### **Supplementary Information for:**

# **Structural and mechanistic analysis of a tripartite ATP-independent periplasmic TRAP transporter**

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**Supplementary Fig. 1 | Quality of proteins used in this study.** A size-exclusion chromatography profile is shown for each protein. The buffers and SEC columns are given next to the chromatograms. The fractions highlighted in blue were analysed by SDS-PAGE, as shown on the right side of the corresponding SEC profile. The panels show representative examples of  $n \geq 3$  experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



**Supplementary Fig. 2 | Cryo-EM sample preparation and raw micrograph of the HiSiaQM/Mb3 complex in MSP1D1-H5 nanodiscs. a,** Normalized SEC elution profile of the HiSiaQM-MSP1D1-H5 reconstitution mixture. **b,** Normalized SEC elution profile of the HiSiaQM-MSP1D1-H5 reconstitution mixture after Ni-NTA affinity chromatography pulldown via immobilized Mb3. **c,** The picture was recorded with a ThermoFisher Glacios microscope equipped with a K2 camera at 200 kV. The white arrow marks a representative nanodisc in top-view with Mb3 visible as a dark spot. The micrograph is a representative example of the n=5004 micrographs recorded of the sample.



**Supplementary Fig. 3 | Cryo-EM processing workflow. a,** Workflow for the 3D reconstruction of HiSiaQM in lipid nanodiscs with Mb3 bound to the periplasmic side. Dashed blue and red boxes indicate which parts of the process were performed in cryoSPARC<sup>1</sup> or RELION<sup>2</sup>. **b**, Distribution of viewing angles and Gold-standard FSC curves for the final refinement step. **c,** Local resolution estimates calculated in cryoSPARC (0.143 cutoff).



**Supplementary Fig. 4 | Fit of TM helices of HiSiaQM to the 3D reconstruction.** The transmembrane helices (number is given at the bottom of each helix, compare Figure 1) are shown as ball-and-stick models. The color code is defined in Figure 1. The blue mesh is the 3D reconstruction at a sigma level of 6.0. Selected residues are indicated.



**Supplementary Fig. 5 | Fit of the HiSiaQM model to the 3D reconstruction.** The HiSiaQM model is shown in ball-and-stick representation. The color code is defined in Figure 1. The blue mesh is the 3D reconstruction at a sigma level of 6.0. Selected residues are indicated. **a)** Detail of the QM interface. **b)** Detail of the QM interface. **c)** Detail of the stator/elevator/VHHQM3 interface. **d)** Core region of VHHQM3. **e, f)** Detail of the stator/elevator/VHHQM3 interface. **g)** Detail of the stator/elevator interface. **h**) Detail of VHH<sub>QM</sub>3. **i**) Detail of the QM interface.



**Supplementary Fig. 6 | AlphaFold models that were used in this study.** The pLDDT confidence score is indicated by a color gradient.



**Supplementary Fig. 7 | Comparison of the predicted structure of YiaMN to the experimental HiSiaQM structure.** The YiaMN model (magenta) is from Ovchinnikov et al.  $3$ . The HiSiaQM model was determined in this study with the color code as defined in Figure 1.



**Supplementary Fig. 8 | Alignment of the in lipid experimental HiSiaQM structure to the AlphaFold model.** The experimental structure is shown with the same color code as defined in Figure 1. The Alphafold $\frac{4}{3}$  model is colored magenta.



**Supplementary Fig. 9 | SPR data on HiSiaQM specific VHHs. a,** single cycle kinetics of the different VHHs**.** The green and magenta boxes group experiments with two different positions of the biotin label that was used for immobilization. **b,** HiSiaQM/VHH interaction was analyzed in a competitive binding experiment in which the TRAP transporter (HiSiaQM K273C-biotin), immobilized on an SPR chip, was saturated with a first VHH and the binding behavior of a second VHH was observed. The primary VHH is indicated next to the chromatogram and the secondary VHH is given by the color code. Bottom: Matrix summarizing the epitope binding results. **c**, Amino acid sequences of the VHH<sub>OMS</sub> used in this study. **d**, Constructs used to test the effect of different VHHs on Neu5Ac uptake by HiSiaPQM. The position of the pelB signal sequence and the signal peptidase cleavage site, as well as the location of the His tags are marked. **e**, Western blot (anti His) showing the expression levels of VHH<sub>OM</sub>2,5,8 (weak or no inhibition of uptake) relative to VHH<sub>OM</sub>7 (strong inhibition of uptake). Note that the SPR data represent a single set of experiments. The blot was independently repeated twice. **f**, The VHH samples from e) with one fourth of the amount of sample loaded to allow identification of single bands. **g,** Ponceau S stain of the blot in f) as loading control. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



**Supplementary Fig. 10 | Characterization of HiSiaP/VHH<sub>P</sub>1 binding via ITC.** Isothermal titration calorimetry experiment between HiSiaP and the HiSiaP-VHH (left) and binding curve (middle). The thermodynamic parameters from the experiment are shown on the right and are derived from n=3 independent experiments. Source data are provided as source data file.



