

## BIOPHYSICS

# Conserved conformational dynamics determine enzyme activity

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Homologous enzymes often exhibit different catalytic rates despite a fully conserved active site. The canonical view is that an enzyme sequence defines its structure and function and, more recently, that intrinsic protein dynamics at different time scales enable and/or promote catalytic activity. Here, we show that, using the protein tyrosine phosphatase PTP1B, residues surrounding the PTP1B active site promote dynamically coordinated chemistry necessary for PTP1B function. However, residues distant to the active site also undergo distinct intermediate time scale dynamics and these dynamics are correlated with its catalytic activity and thus allow for different catalytic rates in this enzyme family. We identify these previously undetected motions using coevolutionary coupling analysis and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Our findings strongly indicate that conserved dynamics drives the enzymatic activity of the PTP family. Characterization of these conserved dynamics allows for the identification of novel regulatory elements (therapeutic binding pockets) that can be leveraged for the control of enzymes.

## INTRODUCTION

Enzymes catalyze chemical reactions that direct essential metabolic and signaling processes. Landmark studies led to the canonical view that a protein amino acid sequence defines its structure and function (1). Accordingly, it is well established that the active site residues among homologs are exceptionally conserved (2). However, homologous enzymes do not have identical kinetic properties, with each member often exhibiting different rates or affinities for reaction intermediates, despite having the identical set of residues performing chemistry. Consistent with this, recent data suggest that the sequence-structure-function dogma is incomplete. Current data show that intrinsic enzyme dynamics are equally important for regulating enzymatic function (3–9).

The extent to which intrinsic enzyme dynamics, like structure, is encoded in sequence and the role(s) it plays in regulating enzyme activities remain open questions (4, 10–12). Computational results have highlighted that such correlations might exist (13, 14). However, experimental evidence is critically needed to confirm and advance these computational predictions. Understanding the molecular differences that give rise to divergence in activities will provide new routes for evolving enzymes with enhanced activities and novel strategies for the development of enzyme-specific therapeutics. Unfortunately, general methods for identifying residues outside the active site that function as catalytic modulators are not well established.

One approach, coevolutionary coupling analysis, uses patterns of pairwise correlations in sequence alignments coupled with spectral clustering to identify groups of residues that have evolved in a concerted manner [evolutionary domains (EDs)] (15). While the mathematical framework has been applied to canonical enzymes, i.e., adenylate kinase (15), experimental validation of EDs identified

using coevolution analysis is currently scant. Nearly 20 years ago, a correlation between sequence conservation and side-chain rigidity using picosecond to nanosecond (ps-ns) dynamics in an SH3 domain was discovered (16). Furthermore, energetic pathways identified by evolutionary covariance analysis have been shown to coincide with networks of side chains connected by shared ps-ns dynamics in a PDZ domain (17). Last, it was shown that this ps-ns dynamics in multiple PDZ domains is conserved (18). However, little additional work has been reported to determine whether this finding is general, or whether evolutionary networks coincide with structural pathways or dynamics on other time scales in larger proteins or ones that have catalytic activity.

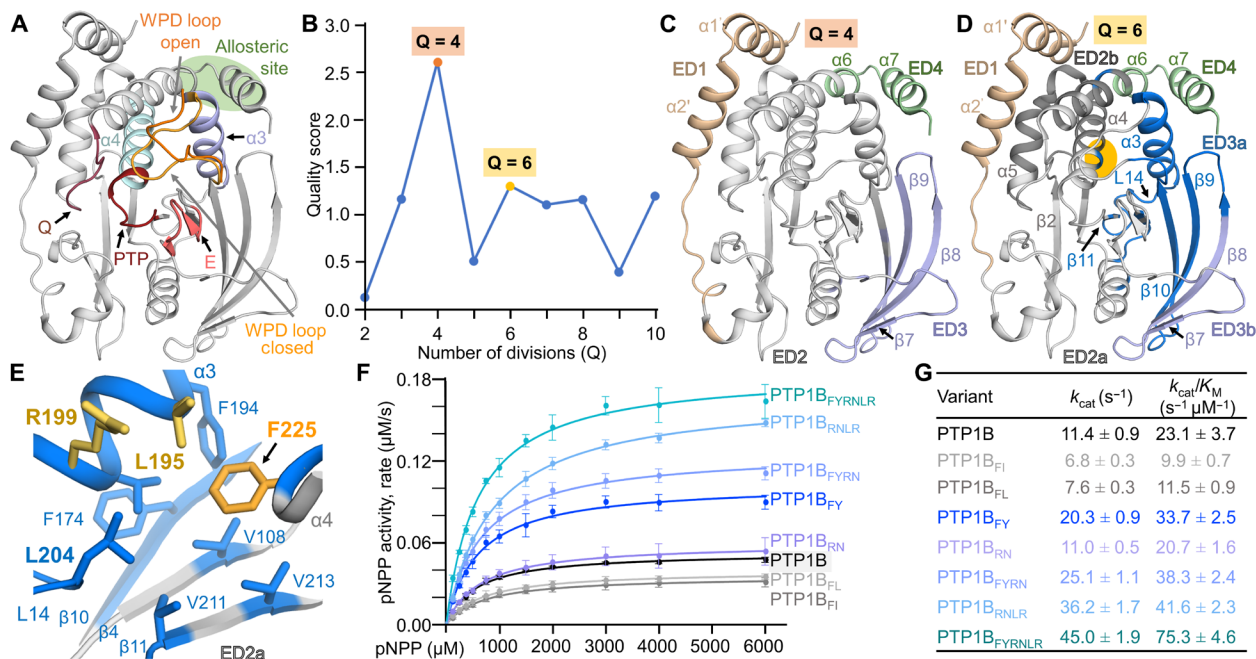
Here, we tested the ability of coevolutionary coupling analysis to identify evolutionarily conserved domains that modulate the enzyme activity of protein tyrosine phosphatase (PTP) 1B (PTP1B/PTPN1) and then used nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, x-ray crystallography, and biochemical assays to define their molecular origin. PTP1B is a key regulator of both insulin and leptin signaling pathways with additional roles in cancer and neuronal signaling (19–21). Similar to all members of the PTP family, PTP1B has a highly conserved active site defined by the following (Fig. 1A): (i) The PTP loop ([I/V]HC<sup>215</sup>xxGxxR<sup>221</sup>[S/T]G), which contains the invariant catalytic nucleophilic cysteine (C215); (ii) the E loop, which contains a conserved glutamate (E115) that coordinates the PTP-loop R221; (iii) the WPD loop, <sup>179</sup>WPD<sup>181</sup>, which contains the catalytic aspartate (D181) that functions as the proton donor and acceptor during phosphoryl transfer; and (iv) the Q loop centered on Q262, which coordinates a nucleophilic water to mediate phosphocysteine hydrolysis (22). Although it was originally thought that PTP1B function depends only on the rate of WPD loop closure (23), recent work has shown that the active site loops are dynamically coordinated, exhibiting uniform dynamics throughout the PTP1B catalytic cycle (24). Last, many additional reports highlight the functional role of these active site loops in the chemistry of the catalytic reaction in PTP1B (25–27).

