# Supplementary Material For:

# Computational Design of Enone-Binding Proteins with Catalytic Activity for the Morita-Baylis-Hillman Reaction

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# Supplementary Methods

#### **Theozyme setup**

The theozyme was constructed with the substrates stacking on top of each other to exploit the maximum interaction between cyclohexenone and 4-nitrobenzaldehyde. The theozyme contained three stereocenters, with the nucleophile attacking the beta carbon of cyclohexenone to create an *(S)* configuration at the anomeric carbon. The alpha carbon of the cyclohexenone was in an *(S)* configuration and the carbon of the aldehyde in an *(R)* configuration.

#### **Design filtering**

After initial filtering by scaffold and energy terms, designs were also ranked by other factors such as the number of unsatisfied hydrogen bonds, surface complementarity, and active-site rigidity upon repacking without the ligand. Filtered designs were inspected manually to select the best designs for testing. Those final designs were adjusted by manual inspection to place backing-up interactions to the catalytic interactions (backing-up residues often lie outside of the designable shell in Rosetta), or to place a specific residue where Rosetta was not able to clearly distinguish a best residue at a given position. Missing residues from the original construct used in expression of the scaffold were added and a glycine-serine dipeptide was appended before the C-terminal Hexa-His tag.

#### **Gene synthesis and mutagenesis, protein expression and purification**

Final designed genes were synthesized by Genscript (Genscript, USA Inc. Piscataway NJ) and cloned into a pET29b+ vector using NdeI and XhoI cleavage sites. This places a leucine-glutamate-hexa-histidine tag at the C-terminus of each polypeptide chain. Genes were transformed into BL21(DE3) pLysS *E. coli* cells and grown in LBautoinduction medium for 6 hours at 37 deg. C followed by 20-24 hours of induction at 18 deg. C. The lysate was filtered and passed over Qiagen Ni-NTA columns, followed by elution in a 250 mM imidazole solution. Proteins were concentrated and dialyzed into PBS (Phosphate buffer saline; 1X, pH 7.5) buffer for subsequent testing.

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The Kunkel mutagenesis protocol was used for single point and saturation mutagenesis (*1*) and mutant gene variants were confirmed by sequencing (Genewiz, Inc.).

#### **Synthesis of 3, 4 and aldol side-product 5**

All reactions were performed under nitrogen atmosphere using flame-dried glassware. Infrared spectra were measured on a Perkin Elmer Spectrum RX I Spectrometer. Small-molecular mass spectra were collected on a JEOL HX-110 Mass Spectrometer with FAB or electron impact ionization, or a Bruker Esquire 1100 Liquid Chromatograph - Ion Trap Mass Spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed using silica gel (Sorbent Technologies, 60 Å, 230-400 mesh). NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AV-300 or AV-500 spectrometers. <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) downfield of TMS and are referenced relative to TMS (0.00 ppm) or residual protonated CHCl<sub>3</sub> (7.26 ppm). <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are reported in parts per million (ppm) relative to the carbon resonance of  $CDCl<sub>3</sub>$  (77.0 ppm).

*Materials.* THF and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> were degassed and dried on solvent columns of neutral alumina. All other commercial reagents were used as received. Deuterated solvents were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc., stored over 4Å molecular sieves, and were used without further purification.

N H O O

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**4-Formyl-***N***-(prop-2-ynyl)benzamide (1)**. 4-Carboxylbenzaldehyde (2.164 g, 14.4 mmol), propargylammonium chloride (1.313 g, 14.1 mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (1.9 g, 14.1 mmol) *N*,*N*'-diisopropylcarbodiimide (2.33 mL, 14.1 mmol) and triethylamine (2.0 mL, 14.1 mmol) were combined in dichloromethane and stirred at room temperature. The resulting mixture was diluted with dicholoromethane and washed with 1M HCl, 1M  $NaHCO<sub>3</sub>$  and water, dried over  $MgSO<sub>4</sub>$  and filtered and concentrated. The product was purified by column chromatography EtOAc/Hex followed by recrystallization from EtOAc/Hex obtaining a white solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  10.08 (s, 1H), 7.97-7.93(m, 4H), 6.43 (br s, 1 H), 4.28 (dd,  $J = 5.0$  Hz, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 2.31(t,  $J = 2.4$  Hz, 1H). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$ 191.4, 165.9, 138.8, 138.5, 129.9, 127.8, 78.9, 72.3, 29.9. GC/MS (CI, m/z): 187(21), 158(35), 133(100), 105(52), 77(53), 51(38), 39(15). FTIR (KBr, cm-1): 3314, 3242, 2833, 2732, 2117, 1740, 1690, 1643, 1572, 1542, 1499, 1420, 1388, 1352, 1323, 1298, 1258, 1209, 1182, 1154, 1051, 1016, 986, 920, 850, 798, 757, 709, 683.



