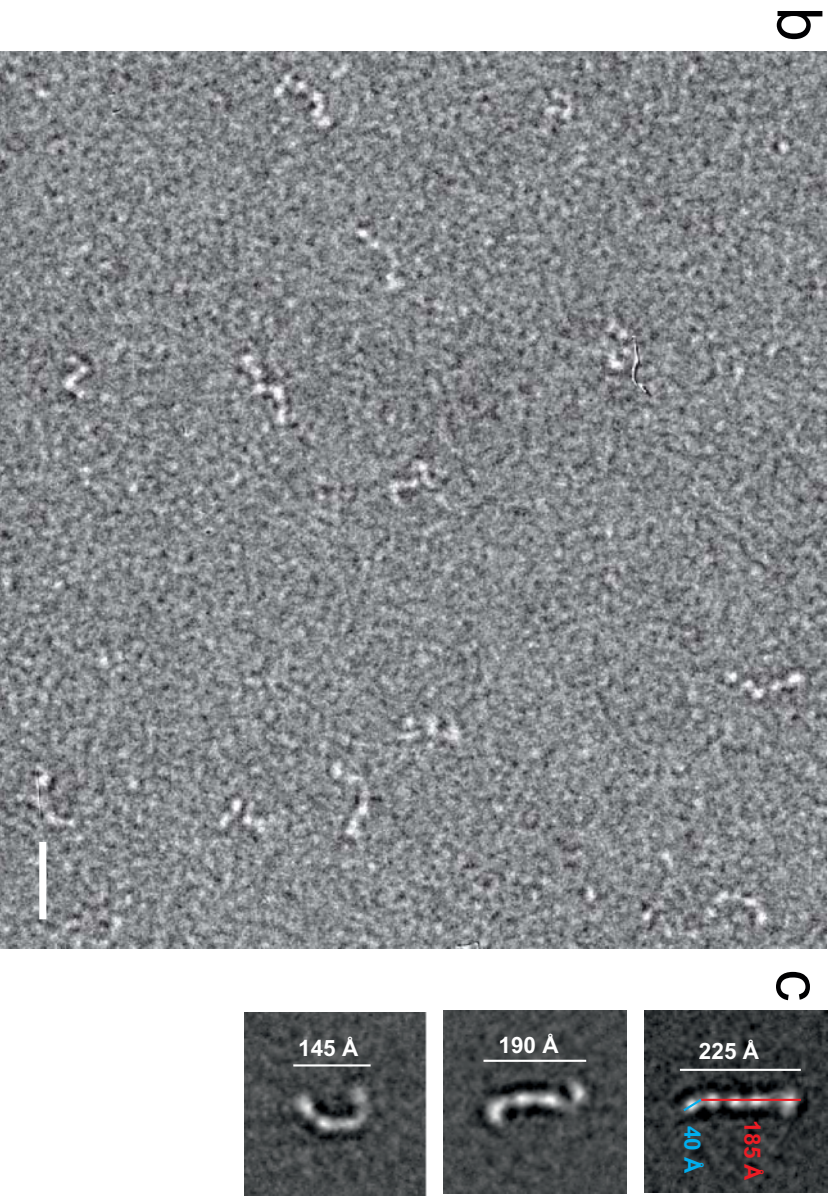
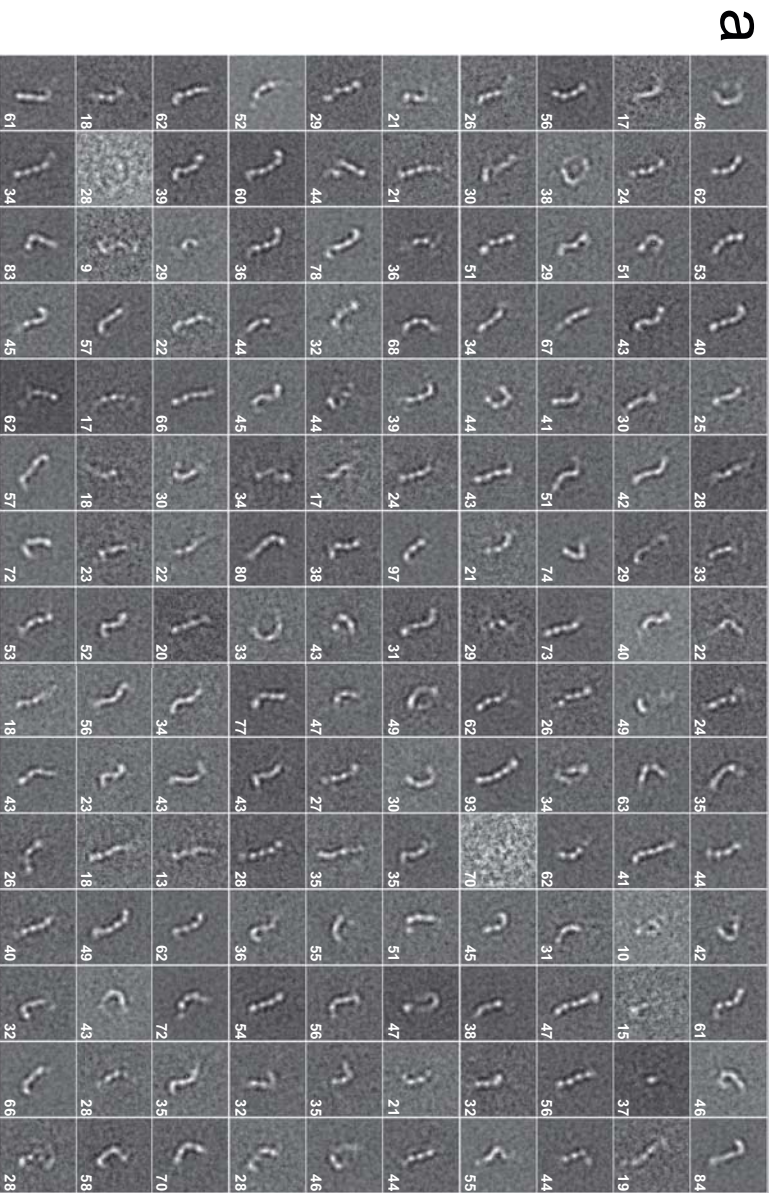
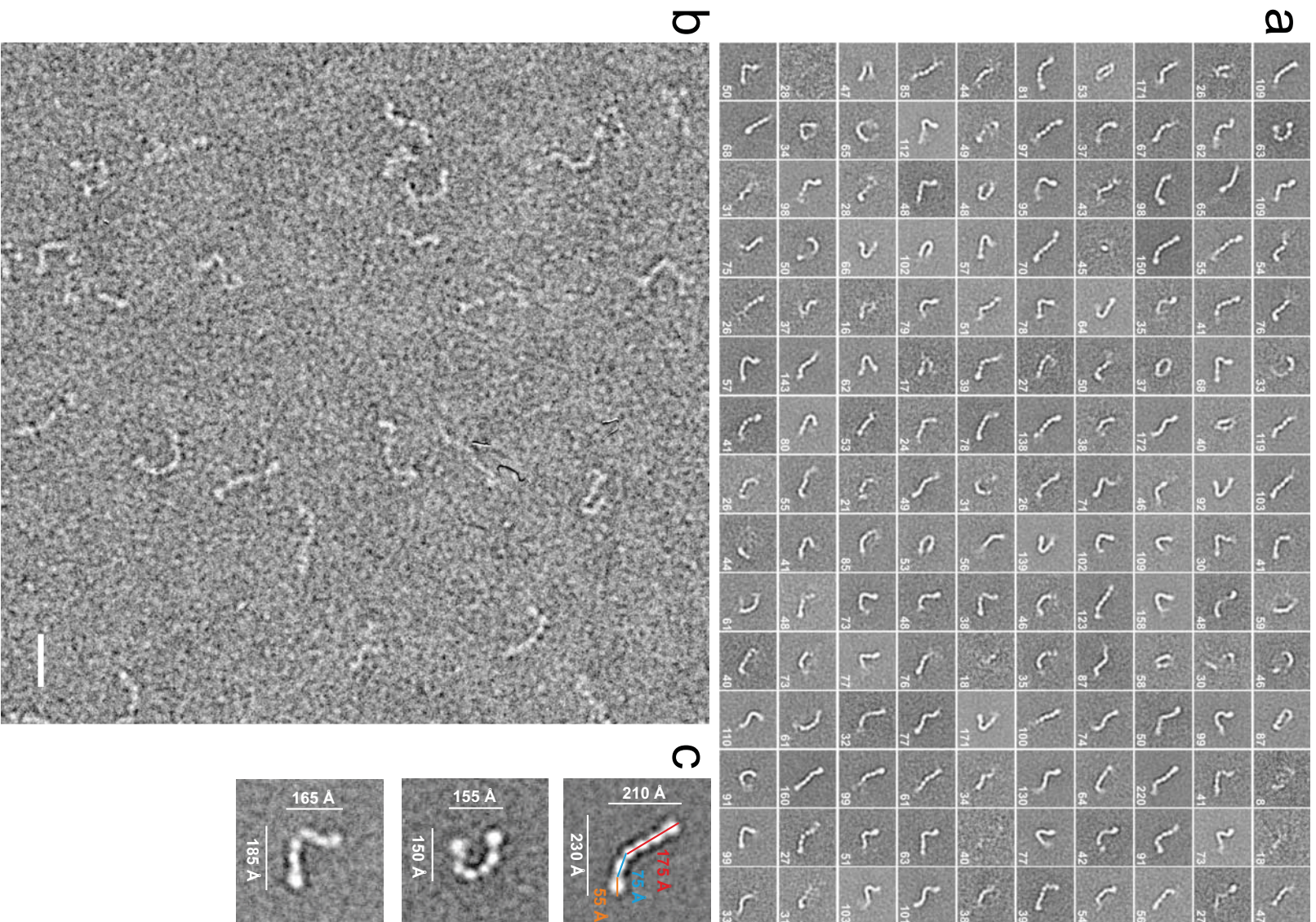


