Supplementary Data

## **Toehold clipping:**

## A mechanism for remote control of DNA strand displacement

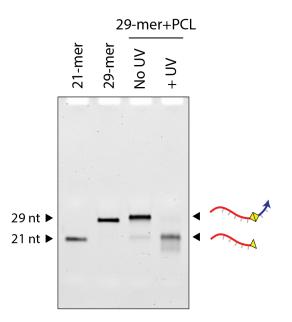
Hiba Faheem,<sup>1,2</sup> Johnsi Mathivanan,<sup>1,2</sup> Hannah Talbot,<sup>1</sup> Hana Zeghal,<sup>1</sup> Sweta Vangaveti,<sup>1</sup> Jia Sheng,<sup>1,2</sup> Alan A. Chen<sup>1,2</sup> and Arun Richard Chandrasekaran<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The RNA Institute, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY, USA. <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, NY, USA.

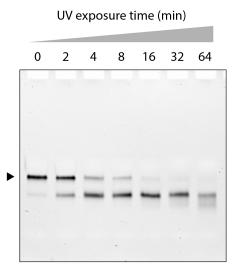
Email: arun [at] albany.edu

Name	Sequence (5' to 3')	Length
Strand L	AGGCACCATCGTAGGTTTTTCTTGCCAGGCACCATCGTAGGTTTTTCT TGCCAGGCACCATCGTAGGTTTTTCTTGCC	78
Strand M	AGCAACCTGCCTGGCAAGCCTACGATGGACACGGT <b>AACGACT</b>	42
Strand S	ACCGTGTGGTTGCT <b>AGTCGTT</b>	21
S-blunt	AGTCGTTACCGTGTGGTTGCT	21
S-DNA-TH	ACCGTGTGGTTGCTAGTCGTTCCTCAAGA	29
S-PCL-TH	ACCGTGTGGTTGCTAGTCGTT-PCL-CCTCAAGA	29
S-RNA-TH	ACCGTGTGGTTGCT <b>AGTCGTT</b> rCrCrUrCrArArGrA	29
S-complement	AACGACTAGCAACCACGGT	21
Invading strand	TCTTGAGGAACGACTAGCAACCACGGT	29

**Table S1.** Sequences for duplexes and tetrahedra. Sequences in bold are sticky ends and sequencesunderlined are the toehold region.



**Figure S1.** Cleavage of single stranded DNA containing a PCL analyzed by denaturing PAGE. Full image of gel shown in Figure 1e.



**Figure S2.** Time series of photocleavage in PCL-containing DNA analyzed using denaturing PAGE. Full image of gel shown in Figure 1f.

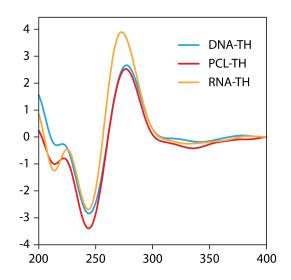
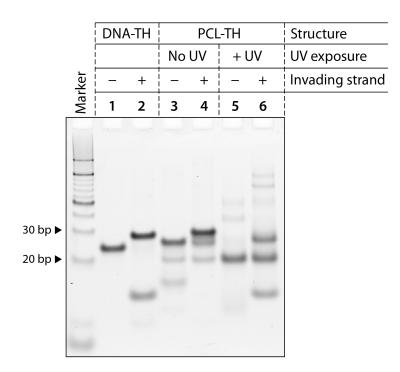
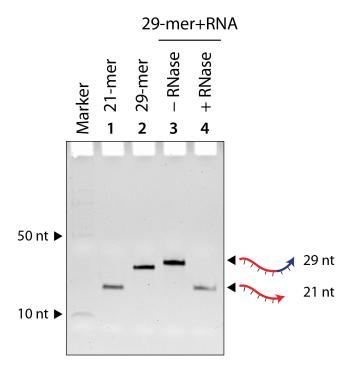


Figure S3. Circular dichroism spectra of duplexes with DNA toehold, PCL toehold and RNA toehold.



**Figure S4**. Strand displacement in duplexes before and after toehold clipping by UV. Full image of gel shown in Figure 1h.



**Figure S5**. Degradation of RNA portion of a chimera strand containing DNA and RNA analyzed by denaturing PAGE. Full image of gel shown in Figure 3c.

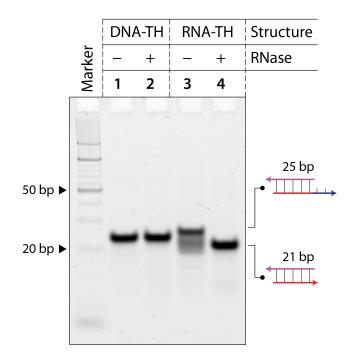
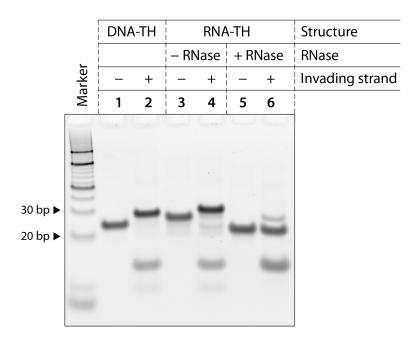
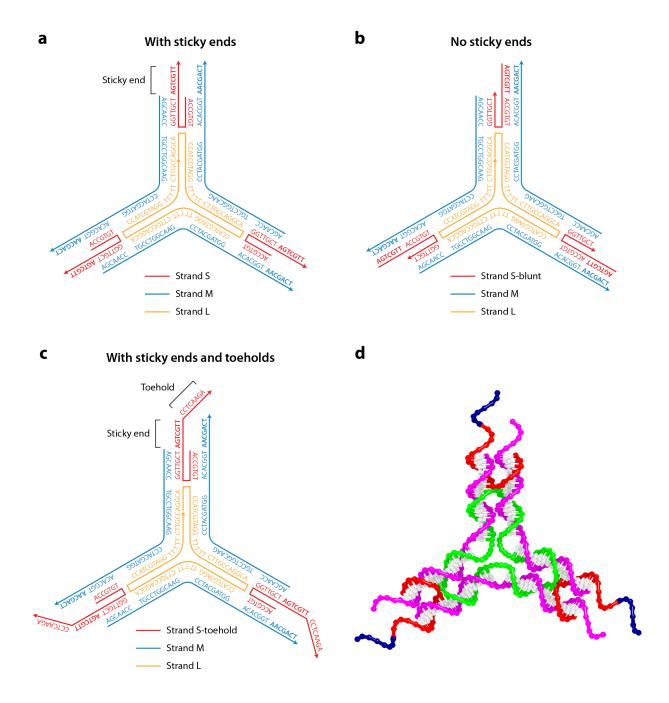


Figure S6. RNase-induced toehold clipping in DNA duplex. Full image of gel shown in Figure 3d.



**Figure S7**. Strand displacement in duplexes before and after toehold clipping by RNase A. Full image of gel shown in Figure 3e.



**Figure S8**. *Design and sequence of the 3-point-star motif*. (a) The 3-point-star motif is three-fold symmetric and consists of strands L, M and S in the ratio 1:3:3. Motifs connect via sticky ends to form higher order structures. Four such motifs assemble to form the DNA tetrahedron. (b) A blunt-ended motif without sticky ends. (c) Strand S in the motif has a single stranded extension that is not part of the tetrahedron; this acts as the toehold for the strand displacement process. (d) Molecular model of the 3-point-star motif.