**4-(1-Hydroxybut-2-enyl)-***N***-(prop-2-ynyl)benzamide** (**2)**. In an oven dried 250 mL 2 necked rbf under  $N_2$  4-formyl-N-(prop-2-ynyl)benzamide  $(1, 0.317 \text{ g}, 1.7 \text{ mmol})$  was dissolved in THF (75 mL). The solution was then cooled to  $0^{\degree}$ C, and propenylmagnesium bromide (0.5 M, 10.5 mL) was added dropwise over 30 min. The

mixture was immediately quenched at  $0^{\degree}$ C by adding water, and was then extracted with ethyl acetate (2 X 75 mL). The organic layers were combined and washed with water (25 mL), and sat. NH4Cl (25 mL), then dried over MgSO4, filtered and concentrated. The product was obtained as a thick oil (105 mg, 27% yield) of a 3:2 mixture of *E*/*Z* isomers after column chromatography (1-2% MeOH/DCM).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> observed as a 3:2 mixture of isomers):  $\delta$  7.77 (d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz, 4H, both), 7.46 (t, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 4H, both), 6.43 (s, 2H, both), 5.77 (dq, *J* = 15.0, 6.5 Hz, 1H, major), 5.75 – 5.60 (m, 3H, both), 5.20 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H, major), 4.24 (dd, *J* = 5.0, 2.5 Hz, 4H, both), 2.29 (t,  $J = 2.5$  Hz, 2H, both), 2.26 (br s, 2H, both), 1.83 (d,  $J = 6.9$ ) Hz, 3H, minor), 1.72 (d,  $J = 6.4$  Hz, 3H, major). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub> observed as a 3:2 mixture of isomers): δ 166.9(both), 147.6(minor), 147.3(major), 133.2(major), 132.7(major), 132.7(minor), 132.4(minor), 128.3(major), 127.2(minor), 127.15(major), 127.1(minor), 126.3(major), 126.0(minor), 79.5(both), 74.7(major), 71.9(both), 68.9(minor), 29.8(both), 17.6(major), 13.4(minor). GC/MS (CI, m/z): 229(1), 210(57), 157,(54), 128(100), 77(16), 51(16). FTIR (thin film, cm-1): 3295, 2916, 2100, 1642, 1612, 1570, 1542, 1500, 144, 1421, 1353, 1305, 1152, 1047, 967, 920, 858.



**(***E*)-(4-But-2-enoyl-*N*-(prop-2-ynyl)benzamide (3). In a 4 dram vial under  $N_2$  2 (98 mg, 0.43 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL of dichloromethane. Dess-Martin periodinane (182

mg, 0.43 mmol) was added to the mixture and was allowed to stir overnight. The mixture was diluted with dichloromethane (20 mL) and then washed with saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (2 X) 50 mL), water (50 mL) and dried over MgSO4, filtered and concentrated. The crude material was a 1:1 mixture of *E*/*Z* isomers, which were separated by column chromatography (1:4 EtOAc/Hex) obtaining the  $(E)$  isomer as white solid (32 mg, 33%) yield).

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ, 7.96(d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 2H), 7.87(d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 2H), 7.10(dq, *J* = 15.5, 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.89(dd, *J* = 15.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 6.54 (br s, 1 H), 4.28 (dd, *J* = 5.0 Hz, 2.4 Hz, 2H), 2.31 (t, J = 2.45 Hz, 1H), 2.02(dd, J = 7.0, 1.5 Hz, 3H)<sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 190.1, 166.2, 146.3, 140.5, 137.1, 128.7, 127.4, 127.3, 79.2, 72.1, 29.9, 18.7. GC/MS (CI, m/z): 227(44), 173(100), 115(31), 76(29), 69(52). FTIR (KBr, cm-1): 3568, 3280, 3237, 2947, 2123, 1670, 1637, 1617, 1560, 1533, 1499, 1437, 145, 1354, 1336, 1291, 1224, 1156, 1106, 1015, 993, 964, 923, 875, 823, 765, 697, 668, 647.



**2-(Hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohex-2-enone (4):** Prepared as previously reported (2), spectral data matches literature values. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.20  $(d, J = 8.7 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H})$ , 7.57  $(d, J = 8.7 \text{ Hz}, 2\text{H})$ , 6.87  $(t, J = 3.9 \text{ Hz}, 1\text{H})$ , 5.63  $(d, J = 5.7 \text{ Hz},$ 1H), 3.68 (d, *J* = 5.7 Hz, 1H), 2.46 (m, 4H), 2.01 (m, 2H).



