix $\alpha 3$ typically forms an extra turn. In contrast, when the WPD loop is open, helix $\alpha 3$ is shorter and twisted (Figures 5E, 5F, S5C and S5D). As also suggested by the crystallographic data, these structural and dynamic changes are linked to a weakened interaction between Y152 and N193 (Figure 5D). As expected, the simulations confirm that the interaction between R221 and W179 is more often observed when the WPD loop is in a closed conformation and less when it is in an open conformation.

Finally, we see a weaker, but a clearly observable correlation between the conformation of the WPD loop and that of helix $\alpha 7$. In particular, we find less well-defined packing between helices $\alpha 3$ and $\alpha 7$ when the WPD loop is open. The chemical shift restraints ensured that we observe partial unfolding of helix $\alpha 7$ ($\sim 40\%$ formed; Figures S5C-S5F). Nevertheless, we note that on the timescales accessed here, as well as due to the well-known bias in current force fields to form compact structures (Piana et al., 2014), we do not expect our simulations to capture fully the disordered nature of helix $\alpha 7$. Despite these issues and the difficulty obtaining converged ensembles, our simulations capture many of the key events in the allosteric communication network that links the active site with helix $\alpha 7$.

L192 is not allosteric but instead functions as a wedge that facilitates WPD loop closure

The most obvious candidate for defining the distance between helices $\alpha 3$ and $\alpha 6$ is L192. PTP1B_{L192A} has ~ 10 -fold reduced activity (Figure 2A; Table S1). Furthermore, a CSP analysis of PTP1BL192A vs PTP1B revealed major changes in every region of the spectrum, including the ability to assign additional residues in helix $\alpha 3$. CSPs were observed in helices $\alpha 1'$, $\alpha 2'$, $\alpha 3$, $\alpha 4$ and $\alpha 6$, and also in the WPD- and PTP-loops (Figure 6A). This suggests that there are significant changes in the L192A conformation. This was confirmed by its structure (RMSD of 0.80 Å with PTP1B), which showed that helices $\alpha 1'$ and $\alpha 6$ collapse towards helix $\alpha 3$ by $\sim 6^\circ$, filling the pocket created by the missing L192 sidechain (Figures 6B and 6C). As a result, the WPD loop adopts a unique conformation, in which residues 178-185 adopt an open conformation while loop residues 186-190 adopt a closed conformation (Figure 6C). Furthermore, S187 forms the hydrogen bond with the H_N backbone of S190 that is otherwise only seen when the WPD loop is closed (Figure 6D).

In spite of these changes, PTP1B_{L192A} still binds TCS401 ($K_D = 39 \pm 6 \mu\text{M}$; Table S1). However, the structure of the complex shows that, like the P185G mutant, the WPD loop of the L192A mutant does not close but instead stays open (Figure 6E). This is because the pocket into which F191 normally binds to permit WPD loop closure is occupied by A273 from the collapsed helix α_6 . This constrains F191 to its open state conformation, which inhibits the movement of W179 and, in turn, the W179-P185 CH/ π stacking interaction. Thus, L192 functions as a ‘wedge’ that props helix α_6 away from F191 binding pocket, ensuring that F191 can rotate upon substrate binding and, in turn, facilitate WPD loop closure (Figures 6F-6I). Thus, we have identified a single point variant of PTP1B (PTP1B_{L192A}) that is more than 15 Å away from the PTP1B active site and not a member of the catalytically important loops, yet, remarkably, still results in a catalytically dead enzyme.

Discussion

Protein dynamics are essential for protein function and regulation (Akimoto et al., 2013; Henzler-Wildman and Kern, 2007; Lisi and Loria, 2016; Masterson et al., 2010; Tzeng and Kalodimos, 2012). Most metabolic enzymes turnover quickly, and thus are highly efficient catalysts that generate large quantities of product. In contrast, eukaryotic posttranslational modification enzymes, especially phosphatases such as PTP1B, are fundamentally different as they function to fine-tune biological signaling pathways and activities. Thus, these posttranslational modification enzymes are often slower and subject to multiple levels of regulation. By combining experimental PTP1B structural and dynamics data with mutational studies and molecular dynamics simulations, we show that the essential steps in PTP1B catalysis, including product hydrolysis, require both protein rigidity and slow dynamics, whereas its allosteric regulation requires fast dynamics.

In PTP1B, the first step of the catalytic cycle is WPD loop closure. This occurs (or the population of closed WPD state increases) when the negatively charged oxygens of the substrate phosphate bind R221. To mediate this coordination, the sidechain of R221 rotates by $\sim 90^\circ$. This leads to the formation of a hydrogen bond with the H^N backbone of W179 in the WPD loop and establishes a key connection between substrate binding and the WPD-loop (Figures 7A and 7B). Here, we discovered that P185 is essential for this process. Namely, the R221-W179 hydrogen bond results in the movement of the P180 sidechain away from the W179 aromatic sidechain, which results in the formation of a CH/ π interaction between W179 and P185. In the open conformation, P185 is stabilized by a CH/ π interaction with F269 and a hydrophobic interaction with P180 (Figures 7C and 7D). Thus, the switch ($\sim 50^\circ$ rotation of the P185) of the π interaction partner between F269 (open) and W179 (closed) is the joint that allows for WPD loop closure. This explains the surprising rigidity of the WPD loop in fast timescale motion experiments (¹⁵N R1) as well as the observation that the P185G mutation leads to a catalytically dead enzyme (although rare, reduced activity upon glycine substitutions have been identified in other enzymes, i.e., triosephosphate isomerase (Xiang et al., 2004)). The movement of the W179 sidechain and the P185 CH/ π rearrangement necessitates a concurrent movement of other residues, most importantly F191, which becomes wedged between helices α_3 and α_6 (the ‘F191 push’) (Figure 7E and 7F). This P185-dependent WPD loop movement is the basic requirement for PTP function and is independent of allostery as it also functions in PTP1B 7. Strikingly,

P185 is 100% conserved in the PTP family and thus this mode of action of the WPD loop is likely conserved in all PTPs (Table S4).

In turn, the ‘F191 push’ causes helix $\alpha 3$ to rotate ($\sim 20^\circ$ at F191). This leads to: (1) the formation of a hydrogen bond between residues S187 and the N^H backbone of S190, which stabilizes the closed state of the WPD loop (Figure 7G and 7H) and (2) a new rotamer conformation of N193 that results in a hydrogen bond network with S295 ($\alpha 7$) and Y152 (L11) (Figure 7I and 7J). This latter network, which is only observed in the closed state, enhances substrate/phosphate release, as demonstrated by the higher K_i values for allosterically dead PTP1B variants. It also stabilizes helix $\alpha 7$, which, as observed in the NMR measurements, otherwise has increased dynamics. This helix $\alpha 7$ stabilization both increases the activity of PTP1B by $\sim 50\%$, as demonstrated by the mutational studies, and allows for its allosteric modulation and inhibition. This differs significantly from the mechanism of allostery previously described, based only on crystal structures, in which allosteric inhibitor binding was hypothesized to sterically block WPD closure. We show that allosteric inhibitor binding prevents helix $\alpha 3$ from rotating and, in turn, prevents PTP1B from forming the key hydrogen bond interaction network needed for allostery. Furthermore, we also identified all residues that define the PTP1B allosteric pathway (T178, Y152, Y153 and residues in helix $\alpha 7$). PTP1B variants of these residues will be effective screening tools for high-throughput allosteric inhibitor screening, as these variants decouple allostery from activity in PTP1B. Equally exciting, Y152 and Y153 are phosphorylated *in vivo* and this is likely an endogenous mechanism for allosterically controlling PTP1B activity (Bandyopadhyay et al., 1997; Dadke et al., 2000; Li et al., 2005).

Finally, this analysis shows that both protein rigidity and dynamics are essential for PTP1B function. It also shows that distinct dynamic timescales underlie different aspects of PTP1B function. This result is novel as previous studies of adenylate kinase (AdK) (Henzler-Wildman et al., 2007) suggested that fast timescale motions are coupled with slower timescale motions and, together, regulate the catalytic cycle. Our results show that PTP1B is different. In PTP1B, rigidity and slow timescale motions are required for catalysis, while fast timescale motions allow for its allosteric control. Thus, dynamics at different timescales are not coupled as they are in AdK, but are decoupled in PTP1B. This demonstrates that the molecular mechanisms that govern enzyme function differ for distinct enzymes. However, this behavior of PTP1B is logical from a chemical point of view: chemistry requires that the reaction components are precisely positioned; slow dynamics ensure this is achieved. Thus, in PTP1B, slow dynamics is important for substrate binding and product release while fast dynamics, in elements distal from the chemical reaction, is important for the allosteric control of the overall function.

CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

Further information and requests for reagents may be directed to, and will be fulfilled by Wolfgang Peti (wolfgangpeti@email.arizona.edu).

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Expression plasmids contained cDNA sequences from *Homo sapiens*. Recombinant proteins were overexpressed in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) RIL cells (Agilent) in LB broth or D₂O- based M9, minimal salt media containing ¹⁵NH₄Cl and/or [²H,¹³C]-*D*-glucose (CIL or Isotec). Cells were grown at 37°C at 250 rpm in 2 L shaking flasks until A600 reached ~0.6, cooled, then induced with isopropyl b-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG, GoldBIO) to a final concentration of 1 mM. After induction, cells were grown for 20 hrs at 18°C.

METHOD DETAILS

Protein Expression and Purification

DNA coding the human PTP1B catalytic domain PTP1B 1-301 (residues 1-301) was subcloned into RP1B as previously described (Peti and Page, 2007). PTP1B variants—PTP1B 7 (PTP1B 1-284, residues 1-284), Y152AY153A, Y176G, T177G, T178A, V184G, P185G, L192A and N193A (single and double variants in both PTP1B and PTP1B 7)—were generated using the Quikchange (Agilent) site directed mutagenesis kit. For protein expression, plasmid DNAs were transformed into *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) RIL cells (Agilent). Cells were grown in Luria Broth in the presence of selective antibiotics at 37°C to an OD₆₀₀ of ~0.6, and expression was induced by the addition of 1 mM IPTG. Induction proceeded for ~20 h at 18°C prior to harvesting by centrifugation at 6,000 × *g*. Cell pellets were stored at -80°C until purification. For NMR measurements, expression of uniformly ²H,¹⁵N- or ²H,¹⁵N,¹³C-labeled PTP1B was facilitated by growing cells in D₂O based M9 minimal media containing 1 g/L ¹⁵NH₄Cl and/or 4 g/L [²H,¹³C]-*D*-glucose (CIL or Isotec) as the sole nitrogen and carbon sources, respectively. Multiple rounds (25%, 50%, 75%, 90% and 100%) of D₂O adaptation (Peti and Page, 2016) was necessary for high-yield expression.

Cell pellets were lysed in Lysis Buffer (25 mM Tris pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, 0.1% Triton X-100) containing EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) using high-pressure homogenization (Avestin). The lysate was clarified by centrifugation at 50,000 × *g* and filtered through a 0.22 μm filter before loading onto a His-trap HP column (GE Healthcare). Bound proteins were washed with Buffer A (50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole) and eluted with increasing amounts of Buffer B (50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 500 mM imidazole) using a 5-500 mM imidazole gradient. Peak fractions were pooled and dialyzed overnight at 4°C in Dialysis Buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl) with 5:1 volume ratio of TEV protease overnight. The next day, a ‘subtraction’ his-tag purification was performed to remove TEV and the cleaved His-tag. Cleaved PTP1B was further purified using Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC, Superdex 75 26/60) in either Assay Buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP), protein Crystallization Buffer (20 mM Tris pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP) or NMR Buffer (50 mM HEPES pH 6.8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP for PTP1B and variants; 50 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP for PTP1B 7). Purified protein was either used immediately or flash frozen in liquid nitrogen for storage. Typical PTP1B protein yields were ~46 mg/L in Luria Broth, ~34 mg/L in ²H,¹⁵N M9 medium and ~19 mg/L in ²H,¹⁵N,¹³C M9 medium.

pNPP activity assay

The activities of freshly prepared (0.15 μM) PTP1B/PTP1B $\Delta 7$ and variants were measured in assay buffer containing varying concentrations of p-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP; 0 to 6000 μM) either with or without TCS401 (100 or 300 μM). Enzymes were incubated with the substrate at 30°C for 30 minutes. The reaction was stopped using 0.5 M NaOH and the absorbance was measured at 405 nm using a plate reader (BioTek). TCS401 stock solution (25 mM) was prepared in 100% DMSO, resulting in 0.4% (v/v) and 1.2% (v/v) of DMSO in the reactions. Measured absorbance from blanks that contained substrate and inhibitors but no protein was subtracted from all measurements. The rate of dephosphorylation of pNPP was analyzed using the molar extinction coefficient for pNPP of 18000 $\text{M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$ and an optical path length of 0.3 cm (96 well plates). K_m and V_{max} were determined by fitting to the Michaelis-Menten equation, $y = V_{\text{max}} * x / (K_m + x)$; k_{cat} was extracted using $y = E_t * k_{\text{cat}} * x / (K_m + x)$. The catalytic efficiency was obtained as k_{cat} / K_m . The inhibition constant K_i , was obtained using a Lineweaver-Burk plot, $K_{m,\text{obs}} = K_m * [1 + [I]/K_i]$, where $y = V_{\text{max}} * x / (K_{m,\text{obs}} + x)$ (Table S1,S4). Sigma Plot 12.5 and GraphPad Prism 6 were used for data analysis including the statistical analysis using unpaired (between PTP1B/PTP1B $\Delta 7$ and all variants) or paired t-test (presence and absence of inhibitor). The experiments were carried out in duplicate and repeated 3 to 6 times.

Affinity measurement of PTP1B to TCS401 or PTP1B allosteric inhibitor

PTP1B/PTP1B $\Delta 7$ and all variants (2.5 μM) in assay buffer were incubated with either TCS401 or the PTP1B allosteric inhibitor (3-(3,5-Dibromo-4-hydroxy-benzoyl)-2-ethylbenzofuran-6-sulfonicacid-(4-(thiazol-2-ylsulfamyl)-phenyl)-amide) at varying concentrations (0-140 μM) or with DMSO (0 – 1%) as control. Stock solutions of the PTP1B allosteric inhibitor (13 mM in 100% DMSO) and TCS401 (25 mM in 100% DMSO) were prepared immediately prior to each experiment. Affinity measurements were made using a FluoroMax-4 spectrofluorometer (Horiba) with the following parameters: excitation = 280 nm, slit width 5 nm, emission = 300 – 550 nm, slit width 5 nm. K_D was obtained from $LR = ((X + R_{\text{tot}} + K_D) - ((X + R_{\text{tot}} + K_D)^2 - 4 * X * R_{\text{tot}})) / 2$, where, $L = (X - LR)$ and $Y = \text{BKG} + \text{MF} * L + \text{FR} * \text{MF} * LR$; R_{tot} is total receptor concentration, BKG is background fluorescence w/o ligand, MF is molar fluorescence of the free ligand, K_D is dissociation constant, FR is fluorescence ratio, MF of bound ligand = MF * FR (unitless ratio), so $\text{FR} > 1$ means binding increases fluorescence and $\text{FR} < 1$ means binding quenches fluorescence. GraphPad Prism 6 was used to perform the binding analysis. Sigma Plot 12.5 was used for the statistical analysis using the unpaired t-test between PTP1B/PTP1B $\Delta 7$ and all variants. All affinity measurements were repeated in triplicate.

Circular Dichroism (CD)

Proteins were dialyzed overnight into CD Buffer (10 mM Na-phosphate pH 6.8, 150 mM NaCl). CD spectra were measured using 2.5 μM protein at 25°C, with wavelength scan 260-190 nm. The melting temperature (T_M) was recorded at 220 nm and temperature scan from 20 to 90°C (Table S2). T_M values were calculated using a two-state transition model for a monomer from a folded to unfolded state (the heat capacities of the folded and unfolded state were either assumed to be equal or corrected for linear changes in ellipticity as a

function of temperature). The CD measurements were performed on a Jasco J-815 CD spectropolarimeter.

Protein Crystallization and Data Collection

Crystallization trials of PTP1B/PTP1B⁷ and all variants, including PTP1B^{YAYA}, PTP1B^{T178A}, PTP1B^{L192A}, PTP1B^{N193A} and PTP1B^{P185G} were performed at 10 mg/mL using vapor diffusion sitting drop experiments. For TCS401-bound structures, 3.3 mg/mL purified PTP1B was incubated with a 10 molar excess of TCS401 (25 mM stock in 100% DMSO) for an hour on ice, and then concentrated to 10 mg/mL for crystallization. Apo PTP1B and TCS401-bound PTP1B crystals were grown using a fine screen with pH ranging from 7.4 – 8.0 (0.1 M Tris/HEPES) and PEG8000 concentrations ranging from 13% - 24% (w/v). The MgCl₂ concentration was 0.2 M in all conditions. All crystals were grown at 4°C. Crystals were cryoprotected by a quick soak (few seconds) in mother liquor supplemented with 30% glycerol and immediately flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. X-ray data were collected using either a home source (Rigaku FR-E⁺ Superbright, 1.54 Å wavelength; Saturn944 CCD detector) or the GM/CA@APS beamline 23-ID-B (0.98 Å wavelength; MAR 300 CCD detector). The data was processed using either HKL2000, HKL3000R or XDS (Kabsch, 2010).

