

1 **Supporting Information**

2 **Reconstitution and Functional Analysis of a Full-Length**
3 **Hepatitis C Virus NS5B Polymerase on a Supported Lipid**
4 **Bilayer**

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25 **Supplementary Materials and Methods.**

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45 **Supporting Table 1. Summary of Kinetic Values.**

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61 **Materials and Methods**

62 **Protein purifications**

63 Recombinant full-length HCV NS3 proteins from Con1 or BK strains (NS3-FL-Con1 and
64 NS3-FL-BK) were expressed in E.coli BL21(DE3) cells. Lysates were prepared by
65 suspension of cell pellets in NS3-FL disruption buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.8, 20%
66 glycerol, 500 mM NaCl, 0.05% maltopyranoside, 10 mM β -mercaptoethanol (BME), 10
67 mM imidazole), 10 U/ml benzonase and one complete protease inhibitor tablet (Roche)
68 per 50 ml disruption buffer. Suspensions were disrupted by micro fluidization at 14K psi
69 and 120 psi respectively, spun for 30 min at 14, 000 rpm or 18, 000 RCF respectively to
70 remove debris. Supernatants were filtered using 0.45 micron filters and loaded onto a
71 Ni-NTA (Qiagen) or immobilized metal affinity chromatography (GE healthcare) columns
72 respectively. Columns were pre-equilibrated with buffer A (disruption buffer that did not
73 contain protease inhibitors or nuclease). Columns were washed with buffer A until
74 baseline was re-established and eluted with a 10 column volumes (CV) gradient 0-
75 100% buffer A to buffer B (buffer A + 250 mM imidazole, pH 7.8). Gradient peaks were
76 collected and dialyzed in 4x volume of buffer C (50 mM Tris, pH 7.8 plus 20% glycerol,
77 0.05% maltopyranoside/ dodecyl maltoside, 2 mM DTT) for 40 h. Dialyzed solutions
78 were centrifuged and supernatant loaded onto a heparin-sepharose HP column (GE
79 healthcare) pre-equilibrated in 5-10 CV buffer D (buffer C plus 0.1M NaCl). Columns
80 were washed with buffer D and protein eluted in 6 CV using a gradient from 0.1 M to 0.4
81 M NaCl in buffer D. Peak fractions were pooled, NaCl adjusted to a final concentration
82 of 0.5 M and stored at -80°C.

83 NS3-helicase domain from HCV BK strain was purified from E.coli cell pellets
84 that were resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM
85 DTT, 20 mM imidazole) and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche Diagnostic) with stirring
86 for 1 h followed by passage through a micro fluidizer and centrifugation at 186,000×g for
87 45 min. Supernatant was filtered and loaded onto two tandem 5 mL HisTrap™ HP
88 columns (GE healthcare) equilibrated with buffer A (lysis buffer without protease
89 inhibitors). Proteins were eluted with a linear gradient to 1 M imidazole in buffer A, peak
90 fractions were pooled and further purified by gel filtration on a Superdex 200 26/60
91 column (GE healthcare), equilibrated in buffer A.

92 NS3 protease domain protein NS3-Protease-BK was prepared from E.coli cell pellets by
93 lysis in NS3-PD disruption buffer (50mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 0.3M NaCl, 10% Glycerol,
94 0.1% octyl glucoside, 5 mM BME, 5 mM imidazole), 1X complete EDTA-free protease
95 inhibitor (Roche) and 10 U/ml benzonase, followed by homogenization, micro fluidization,
96 centrifugation and filtration as described above for full-length NS3 protein. The filtrate
97 was run through an IMAC column pre-equilibrated in IMAC buffer A (disruption buffer)
98 and eluted in 25 column volumes of a gradient of IMAC buffer B (buffer A + 300 mM
99 imidazole) from 0-100%. Peak fractions were pooled and concentrated to 2 ml and then
100 loaded onto a superdex 75 column equilibrated in buffer A. Peak fractions were pooled,
101 concentrated to ~1-2 mg/ml using an Amicon ultra centrifugal filtration device (10 kDa
102 MWCO).

103 NS5A protein HCV His6-NS5A BK (33-447) was purified from E.coli cell pellets that
104 were resuspended in NS5A lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM

105 DTT, 20 mM imidazole) and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche Diagnostic) with stirring
106 for 1 h followed by passage through a micro fluidizer and centrifugation at 186,000×g for
107 45 min. The supernatant was filtered and loaded onto three tandem 5 mL HiTrap™
108 heparin columns also equilibrated with lysis buffer. Protein was eluted using a linear
109 gradient of 50 mM to 1 M NaCl. This chromatography was repeated to optimize protein
110 purity to homogeneity. The protein was dialyzed with storage buffer (50mM Tris-HCl,
111 pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM DTT, 10% glycerol).

112 NS5A N-terminal domain was purified from E.coli cell pellets that were resuspended in
113 NS5A lysis buffer (25 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl, 10 % glycerol, 0.1 % igepal CA-
114 630 (Sigma), 20 mM imidazole, 1 X complete EDTA-free protease inhibitors (Roche)
115 and 10 U/ml benzonase) with stirring for 1 h followed by passage through a micro
116 fluidizer and filtration using 0.45 micron filters. The filtrate was run through a Ni-NTA
117 column pre-equilibrated with buffer A (25 mM Tris-HCL, pH 8.0, 400 mM NaCl, 10 %
118 glycerol, 0.1 % igepal CA-630 (Sigma) and 20 mM imidazole), and eluted with 0-100%
119 gradient of buffer A to buffer B (buffer A + 200 mM imidazole). Peak fractions were
120 desalted by gel filtration and further purified using a resource Q column pre-equilibrated
121 with buffer A2 (25 mM Tris-HCL, pH 8.0, 50 mM NaCl and 10% glycerol) and eluted with
122 buffer B2 (A2 + 1 M NaCl). Peak fractions were concentrated to ~ 2.5 ml and loaded
123 onto an SEC column pre-equilibrated with SEC buffer (25 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 250 mM
124 NaCl and 10% glycerol). Peak fraction were pooled and concentrated before storage.