Here, we report that a group of residues, ~20 Å distant from the PTP1B active site, perform motions in the microsecond time scale

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**Fig. 1. Coevolutionary coupling analysis identifies a conserved domain that influences PTP1B activity.** (A) Overlay of the open [Protein Data Bank (PDB): 5K9V; WPD loop only] and closed (PDB: 5K9W; gray cartoon) states of PTP1B. Highlighted functional elements include the PTP and Q loops (red), the WPD loops (closed, light orange; open, orange), the E loop (pink), helix  $\alpha 3$  (lavender) and helix  $\alpha 4$  (light blue), and the allosteric pocket (green circle). (B) Evolutionary partitioning (quality score versus Q divisions) identifying groups of coevolving residues (ED) in PTP1B using multiple sequence alignments (MSA). (C) PTP1B EDs identified for  $Q = 4$ : ED1, N terminus (beige); ED2, core PTP domain (gray); ED3,  $\beta$  strands 7 to 10 (lavender); ED4, allosteric pocket (green). (D) PTP1B EDs identified for  $Q = 6$ : ED1 and ED4 same as in (C); ED2a, key catalytic loops (light gray); ED2b, support helices  $\alpha 4/\alpha 5$  and part of helix  $\alpha 6$  (dark gray); ED3a,  $\beta$  strands  $\beta 9/\beta 10$  (with parts of  $\beta 4$  and  $\beta 8$ ) that are now grouped with helix  $\alpha 3$  and loop L14 (blue); ED3b, the remainder of  $\beta$  strands  $\beta 8$  and  $\beta 7$  (lavender). Orange circle highlights the position of F225 on helix  $\alpha 4$ , which is part of ED3b. (E) ED3a hydrophobic pocket centered on F225. (F) Catalytic activity of ED3a variants ( $n = 3$  to 4). (G) Kinetic parameters for measurements in (F).

that directly correlate with the enzymatic turnover of PTP1B. Furthermore, most of these residues are conserved in the PTP family of enzymes and thus the protein dynamics that drive PTP activity are also likely conserved. Our data explain how PTPs perform identical chemistry with different turnover rates, ultimately allowing diverse biological functions being controlled by the identical PTP fold.

## RESULTS

### Coevolutionary coupling analysis of PTP1B

To determine whether PTP1B contains EDs outside of the active site, we analyzed 4406 homologous PTP1B sequences using coevolutionary coupling analysis. The best scores were obtained when PTP1B was divided into four ( $Q_4$ ) and six ( $Q_6$ ) conserved domains (Fig. 1B). The four EDs in  $Q_4$  are the following (Fig. 1C): (i) The PTP1B N terminus, including helices  $\alpha 1$  and  $\alpha 2$ , which, within the PTP family, is largely unique to PTP1B (28); (ii) the core PTP catalytic domain (29); (iii) the  $\beta$  strands  $\beta 7/\beta 8/\beta 9$  and part of  $\beta 10$  that comprise the outermost strands of the PTP1B central  $\beta$  sheet; and (iv) a part of helix  $\alpha 6$  and all of helix  $\alpha 7$ , which define the PTP1B allosteric pocket (30). The function of each of these domains in PTP1B activity has been experimentally established, demonstrating that coevolutionary analysis successfully identifies clusters of residues critical for PTP1B function.

To identify subdomains that have the potential to influence PTP1B activity via as yet unknown mechanisms, we examined  $Q_6$  (Fig. 1D), which resulted in the division of the core PTP catalytic

domain and the  $\beta 7/\beta 8/\beta 9/\beta 10$  strand domain into four distinct groups (the N-terminal and C-terminal EDs were unchanged between  $Q_4$  and  $Q_6$ ): (2a) the key catalytic loops; (2b) support helices  $\alpha 4/\alpha 5$  and part of helix  $\alpha 6$ , which bridge the catalytic site to the N terminus; (3a)  $\beta$  strands  $\beta 9/\beta 10$  (with parts of  $\beta 4$  and  $\beta 8$ ) that are now grouped with helix  $\alpha 3$  and loop L14; and (3b) the remainder of  $\beta$  strands  $\beta 8$  and  $\beta 7$ . While the initial four groups are largely contiguous in sequence, the groups in  $Q_6$  are not; rather, they are continuous in space. Particularly unique was ED3a, in which a single residue from helix  $\alpha 4$ , F225 (8.5 Å from C215;  $C\alpha-C\alpha$  distance), the remainder of  $\alpha 4$  is part of group 2b), was identified to coevolve as part of the extended hydrophobic pocket defined by ED3a residues from  $\beta$  strands  $\beta 9/\beta 10$ , helix  $\alpha 3$ , and L14 (Fig. 1E).  $Q_{7/8/10}$  showed similar scores as  $Q_6$ , but without understanding the function of the  $Q_6$  EDs, it is impossible to interpret the molecular basis of the EDs in  $Q_{7/8/10}$ .

### PTP1B helix $\alpha 4$ residue F225 defines a coevolved regulatory center

The multiple sequence alignment leveraged for the coevolutionary coupling analysis identified that the most frequently observed variants of ED3a residue F225 are F225I, F225L, and F225Y. To understand how the identity of the residue at position 225 affects PTP1B stability and activity, we generated each variant and then measured their thermal denaturation melting temperatures ( $T_m$ ) and activities (Fig. 1, F and G, and table S1). The thermal denaturation experiments show that each variant is less thermally stable than wild-type

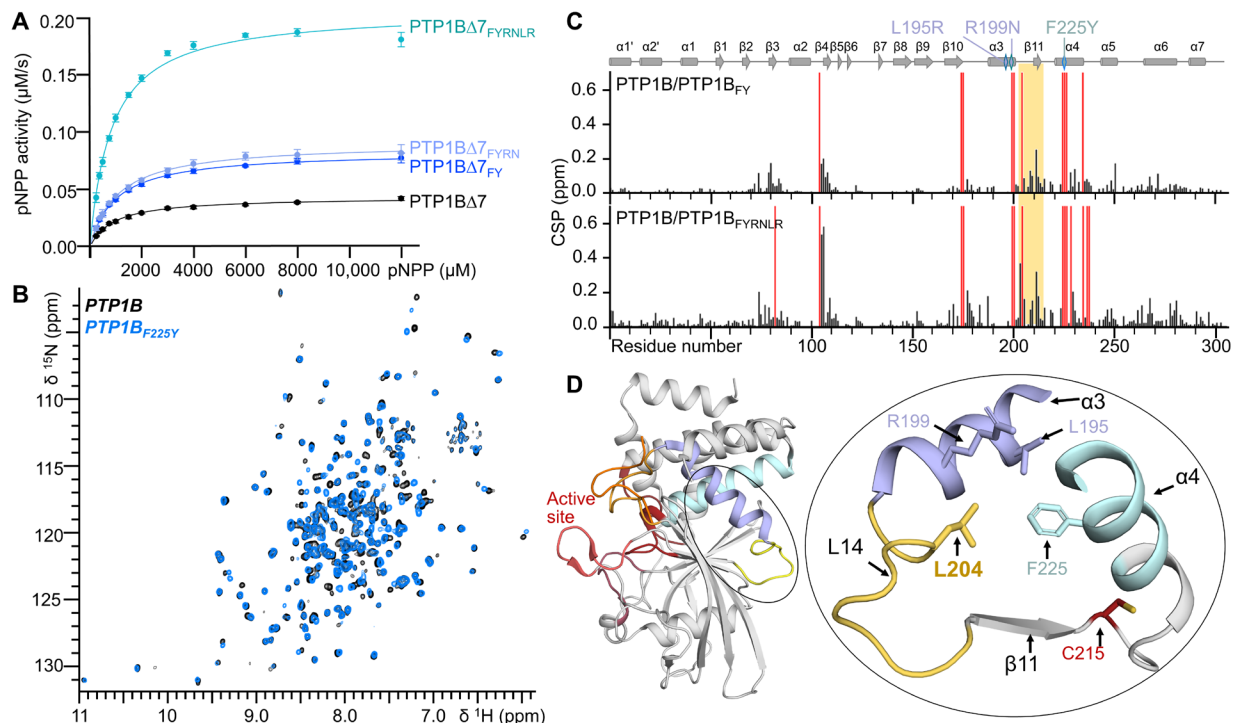
(wt) PTP1B [ $\Delta T_m$ :  $-11.6^\circ\text{C}$  (PTP1B<sub>F225I</sub>),  $-7.9^\circ\text{C}$  (PTP1B<sub>F225L</sub>), and  $-8.0^\circ\text{C}$  (PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub>); all constructs are PTP1B<sub>1-301</sub> unless otherwise noted; hereafter, PTP1B refers to wt-PTP1B<sub>1-301</sub>]. Furthermore, PTP1B<sub>F225A</sub> is completely insoluble, a result consistent with the observation that the F225 pocket is exclusively hydrophobic extending to loop L14 residue L204. These data demonstrate that not only is a bulky hydrophobic amino acid at this position required for proper folding but also replacing it with other hydrophobic amino acids negatively affects PTP1B stability. Despite this reduction in PTP1B stability, activity assays showed that the catalytic activities of the variants were either similar (PTP1B<sub>F225I</sub> and PTP1B<sub>F225L</sub>) or, unexpectedly, increased (PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub>, increased by 1.8-fold) compared to wt-PTP1B.

