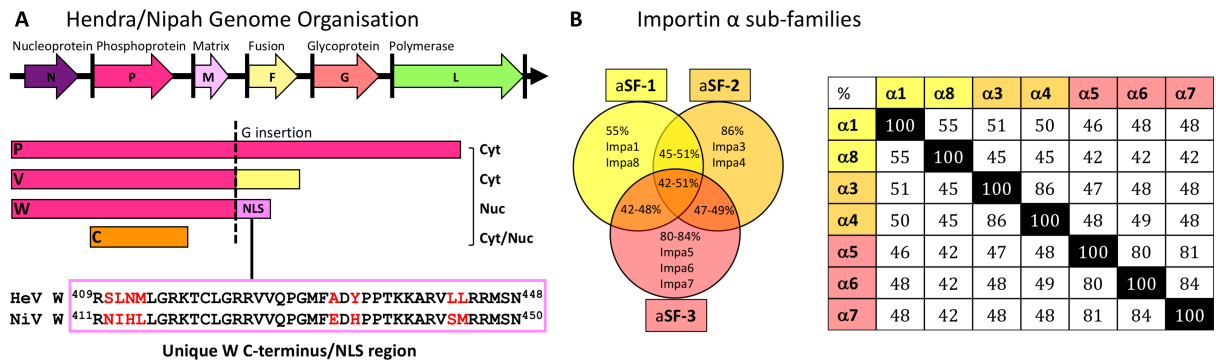


**Supplementary information for Structural basis for importin alpha 3 binding specificity  
of W proteins in Hendra and Nipah viruses**

Smith et al.

**Supplementary Figure 1 (A)** The Henipavirus W proteins are encoded by the Phosphoprotein (P)-gene through mRNA editing. Of the four protein products, W contains a unique C-terminus NLS that is responsible for mediating translocation to the nucleus. (B) Human importin  $\alpha$  isoforms are grouped into three  $\alpha$ SFs (left)<sup>1,2</sup>, with the sequence identity of each importin  $\alpha$  isoform ranging from 42-51% between subfamilies.

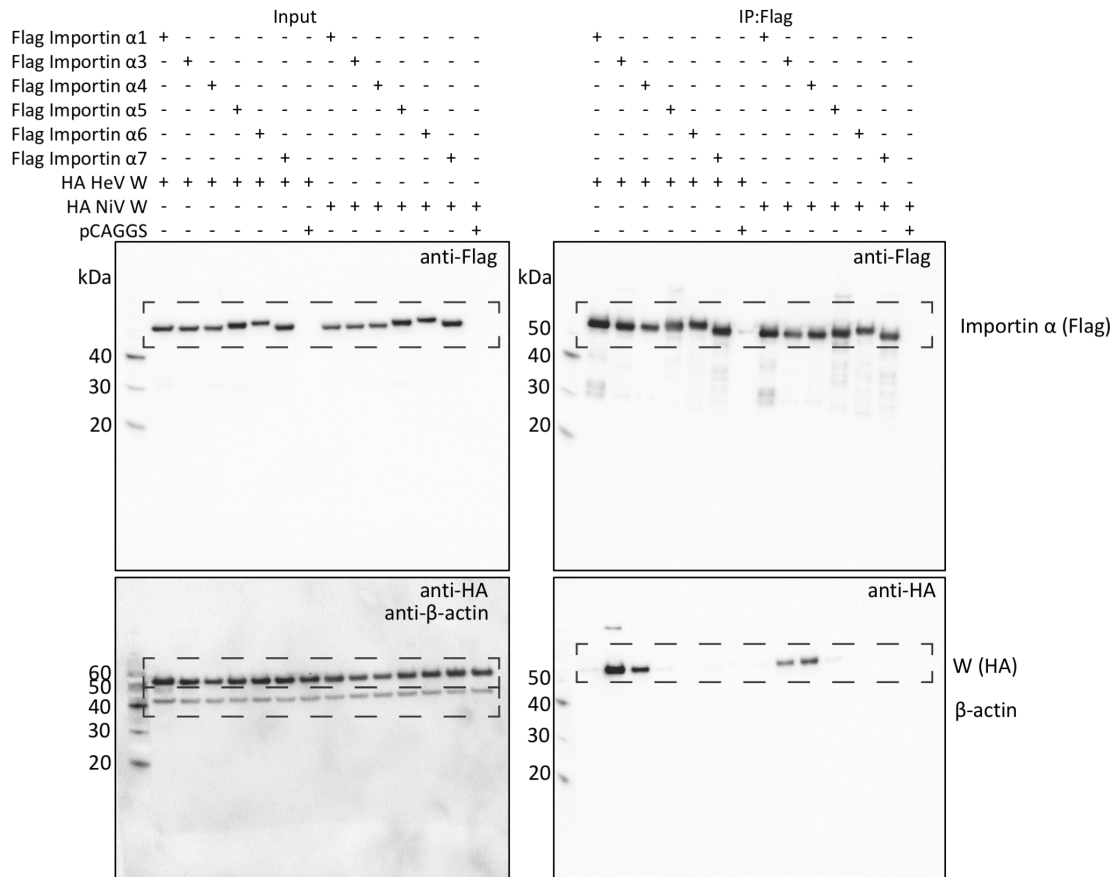


## Supplementary Figure 2

Full, uncropped Western blots presented in the manuscript. Boxes with dash lines indicate regions displayed in the main article.

