Title: A novel redox-active switch in Fructosamine-3-kinases expands the regulatory repertoire of the protein kinase superfamily

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One Sentence Summary: Structural basis for FN3K redox regulation

Abstract (252 words)

Aberrant regulation of metabolic kinases by altered redox homeostasis is a major contributing factor in aging and disease such as diabetes. However, the biochemical mechanisms by which metabolic kinases are regulated under oxidative stress is poorly understood. In this study, we demonstrate that the catalytic activity of a conserved family of Fructosamine-3-kinases (FN3Ks), which are evolutionarily related to eukaryotic protein kinases (ePKs), are regulated by redox active cysteines in the kinase domain. By solving the crystal structure of FN3K homolog from Arabidopsis thaliana (AtFN3K), we demonstrate that it forms an unexpected strandexchange dimer in which the ATP binding P-loop and adjoining beta strands are swapped between two chains in the dimer. This dimeric configuration is characterized by strained inter-chain disulfide bonds that stabilize the P-loop in an extended conformation and tethers the substratebinding lobes in a unique inactive conformation. Mutational analysis and solution studies confirm that the strained disulfides function as redox "switches" to reversibly regulate FN3K activity and dimerization. Consistently, we find that human FN3K, which contains an equivalent P-loop Cys, is also redox sensitive, whereas ancestral bacterial FN3K homologs, which lack a P-loop Cys, are not. Furthermore, CRISPR knockout of FN3K in human HepG2 cells results in significant upregulation of redox metabolites including glutathione. We propose that redox regulation evolved progressively in FN3Ks in response to changing cellular redox conditions. Our studies provide important new insights into the origin and evolution of redox regulation in the protein kinase superfamily and open new avenues for targeting human FN3K in diabetic complications.

Introduction

Glycation is a universal post-translational modification in which reducing sugars such as glucose and fructose are non-enzymatically added to free amine groups on peptides, proteins and lipids. This non-enzymatic modification occurs endogenously in all living organisms, as well as exogenously in foods we consume (1, 2). Sugars attached to amine groups can undergo Amadori rearrangements to form stable linkages with biomolecules (3-5). Because such linkages can adversely affect biomolecular functions, organisms have evolved deglycation mechanisms (6-8) to repair the potential toxic effects of reactive sugars. Fructosamine-3 kinases (FN3Ks) are a conserved family of deglycation enzymes that remove ribose and fructose sugars attached to surface exposed lysine (Lys) residues (ketosamines) in proteins (9-12). They do this by catalyzing the transfer of the gamma phosphate from ATP to the 3' hydroxyl group in the ketosamine substrate. Phosphorylation of ketosamines by FN3Ks results in an unstable ketosamine 3-phosphate intermediate, which spontaneously decomposes into inorganic phosphate (9). Since the original unmodified Lys is regenerated as a consequence of FN3K deglycation activity, FN3Ks are believed to function as protein repair enzymes (6, 13).

FN3Ks are conserved across the tree of life (Fig. 1A) (14). While simple eukaryotes and prokaryotes both contain a single copy of the FN3K gene, complex eukaryotes, including mammals, encode two copies, FN3K and FN3K related protein (FN3K-RP), presumably due to a gene duplication event in amphibians (Fig. 1A). Although the functions of FN3K homologs in lower eukaryotes and bacteria are yet to be equivocally established, it is proposed that they repair proteins modified by ribose-5-phosphate, a potent glycating agent generated by the metabolic pentose phosphate pathway (6, 12, 14, 15). While FN3K activity is essential for normal cellular functions, uncontrolled activity can result in altered cellular homeostasis and disease (16, 17). For

example, accumulation of 3-deoxyglucosone, a byproduct of human FN3K activity, is a prognostic marker for diabetic complications such as retinopathy and neuropathy (*18, 19*). Increased 3-deoxyglucosone levels also contribute to oxidative stress by inhibiting glutathione peroxidase, a potent cellular antioxidant (*20*). Thus, tight regulation of FN3K activity is crucial to main cellular homeostasis and to prevent oxidative stress resulting from its own repair functions. However, despite the remarkable conservation of FN3Ks across the tree of life and their fundamental roles in cellular functions and disease, a mechanistic understanding of FN3K function and mode(s) of regulation is currently lacking.