To understand how an amino acid more than 8 Å from the active site affects PTP1B activity, we investigated the consequences of mutating residues within the F225 hydrophobic pocket to amino acids identified in our analysis to coevolve with PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> with the highest frequencies: helix  $\alpha 3$  residues L195(R) and R199(N). We first tested the consequences of mutating these residues, both alone and in combination with F225Y. PTP1B<sub>L195R</sub> was not soluble, likely due to the steric and charge repulsion of two arginine residues present in the same pocket (R199 and L195R). In contrast, PTP1B variants PTP1B<sub>R199N</sub>, PTP1B<sub>R199N/L195R</sub> (PTP1B<sub>R199NLR</sub>), PTP1B<sub>F225Y/R199N</sub> (PTP1B<sub>FYRNL</sub>), and PTP1B<sub>F225Y/R199N/L195R</sub> (PTP1B<sub>FYRNLRL</sub>; this was the most frequently observed variant in the coevolution analysis) expressed solubly. These variants also exhibit reduced thermal stabilities compared to PTP1B (table S1). Although L195 and R199 are, respectively, 14.5 and 18.9 Å away from C215, enzymatic assays

showed that, like PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub>, the catalytic activities of all variants except PTP1B<sub>R199N</sub> increased relative to PTP1B (PTP1B<sub>FYRNL</sub>, 1.7-fold; PTP1B<sub>R199NLR</sub>, 1.8-fold; PTP1B<sub>FYRNLRL</sub>, 3.3-fold; Fig. 1, F and G). Furthermore, an analysis of the kinetic parameters showed that the increase depends solely on  $k_{cat}$ , i.e., it is not achieved because substrates engage PTP1B differently but instead reflects increased turnover.

### The increase in $k_{cat}$ of F225 variants is not due to a structural change or allostery

We then set out to define the molecular mechanism(s) by which these mutations alter PTP1B activity. It is well established that PTP1B is regulated by allostery, which is mediated by protein dynamics, and, further, that helix  $\alpha 7$  is essential for this allosteric control (its deletion, PTP1B $\Delta 7$ , frees PTP1B from allosteric regulation) (30). Although our previous work did not identify L195, R199, or F225 as part of the allosteric pathway (31), we tested whether the observed activity increases in these variants requires helix  $\alpha 7$ -mediated allostery. Deletion of  $\alpha 7$ , unlike these mutations, alters both  $k_{cat}$  and  $K_M$  (table S1). However, the activities of PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub>, PTP1B<sub>FYRNL</sub>, and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLRL</sub> in PTP1B $\Delta 7$  (Fig. 2A and table S1) show similar increases in  $k_{cat}$  for all PTP1B $\Delta 7$  and PTP1B coevolving variants [the crystal structures of PTP1B $\Delta 7$ <sub>FYRNL</sub> and PTP1B $\Delta 7$ <sub>FYRNLRL</sub> are unchanged, with root mean square deviations (RMSDs) of 0.12 and 0.17 Å versus PTP1B $\Delta 7$ , respectively; fig. S1 and table S2]. These data demonstrate that the increases in activity in these variants do not depend on helix  $\alpha 7$ -mediated PTP1B allostery but instead are achieved by a distinct mechanism.



**Fig. 2. Modulation of PTP1B activity by ED3a.** (A) Catalytic activity for PTP1B $\Delta 7$  variants ( $n = 3$  to 4). (B) Overlay of the 2D [<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>15</sup>N] TROSY spectrum of PTP1B (black) and PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> (blue). (C) CSPs of PTP1B versus PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> (top) or PTP1B<sub>F225Y-R199N-L195R</sub> (bottom). Red bars indicate peaks that broadened beyond detection; PTP1B secondary structural elements are shown, and the location of mutations is indicated by a diamond. (D) Loop L14 and L204 and its relationship to ED3a (residues F225, L195, and R199) and the active site PTP loop (C215). Structural elements are colored as in Fig. 1A. ppm, parts per million.