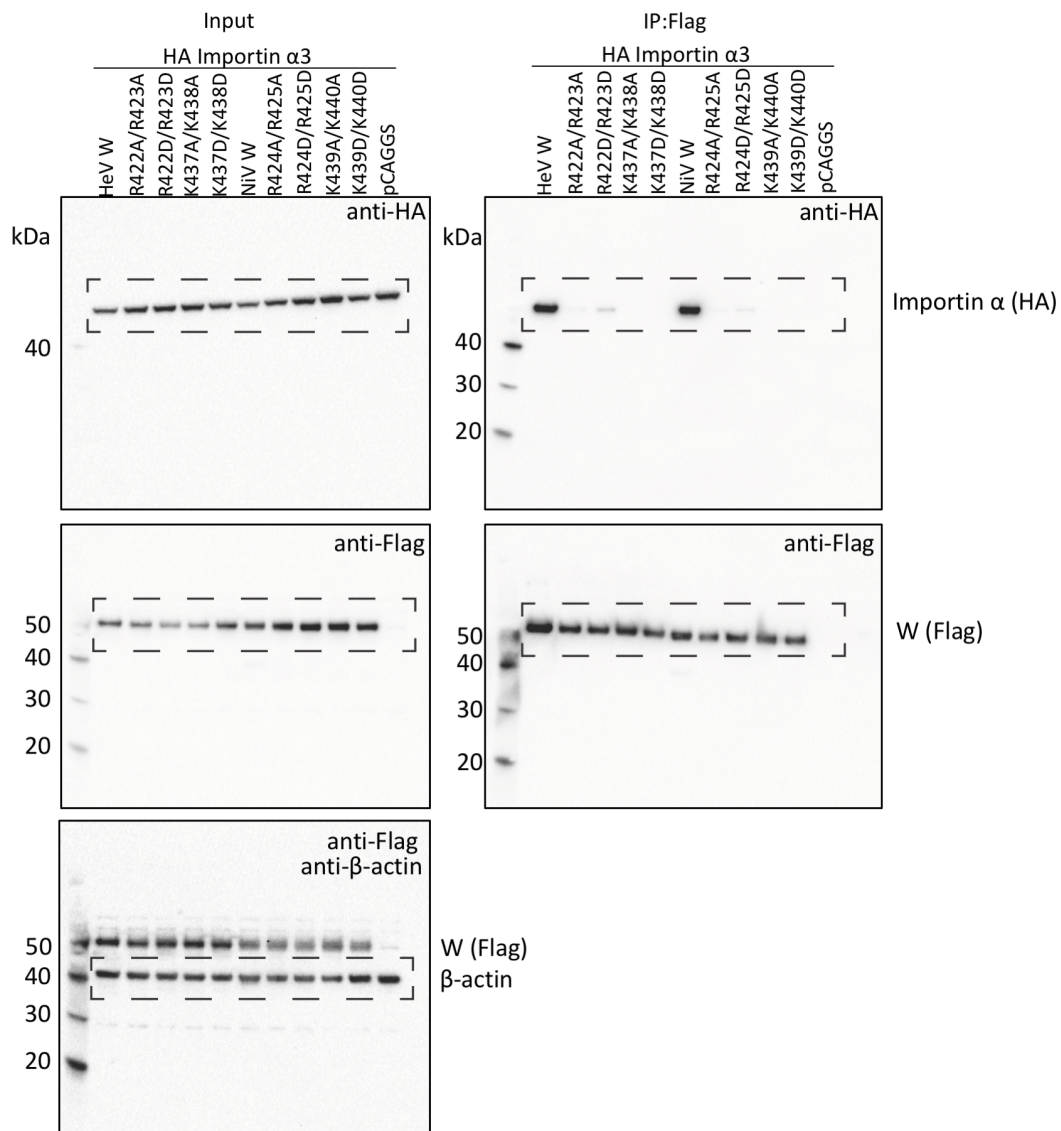
(A) Related to Figure 1B

Figure S2a (related to Figure 1B)



