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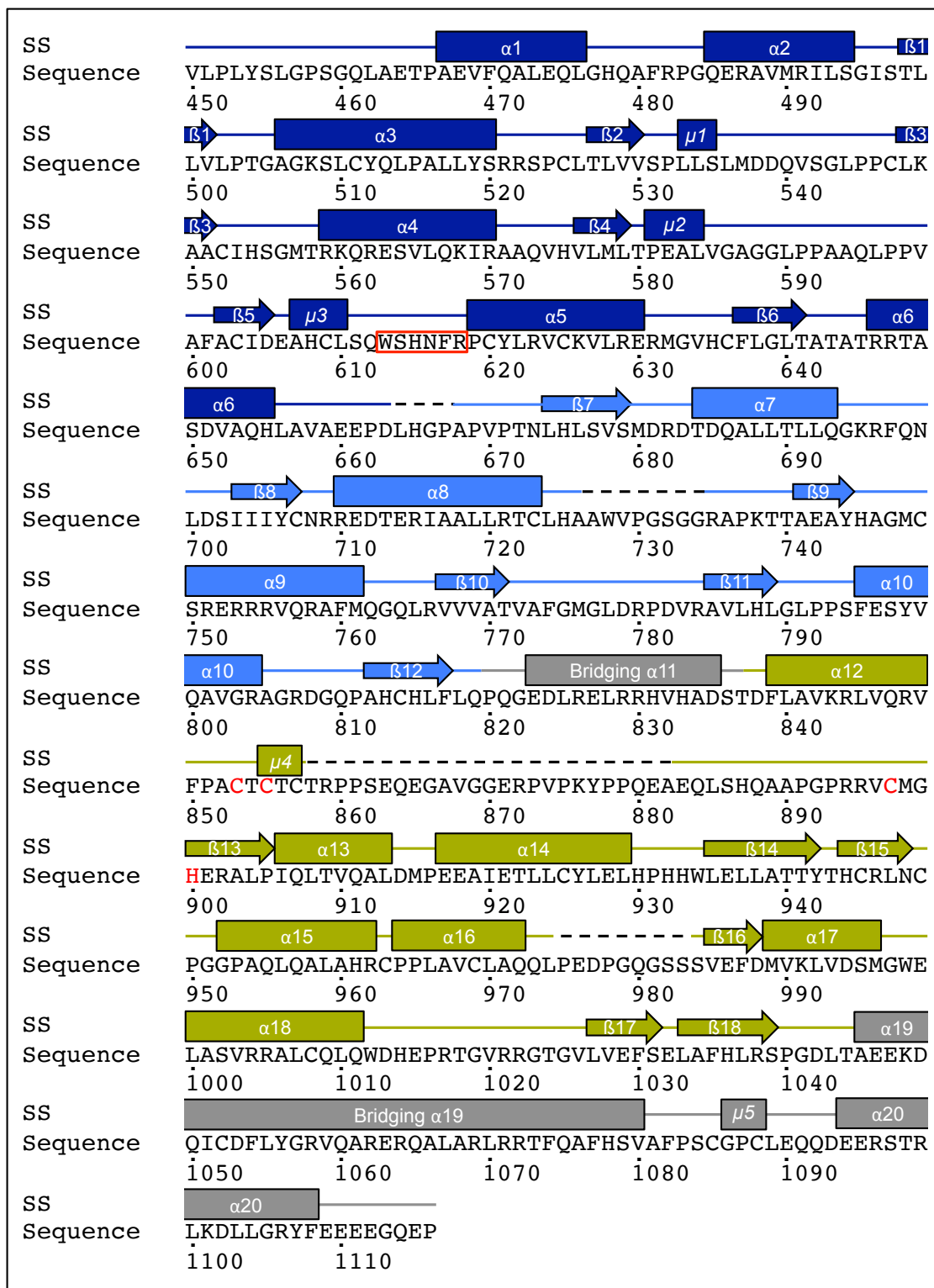
Description: Supplementary figures and supplementary tables.