X-ray Structure Determination

The crystal structure (PTP1B 1-301) was solved by molecular replacement (search model PDBID: 1SUG) using Phaser as implemented in PHENIX (Adams et al., 2010). For TCS401-bound structures, clear density of the ligand was observed after PHENIX.AutoBuild and PHENIX.Refine. PHENIX.LigandFit was used to fit TCS401 into the electron density. There was a strong anomalous signal in the anomalous maps at the position of the sulfur atom in TCS401 (when data was recorded on Cu source). All structures were subjected to iterative rounds of refinement in PHENIX and manually built using Coot (Emsley et al., 2010). All data collection and refinement statistics are reported in Table 1.

NMR Spectroscopy

NMR data were collected on Bruker Avance II 500- and Avance IIIHD 850 MHz spectrometers equipped with TCI HCN Z-gradient cryoprobes at 298 K. NMR measurements of PTP1B were recorded using either ²H,¹⁵N- or ²H,¹⁵N,¹³C-labeled protein at a final concentration of 0.2 mM in NMR buffer and 90% H₂O/10% D₂O. The sequence-specific backbone assignments of PTP1B and variants, as well as inhibitor-bound PTP1B were achieved using 3D triple resonance experiments including 2D [¹H,¹⁵N] TROSY, 3D TROSYHNCA, 3D TROSY-HN(CO)CA, 3D TROSY-HN(CO)CACB and 3D TROSY-HNCACB. All NMR data were processed using NMRPipe (Delaglio et al., 1995) and analyzed using CcpNMR (Vranken et al., 2005).

NMR Analysis of inhibitor binding

Inhibitors were titrated into 0.2 mM ²H,¹⁵N-PTP1B at molar ratios of 0:1, 0.5:1, 1:1, 2:1 and 3:1 inhibitor:PTP1B and 2D [¹H,¹⁵N] TROSY spectra were recorded for each titration point.

Inhibitors (TCS401 and the allosteric inhibitor, 3-(3,5-Dibromo-4-hydroxy-benzoyl)-2-ethylbenzofuran-6-sulfonic acid-(4-(thiazol-2-ylsulfamyl)-phenyl)-amide) were solubilized in d_6 -DMSO (25 mM). No chemical shift differences were identified in the PTP1B 2D [^1H , ^{15}N] TROSY spectrum upon the addition of d_6 -DMSO. Chemical shift perturbations ($\Delta\delta$) between apo PTP1B and inhibitor-bound PTP1B spectra were calculated using:

$$\Delta\delta(\text{ppm}) = \sqrt{(\Delta\delta_H)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta\delta_N}{5}\right)^2}$$

Relaxation measurements and analysis

Relaxation measurements were performed at 500 & 850 MHz ^1H Larmor frequency using ^2H , ^{15}N -labeled ligand-free and inhibitor-bound (at saturating 3:1 molar ratios) PTP1B at a final concentration of 0.2 mM in 50 mM HEPES pH 6.8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP and 90% $\text{H}_2\text{O}/10\% \text{D}_2\text{O}$. 850 MHz ^1H Larmor frequency data was recorded for all PTP1B variants. ^{15}N longitudinal (R_1) and transverse (R_2) relaxation rates measurements were acquired using sensitivity-enhanced experiments. TROSY versions of T_1 and T_2 experiments were acquired with a recycle delay of 2.5 seconds between experiments, and the following relaxation delays for T_1 : 100, 600, 1000, 1600, 1800, 2000, 2400, and 3000 ms; and T_2 : 3.6, 7.2, 14.4, 21.6, 25.2, 28.8, 32.4, 36.0, 54.0, and 64.8 ms. T_1 , T_2 values were calculated using CcpNMR by fitting the intensity of peaks to exponential decay function, and errors were determined via relaxation curve fitting. ~150-190 residues were analyzed for each sample, excluding peaks that overlapped or could not be accurately fitted.

Molecular Dynamics Simulations

Both unbiased and biased MD simulations we performed. In the former, dynamics is governed by a physics-based molecular mechanics force field, whereas the biased simulations also integrate information from experimental data. In particular, we used the NMR chemical shifts as a “system-specific force field correction” (Tiberti et al., 2015), so that the resulting conformational ensemble simultaneously integrates information from the most accurate force fields (Lindorff-Larsen et al., 2012) and the experimental chemical shifts (Camilloni et al., 2012) following the maximum entropy principle (Boomsma et al., 2014). All simulations were performed using the Amber ff99sb*-ILDN force field for the protein (Lindorff-Larsen et al., 2012) and TIP3P model for water. The system was neutralized by the addition of Na^+ or Cl^- ions at a salinity of 150 mM. Water molecules were added with an isotropic buffer distance of 1.2 nm in a cubic box. VdW and electrostatic short-range interactions were cut off at 1.0 nm and shifted from 0.8 nm to 1.0 nm. Long-term electrostatics were treated using PME with a 0.12 nm grid spacing. Velocity rescaling was used to maintain the simulation temperature. We used an integration time step of 2 fs, and bonds to hydrogen were constrained using P-LINCS. Production MD runs were then performed in the NVT ensemble after reaching the correct density using the NpT ensemble with a Berendsen barostat at 1 bar.

The chemical shift restrained simulations were performed using GROMACS 5.0.1 (Hess et al., 2008) in combination with PLUMED2. Linear restraints were employed and stepwise

increased as a means of equilibrating the system with the restraints until a SLOPE value of 24 was reached. Replica averaged restraints were introduced using the ENSEMBLE flag in PLUMED2 (Tribello et al., 2014). Unbiased simulations were performed using ACEMD (Harvey et al., 2009) with a 4 fs time step following a default protocol.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

For the affinity measurements of PTP1B and variants with inhibitors, Sigma Plot 12.5 was used for the statistical analysis using the unpaired t-test between PTP1B/PTP1B 7 and all variants. All affinity measurements were repeated in triplicate.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

All NMR chemical shifts have been deposited in the BioMagResBank (BMRB 2681)4, 26832, 26835, 26836, 26837, 26838). Atomic coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB 5K9V, 5K9W, 5KA0, 5KA1, 5KA2, 5KA3, 5KA4, 5KA7, 5KA8, 5KA9, 5KAA, 5KAB, 5KAC, 5KAD).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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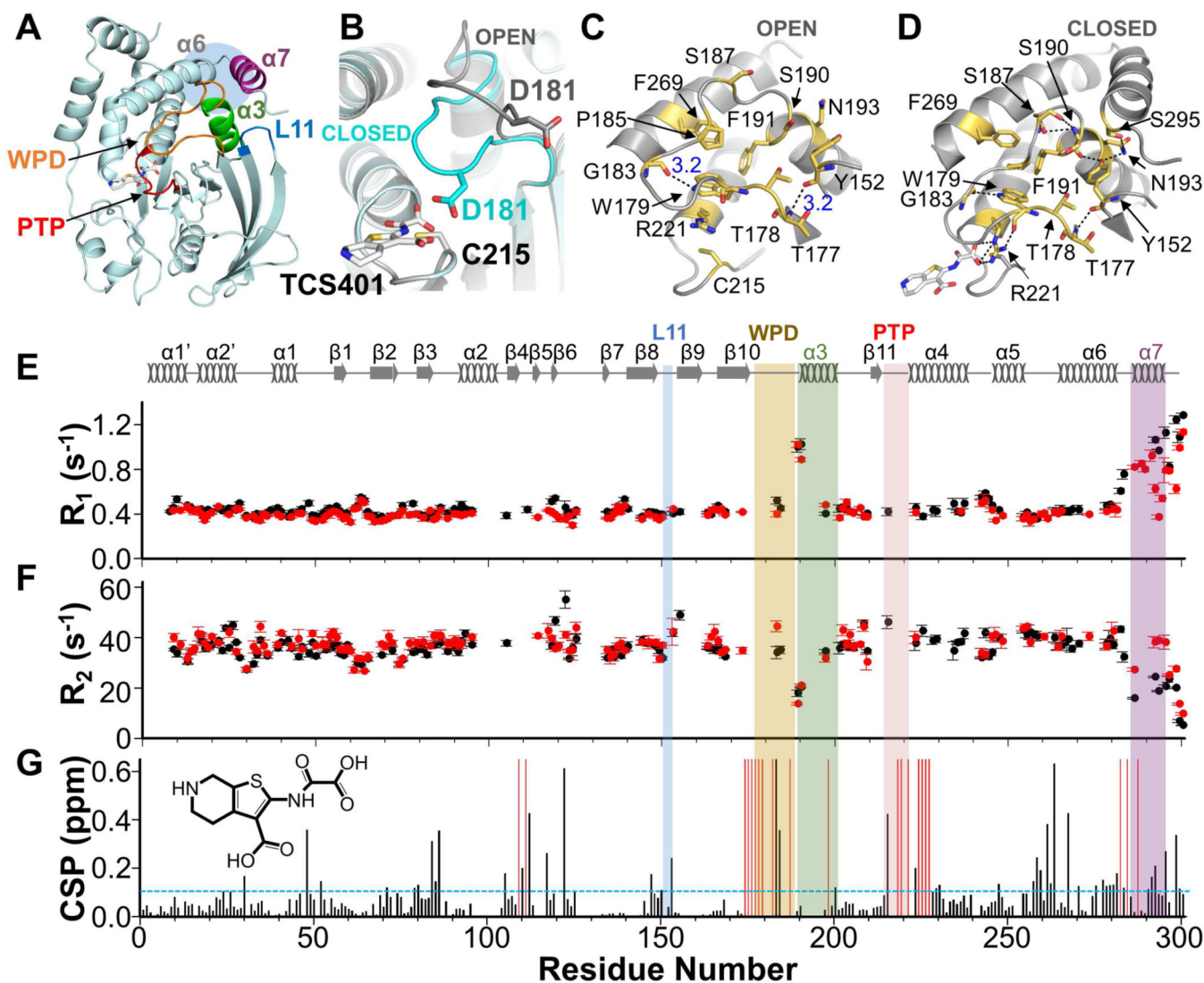


