

Supporting Information

Lorieau et al. 10.1073/pnas.1213801109

SI Materials and Methods.

NMR Sample Preparation. Serotype H1 HAfp23 and HAfp23-G8A fusion peptides, with the sequence GLFGAIA[G/A]FI EGGWTGMIDG WYSGKKKKD, and the HAfp14 peptide, with the sequence of GLFGAIAAGFIEGGWKKKKD, were expressed with a high-solubility tag (1) (underlined sequence) and purified as previously described (2). NMR samples with ^{15}N ; ^{13}C , ^{15}N ; and ^2H , ^{13}C , ^{15}N isotopic labeling scheme were prepared to final concentrations of 0.3–0.6 mM peptide in 130–150 mM perdeuterated dodecylphosphocholine (DPC; Anatrace), 93% $\text{H}_2\text{O}/7\%$ (vol/vol) D_2O or 99.9% D_2O [for measurement of 2D nuclear Overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) spectra] and 25 mM ^2H -Tris at pH 7.3 ± 0.1 (Cambridge Isotopes), and a final volume of 280 μL . For the pH 4 wild-type sample, the sample pH was adjusted using 50 mM ^2H -citric acid.

For extracting the populations of closed and open states from chemical shifts, a scaled chemical shift, δ^* , was used to account for the differences in range between different nuclei. Scaling factors of 1.00, 0.181, and 0.315 for ^1H , ^{15}N , and ^{13}C nuclei were used, which are proportional to the inverse of the widths of their distributions in the protein chemical shift database.

Residual dipolar coupling (RDC) measurements were conducted using stretched acrylamide gel (SAG) as previously described (2–4) using 2-(acrylamido)-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid doped acrylamide, and a cast diameter of 5.4 mm that was stretched axially to a final diameter of 4.2 mm.

Lipid-Mixing Fusion Assay. The lipid-mixing assay was conducted as previously described in the supporting information of ref. 5, with the following changes: the total lipid concentration used in the assay was 3 mM and the final protein concentration was 7 μM .

NMR Data Collection and Analysis. All experiments were conducted at 32 °C unless noted otherwise. Assignments of chemical shifts were made using Rance–Kay-detected ^{15}N -heteronuclear single-quantum coherence (HSQC), HNCO, HNCA, and constant-time ^{13}C -HSQC spectra, as well as 3D HNH-NOESY-HMQC and 2D NOESY experiments. The HNH-NOESY-HMQC experiments (100-ms NOE mixing time) were conducted at 600 MHz, and the ^1H - ^1H 2D NOESY experiments (70-ms NOE mixing time) were carried out at 900 MHz on ^{15}N -labeled peptide in 99.8% $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ using a 10-Hz HDO presaturating radiofrequency field between transients.

NOE intensity to distance conversion was calibrated using fixed-geometry backbone and side-chain interproton pairs from the 12 N-terminal residues, which form a well-defined ideal α -helix based on ^1H - ^{15}N and $^1\text{H}^\alpha$ - $^{13}\text{C}^\alpha$ RDCs and secondary chemical shifts. NOEs involving only AX/AX₂ spin systems were grouped separately from NOEs with AX₃ spin systems. To account for the effect of spin diffusion, best-fit distance exponent values were derived (6), with values that ranged between –2.8 and –4.2 for the NOESY and NOESY-HMQC spectra.

The $^1\text{D}_{\text{NH}}$ and $^1\text{D}_{\text{C}^\alpha\text{H}^\alpha}$ RDCs in SAG-aligned samples were measured with 2D ^1H - ^{15}N IPAP-HSQC (7) and 3D $^1\text{H}^\alpha$ -coupled HNCOCAs spectra, respectively. An open-only HAfp23-G8A RDC dataset was generated by subtracting the contribution from the 15% closed helical hairpin conformation using the RDCs of the HAfp23 structure (2). This direct subtraction is possible because the HAfp23 and HAfp23-G8A RDCs were collected under the same sample and alignment conditions, the timescale of motion is much slower than the overall rotational correlation time, and the $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ residual quadrupole coupling was 2.5 ± 0.1 Hz

for both HAfp23 and HAfp23-G8A datasets. These two sets of RDCs, for HAfp23 and the open-only dataset, were used as input to the structure calculations (see below).

The backbone ^{15}N R_1 , R_2 , and $\{^1\text{H}\}$ - ^{15}N NOE relaxation rates were measured on a ^{13}C , ^{15}N -labeled peptide at 600 MHz and 900 MHz using a Rance–Kay detection scheme, as previously described (8, 9). A reduced spectral density analysis of the J(0) term (10), as determined from the 600-MHz data, is presented in Fig. S2.

