Predicting and Experimentally Validating Hot-Spot Residues at Protein-Protein Interfaces

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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Contents

Supplementary Figures and Tables

Table S1. Summary of methods used for computational prediction. ¹ Only with scripting multiple separate calls to the command line and collating data; ² Requires user-specified input file for residues; ³ Interface residues must be manually assigned for each interface to allow for repacking

Table S2. Comparison of different methods in predicting the experimental ΔΔG values from the 748 data points from the SKEMPI database. Positive: $\Delta\Delta G$ >= 4.184 kJ/mol; Neutral: 4.184 kJ/mol > $\Delta\Delta G$ $<$ -4.184 kJ/mol; Negative: $\Delta\Delta G$ $<=$ -4.184 kJ/mol. R-value is the Pearson correlation coefficient between predicted and experimental. Fraction Correct = (Tpos+Tneut+Tneg)/748

Table S3. Comparison of different methods in predicting the experimental ΔΔG values from the 25 alanine mutant data points from the NOXA-B/MCL-1 (competition), SIMS/SUMO (direct titration) and GKAP/SHANK-PDZ (direct titration) experiments combined. Positive: ΔΔG >= 4.184 kJ/mol; Neutral: 4.184 kJ/mol > $\Delta\Delta G$ < -4.184 kJ/mol; Negative $\Delta\Delta G$ <= -4.184 kJ/mol. R value is the Pearson correlation coefficient between predicted and experimental values. Fraction Correct = (Tpos+Tneut+Tneg)/25. BUDE-NMR* and BUDE-MD* comprises data from NOXA-B/MCL-1, SIMS/SUMO only since GKAP/SHANK-PDZ is an X-ray structure.

Figure S1. Experimentally determined positive (hot-spot), neutral and negative residues in the SKEMPI database versus the computational predictions using the different methods. True Positive, True Neutral and True Negative bars represent predictions that match the experimental values.

Figure S2. (a) Competition fluorescence anisotropy assay for testing hot-spot for NOXA-B/Mcl-1 interaction in 50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.01 % Triton-X, pH 7.4 using FITC-Ahx-NOXA-B as a tracer at 25 nM concentration and Mcl-1 at 200 nM concentration. (b) Fluorescence anisotropy direct titrations of selected FITC labelled NOXA-B variant peptides using the same conditions.

Peptide	$IC_{50}(\mu M)$
$Ac-NOXA-B$	1.77 ± 0.03
$Ac-NOXA-B$ L78A	7000 ± 2000
$Ac-NOXA-B$ R79A	8.3 ± 0.3
$Ac-NOXA-B$ R80A	$1.9 + 0.3$
$Ac-NOXA-B$ I81A	1220 ± 70
$Ac-NOXA-B$ D83A	13000 ± 8000
Ac-NOXA-B V85A	$1200 + 200$

Table S4. IC₅₀ values for inhibition of FITC-Ahx-NOXA-B/MCL-1 interaction by NOXA-B variant peptides determined by competition fluorescence anisotropy.

Table S5. K_d values of NOXA-B variant peptides binding to MCL-1 protein determined by

fluorescence anisotropy.

Figure S4. a) CD spectra of all NoxaB alanine variants and the wild type peptide at 20 °C, 30% TFE in Tris buffer. b) Plot of $\Delta\Delta G$ helicity against $\Delta\Delta G$ IC₅₀ of all NoxaB alanine variants. All data calculated in comparison to % helicity and IC_{50} of *wt* NoxaB peptide and calculated using $\Delta G = RTLnK_{eq}$

Figure S5. Fluorescence anisotropy direct titrations for testing hot-spots of SIM/SUMO-1 interaction in 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.01 % Triton-X, pH 7.4 using 50 nM FAM PEG-SIM tracer.

Table S6. K_d values of FAM-PEG SIM variant peptides binding to SUMO-1 protein determined

by fluorescence anisotropy.	

Peptide	$K_d(\mu M)$	Peptide	$K_d(\mu M)$
FAM-SIM	3.7 ± 0.3	FAM-I2711A SIM	26.4 ± 1.5
FAM-D2705A SIM	4.2 ± 0.1	FAM-I2712A SIM	64.8 ± 8.0
FAM-N2706A SIM	4.0 ± 0.2	FAM-V2713A SIM	$105.9 + 23.6$
FAM-E2707A SIM	$6.6 + 0.2$	FAM-W2714A SIM	63.6 ± 16.1
FAM-I2708A SIM	2.7 ± 0.1	FAM-E2715A SIM	12.5 ± 0.7
FAM-E2709A SIM	18.9 ± 0.9	FAM-K2716A SIM	10.7 ± 0.8
FAM-V2710A SIM	70.8 ± 8.9	FAM-K2717A SIM	6.4 ± 0.6
$-0.008 -$ -0.012 -0.016 -0.020 -0.024	SIM	E2707A SIM V2710A SIM 12712A SIM W2714S SIM	
-0.028	0.1 0.01	10 100 1000 1	

Figure S6. Fluorescence anisotropy competition titrations for testing hot-spots of SIM/SUMO-1 interaction in 50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.01 % Triton-X, pH 7.4 using 50 nM FAM PEG-SIM tracer and 3µM SUMO1 protein.