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126 **Generation of RdRp template and assay conditions in solution**

127 A 377 nucleotide RNA template (the 3' terminus of the viral negative strand RNA,
128 termed "cIRES") was generated as described in Klumpp et al (*J Biol Chem* 281(7):3793-
129 3799). Briefly, 377 nucleotides cIRES RNA, from the 3'-end of HCV (-)-strand RNA,
130 was synthesized in vitro using a T7 RNA polymerase transcription kit (Ambion, Inc.) and
131 purified either by phenol-chloroform extraction or using the Qiagen RNeasy maxi kit,
132 with similar results. In vitro HCV polymerase reactions contained 10 µg/ml cIRES RNA
133 template, 50 nM polymerase protein, 1 µM tritiated UTP or CTP (1–5 µCi), 1 µM ATP, 1
134 µM CTP, 1 µM GTP, 40 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 4 mM dithiothreitol, and 4 mM MgCl₂ and
135 were performed as described in Klumpp et al (*J Biol Chem* 281(7):3793-3799).

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137 **SLB experiments**

138 For supported lipid bilayer experiments, lipid bilayers were formed on the solid support
139 using 10 mM Tris buffer [pH 7.5] with 150 mM NaCl. After bilayer formation, a buffer-
140 exchange was performed and 40 mM Tris-HCl buffer [pH 8.0] with 50 mM NaCl, 4 mM
141 MgCl₂ and 4 mM DTT ("reaction buffer") was introduced and used as the buffer for all
142 protein binding and activity measurements. Proteins and cIRES RNA template were
143 introduced into the QCM chamber at a final concentration of 87 µg/ml and 50 µg/ml,
144 respectively. Protein and nucleotide dilutions were carried out in reaction buffer and the
145 final nucleotide concentrations for the replicase measurements were 500 µM per
146 nucleotide (ATP, UTP, GTP and CTP). For inhibition studies involving inhibitor, 500 µM
147 of inhibitor was added together with 500 µM of each nucleotide (ATP, UTP, GTP and
148 CTP).

149 **Supporting Figure 1. Denaturing Polyacrylamide Gel of Recombinant Proteins**
150 **Used in this Study.** One microgram of each protein was loaded onto a 4-12% Bis-Tris
151 gel and run at 150V for 80 minutes. Gel was stained using SimplyBlue Safe Stain (Life
152 Technologies). Loading was as follows: (L) BenchMark™ ladder, (1) NS5B-FL, (2)
153 NS5B- Δ 21, (3) NS5A- Δ 32, (4) NS3-FL, (5) NS3 Protease domain, (6) NS3 Helicase
154 domain.

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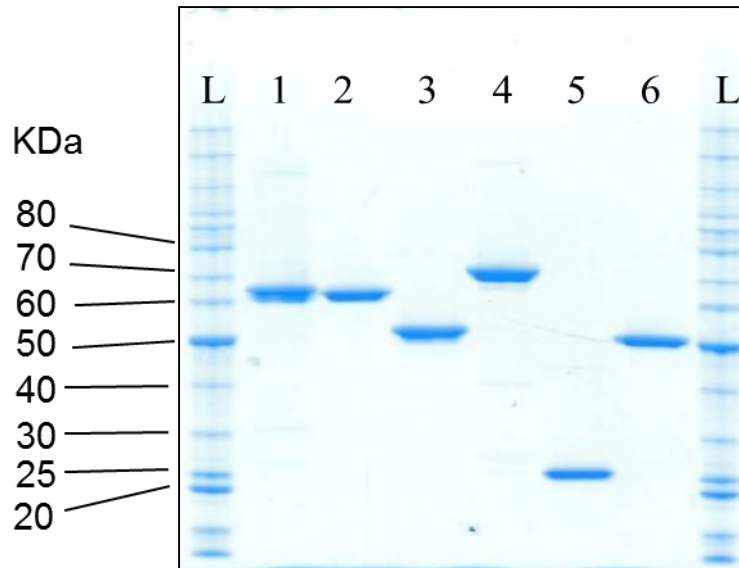
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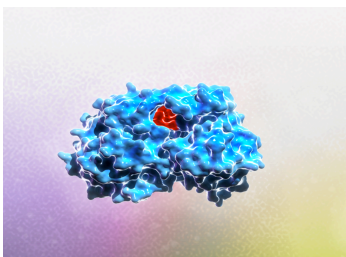
176 **Supporting Figure 2. Schematic models of NS5B-FL protein in solution and**
177 **associated with bilayer membrane.**

178 The models are based on the NS5b- Δ 21 crystal structure 1C2P.¹ **A**, NS5b- Δ 21 crystal
179 structure with the active site residues colored in red. **B**, model of the membrane-bound
180 NS5B-FL protein. The model of the 28-mer C-terminal sequence that is missing in the
181 1C2P crystal structure was constructed via Pymol (Schrödinger LLC), as an extension
182 from Ser-563 (564-LSRARPRWFM LCLLLLSVGV GIYLLPNR, transmembrane domain
183 underlined and in agreement with TMHMM ((<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TMHMM/>)).
184 Using an overall extended conformation, the resulting structure was energy-minimized
185 using BABEL (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=21982300>). The C-terminal
186 end of NS5B-FL is of sufficient length and has appropriate properties to form a
187 transmembrane domain (colored in yellow), and to bring the polymerase protein into
188 close contact with the membrane. **C**, model of NS5B-FL in solution. In solution, the C-
189 terminal domain (colored in yellow) may fold back into the active site and act as a
190 polymerase inhibitory domain. The model was built using Pymol, taking into account
191 hydrophobic and electrostatic interactions, H-bonding and secondary structure
192 constraints. The C-terminus was modeled as a helix-turn-helix, with a helical propensity
193 towards 3_{10} helices. It has sufficient length to reach and block the opening to the active
194 site, while the hydrophobic residues in the transmembrane domain have reduced
195 solvent exposure. Energy minimizations, but no large-scale molecular dynamics
196 simulations were performed.