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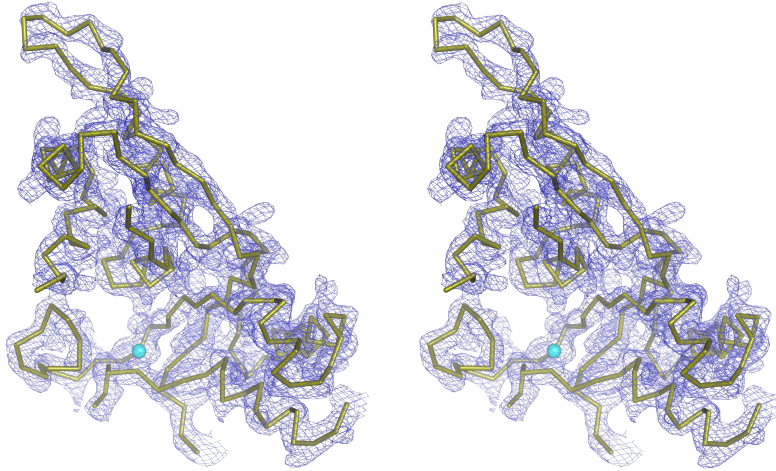
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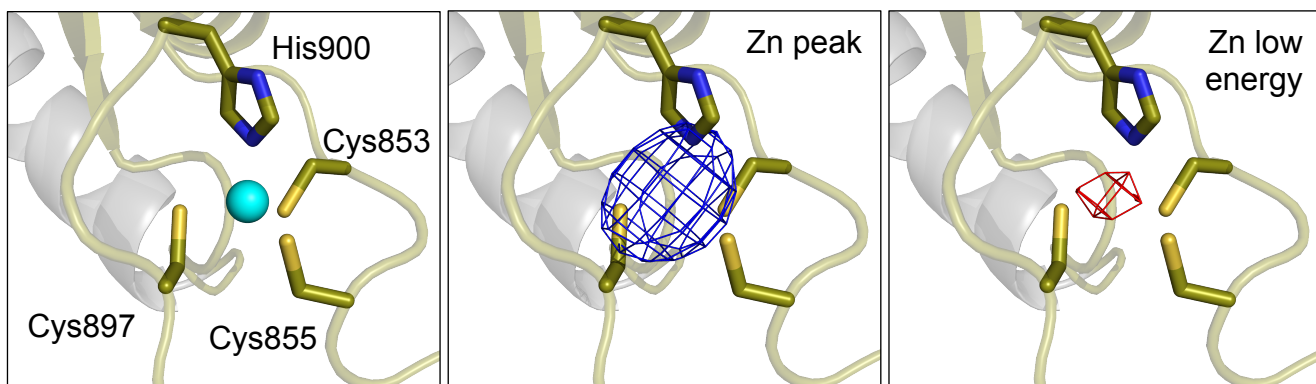
**Supplementary Figure 1:
 Annotation of secondary structure elements**

Annotation of secondary structure elements within the RecQ4⁴²⁷⁻¹¹¹⁶ structure based on the DSSP algorithm. Domain color code as in Figure 1. Briefly: dark blue – HD1, light blue – HD2, olive – R4ZBD, gray – bridging helices. Helices are depicted as boxes. β -strands are represented by arrows. 3-10-helices are indicated by the symbol μ in italic. The ARL-sequence is highlighted by a red box and the Zn²⁺-coordinating residues are depicted in red. Regions which are not resolved in the structure are illustrated by dashed lines.



**Supplementary Figure 2:
Stereo-view of the R4ZBD**

Stereo view of the the RecQ4-zinc-binding domain (R4ZBD) depicted in ribbon representation (C α trace). The zinc ion is shown as a cyan sphere. The 2F_o-F_c omit electron density map is shown at 1 σ (blue mesh).