[Peptide] (M)

Table S7. IC₅₀ values of acetylated SIM and Ala mutant SIM peptides determined by fluorescence competition titration assays. IC₅₀ for E, V, I and W variant SIMs were extracted by fitting the curves by fixing final anisotropy at – 0.025, which is the lowest anisotropy obtained from saturation curve for Ac SIM peptide.

Figure S7. CD spectra of 100 μ M labelled and non-labelled SIM alanine variants and the wild type peptide at 20 ºC in 10 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4.

Figure S8. Raw ITC (upper) and fitted enthalpograms (lower) for wt-GKAP and all the variant peptides tested. ITC was performed in 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl pH 7.5 at 25 °C.

Table S9. Fitted ITC data for GKAP/Shank1 interaction

Figure S9. Competition fluorescence anisotropy assay for testing hot-spots of GKAP/Shank1 PDZ interaction in 20 mM Tris, 50 mM NaCl, pH 7.45, using FITC-Ahx-GKAP as a tracer at 50 nM and Shank1 at 1µM concentration.

Peptide	$IC_{50} (\mu M)$
GKAP	11 ± 1
E ₁ A GKAP	91 ± 5
A _{2G} GKAP	14.0 ± 0.3
Q3A GKAP	$10.3 + 0.9$
T ₄ A GKAP	did not inhibit
R5A GKAP	$14.1 + 0.9$
L6A GKAP	did not inhibit
CO ₂ H-CONH ₂ GKAP	did not inhibit

Table S10. IC₅₀ values of acetylated GKAP and Ala variant GKAP SIM peptides determined by fluorescence competition titration assays.

Figure S10. CD spectra of all GKAP alanine variants and the wild type peptide at 20 °C in 20 mM Tris buffer

Table S11. IC₅₀ values for inhibition of FITC-BID/BCL-x_L interaction by wild-type affimer and variants determined by competition fluorescence anisotropy.

Affimer	IC_{50} (nM)
wt	$327 + 32$
W41A	no inhibition.
W44A	no inhibition
W76A	352 ± 49

Supplementary methods

Expression and purification of proteins

MCL-1 and BCL-x^L were expressed, purified and characterized following minor adaptations to methods described previously^{1, 2} For SUMO and SHANK1-PDZ new protocols were elaborated. Experimental methods for preparation of these proteins are detailed in the following sections.

MCL-1

The pet28a His-SUMO Mcl-1 (172-327) construct was over-expressed in the E.coli strain Rosetta 2. 10 ml of overnight starter culture was used to inoculate 1 L 2 xYT containing 50 μ g/ml Kanamycin and 50ug/ml Chloramphenicol. Cultures were grown at 37 °C plus shaking until OD600 \sim 0.6 – 0.8, the temperature was then switched to 18 °C and protein expression induced by the addition of 0.8mM IPTG. Induced cultures were grown at 18 °C plus shaking overnight before harvesting by centrifugation. Cells were resuspended in 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole and lysed by sonication in the presence of 10 μL of 1 U.ml-1 DNase I per litre of over-expression culture and 5 mM MgCl2. The cell lysate was centrifuged (Beckman JA25.50 rotor, 17,000 rpm, 45 min, 4 °C) and the supernatant filtered (0.22 μM syringe filter) before application onto a 5 ml HisTrap that had previously been equilibrated with 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole. The cleared cell lysate was then allowed to flow through the HisTrap with the aid of a peristaltic pump. The HisTrap was then washed with 10 CV of 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole followed by 10 CV 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 50 mM imidazole. The His-SUMO-Mcl-1 fusion protein was then eluted from the HisTrap with 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 300 mM imidazole. The His-SUMO-Mcl-1 fusion protein was cleaved overnight in dialysis into 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl in the presence of Smt3 protease, Ulp1, overnight at 4 °C. To remove any uncleaved Mcl-1, His-SUMO and Ulp1, the sample was reapplied to a HisTrap in 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl and the flow through containing Mcl-1 collected. The flow through containing cleaved Mcl-1 was concentrated (Amicon Ultra centrifugal filter, MWCO 10,000) to approximately 5 ml. The sample was then filtered before being loaded onto a Superdex 75 column (GE healthcare) equilibrated in 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM DTT, 2.5% Glycerol. The purified was concentrated to \sim 6 mg/ml and stored at – 80 °C.