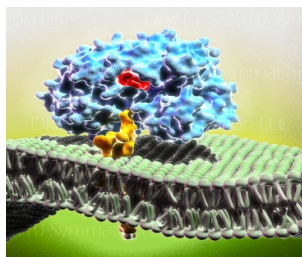
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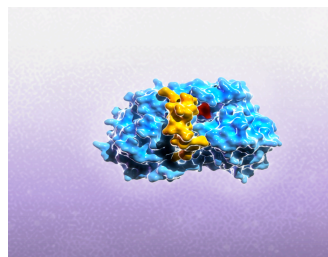
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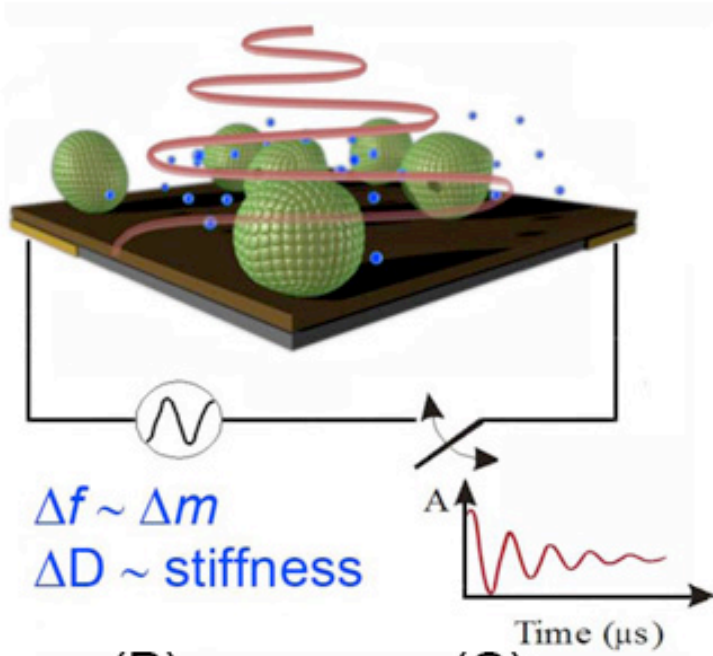
203 **Supporting Figure 3. SLB Platform on the Quartz Crystal Microbalance with**
204 **Dissipation Monitoring (QCM-D) Nanomass Sensor.**

205 **A) Overview of the QCM-D measurement principle.** The QCM-D technique permits
206 real-time monitoring of mass adsorption onto a quartz crystal substrate ². The
207 piezoelectric quartz crystal is positioned between two electrodes, and oscillates when
208 an AC voltage is applied across it. When additional mass (e.g., lipid vesicles) adsorbs
209 onto the substrate, the crystal's resonance frequency of oscillation decreases. The
210 frequency change, Δf , is proportional to the mass of the adsorbed material. To describe
211 the adsorbed material's viscoelastic properties, the circuit can be opened, permitting the
212 crystal's oscillation to decay exponentially. The energy loss per stored energy during
213 one oscillation cycle is referred to as the energy dissipation, D , which is proportional to
214 $1/\tau$, where τ is the decay time constant. Films with large viscous loss will display larger
215 ΔD than more rigid films because the ratio between energy loss and stored energy will
216 be larger. **B) Intact vesicle platform.** On surfaces that include titanium oxide and gold,
217 lipid vesicles adsorb but do not rupture due to insufficient adhesion energy. The result is
218 a full monolayer of adsorbed, unruptured vesicles. **C) Supported lipid bilayer (SLB)**
219 **platform.** On a silicon oxide surface, the adhesion energy can be sufficient to result in
220 the rupture of lipid vesicles and thus a spontaneous formation of a lipid bilayer from
221 vesicles (SLB platform self-assembly). **D) QCM-D kinetic trace for SLB platform self-**
222 **assembly.** The characteristic SLB formation signature is a two-step kinetic process.
223 Lipid vesicles first adsorb and remain intact on silicon oxide, resulting in a decrease in
224 frequency (Δf), consistent with addition of mass to the surface and an increase in
225 dissipation (ΔD). After reaching a critical surface coverage of lipid vesicles, the
226 combination of vesicle-vesicle and vesicle-substrate interactions promotes the rupture
227 of lipid vesicles and the formation of a lipid bilayer. This lipid bilayer assembly process
228 is characterized by an increase in Δf to ~ 24 Hz (consistent with the loss of mass as
229 compared to the vesicle surface) and a decrease in ΔD . Note that the critical surface
230 coverage necessary for vesicle rupture and SLB formation depends on a number of
231 experimental parameters, including vesicle size, lipid composition, ionic strength,
232 osmotic pressure, pH, and temperature.²⁻⁷ As such, the Δf and ΔD values corresponding
233 to the critical surface coverage can vary. Further, in cases where there are very strong
234 vesicle-surface interactions, vesicle rupture and SLB formation can be accelerated and
235 proceed through apparent one-step kinetics.

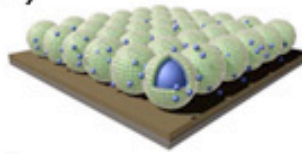
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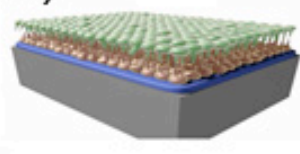
(A)



