

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### Derivation of self-association constant.

To derive the exact self-association equation, we begin from the definition of the explicit definition of the dissociation constant that defines a monomer/dimer equilibrium in equation 1 (Meaning, the equation that defines the reaction of  $M + M \rightleftharpoons D$ ). Here, we define M as monomer, D as Dimer, and  $K_S$  as the dissociation constant that defines this equilibrium.

$$K_S = \frac{[D-M] \cdot [D-M]}{D} \quad \text{equation (1)}$$

Rearranging leads to the quadratic equation in equation 2.

$$D^2 - (2M + K_S)D + M^2 = 0 \quad \text{equation (2)}$$

Solving for the dimer, D, leads to the solution in equation 3.

$$D = \frac{(2M + K_S) - \sqrt{(2M + K_S)^2 - 4M^2}}{2} \quad \text{equation (3)}$$

Thus, a plot of the dimer with respect to the total IL-37 concentration gives a typical binding isotherm (Fig. S1A). Additionally, the absolute concentration of the IL-37 monomer can also be calculated with increasing concentrations of IL-37 (Fig. S1B).