SHANK1 PDZ

Human Shank1 PDZ domain (656-762) was cloned into the pGEX-6P-2 expression vector and transformed to BL21 Gold cell line. 10 ml overnight starter culture was inoculated to 1 l 2xYT media containing 50 μ g/ml chloramphenicol. Cells were grown at 37 $^{\circ}$ C until OD600 0.6-0.8 and induced with 0.1 mM IPTG and incubated overnight at 18ºC. Cells were harvested and resuspended in 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 500 mM NaCl, containing protease inhibitor and 1U of DNAseI per litre of cell culture. Cells were lysed by sonication (8 cycles, 20 seconds on 40 seconds of f, 10 μ A) and centrifuged at 25.000 g for 45 minutes at 4° C. The supernatant was filtered (0.22 μ m membrane) and applied to glutathione beads and washed with 10 CV 20 mM Tris, pH 8, 500 mM NaCl. GST was cleaved on-column overnight at 4 ºC using Prescission protease. The eluted fractions were concentrated and purified by size-exclusion chromatography on S75 26/60 pg column in 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol pH 7.5 buffer. Collected fractions were analysed by SDS-PAGE and concentrated. Pure protein was analysed by high resolution mass spectrometry: expected m/z: 12326.3 measured m/z: 12325.6. Concentration was determined using UV-VIS spectroscopy in 6M urea using the 8480 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹ extinction coefficient.

SUMO-1

The pet19b His-TEV-SUMO-1 (18-97) construct was over-expressed in the E.coli strain Rosetta 2. 10 ml of overnight starter culture was used to inoculate 1 L 2 xYT containing 50 μg/ml Ampicillin. Cells were grown at 37°C until OD600 0.6-0.8 and induced with 1 mM IPTG and incubated overnight at 18ºC. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and resuspended in 25 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole, containing protease inhibitor and 1U of DNAseI per litre of cell culture. Cells were lysed by sonication (6 cycles, 20 seconds on 40 seconds off, $10 \mu A$) followed by centrifugation at 25.000 g for 45 minutes at 4ºC. Supernatant was filtered and applied onto a preequilibrated 5 ml HisTrap column. The cleared cell lysate was then allowed to flow through the HisTrap with the aid of a peristaltic pump. The HisTrap was then washed with 10 CV of 25 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole followed by 10 CV 25 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 50 mM imidazole. The His-TEV-SUMO-1 was then eluted from the HisTrap with 25 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 300 mM imidazole, and the His-tag was cleaved overnight at 4°C, in a dialysis tube in presence of TEV protease in 25 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl. The dialysed sample was reapplied to a HisTrap in 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl and the flow through containing SUMO-1 collected and concentrated (Amicon Ultra centrifugal filter, MWCO 10,000) to approximately 5 ml. The sample was then filtered before being loaded onto a Superdex 75 column (GE healthcare) equilibrated in 25 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 2.5% Glycerol. The purified protein was concentrated and stored at -80 °C. Protein quality was assessed using SDS-PAGE, high resolution mass spectrometry and CD.

BCL-xL

pet28a His-SUMO Bcl-x₁ (Chimera with BCL-2, 1-198, missing 26-81) was expressed using a similar protocol as described above for MCL-1. Briefly bacterial cultures were grown at 37°C to a density of $OD₆₀₀ = 0.5-0.8$ and protein expression then induced by addition of 0.5 mM isopropyl-β-Dthiogalactoside (IPTG). Upon induction, cultures were cooled and maintained at 18°C for protein expression overnight. Cell pellets were harvested by centrifugation for 7 minutes at 8655 xg and then resuspended in lysis buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 500 mM NaCl) containing (1 mg mL^-1 lysozyme, 10mg mL^-1 of DNase1 and 1 tablet per 1 L culture protease inhibitor tablets (Complete Mini, Roche) and lysed by sonication. The cell lysate was then centrifuged for 45 minutes at 23655 xg, the supernatant was collected and applied onto a Ni-Sepharose resin column (bed size 5 mL). The column was washed with 40 mL wash buffer I (25 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM NaCl, pH 8), 40 mL wash buffer II (25 mM Tris-HCl, 15 mM Imidazole, 500 mM NaCl, pH 8) and 400mL wash buffer III (25 mM Tris-HCl, 40 mM Imidazole, 500 mM NaCl, pH 8). Bound proteins were eluted with 20 mL of elution buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl, 400 mM Imidazole, 500 mM NaCl, pH 8). The elution fraction was loaded on Superdex75 (26/600) prep grade size exclusion chromatography column, equilibrated with Gel filtration buffer (25

mM Tris-HCl, 250 mM NaCl, 0.5mM DTT, 2.5% glycerol pH 7.4). Samples of the fractionated eluent were applied to 15% SDS gels to assess sample purity and the purified protein was concentrated using centrifugal concentrators with a MWCO of 10kD and stored at -80°C in small aliquots.

