

Supplementary Information for

Non-classical nuclear localization signals mediate nuclear import of CIRBP

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Plasmids

To generate GST-GFP-CIRBP, full length human-CIRBP was PCR amplified (primer sequences: agactcgagctatggcatcagatgaaggcaaac; aatggatcctactcgtgtgtgtagcgtactgtcataac) and inserted into a pEGFP-C1 vector (Clontech) containing a GST-GFP cassette (1) via XhoI and BamHI restriction digest. To generate GCR₂-EGFP₂-CIRBP full length and deletion constructs, the NLS sequence in a modified pEGFP-C1 vector containing a GCR₂-EGFP₂-cassette (2) was replaced by either full length CIRBP or cDNAs lacking the RRM (aa 1-67), RG/RGG (aa 91-137), RSY (138-172) or RG/RGG-RSY (aa 91-172) domains using EcoRV and BamHI.

Expression constructs for the fragments of human CIRBP from amino acid 1 to 90 (CIRBP^{RRM}), amino acid 68 to 137 (CIRBP^{RGG}), amino acid 138 to 172 wild type, R to A mutant, Y to A mutant (CIRBP^{RSY}, CIRBP^{ASY} and CIRBP^{RSA}, respectively), and amino acid 1 to 172 (full-length CIRBP) were generated by synthesis of the corresponding optimized CIRBP cDNA constructs (Genscript) and insertion of these cDNA into pETM11-ZZ-His₆ vector via NcoI/BamHI restriction digest. We also generated optimized cDNA expression constructs (Genscript) in pETM11-ZZ-His₆ vector for fragments of human TNPO1 from amino acids 328 to 381 (TNPO1^{loop}), amino acids 1 to 898 depleted from amino-acids 328 to 381 (TNPO1^{Δloop}) and amino-acids 1 to 898 (TNPO1) and human TNPO3 full length. The expression construct for the fragment of human FUS from amino acid 504 to 526 (FUS^{PY}) in pETM11-ZZ-His₆ vector was previously described in (3). The expression construct for the fragment of rat PRMT1 in pET28b-His₆ vector from amino acids 11 to 353 was previously described in (4)

Protein expression and purification

For expression of recombinant unlabeled or ¹⁵N labeled or ¹⁵N-¹³C labeled ZZ- His₆ proteins, the different bacterial expression pETM11-ZZ-His₆ vectors were transformed into *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) BL21-DE3 Star strain and 1 L expression cultures were grown for 2 days in minimal medium supplemented with either 6 g of ¹²C₆H₁₂O₆ or 2 g of ¹³C₆H₁₂O₆ (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories) and either 3 g of ¹⁴NH₄Cl or ¹⁵NH₄Cl (Sigma). Cells were diluted to an OD (600nm) of 0,8 and induced with 0.5 mM IPTG followed by protein expression for 4 h at room temperature (CIRBP^{RSY}, CIRBP^{ASY}, CIRBP^{RSA}, TNPO1^{loop}, TNPO1^{Δloop}, TNPO1, FUS^{PY}) or 16 h at 20°C (CIRBP^{RRM}, CIRBP^{RGG}, TNPO3) or 2 h at 37°C (full-length CIRBP). For expression of perdeuterated [U-²H,¹³C,¹⁵N,IM-methyl ¹H,¹³C] TNPO1, 50mg of 2-Ketobutyric acid 4-¹³C (Sigma) and 50mg of L-methionine-methyl-¹³C (Cambridge Isotope Laboratories) was added before induction using 99% deuterated minimal medium. For expression of recombinant unlabeled His₆ -PRMT1, the pET28b-His₆-PRMT1 was transformed into *E. coli* BL21-DE3 Star strain and 1 L expression culture was grown in lysogeny broth (LB) medium. Cells were induced at an OD (600nm) of 0,8 with 0.5 mM IPTG followed by protein expression for 16 h at 20°C. Cells pellets corresponding for protein expression of unlabeled or ¹⁵N labeled or ¹⁵N-¹³C labeled disordered proteins fragments (CIRBP^{RGG}, CIRBP^{RSY}, CIRBP^{RSA}, CIRBP^{RSY}, FUS^{PY} and TNPO1^{loop}) were harvested and sonicated in denaturing lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150mM NaCl, 20 mM Imidazole,

6M urea) whereas the folded proteins fragments (CIRBP^{RRM}, TNPO1^{Δloop}, TNPO1, TNPO3 and PRMT1) were harvested and sonicated in non denaturing lysis buffer (50mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150mM NaCl, 20mM Imidazole, 2mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine). For CIRBP^{RRM} and full-length CIRBP, cell lysates were incubated for 30 min at room temperature with RNase A (Life Technologie) before centrifugation. ZZ-His₆ or His₆ recombinant proteins were then purified using Ni-NTA agarose beads (Quiagen) and the ZZ-His₆ tag was cleaved with TEV protease treatment. Untagged proteins were then isolated performing a second affinity purification using Ni-NTA beads. A final exclusion chromatography purification step was performed in the buffer of interest on a gel filtration column (Superdex 200, GE Healthcare for TNPO1^{Δloop}, TNPO1, TNPO3 and PRMT1; Superdex 75 GE Healthcare for CIRBP^{RRM} and full-length CIRBP; and Superdex peptide, GE Healthcare for CIRBP^{RSY}, CIRBP^{ASY}, CIRBP^{RSA}, CIRBP^{RGG}, FUS^{PY} and TNPO1^{loop}). Protein concentrations were estimated from their absorbance at 280 nm, assuming that the ε at 280 nm was equal to the theoretical ε value.