We previously showed that FN3Ks belong to a large super-family of protein kinase-like (PKL) enzymes that include eukaryotic protein kinases, small molecule kinases, and atypical kinases (21, 22). FN3Ks are more closely related to small molecule kinases, such as aminoglycoside kinase (APH) and choline kinases, than ePKs and more distantly related to atypical pseudokinases such as Fam20C and SelO (23-25). Through quantitative comparisons of the evolutionary constraints acting on diverse PKL-fold enzymes, we previously demonstrated that ePKs share sequence and structural similarity with small molecule kinases in the N-terminal ATP binding lobe, but diverge significantly in the C-terminal substrate binding lobe (21, 22, 26). In particular, the extended activation segment connecting the ATP and substrate binding lobes that classically controls catalytic activity through conformational changes driven by reversible phosphorylation of serine, threenine and tyrosine residues (27) is unique to ePKs and absent in small molecule kinases, including FN3Ks. An accompanying paper submitted side-by-side with this manuscript demonstrates that in addition to reversible phosphorylation, oxidation and reduction of a conserved Cys residue in the activation segment is a much more common mode of Ser/Thr protein kinase regulation than had been previously appreciated (28).

Here, we identify a critical role for the ATP binding P-loop in the redox regulation of FN3Ks. By solving the first crystal structure of a eukaryotic FN3K homolog, *Arabidopsis thaliana* FN3K (AtFN3K), we find that the P-loop is stabilized in an extended conformation by a Cysmediated disulfide bond connecting two chains to form a covalently linked dimer. We show that reduction of disulfides results in AtFN3K activation. Consistently, the human FN3K (HsFN3K) conserving the P-loop cysteine is redox-active and displays altered oligomerization when proliferating cells are exposed to acute oxidative stress.

We propose that redox control mediated by the P-loop Cys is an ancient mechanism of FN3K regulation that emerged progressively during FN3K evolution from bacteria to humans. Because many protein kinases contain an equivalent redox-active cysteine in the P-loop, our studies also have broad implications for understanding the structure, function and evolution of all PKL-fold enzymes, in particular tyrosine kinases, which contain a cysteine residue at the equivalent position. Our detailed mechanistic characterization of FN3Ks also open new avenues for the design of FN3K-targeted small molecule inhibitors for diabetic complications associated with increased protein glycation.

Results

Crystal structure of AtFn3K reveals a novel strand-exchange dimer

To investigate the structural basis for biological FN3K regulation, we solved the first crystal structure of a plant FN3K homolog (AtFN3K) in complex with the adenosine triphosphate (ATP) mimic Adenylyl-imidodiphosphate (AMP-PNP) at a resolution of 2.37 Å using a multiple model molecular replacement strategy (Table S1). The asymmetric unit of AtFN3K contains two molecules with a small degree of disorder at the N- and C- termini (residues 1-6 and 296, 297) (Fig. 2A). Each chain contains a well-ordered molecule of AMP-PNP in the active site, albeit with missing electron density for γ -phosphate (Fig. 2B). AMP-PNP is known to hydrolyze slowly over time, as shown previously for Protein Kinase A (*29*). Because the nitrogen atom in the β -phosphate of AMP-PNP could not be identified, we have modeled the ligand as ADP.

AtFN3K adopts a canonical protein kinase fold (PKL-fold) with an N-terminal ATP binding lobe and C-terminal substrate binding lobe. A comparison to the bacterial search model (PDB code 5IGS) shows that the chains superimpose 218 C α atoms with an rmsd of 3.3 Å (*30*). Due to the strong similarity between the two structures and the fact that the closely related aminoglycoside phosphotransferase structure from *E. coli* (5IGS) has already been described in detail (*31*), we focus here on the unique structural features of AtFN3K. Unlike other kinases, the AtFN3K structure is a 'strand-exchange' dimer, in which the β 1 strand in one chain forms an antiparallel β -sheet with the β 2 strand of the adjacent chain (Fig. 2C). In most PKL-fold crystal structures solved to date, the β 1 strand forms an intra-chain anti-parallel beta sheet with β 2, and the P-loop connecting the two strands typically positions the ATP for catalysis, as observed in TfFN3K, aminoglycoside kinase and the prototypic eukaryotic Protein Kinase (ePK) A (Fig. 1B, 3A). However, in the AtFN3K dimer, the P-loop is unfolded, and the extended P-loop

conformation is stabilized by an intermolecular disulfide bond between Cys^{32} in chain A and Cys^{32} in chain B (Fig. 2B, 3A). A second intermolecular disulfide is formed between Cys^{236} in each chain (Fig. 2B, 3B). Cys^{236} is located in the F-G loop, which is typically involved in substrate binding in both small molecule kinases and protein kinases (Fig. 3B). In the AtFN3K dimer, the substrate binding lobes are covalently tethered to create a unique interface, presumably for phosphorylating ketosamine and related substrates (Fig. 3C). The AtFN3K dimer buries nearly 2500 Å² (16.4%) of solvent accessible area of each monomer. The total solvation free energy (ΔG) gain upon formation of the interface is calculated to be -36.2 kcal/mol (p-value of 0.014) and a total of 36 hydrogen bonds and 2 disulfide bridges are formed at the dimer interface (Fig. S1) (*32*).