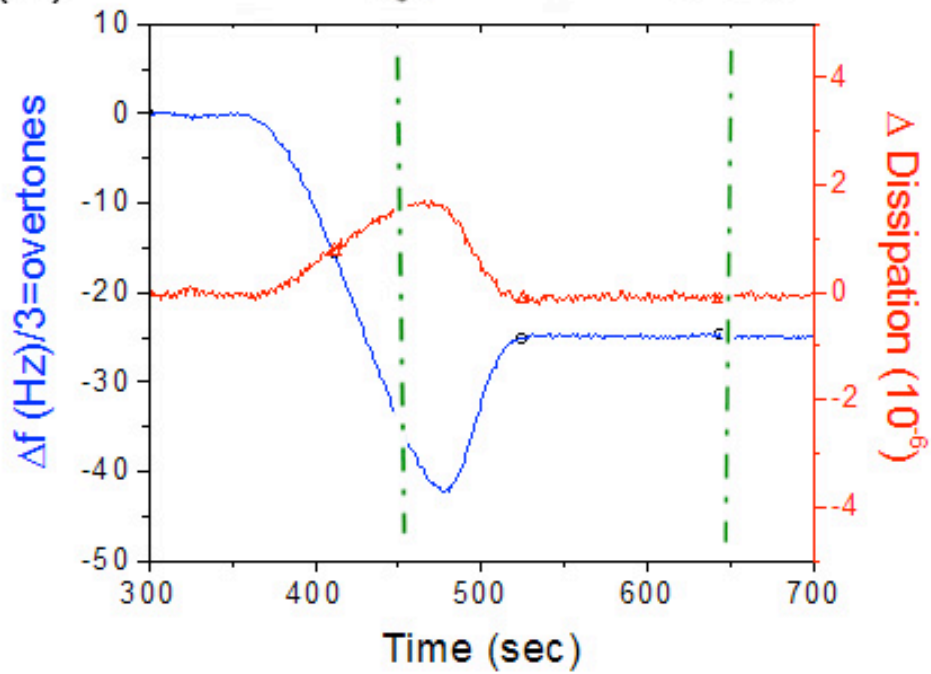
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(C)



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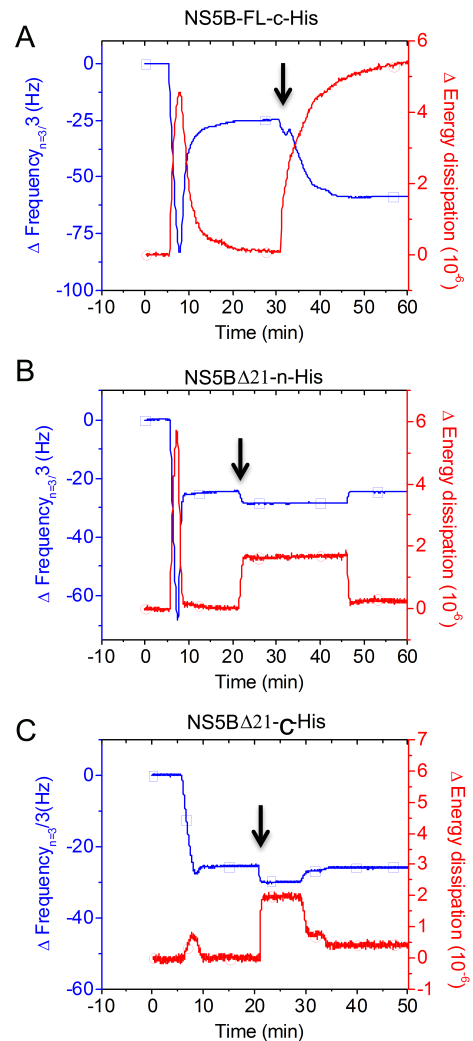


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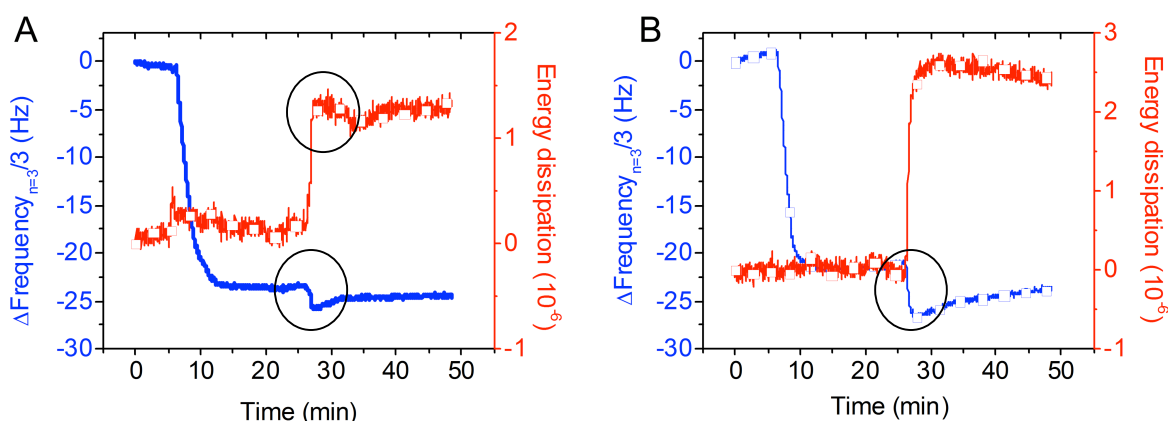
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240 **Supporting Figure 4. Membrane Association of**
241 **Recombinant HCV NS5B-FL and its C-terminal**
242 **deletion mutants. A)** Membrane association of
243 NS5B-FL-c-His protein (this full length NS5b protein
244 carries an additional His-tag label on the C-
245 terminus). The protein is added at the 30min time
246 point (arrow), resulting in a large increase in
247 dissipation (red curve) and a reduction in frequency
248 (blue curve), consistent with the addition of protein
249 mass to the bilayer membrane. **B)** Addition (arrow)
250 of the truncated protein lacking the C-terminal 21
251 amino acids, but carrying a N-terminal His-tag
252 (NS5B Δ 21-n-His), or **C)** addition (arrow) of the
253 truncated protein lacking the C-terminal 21 amino
254 acids, but carrying a C-terminal His-tag, (NS5B Δ 21-
255 c-His) did not lead to changes in frequency,
256 consistent with the lack of membrane binding of the
257 truncated NS5b proteins.