cDNA and siRNA transfection

cDNA transfections of GST-GFP- and GCR₂-GFP₂-CIRBP reporters into HeLa Kyoto were performed using either Lipofectamine 2000 or Turbofect (Thermo Fisher Sc.) and cells fixed for analysis on the following day. As control for free diffusion of the reporter protein (100kDa), a construct with a stop codon downstream of the GCR₂-GFP₂- fusion was used (GCR₂-GFP₂-stop-M9).

For analysis of cellular localization of GST-GFP-CIRBP in HeLa Kyoto cells upon siRNA treatment, HeLa Kyoto cells were transfected using 20 nM non-targeting control siRNA (siNTC, Invitrogen) or siTNPO3 (Qiagen; #si00100513 AND si00100534; target sequence: ACCGAATGTCTTAGTGA ACTA and CAAGTGGTCATGGGTATCTTA, respectively) or 5 nM of siTNPO1 (Ambion Silencer® Select, siRNA ID #s7933 (sense: GCCGUUGCAUCAUGGAUUAtt; antisense: UAAUCCAUGAUGCAACGGCcat) and #s7932 (sense: GGAACAACUUAUCAGUAUtt; antisense: AUACUGAUUAAGUUGUUCcag)) using RNAiMaxx (Invitrogen).

Cells were transferred onto 12 mm high precision coverslips (No. 1.5) at day 1 after siRNA transfection. Reporter constructs were transfected at day 2 after siRNA transfection and cells analyzed the following day. Efficiency of KD was analyzed by western blotting using antibodies specific for TNPO1 (Sigma; clone D45; #T 0825) and TNPO3 (abcam; clone 3152C2a, #ab54353). Blotting against GAPDH (clone 4H11, gift from E. Kremmer) served as loading control.

For localization assays in HeLa S3 cells, cells were transfected at 50 % confluency in DMEM (without FCS and antibiotics) with 1.5 μg/ml plasmid of GST-GFP-CIRBP and 100 nM of control (5'-UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGU-3') or PRMT1 (5'-CGUCAAAACCAACAAGUUAAdTdT-3') siRNA (Microsynth) with 2,5 μg/ml TransFast™ transfection reagent (Promega). 40 μM adenosine dialdehyde (ADOX, Sigma Aldrich) was added 2 h post transfection. After 24h, the medium was replaced with DMEM with or without 40μM ADOX containing 10% FCS and penicillin and streptomycin and kept for further 24 h prior to experiments.

Microscopy

Widefield microscopy

For localization analysis of GST-GFP-CIRBP in live HeLa S3 cells, cells were incubated with 5 μg/ml bisBenzimide H 33342 trihydrochloride (14533, Sigma) in loading buffer containing 135mM NaCl, 5mM KCl, 2mM CaCl₂, 1mM MgCl₂, 10mM Hepes, 2.6mM NaHCO₃, 440 mM KH₂PO₄, 340 mM Na₂HPO₄, 10mM D-glucose, 0.1% vitamins, 0.2% essential amino acids, and 1% penicillin–streptomycin, pH adjusted to 7.4 for 20 min and washed twice afterwards with loading buffer before imaging. Cells were imaged in imaging buffer containing CaCl₂, 140 NaCl, 5 KCl, 1 MgCl₂, 1 HEPES and 10 D-Glucose, pH adjusted to 7.4 (all buffer salts were obtained from Roth, Graz, Austria) with a CFI Super Fluor 40X Oil 1.30 NA objective mounted on a Nikon Eclipse Ti system with standard Nikon wide field filter sets and equipped with two Andor iXon3® EMCCD camera mounted to a Two Camera Imaging Adapter (Nikon Austria, Vienna, Austria). A Polychrome V monochromator (Till

Photonics) was used for illumination. Hoechst 33342 was illuminated at 380 nm and the GST-GFP-CIRBP with 488 nm wavelength.

Confocal microscopy

Confocal microscopy was performed at the Bioimaging core facility of the Biomedical Center with an inverted Leica SP8 microscope, equipped with lasers for 405, 488, 552 and 638 nm excitation. Images were acquired using two-fold frame averaging with a 63x1.4 oil objective, and an image pixel size of 59 nm. The following fluorescence settings were used for detection: DAPI: 419-442 nm, GFP: 498-533 nm. Recording was performed sequentially to avoid bleed-through using a conventional photomultiplier tube.

Live Cell Imaging of CIRBP Import

To illustrate the import of full length CIRBP by live cell imaging, HeLa Kyoto cells were grown in a 4-well live cell imaging dish (ibidi) and transiently transfected with GCR₂-GFP₂-stop-M9 or -CIRP fl.. Live cell imaging was performed on the following day at 36.5°C/5% CO₂ in a culture medium lacking phenol red (Fluorobrite; Thermo Fisher Sc.) on an inverted microscope (Axio Observer.Z1; Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) equipped with a confocal spinning disk unit (CSU-X1; Yokogawa, Tokyo, Japan) and a Zeiss 63x/1.4 Oil oil immersion lens. Import of the GCR₂-GFP₂-reporter was induced by addition of dexamethasone (final 5µM) to the medium directly after the acquisition of the first frame. Images were acquired using the 488 nm SD laser line in intervals of 2.5 min and an EM-CCD camera (EvolveDelta; Photometrics) at bin 1x1.