Disulfides in the AtFN3K dimer interface are conformationally strained

Disulfide bonds in proteins can be classified into various categories based on their geometry and torsional strain energy (*33-35*). Conformational analysis of inter-molecular disulfides in AtFN3K indicates non-ideal geometry (Figure 4A). In particular, the χ 3 dihedral of - 112.7° (C β -S γ - C β) for Cys²³⁶-Cys²³⁶ deviates from the peak distribution of ~90° observed for disulfides in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) (Figure 4B). Likewise, the C α -C α distance of 3.8 Å for Cys³²-Cys³² is much shorter than 5.7 Å peak observed for C α -C α distances in the PDB (*36, 37*). These non-ideal geometries suggest that the inter-molecular disulfides, in particular the Cys²³⁶-Cys²³⁶ disulfide, are conformationally strained.

P-loop cysteine is critical for the formation of disulfide linked dimer species

Next, we wanted to test if either or both cysteines are essential for the observed disulfide linked dimer. We mutated the cysteine residues individually and together to alanine residues and subjected them to non-reducing SDS-PAGE analysis in the presence of redox agents, 1,4-

Dithiothreitol (DTT) and H_2O_2 . The disulfide linked dimer is absent in the P-loop cysteine mutants (Cys32Ala and Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala) but not in the Cys236Ala mutants (Fig. 5A), suggesting that the P-loop cysteine is critical for the observed disulfide linked dimer. In addition, we identified multiple monomeric species on the gel, including a reduced monomer (M_{Red}) and monomers with intramolecular disulfide (M_{S-S}) (Fig. 5A). The presence of M_{S-S} band in the double cysteine mutant led us to hypothesize that the two remaining cysteines, Cys¹⁹⁶ and Cys²²² (Fig. 5B), in the kinase domain could form intramolecular disulfides. To test if an intramolecular disulfide is formed in solution or upon denaturation, we treated the Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC) purified WT dimer with N-Ethylmaleimide (NEM) before denaturation. NEM blocks free thiols and prevents their oxidation and subsequent disulfide formation (38). The absence of M_{S-S} and the presence of M_{Red} in the NEM treated sample suggests that the M_{S-S} band is a consequence of denaturation (Fig. S2). As a control, we also ran a non-reducing SDS page on the triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala), which is incapable of forming any intramolecular disulfides. As expected, only M_{Red} band was observed in the triple mutant (Fig. S2), further suggesting that the M_{S-S} band is a consequence of denaturation during SDS page analysis. For this reason, we primarily focus on the inter-chain disulfides observed in the crystal structure.

AtFN3K WT dimer is activated by redox agents

In order to determine the functional state of the native enzyme (WT) in solution, we performed SEC on the purified protein. Interestingly, we identified two peaks, a dimer and a monomer (Fig. 6A, Fig S3A) with the dimer peak being dominant in solution. The purified dimer resolved on non-reducing SDS-PAGE gel as two distinct bands (Fig. S4). To test sensitivity to DTT, we performed PK/LDH assay on the dimer and monomer fractions in the presence and absence of 2 mM DTT. The activity of the dimer species increased nearly 40fold in the presence

of the reductant (Fig. 6B). In contrast, the monomer species was active but insensitive to DTT (Fig. 6B), suggesting that only the dimer species is redox sensitive. We also performed PK/LDH assays on single and double cysteine to alanine or serine mutants. P-loop cysteine (Cys32/Ala/Ser) mutants were less sensitive to DTT compared to C-lobe cysteine mutants (Cys236/Ala/Ser) (Fig. S5A). Moreover, AtFN3K WT also showed sensitivity to DTT when activity was measured independently using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)-based assay which measures ribuloselysine phosphorylation (Fig. S5B).

In order to test if AtFN3K could dimerize without the cysteines, we performed SEC on the triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala). Similar to the native enzyme, we identified both dimer and monomer peaks (Fig. 6C). We hypothesized that the two species (monomer and dimer) would be insensitive to DTT since they are incapable of forming cysteine disulfide bridge. As expected, both the dimer and monomer species were insensitive to DTT (Fig. 6D). Taken together, these data suggest that AtFN3K can still dimerize in the absence of two cysteine residues (Cys³² and Cys²³⁶), which lie in the dimer interface.