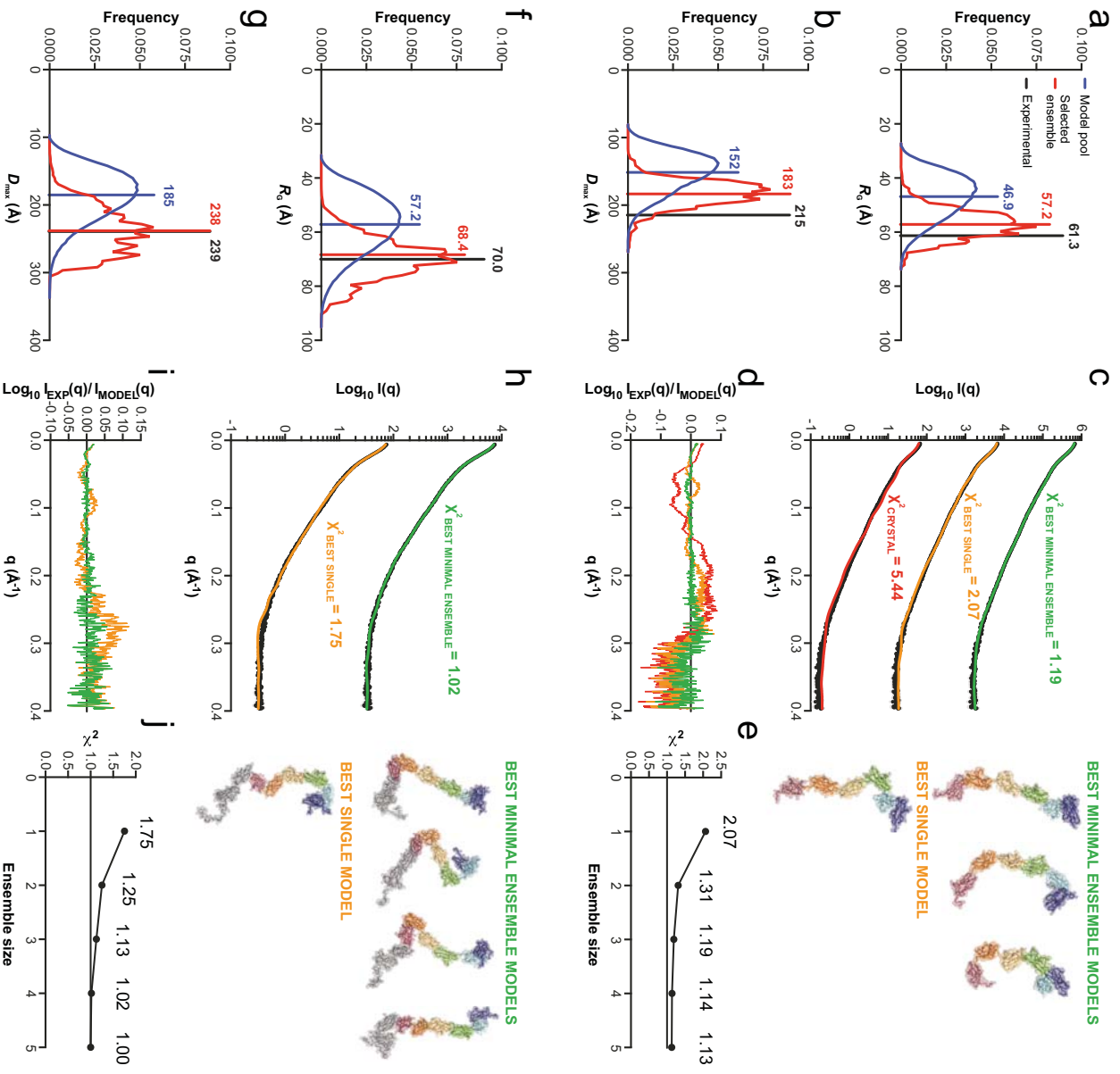
Supplementary Figure 1. Sequence alignment of the six N-terminal domains (Ig1-FN3) of representative type IIa RPTP family members. Amino acid sequences taken from the following sources: chicken RPTP σ (lacking meA and meB mini exons; NM_205407), human RPTP σ (with meA and meB; Q13332, without meA and meB Q13332-6), human RPTP δ (with meA and meB; P23468), human LAR (with meA and meB; XP_005271135) and *Drosophila* LAR (P16621). The secondary structure elements observed for the RPTP σ Ig1-FN3 crystal structure are coloured above the sequence alignment according to the schematic in Figure 1a: Ig1; blue, Ig2; cyan, Ig3; green, FN1; yellow, FN2; orange and FN3; red (assigned using ksdssp^{s1}). Coloured circles below the alignment indicate amino acid residues mutated in our binding and cellular assays; K67, K68, K70, K71, R96 and R99 (binding site 1; blue), Y223 (binding site 3; yellow), R227 and R228 (binding site 4; green). Red sticks highlight N-linked glycosylation sites and residues underlined in purple correspond to meA and meB mini exons. Numbering above the alignment corresponds to the chicken RPTP σ sequence.



