Supplementary Information for

Structures of chaperone-substrate complexes docked onto the export gate in a type III secretion system

Xing et al.

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FlhA^c S. enterica (PDB ID 6CH1) cleft opening: 12 Å

FIhA^{C-link} B. subtilis (PDB ID 3MIX) Z: 32.2, RMSD: 3.2 Å, Identity: 34% cleft opening: d2 domain not visible

InvA^c S. enterica (PDB ID 2X49) Z: 24.2, RMSD: 5.3 Å, Identity: 23% cleft opening: 5.9 Å

FlhA^{C-link} S. enterica (PDB ID 3A5I) Z: 41.7, RMSD: 2 Å , Identity: 100% cleft opening: 16.7 Å

FIhA^{C-link} H. pylori (PDB ID 3MYD) Z: 32.5, RMSD: 3.7 Å, Identity: 38% cleft opening: 6.5 Å

MxiA S. flexneri (PDB ID 4A5P) Z: 25.8, RMSD: 3.8 Å, Identity: 24% cleft opening: 7.5 Å

Supplementary Figure 1. Structural similarity between FlhA and its homologs.

Superposition of the crystal structure of F lh A^C (in cyan) on the structure of F lh A proteins from other species and the homologous proteins InvA and MxiA from pathogenic T3SSs. The Z score, Ca rmsd an identity percentage were calculated by the Dali server ([http://ekhidna.biocenter.helsinki.fi/](http://ekhidna.biocenter.helsinki.fi/dali_server) dali server). Cleft opening was measured as the distance between the nearest residues in the d2 and d4 domains.

Supplementary Figure 2. Oligomerization of FlhAC.

(a) SEC-MALS profiles of FlhAC in two different protein concentrations and salt concentrations. FlhAC elutes as a monomer. **(b)** SEC-MALS profiles of FlhAC-link in two different protein concentrations and salt concentrations. FlhAC-link elutes as a dimer under physiological salt concentrations. Because dimerization is mediated almost exclusively by means of electrostatic interactions, higher salt concentrations disrupt FlhA^C dimerization. FlhAC is in fast equilibrium between a monomeric and dimeric state.

Supplementary Figure 3. NMR characterization of FlhAC.

(a,b) 1H-15N transverse relaxation-optimized (TROSY) spectra (a) and 1H-13C HMQC spectra (b) of U-2H, Ala- 13CH3, Met-13CH3, Ile-δ1-13CH3, Leu, Val-13CH3 and Thr-13CH3 labeled FlhAc. **(c)** Distribution of methyl-bearing amino acids in FlhAC. **(d)** 1H-15N TROSY spectra of FlhAC (0.4 mM) titrated, at a molar ratio 1:2, with free FliT and FliS chaperones, and free FliD and FliC substrates.

Supplementary Figure 4. Interaction of FlhAC with FliT−FliD.

(a) Titration of unlabeled FliT−FliDC to isotopically labeled FlhAC. The stepwise process was monitored by recording 1H-15N TROSY HSQC and 1H-13C methyl HMQC spectra. **(b)** The reverse titration was similarly monitored by NMR. **(c)** A cartoon depicting how FliD binding to FliT activates it for binding to FlhA by releasing helix α4. **(d)** ITC profiles of FlhAC binding to FliT−FliD, which includes the full-length FliD construct, and FliT−FliDC. The data showed that increasing the length of FliD to encompass additional residues outside the FliT-binding site has no effect on the binding affinity. The K_d values are average of a triplicate experiment. **(e)** Superposition of free FliT (orange) on the FliT molecule in the ternary complex (light blue).

Supplementary Figure 5. Interaction of FlhAC with FliS−FliC.

(a) Titration of unlabeled FliS−FliCC to isotopically labeled FlhAC. The stepwise process was monitored by recording 1H-15N TROSY HSQC and 1H-13C methyl HMQC spectra. **(b)** The reverse titration was similarly monitored by NMR. **(c)** A cartoon depicting how FliC binding to FliS activates it for binding to FlhA by releasing helix α1. **(d)** ITC profile of FlhAC binding to FliS−FliCC. The Kd value is average of a triplicate experiment.