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272 **Supporting Figure 5. QCM-D Kinetics of NS5B C-Terminal Peptide Binding to the**
 273 **immobilized lipid bilayer.** The interaction of a 21 amino acid long peptide
 274 corresponding to the NS5B C-terminus with the SLB platform was investigated by QCM-
 275 D monitoring of resonance frequency (red) and energy dissipation (blue). **A)** At 6 μM
 276 NS5B C-terminal peptide concentration, peptide binding to the lipid bilayer indicated by a
 277 reduction in frequency (blue). The kinetic behavior suggested membrane penetration,
 278 as indicated by the kink in signal response (highlighted by circles) that is indicative of
 279 peptide rearrangement at the membrane interface, an initial increase in mass from the
 280 addition of peptide, followed by a loss of mass from the displacement of lipid from the
 281 surface. The compensatory loss of mass after peptide addition differentiates membrane
 282 penetration through the lipid bilayer from simple adhesive peptide binding to the bilayer
 283 surface. **B)** At 12 μM NS5B C-terminal peptide concentration, the initial frequency
 284 change was doubled (consistent with the addition of double mass). Together, the QCM-
 285 D responses demonstrate that the NS5b C-terminal peptide shows concentration-
 286 dependent binding kinetics indicative of membrane penetration.⁸



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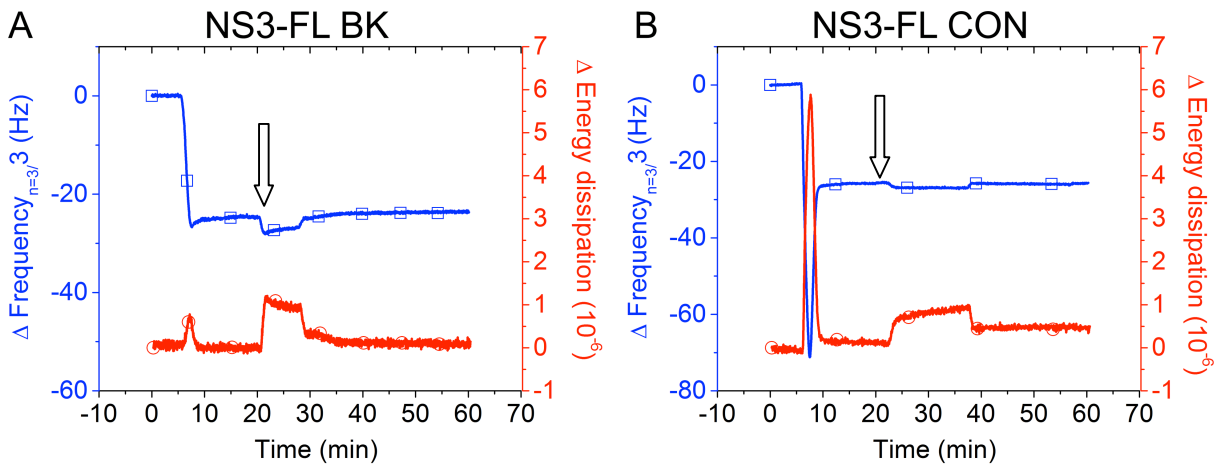
298 **Supporting Figure 6. Full length NS3 protein alone does not associate with lipid**
299 **bilayer membranes. A)** Addition (arrow) of NS3-FL-BK (full length NS3 from HCV BK

300 strain) or **B)** addition (arrow) of NS3-FL-CON (from Con1 strain) protein to the

301 immobilized lipid bilayer does not result in significant frequency or dissipation changes,

302 indicating lack of binding.