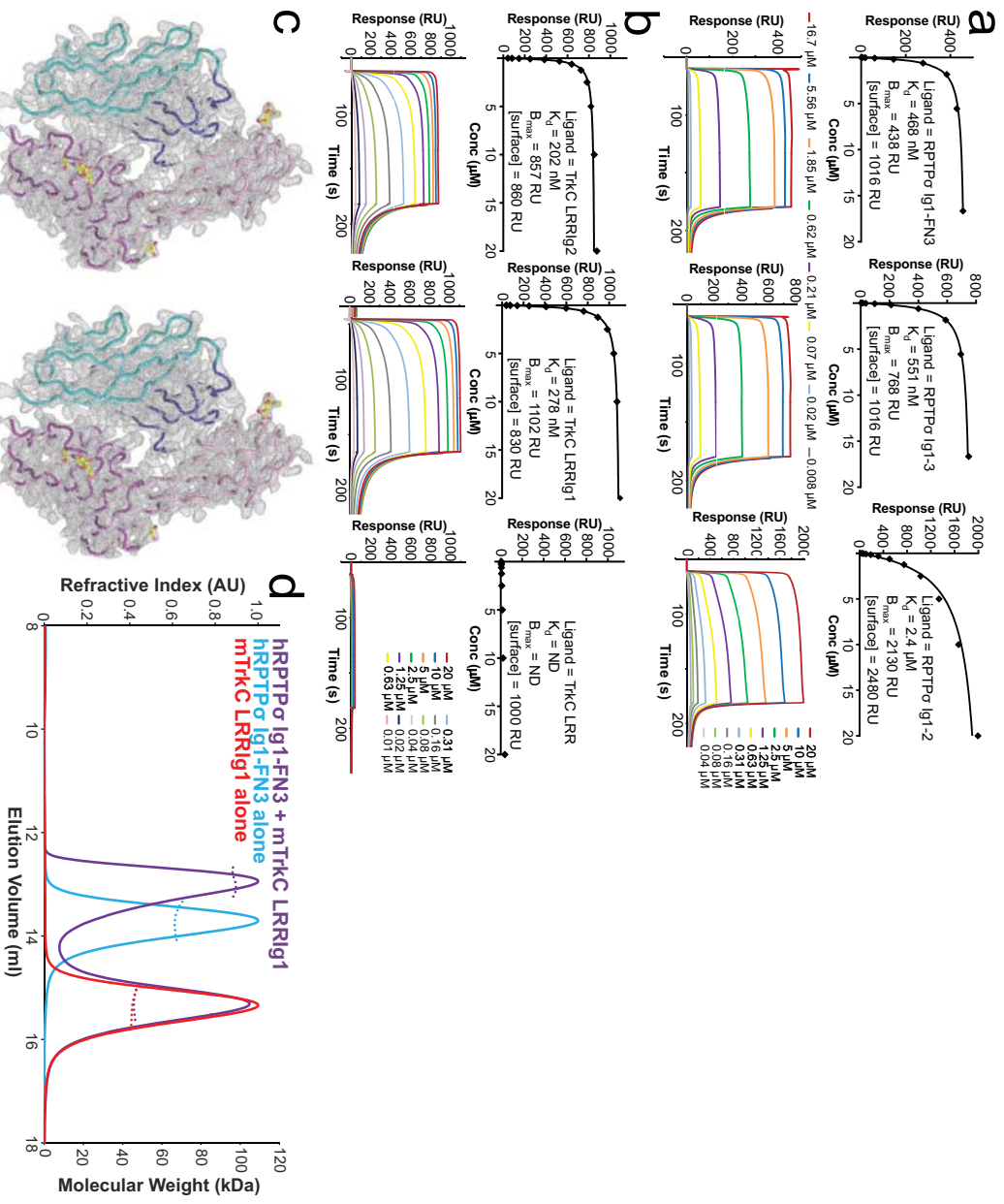
Supplementary Figure 2. Class averages of RPTP σ Ig1-FN3 particles. **(a)** 6315 particles were visually selected and classified into 150 classes by K-means classification and multi-reference alignment. The number of particles used to generate each class average is indicated in the bottom right of each image. The size of each image is 34.2 nm by 34.2 nm. **(b)** Representative area of a raw negative stain EM micrograph of RPTP σ Ig1-FN3. Scale bar; 20nm. **(c)** Illustration of how particle dimensions were estimated from representative class averages. The contribution of the protein solvation sphere and negative stain can not be accurately determined, but these estimates approximately agree with crystal structure derived lengths of Ig1-FN2 (170 Å) and FN3 (40 Å) and a height of 175 Å (comparable to the class average in the middle panel in **(c)**).