***In vitro* methylation assay**

NMR analysis of *in vitro* PRMT1-methylated CIRBP using ¹H-¹⁵N-¹³C (H)CC(CO)NH experiment. Methylated arginines show a carbon delta (Cδ) resonance shifted by about 2 ppm compared to unmethylated arginines. This allowed us to cluster arginines in CIRBP depending on their degree of methylation in 4 groups: (a) unmethylated arginines (R75, 78, 89, 127 and 131), (b) mainly unmethylated arginines (R91 and 121), (c) mainly methylated arginines (R94) (d) methylated arginines (R101 and 105) (Figure S5A). Given overlapping NMR signals on the ¹H, ¹⁵N, ¹³C (H)CC(CO)NH corresponding to the R108, 110, 112 and 116 we cannot access residue-specific methylation status for these arginines, nevertheless the corresponding NMR signal match with mainly methylated arginines.

SI Figure legends

Fig. S1.

(A) Cellular redistribution of a reporter lacking a NLS (GCR₂-GFP₂-stop-M9) over time upon addition of dexamethasone visualized by live cell imaging in HeLa Kyoto cells. Bar, 20 µm. (B) Quantification related to figure 1D of the subcellular localization of the individual reporter proteins (N>C, N=C and N<C). Values represent mean of 5 independent experiments ±SEM for CIRBP constructs, and 2 independent experiments for the stop-construct (control for free diffusion), *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05 by 2-way ANOVA+Bonferroni multiple comparison test; only significant comparisons are shown. (C) Western Blot demonstrating the knockdown (KD) efficiency by siRNA treatment using specific antibodies for TNPO1 and TNPO3, respectively. GAPDH serves as loading control. Note that lysate derived from siNTC transfected cells was titrated (100%, 25%) to allow for a better estimation of KD efficiency. (D) Quantification related to figure 1E of the subcellular localization of the individual reporter proteins (N>C, N=C and N<C). Values represent mean of 3 independent experiments ±SEM, *** p<0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05 by 2-way ANOVA+Bonferroni multiple comparison test.

Fig. S2.

(A) PONDR score of CIRBP^{FL} using the VSL2 predictor (<http://www.pondr.com>) (B) Association of MBP-CIRBP-EGFP with SGs in semi-permeabilized cells is suppressed by TNPO1 or TNPO3 in a concentration dependent manner. Bar, 10 μm . (C) Quantification of the mean fluorescence intensity of MBP-CIRBP-EGFP in SGs in the absence of presence of increasing concentrations of either TNPO1 or TNPO3 for four or two (2 μM TNPO3) independent replicates with ≥ 28 SGs \pm SEM. ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$ by 1-way ANOVA Dunett's multiple comparison test (D) Turbidity assay to quantify phase separation of different CIRBP constructs with increasing CIRBP concentration (E) DIC microscopy images of different CIRBP constructs using CIRBP at 30 μM and/or in presence of 10 μM RNA and/or 30 μM TNPO1 or -3. Scale bar, 10 μm . (F, G) Turbidity assay to quantify phase separation of CIRBP^{RGG} with fixed CIRBP concentration (30 μM) and increasing RNA concentration in (F), with fixed CIRBP and RNA concentration (30 μM and 10 μM , respectively) and increasing TNPO1 or TNPO3 concentration in (G) (black and red lines, respectively). Values represent means \pm SEM (n=3). (H) Overlay of ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC NMR spectra of 30 μM ¹⁵N-labeled CIRBP^{RGG} (bleu), in presence of 10 μM RNA (red), and with increasing amount of TNPO1 (orange, left panel), or TNPO3 (yellow, right panel). The reference ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC NMR spectra of ¹⁵N-labeled CIRBP^{RGG} with TNPO1 or 3 (green, right panel and cyan, left panel, respectively) are also shown.

Fig. S3.