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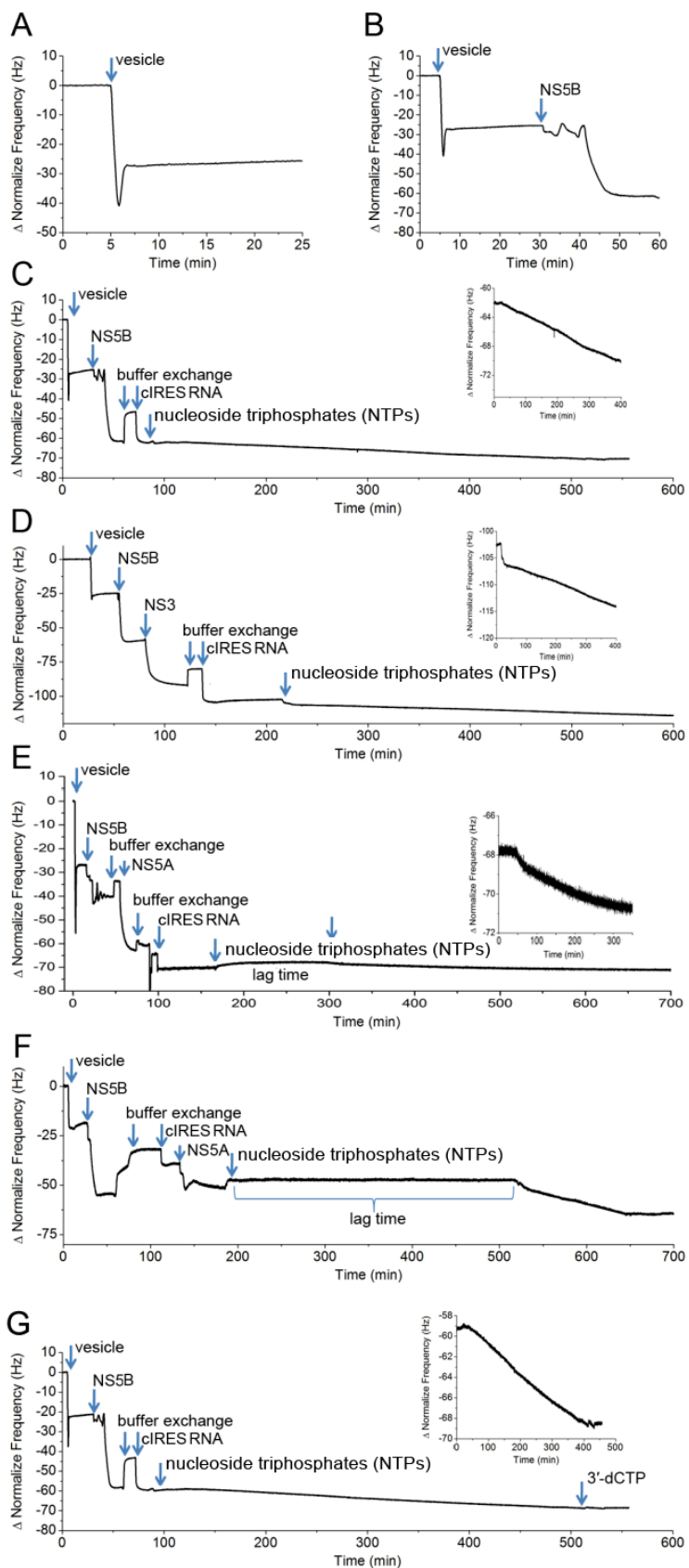
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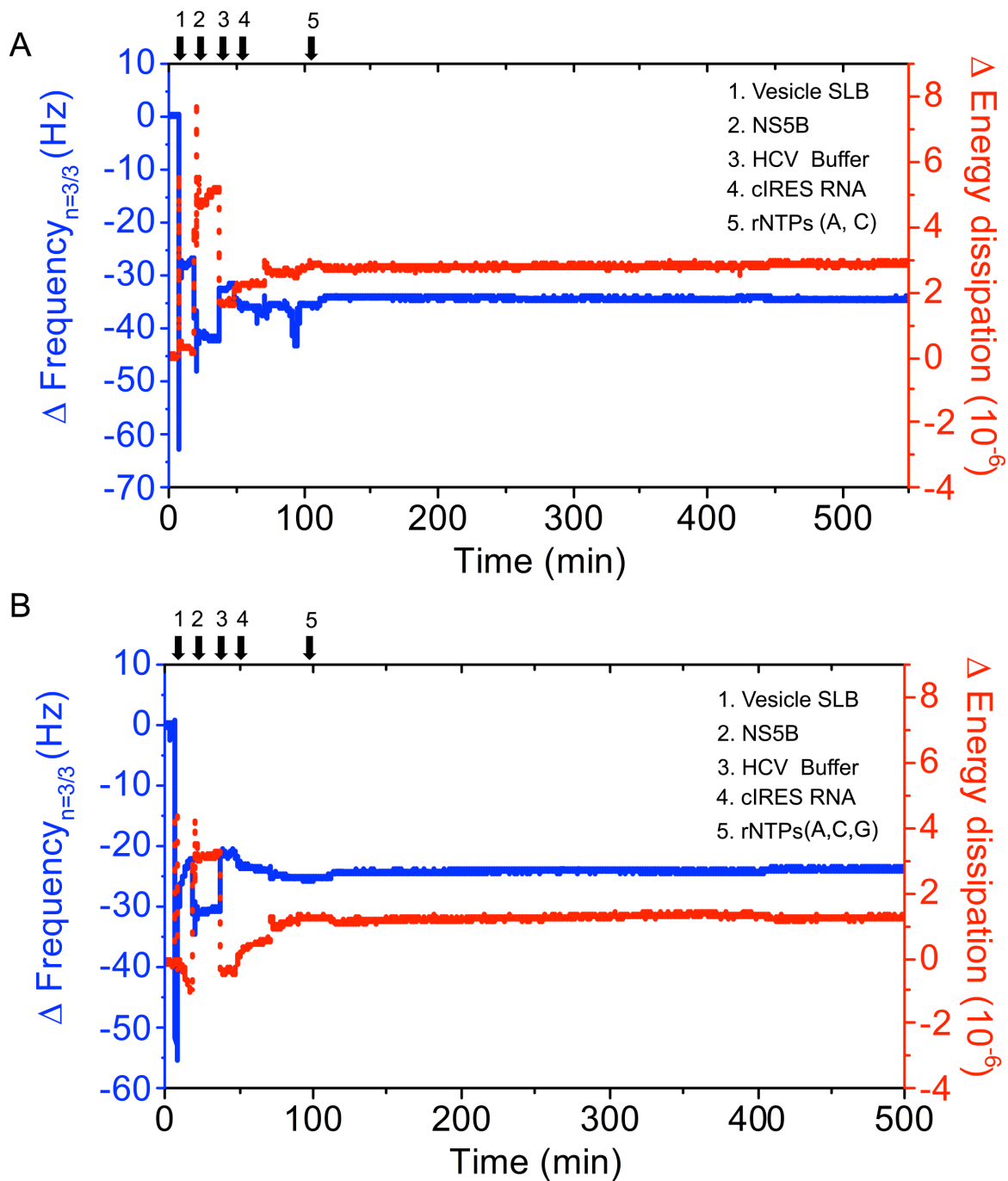
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319 **Supporting Figure 7. Full Kinetic Traces for Step-by-Step Assembly and RNA-**
320 **Dependent, RNA Polymerase (RdRp) Activity of the Membrane-Associated HCV**
321 **Replicase Complex.** Individual replicase complex components were sequentially
322 added to the sensing chamber and buffer exchanges performed as indicated by arrows
323 in the Figure panels: **A)** SLB only, formation of an immobilized bilayer membrane; **B)**
324 SLB + NS5B-FL, binding of NS5b protein to the membrane bilayer; **C)** RNA polymerase
325 activity of NS5b; after formation of the NS5b containing bilayer membrane, a buffer
326 exchange was performed into polymerase buffer (leading to a slight increase in
327 frequency) and then cIRES RNA added, which bound to the immobilized NS5b, as
328 indicated by the frequency decrease; when ribonucleoside triphosphates (rNTPs) were
329 added, a slow, but continuous decrease in frequency was observed, consistent with
330 continuous addition of nucleosides to the immobilized polymerase-cIRES RNA complex
331 (polymerase activity) **D)** RNA polymerase activity of the NS5b-NS3 complex; NS3 was
332 added to immobilized NS5b and binding observed by reduced frequency. Then cIRES
333 RNA and NTPs were added. **E)** RNA polymerase activity in the presence of NS5a;
334 NS5a was added to immobilized NS5b and binding observed by reduced frequency.
335 Then cIRES RNA and NTPs were added. **F)** Binding of RNA prior to NS5a; in a
336 changed sequence of complex formation, cIRES RNA was added to immobilized NS5b
337 first. Then NS5a and NTPs were added. **G)** Polymerase reaction as (C), except that the
338 chain-terminating inhibitor, 3'-dCTP, was added after 500min to stop the polymerase
339 reaction. RdRp activity was calculated based on the total increase of mass associated
340 with rNTP polymerization per bound NS5B per minute of polymerization, enabling
341 determination of the apparent k_{cat} and total amounts of RNA synthesized. Main panels:
342 representative QCM-D resonance frequency tracings; inset panels: magnified view of
343 corresponding QCM-D tracing for polymerase kinetics upon rNTP addition.