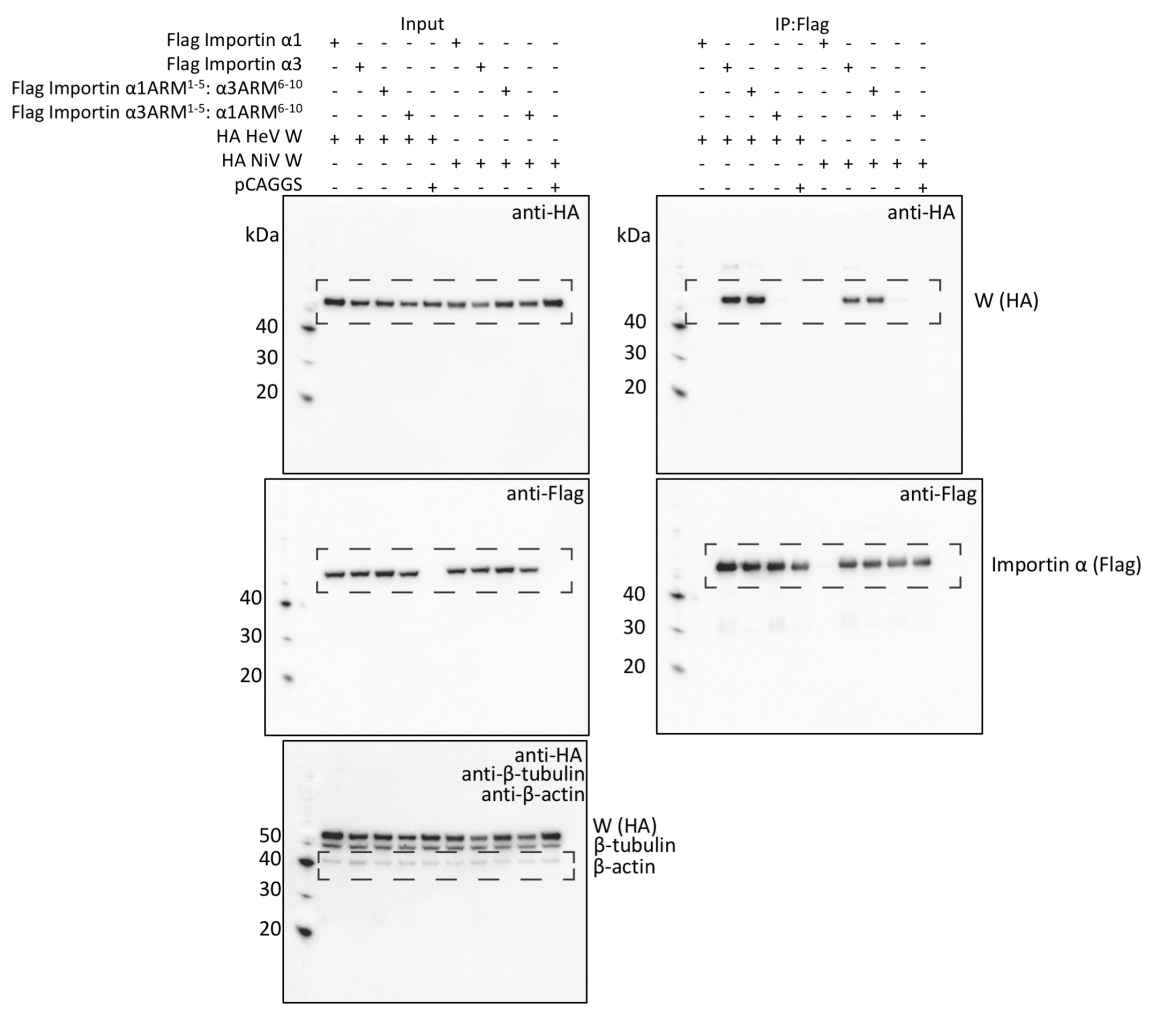
(B) Related to Figure 4B

Figure S2b (related to Figure 4B)



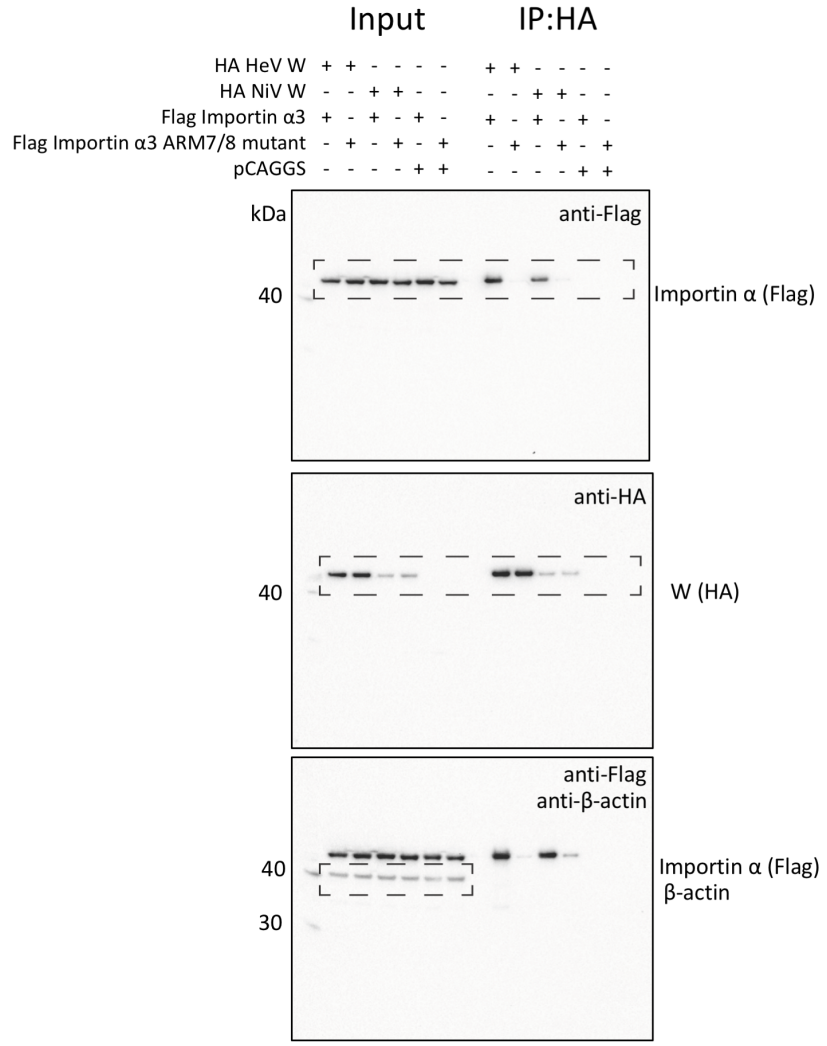
(C) Related to Figure 4C

Figure S2c (related to Figure 4C)