Figure 1. Dynamics and CSPs of PTP1B vs PTP1B:TCS401

(A) PTP1B (PDB 5K9W); helices: $\alpha 3$ (green), $\alpha 7$ (purple); loops: WPD (orange), PTP (red), L11 (blue). Active site inhibitor TCS401 is shown as sticks. Blue shaded circle highlights the allosteric binding pocket.

(B) Open (gray, PDB 5K9V) and closed (cyan, PDB 5K9W) conformations of the WPD loop. C215, catalytic nucleophile, D181, catalytic acid/base and TCS401 are shown as sticks.

(C) Open state with key residues shown as sticks and labeled; polar interactions, black dotted lines.

(D) Same as (C), except closed state.

(E) ^{15}N longitudinal R_1 relaxation rates for PTP1B (black) and PTP1B:TCS401 (red); 850 MHz; 298 K. Secondary structures are shown.

(F) Same as (E) except ^{15}N transverse R_2 relaxation rates for PTP1B (black) and PTP1B:TCS401 (red) are shown.

(G) CSPs for PTP1B:TCS401 (1:3 molar ratio). Residues with significant CSPs are above the dashed line ($\sigma=0.11$ ppm, standard deviation, sd). Residues broadened beyond detectability upon TCS401 binding are shown as red bars. Labeling as in (A). Chemical structure of TCS401 is shown.

See also Figures S1, S2.

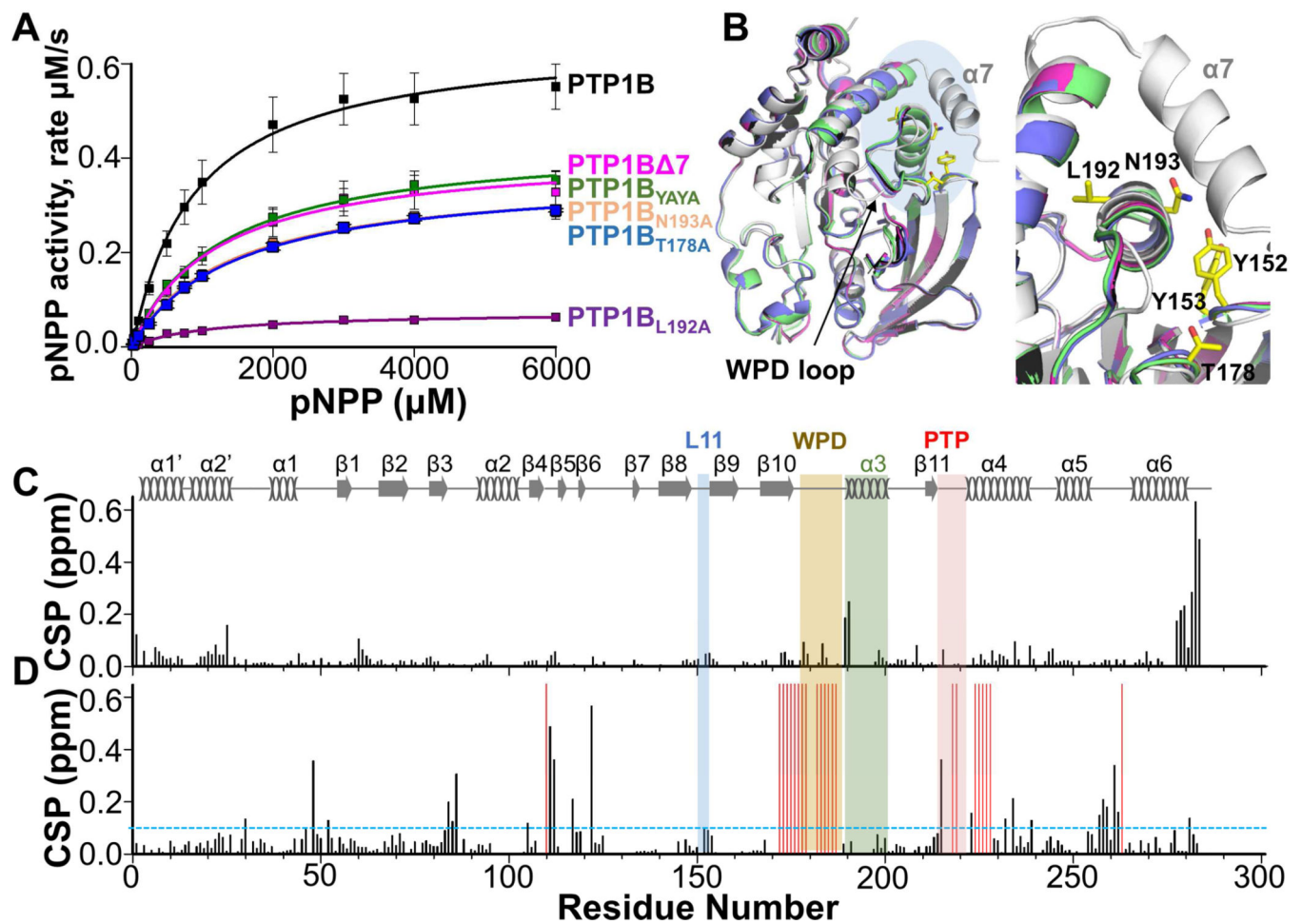


Figure 2. Activity of PTP1B variants

(A) Enzymatic activity of PTP1B and variants (pNPP assays; \pm SE, $n = 3-9$).

(B) Overlay of PTP1B (black, PDB 5K9V), PTP1B:TCS401 (gray, PDB 5K9W), PTP1B $\Delta 7$ (pink, PDB 5KA0), PTP1B_{YAYA} (green, PDB 5KA2) and PTP1B_{T178A} (blue, PDB 5KA4). Blue shade shows close-up region on right; L192, N193, Y152, Y153 and T178 (yellow sticks).

(C) CSPs of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ vs PTP1B.

(D) CSPs of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ vs PTP1B $\Delta 7$:TCS401 (1:3 molar ratio). Residues with significant CSPs are above the dashed line (= 0.09 ppm, sd). Residues broadened beyond detectability upon TCS401 binding are shown as red bars. Secondary structures are indicated; labeling as in Figure 1A.

See also Figure S3.