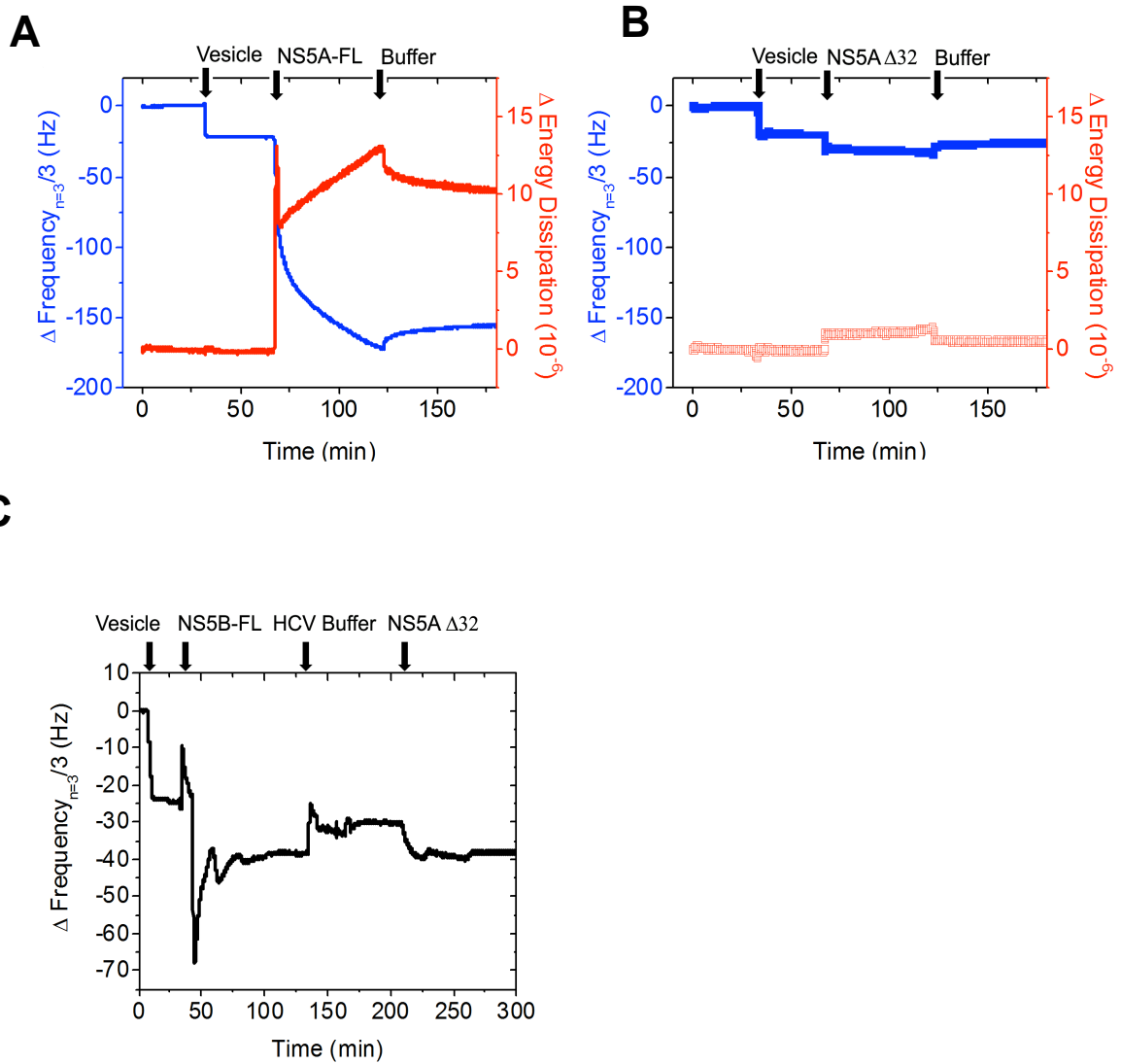
345 **Supporting Figure 8. No decline in resonance frequency is observed when fewer**
346 **than all four native NTP species are added.** RNA-dependent, RNA polymerase
347 (RdRp) activity of the membrane-associated HCV replicase complex was assayed as in
348 Supporting Figure 7C, except that only the indicated two (A), or three (B) NTP species
349 were added.



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351 **Supporting Figure 9. NS5A Δ 32 Directly Binds to NS5B-FL.** **A)** NS5A-FL protein
 352 binds to the SLB platform. **B)** NS5A Δ 32 protein does not bind to the SLB platform. **C)** In
 353 the absence of cIRES RNA, NS5A Δ 32 can still bind to the SLB platform, but only via
 354 binding to membrane-associated NS5B-FL.

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360 **Supporting Figure 10. Northern blot analysis of QCM products.** RNA synthesized
361 from NS5B (NS5B-FL + cIRES RNA) or NS5B and NS5A (NS5B-FL + NS5A Δ 32 +
362 cIRES RNA), as in Supporting Figure 7C and E, respectively, was extracted using Trizol
363 at the end of the QCM experiments and analyzed via Northern blot. Template RNA
364 alone was run on the same gel. Positive controls (PC) of 2 different lengths (247 and
365 349 nts) corresponding to nucleotides 1 – 247 or 1 – 349 of the positive strand were
366 included. Data are representative of 2 independently performed experiments.