(D) Related to Figure 7C

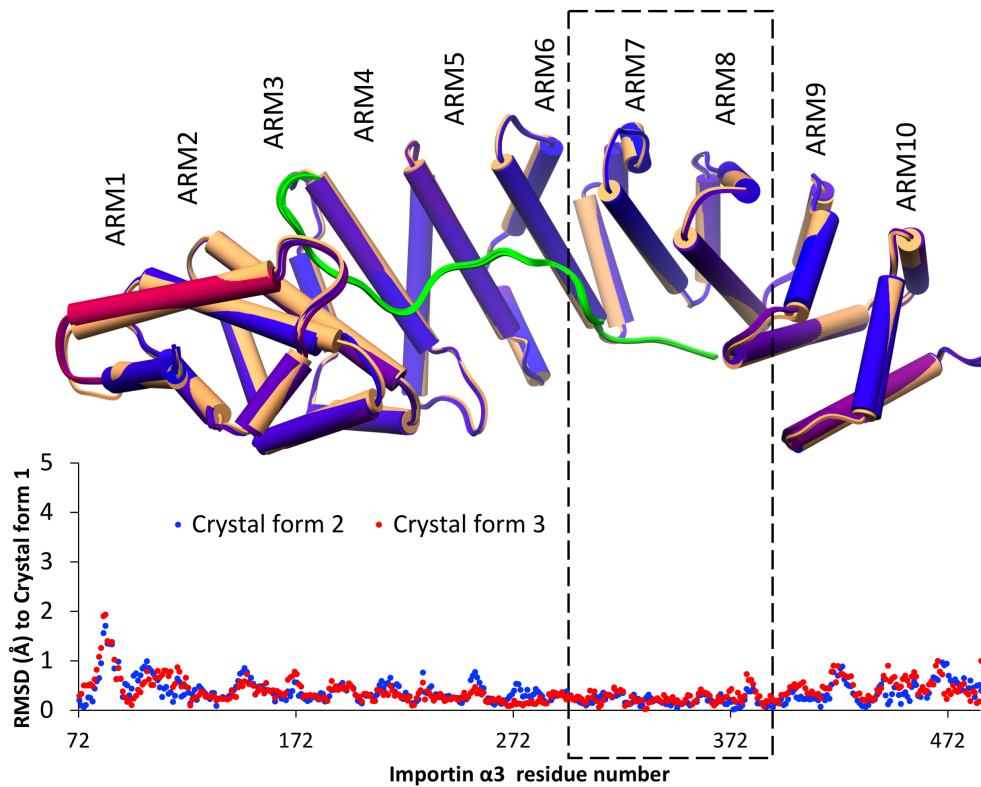
Figure S2d (related to Figure 7C)



### Supplementary Figure 3

#### Structural superposition of the three Importin $\alpha 3$ structures solved in this study.

Importin  $\alpha 3$ :HeV W crystal form 1 (see Table 1) was used as the reference structure (coloured orange), and crystal forms 2 and 3 were superimposed in UCSF Chimera using MatchEnsemble.  $\alpha$ -helices are represented as cylinders, and coloured blue for conservation, and red for r.m.s.d variances above 2.5 Å. The r.m.s.d. plot was generated using MatchAlign, and MatchAssess functions.