 $BCL-x_l$ affimers

BCL-x_L affimer variants were produced using the Quikchange Site Directed Mutagenesis Kit (Agilent) and the wild type protein expression vector as template. The sequences of all constructs were confirmed by DNA sequencing prior to expression. Affimers were expressed as previously described.³ Briefly: pet11a Affimer constructs were over-expressed in the *E. coli* strain Rosetta 2. 10 ml of overnight starter culture was used to inoculate 1 L 2 x YT containing 125 μg/ml Ampicillin Cultures were grown at 37 °C plus shaking until OD600 ~ 0.6 – 0.8, the temperature was then switched to 18 °C and protein expression induced by the addition of 0.5mM IPTG. Induced cultures were grown at 18 °C plus shaking overnight before harvesting by centrifugation. Cells were resuspended in 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole and lysed by sonication in the presence of 10 μL of 1 U.ml-1 DNase I per litre of over-expression culture and cell lysate was clarified (Beckman JA25.50 rotor, 17,000 rpm, 45 min, 4 °C). The supernatant was filtered (0.45 μ M syringe filter) before application onto a 5 ml HisTrap that had previously been equilibrated with 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole. The cleared cell lysate was then allowed to flow through the HisTrap with the aid of a peristaltic pump. The HisTrap was then washed with 10 CV of 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 15 mM imidazole followed by 10 CV 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 50 mM imidazole and 10 CV 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 100 mM imidazole. The Affimer was then eluted from the HisTrap with 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 300 mM imidazole. Successful elution was confirmed on a gel before further purification was undertaken. The eluted Affimer was concentrated (Amicon Ultra centrifugal filter, MWCO 10,000) to approximately 5 ml. The sample was then filtered before being loaded onto a Superdex 75 column (GE healthcare) equilibrated in 50 mM TRIS pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM DTT, 2.5% Glycerol. The protein eluted as a monomer from gel filtration. The purified was concentrated to \sim 6 mg/ml and stored at -80 °C with the addition of 5% Glycerol.

All protein constructs were expressed in the *E. coli* strain Rosetta 2.

Computational methods and MD

Usability and limitations of CAS methods

The command-line tools of BudeAlaScan and FoldX readily process ensembles of structures, although the latter requires a script to run the program and collate the data. Likewise, Rosetta Flex_DDG can process structure ensembles with scripting but is several orders of magnitude

slower than the other methods. Robetta is accessed *via* a website and processes a single structure at a time, with the interface automatically assigned. These jobs are batch processed so the time for results to be returned depends on server load. BeAtMuSiC and mCSM are both accessed by webservers and used interactively. BeAtMuSiC has the feature of mutating the interface to all residue types, not just to alanine. mCSM requires the definition of one residue at a time and a structure upload for each calculation, but this can be scripted in contrast with servers like DrugScore PPI that requires human input for each submission.

BudeAlaScan

BudeAlaScan is command-line python application for computational alanine scanning. It employs ISAMBARD⁴ for structure manipulation, a customised version of the Bristol University Docking Engine $(BUDE)^5$ for energy calculations and $SCWRL⁶$ for side chain repacking (this latter feature is not used in this paper, but is required for calculating hot-regions or clusters of interfacial residues, that will be described elsewhere). Side chain flexibility in BudeAlaScan is addressed by calculating the interaction energy of a set of rotamers of the residue being replaced by alanine with the "receptor" and averaging all rotamers with a favourable energy. This feature is enabled by default for residues of the class DERKH and is designed to account for the entropic cost of freezing a residue in a salt bridge. The program was run in scan mode with default parameters. The application will be available via the BAlaS server:<http://coiledcoils.chm.bris.ac.uk/balas>