(A) *Left panel:* Titration of 100 μM CIRBP^{FL} into 10 μM of TNPO1. The resulting Kd yielded 741 ± 106 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Right panel:* Titration of 100 μM CIRBP-FL into 10 μM of TNPO3. The resulting Kd yielded 289 ± 36 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. (B) *Left panel:* Titration of 100 μM CIRBP^{RGG} into 10 μM of TNPO1. The resulting Kd yielded 75 ± 13 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Right panel:* Titration of 300 μM CIRBP^{RSY} into 30 μM of TNPO1. The resulting Kd yielded 7800 ± 545 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. (C) *Left panel:* Titration of 100 μM CIRBP^{RGG} into 10 μM of TNPO3. The resulting Kd yielded 589 ± 70 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Right panel:* Titration of 100 μM CIRBP^{RSY} into 10 μM of TNPO3. The resulting Kd yielded 114 ± 5 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. (D) ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled CIRBP^{RRM} at 50 μM without (cyan) or with addition of 1 equivalent of TNPO1 (bleu, left panel) or TNPO3 (black, right panel). (E) ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled mutant CIRBP^{RSA} at 50 μM without (red) or with addition of 1 equivalent of TNPO1 (bleu, left panel) or TNPO3 (black, right panel). (F) ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled mutant CIRBP^{ASY} at 50 μM without (red) or with addition of 1 equivalent of TNPO1 (bleu, left panel) or TNPO3 (black, right panel). (G) ¹H projection of the ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled CIRBP^{RGG} at 50 μM , unbound (black, dotted line), bound to 1 equivalent of TNPO1 or -3 (light grey, left and right panel respectively), plus 1 or 2 equivalent of Ran-GTP (grey and dark grey, respectively). (H) ¹H projection of the ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled CIRBP^{RSY} at 50 μM , unbound (black, dotted line), bound to 1 equivalent of TNPO1 or -3 (light grey, left and right panel respectively), plus 1 or 2 equivalent of Ran-GTP (grey and dark grey, respectively). (I) ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled FUS^{PY} at 50 μM without (black) or with addition of 1 equivalent of TNPO3 (magenta, left panel)

Fig. S4.

(A) *Left panel:* Titration of 100 μM CIRBP^{RGG} into a solution containing 10 μM of TNPO1 pre-equilibrated with 50 μM of FUS^{PY}. The resulting Kd yielded 391 ± 77 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Middle panel:* Titration of 100 μM FUS^{PY} into a solution containing 7.5 μM of TNPO1 pre-equilibrated with 50 μM of CIRBP^{RGG}. The resulting Kd yielded 413 ± 41 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Right panel:* Titration of 100 μM FUS^{PY} into 10 μM of TNPO1. The resulting Kd yielded 48 ± 6 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. (B) ¹H-¹⁵N HSQC spectrum of ¹⁵N-labeled TNPO1^{loop} at 50 μM without (blue) or with addition of either 1 equivalent of FUS^{PY} (magenta, left panel) or CIRBP-RSY (red, right panel). (C) Titration curve corresponding to experiment in (Fig. 4C) with increasing amount of CIRBP^{RGG}. The ¹H-¹⁵N combined chemical shift perturbations (CSP) is plotted as a function of the CIRBP^{RGG}

concentration. Dissociation constants (K_d) were obtained by nonlinear regression based on a single binding site model. (D) *Left panel*: Titration of 100 μ M CIRBP^{RGG} into 10 μ M of TNPO1 ^{Δ loop}. The resulting K_d yielded 364 ± 15 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Middle panel*: Titration of 380 μ M CIRBP^{RSY} into 30 μ M of TNPO1 ^{Δ loop}. The resulting K_d yielded 8075 ± 566 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Right panel*: Titration of 100 μ M FUS^{PY} into 10 μ M of TNPO1 ^{Δ loop}. The resulting K_d yielded 62 ± 4 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit.

Fig. S5.

(A) *upper panel*: Schematic representation of the RG/RGG region of CIRBP. The PRMT1-mediated methylated arginine derived from NMR analysis are colored in red. *Downer panel*: ^1H - ^{15}N - ^{13}C (H)CC(CO)NH spectrum of PRMT1-mediated methylated CIRBP^{RGG}. The region corresponding to the C δ of arginines is zoomed. (B) *Left panel*: Titration of 100 μ M PRMT1-mediated methylated-CIRBP^{RGG} (meCIRBP^{RGG}) into 10 μ M of TNPO1. No detectable binding. *Right panel*: Titration of 100 μ M PRMT1-mediated methylated-CIRBP full-length (meCIRBP) into 10 μ M of TNPO1. No detectable binding. (C) *Left panel*: Titration of 130 μ M PRMT1-mediated methylated-CIRBP^{RGG} (meCIRBP^{RGG}) into 10 μ M of TNPO3. The resulting K_d yielded 3300 ± 320 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. *Right panel*: Titration of 80 μ M PRMT1-mediated methylated-CIRBP full-length (meCIRBP) into 10 μ M of TNPO3. The resulting K_d yielded 1002 ± 100 nM. The reported errors correspond to the SD of the fit. (D) Reduced interaction of TNPO1 and TNPO3 from HeLa cell lysate with methylated CIRBP. Unmethylated (unme) and methylated (me) His6-ZZ-CIRBP was immobilized on Ni-NTA beads and incubated with total HeLa cell lysate. Empty beads were included as control for background binding. TNPO1 and TNPO3 bound to unmethylated and methylated His6-ZZ-CIRBP were detected by Western Blot using specific antibodies. Equal immobilization of unmethylated and methylated His6-ZZ-CIRBP is demonstrated with a His6-specific antibody. The normalized intensity (unme set to 100%) of TNPO1 (left) and TNPO3 (right) binding to CIRBP is shown on the right. Values represent means \pm SEM (n=3), **p<0.01 by unpaired, two-tailed t-test.

Fig. S6.

(A) BLASTp analysis of the RSY region of CIRBP against the non-redundant protein sequences database filtered for human proteins (taxid:9606). The obtained protein sequences (*upper panel*) and their architectural organization are shown (*downer panel*).

Movie S1 (separate file).

Movie illustrating time dependent nuclear localization of a reporter lacking a NLS (stop-M9) due to passive diffusion corresponding to montages in figure S1A. Bar, 20 μ m.