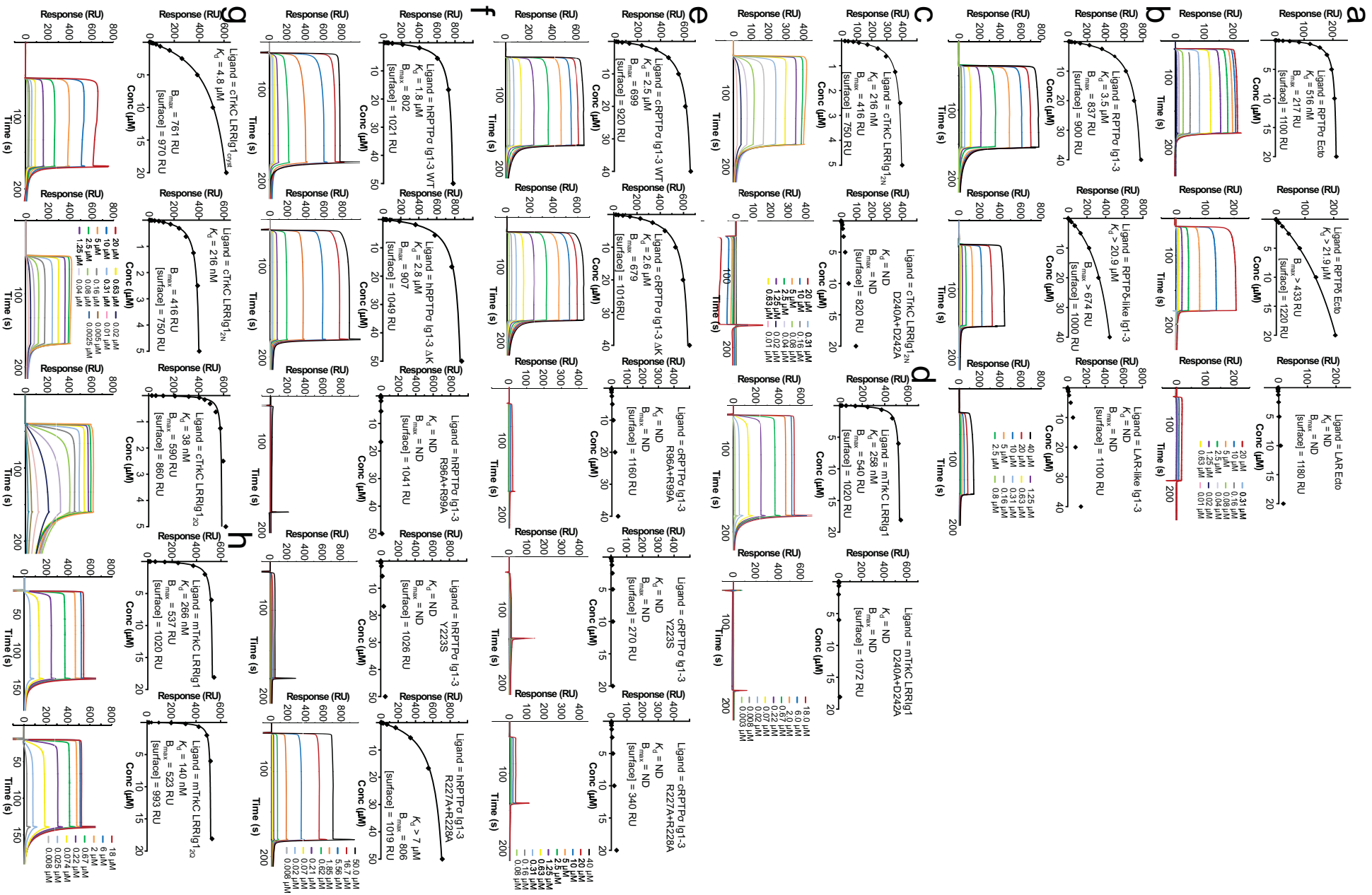
Supplementary Figure 3. Class averages of RPTP σ sEcto particles. **(a)** 9895 particles were visually selected and classified into 150 classes by K-means classification and multi-reference alignment. The number of particles used to generate each class average is indicated in the bottom right of each image. The size of each image is 38 nm by 38 nm. **(b)** Representative area of a raw negative stain EM micrograph of RPTP σ sEcto. Scale bar; 20 nm. **(c)** Illustration of how particle dimensions were estimated from representative class averages. These are approximations, as the contribution of the protein solvation sphere and negative stain can not be accurately determined, but suggest that a certain degree of flexibility is required for the RPTP σ ectodomain to fit within the \sim 240 Å average width calculated for excitatory synapses^{s2}.