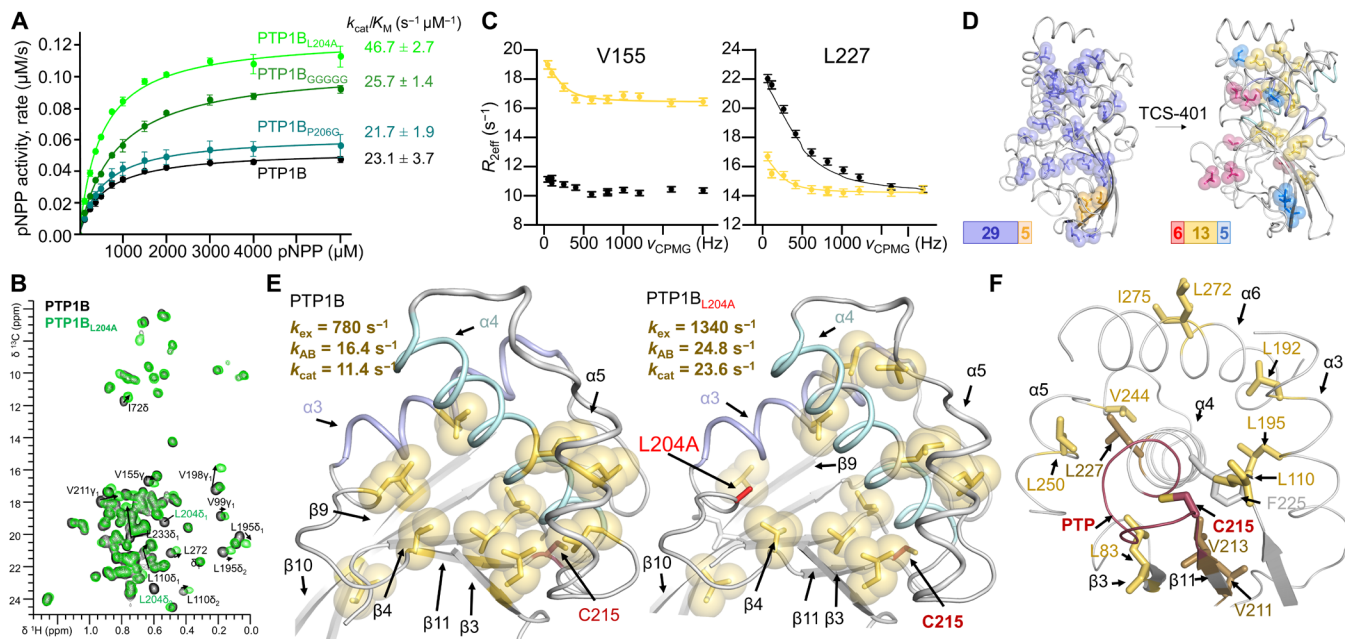
To identify this mechanism, we used biomolecular NMR spectroscopy. The two-dimensional (2D) [ $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ] transverse relaxation optimized spectroscopy (TROSY) spectra of PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> (Fig. 2B) and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub> (fig. S2) are of exceptional quality, with nearly identical overall peak counts as the 2D [ $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ] TROSY spectrum of PTP1B. This demonstrates that there are no major differences in backbone chemical exchange processes due to the mutation(s). It was previously shown (31) that the binding of a substrate mimicking inhibitor, TCS401, to PTP1B results in numerous chemical shift perturbations (CSPs) not only near the TCS401 binding site (i.e., the PTP1B active site) but also at the PTP1B allosteric site (30) and residues that connect the active and allosteric sites. The binding of TCS401 to both PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub> leads to CSPs that are highly similar to those identified in TCS401-bound PTP1B (fig. S3, A to C). Likewise, the CSPs that define the PTP1B allosteric pathway are also observed, confirming that the allosteric pathway is maintained among PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub>, PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub>, and PTP1B (31). When further comparing the 2D [ $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ] TROSY spectra of PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub> with that of PTP1B, additional novel CSPs were observed (Fig. 2C). Most new CSPs are readily attributable to the F225Y and FYRNLR mutations. However, new CSPs were also observed for residues in strand  $\beta$ 4 and loop L14 (L14, residues 202 to 209, is part of the Q<sub>6</sub> ED3a and connects helix  $\alpha$ 3 to strand  $\beta$ 11; Fig. 2D), suggesting a role for these residues in the F225Y-mediated increase in PTP1B activity. The crystal structures of PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> and TCS401-bound PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub> showed that the observed CSPs were not due to changes in conformation (free and TCS401-bound; RMSDs of 0.1, 0.13, and 0.18 Å, respectively)

(fig. S4 and table S2), suggesting that neither conformational/structural changes nor allostery explains the altered activity.

### PTP1B loop L14

PTP1B loop L14 is part of the Q<sub>6</sub> ED3a. To test whether and how L14 hydrophobicity and/or flexibility affects PTP1B catalytic activity, we generated PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>, PTP1B<sub>P206G</sub>, and PTP1B<sub>GGGGGG</sub> (L14, residues 203 to 208, each mutated to a glycine). While the catalytic activity of PTP1B<sub>P206G</sub> was unchanged from PTP1B, the activities of both PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> and PTP1B<sub>GGGGGG</sub> increased (Fig. 3A and table S1). Michaelis-Menten kinetic analysis of PTP1B<sub>GGGGGG</sub> showed that this increase was largely attributable to an increase in  $K_M$ . In contrast, the increased activity of PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (a residue of  $\sim 16$  Å from the catalytic C215) was due to a change in  $k_{\text{cat}}$ , i.e., reflecting the behavior observed for PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub>.

To define the molecular basis for the increase, we first determined the crystal structures of free and TCS401-bound PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>. The structures of PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> are essentially identical to PTP1B, both in the absence of and bound to TCS401 (RMSDs of 0.15 and 0.14 Å, respectively; fig. S5, A and B, and table S2). Similarly, the 2D [ $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ] TROSY spectra of PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (fig. S6A) and PTP1B are nearly identical to those observed for PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub> (Fig. 2C) and PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub> (fig. S2), except for CSPs in loop L4, a loop immediately adjacent to L14 (fig. S6B). Last, binding of TCS401 to PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> leads to all expected CSPs (fig. S6, C and D). Together, no structural changes or unexpected CSPs are identified in PTP1B due to the L204A mutations, despite the change in enzymatic activity.



**Fig. 3. Group 2 dynamics are related to enzyme catalysis.** (A) Catalytic activity for PTP1B L14 variants ( $n=3$  to 4). (B) Overlay of  $^{13}\text{C}$  ILV 2D [ $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ] HSQC spectrum of PTP1B (black) and PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (green). Moving peaks are annotated and indicated with arrows. (C) Representative  $^{13}\text{C}$ -CPMG dispersion profiles for V155 [fast exchange in free PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (black) and intermediate exchange in TCS401-saturated PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (yellow)] and L227 [free PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (black) and intermediate exchange in TCS401-saturated PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (yellow)]. (D) Left: ct-CPMG relaxation dispersion grouping for PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (PDB 7MNC), group 1 ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 3000 \pm 40 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; dark blue) and group 2 ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 5000 \pm 210 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; orange). Right: ct-CPMG dispersion relaxation grouping for PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> saturated with TCS401 (PDB 7MND), group 1 ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 3130 \pm 280 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; blue), group 2 ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 1340 \pm 120 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; yellow), and group 3 ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 680 \pm 40 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ; raspberry). (E) ct-CPMG dispersion relaxation grouping for PTP1B and PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> in TCS401-saturated PTP1B (left) and TCS401-saturated PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (right). The exchange frequency ( $k_{\text{ex}}$ ) and  $k_{\text{AB}}$ , along with the measured  $k_{\text{cat}}$  for TCS401-saturated PTP1B and PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> are shown. (F) Group 2 residues (yellow sticks) cradle helix  $\alpha$ 4 (residues that anchor the PTP loop are shown in dark yellow). The PTP loop, including the catalytic C215, is shown in red.

### A novel role for microsecond/millisecond time scale dynamics in PTP1B activity

Because there were no notable changes in the conformation of PTP1B and its variants to explain the increased catalytic activity of PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>, we reasoned that PTP1B dynamics may play a role. Because the increased catalytic efficiency is driven by a change in  $k_{\text{cat}}$ , this correlates with changes in PTP1B dynamics in the microsecond/millisecond regime (23). To exclude the possibility that fast time scale dynamics (i.e., fluctuations in the ps-ns time regime) might play a role, we measured the <sup>15</sup>N backbone (fig. S7) and <sup>13</sup>C side-chain dynamics [Ile, Leu, and Val (ILV)] relaxation data ( $T_1$  and  $T_2$ ; all side-chain dynamics measurements were performed using <sup>13</sup>CHD<sub>2</sub> ILV-labeled PTP1B; Fig. 3B and figs. S8 and S9) of PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> in both the absence and presence of TCS401. The data show that the PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> fast time scale dynamics mirror the dynamics observed for PTP1B (31), demonstrating that the increase in  $k_{\text{cat}}$  is not due to changes in fast time scale dynamics.