The $T_{1\rho}(^1\text{H})$ -unlike relaxation dispersion experiments (11) were conducted at 12 °C, and the relaxation dispersion curves were fit against Eq. 1, including an R_1 term for small ^1H offsets and using a common value of τ_{ex} for all residues.

Hydrogen exchange rates were measured using a WEX-III pulse sequence with a transverse relaxation-optimized spectroscopy detection (12) scheme, and exchange delay periods of 50, 200, 400, 800, 1,100, and 1,400 ms. Hydrogen exchange rates were obtained from K_{obs} rates (12) at pH 7.14 and 7.96 at 37 °C. The protection factors were derived relative to the intrinsic exchange rates calculated by the program SPHERE (13).

Structure Calculations. Structure calculations were performed with XPLOR-NIH version 2.31 using the variable-step internal variable module (IVM) algorithm (14–16). The helical hairpin structure (PDB ID code 2KXA) was used as the starting point for all structure calculations with Gly8 replaced by Ala. Structure calculations were conducted with a three-member ensemble. The initial temperature of 800 K was used, and the simulation was cooled down linearly to 30 K in 10-K temperature steps. Experimental restraints included Talos+ dihedral angles from chemical shifts (17), ^1H - ^1H NOE distance restraints as well as ^1H - ^{15}N and $^1\text{H}^\alpha$ - $^{13}\text{C}^\alpha$ RDCs. The nonexperimental energy terms were applied equally to all three conformers, and a quartic repulsive nonbonded potential was used with the atomic radii scaled from the van der Waals values multiplicatively, from 0.90 to 0.81.

The contribution of each conformer to the NOE and RDC observables must be factored into the refinement. Although the population of the closed conformer and the total population of the two open conformers together are known, the relative population of one open conformer to the other is not. This uncertainty does not impact the RDC term in the refinement because the alignment tensors, D_a , are floating variables during the simulated annealing procedure (18), and are proportional to the population-weighted alignment strength of the corresponding conformers (Table S1). Comparable D_a values were obtained for the two open conformers (Table S1), suggesting populations for the two open conformers that are also comparable. Even though the treatment of NOEs in principle is affected by the assumed relative population of the two open states, due to the r^{-6} dependence of the NOE on internuclear distance, even a fivefold deviation from equal population of the two open conformers would not impact the NOE distance-derived restraints beyond their intrinsic experimental uncertainty. An equal population of the two open conformers was therefore used for refinement.

Amide hydrogen bonds were included using the hydrogen-bonding database (HBDB) potential (19) with a default energy constant and a fixed list of α -helical hydrogen bonds for residues 1–11 and 15–23. Aliphatic hydrogen bonds between Gly1 and Trp21, Ala5 and Met17, Met17 and Ala5, and Phe9 and Gly13 were included for the closed conformer only, using a H—O upper-distance bound of 2.8 Å and a harmonic potential ramped multiplicatively from 0.2 to 20 kcal/Å².

The Talos+ dihedral restraints were applied with a 300 kcal/(mol·rad²) energy constant. NOE restraint force constants were ramped multiplicatively from 0.2 to 20 kcal/Å² using a soft-square potential. NOEs were refined against a population-weighted average of the NOE rate (r^{-6} averaging) for each conformer in the refinement, and a population weighting of 15%, 42.5%, and 42.5% was used for the closed and two open conformations, respectively. No consistent NOE violations greater than 0.35 Å were found. A total of 316 ¹H-¹H NOE restraints were used, including 202 short-range, 92 medium-range, and 22 long-range restraints.

The published wild-type RDCs (2) were used to refine the closed helical hairpin conformer, and the open-only RDC dataset was used to refine the two open conformers together. Refinement against the RDCs was accomplished using a harmonic ¹D_{NH} potential with a force constant ramped multiplicatively from 1.5·10⁻⁵ to 0.045 kcal/Hz² for the closed conformer and from 4.5·10⁻⁵ to 0.1275 kcal/Hz² for each of the two open conformers. Force constants for ¹D_{CoHα} were scaled relative to ¹D_{NH} by a factor of 0.2. All of the alignment tensor's parameters (D_a , rhombicity, and orientation) were allowed to float during refinement (16).