To test whether the monomer and dimer species were in equilibrium, we first performed sedimentation velocity analysis on the purified Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala triple mutant. c(s) analysis revealed a distribution consisting of a monomer peak at 2.0 S and a dimer peak at 3.1 S which are predicted to be at 2.2 S and 3.6 S, respectively (Fig. S3B). Glycerol is required to maintain the recombinant AtFN3K stably in solution and has a tendency to form a self-gradient during centrifugation which will disproportionately reduce the S-values of sedimenting species. The monomer-dimer distribution is consistent with the size exclusion profile suggesting that the protein exists in two predominant species (Fig 6C, S3A). Secondly, we performed sedimentation velocity analysis across a moderate change (5x) in protein concentration but did not detect any

changes in the ratio of monomers and dimers present (Fig. S3B). We then isolated the two species using SEC and performed sedimentation velocity. The dimer sample lacked the monomer peak at 2.0 S and vice versa likely indicating a lack of equilibrium between the two species (Fig. S3C). Together, the data suggest that the dimer and the monomer represent two distinct species that do not exchange under an equilibrium.

Evolution of P-loop cysteine redox regulation

Multiple sequence alignment of FN3K orthologs from diverse organisms indicates that while the P-loop cysteine (Cys³²) is conserved across diverse organisms, the other three cysteines (Cys²³⁶, Cys¹⁹⁶ and Cys²²²) are unique to plant FN3Ks (Fig. 5B). Notably, human FN3K (HsFN3K) and FN3K-RP (HsFN3KRP) both contain an equivalent cysteine in the P-loop. HsFN3K contains three additional cysteines, two of which are specific to both FN3K and FN3K-RP. We expressed and purified HsFN3K and assayed its activity under reducing conditions. The activity of HsFN3K increased in the presence of DTT in a manner similar to that observed for AtFN3K (Fig. 7A). Importantly, mutating the equivalent P-loop cysteine (Cys²⁴) to alanine results in loss of sensitivity to DTT. We also tested the activity in the presence of reduced glutathione (GSH), a physiological reducing agent. The activity increased for the WT whereas no change was observed for the Cys24Ala mutant (Fig. S6A). As a control, we expressed, purified and assayed AtFN3K homologs from Thermobifida fusca (TfFN3K) and Lactobacillus plantarum (LpFN3K), which contain a histidine and aspartate in place of the P-loop cysteine, respectively (Fig. 5B). Notably, TfFN3K and LpFN3K catalytic activity did not change in the presence of any of the redox agents tested (Fig. 7B). Also, non-reducing SDS PAGE for the WT and Cys24Ala mutant HsFN3K confirmed that the P-loop cysteine is essential for dimerization (Fig. S6B)

Finally, to extend these findings in mammalian cells, we overexpressed Flag-tagged-HsFN3K in HEK293T cells using transient transfection. Cells were grown for 48 hours and treated with different concentrations of diamide. Diamide decreases the cellular concentration of reduced glutathione (GSH) and promotes disulfide formation (*39*). It can also react with free thiols in proteins and lead to disulfide bond formation (*40*). Diamide treatment induced higher order oligomerization of WT HsFN3K, but not the Cys24Ala mutant (Fig. 7C).

FN3K CRISPR knockout alters redox sensitive cellular metabolites

Cellular functions of FN3Ks are currently unknown. Our analysis of FN3K expression in various cancer cell lines identified significant overexpression in liver and eye cancer cells. To assess the functional significance of this increased expression, we generated a Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) knock out of HsFN3K (FN3K-KO) in HepG2 liver cancer cell line (Fig. S7) and compared the metabolome of WT and FN3K-KO cells using untargeted 1H nuclear magnetic resonance (1H NMR) metabolomics. This revealed significant difference in metabolite abundance in FN3K-KO compared to WT (Fig. 8A, B, Table S2). Of special note, glutathione and lactate levels were increased in FN3K knockout cells relative to wild type HepG2 cells, while pantothenate, phosphocreatine/creatine ratio, aspartate, glycine, and serine levels were decreased. Glutathione is a major cellular redox regulator (*41*), while intracellular levels of pantothenate, glycine, serine and aspartate, are known to be reactive to the redox status of the cell (*42-44*). Additionally, phosphocreatine/creatine ratio and lactate control ATP production and glycolysis, respectively (*45*). The enrichment of these metabolites suggests potential links between FN3Ks, redox levels and ATP production.

Discussion

Here we report the structural basis for redox regulation in an ancient family of phosphorylation-based enzymes associated with protein repair. The crystal structure of Arabidopsis thaliana FN3K reveals a novel strand exchange dimer in which two chains are covalently linked by disulfide bonds emanating from the P-loop in the ATP binding lobe and F-G loop in the substrate binding lobe. We propose that these disulfide bridges are conformationally strained and are essential for maintaining AtFN3K in an inhibited dimeric conformation. Our studies also show that inhibited native AtFN3K (WT dimer) is activated more than 40-fold under reducing conditions. We speculate that reduction of the disulfides releases the constrain on the Ploop and the substrate binding F-G-loop to allow ATP and substrate access, and catalysis in the dimeric state. Thus, AtFN3K toggles between an inhibited "oxidized" dimer state and active "reduced" dimer to phosphorylate ketosamine substrates. Using SEC, we also identified a monomeric species insensitive to DTT. Although crystallization attempts to isolate the monomeric species have been unsuccessful, we predict that a monomer would adopt a canonical kinase fold without any beta-strand exchange. As a result, both P-loop and substrate binding loops cannot be constrained through disulfide bridges, preventing redox regulation.

