

Table S10. The binding free energies (ΔG) in kcal/mol between either MD2 or MD2* monomer and the ligands (either LPS or neoseptin3) at either the MD2/ligand or MD2*/ligand interface computed by both molecular mechanics generalized Born surface area (MM-GBSA) and molecular mechanics Poisson-Boltzmann surface area (MM-PBSA) methods. The free energies in each of the lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-bound (TLR4-MD2)₂ tetramer and neoseptin3-bound (TLR4-MD2)₂ tetramer complexes are averaged over the 1000 frames of the combined 4 trajectories. A negative value is a favorable free energy, while a positive value is an unfavorable. The values in parenthesis are standard deviation. ΔE_{MM} is molecular mechanics free energy which is divided into ΔE_{ele} and ΔE_{vdw} representing the contributions from the electrostatic and van der Waals interactions, respectively. ΔG_{sol} is solvation free energy expressed by ΔG_{pol} and ΔG_{nonpol} , the polar and non-polar contributions, respectively.

Monomer	Complex	#	Generalized Born (GB)				Poisson-Boltzmann (PB)			
			ΔE_{MM}		ΔG_{sol}		ΔG	ΔG_{sol}		ΔG
			ΔE_{ele}	ΔE_{vdw}	ΔG_{pol}	ΔG_{nonpol}		ΔG_{pol}	ΔG_{nonpol}	
MD2	(TLR4-MD2-LPS) ₂	1-4	-14.50 (17.25)	-124.26 (8.52)	47.96 (13.53)	-17.55 (1.16)	-108.35 (9.58)	50.27 (14.60)	-11.88 (0.58)	-100.36 (9.40)
MD2	(TLR4-MD2-nst3) ₂	1-4	-18.81 (12.94)	-76.25 (7.61)	47.81 (11.63)	-10.48 (1.16)	-57.72 (8.24)	50.05 (12.60)	-8.00 (0.55)	-53.01 (8.10)
MD2*	(TLR4-MD2-LPS) ₂	1-4	-28.93 (22.84)	-128.43 (10.96)	59.27 (15.47)	-18.10 (1.32)	-116.18 (9.54)	61.43 (15.78)	-12.10 (0.54)	-108.02 (8.76)
MD2*	(TLR4-MD2-nst3) ₂	1-4	-11.27 (13.06)	-65.14 (12.60)	38.06 (12.75)	-8.86 (1.63)	-47.22 (10.72)	39.89 (14.21)	-7.07 (1.02)	-43.59 (9.92)