The Q -factor was estimated using the following equation for multiple conformations, which accounts for the powder average

of the dipolar coupling second-moment for multiple conformations when the alignment tensor orientations are not correlated between conformers:

$$Q = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i^{RDC} \left(\left(\sum_j^{states} D_{(i,j),pred} \right) - D_{i,obs} \right)^2}{N_{RDC} \sum_j^{states} \left(D_{a,j}^2 (4 + 3R_j^2) / 5 \right)}} \quad [S1]$$

The $D_{a,j}$, R_j , and $D_{(i,j),pred}$ are determined from a multiconformer singular-value decomposition fit (20), and the fitted $D_{a,j}$ parameter encompasses the strength of the alignment scaled by the population of the j th conformer. Free Q -factors were estimated with a jack-knifing procedure that iteratively discards a single dipolar coupling from a refinement, followed by back-calculating this coupling's value from the refined structures and comparing it to the observed value.

A total of 480 sets of three structures were calculated, and the 33 sets with lowest energy were retained for analysis, with structural statistics reported in Table S1.

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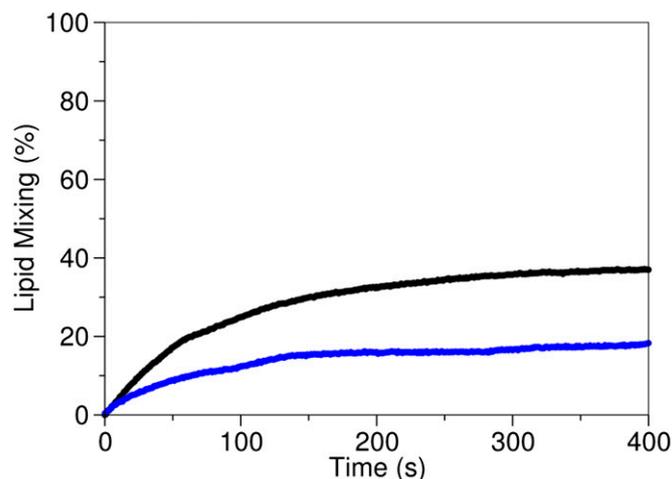


Fig. S1. Lipid-mixing fusion activity of the wild-type HAfp23 (black) and mutant G8A (blue) fusion peptides. The fluorescence scale has been calibrated such that the zero level corresponds to the initial residual fluorescence of the labeled vesicles and the 100% value to complete mixing of all of the lipids in the system (obtained by adding reduced Triton X-100 to a final concentration of 50 mM).