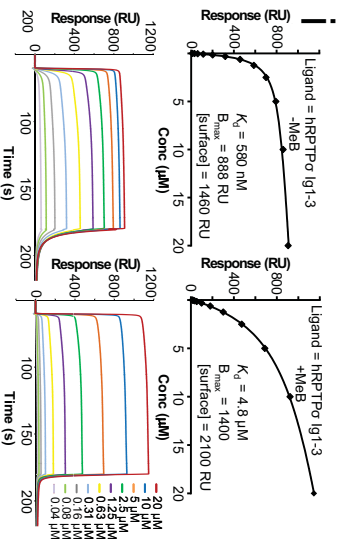


Supplementary Figure 4. Small angle X-ray scattering (SAXS) analysis of RPTP σ ectodomain conformation in solution. **(a-e)** SAXS analysis of RPTP σ Ig1-FN3. **(a)** R_g and **(b)** D_{max} distribution of the 10,000 models generated by RANCHO (blue) and of the GAJOE-selected ensemble (red). Mean values are indicated by blue (model pool) and red (selection) lines. Mean experimental values are indicated by a black line. **(c)** Solution structure of RPTP σ Ig1-FN3. Experimental scattering curves (black) and calculated scattering patterns (coloured) are shown to a maximal momentum transfer of $q = 0.40 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$. Individual data:fit pairs are displaced along an arbitrary y axis to allow for better visualization. Bottom curve: best minimal model ensemble (red). Middle curve: best single model (orange). Top curve: best minimal model ensemble (green). Best single and minimal ensemble models are shown in ribbon and surface representation. **(d)** Fitting residuals of the experimental scattering curves and calculated scattering patterns for the Ig1-FN3 crystal structure (red), best single model (orange) and best minimal ensemble (green). **(e)** χ^2 versus ensemble size. **(f-j)** SAXS analysis of RPTP σ sEcto; equivalent to (a-e).



Supplementary Figure 5. Minimal domain requirements and stoichiometry of RPTP σ -TrkC interaction. **(a)** SPR analysis of mouse TrkC LRRlg1 binding to immobilised human RPTP σ Ig1-FN3, Ig1-3, and Ig1-2. These data demonstrate that the N-terminal three Ig domains of RPTP σ are sufficient for RPTP σ binding to TrkC, although Ig1-2 still retains a reduced affinity interaction. **(b)** SPR analysis of human RPTP σ Ig1-FN3 binding to immobilised mouse TrkC LRRlg2, LRRlg1 and LRR. TrkC Ig1 is necessary for binding of RPTP σ to TrkC. Binding curves (top) and a representative set of sensorgrams (bottom) are illustrated for each interaction. **(c)** Stereo view of Figure 2b (lower panel), illustrating the 1:1 RPTP σ :TrkC interaction mode observed in the chicken RPTP σ Ig1-2:TrkC LRRlg1_{cryst} crystal structure. SigmaA weighted 2F_o-F_c electron density map (grey) contoured at 1 σ and carved at 2 Å around the protein model. **(d)** Mouse TrkC LRRlg1 (red) and human Ig1-FN3 proteins (blue) were incubated alone, or mixed in a 2:1 ratio (purple) prior to SEC-MALS (size-exclusion chromatography-multi-angle light scattering) analysis. Scaled refractive index traces are shown as bold lines and the measured molecular weights as dotted lines. Molecular weight values (with associated uncertainty statistic, provided by the Astra software (Wyatt Technologies)), were measured at the peak of the refractive index traces: mouse TrkC LRRlg1, 45.0 kDa (± 0.2 kDa); human Ig1-FN3, 66.7 kDa (± 0.2 kDa); complex peaks, 97.5 kDa (± 0.2 kDa) and 45.7 kDa (± 0.1 kDa). Theoretical molecular weights: mouse TrkC LRRlg1, 46.3 kDa (assuming 11 N-linked glycans); human RPTP σ Ig1-FN3, 69.4 kDa (assuming 2 N-linked glycans); complex, 115.7 kDa (for a 1:1 stoichiometry).