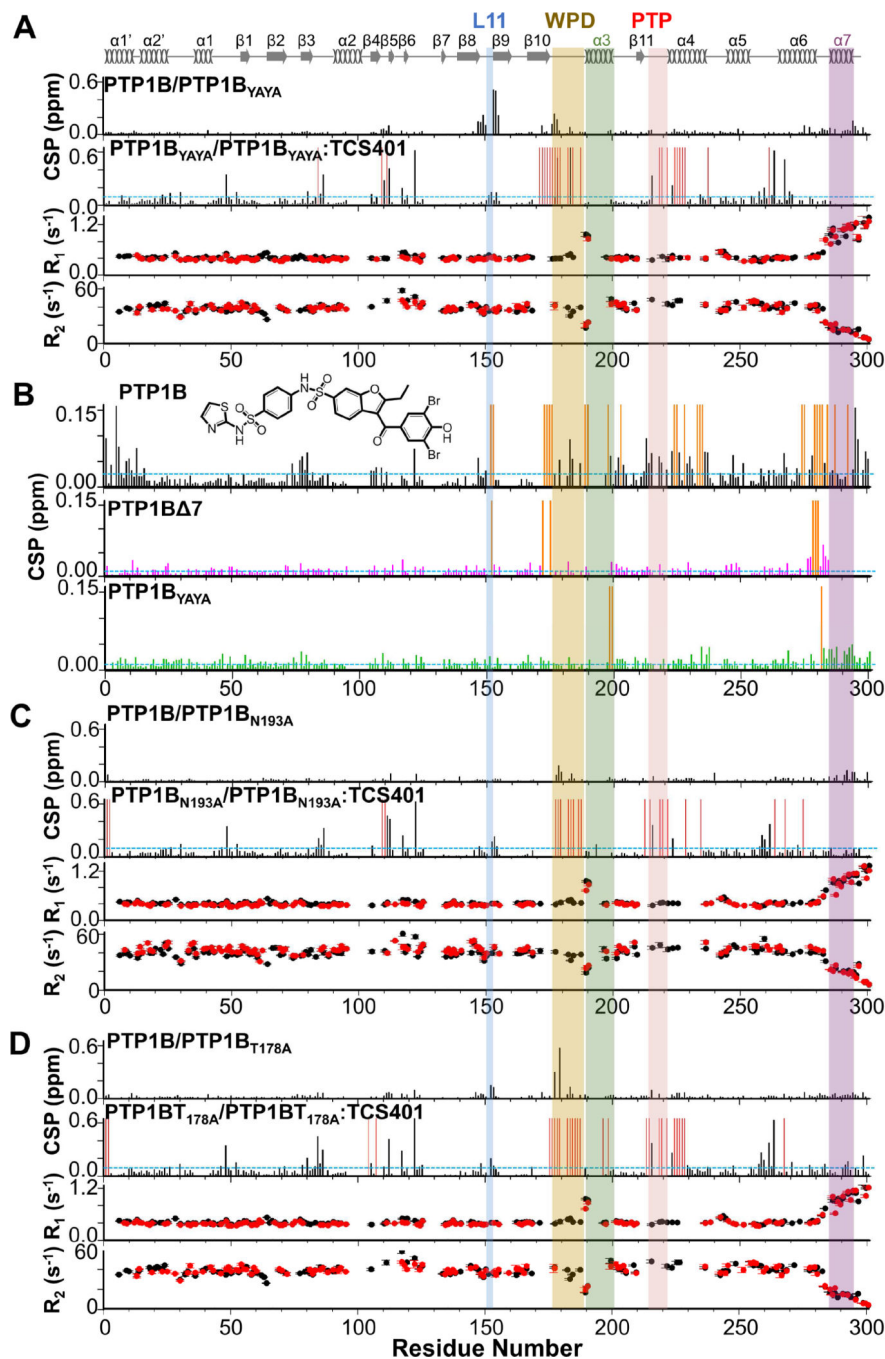


Figure 3. ¹⁵N dynamics and CSPs of PTP1B variants

(A) *Top*, CSPs of PTP1B_{YAYA} vs PTP1B and PTP1B_{YAYA} vs PTP1B_{YAYA}:TCS401 (1:3 molar ratio). Residues with significant CSPs are above the dashed line ($\sigma = 0.1$ ppm, sd). *Bottom*, ¹⁵N R_1 and R_2 relaxation rates for PTP1B_{YAYA} (black) and PTP1B_{YAYA}:TCS401 (red).

(B) CSPs of PTP1B (top), PTP1B $\Delta 7$ (middle) and PTP1B_{YAYA} (bottom) with the allosteric inhibitor (1:3 molar ratio). Residues with significant CSPs are above the dashed line (PTP1B, $\sigma = 0.02$ ppm; PTP1B $\Delta 7$, $\sigma = 0.01$ ppm; PTP1B_{YAYA}, $\sigma = 0.01$ ppm; sd). Residues

broadened beyond detectability upon allosteric inhibitor binding are shown as orange bars. Chemical structure of allosteric inhibitor is shown.

(C) *Top*, CSPs of PTP1B_{N193A} vs PTP1B and PTP1B_{N193A} vs PTP1B_{N193A}:TCS401 (1:3 molar ratio). Residues with significant CSPs are above the blue dashed line ($\sigma = 0.1$ ppm, sd). *Bottom*, ^{15}N R_1 and R_2 relaxation rates for PTP1B_{N193A} (black) and PTP1B_{N193A}:TCS401 (red).

(D) *Top*, CSPs of PTP1B_{T178A} vs PTP1B and PTP1B_{T178A} vs PTP1B_{T178A}:TCS401 (1:3 molar ratio) complex. Residues with significant CSPs are above the dashed line ($\sigma = 0.09$ ppm, sd). *Bottom*, ^{15}N R_1 and R_2 relaxation rates for PTP1B_{T178A} (black) and PTP1B_{T178A}:TCS401 (red).

For (A, B, C) residues broadened beyond detectability upon inhibitor binding are shown as red bars. Secondary structures are indicated; labeling as in Figure 1A.

See also Figure S4.

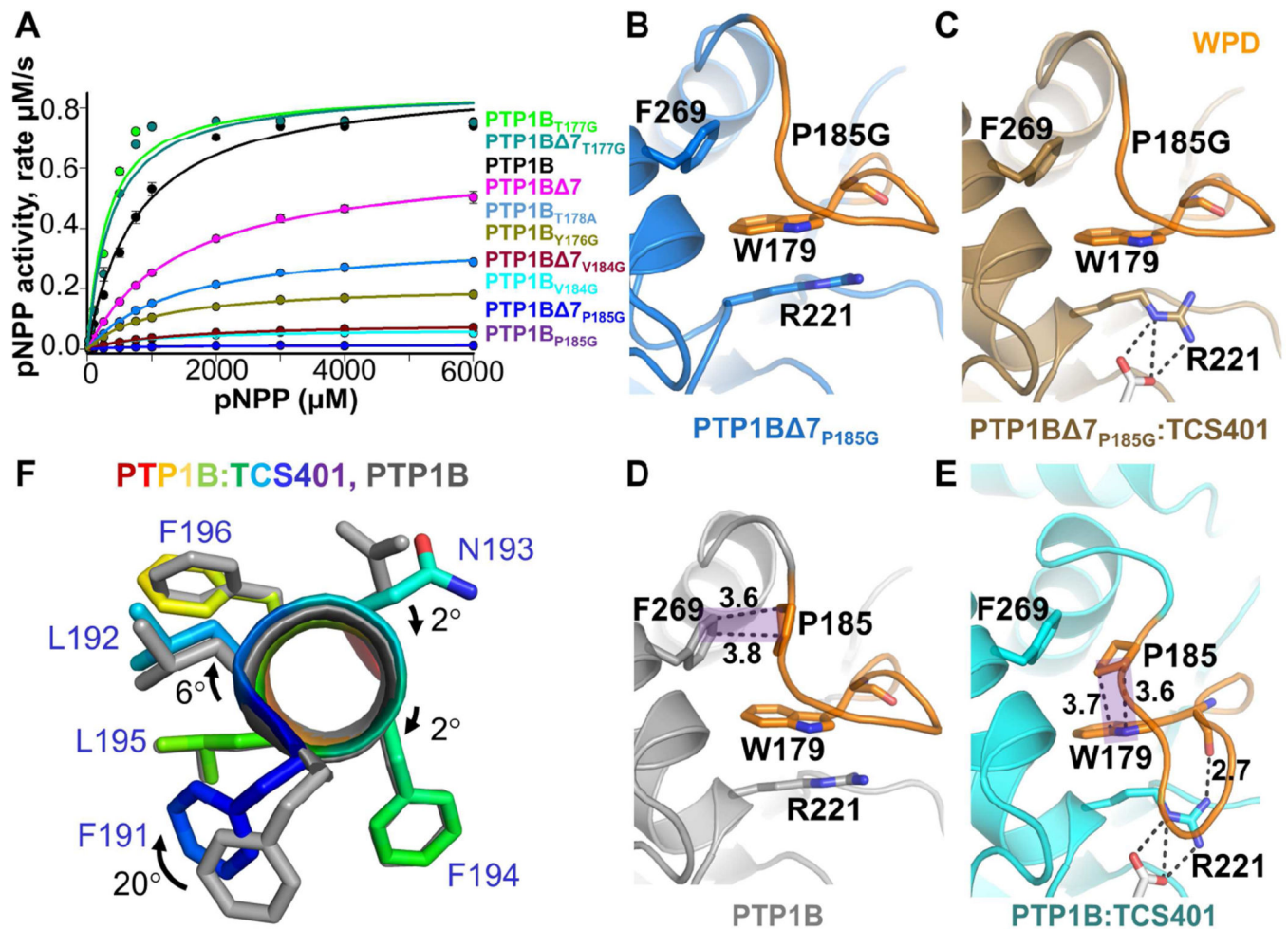


Figure 4. P185 provides the rigidity that mediates the opening and closing of the WPD loop

(A) Activities of PTP1B and WPD loop variants (pNPP assays; \pm SE, $n=3-6$).