**Supplementary Figure 3:
Confirmation of the bound Zn²⁺ ion by anomalous difference maps**

Position of the Zn²⁺ ion within the R4ZBD. Zn²⁺-coordinating residues are illustrated and depicted in stick representation. Left: Zn²⁺ ion in sphere representation. Middle: Anomalous electron density (blue mesh) at the Zn-peak-energy (1.2823 Å). Right: Anomalous electron density (red mesh) at low-energy (1.2831 Å). Both maps are shown at 10 σ . While there is a strong anomalous signal at the Zn-peak energy, the signal is strongly reduced for the energy below the absorption peak, confirming the identity of a Zn²⁺ ion.

| No. | PDB / chain | Z-value | RMSD | align | % id. | Protein class* |
|-----|-------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2fmy-A | 6.7 | 2.8 Å | 71 | 15 | DNA binding protein |
| 2 | 3h0d-A | 6.6 | 2.6 Å | 67 | 4 | Transcription / DNA |
| 3 | 1o57-A | 6.3 | 2.5 Å | 67 | 9 | DNA binding protein |
| 4 | 3iwz-D | 6.3 | 2.8 Å | 65 | 14 | Transcription |
| 5 | 4r6i-A | 6.1 | 2.9 Å | 79 | 11 | Transcription |
| 6 | 2oz6-A | 6.1 | 2.2 Å | 62 | 13 | DNA binding protein |
| 7 | 1ylf-C | 5.9 | 2.8 Å | 79 | 9 | Transcription regul. |
| 8 | 5e44-A | 5.6 | 3.1 Å | 70 | 14 | Transcription |
| 9 | 2xhk-B | 5.6 | 2.7 Å | 67 | 15 | Transcription |
| 10 | 2z9o-A | 5.6 | 3.2 Å | 72 | 6 | Replication / DNA |

*according to the PDB classification

Supplementary Table 1: DALI results for the entire R4ZBD

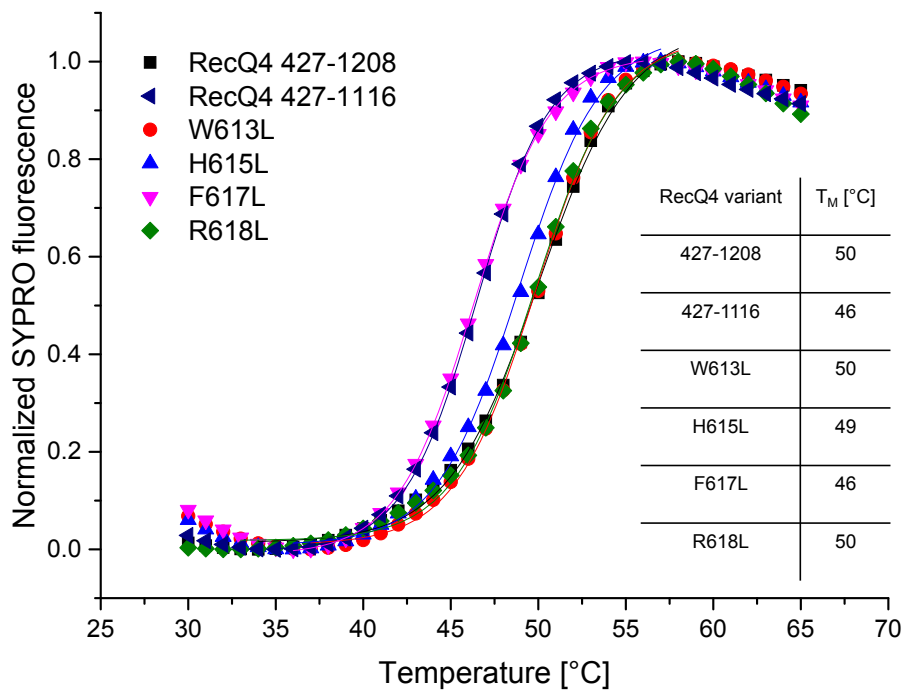
Top 10 structural homologs of the DALI PDB search for the entire R4ZBD (aa 863-1060). Matches were obtained from the PDB90 database.