Supplementary Figure 8. Supporting SPR analyses and data:

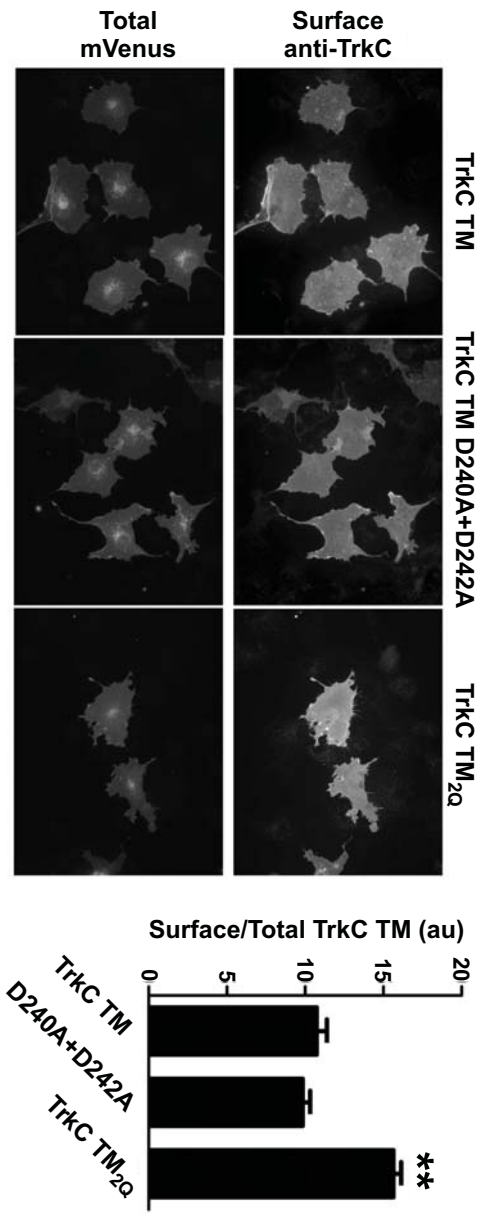
(a,b) Supporting sensograms for Figure 3. (a) Equilibrium SPR experiments testing the binding of the ectodomains of the three human type IIa RPTPs (RPTP σ , RPTP δ and LAR) to immobilised mouse TrkC LRRlg1. Interaction is confirmed to be largely RPTP σ :TrkC specific. (b) SPR equilibrium analyses of chicken TrkC LRRlg1 binding to immobilised chicken RPTP σ Ig1-3, RPTP δ N73S+S74N (RPTP δ -like) Ig1-3 and RPTP σ P97V+T98H (LAR-like) Ig1-3.

(c-f) Supporting sensograms for Figure 4. (c) SPR equilibrium analyses of chick RPTP σ Ig1-3 WT binding to immobilised chick TrkC LRRlg1_{2N} (left) and TrkC LRRlg1_{2N} D240A+D242A (right). (d) SPR equilibrium analyses of human RPTP σ Ig1-3 WT binding to immobilised mouse TrkC LRRlg1 WT (left) and D240A+D242A (right). These data illustrate that TrkC binding site 1 is required for the RPTP σ :TrkC interaction. (e) Equilibrium SPR experiments testing the binding of chick TrkC LRRlg1_{2N} to immobilised chick RPTP σ Ig1-3 WT and Δ K, R96A+R99A, Y223S and R227A+R228A mutants. (f) Equilibrium SPR experiments testing the binding of mouse TrkC LRRlg1 WT to immobilised human RPTP σ Ig1-3 WT and Δ K, R96A+R99A, Y223S and R227A+R228A mutants. These data demonstrate that RPTP σ binding sites 1, 3 and 4 are all required for the RPTP σ :TrkC interaction.