(B) Structure of PTP1B Δ 7_{P185G} (blue, PDB 5KAA).

(C) Structure of PTP1B Δ 7_{P185G}:TCS401 (brown, PDB 5KAB).

(D) Structure of PTP1B (gray, PDB 5K9V).

(E) Structure of PTP1B:TCS401 (cyan, PDB 5K9W). In (D) and (E), P185 forms a CH- π stacking interaction (shaded purple) between F269 (helix α 6) and W179 (WPD loop) in the open and closed states, respectively. Hydrogen bond (2.7 Å) between the side chain of R221 and backbone H^N of W179 is detected in PTP1B:TCS401 but not in PTP1B Δ 7_{P185G}:TCS401.

(F) Overlay of PTP1B and PTP1B:TCS401, showing the rotation of helix α 3 between the open and closed state; F191 (dark blue) rotates by 20°.

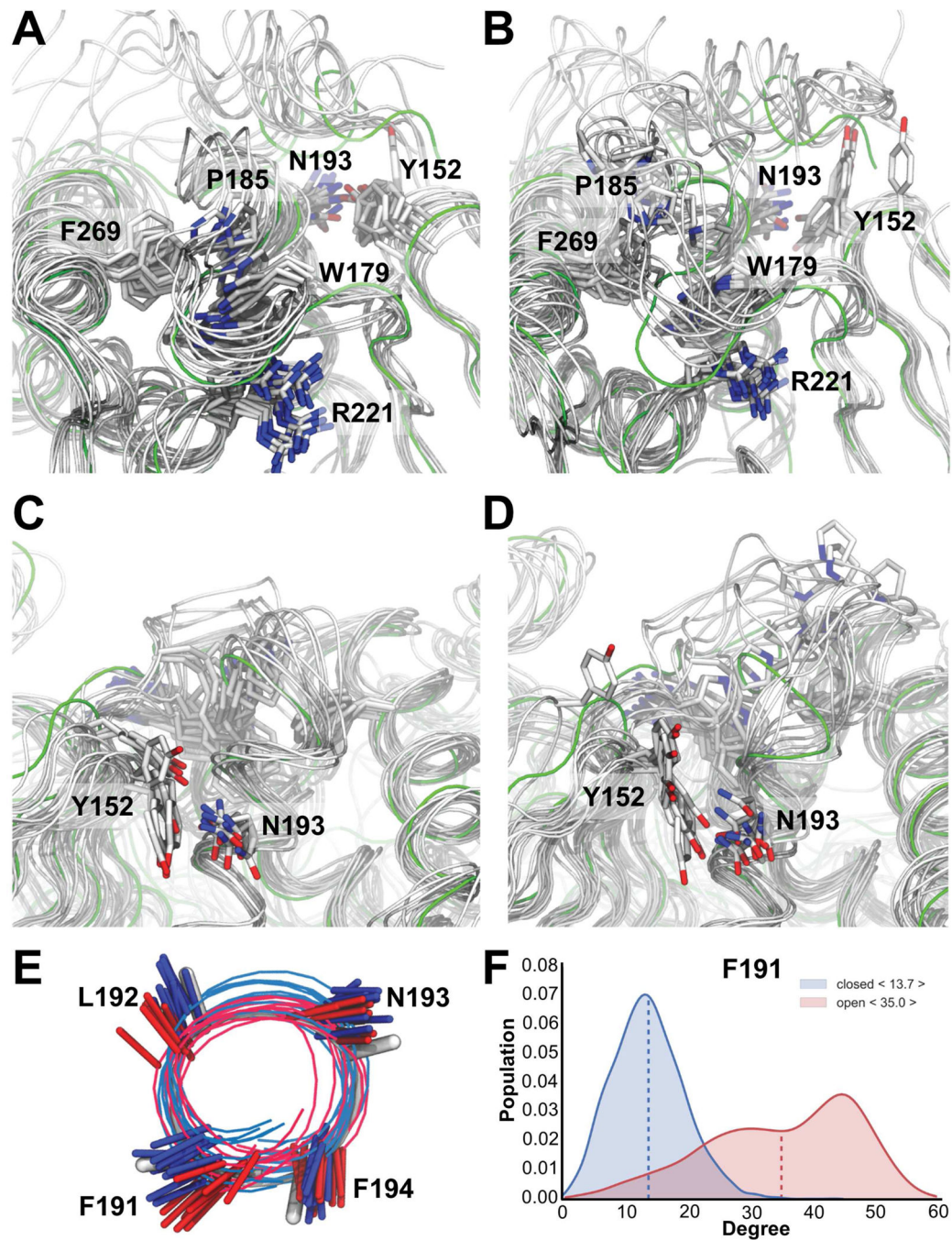


Figure 5. Chemical shift restrained MD captures the opening and closing mechanism of the WPD loop

(A) Superposition of 10 structures from 2 of the 4 simulations sampling the closed state of the WPD loop. The backbone of each structure is shown as a gray tube and key residues are highlighted as sticks. Crystal structure of PTP1B:TCS401 (green; PDB 5K9W). The P185 interaction with F269 and W179 is present in the majority of frames. Furthermore, R221 anchors W179 via the expected sidechain:backbone interactions.

- (B)** Superposition of 10 structures from the 2 simulations sampling the WPD-loop open conformation.
- (C)** Same as (A) but showing the interaction between Y152 and N193; present in the majority of frames.
- (D)** Same as (B), but showing the interaction between Y152 and N193; mostly absent in the open conformation.
- (E)** MD simulations highlight conformational differences in helix $\alpha 3$ between the open (red) and closed states (blue).
- (F)** The most notable difference is the 'F191 push'. See also Figure S5.

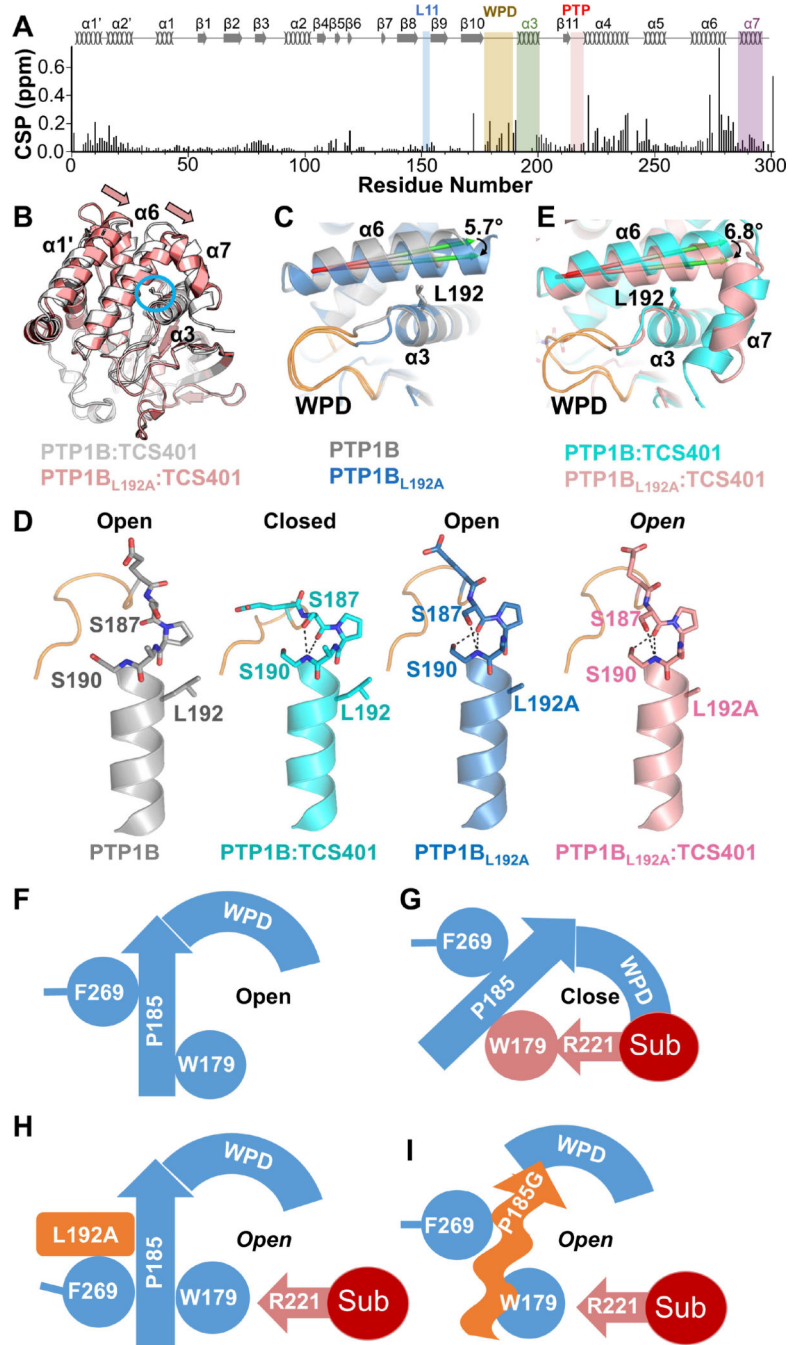


Figure 6. PTP1B_{L192A}

(A) CSPs of PTP1B_{L192A} vs PTP1B. Secondary structures are indicated; labeling as in Figure 1A.