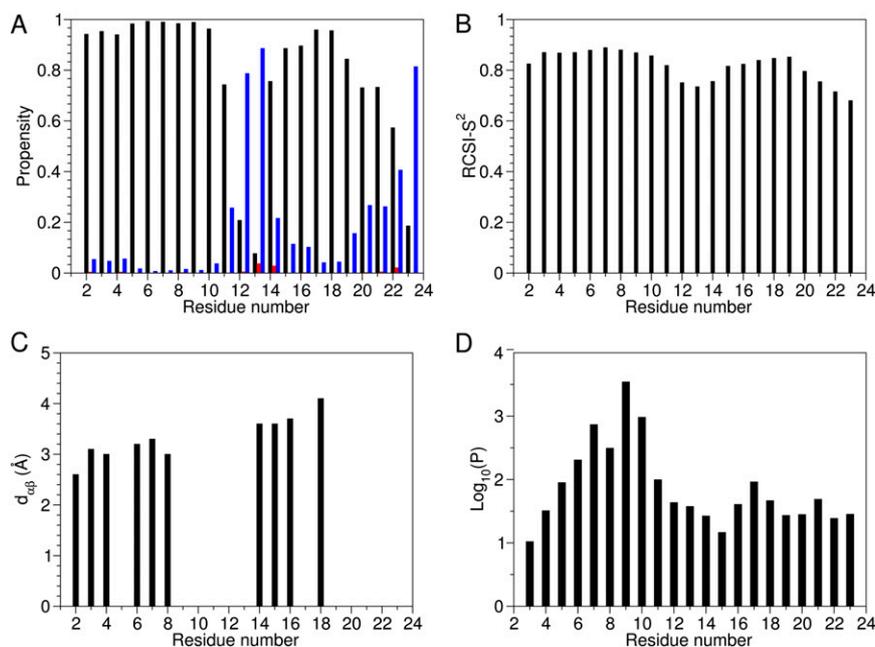


Fig. S2. The HAfp23-G8A peptide has a helical secondary structure from residues 2–11 and 14–22. (A) The TALOS+ secondary structure predictions (1) are shown for α -helical (black), β -sheet (red), and coil (blue). These are calculated based on the $^1\text{H}^N$, $^1\text{H}^\alpha$, $^{13}\text{C}^\alpha$, $^{13}\text{C}^\beta$, and ^{15}N secondary chemical shifts. (B) RCSI- S^2 predictions (2) derived from the secondary chemical shifts. A high RCSI- S^2 (>0.75) represents a well-ordered backbone for residues in the N-terminal (L2–E11) and C-terminal (Trp14–Trp21) helices. (C) The $\alpha(i)$ - $\beta(i+3)$ NOE patterns are consistent with an α -helical structure. Some $\alpha(i)$ - $\beta(i+3)$ NOEs are missing because they either are not observable (Gly1–Gly4, Phe9–Gly12, Met17–Gly20, and Gly20–Gly23 do not have an H^β proton on the $i+3$ th residue), are in a congested region of the spectrum (Ala5–Ala8), or are masked by t_1 noise (Ile18–Trp21). (D) HAfp23-G8A H_2O protection factors for backbone amide protons.

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Table S1. Structural statistics for the 33 lowest-energy three-conformer sets of structures of HAFp23-G8A at pH 7

Simulation property	Value
Population of the closed conformer	15%
Population of the open extended conformer	42.5%
Population of the open L-shaped conformer	42.5%
Q_{work} , closed [†]	9.7%
Q_{work} , open [‡]	3.6%
Q_{freer} , open	11.8%
RDC tensor parameters	
D_a (NH)/R, closed	8.2 Hz/0.09
D_a (NH)/R, open, L-shaped conformer	8.1 Hz/0.62
D_a (NH)/R, open, extended conformer	-12.0 Hz/0.36
Rmsd from experimental restraints (no. of restraints)	
$^1D^{NH}$ (21), closed	0.42 ± 0.06 Hz
$^1D^{CaH\alpha}$ (25), closed [§]	1.9 ± 0.2 Hz
$^1D^{NH}$ (21), open	0.42 ± 0.11 Hz
$^1D^{CaH\alpha}$ (21), open	1.5 ± 0.3 Hz
Dihedral angles (40)	0.29 ± 0.16°
Short-range NOE (202)	0.044 ± 0.005 Å
Medium-range NOE (92)	0.049 ± 0.003 Å
Long-range NOE (22)	0.048 ± 0.001 Å
Deviations from idealized geometry	
Bonds	0.0050 ± 0.0007 Å
Angles	0.363 ± 0.007°
Impropers	0.196 ± 0.01°
Energy, kcal/mol	
Total	-78 ± 6
Bond	9 ± 2
Angle	61 ± 2
Improper	6.3 ± 1.0
van der Waals	30 ± 5
Ramachandran	-189 ± 4
HBDB [¶]	-39 ± 4
Dipolar	35 ± 4
NOE	4.4 ± 4.0
Dihedral	0.62 ± 0.89
Ramachandran statistics	
ϕ/ψ in most favored regions, closed conformer	93.8%
ϕ/ψ in most favored regions, open L-shaped conformer	100%
ϕ/ψ in most favored regions, closed extended conformer	100%
ϕ/ψ in additionally allowed regions, closed conformer	6.2%
ϕ/ψ in additionally allowed regions, open extended conformer	0%
ϕ/ψ in additionally allowed regions, open L-shaped conformer	0%
Atomic rmsd ^{**}	
Backbone heavy atom (residues 3–22), closed conformer	0.16 ± 0.05 Å
Backbone heavy atom (residues 3–22), L-shaped conformer	0.52 ± 0.17 Å
Backbone heavy atom (residues 3–22), extended conformer	0.66 ± 0.29 Å
Structure quality factors ^{††}	
MolProbity Z-score, closed conformer	0.50
MolProbity Z-score, open L-shaped conformer	-0.52
MolProbity Z-score, open extended conformer	0.50

[†]RDC dataset for closed conformer, taken from the wild-type SAG-aligned sample. Q-factor calculated for residues 2–23, not including residue 8. See Lorieau et al. (1).

[‡]RDC dataset for open conformers, generated from the HAFp23-G8A dataset (see text for details.) Q-factor calculated for residues 2–23 using Eq. S1.

[§]Includes stereospecific RDCs $^1H^\alpha$ (pro-S) ^{13}C and $^1H^\alpha$ (pro-R) ^{13}C for Gly1, Gly12, and Gly13.

[¶]HBDB, the empirical hydrogen bond potential for XPLOR-NIH (2).

^{||}Evaluated using PROCHECK (3).

^{**}Rmsd calculated from the average structure for each conformer.

^{††}Evaluated using PSVS (4).

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