Similarly, SEC employed on the Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala mutant revealed the presence of both dimeric and monomeric species, indicating that the enzyme can dimerize without these cysteines. PISA analysis of the crystal structure had showed that nearly 2500 Å² (16.4%) of each monomer is buried as part of the dimer interface. Sedimentation velocity analysis further revealed that the two species were distinct and did not exist in equilibrium.

Our cellular studies show that dimerization and higher order oligomerization of human FN3K is altered after exposure to the thiol-oxidizing agent, diamide. Consistently, a recent

unbiased proteomic study identified a sulfenylated form of the P-loop cysteine in human FN3K-RP in HeLa cells under conditions of oxidative stress (46), suggesting that a regulatory mechanism of partial Cys P-loop oxidation to sulfenic acid (which is a reversible modification) is likely to be operative in cells.

The identification of redox active cysteines in FN3Ks also opens up the possibility of a feedback regulation mechanism in which FN3K activity is controlled by its own catalytic byproduct, 3-deoxyglucosone, which is known to contribute to oxidative stress (20). We speculate that accumulation of advanced glycation end products such as 3-deoxyglucosone drives the conformational ensemble of FN3K species towards an inactive dimeric form through the oxidation of the P-loop cysteine, while reduced levels maintain FN3K in an active reduced form (Fig. 9A). Such a feedback inhibition mechanism might explain how the essential deglycation functions of FN3K are carried out in cells without contributing to oxidative stress. Consistent with this view, our biochemical and mutational studies confirm that inhibited dimeric species predominate in the absence of reducing agents, while active dimeric or monomeric species may dominate in the presence of reducing agents. Moreover, comparative metabolomics study of the HsFN3K WT and KO in HepG2 liver cells revealed alteration in redox sensitive metabolites, namely glutathione. The increase in cellular glutathione in the KO may suggest that the cells are adapting to oxidative stress caused by the absence of the enzyme. However, this hypothesis needs to be tested in future studies.

Redox control of FN3K may also explain the altered glycated patterns observed in plant and human proteomes (47-50) and facilitate deglycation functions to be carried out in different cellular compartments. AtFN3K contains a chloroplast signal peptide N-terminus of the kinase domain, and removal of the signal peptide results in the localization of AtFN3K in different cellular compartments, including nucleus and mitochondria (Fig. S8). Human FN3K-RP is localized in the mitochondria (*51*), and has been detected in red blood cells and serum samples. Because the redox potentials within these cellular compartments are quite different (*52*), the presence of a redox sensitive P-loop cysteine may also help control FN3K activity through subcellular localization. This hypothesis will be tested in future experimental studies that monitor FN3K activity from a variety of subcellular sources.

The P-loop Cys is conserved amongst FN3K orthologs from diverse prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms, and our studies indicate that the FN3K homolog in human (HsFN3K) is also redox-sensitive. In contrast to the activation loop, which appears to have evolved as a flexible motif for eukaryotic protein kinase regulation by phosphorylation, the P-loop is fundamentally conserved in diverse ATP fold enzymes, where it plays a critical role in clamping ATP and positioning it for efficient catalysis. Protein kinases possess a highly characteristic GlyxGlyxGly motif in the P-loop that enhances conformational flexibility and permits regulation of ATP binding functions. The P-loop of FN3Ks is characterized by conserved Gly residues in addition to the redox sensitive Cys residue, and based on our structural data, the presence of both these features might be necessary for the strand exchange dimer observed. In this context, it is interesting to note that several tyrosine protein kinases also possess conserved Cys residues embedded within the Gly-rich motifs in the P-loop. These include a Cys at the position equivalent to Cys³² of AtFN3K found in eukaryotic SRC, FGFR, YES1 and FYN tyrosine kinases (Fig. 9B). Notably, both SRC and FGFR have previously been shown to be redox-regulated through Cys oxidation mechanisms in the P-loop (53, 54). However, whether these kinases also form a strand exchange dimer similar to AtFN3K is not known, and it will be interesting to attempt to solve the structure of Tyr kinases crystallized under different oxidizing conditions.