Molecular Dynamics Simulations

All simulations were performed using the GROMACS 5.1.4 suite and the following general protocols. Structures from the protein database (SIMS/SUMO 2LAS; GKAP/SHANK-PDZ 1Q3P; NOXA-B/MCL-1 2JM6) were processed with the GROMACS tool chain. The utility pdb2gmx was used to add hydrogen atoms consistent with pH 7, virtual-site hydrogens for mobile groups and parameterise the protein with the amber99SB-ildn forcefield. The protein was placed in an orthorhombic box 2 nm larger than the protein in each dimension and filled with TIP3P water containing 0.15 M sodium chloride ions to give a charge-neutral system overall. After 10000 steps of steepest descent minimisation, molecular dynamics was initiated with random velocities while restraining the protein backbone to its original position with a force constant of 1000 kJ/nm for 0.2 ns. Simulations were developed for a further one microsecond both with and without the backbone position restraints under periodic boundary conditions. The Particle Mesh Ewald's method was used for long range electrostatic interactions while short range Coulombic and van de Waals energies were truncated at 1.2 nm. The temperature was maintained at 310 K using the v-rescale method and the pressure at 1 bar with the Berendsen barostat. The use of virtualsite hydrogens allowed a 5 fs time step for the leapfrog integrator. Bond constraints were implemented with the LINCS method and SETTLE used for waters. Trajectories were processed and analysed with the GROMACS tools and visualised with VMD 1.9.3.

Peptide synthesis and purification

General Remarks

All amino acids and resins were purchased from either Novabiochem (Merck) or Sigma-Aldrich. All amino acids were *N*-Fmoc protected and side chains protected with Boc (Lys); O'Bu (Asp, Ser, Thr); Trt (Asn, Gln); Pbf (Arg). Synthesis of all peptides was performed using a microwave assisted automated peptide synthesiser (CEM, Liberty or Liberty Blue). Coupling of 6-aminohexanoic acid, γaminobutyric acid and N-terminal labelling were performed manually. DMF used in peptide synthesis was of ACS grade and from Sigma Aldrich. Peptides were synthesised on an 0.1 mmol scale and split before acetylation and fluorescent ligation. Lyophilisation was performed using a BenchTop Pro with OmnitronicsTM from VirTis SP Scientific. Preparative HPLC was performed on an Agilent Technologies 1260 infinity controller in conjunction with an diode array detector. Analytical HPLC was performed on an Agilent Technologies 1260 infinity controller in conjunction with an diode array detector. Mass spectrometry data were obtained on a Bruker Daltonics micrOTOF using electrospray ionisation (ES)MS instruments as appropriate.

Cycles for Automated Peptide Synthesis

Peptides were prepared on a microwave assisted Liberty Blue CEM peptide synthesiser followed this cycle:

Resin Loading

Clean reaction vessel; wash with DMF; transfer resin to reaction vessel; wash with $DMF:CH_2Cl_2(1:1);$ vessel draining.

Deprotection and Coupling

Add 20% piperidine in DMF (4 mL); microwave method; wash with DMF (4+4+4+4 mL); drain; add amino acid (2.5 mL); add coupling reagent (1 mL); add base (0.5 mL); microwave method; wash through manifold to waste (2 mL); drain.

For methods that *did not* use microwave assistance, the reaction cycle was the same, expect the microwave method for deprotection and coupling was replaced by agitation of the resin at r.t. for 15 min and 25 min respectively.

After the final residue, the resin was ejected from the reaction vessel and any further linker coupling, capping, cleavage and deprotections were performed manually using methods A to G

For the microwave methods used, the temperature and total time is shown below:

Deprotection Microwave Methods

Coupling Methods

Arginine was subjected to double coupling as standard.

FMoc-PEG linker was treated as any other conventional amino acid and coupled using microwave assisted synthesis

Methods for Manual Solid Phase N-terminal Chain Elongation and Capping

Method A: Coupling of Aminohexanoic acid (Ahx) and gamma-aminobutyric acid (Ga)

Following ejection from the automated synthesiser, the resin was placed in an fritted empty SPE tube and the desired unnatural amino acid (5 equiv.), DIPEA (5 equiv.) and HCTU (5 equiv.) were dissolved in DMF (1 mL) and added to the resin, followed by agitation for 1 h. For double couplings, this step was repeated. After removal of the reagents by filtration, the resin was washed with DMF (3×2 mL $\times 2$) min) and the success of the coupling determined by a negative colour test (Method C). Deprotection of the Fmoc-protected *N*-terminus then followed (Method B).

Method B: Deprotection of N-Fmoc protecting groups

N-terminal Fmoc-protecting groups were removed by the addition of 20% piperidine: DMF (v/v) (5×2) $mL \times 2$ min), followed by rinsing the resin with DMF (5 \times 2 mL \times 2 min). Successful deprotection was determined by a positive colour test (Method C).