Movie S2 (separate file).

Movie illustrating time dependent nuclear import of CIRBP-FL corresponding to montages in figure 1B. Bar, 20 μ m.

Dataset S1 (separate file).

List of proteins corresponding to the PROSITE analysis (<https://prosite.expasy.org/scanprosite/>) of two motifs against the non-redundant protein sequences database filtered for human proteins (taxid:9606) harboring either (i) a di-RG motif each spaced by 0 to 5 amino-acids (R-G-x(0-5)-R-G) (ii) a PY motif preceded by a basic amino-acid spaced by 0 to 9 residues ([RKH]-x(0,9)-P-Y) (iii) both motifs

Dataset S2 (separate file).

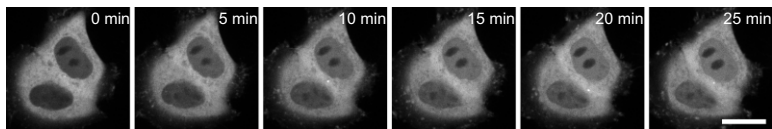
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(taxid:9606) harboring both a di-RG motif each spaced by 0 to 5 amino-acids (R-G-x(0-5)-R-G) and a tri-RS or SR motif.

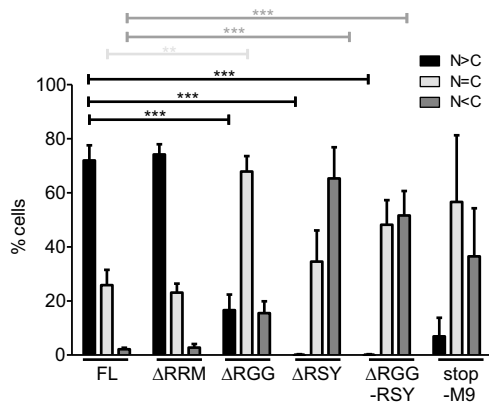
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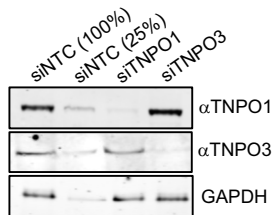
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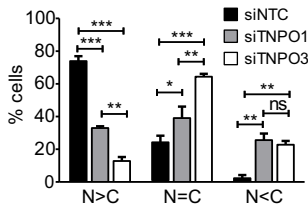
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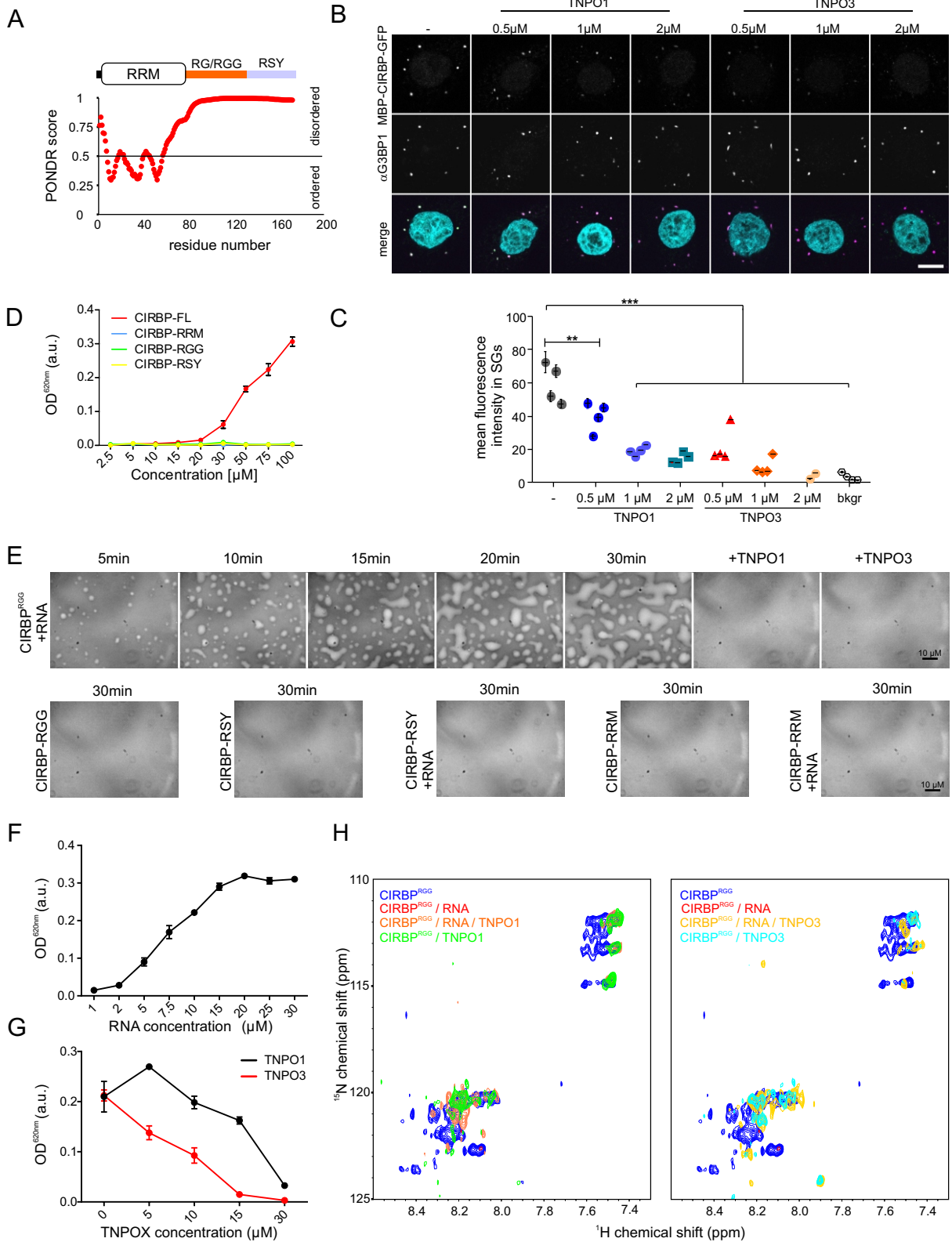