We then measured PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> <sup>13</sup>C ILV constant-time Carr-Purcell-Meiboom-Gill (ct-CPMG) side-chain dynamics, which directly report on dynamics on microsecond/millisecond regime (32). Here, residues undergoing microsecond/millisecond conformational exchange dynamics between two populations show changes in the effective rate of relaxation  $R_{2\text{eff}}$ , which are measured as a function of repetition frequency ( $\nu_{\text{cpmg}}$ ) (Fig. 3C and fig. S10, A and B). The curve of the plots of  $R_{2\text{eff}}$  versus  $\nu_{\text{cpmg}}$  are fit using a two-state model (Carver-Richards) to extract the two populations ( $p_A$  and  $p_B$ ) and the rate of exchange between them ( $k_{\text{ex}}$ ). Our previous <sup>13</sup>C ILV ct-CPMG side-chain relaxation measurements on PTP1B revealed that the chemically critical elements of PTP1B fluctuate coherently and distinctly from the rest of the protein when a substrate analog and/or inhibitor binds the PTP1B active site, demonstrating that all catalytic residues work in dynamic unity (24).

As observed for PTP1B (24), PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> <sup>13</sup>C ILV ct-CPMG side-chain dynamics experiments showed that many residues in free PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> (34 residues) exhibited microsecond/millisecond exchange dynamics. These clustered into two groups with distinct motions (groups are collections of residues that experience similar exchange dynamics; Fig. 3D, left, and table S3). Group 1 contained 29 residues and experienced uniform fast exchange ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 3000 \pm 40 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $p_B = 3.4 \pm 0.2\%$ ; fig. S10A). Group 2 contains the remaining residues (five residues) and had distinct exchange parameters ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 5000 \pm 210 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $p_B = 0.9 \pm 0.1\%$ ; table S3). These residues are on the surface of the protein far from the active site and therefore likely reflect areas with increased flexibility and interactions with bulk solvent. The PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> residues that comprise groups 1 and 2, and their associated exchange frequencies and populations, are similar to those previously observed for PTP1B (24). While these groups are statistically distinct, the reliability of populations extracted from the Carver-Richards equation for conformational dynamics in the fast exchange regime are low. However, the Carver-Richards equation is applicable when the  $k_{\text{ex}} \gg R_2$  and when the one of the populations is significantly dominant. This is exactly the case for these measurements performed on free PTP1B (i.e., PTP1B is predominately in an open conformation).

As also previously observed for PTP1B (24), the formation of the TCS401-saturated PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> complex (1:6 ratio) led to a large decrease in overall dynamics (fig. S10B and table S4). Specifically, 24 residues exhibited microsecond/millisecond exchange dynamics, which clustered into three groups with distinct motions (Fig. 3D,

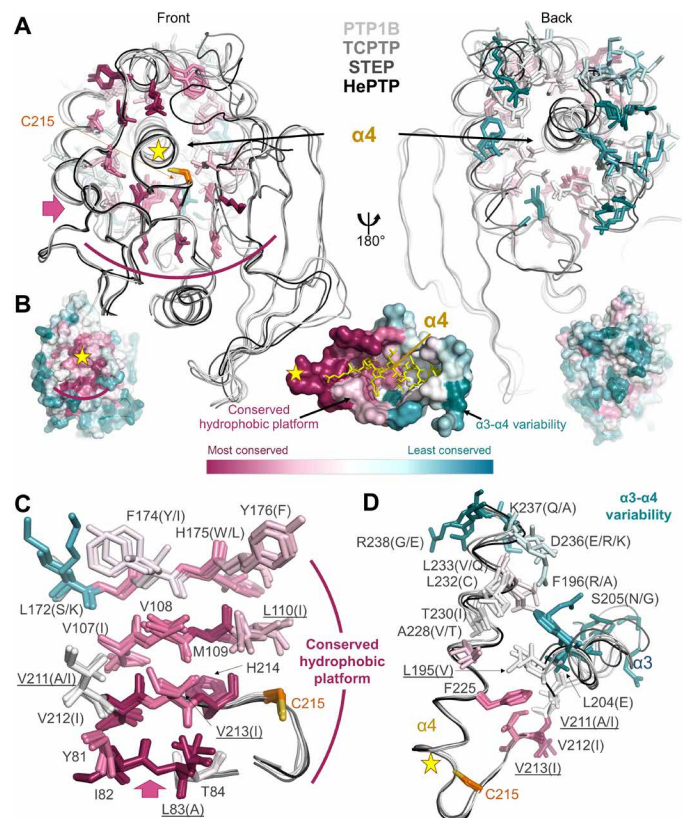
right). Group 1 (five residues, strand  $\beta 8$  or helix  $\alpha 7$ ) had the fastest exchange dynamics ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 3130 \pm 280 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $p_B = 0.3 \pm 0.1\%$ ). Group 2 (13 residues, helices  $\alpha 3/\alpha 4/\alpha 6$  or strands  $\beta 4/\beta 9/\beta 10/\beta 11$ ) had significantly slower exchange dynamics ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 1340 \pm 120 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $p_B = 1.9 \pm 0.9\%$ ); these secondary structure elements are part of the hydrophobic cluster centered around F225 and loop L14 and include L195 (Fig. 3, C and D, and fig. S10B). Group 3 (six residues, active site loops) had the slowest exchange dynamics ( $k_{\text{ex}} = 680 \pm 40 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $p_B = 11 \pm 1\%$ ). We expect these changes in dynamics to mimic those that occur under conditions of catalysis because TCS401 is a substrate-like compound (33). Unlike substrates, TCS401 saturates PTP1B at experimentally accessible concentrations, permitting the careful and reproducible investigation of a substrate-bound-like PTP1B state.

As observed for free PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> and PTP1B, the number of groups and the residues that comprise each group are nearly identical between TCS401-bound PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> and TCS401-bound PTP1B (Fig. 3E). However, their associated exchange rates differ. Namely, for TCS401-bound PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>, the  $k_{\text{ex}}$  of all three groups increased compared to the corresponding groups in PTP1B. The  $k_{\text{ex}}$  values for groups 1 and 3 are 1.5- and 1.2-fold faster, respectively, than those observed for PTP1B; while the  $k_{\text{ex}}$  for group 2, which includes F225 and L14, increases ~2-fold. This increase in  $k_{\text{ex}}$  mirrors the twofold increase in the PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>  $k_{\text{cat}}$  (Fig. 3E). Using the fitted populations, the unidirectional exchange rates can be calculated. Group 2 ( $k_{\text{AB}} = 24.8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) is remarkably similar to the independently measured unidirectional  $k_{\text{cat}} = 23.6 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Group 2 in PTP1B shows a similar relationship ( $k_{\text{AB}} = 16.4 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $k_{\text{cat}} = 11.4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ).

### Dynamics that controls PTP1B activity is distal to the active site and conserved

The high resemblance of  $k_{\text{cat}}$  and  $k_{\text{AB}}$  for group 2 residues in PTP1B, combined with the observed correlated change in  $k_{\text{cat}}$  and  $k_{\text{AB}}$  for group 2 in PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>, clearly suggests that group 2 dynamics are related to enzyme catalysis. An examination of the residues that constitute group 2 reveal why this is the case (Fig. 3F). Namely, group 2 contains residues from both helix  $\alpha 4$  (L227) and strand  $\beta 11$  (V211 and V213), the two secondary structural elements that anchor the PTP loop. Furthermore, additional group 2 residues L83 and L110 contact strand  $\beta 11$  to form a contiguous surface that packs against helix  $\alpha 4$ , while residues L192 and L195 from helix  $\alpha 3$  bind directly to helix  $\alpha 4$ . Last, residue L250 packs against L227, while V244 contacts four residues at the helix  $\alpha 4$  C terminus. Thus, changes in the dynamics of the side chains within group 2 residues are poised to alter the dynamics of the catalytic loop and/or its anchoring elements and thus C215. In this way, these motions may increase enzyme efficiency without altering the global structure or the mechanism of dephosphorylation. Last and most critically, the information flow through this pathway is bidirectional, with binding events at the active site altering the dynamics of loop L14 (L204) and mutations in loop L14 (L204A) altering dynamics in the active site.