| No. | PDB / chain | Z-value | RMSD | align | % id. | Protein class* |
|-----|-------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 5d6e-A | 4.3 | 3.0 Å | 59 | 19 | Hydrolase |
| 2 | 3ife-A | 3.8 | 3.2 Å | 61 | 8 | Hydrolase |
| 3 | 3h0d-A | 3.8 | 2.5 Å | 49 | 10 | Transcription / DNA |
| 4 | 4ney-B | 3.8 | 3.6 Å | 59 | 8 | <i>De novo protein</i> |
| 5 | 3rir-A | 3.7 | 2.4 Å | 47 | 9 | Ligase |
| 6 | 2mzj-A | 3.7 | 3.1 Å | 61 | 10 | RNA Binding Protein |
| 7 | 1u8s-B | 3.7 | 2.9 Å | 54 | 6 | Transcription |
| 8 | 3mgj-A | 3.6 | 3.4 Å | 55 | 4 | <i>Unknown function</i> |
| 9 | 3mah-A | 3.5 | 2.4 Å | 49 | 8 | Transferase |
| 10 | 2nzc-D | 3.5 | 2.8 Å | 52 | 13 | <i>Unknown function</i> |

*according to the PDB classification

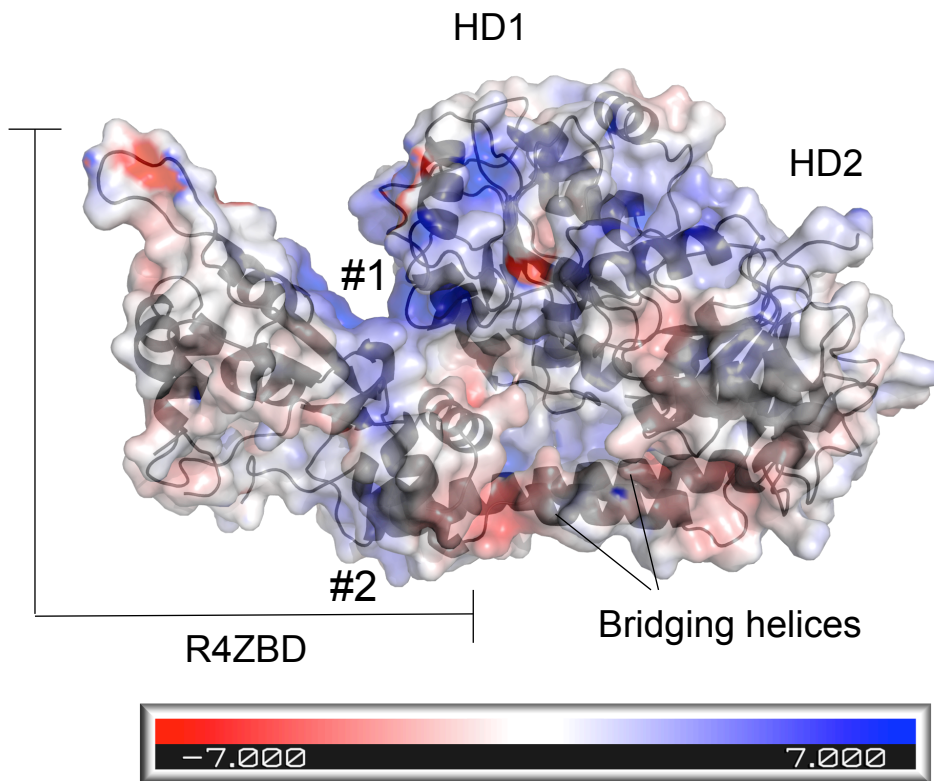
Supplementary Table 2: DALI results for the top half R4ZBD

The top 10 structural homologs of the DALI PDB search for the top half R4ZBD (aa 942-1032). Matches were obtained from the PDB90 database.



**Supplementary Figure 4:
Thermal stability analysis (Thermofluor assay) of the RecQ4 ARL variants**

Melting curves for all tested RecQ4 ARL variants display the gradual unfolding with increasing temperature. The melting temperature at a 50% unfolded state is represented by the T_M value. The melting curves indicate that all RecQ4 variants are properly folded as all variants display regular denaturing curves. The ARL variant F617L and RecQ4⁴²⁷⁻¹¹¹⁶ are less stable compared to other RecQ4 variants, indicated by their decreased T_M value.