Method C: Kaiser Test⁷

The Kaiser Test was used for the determination of the successful coupling or deprotection for any residue coupled manually. A small number of resin beads were rinsed with CH₂Cl₂ and placed in a vial, followed by the addition of two drops of each of the three solutions below:

- 1) Ninhydrin (5% w/v) in ethanol
- 2) Phenol (80% w/v) in ethanol
- 3) 1 mM KCN $_{(aq.)}$ in pyridine (2% v/v)

The solution was then heated to ca. 100 °C for five minutes. A successful coupling gave no change in the colour of the beads, whereas bright blue beads demonstrated a successful deprotection.

Method D: N-terminal acetylation

Acetic anhydride (10 equiv.) and DIPEA (10 equiv.) were dissolved in DMF (1 mL) and the solution was transferred to the resin. After 2 h, the resin was drained, washed with DMF (3×2 mL $\times 2$ min) and successful capping determined by a negative colour test (Method C).

Method E: N-terminal FITC labelling

Fluorescein isothiocyanate (6 equiv.) was dissolved in 12:7:5 pyridine: $DMF:CH_2Cl_2$ and the solution transferred to the resin in the dark. After 16 h, the resin was washed with DMF (3×2 mL $\times 2$ min) ahead of cleavage and deprotection. The solvents were of anhydrous grade and distilled before use.

Method F: On resin Fluorescein (FAM) labelling

The SIM and its alanine variant peptides (X-A SIM) (1 eq., 0.1 mmol) on resin were labelled with fluorescein (FAM). To resin bound peptides (0.1 mmol, 1.0 eq) containing free N-terminal PEG linker was added pre activated solution of 5, 6-dicarboxylic fluorescein (5 eq), DIC (3eq) and HOBt (3 eq) in 4 ml DMF. The resin mixture was shaken on a vertical spinner for 16h at RT. Thereafter, the resin was filtered, washed with DMF $(5x)$, CH₂Cl₂ $(5x)$ and then Et₂O $(3x)$.

Method 5: Cleavage and deprotection of Rink amide MBHA resin

After elongation and N-terminal capping was complete, the resin was washed with CH₂Cl₂ (5 \times 2 mL \times 2 min), Et₂O (5 \times 2 mL \times 2 min) and dried under vacuum for ca. 2 h. Peptides were simultaneously cleaved and side-chain deprotected using 'Reagent K' TFA:EDT:Thioanisole:Phenol:H₂O 82:3:5:5:5 (3 \times 2 mL \times 2 h). The solution was precipitated in ice-cold Et₂O (25 mL) and placed in a centrifuge (3000 rpm \times 10 min), the supernatant removed and the precipitate resuspended in ice-cold Et₂O and placed in a centrifuge again. This process was repeated 3-4 times and the precipitate was dried under a stream of nitrogen overnight, before being dissolved in H2O and lyophilised.

Peptide Purification

NOXA-B variant peptides were pre-purified by automated RP column chromatography on a Biotage Isolera 1.3.3., using a RediSep®Rf gold reversed phase C18 column by Teledyne Isco on an increasing gradient of acetonitrile (5-50%) in water $+$ 0.1% TFA (v/v) at a flow rate of 12 mL min⁻¹. Crude peptides

were suspended in H2O as concentrated as possible, fractions were checked by LCMS, concentrated *in vacuo* and lyophilised.

Peptides were purified by preparative UV- or MD- HPLC using a Jupiter Proteo or a Kinetex EVO C18 preparative column (reversed phase) on an increasing gradient of acetonitrile in water $+0.1\%$ formic acid (v/v) at a flow rate of 10 mL min⁻¹. Crude peptides were dissolved in H₂O or DMSO at an approximate concentration. Purification runs injected a maximum of 5 mL of crude peptide solution and were allowed to run for 30 min, with acetonitrile increasing at a stated gradient. In regards to UV-HPLC, the eluent was scanned with a diode array at 220, 210 and 280 nm. In regards to MD-HPLC the mass directed chromatography software Masshunter by ChemStation (Agilent) was used to allow the collection of the desired peptide by mass, with the eluent split into an Agilent 6120 Quadropole LCMS which triggers collection of eluent at a programmed m/z. Fractions containing purified peptide were combined, concentrated *in vacuo* and lyophilised.

Biophysical assays

Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC)

ITC experiments were carried out using Microcal ITC200i instrument (Malvern) at 25°C in 20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.5 buffer. ShankPDZ was dialysed against the buffer prior to experiment, lyophilized peptides were dissolved in the same buffer. 150 μ M shankPDZ was present in the cell and titrated with 1.4-2 mM peptide solutions loaded into the syringe using 20, 2 uL injections with 120 s spacing between the injections for 20 injection. Heats of peptide dilution was subtracted from each measurement raw data. Data was analysed using Microcal Origin 8 and fitted to a one-binding site model.