Finally, human FN3K and FN3K-RP are implicated in human diseases such as diabetic neuropathy and retinopathy, which are associated with increased protein glycation. Both kinases are also highly expressed in human tumors (Fig. S9). However, developing therapeutic strategies for FN3Ks is potentially a double-edged sword because inhibition of FN3K activity can result in the accumulation of glycated proteins, while activation of FN3Ks might result in the accumulation of 3-deoxyglucosone, a potent generator of oxidative stress. Based on our new findings, we propose a combinatorial drug development approach, in which the active monomeric species and the reduced dimeric species are targeted through the development of thiol-interacting agents. These might be developed in order to help normalize cellular protein glycan homeostasis, depending upon the indication and redox balance in the appropriate tissue and the availability of redox-active Cys residues in FN3K targets.

Materials and Methods

Expression and purification of AtFN3K WT and Cys-Ala mutants

AtFN3K inserted into pET-15b expression vector was provided by Prof. Emile Van Shaftingen (Université Catholique of Louvain, Brussels, Belgium). Site directed mutagenesis was performed using Q5 Hot Start High Fidelity Kit from New England Biolabs (NEB). Vectors were transformed into E. coli BL21(DE3) pLysS (Roche) cells and co-expression with GroEL was performed at 16°C for 18 hours in 500 ml of Luria–Bertani medium containing 100 μ g/l ampicillin and 25 μ g/l chloramphenicol. The bacterial extract was resuspended in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.8, 300 mM NaCl, 10 % v/v glycerol (Buffer A) with 1mM Phenylmethylsulfonyl Fluoride (PMSF) and 3 mM 2-Mercaptoethanol (β ME). The solution was sonicated on ice and the lysate was centrifugated at 15,000 x g for 45 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant was then passed through 0.5 ml of Talon® resin previously equilibrated with Buffer A without β ME. The column

was washed with 20 ml of Buffer B (50 mM Sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.8, 1 M NaCl,10 % v/v glycerol) followed by wash with 100 ml of Buffer B containing 10 mM imidazole. The protein was then eluted with Buffer A without β ME containing 250 mM Imidazole. The purity of the protein was checked by SDS-PAGE, and the fractions with the protein were dialyzed against buffer A without glycerol and later against Buffer C (25 mM Hepes, pH 7.8, 300 mM NaCl, 10% v/v Glycerol). The protein was snap frozen with liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. Recombinant His-HsFN3K was expressed in *E.coli* as well.

Crystallization, phasing and refinement

Recombinant AtFN3K WT was dialyzed into a buffer containing 50 mM NaCl and 15 mM Hepes at pH 8.0, concentrated to ~30 mg/mL and quantified using the extinction coefficient (Abs 0.1%: 1.576) calculated by Protparam (55). The protein was crystallized at 20°C using hanging drop vapor diffusion with 2 µl drops (1:1 protein to reservoir ratio). Crystals grew from a reservoir of 2 M ammonium sulfate, 0.1 M MES pH 5.5, 3.28 mM MgCl₂ and 1.9 mM AMP-PNP. Crystals were cryoprotected with the reservoir solution supplemented with 10% cryoprotectant (1:1:1 ratio of ethylene glycol, DMSO, and glycerol) and flash cooled in liquid nitrogen. The diffraction data were collected at the SER-CAT 22-ID beamline at the Argonne National Laboratory using a Rayonix 300HS detector and processed using XDS (56). Five percent of the data was set aside for cross validation. The structure was solved by molecular replacement in Phenix (57) using a multiple model template (structures from *T. fusca* (PDB code 3F7W), *H. somnus* (PDB code 3JR1) and E. coli (PDB code 5IGS) were used) with trimmed side chains and weighted according to structure and homology. Sequence matching and model building was performed using Phenix Autobuild (57). Automated refinement in Phenix (57) and iterative manual fitting using Coot (58) produced the final model (Table S1). The B-factors were refined using TLS (59).

Distribution of χ 3 angle and C α -C α distance.

Table S1 titled "Excel spreadsheet of unique disulfides in a culled set of X-ray structures described by G.Wang and R. Dunbrack, Jr." from (60) was downloaded and PDBs with resolution less than or equal to 1.5Å was selected to plot the histogram showing the distribution of the χ 3 angle and C α -C α distance.

Non-reducing SDS-PAGE

15 μ g of the enzyme was incubated with distilled H₂O or redox agents (DTT/H₂O₂) in total volume of 15 μ L. After 20 minutes, 5 μ L of 4X Sample Buffer without 2-Mercaptoethanol (β ME) was added and the protein was denatured at 100°C for 5 minutes. 10 μ L of the sample was loaded onto a 12% SDS-PAGE gel. The gels were stained with Coomassie for an hour and de-stained with water for several hours.

Sequence Alignment

Representative FN3K orthologs were downloaded from Uniprot (*61*), NCBI (*62*) and aligned using MUSCLE (*63*). Eukaryotic protein kinases (ePKs) with P-loop cysteine conserved were identified using previously curated alignment profiles that included ePKs and small molecule kinase sequences including FN3Ks (*21, 22, 64, 65*).