**6-(Hydroxy(4-nitrophenyl)methyl)cyclohex-2-enone (5):** In a flame-dried 25 mL round-bottomed flask diisopropylamine (0.3 mL, 2.2 mmol) and THF (10 mL) were combined and cooled to -78 °C. Then *n*-butyllithium (2.2 M, 0.9 mL, 2 mmol) was added slowly. The solution was stirred at -78  $\degree$ C for 30 min then 2-cyclohexenone (0.19 mL, 2) mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was again stirred at -78 °C for 30 min. Then 4nitrobenzaldehyde (0.302 g, 2 mmol) was added. After one minute, sat. NH4Cl was added to quench the reaction. The mixture was extracted with  $Et<sub>2</sub>O (3X)$ . The organic layers were combined and washed with water, sat. NaCl, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>), and concentrated. The product was obtained as a 3:1 mixture of diastereomers which were partially separable by column chromatography (EtOAc/Hexanes). Spectral data matched literature values (*3*). *Anti* diastereomer (major); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.20 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.7 Hz), 7.55  $(d, 2 H, J = 8.7 Hz)$ , 7.06 (m, 1 H), 6.08 (d, 1 H,  $J = 9.9 Hz$ ), 4.97 (m, 1 H), 2.8-2.5 (m, 1 H), 2.5-2.2 (m, 2 H), 1.7-1.5 (m, 2 H). *Syn* diastereomer (minor); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl3): 8.24 (dd, 2 H, *J* = 8.4, 1.8 Hz), 7.54 (d, 2 H, *J* = 8.4 Hz), 7.00 (m, 1 H), 6.13 (dd, 1 H,  $J = 9.6$ , 3.0 Hz), 6.10 (t, 1 H,  $J = 1.2$  Hz), 2.91 (d, 1 H,  $J = 4.8$  Hz), 2.70 (m, 1 H), 2.5-2.2 (m, 2 H), 2.00 (m, 1 H), 1.62 (m, 1 H).

#### **Molecular Dynamics Simulations**

Molecular dynamics (MD) were performed with Amber 11 (*4*) using explicit solvent and periodic boundaries to investigate the dynamical behavior of BH25 and

BH32 proteins. Simulations were run for 20-50 ns, or for one microsecond where specified.

*System Preparation.* Simulation systems were set up by placing the protein, including the co-crystallized water molecules from the scaffold, at the center of the simulation box and solvating the protein with TIP3P (*5*) water molecules ensuring a solvent layer of 10 Å around the protein. This resulted in the addition of  $\sim$ 10,000 – 20,000 solvent molecules depending on the scaffold and a system size of  $\sim$ 72,000 atoms for BH25 and  $\sim$ 32,500 atoms for BH32. The systems were neutralized by addition of explicit counter ions. All systems were parameterized using the Stony Brook modification of the Amber 99 force field (*6*). The parameters for the substrates, cyclohexenone and 4-nitrobenzaldehyde, were generated with the antechamber module of Amber 11 (*4*) using the general Amber force field (GAFF) (*7*) with partial charges set to fit the electrostatic potential generated at HF/6-31G(d) level of theory by RESP (*8*). The charges were calculated according to the Merz-Singh-Kollman scheme (*9, 10*) using Gaussian 03 (*11*). For the parameterization of the covalently bound intermediate, the system for calculating RESP charges consisted of the alkoxide intermediate bound to the nucleophilic cysteine

$$
\begin{array}{cc}\n & Q \\
\frac{2}{5}S-CH_{2}CH-C\frac{1}{5} \\
 & MH\n\end{array}
$$

(int2, where Nu =  $\mathcal{P}$  ), assuring a total charge of -1.0 for the unit. LEaP module of Amber 11 was used to split the unit into two, and to generate separate libraries for the alkoxide intermediate (ALK) and the non-standard cysteine residue (CYC).

The systems were initially minimized for the positions of water molecules and ions, with harmonic restraints of 150 kcal/mol applied to the solute. Initial minimization was followed by an unrestrained minimization of all atoms. The systems were heated gently in six steps of 50 K for 50 ps (from  $0 K$  to 300 K) at constant volume with a time step of 1 fs. Each system was equilibrated for 2 ns with a 2 fs time step in the NVT ensemble at 300 K using the Langevin equilibration scheme. The systems were then equilibrated for 2 ns with a 2 fs time step at a constant pressure of 1 atm. Harmonic

restraints of 30 kcal/mol were applied to the solute during the heating and equilibration stages, and water molecules were triangulated using the SHAKE algorithm.