Fluorescence anisotropy

Fluorescence anisotropy assays were performed in 384-well plates (Greiner Bio-one). Each experiment was run in triplicate and the fluorescence anisotropy measured using a Perkin Elmer EnVisionTM 2103 MultiLabel plate reader, with excitation at 480 nm (30 nm bandwidth), polarised dichroic mirror at 505 nm and emission at 535 nm (40 nm bandwidth, S and P polarised) for FAM and FITC labelled peptides. The excitation and emission wavelength for Bodipy labelled BAK peptide were set to 531nm and 595nm respectively. The excitation and emission wavelength for Fitc labelled BID peptide were set to 490nm and 535nm respectively.

Assay buffers

All assays related to NOXA B/Mcl-1 were carried in tris buffer (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.01% Triton X-100, pH 7.4).

All assays related to BAK/BclXL were carried in phosphate buffer (40 mM Phosphate, 200 mM NaCl, 0.02mg/ml BSA, pH 7.4).

All assays related to SIM/SUMO1 and BID/BclXL were carried in tris buffer (20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 0.01% Triton X-100, pH 7.4).

All assays related to GKAP/Shank1PDZ were carried in tris buffer (20 mM Tris, 50 mM NaCl, pH 7.4). *Direct binding assays*

Fluorescence anisotropy direct titration assays were performed with protein concentration diluted over 16-24 points using ½ dilutions. 20 µL of buffer were first added to each well. 20 µL of a solution of protein was added to the first column. The solution was well mixed and 20 µL was taken out and added to the next column and so on. This operation consists on serial dilution of the protein across the plate. Finally, 20 μ L of tracer was added to the wells. For control wells, the tracer peptide was replaced with an identical volume of assay buffer and plates were read after 1 hour.

Competition binding assays

FA competition assays were performed in 384 well plates with the concentration of mutant peptide competitor typically starting from 10-1500 μ M, diluted over 16-24 points in 1/2 regime with fixed protein and tracer concentrations. For the NOXA B/Mcl-1 FA competition assay, FITC-NOXA B(68- 87) and Mcl-1(172-327) were added to each well to give a final concentration of 50 nM and 150 nM, respectively. For the SIM/SUMO1 FA competition assay, 20 µL of FAM-peg-SIM tracer and 20 µL of SUMO1 were added to each well to give a final concentration of 50 nM and 3µM, respectively. For the GKAP/Shank1PDZ FA competition assay, 20 µL of mutant GKAP and 20 µL of Shank1PDZ were added to each well to give a final concentration of 50 nM and 1µM, respectively. For the BID/BclXL FA competition assay, 20 µL of Fitc-BID and 20 µL of BclXL were added to each well to give a final concentration of 25 nM and 100nM, respectively. For the BAK/BclXL FA competition assay, 20 µL of Bodipy-BAK and 20 µL of BclXL were added to each well to give a final concentration of 50 nM and 150nM, respectively. For control wells, the tracer peptide was replaced with an identical volume of assay buffer. The total volume in each well was 60 μL. Plates were read after 1 h (and 16h for Bcl-XL assays) of incubation at room temperature.

Data analysis

The data from both the P (perpendicular intensity) and S (parallel intensity) channels, resulting from this measurement and corrected by subtracting the corresponding control wells, were used to calculate the intensity and anisotropy for each well following Equations 1 and 2:

$$
I = (2PG) + S \quad Equation 1
$$

$$
r = (S-PG) \quad Equation 2
$$

$$
L_b = (r-r_{min})/\lambda(r_{max}-r) + r-r_{min} \quad Equation 3
$$

$$
y = \{(k+x+[FL]) - \sqrt{k+x+[FL]}^2 - 4x[FL]\}/2 \quad Equation 4
$$

Fluorescence anisotropy data was processed as described previously.¹

 $r = anisotropy, I = total intensity, P = perpendicular intensity, S = parallel intensity, L_b = fraction$ *ligand bound,* $\lambda =$ *Ibound/Iunbound* = 1, [FL] = concentration of fluorescent ligand, $k = K_d$, $y = L_b^*$ *Flu-trimer and x = [added titrant], G is an instrument gain factor.*

Where I is the total intensity, G is an instrument factor which was set to 1 for all experiments and r is the anisotropy. The average anisotropy (across three experimental replicates) and the standard deviation of these values were then calculated and fit to a sigmoidal logistic model (Equation 3) using OriginPro 9.0 which provided the IC_{50} and error values.

$$
y = r_{max} + (r_{min} \cdot r_{max})/(1 + (x/x_0)^p)
$$

Circular dichroism

Circular dichroism spectra were recorded on Chirascan Plus (Applied Photophysics) spectropolarimeter. Samples were prepared in 10 mM Na-phosphate buffer pH 7.5 at 100 μ M peptide concentration. CD spectra were acquired from 185-260 nm using 1 nm step size, 2nm bandwidth at 25 °C in a 1 mm path length quartz cuvette. Samples were measured twice and averaged, buffer baseline spectrum was substracted from each measurement, and data was converted to mean residue ellipticity.