(B) Overlay of PTP1B:TCS401 (gray; PDB 5K9W) and PTP1B_{L192A}:TCS401 (pink; PDB 5KA9); L192 (sticks) is circled. Arrows highlight the shift of helix $\alpha 6$.

(C) Overlay of PTP1B (gray; PDB 5K9V) and PTP1B_{L192A} (blue; PDB 5KA8).

- (D)** The position of the WPD loop (residues 186-190, orange) in PTP1B (gray; PDB 5K9V), PTP1B:TCS401 (cyan, PDB 5K9W), PTP1B_{L192A} (blue, PDB 5KA8) and PTP1B_{L192A}:TCS401 (pink, PDB 5KA9); hydrogen bonds are shown as black dotted lines.
- (E)** Overlay of PTP1B:TCS401 (cyan; PDB 5K9W) with PTP1B_{L192A}:TCS401 (pink; PDB 5KA9). The conformational change in helix α_6 displaces the helix α_7 from its closed conformation.
- (F)** Model of the PTP1B WPD loop in the open state.
- (G)** Substrate binding (red) causes R221 to engage W179, initiating a rotation of P185 and the closure of WPD loop.
- (H)** The L192A mutation shifts helix α_6 closer to helix α_3 , restricting F191 rotation and preventing WPD loop closure.
- (I)** The P185G mutation prevents the closure of the WPD loop.

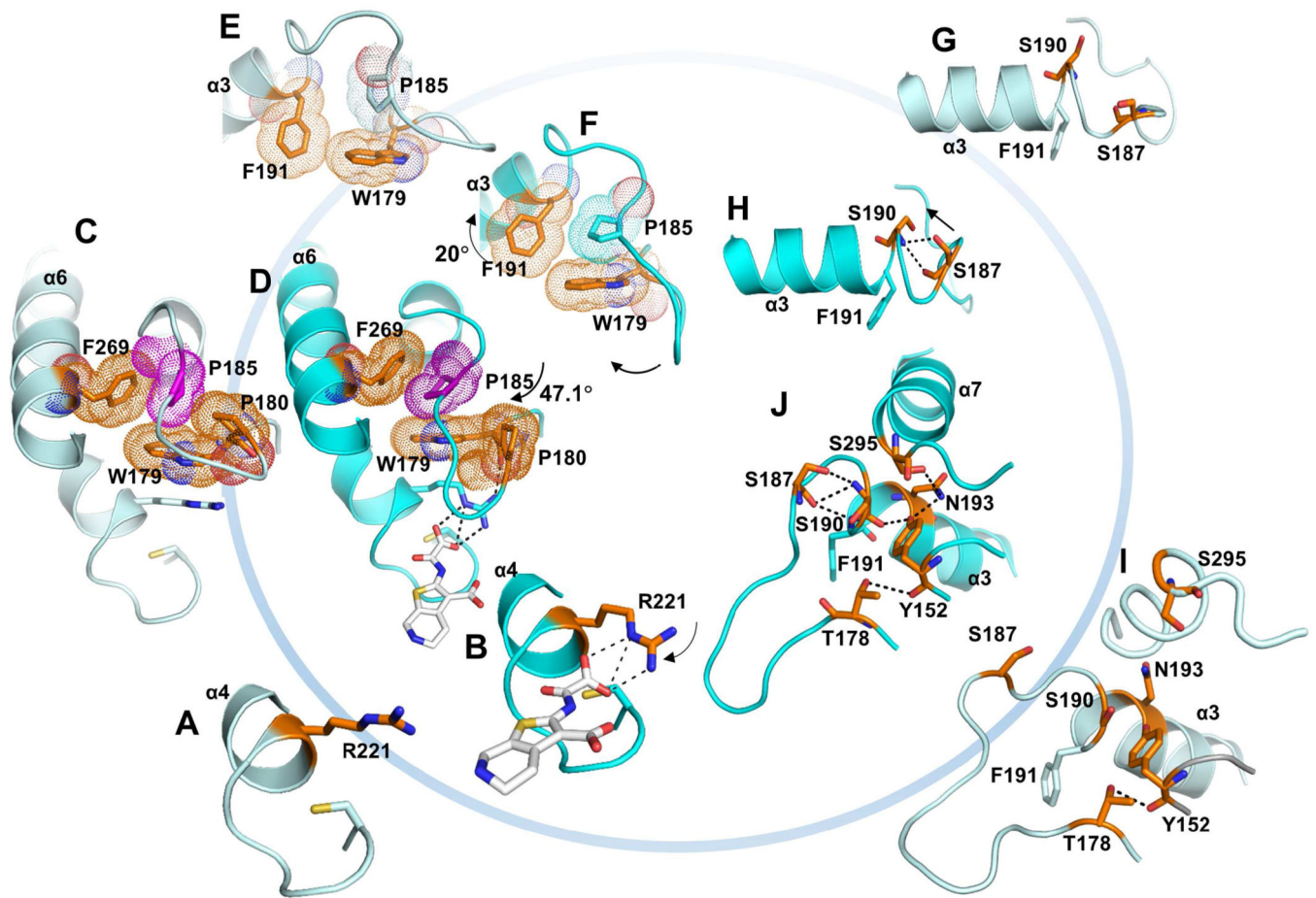


Figure 7. The activity cycle of PTP1B

The PTP1B catalytic cycle and its allosteric control (free/open, outer circle; inhibitor bound/closed, inner circle).

(A→B) Binding of the active site inhibitor TCS401 pushes the W179 aromatic side chain towards P185 (P185 makes a CH/ π switch from F269 to W179).

(C→D) This allows for the closing of the WPD loop.

(E→F) The resulting 'F191 push' causes helix α 3 to rotate.

(G→H) This allows S190 to hydrogen bond with S187, extending and stabilizing helix α 3.

(I→J) This allows N193 to interact with Y152 and E295.

Table 1

Data collection and refinement statistics (1/4).				
	PTP1B	PTP1B:TCS401	PTP1B 7	PTP1B 7:TCS401
Data collection				
X-ray beam line	home source	home source	home source	home source
Wavelength (Å)	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54
Space group	P 3 ₂ 2 1	P 3 ₁ 2 1	P 3 ₂ 2 1	P 3 ₂ 2 1
Cell dimensions				
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	88.5, 88.5, 73.0	88.6, 88.6, 103.9	88.4, 88.4, 72.5	88.0, 88.0, 73.0
α , β , γ (°)	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0
Resolution (Å)	50.00–1.90 (1.93–1.90)	50.00–2.01 (2.04–2.01)	50.00–1.99 (2.02–1.99)	50.00–1.84 (1.87–1.84)
<i>R</i> _{sym} Or <i>R</i> _{merge}	0.06 (0.37)	0.10 (0.59)	0.59 (0.22)	0.06 (0.22)
<i>I</i> / σ	53.73 (4.29)	25.32 (2.67)	63.37 (9.74)	40.65 (3.28)
Completeness (%)	98.9 (89.8)	99.9 (99.1)	99.8 (97.5)	97.0 (77.2)
Redundancy	19.0 (7.6)	10.4 (6.2)	20.5 (11.6)	9.0 (2.7)
# molecule in asymmetrical unit	1	1	1	1
Refinement				
Resolution (Å)	38.34–1.90 (1.97–1.90)	35.98–2.01 (2.07–2.01)	28.93–1.99 (2.08–1.99)	28.82–1.84 (1.91–1.84)
No. reflections	26070	31782	22687	27862
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	0.18 (0.19)/0.21 (0.26)	0.18 (0.23)/0.21 (0.26)	0.16 (0.17)/0.21 (0.27)	0.17 (0.20)/0.19 (0.25)
No. atoms				
<i>Protein</i>	2256	2420	2267	2285
<i>Ligand/ion</i>	27	19	35	74
<i>TCS401</i>	0	18	0	18
<i>Water</i>	213	171	213	200
<i>Total</i>	2496	2628	2515	2559
B-factors				
<i>Macro Molecule</i>	29.51	29.27	26.60	24.20
<i>Ligand/ion</i>	40.72	23.84	43.13	41.41
<i>TCS401</i>	NA	35.99	NA	18.71
<i>Water</i>	35.07	32.31	31.05	30.70
<i>All atoms</i>	29.99	29.47	26.98	24.71
R.m.s. deviations				
Bond lengths (Å)	0.004	0.014	0.011	0.007
Bond angles (°)	0.650	1.255	1.047	0.864
Ramachandran				
Outliers (%)	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.35
Allowed (%)	2.86	2.03	2.51	2.12
Favored (%)	96.79	97.64	97.13	97.53
Rotamer Outliers (%)	0.41	0.37	0.40	0.40
Clashscore	2.22	3.50	2.42	3.43
PDB accession no.	5K9V	5K9W	5KA0	5KA1

Data collection and refinement statistics (2/4).