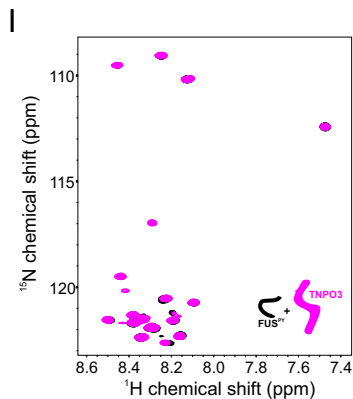
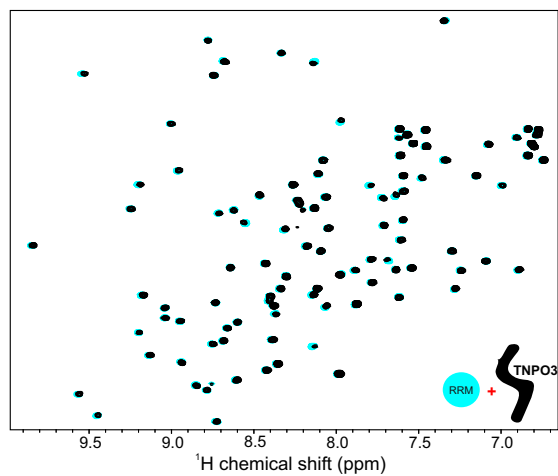
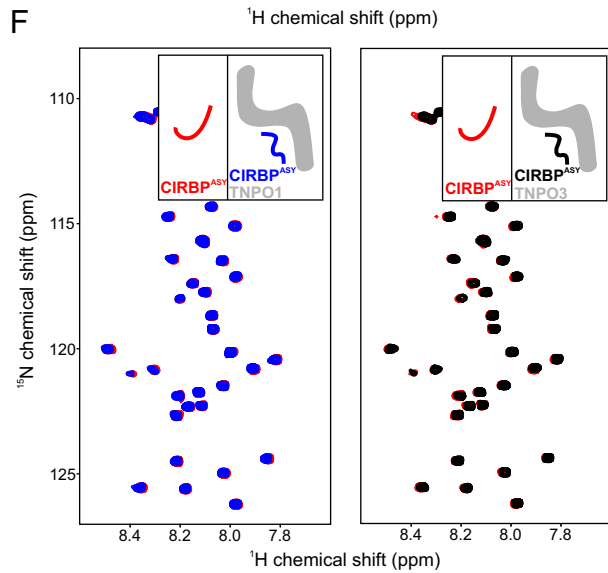
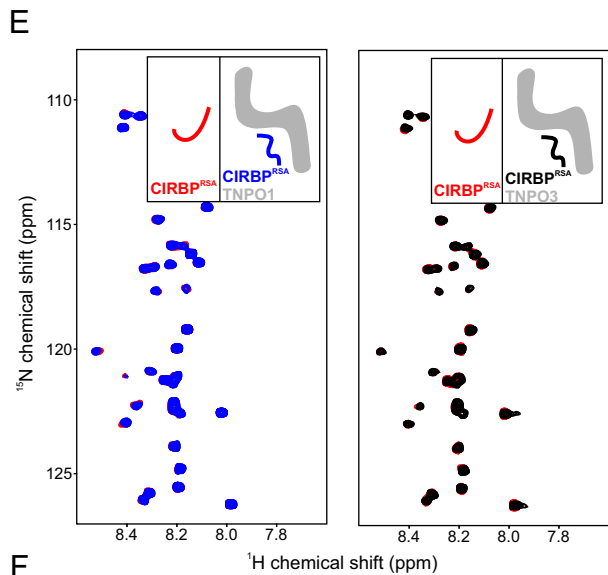
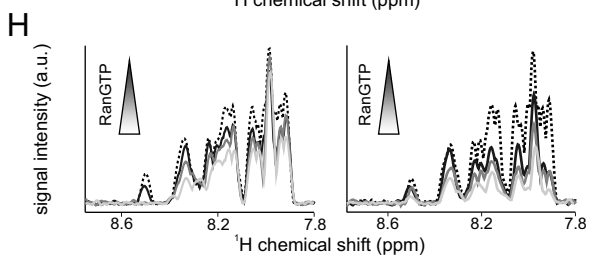
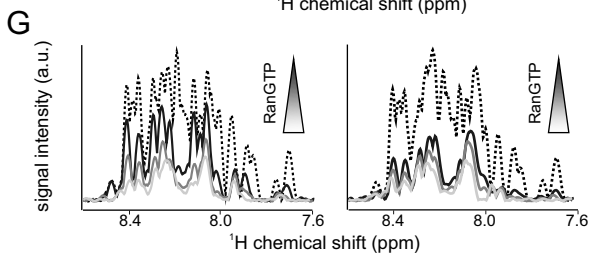
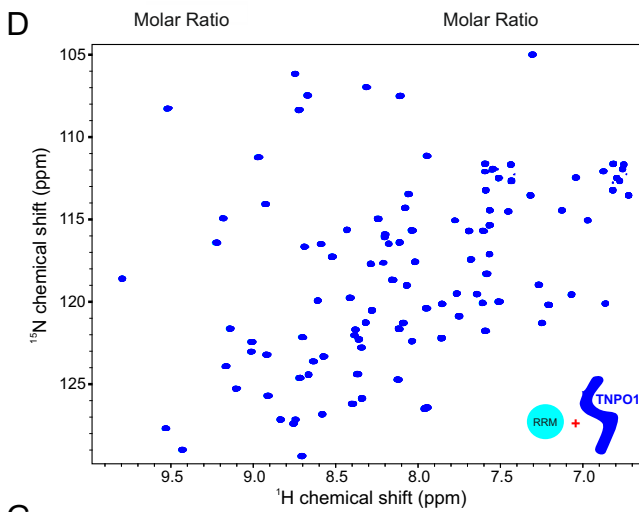