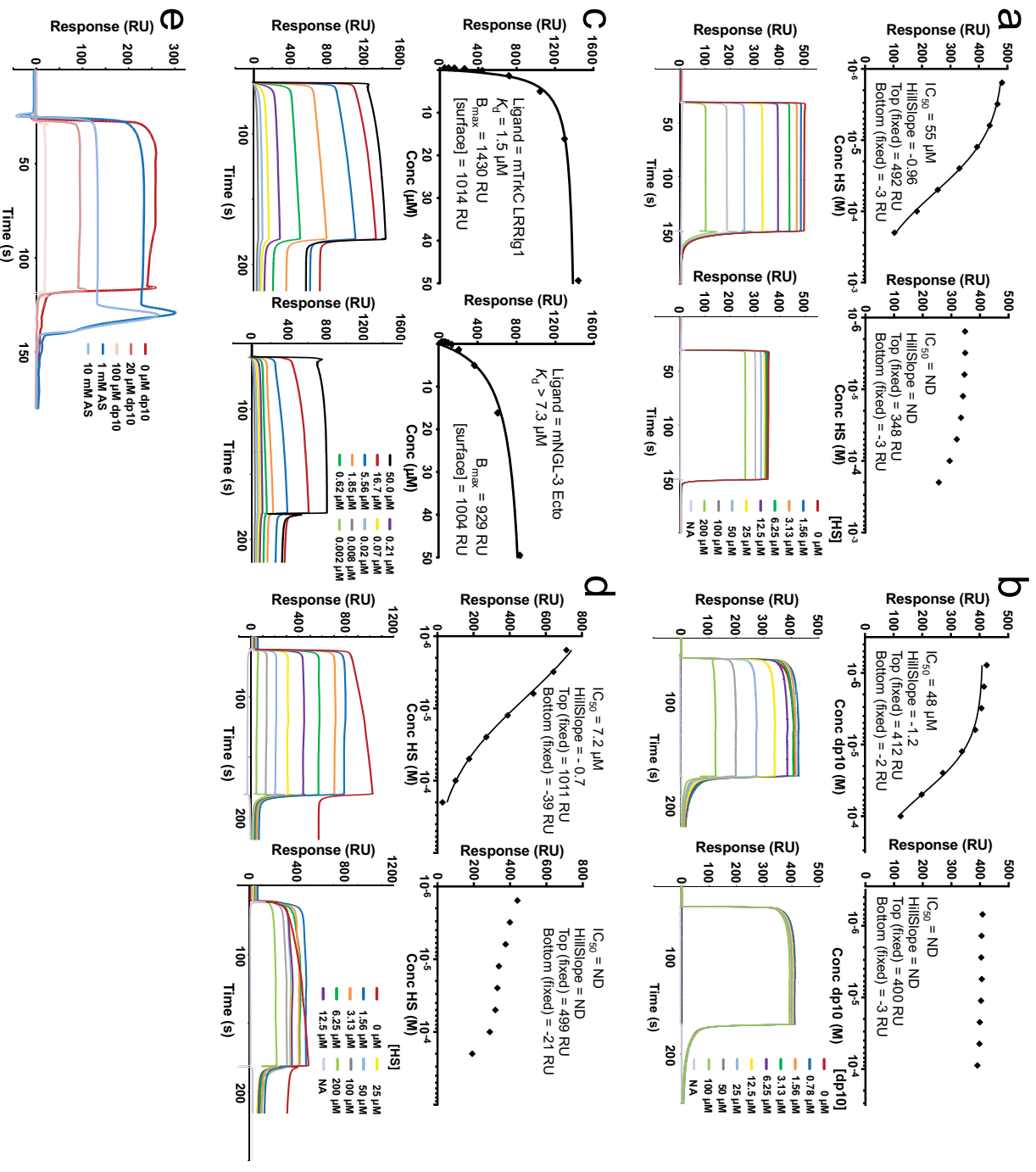
(g,h) Supporting sensograms for Figure 5. (g) Equilibrium SPR experiments testing the binding of chicken RPTP σ Ig1-3 to immobilised chicken TrkC LRRlg1 excluding residues 63-77 (chick TrkC LRRlg1_{crystal}), with these residues reinserted (chick TrkC LRRlg1_{2N}) or a N68Q+N72Q variant, designed to lack two putative N-glycans (chick TrkC LRRlg1_{2Q}). All three TrkC constructs have N163Q, N232Q, N259Q, N267Q and N294Q mutations to remove N-linked glycosylation sites which lie remotely from the RPTP σ :TrkC binding interface. Removal of residues 63-77 from TrkC is seen to decrease the binding affinity for RPTP σ by 20-fold (K_d 216 nM vs 4.8 μ M), supporting the involvement of this loop region in TrkC:RPTP σ binding site 4 as suggested by the crystal structure. (h) Equilibrium SPR experiments testing the binding of human RPTP σ Ig1-3 to immobilised mouse TrkC LRRlg1 (WT) and mouse TrkC LRRlg1_{2Q}. A comparable binding constant is observed between chick RPTP σ :chick TrkC and human RPTP σ :mouse TrkC (K_d 216 nM vs 266 nM) when the loop is present, and removal of N-linked glycans increases the strength of interaction in both cases, though less so for the mammalian interaction pair (new K_d 38 nM vs 140 nM).

(i) Influence of RPTP σ mini-splice exon meB upon interaction with TrkC. SPR equilibrium analyses of mouse TrkC LRRlg1 binding to immobilised human RPTP σ Ig1-3 with (left) and without (right) insertion of meB, four amino acid residues ELRE between R225 and V226. This data demonstrates that addition of this exon into the RPTP σ Ig2-3 linker present at binding site 4, partially reduces the affinity of RPTP σ :TrkC binding.

Binding curves (top) and a representative set of sensograms (bottom) are illustrated for each interaction. The legends provided apply to all sets of sensograms within a given panel. As in all text, RPTP σ residue numbering is relative to the chicken protein, mouse RPTP σ would be +1.



Supplementary Figure 9. Relative cell surface expression levels of TrkC TM constructs. COS-7 cells were transfected with mVenus-tagged TrkC TM (WT), TrkC TM D240A+D242A and TrkC TM_{2a}. Surface expression was visualized by immunofluorescence with anti-TrkC antibody without membrane permeabilization (top row). Total expression was indicated by the expression of mVenus (bottom row). Surface trafficking was enhanced for the 63-77 loop mutant and unchanged for the D240A+D242A mutant as compared with wild-type TrkC TM. ANOVA $p < 0.0001$, ** $p < 0.001$ compared with TrkC TM by posthoc Bonferroni's multiple comparison test, $n = 15-21$ cells.