## Supplementary Figure 4

**Sequence alignment of importin  $\alpha 1$  and  $\alpha 3$ .** ClustalW alignment of importin  $\alpha 1$ , P52293, and importin  $\alpha 3$ , O00629, with hydrogen bonded residues of importin  $\alpha 3$  with W protein denoted with blue asterisk and salt bridge interaction residues between importin  $\alpha 3$  and W protein denoted with a red asterisk.

```
Importin  $\alpha 1$  MSTNENANTPAARLHRFKNKGKIDSTEMRRRRRIEVNVELRKAKKDDQMLKRRNVSSFPDDATSPLOENRNNQGTVMWSVDD 80
Importin  $\alpha 3$  MADNEKLD--NQRLKNFKNKGKRDLETMRRRORNEVVVELRKNKRDEHLLKRRNVPE---DICEDSDIDGDIRVQNTSLEA 75

Importin  $\alpha 1$  IVKGINSSNVENQIQATQAAARKLLSREKOPPIDNIIIRAGLIPKVFVFLGRDCCSPIQFESAWALTNIASGTSEQTKAVVD 160
Importin  $\alpha 3$  IVQNASSDNQGIQLSAVQAARKLLSSDRNPPIDDLIKSGILPILVHCLERDDNPSLQFEAAWALTNIASGTSEQTOAVVQ 155

Importin  $\alpha 1$  GGAIPAFISILLASPHAHISEQAVWALGNIAGDGSVFRDLVVIKYGAVDPLLALAVPDMSSLACGMLRNLTWTLNLCRNK 240
Importin  $\alpha 3$  SNAVPLFLRLLHSPHONVCEQAVWALGNIIGDCPCQORDVVISLGVVKPLLSFTS----PSIPITFLRNVTWVMVNLCREK 231

Importin  $\alpha 1$  NPAPPIDAVEQILFLLVRLHEDDPEVLADTCWALSYLTDGPNBERIGMVVKTCVVPQLVKILLGASLPIVTPALRAIGNI 320
Importin  $\alpha 3$  DEPPPEMETIQEILPALCVLIHHTDVNLLVDTVWALSYLTDAGNEQIQMVIDSGLVPHLVPLLSHQEVKVTAAALRAVGNI 311

Importin  $\alpha 1$  VTGTDQEQVVIDAGALAVFPSSLTNPKTNIQKEAFTWMSNITAGRQDQIQVNVNHGLVPEFLVSVLSKADFKTQKEAVWA 400
Importin  $\alpha 3$  VTGTDQEQVVLNCDALSHFPALLTHPKKIKNKEAVWFLSNITAGNQQQVQAVLDANLVPMLIHLLDKGDFGTQKEAAWA 391

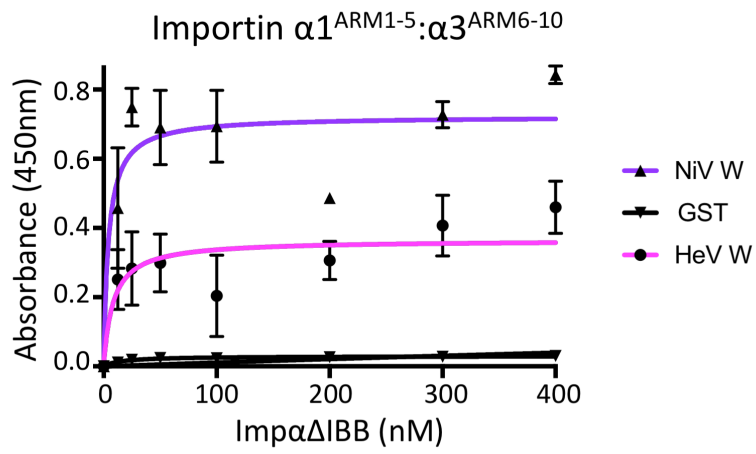
Importin  $\alpha 1$  VINYISGGTVEQIVYLVHCGIIEPLMNLITAKDTKIILVILDAISNIFQAAEKLGETEKLSSIMIECCGGLDKIEALQNHE 480
Importin  $\alpha 3$  ISNLTISGRKQVAYLIQQNVIPFFCNLLTVKDAQVQVVLDTGLSNILKMAED--EAETIGNLIECCGGLKIEALQNHE 469

Importin  $\alpha 1$  NESVYKASLSLIEKVFSEVEE-EDQNVVPEETSECY-TFQVQDGAPG-TFNF 529
Importin  $\alpha 3$  NEDIYKLAYEIIIDQEFSSDDIDEDPSLVPEAIQGGTFGFNSSANVPEGEQF 521
```



### Supplementary Figure 5

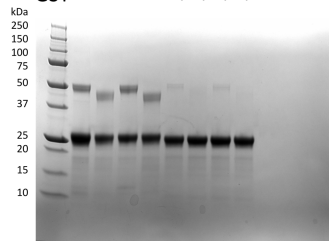
ELISA binding data for the Importin  $\alpha 1^{\text{ARM1-5}}:\alpha 3^{\text{ARM6-10}}$  gain of function chimera performed with anti-6x HIS 4HRP conjugated antibody and developed using TMB substrate, with HeV W, NiV W and GST as a control.



**Supplementary Figure 6. (A)** Uncropped gel of the GST SV40 T-ag pulldown assay confirming Importin  $\alpha 1^{ARM1-5}:\alpha 3^{ARM6-10}$  chimera and Importin  $\alpha 3$  ARMs 7/8 (348A/N352A/E387A/N394A) mutant are functionally active and bind the GST:SV40-Tag NLS. GST alone is included as a negative control. **(B)** Uncropped gel showing the input proteins used in (A).

**A GST pull-down assay**

Importin $\alpha 1$	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Importin $\alpha 3$	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
Importin $\alpha 1^{ARM1-5}:\alpha 3^{ARM6-10}$	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
Importin $\alpha 3$ mutant	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
GST SV40T	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-
GST	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+



**B GST pull-down assay inputs**

Importin $\alpha 1$	-	-	+	-	-	-
Importin $\alpha 3$	-	-	-	+	-	-
Importin $\alpha 1/\alpha 3$	-	-	-	-	+	-
Importin $\alpha 3$ mutant	-	-	-	-	-	+
GST SV40T	-	+	-	-	-	-
GST	+	-	-	-	-	-