Supplementary Figure 6. NMR structure determination of the FlhAC−FliT−FliDC ternary complex

(a) Representative NOESY strips showing intermolecular NOEs between FlhAC and FliT in the ternary complex. **(b)** 1H-13C methyl HMQC spectra of FlhAC (or FliT−FliDC) bound to FliT−FliDC (or FlhAC) that is conjugated with diamagnetic (Mg^{+2}) or paramagnetic (Mh^{+2}) probe for the measurement of PRE rates in the ternary complex. The single-cysteine positions where the probe was incorporated are shown. **(c)** Superposition of the NMR solution structure (blue) with the crystal structure (light orange), both determined in this work. **(d)** Three FlhAC molecules were present in the asymmetric unit, which are superimposed on the NMR structure. The comparison indicates the variation in the long helices of FliT and FliD located away from the binding site, highlighting the increased flexibility of these helices.

- EDELGMEVGYRLTPMVDEQQBGELLGRTRSTRKKFAQEMG¥LPPVVHTRD F lh A^c NLELPPA YRILMKGVEIGSGEAUPGRWAAINPGWAXGTLPGEAIUPAF I<u>EsalrEQAQ</u>tQG5TWeaStWAT ISQYASELFCROET <u>LTEDEJPGVYTLTTLHKVLQNLL%<mark>EbVSIRDMR</mark>TIJE</u> LDRV₃QEMP <u>AEHAP OIDPYELTAVWRAACRATIQQ</u>WFPG AL <mark>ER</mark>L LLQALQGGGGLFPGLADRLL_QssqALqrQemlGaPPVLLVNHaL<mark>R</mark>alla RFLRRSLPQWVLSNLFTsDNRgTRMTstTGsas
- VE_¥IA_êe **FliT DNF** TegagPSw **sWy** GeE FREALL GEPU

Supplementary Figure 7. Sequence conservation of FlhAC, FliT and FliS.

Sequence logo of the proteins was created from a collection of aligned sequences. 40 unique sequences were used and the sequence of *Salmonella enterica* is shown.

Supplementary Figure 8. Interaction of FlhAC with FlgN.

(a) 1H-15N TROSY HSQC spectra of 15N-labeled FlgN titrated with unlabeled FlhAC. (**b,c**) 1H-15N TROSY HSQC (b) and 1H-13C methyl HMQC (c) spectra of labeled FlhAC titrated with unlabeled FlgN. **(d)** ITC profiles of FlgN (left) and FlgNY122G (right) binding to FlhAC. FlgN Tyr122 is very important for the formation of the ternary complex and its substitution results in abrogation of the binding. The K_d values are average of a triplicate experiment.

Supplementary Figure 9. Bacterial motility assays

Motility of *Salmonella serovar typhimurium* Δ*flhA* strain (FlhA-) with pkG116 plasmid containing FlhA, FlhAI440A, FlhAF459A, FlhAF459A/440A, FlhAV482K or FlhAT490M in soft agar after incubation at 37 ℃, 6 h without inducer (a) or with inducer added (b). FlhA or related FlhA mutant cloned into pkG116 plasmid was overexpressed by the addition of 5 mM IPTG into media. Bar graphs represent the mean value of the colony diameter and error bars represent standard deviation (n=6).

Supplementary Figure 10. Sequence conservation in FlhAC and SctVC.

(a) Sequence conservation of FlhAC colored according to residue identity conservation scores obtained by ConSurf. The oligomeric interface and the identified chaperone-substrate binding site are indicated.

(b) Sequence conservation of SctVC mapped on the structure of InvAC from *Salmonella*. The oligomeric interface and a putative chaperone-substrate binding site are indicated.

Supplementary Figure 11. Electron density maps and ensemble of the protein structures.

(a) Stereo view of FlhAC with the 2Fo-Fc electron density map with contour at 1.2 sigma level. **(b)** Stereo view of FlhAC in complex with FliS-FliC with contour at 1.0 sigma level. **(c)** Stereo view of FlhAC in complex with FliT-FliD with contour at 1.0 sigma level. **(d)** Ensemble of the 15 lowest-energy NMR structural conformers of FlhAC-FliT-FliDC.

Supplementary Table 1: NMR and refinement statistics for protein structure

NOE, nuclear Overhauser effect; PRE, paramagnetic relaxation enhancement; s.d., standard deviation; r.m.s.d., root mean squared deviation.
ªPairwise r.m.s. deviation was calculated among 20 refined structures.

Supplementary Table 2. X-ray Data collection and refinement statistics for protein structures.

Statistics for the highest-resolution shell are shown in parentheses.

Supplementary Table 3. Oligonucleotide primers used in this study.