**Supplementary Figure 5:
Electrostatic surface potential map of the RecQ4⁴²⁷⁻¹¹¹⁶ model**

The electrostatic surface potential was calculated using the APBS plugin in pymol. The orientation of the model is similar to the orientation in Figure 1b (left). Electronegative areas are shown in red, while the blue color illustrates an electropositive surface potential. The RecQ4⁴²⁷⁻¹¹¹⁶ model features a large electropositive surface area directly between the R4ZBD and the HD1 (indicated as #1). A second electropositive patch is located at the bottom of the lower R4ZBD half (depicted as #2), which features the standard three-stranded WH-like DNA binding motif as shown in Figure 2c (left).

| Constructs | Forward Primer (5'-3') | Reverse Primer (5'-3') |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Vector linearization | GGATCCGAATTCGAGCTC | GGGCCCCCTGGAAC |
| 427-1208 | TCTGTTCCAGGGGCCCATGGCTGTTGGGCCTGAG | GCTCGAATTCGGATCCTCAGCGGGCCACC |
| 427-1116 | TCTGTTCCAGGGGCCCATGGCTGTTGGGCCTGAG | GCTCGAATTCGGATCCTCAGGGCTCCTGCCCTTC |
| 427-1090 | CGGGCCCTGCCTGGAGTGAGGATCCGAATTCGAGCTCCGTCGACAAGC | CTCCAGGCAGGGCCCGCAG |
| del944-1032 | ACCACCTATACCGGAGGTGAGCTGGCCTCCACCTTCGCA | AGGCCAGCTCACCTCCGGTATAGGTGGTCGCCAGCAGCTC |
| K508A | GGTGCCGGCGCGTCCCTGTGCTACCAG | CGGATGTCCACGGCCGCGCAGGGACAC |
| D605A | GCTTTTGCCTGCATTGCTGAGGCCCACTGCCTC | AGGCAGTGGGCCTCAGCAATGCAGGCAAAAAGC |
| R894A/R895A | CAAGCAGCCCCAGGACCCGCGGGCTGTCATGGCCATGAG | TCATGGCCATGCAGACCGCCGCGGGTCTGGGGCTGCTTGG |
| K1048A | CCGCTGAGGAGGCGGACCAGATATG | ATATCTGGTCCGCTCCTCAGCGGT |
| R844A | TGGCTGTGAAGGCGCTGGTACAGCG | GCTGTACCAGCGCCTTCACAGCCAG |
| R848A* | GTGAAGGCGCTGGTACAGGCGGTGTTCCAGCCTGC | GCAGGCTGGGAACACCGCTGTACCAGCGCCTTCAC |
| K843A** | CGGACTTCTGGCTGTGGCGGCGTGGTACAGG | CCTGTACCAGCGCCACAGCCAGGAAGTCCG |
| R844E*** | CTGGCTGTGGCGGAGCTGGTACAGGCGG | CCGCCTGTACCAGCTCCGCCACAGCCAG |
| W613L | CTGCCTCTCCAGCTGTCCACAACCTC | GAAGTTGTGGGACAGCTGGGAGAGGCAG |
| H615L | CCCAGTGGTCCCTGAACTTCCGGCCC | GGGCCGGAAGTTCAGGGACCACTGGG |
| F617L | GTCCACAACCTACGGCCCTGCTAC | GTAGCAGGGCCGTAAGTTGTGGGAC |
| R618L | CCCACAACCTCCTGCCCTGCTACCTG | CAGGTAGCAGGGCAGGAAGTTGTGGG |

- * introduced in the R844A template
- ** introduced in the R843A/R848A template
- *** introduced in the K843A/R844A/R848A template

**Supplementary Table 3:
Primer sequences used for cloning and mutagenesis of the RecQ4 variants of this study**