Importin  $\alpha$   
GST/GST-SV40

Importin  $\alpha$   
GST/GST-SV40

**Supplementary Table 1: ELISA binding data for W protein mutants and importins**

K <sub>D</sub> (nM)				
GST-NLS	Importin $\alpha$ 1	Importin $\alpha$ 3	Importin $\alpha$ 7	Importin $\alpha$ 1 <sup>ARM1-5</sup> : $\alpha$ 3 <sup>ARM6-10</sup>
GST-NiV W	1,495 $\pm$ 489	14.4 $\pm$ 2.5	1,147 $\pm$ 196.7	4.3 $\pm$ 3.4
GST-HeV W	1,363 $\pm$ 211	19.9 $\pm$ 2.7	1,468 $\pm$ 238.3	8.3 $\pm$ 7.5
GST-R422A/R423A	-	2,208 $\pm$ 354	-	-
GST- K437A/K438A	-	>10,000	-	-
GST-R422A/R423A/K437A/K438A	-	>10,000	-	-

**Supplementary Table 2: MST binding data for HeV W and importins**

	K <sub>D</sub> (nM) Repeat 1	K <sub>D</sub> (nM) Repeat 2	K <sub>D</sub> (nM) Repeat 3
Importin $\alpha$ 1	860	553	632
Importin $\alpha$ 3	4.31	3.33	5.54
Importin $\alpha$ 7	631	901	557

**Supplementary Table 3: PISA interaction analysis of W Importin  $\alpha$ 1 complexes.** Note: HB = hydrogen bond, SB = salt bridge

	Importin $\alpha$ 1	Distance (Å)	HeV W	Importin $\alpha$ 1	Distance (Å)	NiV W
HB 1	ARG 238[ NH2 ]	3.39	PRO 434[ O ]	ARG 238[ NH2 ]	3.19	PRO 436[ O ]
HB 2	ARG 238[ NH1 ]	3.45	PRO 434[ O ]	ARG 238[ NH1 ]	3.07	PRO 436[ O ]
HB 3	TRP 231[ NE1 ]	3.32	PRO 435[ O ]	TRP 231[ NE1 ]	3.17	PRO 437[ O ]
HB 4	ASN 235[ ND2 ]	2.91	THR 436[ O ]	ASN 235[ ND2 ]	2.95	THR 438[ O ]
HB 5	TRP 184[ NE1 ]	2.84	LYS 438[ O ]	TRP 184[ NE1 ]	2.88	LYS 440[ O ]
HB 6	ASN 188[ ND2 ]	3.08	LYS 438[ O ]	ASN 188[ ND2 ]	3.03	LYS 440[ O ]
HB 7	TRP 142[ NE1 ]	3.00	ARG 440[ O ]	TRP 142[ NE1 ]	2.95	ARG 442[ O ]
HB 8	ASN 146[ ND2 ]	2.97	ARG 440[ O ]	ASN 146[ ND2 ]	2.84	ARG 442[ O ]
HB 9	GLY 150[ O ]	2.91	LYS 437[ NZ ]	GLY 150[ O ]	3.10	LYS 439[ NZ ]
HB 10	THR 155[ OG1 ]	2.82	LYS 437[ NZ ]	THR 155[ OG1 ]	2.88	LYS 439[ NZ ]
HB 11	ASP 192[ OD1 ]	3.00	LYS 437[ NZ ]	ASP 192[ OD1 ]	3.04	LYS 439[ NZ ]
HB 12	ASN 188[ OD1 ]	2.84	LYS 438[ N ]	ASN 188[ OD1 ]	2.85	LYS 440[ N ]
HB 13	ASN 228[ OD1 ]	3.05	LYS 438[ NZ ]	ASN 228[ OD1 ]	3.12	LYS 440[ NZ ]
HB 14	ASN 146[ OD1 ]	2.84	ARG 440[ N ]	ASN 146[ OD1 ]	2.83	ARG 442[ N ]
HB 15	GLN 181[ OE1 ]	2.70	ARG 440[ NH1 ]	GLN 181[ OE1 ]	2.75	ARG 442[ NH1 ]
SB 1	ASP 192[ OD1 ]	3.00	LYS 437[ NZ ]	ASP 192[ OD1 ]	3.04	LYS 439[ NZ ]

**Supplementary Table 4: PISA interaction analysis of W Importin  $\alpha 3$  complexes.** Note: HB = hydrogen bond, SB = salt bridge