Size Exclusion Chromatography (SEC):

Approximately 4.5 mg of AtFN3K WT and triple cysteine mutants purified using coexpression with GroEL/ES chaperone (9 mg/ml in concentration) was passed through HiLoad 16/1600 Superdex 200 pg column at a flow rate of 1 ml/min with fractionation volume of 1 ml. 25 mM HEPES, pH 7.8, 300 mM NaCl, 10 % v/v glycerol was used as running buffer. SEC was performed at 4 °C. For BSA-Lysozyme standard, 250 µl of 4 mg/ml of BSA and Lysozyme each in running buffer were mixed and loaded on the column. For AtFN3K WT and triple cysteine mutants purified without GroEL/ES chaperone (Fig. S3A), SEC was performed at a flowrate of 0.15 ml/min.

Enzyme Assays

PK/LDH: 1.0 µg (5 µL) of FN3K homologs (At, Tf, Lp)/mutants/dimer and 10 µg (5µL) of HsFN3K, 28 mM of Ribulose-N-α-Ac-lysine (10 µL) in the presence or absence of 20 mM DTT (5 µL) (Final concentration: 2 mM) were mixed with 20 µl of solution prepared by mixing the following: 150 µl of 5X Kinase Buffer (160 mM Hepes, pH 7.4, 80 mM MgCl2, 1.2 M NaCl, 40 % v/v Glycerol), 15 µl of 250 mM Phosphoenolpyruvic acid (PEP), 45 µl of PK/LDH mix [600-100 units/ml pyruvate kinase (PK), 900-1400 units/ml lactic dehydrogenase (LDH)], 90 µl of 37.5 mM Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH). The reaction was started by adding 10 µL of 5 mM ATP (final 1mM). The final reaction volume was 50 µL per well. The 96 well plate was immediately placed in a plate reader (Biotek Synergy H4) and the absorbance measured at 340 nm at 35°C continuously for two and half hours. Proteins were stored in Buffer D (25 mM Hepes, pH 7.4, 300 mM NaCl, 10% v/v Glycerol). Buffer D was also used as mock buffer as needed.

NMR real time assay: 100 µg of protein was incubated with 2 mM of ribuloselysine and 600 µM of ATP in 25 mM Hepes, pH 8.0, 5 mM of MgCl₂ prepared in D₂O. The reaction was monitored for 50 minutes by acquiring subsequent 1D 1H PURGE (Presaturation Utilizing Relaxation Gradients and Echoes) spectra. All spectra were acquired at 22 °C on an 800 MHz Avance Neo (Bruker) NMR spectrometer equipped with a z-gradient triple resonance TCI cryoprobe and normalized and references using 1H signals of 4,4-dimethyl-4-silapentane-1sulfonic acid (DSS). 32 scans were acquired during each experiment with an acquisition time of 1.25 sec. The spectra were processed using NMRpipe and MATLAB.

Sedimentation velocity

Triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/C236Ala/Cys196Ala) were dialyzed into 25 mM HEPES (pH 7.8), 300 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 100 µM ATP, and 1 M glycerol, and the protein was quantified using an Agilent 8453 UV/vis with an ε 280 of 55810 M-1cm-1 determined by ProtParam (55). The sample was diluted to a final protein concentration of 10 μ M then loaded into a 12 mm double-sector Epon centerpieces equipped with quartz windows. The cell was loaded into An60 Ti rotor and equilibrated for 1 hour at 20°C. Sedimentation velocity data were collected using an Optima XLA analytical ultracentrifuge (Beckman Coulter) at a rotor speed of 50000 RPM at 20°C. Data were recorded at 280 nm in radial step sizes of 0.003 cm. SEDNTERP (66) was used to model the partial specific volume of AtFN3K (0.713293 mL/g), as well the density (1.0353 g/mL) and the viscosity (0.013277 P) of the buffer. SEDFIT (67) was used to analyze the raw sedimentation data. Data were modeled as continuous c(s) distribution and were fit using baseline, meniscus, frictional coefficient, and systematic time-invariant and radial-invariant noise. Fit data for the experiment had an RMSD in the range of 0.005-0.007AU. Predicted sedimentation coefficient (s) values for AtFN3K monomer (2.2 S) and dimer (3.6 S) were calculated from the atomic coordinate of AtFN3K using HYDROPRO (68). Data fit and c(s) distribution plots were generated using GUSSI (69).