Supplementary Figure 10. Specificity of GAG-mediated inhibition of RPTP σ -TrkC binding. **(a)** Equilibrium SPR experiments testing the binding of 10 μM human RPTP σ Ig1-3 (left) and 10 μM human RPTP σ Ig1-3 ΔK (right) to immobilised mouse TrkC-LRRlg1 in the presence of increasing concentrations of heparan sulfate (HS). **(b)** Binding of 5 μM chick TrkC LRRlg1_{SN} to immobilised chick RPTP σ Ig1-3 WT (left) and ΔK (right) in the presence of increasing concentrations of heparin-dp10. In contrast to wildtype RPTP σ , the ΔK mutant is insensitive to dp10 addition, and retains full binding to TrkC. **(c)** Binding of human RPTP σ sEcto to immobilised mouse TrkC LRRlg1 or mouse NGL-3 Ecto. Binding curves (top) and a representative set of sensorgrams (bottom) are illustrated for each interaction. **(d)** Binding of 10 μM human RPTP σ sEcto to immobilised mouse TrkC LRRlg1 or mouse NGL-3 Ecto in the presence of increasing concentrations of HS. (a, b and d) non-linear regression dose-response curves were fitted to the data (allowing a variable Hill Slope, but fixing top and bottom values based on experimental controls measured in the absence of HS/dp10 or in the absence of both analyte (NA) and HS/dp10 (0 μM) respectively). In contrast to mouse TrkC, the interaction of mouse NGL-3 with RPTP σ appears relatively insensitive to HS addition. **(e)** High concentrations of a charged salt, ammonium sulphate (up to 10 mM) were unable to inhibit chick RPTP σ :TrkC binding to a comparable or greater extent than 500-fold less concentrated dp10 (20 μM).

Supplementary Table 1 Summary of all equilibrium SPR experiments

RPTPσ-TkC binding experiments		Protein construct 2	Equilibrium binding constant K_d (μ M)	Related Figure
Protein construct 1 (immobilised ligand)		(analyte)		
RPTP				
Human RPTPσ Ig1-FN3		Mouse LRRlg1	0.468	
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3		Mouse LRRlg1	0.551	Supp. Fig. 5a
Human RPTPσ Ig1-2		Mouse LRRlg1	2.4	
Human RPTPσ Ecto		Mouse LRRlg1	0.516	Fig. 3b
Human RPTPδ Ecto		Mouse LRRlg1	>21.9	Supp. Fig. 8a
Human LAR Ecto		Mouse LRRlg1	ND	
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3		Chicken LRRlg1	3.5	Fig. 3c
Chicken RPTPδ-like Ig1-3		Chicken LRRlg1	>20.9	Supp. Fig. 8b
Chicken LAR-like Ig1-3		Chicken LRRlg1	ND	
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3 WT		Chicken LRRlg1 _{2N}	2.5	
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3 ΔK		Chicken LRRlg1 _{2N}	2.6	
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3 R96A+R99A		Chicken LRRlg1 _{2N}	ND	
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3 Y223S		Chicken LRRlg1 _{2N}	ND	
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3 R227A+R228A		Chicken LRRlg1 _{2N}	ND	Fig. 4c
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 WT		Mouse LRRlg1	1.8	Supp. Fig. 8e,f
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 ΔK		Mouse LRRlg1	2.8	
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 R96A+R99A		Mouse LRRlg1	ND	
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 Y223S		Mouse LRRlg1	ND	
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 R227A+R228A		Mouse LRRlg1	>7	
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 -MeB		Mouse LRRlg1	0.58	Supp. Fig. 8i
Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 +MeB		Mouse LRRlg1	4.8	
TkC/NGL-3				
Mouse TkC LRRlg2		Human RPTPσ Ig1-FN3	0.202	
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Human RPTPσ Ig1-FN3	0.278	Supp. Fig. 5b
Mouse TkC LRR		Human RPTPσ Ig1-FN3	ND	
Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{2N}		Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3	0.216	
Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{2N} D240A+D242A		Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3	ND	Fig. 4b
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Mouse RPTPσ Ig1-3	0.258	Supp. Fig. 8c,d
Mouse TkC LRRlg1 D240A+D242A		Mouse RPTPσ Ig1-3	ND	
Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{Glyst}		Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3	4.8	
Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{2N}		Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3	0.216	Fig. 5a
Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{2O}		Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3	0.038	Supp. Fig. 8g,h
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Mouse RPTPσ Ig1-3	0.266	
Mouse TkC LRRlg1 _{2O}		Mouse RPTPσ Ig1-3	0.140	
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Human RPTPσ sEcto	1.5	Supp. Fig. 10c
Mouse NGL-3 Ecto		Human RPTPσ sEcto	>7.3	
GAG competition experiments				
Protein construct 1 (immobilised ligand)		Protein construct 2 + GAG (analyte)	IC ₅₀ for GAG inhibition (μ M)	Related Figure
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 +HS	55	
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Human RPTPσ Ig1-3 ΔK + HS	ND	Fig. 6a
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3		Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{2N} + dp10	48	Supp. Fig. 10a,b
Chicken RPTPσ Ig1-3 ΔK		Chicken TkC LRRlg1 _{2N} + dp10	ND	
Mouse TkC LRRlg1		Human RPTPσ sEcto + HS	7.2	
Mouse NGL3 Ecto		Human RPTPσ sEcto + HS	ND	Supp. Fig. 10d

Additional references for supplementary figures

- S1 Kabsch, W. & Sander, C. Dictionary of protein secondary structure: Pattern recognition of hydrogen-bonded and geometrical features. *Biopolymers* **22**, 2577-2637, (1983).
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- S3 Benito-Gutiérrez, È., Nake, C., Llovera, M., Comella, J. X. & Garcia-Fernández, J. The single AmphiTtk receptor highlights increased complexity of neurotrophin signalling in vertebrates and suggests an early role in developing sensory neuroepidermal cells. *Development* **132**, 2191-2202, (2005).