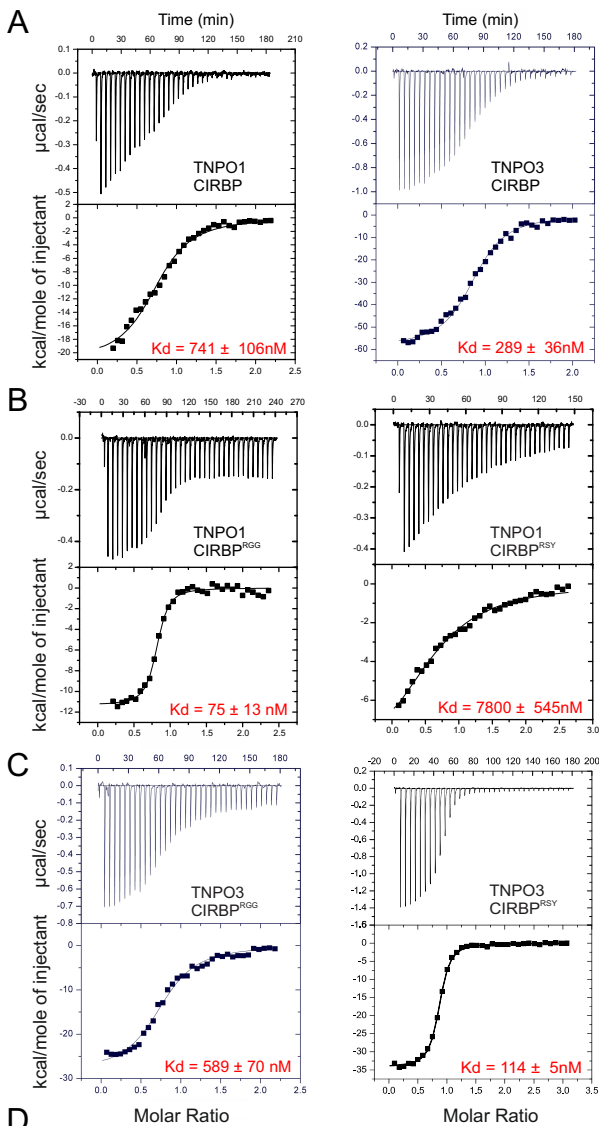
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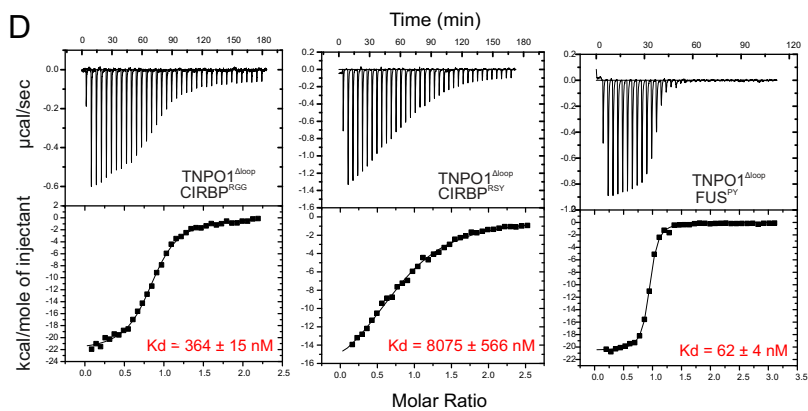
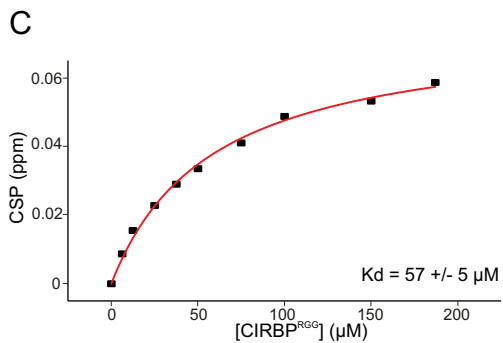
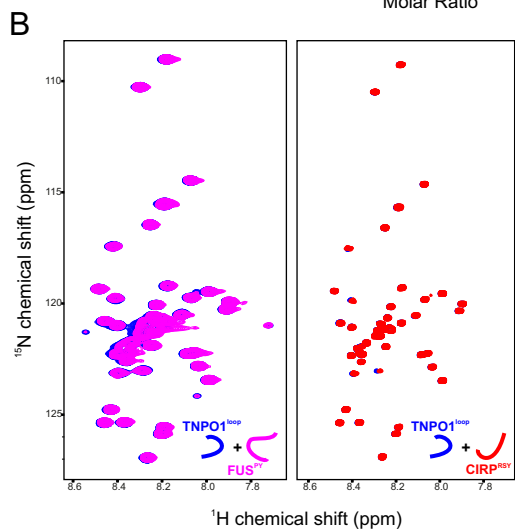
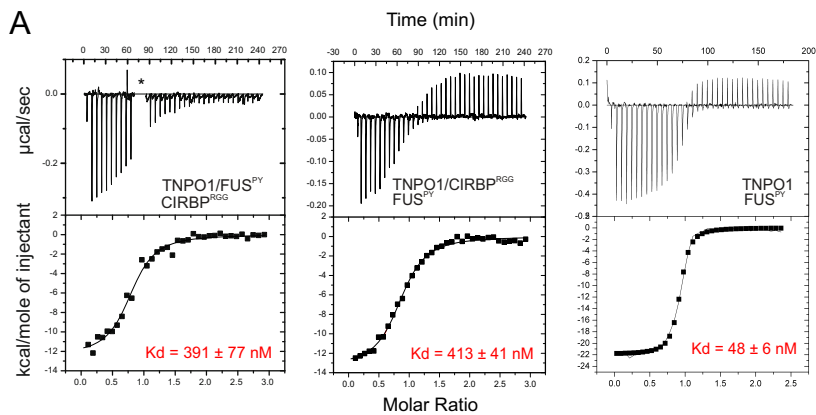