Notably, the majority of residues outside the active site that exhibit the highest sequence conservation in the PTP family are on the central  $\beta$  sheet (strands  $\beta 2/\beta 3/\beta 4/\beta 10/\beta 11$ ), where many of the group 2 residues are found (Fig. 4, A and B, left). This conservation extends even to bacterial tyrosine phosphatases such as YopH from *Yersinia pestis* (fig. S11). This platform of conserved residues supports the N-terminal portion of helix  $\alpha 4$ , which connects directly to the PTP loop containing the catalytic C215 (Fig. 4C). In contrast to the



**Fig. 4. Group 2 residues are highly conserved.** (A) Overlay of PTP1B (white), TCPTP (light gray), STEP (dark gray), and HePTP (black). Residues surrounding helix  $\alpha 4$  are shown as sticks and colored by conservation within the PTP family. Left: Front view looking down helix 4 from the active site (yellow star; catalytic Cys shown in orange sticks). Pink arrow indicates the view of the hydrophobic platform (curved magenta line) shown in (B). Right: Same overlay rotated by 180°. (B) PTP1B is shown as a surface and colored according to PTP family sequence conservation [most conserved (magenta) and least conserved (teal)]. Left: Same orientation as in (A), left. Right: Same orientation as in (A), right. Middle: View of helix  $\alpha 4$  looking down illustrating the conserved hydrophobic platform and the increased variability at the  $\alpha 3$ - $\alpha 4$  junction. (C) Residues (shown as sticks) that comprise the conserved hydrophobic platform that support helix  $\alpha 4$  are colored according to conservation and labeled (underline indicates a group 2 residue). (D) Residues (shown as sticks) illustrating the increased variability at the C-terminal portion of helix  $\alpha 4$  adjacent to the N terminus of helix  $\alpha 3$ . Residues are colored and labeled as in (C).

C-terminal portion of helix  $\alpha 4$ , all of helix  $\alpha 3$  and the residues that support these secondary structural elements are much less conserved [Fig. 4, A (right), B (right), and D]. These sequence variations likely allow for different helix  $\alpha 4$  motions resulting in distinct catalytic activities among PTP family members. It is therefore probable that this dynamic pathway is conserved across the PTP family, providing further support for the emerging view that conservation of dynamics in parts of enzymes that are distal from the active site is essential for enzyme function, i.e., the regulation of catalytic turnover.

## DISCUSSION

Protein dynamics, at various time scales, are essential for the regulation, interaction, and function of prokaryotic and eukaryotic

enzymes (3–9, 11). PTPs, especially PTP1B, are one of the best-studied groups of enzymes, as they have critical roles in the regulation of essential signaling pathways. As for many enzymes, crystallographic studies were leveraged to understand the molecular mechanism of the catalytic reaction (29, 34–37). This foundational work showed that the WPD loop adopts two distinct states, an open state and a closed state, and that these two states are critical for the enzymatic mechanism that drives the underlying chemistry of their dephosphorylation. Multiple studies since then have greatly augmented this view. For example, it was also shown that the rigidity of this loop is critical for the function of the loop itself (25, 31). Furthermore, multiple reports have provided key insights not only into the mechanism of allostery in PTP1B (30, 31, 38, 39) but also, more recently, to its closest homolog, TCPTP (28, 40). These and a plethora of other findings led to multiple *in silico*, high-throughput screening, structure-based drug design, and other efforts to identify specific inhibitors of PTPs.

Here, we used PTP1B, the best-studied member of the PTP family of enzymes, as a test bed to determine whether residues that co-evolve are important for its catalytic function. Previous experiments investigating a small, noncatalytic domain demonstrated that networks of coevolving residues coincide with networks of residues connected by fast fluctuations of side chains (41). Here, we significantly extend that finding and show that coevolutionary coupling analysis identifies catalytically important residues more than 16 Å away from the active site of PTP1B. More significantly, we discovered that this distal network of PTP1B residues causes changes in side-chain fluctuations on the microsecond time scale that result in correlated changes in  $k_{\text{cat}}$ . These results strongly support the view that the relationships discovered by coevolutionary coupling analysis reflect pathways of energetic distribution correlated with protein dynamics. They also reveal that, just like protein structure, the protein dynamics that drives protein activity is also likely conserved. Together, this work establishes that the dynamics of evolutionarily coevolving domains distal from the active site controls enzyme activity, explaining how PTPs can perform identical chemistry yet do so with different turnover rates and ultimately allowing diverse biological functions being controlled by the identical PTP fold. Together, this work advances protein design, disease mutation analysis, and therapeutic development of enzymes.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### ED analysis

To identify groups of coevolving residues in PTP1B, we obtained a multiple sequence alignment containing PTP1B homologs by building a hidden Markov model of the protein family, based on four iterations of jackhammer (42), and extracting the sequences from the UniProt UniRef100 database (43). We refined the alignment by requiring that all sequences covered at least 50% of the PTP1B sequence and excluding all sequences that contain more than 50% of gaps. We then used the asymmetric plmDCA algorithm (44), using default input parameters (including a 90% cutoff in sequence similarity resulting in 4408 sequences), to find pairs of residues with direct correlated mutations through evolution. We used the derived couplings to divide the PTP1B sequence into EDs (15), i.e., to find groups of residues that evolved together and almost independently of each other. The obtained quality score indicates the best partitioning for the underlying coupling graph based on the separability between the different clusters. For the analysis, we

used the web server at [spectrus.sissa.it/spectrus-evo\\_webserver](http://spectrus.sissa.it/spectrus-evo_webserver) with default parameters.

### Protein expression

DNA coding the human PTP1B catalytic domains PTP1B (residues 1 to 301) and PTP1B $\Delta$ 7 (residues 1 to 284) was used to generate all PTP1B variants. PTP1B F225Y, F225Y/R199N, R199N, R199N/L195R, F225Y/R199N/L195R, L204A, P206G, and GGGGG (203-SLSPH-207) were generated using the QuikChange (Agilent) site-directed mutagenesis kit. DNA plasmids for each variant were transformed into *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) RIL cells (Agilent) for protein expression. For activity assays and crystallization, cells were grown in LB in the presence of selective antibiotics at 37°C to an optical density at 600 nm (OD<sub>600</sub>) of ~0.8. Expression was induced by the addition of 1 mM isopropyl- $\beta$ -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) and proceeded for ~20 hours at 18°C. Cell pellets were harvested by centrifugation at 8000g and stored at -80°C until purification. For <sup>15</sup>N-based NMR experiments (CSP and <sup>15</sup>N-relaxation), PTP1B expression was facilitated by growing cells in D<sub>2</sub>O-based M9 minimal media containing <sup>15</sup>NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (1 g/liter). For <sup>13</sup>C ILV relaxation measurements, PTP1B was expressed with [<sup>2</sup>H,<sup>13</sup>C]-D-glucose (4 g/liter) in D<sub>2</sub>O-based M9 minimal media; upon reaching an OD<sub>600</sub> of ~0.6, [3-<sup>13</sup>C, 3-methyl-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>, 3,4,4,4-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>4</sub>]  $\alpha$ -ketoisovaleric acid (120 mg/liter; CDLM 7354) and [4-<sup>13</sup>C, 4-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>, 3-<sup>2</sup>H<sub>2</sub>]  $\alpha$ -ketobutyric acid (60 mg/liter; CDLM 7353) in 100% D<sub>2</sub>O were added. After an OD<sub>600</sub> of ~0.8 was reached, expression was induced by the addition of 1 mM IPTG (dissolved 100% D<sub>2</sub>O) and continued for ~20 hours at 18°C. Cells were harvested and stored at -80°C until purification. Typically, wt-PTP1B protein yields are ~55 mg/liter, and variant yields are ~5 to 48 mg/liter in both LB and D<sub>2</sub>O-based M9 minimal media.