	PTP1B _{L192A}	PTP1B _{L192A} :TCS401	PTP1B _{N193A} :TCS401
Data collection			
X-ray beam line	home source	home source	home source
Wavelength (Å)	1.54	1.54	1.54
Space group	P 3 ₁ 2 1	P 3 ₁ 2 1	P 2 ₁
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	88.9, 88.9, 105.8	88.7, 88.7, 106.2	47.6, 73.7, 88.1
α , β , γ (°)	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 104.4, 90.0
Resolution (Å)	50.00–1.97 (2.00–1.97)	50.00–2.07 (2.11–2.07)	50.00–1.90 (1.93–1.90)
<i>R</i> _{sym} Or <i>R</i> _{merge}	0.06 (0.45)	0.14 (0.55)	0.09 (0.27)
<i>I</i> / σ	62.01 (4.26)	20.58 (2.63)	15.54 (2.51)
Completeness (%)	99.1 (89.7)	97.8 (93.8)	89.1 (44.7)
Redundancy	20.2 (11.4)	10.9 (8.8)	3.5 (2.4)
<i># molecule in asymmetrical unit</i>			
Refinement	1	I	Z
Resolution (Å)	36.18–1.97 (2.03–1.97)	44.36–2.07 (2.14–2.07)	28.80–1.90 (1.94–1.90)
No. reflections	33453	29179	41746
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	0.18 (0.22)/0.22 (0.28)	0.19 (0.22)/0.23 (0.29)	0.18 (0.23)/0.21 (0.32)
No. atoms			
Protein	2328	2430	4589
Ligand/ion	15	36	61
TCS401	0	18	36
Water	201	189	322
Total	2544	2655	4972
<i>B</i>-factors			
Macro Molecule	33.90	30.84	22.25
Ligand/ion	55.04	40.59	30.94
TCS401	NA	28.70	18.48
Water	41.07	32.86	25.44
All atoms	34.57	30.98	22.46
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.018	0.007	0.006
Bond angles (°)	1.369	0.841	0.863
Ramachandran			
Outliers (%)	0.35	0.67	0.36
Allowed (%)	2.42	2.35	2.14
Favored (%)	97.23	96.98	97.50
Rotamer Outliers (%)	0.39	0.37	1.19
Clashscore	2.56	1.23	1.52
PDB accession no.	5KA8	5KA9	5KAD

Data collection and refinement statistics (3/4).

	PTP1B_{YAYA}	PTP1B_{YAYA}:TCS401	PTP1B_{T178A}	PTP1B_{T178A}:TCS401
Data collection				
X-ray beam line	home source	home source	APS	home source
Wavelength (Å)	1.54	1.54	1.03	1.54
Space group	P 3 ₁ 2 1	P 3 ₁ 2 1	C 2	P 3 ₁ 2 1
Cell dimensions				
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	87.3, 87.3, 98.6	88.6, 88.6, 104.2	117.2 46.5 59.9	88.6, 88.6, 104.1
α , β , γ (°)	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0 90.3 90.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0
Resolution (Å)	50.00–2.07 (2.11–2.07)	50.00–2.14 (2.18–2.14)	50.00–2.17 (2.21–2.17)	50.00–2.06 (2.10–2.06)
<i>R</i> _{sym} Or <i>R</i> _{merge}	0.11 (0.73)	0.13 (0.89)	0.12 (0.50)	0.072 (0.390)
<i>I</i> / σ	26.76 (2.30)	30.40 (3.40)	11.90 (2.11)	35.73 (4.89)
Completeness (%)	99.8 (98.8)	100.0 (100.0)	91.3 (87.5)	98.2 (94.6)
Redundancy	10.7 (8.6)	21.5 (18.0)	2.4 (2.6)	10.8 (8.9)
# molecule in asymmetrical unit	1	1	1	1
Refinement				
Resolution (Å)	39.93–2.07 (2.15–2.07)	44.29–2.14 (2.23–2.14)	35.10–2.19 (2.35–2.19)	44.29–2.06 (2.14–2.06)
No. reflections	26729	26422	15407	28952
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	0.19 (0.21)/0.24 (0.25)	0.19 (0.22)/0.23 (0.25)	0.21 (0.27)/0.24 (0.31)	0.18 (0.20)/0.21 (0.24)
No. atoms				
Protein	2233	2367	2215	2402
Ligand/ion	26	26	0	19
TCS401	0	18	0	18
Water	149	122	80	165
Total	2408	2533	2295	2604
B-factors				
Macro Molecule	35.07	38.94	32.44	29.00
Ligand/ion	39.83	54.92	NA	34.73
TCS401	NA	30.87	NA	24.17
Water	38.31	42.08	30.94	31.74
All atoms	35.27	39.13	32.39	29.18
R.m.s. deviations				
Bond lengths (Å)	0.002	0.004	0.002	0.010
Bond angles (°)	0.511	0.717	0.440	1.083
Ramachandran				
Outliers (%)	0.36	0.34	0.36	0.34
Allowed (%)	2.16	2.73	2.16	2.02
Favored (%)	97.48	96.93	97.48	97.64
Rotamer Outliers (%)	0.41	0.00	1.70	0.00
Clashscore	2.68	2.71	1.85	1.04
PDB accession no.	5KA2	5KA3	5KA4	5KA7

Data collection and refinement statistics (4/4).

	PTP1B_{P185G}	PTP1B_{7P185G}	PTP1B_{7P185G:TCS401}
Data collection			
X-ray beam line	home source	home source	home source
Wavelength (Å)	1.54	1.54	1.54
Space group	P 3 ₂ 2 1	P 3 ₂ 2 1	P 3 ₂ 2 1
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	88.4, 88.4, 72.3	88.3, 88.3, 72.4	88.2, 88.2, 71.9
α , β , γ (°)	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0
Resolution (Å)	50.00–1.90 (1.93–1.90)	50.00–1.97 (2.00–1.97)	50.00–1.97 (2.00–1.97)
<i>R</i> _{sym} Or <i>R</i> _{merge}	0.04 (0.16)	0.06 (0.22)	0.05 (0.22)
<i>I</i> / σ	67.64 (10.89)	42.57 (6.26)	45.27 (5.75)
Completeness (%)	87.3 (40.7)	99.3 (92.6)	99.6 (93.8)
Redundancy	10.8 (8.4)	10.1 (5.4)	10.1 (5.4)
# molecule in asymmetrical unit	1	1	1
Refinement			
Resolution (Å)	38.28–1.90 (1.99–1.90)	38.26–1.97 (2.06–1.97)	38.19–1.97 (2.06–1.97)
No. reflections	22716	23301	23144
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	0.17 (0.20)/0.21 (0.29)	0.17 (0.19)/0.21 (0.27)	0.18 (0.20)/0.21 (0.25)
No. atoms			
Protein	2234	2286	2283
Ligand/ion	27	28	25
TCS401	0	0	18
Water	202	206	161
Total	2463	2520	2487
B-factors			
Macro Molecule	32.83	25.59	29.24
Ligand/ion	46.38	37.26	37.94
TCS401	NA	NA	34.83
Water	31.83	28.57	29.62
All atoms	32.13	25.83	29.26
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.006	0.010	0.010
Bond angles (°)	0.789	1.055	1.042
Ramachandran			
Outliers (%)	0.72	0.36	0.36
Allowed (%)	2.15	2.14	2.14
Favored (%)	97.13	97.51	97.50
Rotamer Outliers (%)	2.07	0.79	2.39
Clashscore	4.95	4.13	4.98
PDB accession no.	5KAC	5KAA	5KAB

All data was collected from single crystal. Values in parentheses are for highest resolution shell. NA= Not Applicable.