Supporting Information

Biological activity differences between TGF- $\beta$ 1 and TGF- $\beta$ 3 correlate with differences in the rigidity and arrangement of their component monomers

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### Figure S1



RMSDs are caclulated for all backbone N,  $Ca$ , and C atoms usign the program Superpose

Figure S1. Sequences identities and structures of the three TGF- $\beta$  isoforms. A. Sequence identities and (similarities) between the mature domains of TGF- $\beta$ s from different vertebrate species. B Structures of the three TGF- $\beta$  isoforms. Structure of TGF- $\beta$ 1 was determined by NMR<sup>1</sup>, while that of TGF- $\beta$ 2 and TGF-3 were determined by crystallography*1-3* . Monomers are shaded in alternate shades of brown, green, or purple. Disulfide bonds that form the four internal disulfides in each monomer, as well as the interchain disulfide, are depicted as balls-and-sticks and are shaded yellow. Backbone RMSDs between isoforms, as calculated using the program Superpose*<sup>4</sup>* , are indicated below the structures of the three isoforms.





Figure S2. NMR relaxation and H $\alpha$  secondary shifts of TGF- $\beta$ 1 and TGF- $\beta$ 3. A, B. {<sup>1</sup>H}-<sup>15</sup>N NOEs of TGF- $\beta$ 1 (A) and TGF- $\beta$ 3 (B). C, D. H $\alpha$  secondary shifts for TGF- $\beta$ 1 (C) and TGF- $\beta$ 3 (D).  $\{^1H\}$ -<sup>15</sup>N NOE and H $\alpha$  secondary shift plots for TGF- $\beta$ 1 were generated from the data reported by Hinck, *et. al*<sup>*1*</sup>.  ${^{1}H}$ <sup>15</sup>N NOE and H $\alpha$  secondary shift plots for TGF- $\beta$ 3 were generated from the data reported by Bocharov, et. al<sup>5, 6</sup>.





Figure S3. SDS-PAGE analysis of the purified TGF-beta homodimers. Samples were prepared with and without 100 mM DTT in the sample buffer and then run on a 12% tricine-SDS gel.



Figure S4

Figure S4. NMR evidence for stable  $\alpha$ -helix between residues 57 – 68 in TGF- $\beta$ 313. A. Sample strips from a three-dimensional <sup>15</sup>N-edited NOESY spectrum of <sup>15</sup>N-TGF- $\beta$ 313 in 87% H2O, 6% dioxane-d8, and 2% methanol-d3 at pH 2.9. Spectrum was recorded at 40 °C at a proton frequency of 600 MHz. NOESY mixing time was 120 ms. B. Short- and medium-range NOEs observed in the 3D-<sup>15</sup>N-edited NOESY spectrum described in A. Height of bars for  $d_{NN}$  and  $d_{\alpha N}$  NOEs indicate relative intensities. Dashed bars for  $d_{NN}$  NOEs indicate it was not possible to ascertain whether an NOE was present or not due to <sup>1</sup>H resonance overlap of adjacent amides. Shown also are the Ca and Cb secondary shifts and secondary structures probabilities calculated using the program PECAN<sup>9</sup>. C $\alpha$  and C $\beta$  secondary shifts were calculated by subtracting the random coil  $C\alpha$  and  $C\beta$  chemical shifts reported by Wishart <sup>10</sup> from those measured.





Figure S5. Structures of TGF- $\beta$ 1 and TGF- $\beta$ 3 complexed to the ectodomains of the TGF- $\beta$  type I and type II receptors, T $\beta$ RI and T $\beta$ RII. A. Structures of the 1:2:2 TGF- $\beta$ 1:T $\beta$ RI:T $\beta$ RII (left) and 1:2:2 TGF-3:TRI:TRII (right) complexes as determined by crystallography*7, 8*. B. Superposition of the structures of the 1:2:2 TGF- $\beta$ 1:T $\beta$ RI:T $\beta$ RII and 1:2:2 TGF- $\beta$ 3:T $\beta$ RI:T $\beta$ RII complexes. Structure of the TGF- $\beta$ 1:T $\beta$ RI:T $\beta$ RII complex is shaded as in panel a, while the structure of the TGF- $\beta$ 3:T $\beta$ RI:T $\beta$ RII complex is shaded gray.

Table S1 and S2

Table S1. Measured <sup>15</sup>N backbone amide  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relaxation times for residues in regular regions of secondary structure in TGF- $\beta$ 1 and TGF- $\beta$ 313



Table S2. Calculated <sup>15</sup>N backbone amide  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relaxation times for residues with typical degree of backbone flexibility in structurally ordered parts of proteins (Lipari-Szabo  $S^2 = 0.85$ )



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