Protein characterization data

Deconvoluted mass spectra of (a) MCL-1 (b) Shank1 PDZ and (c) SUMO-1 d) BCL-x^L

Protein	Calculated MW	Measured
MCL-1	17737.20	17736.0380
SHANK1 PDZ	12326.30	12325.5082
SUMO-1	9698.01	9696.8595
$BCL-x_L$	17489.57	17488.4688

Calculated and measured molecular weights of the purified proteins

SDS-PAGE of newly prepared proteins (a) SHANK1 PDZ fractions after size-exclusion chromatography and (b) SUMO-1 after affinity purification (lane 1) and fractions from size-exclusion chromatography (lanes 2-11)

CD of purified (a) MCL-1 (b) Shank1 PDZ and (c) SUMO-1 (d) BCL-x^L

Peptide characterization data

NOXA-B and variant peptides

Tabulated HRMS data of synthesised peptides are shown in below. Peptide identity was confirmed by the inspection of multiple charge states and are quoted as the monoisotopic peak for the Expected (Exp^d) and Observed (Obs^d) masses.

Acetylated NOXA-B peptides

FITC-NOXA-B peptides

Peptide	$[M+3H]^{3+}Obs^d$	$[M+3H]^{3+}Exp^d$	$[M+4H]^{4+}Obs^d$	$[M+4H]^{4+}Exp^d$
FITC-wt NOXAB	903.1586	903.1594	677.6208	677.6210
FITC-R79A NOXAB	865.4491	865.4602	649.3385	649.3470
FITC-I81A NOXAB	889.1425	889.1430	667.1016	667.1090
FITC-D83A NOXAB	888.4881	888.4953	666.6183	666.6233

HPLC and ESI-MS data for NOXA-B and variant peptides

wt NOXA-B

L78A NOXA-B

R79A NOXA-B

R80A NOXA-B

I81A NOXA-B

D83A NOXA-B

V85A NOXA-B

FITC-wt NOXA-B

FITC-R79A NOXA-B

FITC-I81A NOXA-B

FITC-D83A NOXA-B

GKAP and Variant Peptides

Tabulated HRMS data of synthesised peptides are shown in the table below. Peptide identity was confirmed by the inspection of multiple charge states and are quoted as the monoisotopic peak for the Expected (Exp^d) and Observed (Obs^d) masses.

Peptide	Sequence
wt GKAP	FITC-(Ahx) EAOTRL-OH
	AC-EAQTRL-OH
E1A	AC-AAOTRL-OH
A2G	AC-EGOTRL-OH
Q ₃ A	AC-EAATRL-OH
T4A	AC-EAOARL-OH
R ₅ A	Ac-EAOTAL-OH
CONH ₂	AC-EAOTRL- NH ,

Acetylated GKAP peptides

HPLC and ESI-MS data for GKAP and variant peptides

 $\overline{0}$

 1800

 m/z

E1A GKAP

Q3A GKAP

T4A GKAP

R5A GKAP

 $^{+1200}$

 m/z

273.6537

 $\overline{0}$

1000

1200

 $\begin{array}{c} 1433.7001 \\ 1400 \end{array}$

 $\frac{1}{1600}$

۳mz

COOH-CONH² GKAP

 $\overline{\mathbf{0}}$

1200

1400

SIMS and Variant Peptides

Tabulated HRMS data of synthesised peptides are shown in below. Peptide identity was confirmed by the inspection of multiple charge states and are quoted as the monoisotopic peak for the Expected (Exp^d)

and Observed (Obs^d) masses.

HPLC and ESI-MS data for SIM and variant peptides

FAM-wt SIM

FAM-D2705A SIM

FAM-E2707A SIM

FAM-I2708A SIM

FAM-E2709A SIM

FAM-V2710A SIM

FAM-I2711A SIM

FAM-I2712A SIM

FAM-V2713A SIM

FAM-W2714A SIM

FAM-E2715A SIM

FAM-K2716A SIM

 0.0

1400 m/z

Ac-E2707A SIM

Ac-V2710A SIM

Ac-I2712A SIM

Ac-W2714S SIM

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