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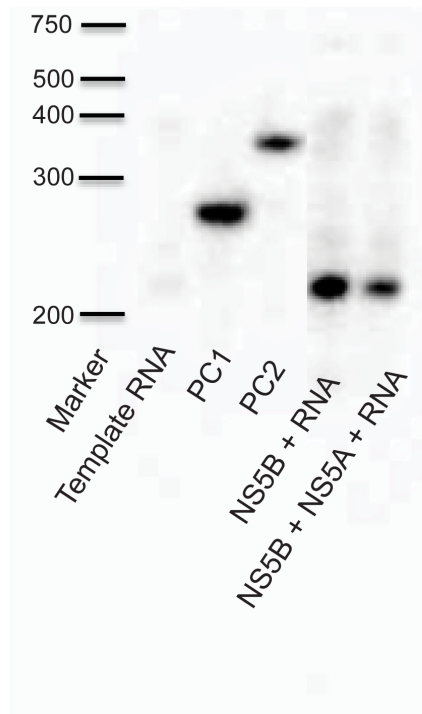
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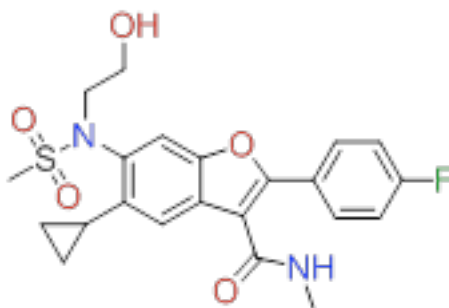
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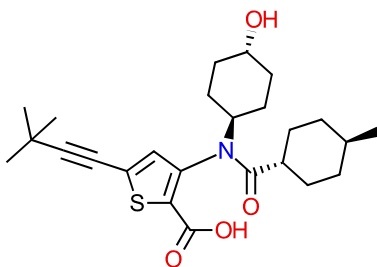
387 **Supporting Figure 11. Chemical structures of non-nucleoside HCV NS5B**
388 **inhibitors HCV-796 and VX-222.**

389 HCV NS5B non-nucleoside inhibitor HCV-796:



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391 HCV NS5B non-nucleoside inhibitor VX-222:



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Supporting Table 1. Summary of Kinetic Values.

Protein	$V_{\max}^{(1)}$ pmol.min ⁻¹ .cm ⁻²	[NS5B-FL]⁽¹⁾ pmol.cm ⁻²	$V_{\max}^{(2)}$ pmol.min ⁻¹	[NS5B]⁽²⁾ pmol	k_{cat} min ⁻¹	k_{cat} Fold shift
NS5B-FL	1.3 ± 0.1	9.9	N/A	N/A	0.13 ± 0.10	
NS5B-Δ21	N/A	N/A	0.10 ± 0.03	1	0.10 ± 0.03	0.8
NS5B-FL +NS3-FL	1.1 ± 0.3	9.3	N/A	N/A	0.12 ± 0.03	0.9
NS5B-FL +NS5A-Δ32	5.7 ± 2.1	6.7	N/A	N/A	0.83 ± 0.33	6.4

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395 (1) On the SLB platform

396 (2) In solution

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413 **Supporting Table 2. QCM-D Measurement Data of Immobilized NS5B-FL Protein**
 414 **and Enzyme Kinetics. A) NS5B-FL. B) NS5B-FL + NS3-FL. C) NS5B-FL + NS5A-Δ32.**

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A) NS5B-FL

Run	Protein Immobilization			Enzyme Kinetics				
	NS5B-FL (Hz)	NS5B-FL ⁽¹⁾ (ng.cm ⁻²)	NS5B-FL ⁽²⁾ (pmol.cm ⁻²)	NTP (Hz)	Time (min)	Vmax ⁽¹⁾ (ng.cm ⁻² .min ⁻¹)	Vmax ⁽³⁾ (pmol.cm ⁻² .min ⁻¹)	k _{cat} (min ⁻¹)
1	33.4	591.2	9.0	9.7	360	0.48	1.4	0.16
2	41.3	731.0	11.1	8.4	360	0.41	1.2	0.11
3	35.9	636.0	9.7	8.7	360	0.43	1.3	0.13
4	36.0	637.0	9.7	9.6	360	0.47	1.4	0.14
Mean	36.7	648.8	9.9	9.1		0.45	1.3	0.13

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B) NS5B-FL + NS3-FL

Run	Protein Immobilization			Enzyme Kinetics				
	NS5B-FL (Hz)	NS5B-FL ⁽¹⁾ (ng.cm ⁻²)	NS5B-FL ⁽²⁾ (pmol.cm ⁻²)	NTP (Hz)	Time (min)	Vmax ⁽¹⁾ (ng.cm ⁻² .min ⁻¹)	Vmax ⁽³⁾ (pmol.cm ⁻² .min ⁻¹)	k _{cat} (min ⁻¹)
1	32.3	571.5	8.7	5.9	360	0.29	0.9	0.10
2	36.6	647.7	9.9	9.3	360	0.46	1.3	0.14
Mean	34.4	609.6	9.3	7.6		0.37	1.1	0.12

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C) NS5B-FL + NS5A-Δ32

Run	Protein Immobilization			Enzyme Kinetics				
	NS5B-FL (Hz)	NS5B-FL ⁽¹⁾ (ng.cm ⁻²)	NS5B-FL ⁽²⁾ (pmol.cm ⁻²)	NTP (Hz)	time (min)	Vmax ⁽¹⁾ (ng.cm ⁻² .min ⁻¹)	Vmax ⁽³⁾ (pmol.cm ⁻² .min ⁻¹)	k _{cat} (min ⁻¹)
1	25.5	451.4	6.9	18.8	140	2.38	7.0	1.02
2	22.9	404.6	6.2	4.8	90	0.94	2.8	0.45
3	26.7	471.7	7.2	19.4	139	2.47	7.3	1.01
Mean	25.0	442.6	6.7	14.3		1.93	5.7	0.83

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(1) Frequency-to-mass conversion factor: 17.7 Hz.ng⁻¹.cm²

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(2) MW^{NS5B-FL} = 65782 g.mol⁻¹

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(3) MW^{NMP} substrate = 340 g.mol⁻¹

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