### Protein purification

Cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer [25 mM tris (pH 8.0), 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, and 0.1% Triton X-100] containing EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). The cells were then lysed using high-pressure homogenization (Avestin). The lysate was clarified by centrifugation at 45,000g and filtered through a 0.22- $\mu$ m filter. The clarified lysate was loaded onto a His-Trap HP column (GE Healthcare). The protein was eluted over a gradient of increasing amounts of buffer B [50 mM tris (pH 8.0), 500 mM NaCl, and 500 mM imidazole]. Fractions containing PTP1B were pooled and dialyzed overnight at 4°C in dialysis buffer [50 mM tris (pH 8.0) and 500 mM NaCl] with a 5:1 volume ratio of tobacco etch virus (TEV) protease. The next day, a “subtraction” His<sub>6</sub>-tag purification was performed to remove the TEV protease and the cleaved His<sub>6</sub>-tag. Cleaved PTP1B was further purified using size exclusion chromatography (Superdex 75 26/60, Cytiva) into storage buffer [20 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, and 0.5 mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP)], crystallization buffer [20 mM tris (pH 7.4), 50 mM NaCl, and 0.5 mM TCEP], or NMR buffer [10 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, and 5 mM dithiothreitol]. Purified protein was either used immediately or flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen for storage at -80°C. Samples for the <sup>15</sup>N-based/<sup>13</sup>C-based ILV relaxation measurements were aliquoted into 550  $\mu$ l of aliquots and lyophilized; for measurements, lyophilized samples were resuspended in 550  $\mu$ l of D<sub>2</sub>O.

### pNPP activity assay

The activities of freshly prepared (50 nM) PTP1B/PTP1B $\Delta$ 7 and variants were measured in assay buffer (50 mM bis-tris pH 6.0, 150 mM

NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP) containing varying concentrations of *p*-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP; 0 to 6000 mM for PTP1B or 0 to 12000 mM for PTP1B $\Delta$ 7). PTP1B was incubated with pNPP at 30°C for 30 min. The reaction was stopped using 0.5 M NaOH, and the absorbance was measured at 405 nm using an EPOCH2 plate reader (BioTek). Measured absorbance from blanks contained substrate, but no protein was subtracted from all measurements. The rate of dephosphorylation of pNPP was analyzed using the molar extinction coefficient for pNPP of 18,000 M<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup> and an optical path length of 0.3 cm (Costar 96-well plates).  $K_m$  and  $v_{max}$  were determined by fitting to the Michaelis-Menten equation,  $y = v_{max} * x / (K_m + x)$ ;  $k_{cat}$  was extracted using  $y = E_t * k_{cat} * x / (K_m + x)$ . The catalytic efficiency was obtained as  $k_{cat} / K_m$ . SigmaPlot 14.5 was used for data analysis. The experiments were carried out in duplicate and repeated three to six times.

### Protein crystallization and data collection

Crystallization trials of PTP1B/PTP1B $\Delta$ 7 variants, including PTP1B<sub>F225Y</sub>, PTP1B<sub>FYRN</sub>, PTP1B<sub>FYRNLR</sub>, and PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub>, were performed at 6 mg/ml using vapor diffusion sitting drop experiments. For TCS401-bound structures, purified PTP1B (2 mg/ml) was incubated with a 10-M excess of TCS401 [25 mM stock in 100% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)] for an hour on ice and then concentrated to 6 mg/ml for crystallization. PTP1B and TCS401-cocrystallized PTP1B crystals were obtained using a fine screen that ranged from pH 7.4 to 8.0 (0.1 M tris/Hepes) and in polyethylene glycol 8000 concentrations ranging from 13 to 24% (w/v). The MgCl<sub>2</sub> concentration was held constant at 0.2 M. All crystals were grown at 4°C. Crystals were cryo-protected 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 the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsources (SSRL) beamline 12-2 (PILATUS 6M detector), and the data were processed using autoXDS script [which runs X-ray Detector Software (XDS), pointless, aimless, and truncate].

### X-ray structure determination

The crystal structures were phased using molecular replacement [search model Protein Data Bank (PDB) ID:5k9v] using Phaser as implemented in PHENIX (45). 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. All structures were subjected to iterative rounds of refinement in PHENIX and manually building using Coot (46). All data collection and refinement statistics are reported in table S2.

### NMR spectroscopy

NMR data were collected on Bruker Advance Neo 600- and 800-MHz spectrometers equipped with TCI HCN Z-gradient cryoprobes at 298 K. NMR measurements of PTP1B were recorded using (<sup>2</sup>H,<sup>15</sup>N)-labeled protein at a final concentration of 0.2 mM in NMR buffer and 90% H<sub>2</sub>O/10% D<sub>2</sub>O. Data were processed using TopSpin 4.05 (Bruker) and analyzed using CcpNmr (47). The sequence-specific backbone assignments of PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> were achieved using 3D triple resonance experiments including 2D [<sup>1</sup>H,<sup>15</sup>N] TROSY, 3D TROSY-HNCA, 3D TROSY-HN(CO)CA, 3D TROSY-HN(CO)CACB, and 3D TROSY-HNCACB. All NMR assignment data were processed using TopSpin 4.05 (Bruker) and analyzed using CARA (computer-aided resonance assignment).

### NMR analysis of TCS401 inhibitor binding

TCS401 was titrated into 0.25 mM PTP1B at molar ratios of 0:1, 0.5:1, 1:1, 2:1, and 3:1 (TCS401:PTP1B). 2D [<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>15</sup>N] TROSY or 2D [<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C] HSQC spectra were recorded for each titration point. TCS401 was solubilized in d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO (25 mM). No significant chemical shift differences were identified in the PTP1B 2D [<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>15</sup>N] TROSY or 2D [<sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C] HSQC spectrum upon the addition of d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO. CSPs ( $\Delta\delta$ ) between apo PTP1B and inhibitor-bound PTP1B spectra

were calculated using  $\Delta\delta(\text{ppm}) = \sqrt{(\Delta\delta_{\text{H}})^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta\delta_{\text{C}}}{4}\right)^2}$ .