	Importin $\alpha 3$	Distance (Å)	HeV W	Importin $\alpha 3$	Distance (Å)	NiV W
HB 1	ASP 433[ OD2 ]	3.64	CYS 419[ N ]	ASN 394[ ND2 ]	3.14	GLY 423[ O ]
HB 2	ASN 394[ OD1 ]	2.93	GLY 421[ N ]	ASN 352[ ND2 ]	3.08	ARG 425[ O ]
HB 3	ASN 352[ O ]	2.80	ARG 422[ NE ]	TRP 348[ NE1 ]	3.30	ARG 425[ O ]
HB 4	ASP 316[ OD1 ]	2.81	ARG 422[ NH1 ]	TRP 348[ NE1 ]	3.36	VAL 426[ O ]
HB 5	GLY 314[ O ]	2.97	ARG 422[ NH1 ]	ARG 229[ NH1 ]	2.89	PRO 436[ O ]
HB 6	GLN 360[ OE1 ]	3.18	ARG 422[ NH2 ]	ARG 229[ NH2 ]	3.47	PRO 437[ O ]
HB 7	ASN 352[ O ]	3.14	ARG 422[ NH2 ]	TRP 222[ NE1 ]	2.74	PRO 437[ O ]
HB 8	ASN 352[ OD1 ]	2.89	ARG 423[ N ]	ASN 226[ ND2 ]	3.01	THR 438[ O ]
HB 9	SER 351[ OG ]	2.96	ARG 423[ NH2 ]	TRP 179[ NE1 ]	2.94	LYS 440[ O ]
HB 10	GLU 387[ OE2 ]	2.53	ARG 423[ NH2 ]	ASN 183[ ND2 ]	2.92	LYS 440[ O ]
HB 11	GLU 345[ OE1 ]	2.88	PHE 430[ N ]	TRP 137[ NE1 ]	2.80	ARG 442[ O ]
HB 12	THR 150[ OG1 ]	2.84	LYS 437[ NZ ]	ASN 141[ ND2 ]	2.85	ARG 442[ O ]
HB 13	ASP 187[ OD1 ]	2.72	LYS 437[ NZ ]	SER 100[ OG ]	3.79	SER 444[ OG ]
HB 14	GLY 145[ O ]	3.03	LYS 437[ NZ ]	ASN 394[ OD1 ]	2.95	GLY 423[ N ]
HB 15	ASN 183[ OD1 ]	2.83	LYS 438[ N ]	ASN 352[ O ]	2.85	ARG 424[ NE ]
HB 16	ASN 141[ OD1 ]	2.94	ARG 440[ N ]	ASP 316[ OD1 ]	2.77	ARG 424[ NH1 ]
HB17	GLN 176[ OE1 ]	2.87	ARG 440[ NH1 ]	GLY 314[ O ]	2.86	ARG 424[ NH1 ]
HB 18	SER 100[ O ]	2.80	LEU 442[ N ]	GLN 360[ OE1 ]	3.14	ARG 424[ NH2 ]
HB 19	ASN 394[ ND2 ]	3.28	GLY 421[ O ]	ASN 352[ OD1 ]	2.94	ARG 425[ N ]
HB 20	ASN 352[ ND2 ]	3.06	ARG 423[ O ]	GLU 387[ OE1 ]	3.15	ARG 425[ NH1 ]
HB 21	TRP 348[ NE1 ]	3.14	ARG 423[ O ]	SER 351[ OG ]	3.13	ARG 425[ NH2 ]
HB 22	TRP 348[ NE1 ]	3.22	VAL 424[ O ]	GLU 387[ OE2 ]	2.46	ARG 425[ NH2 ]
HB 23	ARG 229[ NH1 ]	2.84	PRO 434[ O ]	GLU 345[ OE1 ]	2.96	PHE 432[ N ]
HB 24	ARG 229[ NH2 ]	3.11	PRO 434[ O ]	THR 150[ OG1 ]	2.96	LYS 439[ NZ ]
HB 25	ARG 229[ NH2 ]	3.38	PRO 435[ O ]	ASP 187[ OD1 ]	2.83	LYS 439[ NZ ]
HB 26	TRP 222[ NE1 ]	2.84	PRO 435[ O ]	GLY 145[ O ]	3.14	LYS 439[ NZ ]
HB 27	ASN 226[ ND2 ]	2.95	THR 436[ O ]	ASN 183[ OD1 ]	2.81	LYS 440[ N ]
HB 28	TRP 179[ NE1 ]	2.90	LYS 438[ O ]	ASN 141[ OD1 ]	2.91	ARG 442[ N ]
HB 29	ASN 183[ ND2 ]	2.93	LYS 438[ O ]	GLN 176[ OE1 ]	2.76	ARG 442[ NH1 ]
HB 30	TRP 137[ NE1 ]	2.90	ARG 440[ O ]	SER 100[ O ]	2.92	SER 444[ N ]
HB 31	ASN 141[ ND2 ]	2.90	ARG 440[ O ]	SER 100[ O ]	3.51	SER 444[ OG ]
SB 1	ASP 433[ OD2 ]	3.64	CYS 419[ N ]	ASP 316[ OD1 ]	2.77	ARG 424[ NH1 ]
SB 2	ASP 316[ OD1 ]	2.81	ARG 422[ NH1 ]	ASP 316[ OD1 ]	3.26	ARG 424[ NH2 ]
SB 3	ASP 316[ OD1 ]	3.36	ARG 422[ NH2 ]	GLU 387[ OE1 ]	3.15	ARG 425[ NH1 ]
SB 4	GLU 387[ OE1 ]	3.55	ARG 423[ NH1 ]	GLU 387[ OE2 ]	3.33	ARG 425[ NH1 ]
SB 5	GLU 387[ OE2 ]	3.09	ARG 423[ NH1 ]	GLU 387[ OE1 ]	3.78	ARG 425[ NH2 ]
SB 6	GLU 387[ OE2 ]	2.53	ARG 423[ NH2 ]	GLU 387[ OE2 ]	2.46	ARG 425[ NH2 ]
SB 7	ASP 187[ OD1 ]	2.72	LYS 437[ NZ ]	ASP 187[ OD1 ]	2.83	LYS 439[ NZ ]

**Supplementary Table 5: Overview comparison of the interaction interfaces between importin  $\alpha$ 1 and  $\alpha$ 3 for HeV and NiV W proteins**