*Production MD.* Multiple 20 – 50 ns production MD simulations were performed for each system (with and without the substrate bound to the active site) using PMEMD (*12*) in the isothermal-isobaric ensemble (NPT) with a time step of 2 fs. Long-range effects were modeled using the particle-mesh-Ewald method (*13*). This general MD protocol has been recently described for the evaluation and ranking of enzyme designs (*14*).

For microsecond production runs of BH32 we used DESRES's Anton special purpose machine (*15*) at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center.

*Trajectory analysis.* Geometries and velocities were saved every 0.2 ps, resulting in a total of 100,000 frames from each production run. Post-MD data extraction and analysis was performed using the ptraj module of Amber 11.

#### **Crystallization, data collection and structure determination**

The crystals of SeMet-BH32 were grown in two different conditions by mixing 1  $\mu$ l of protein sample with 1  $\mu$ l of reservoir solution consisting of 0.1M PBS buffer PH 7.5 25% PEG 3350. Condition two is the same as condition one plus the addition of 0.1M cyclohexenone. The crystals were obtained by the hanging drop vapor diffusion method. The crystals of SeMet-BH25 N43Y were obtained by mixing 1 µl of protein sample with 1 µl of reservoir solution consisting of 1.44M potassium acetate, 50mM MES, PH 6 by the micro-batch under-oil method. Both crystals were grown at 18°C, cryo-protected with 20% glycerol and flash-cooled in liquid nitrogen. Diffraction data sets were collected at

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the peak of the selenium K edge on a single crystal using the beam line X4A with a Quantum 4R detector at the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) at Brookhaven National Laboratory. Data were integrated and scaled with the HKL2000 package (Otwinowski and Minor, 1997). Matthew's coefficient calculations indicated one molecule per asymmetric unit in the monoclinic space group for BH32 and three molecules per symmetric unit in the tetragonal space group for BH25 N43Y.

The structures of BH32 and BH25 N43Y were solved by the single-wavelength anomalous dispersion (SAD) phasing method by SHELX (*16*) using a SeMet-substituted crystal. An experimental electron density map was obtained using ShelxD. After phase refinement we constructed an initial model with resolve (*17*) extended the model using ARP/wARP (*18*) and refined it with Refmac (*19*) and CNS (*20*). Model building was performed using Coot (*21*). Several cycles of simulated annealing and minimization were carried out using the CNS program package (*20*). The R-free was calculated based on 10% of randomly selected data excluding from the refinement. Structure validation was performed with PROCHECK (*22*). Residues in the loop region 169–177 and 231–238 in BH25 N43Y are not defined in the electron density map and are assumed to be disordered. The crystallographic statistics for data collection and refinement are summarized in Table S1.

#### **Analysis of active mutants**

We can rationalize improvements in activity in the optimized sequences based on the crystal structures. For BH25 we identified the variant N43Y as the most active point mutant - it was predicted to hydrogen bond with the oxyanion of Int1, and the crystal structure supports this (Figure 4B). Other more active mutants include (with structural

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justification): W164Y (creates room for the W166 stacking on 4-nitrobenzaldehyde), G312M (better packing), Y129F (create a more hydrophobic pocket for the nitro group which does not form hydrogen bonds in water).

For BH32 we identified a number of variants with slightly higher activity than the wild-type design: S124A (intended to create a more hydrophobic pocket for the nitro group), S9H (remove hydrogen bonding residue from nitro-group pocket), S91V (Original intended hydrogen-bond may be too long, testing a replacement with hydrophobic packing). The most active point-mutant N14I was tested after examining the crystal structure - the backbone moves too far in the crystal structure for N14 to form the intended hydrogen bond, and the mutation instead forms a hydrophobic pack from the new backbone position. The S9G mutant creates a more hydrophobic pocket for the nitro group. The MD simulation correctly predicts many of the sidechain shifts observed in the crystal structure, but we could not identify simple local mutations to repair these deficiencies and get higher activity.





**Figure S1**. Product accumulation time course for BH32 and variants.



Figure S2. Overlay of representative MD snapshots (30-40 ns, in blue) and the wild-type designs (in gray). The enone substrate (in yellow) is docked in its designed orientation. The nucleophilic cysteine (C39) of BH25 (A) remains preorganized through a strong Hbond network between residues K285, D313 and R363. For BH32, catalytic base E46 is highly solvent exposed (B), and E46-water interactions strongly compete with E46-H23 dyad. Catalytic residues designed to donate H-bonds to the enolate intermediate in BH25 (C) and in BH32 (D) are engaged in alternative binding patterns generating a bottleneck for the later steps of the reaction.