**Supplementary Fig. 11 | Comparison of models for the tripartite complex.** Four different models of the tripartite complex aligned onto each other. The colors are indicated below, next to the organization of the corresponding genes. If domains were fused for modelling, the linkers are specified next to genes. Confidence scores for the different AlphaFold models are shown in Supplementary Fig. 6.



**Supplementary Fig. 12 | Alignment of the TRAP transporter HiSiaPQM with VcINDY.**  Alignment of the tripartite HiSiaPQM AlphaFold model (colored as in Figure 1) from Figure 4 to VcINDY (white, 5UL9 [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb5UL9/pdb]). The HiSiaP SBP is shown in red.



**Supplementary Fig. 13 | Orientation of dimeric SBPs in the model of the tripartite complex.** One monomer of the two different dimeric SBPs, TakP (green-blue; 2HZL) [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb2HZL/pdb]) and TM0322 (yellow-wheat; 2ZZV [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb2ZZV/pdb]), was aligned on the HiSiaP SBP (red) in the tripartite complex as predicted by AlphaFold (Figure 4).



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P-QM interface - C-lobe



**Supplementary Fig. 14 | Close-up views of mutants from Figure 5.** All residues that were analyzed in the complementation assay (Figure 5) in the main text are shown in detail in the AlphaFold model of the tripartite complex.



**Supplementary Fig. 15 | Sequence conservation of sialic acid TRAP transporters.**  Positions in HiSiaQM that were mutated and analyzed in the complementation assay in Figure 5 are marked with green triangles with the HiSiaQM numbering indicated. Sequences (see below) were taken from Chowdhury et al. <sup>5</sup> and Vetting et al. <sup>6</sup>, with just using those with known ligands. Here, just sialic acid bound TRAP transporters are shown, the conservation of TRAP transporters which do not transport sialic acid is shown in Supplementary Fig. 16. The QM sequences were split into Q and M for the alignment using HiSiaQM as a guide. The sequences were aligned using ClustalO<sup>7</sup> in Jalview<sup>8</sup> with default settings and sequence logo motifs generated using WebLogo<sup>9</sup>. The underlying sequences are specified in Supplementary Table 5.



 $N = \frac{1}{200}$   $N = \frac{1}{200}$ 

**(Figure is continued on the next page)**



**Supplementary Fig. 16 | Sequence conservation of TRAP transporters.** Positions in HiSiaQM that were mutated and analyzed in the complementation assay in Figure 5 are marked by green triangles with the HiSiaQM numbering. As for Figure S15, sequences (see below) were taken from Chowdhury et al.  $<sup>5</sup>$  and Vetting et al.  $<sup>6</sup>$ , with just using those with known</sup></sup> ligands. In contrast to Supplementary Fig. 15, this alignment shows TRAP transporters which do not transport sialic acid. The QM sequences were split into Q and M for alignment using HiSiaQM as a guide. The sequences were aligned using ClustalO  $^7$  in Jalview  $^8$  with default settings and sequence logo motifs generated using WebLogo<sup>10</sup>. The underlying sequences are specified in Supplementary Table 6.



**Supplementary Fig. 17 | Gelfiltration and isothermal titration calorimetry analysis of P domain mutants.** The binding parameters were determined from  $n=3$  independent experiments. Source data are provided as source data file.



**Supplementary Fig. 18 | Expression and gelfiltration analysis of QM-domain mutants.** The mutants were expressed and purified once.



**Supplementary Fig. 19 | a-m, Maximum intensity projections (upper row) and raw traces (bottom row) of the measurements shown in Figure 6.** All experiments were independently performed three or more times (n  $\geq$ 3). The scale bars equal 3 µm.



## **Supplementary Table 1 | Cryo-EM data collection and processing**

**Supplementary Table 2 | SPR binding parameters of VHHs and megabody on K273Cbiotin (top) and E235C-biotin (bottom).** 





## **Supplementary Table 3 | Raw data for Fig. 6q.**



## **Supplementary Table 4 | Sequences of used primers.**





#### **Supplementary Table 5 | Sequences used for the conservation plot in Supplementary Fig. 15**



#### **Supplementary Table 6 | Sequences used for the conservation plot in Supplementary Fig. 16**







#### **Supplementary References**

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