	<b>HeV W: Importin <math>\alpha</math>1</b>	<b>HeV W: Importin <math>\alpha</math>3</b>	<b>NiV W: Importin <math>\alpha</math>1</b>	<b>NiV W: Importin <math>\alpha</math>3</b>
Total buried surface area of binding interface ( $\text{\AA}^2$ )	683.5	1,616.9	688.7	1,591.8
ARM domain interactions on importin alpha $\alpha$	2-4	2-4, 6-9	2-4	2-4, 6-9
W protein residues mediating interactions	434-441	419-444	436-443	421-446
Hydrogen bond interactions	15	31	15	31
Salt bridge interactions	1	7	1	7

**Supplementary Table 6: Primers used in this study**

Primer name	Primer Sequence	Primer Use
NiV W fwd NotI	gcgcgcggccgcagataaattggaactag	NiV W forward primer with a NotI site
NiV/HeV W Rev XhoI	gcgcctcgagtcagttggacattctc	NiV W/HeV W reverse primer with a XhoI site
HeV W fwd NotI	gcgcgcggccgcagacaagtggatctag	HeV W forward primer with a NotI site
NiV/HeV W R422A/R423A fwd	gtgcctgggtgcagcagtggtgcaac	Generate HeV W R422A/R423A or NiV W R424A/R425A by overlapping PCR
NiV/HeV W R422A/R423A Rev	gttgaccactgctgcaccaggcac	Generate HeV W R422A/R423A or NiV W R424A/R425A by overlapping PCR
NiV/HeV W R422D/R423D fwd	gtgcctgggtgacgacgtggtgcaac	Generate HeV W R422D/R423D or NiV W R424D/R425D by overlapping PCR
NiV/HeV W R422D/R423D rev	gttgaccacgctgcaccaggcac	Generate HeV W R422D/R423D or NiV W R424D/R425D by overlapping PCR
HeV W K437A/K438A Rev XhoI	gcgcctcgagtcagttggacattctccgcagtaaacactcttgcgccggttgg	Generate HeV W K437A/K438A with a XhoI site
HeV W K437D/K438D Rev XhoI	gcgcctcgagtcagttggacattctccgcagtaaacactcttgcacgctcggttgg	Generate HeV W K437D/K438D with a XhoI site
NiV W K439A/K440A Rev XhoI	gcgcctcgagtcagttggacattctccgcattgacactcttgcgccggttagg	Generate NiV W K439A/K440A with a XhoI site
NiV W K439D/K440D Rev XhoI	gcgcctcgagtcagttggacattctccgcattgacactcttgcacgctcggttagg	Generate NiV W K439D/K440D with a XhoI site
Imp $\alpha$ 1/3 279/271 fwd	ctatttctacttactgatgctggcaatgaac	Generate Importin $\alpha$ 1/Importin $\alpha$ 3 chimera
Imp $\alpha$ 1/3 279/271 rev	gttcattgccagcatcagtaaggtagaaatag	Generate Importin $\alpha$ 1/Importin $\alpha$ 3 chimera
Imp $\alpha$ 3/1 270/280 fwd	ctctcttacttactgatgctcctaaatgaac	Generate Importin $\alpha$ 3/Importin $\alpha$ 1 chimera
Imp $\alpha$ 3/1 270/280 rev	gttcattggaccatcagtaagtaagagag	Generate Importin $\alpha$ 3/Importin $\alpha$ 1 chimera
Imp $\alpha$ 1 NotI fwd	gcgcgcggccgcaccaccaacgag	Importin $\alpha$ 1 forward primer with a NotI site
Imp $\alpha$ 1 XhoI Rev	gcgcctcgagctaaaagttaaag	Importin $\alpha$ 1 reverse primer with a XhoI site
Imp $\alpha$ 3 NotI fwd	gcgcgcggccgcagcggacaacgag	Importin $\alpha$ 3 forward primer with a NotI site
Imp $\alpha$ 3 XhoI Rev	gcgcctcgagctaaaactggaac	Importin $\alpha$ 3 reverse primer with a NotI site
Imp $\alpha$ 3 N348A/N352A fwd	gaagcagtgccgttctctcccatcactgcag	Generate Imp $\alpha$ 3 ARM7/8 mutant
Imp $\alpha$ 3 N348A/N352A rev	ctgcagtgatggcgagaggaaacgccactgcttc	Generate Imp $\alpha$ 3 ARM7/8 mutant
KPNA4 E387A fwd	cactcaaaaagcagctgcttggg	Generate Imp $\alpha$ 3 ARM7/8 mutant
KPNA4 E387A rev	ccaagcagctgcttttgagtg	Generate Imp $\alpha$ 3 ARM7/8 mutant
KPNA4 N394A fwd	ggccataagtgccttaacaattag	Generate Imp $\alpha$ 3 ARM7/8 mutant
KPNA4 N394A rev	ctaattgtaaggcacttatggcc	Generate Imp $\alpha$ 3 ARM7/8 mutant

## Supplementary References

- 1 Tsuji, L., Takumi, T., Imamoto, N. & Yoneda, Y. Identification of novel homologues of mouse importin  $\alpha$ , the  $\alpha$  subunit of the nuclear pore-targeting complex, and their tissue-specific expression. *FEBS letters* **416**, 30-34 (1997).
- 2 Pumroy, R. A. & Cingolani, G. Diversification of importin- $\alpha$  isoforms in cellular trafficking and disease states. *Biochemical Journal* **466**, 13-28 (2015).