**Figure S3.** MD on the covalently bound alkoxide intermediate (Int2) for design BH25.

(A) The design with docked intermediate; (B) an MD snapshot after 20 ns.



**Figure S4.** (A) Nucleophilic dyad for BH25. Overlay of an MD snapshot at 22 ns MD (in blue) and the wild-type BH25 design (in gray). The nucleophilic cysteine (C39) remains preorganized through a strong H-bond network between residues K285, D313 and R363. (B) The plot of distances  $C39^{HG}$ -D313<sup>OD</sup> versus  $C39^{HG}$ -K285<sup>NZ</sup> shows that C39 binds to D313 and K285 in a triangular fashion. The relative populations of strong/moderate Hbond configurations suggest a more tightly bound  $C39^{HG}$ -D313<sup>OD</sup> compared to  $C39^{HG}$ - $K285<sup>NZ</sup>$ .



**Figure S6.** Electron density map 2fofc superimposed on the structure of BH32 with the crystal structure in orange and the design in pink. Residue H23 and the backing up D46 are shown.



**Figure S7.** Alignment of BH25 and BH32 designs with X-ray structures and original scaffold, respectively. BH25 is a dimer and red denotes designed residues, which are part of the designed active site. Purple is the second active site, yellow is a large structural change compared to the design and green is the improved variant N42Y.

## **BH25**





# **BH32**



Protein Name	<b>BH32</b>	<b>BH32</b>	<b>BH25 N43Y</b>
Space group	P21	P21	P41212
Molecules per	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	3
asymmetric unit			
$V_M$ ( $\AA$ <sup>3</sup> Da <sup>-1</sup> )	1.59	2.36	2.82
Unit Cell $(\AA, 0)$	$a=33.606$ , $b=67$ .	$a=34.334,b=$	$a=b=112.345,c=23$
	$579,c=48.193,\alpha$	$71.367c=$	$7.059, \alpha = \beta = \gamma = 90.0^{\circ}$
	$=90, \beta = 109.30\gamma$	$52.926, \alpha = 90,$	
	$=90.0°$	$\beta$ = 104.83	
		$,\gamma=90$	
Wavelength(Å)	0.979	0.979	0.979
Resolution $(\AA)$	50-1.59(1.59-	$50 - 2.3(2.3 -$	$50 - 2.3(2.3 - 2.41)$
	$1.63$ <sup>a</sup>	2.38	
Temperature(K)	100	100	100
Unique reflections	27144	10847	85640
Mean $I/\sigma(I)$	22.8	16.1	23.1
Sigma Cutoff	$\theta$	$\theta$	$\theta$
Completeness	91.0(69.0)	99.1(100.0)	99.5(96.1)
Redundancy	2.0(1.5)	7.5(6.0)	10.0
R <sub>merge</sub> #	0.040(0.128)	0.082(0.179)	0.070(0.058)
$Rcryst$ +	0.200	0.238	0.215
$R$ free $*$	0.248	0.279	0.259
<b>RMSD</b>			
Bond lengths (Å)	0.021	0.008	0.010
Bond angles (o)	2.17	1.20	1.30
No. of residues	230	230	1113
No. of ions		$\mathbf{1}$	

**Table S1.** Summary of crystal parameters, data collection and refinement.

$$
{}_{k}R_{\text{merge}} = \sum_{h\bar{h}j} \sum_{i} |I_{i}(hkl) - \langle I(hkl) \rangle| / \sum_{h\bar{h}l} \sum_{i} I_{i}(hkl) \cdot R_{\text{cryst}} = \sum_{h\bar{h}l} |F_{\text{obs}}| |F_{\text{calc}}| / \sum_{h\bar{h}l} |F_{\text{obs}}|
$$

\* *R*free is calculated in same manner as *R*cryst except that it uses 10% of the reflection data omitted from refinement.

<sup>a</sup> Values in parentheses are for the highest resolution bin.

**Table S2.** Annotation of sidechain dihedral angles in BH25 design. Dihedrals are measured to chain C in 3UW6 X-ray structure. In general only small deviations are observed between different chains in the unit cell. In cases where there is a definite difference between the sidechain chi angels additional values are reported. Sidechain chis are reported in degrees and rounded of to whole numbers. *<sup>a</sup>* Dihedral measured to CD1 and  $\bar{b}$  to OE1, respectively.  $\bar{c}$  No density for the sidechain.  $\bar{d}$  Dihedral is to CD1 in chain B.





**Table S3**. Annotation of sidechain dihedrals in the BH32 design. Dihedrals are measured relative to the X-ray structure 3U26.



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