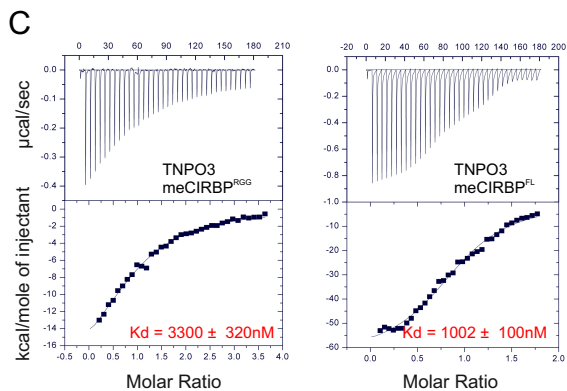
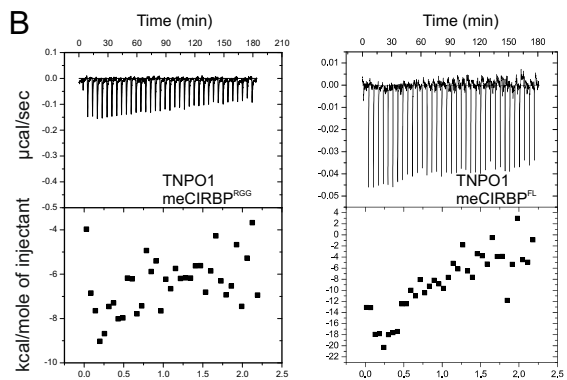
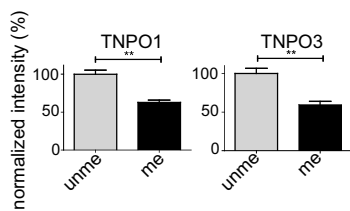
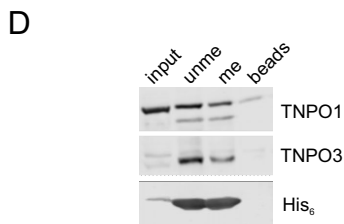
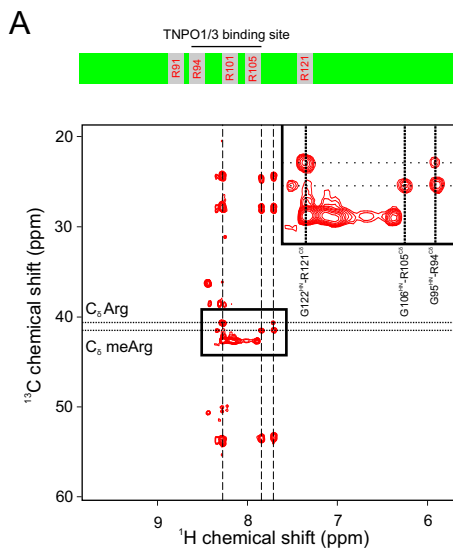
D











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