## **Supplementary Information**

## A conserved histidine in switch-II of EF-G moderates release of inorganic

## phosphate

Ravi Kiran Koripella, Mikael Holm, Daniel Dourado, Chandra Sekhar Mandava, Samuel Flores and Suparna Sanyal\*

Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Uppsala University, Box-596, BMC, 75124, Uppsala, Sweden

\*Correspondence: suparna.sanyal@icm.uu.se, 0046-18-471 4220



**Figure S1. Affinity of EF-G for mant-GTP.** The affinity of various EF-G variants WT (black), F94L (cyan), H91A (red), H91E (green), H91Q (magenta) and H91R (blue) for mant-GTP was measured by titrating mant-GTP against a fixed concentration of EF-G. The relative fluorescence increase from saturation binding of EF-G was plotted against concentrations of mant-GTP. The data points were fitted using a hyperbolic equation to estimate the  $K_D$  values.



Figure S2. Position of the  $Mg^{2+}$  ion in the crystal structures of EF-G on the ribosome. (a) with GDPCP (PDB: 4CR1)<sup>1</sup>, (b-c) with GDP (and fusidic acid); PDBs 2WRI (b)<sup>2</sup> and 4KDA (c)<sup>3</sup>, respectively. The structure in (c) lacks the  $Mg^{2+}$  ion. Other important residues and intramolecular interactions are shown with labels or dotted lines.

## References

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