### <sup>15</sup>N relaxation measurements and analysis

Relaxation measurements were performed on (<sup>2</sup>H, <sup>15</sup>N)-labeled ligand-free and TCS401-bound PTP1B (at saturating 6:1 ratios of TCS401:PTP1B) at a final concentration of 0.2 mM in NMR buffer [10 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, and 0.5 mM TCEP] and 90% H<sub>2</sub>O/10% D<sub>2</sub>O at 298 K. <sup>15</sup>N longitudinal ( $R_1$ ) and transverse ( $R_2$ ) relaxation rate measurements were acquired using sensitivity-enhanced experiments. TROSY versions of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  experiments were acquired with a recycle delay of 2.5 s between experiments and the following relaxation delays for  $T_1$ : 100, 1000, 2000, 2200, 2400, 2600, 3200, and 4800 ms (2000 and 2600 ms were repeated for measurement error assessment) and  $T_2$ : 3.94, 15.78, 23.66, 27.61, 31.55, 35.50, 39.44, 47.33, and 63.10 ms (27.61 and 39.44 ms were repeated for measurement error assessment).  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  values were calculated using CcpNmr by fitting the intensity of peaks to exponential decay function, and errors were determined via relaxation curve fitting.

### <sup>13</sup>C-methyl relaxation measurements

$T_1$  and  $T_{1\rho}$  experiments (32, 48) were recorded on (<sup>2</sup>H, <sup>12</sup>C, <sup>15</sup>N)-labeled PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> with <sup>13</sup>CHD<sub>2</sub>-labeled ILV methyl groups, either free or TCS401 saturated (1:6 ratio) at a final protein concentration of 0.25 mM in NMR buffer and 100% D<sub>2</sub>O. Sample concentration was tightly monitored to ensure no effect on  $\tau_c$  and thus  $T_{1\rho}$  measurements. TCS401 inhibitor was titrated to achieve full saturation. All relaxation data were recorded as a pseudo-3D in a fully interleaved manner at 298 K.

$T_1$  relaxation delays are as follows: 20, 500, 1000, 1200, 1400, 1600, 2000, 4000, and 5500 ms [D1 (recycle delay) of 4.5 s; 800 MHz; 1200 and 4000 ms were repeated for measurement error assessment] and 20, 800, 1000, 1200, 1400, 1600, 2000, 2400, 3000, 3200, and 4000 ms (D1 of 4.2 s; 600 MHz; 1200 ms was repeated for measurement error assessment).  $T_{1\rho}$  relaxation delays are as follows: 5, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100, 120, 150, and 180 ms (D1 of 2.5 s; 800 MHz; 50 and 150 ms were repeated for measurement error assessment) and 5, 30, 50, 70, 80, 90, 100, 160, 170, and 200 ms (D1 of 3.2 s; 600 MHz; 70 and 130 ms were repeated for measurement error assessment). The measurement errors between repeat measurements were 2.8% at 18.8 T and 2.6% at 14.1 T.

ct-CPMG (32) relaxation dispersion experiments on (<sup>2</sup>H, <sup>12</sup>C, <sup>15</sup>N)-labeled PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> with <sup>13</sup>CHD<sub>2</sub>-labeled ILV methyl groups were performed at 298 K at two magnetic field strengths (14.1 and 18.8 T). A constant time of 40 ms between <sup>15</sup>N refocusing pulses and 10 different delay times corresponding to the following CPMG frequencies of 50, 100, 250, 400, 600, 800, 1000, 1200, 1600, and 2000 Hz were used (100 and 800 Hz were repeated for measurement error assessment, which was ~2.8%). D1 (relaxation delay) was set to 3.2 and 3.8 s for experiments performed on 14.1- and 18.8-T magnetic field strengths, respectively. Upon saturation (chemical shifts

of interacting residues stopped changing position in spectrum; ~1:3 ratio), additional TCS401 (to 1:6 ratio) was added to ensure that all experiments were performed under fully inhibitor-saturated conditions and thus that the observed ct-CPMG dispersions are independent of ligand on/off exchange events.

### <sup>13</sup>C-methyl (CHD<sub>2</sub>) relaxation analysis

$T_1$  and  $T_{1\rho}$  values were calculated using NMRviewJ (49) using the peak intensities (jitter function) and exponential decay fitting function. Errors were also determined via relaxation curve fitting.  $T_2$  was extracted from  $T_{1\rho}$  by  $R_2 = (R_{1\rho} - R_1 \cos^2\beta)/\sin^2\beta$ , where  $\beta$  is the effective rotation angle for each <sup>15</sup>N nucleus as determined by the strength of the spin-lock field and the chemical shift offset of the nucleus from the spin-lock frequency.

ct-CPMG relaxation dispersion intensity measurements were performed in NMRviewJ (jitter function) and converted to  $R_{2\text{eff}}$  by  $R_{2\text{eff}}(\nu_{\text{CPMG}}) = (-1/T_{\text{relax}}) \ln(I_{\text{CPMG}}/I_0)$ . PTP1B<sub>L204A</sub> residues were fit individually to the Carver-Richards equation (50) for a system in two-state exchange using a Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm written by D. Korzhnev (University of Connecticut Health Center) (51). These residues were then fit into groups according to a procedure that we have previously described (24, 52, 53). The quality of the group fit was evaluated using the Bayesian information criterion (BIC) to compare the group fit to the results of the individual fits using  $\Delta\text{BIC} = \text{BIC}_{\text{group}} - \text{BIC}_{\text{individual}}$ . The more negative the  $\Delta\text{BIC}$ , the better the fit. Groups were refined through several rounds. A residue was kept in a specific group if the BIC was <-1, and the residuals were randomly distributed. In-house scripts and spreadsheets were used to perform this analysis.

### Quantification and statistical analysis

All activity measurements were repeated between three and four times.

### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary material for this article is available at <https://science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abo5546>

[View/request a protocol for this paper from Bio-protocol.](#)

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#### Acknowledgments

**Funding:** This work was supported by the American Diabetes Association Pathway to Stop Diabetes Grant 1-14-ACN-31 to W.P., National Institute of General Medicine Science grant R01GM098482 to R.P., and the Novo Nordisk Foundation grant NNF150C0016360 to K.L.-L. This research used beamline 12.2 at the SSRL. Use of the SSRL, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science and Office of Basic Energy Sciences under contract no. DE-AC02-76SF00515. The SSRL Structural Molecular Biology Program is supported by the DOE Office of Biological and Environmental Research and by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences (including P41GM103393). The contents of this publication are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of NIGMS or NIH. **Author contributions.** W.P., R.P., and K.L.-L. designed the research. D.G. performed the sequence alignment and ED calculation. K.R.T. carried out and analyzed the enzymatic, NMR, and crystallography experiments. M.W.C. performed the NMR experiments and assisted with the dynamics analysis. M.W.C., R.P., and W.P. wrote the paper. All authors discussed the data and manuscript. **Competing interests:** The authors declare that they have no competing interests. **Data and materials availability:** All NMR chemical shifts have been deposited in the BioMagResBank (BMRB): 50913. Atomic coordinates and structure factors have been deposited in the PDB: 7MKZ, 7MN7, 7MN9, 7MNA, 7MNB, 7MNC, 7MND, 7MNE, 7MNF, 7MOU, 7MOV, and 7MOW. All alignment datasets are freely available at <https://github.com/KULL-Centre/papers/tree/master/2021/ptp1b-torgeson-et-al> or <https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/64sn7vp7sj/1>. All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper and/or the Supplementary Materials.

Submitted 10 February 2022

Accepted 16 June 2022

Published 3 August 2022

10.1126/sciadv.abo5546