Diamide treatment of HEK293T cells

HEK293T cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Media (DMEM) containing 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) on a 6 cm plate (total 6 plates) and allowed to grow overnight. Cells were transfected with 10 μg of Flag-tagged-HsFN3K (EX-W1392-M46, GeneCopoeia) using Calcium Phosphate Transfection protocol (43). Cells were allowed to grow for 48h. After 48h cells were treated with indicated concentrations of Diamide (Sigma) for 2 h. Cells were lyzed in buffer containing 50 mM Tris.HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1% TX-100 and 1x protease inhibitor cocktail (EMD-Millipore). Total Cell Lysate (TCL) was spun at 15,000 rpm for 10 min in a refrigerated centrifuge. Proteins were resolved on a 12% SDS-PAGE gel, transferred on PVDF membrane and detected by Western Blotting using anti-Flag antibody (Cell Signaling Technology).

CRISPR Knock Out (KO) cell line and Metabolomics

HepG2 cells were transfected with FN3K Double Nickase Plasmid (sc-412985-NIC) (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) and selected with puromycin according to manufacturer's protocol. FN3K deletion was confirmed by Western Blotting using anti-FN3K antibody (Invitrogen) as shown in Figure S7. Stable cell line stocks were made from single cell colony. Adherent cells were harvested in ice cold 80% methanol extraction solvent and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Aqueous metabolites were extracted by vortexing/lysing cell pellets in the extraction solvent and collecting the supernatant. 10% of the supernatant was taken from each sample to form an internal pooled sample. The solvent was then evaporated to produce dried extracts using a CentriVap Benchtop Vacuum Concentrator (Labconco, Kanas City, MO, USA). Extracts were reconstituted in a deuterium oxide phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) prior to data acquisition. 1H NMR) spectra were acquired on all samples using noesypr1d pulse sequence on an 800 MHz Bruker Avance III HD spectrometer. 1H-13C heteronuclear single quantum correlation (1H-13C HSQC) and 1H-1H total correlation spectroscopy (1H-1H TOCSY) spectra were acquired on the internal pooled sample and used for metabolite annotation with COLMARm (70). 1H NMR spectra were

annotated and analyzed using an in-house MATLAB toolbox to identify significant differences in metabolites between cell lines.

Subcellular Localization

Construction of plasmids for N. benthamiana transformations: For constructs used in the transient assays, full-length wild type or mutant coding sequences (CDS) of AtFN3K were cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO Gateway entry vector (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's protocol. The coding regions were recombined into binary destination expression vector: pSITE-2CA N-terminal GFP (green fluorescent protein) fusion.

Transient expression of proteins in Nicotiana benthamiana: Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain C58C1 was used for the transient transformation. Colonies carrying the binary plasmids were grown at 28 °C on LB medium plates that contained 50 µg/ml gentamycin and 25 µg/ml rifampicin for selection of the strain, and 100 µg/ml spectinomycin for selection of the binary vector. For agroinfiltration, single colonies were grown overnight in 3 ml LB (28°C, 220 rpm). 50 µl of the agro suspension was added to 5 ml LB and the culture was grown overnight. The agro was pelleted by centrifuging at 4,000 rpm for 20 minutes or 5,0000 rpm for 15 minutes and the suspension was adjusted to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.2-0.3 in infiltration buffer containing 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM MES, pH 5.7 and 150 mM acetosyringone, pH 5.6, and incubated at room temperature for 3 hours prior to infiltration. To enhance transient expression of the fusion proteins, the viral suppressor of gene silencing p19 protein was co-expressed. For co-infiltration, equal volumes of cultures were mixed and infiltrated into *N. benthamiana* leaves through the abaxial surface using a 1 ml needleless syringe (Becton, Dickinson and Company). Plants were then kept in a growth room at 24/22 °C with a 16/8 hours light/dark photoperiod for 48-72 hrs.

Epifluorescence and confocal microscopy: N. benthamiana leaf samples 70 to 90 hours post-infiltration (approximately 0.25 cm2 from the infiltrated area) was mounted in water and viewed directly with a Zeiss LSM 880 confocal scanning microscope using an oil immersion objective 40× Plan-Apochromat 1.4NA (numerical aperture of 1.4). Fluorescence was excited using 488 nm light for GFP. GFP emission fluorescence was selectively detected at 490-540 nm using the Zen 2.3 SP1 software. Each experiment was repeated three times.

Synthesis of Ribulose-N- α -Ac-lysine

A solution of *N*- α -acetyl-L-lysine (0.5 g, 2.66 mmol) and D-ribose (1.6 g, 10.64 mmol) in methanol (100 mL) was stirred at 50°C for 4 h under argon gas. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the residue obtained was purified over silica gel column by flash chromatography (R_f = 0.14, EtOAc/MeOH/H₂O, 5/3/2, v/v/v). The product obtained was further purified over a column of Dowex® 50 x 8 H⁺ resin (0.6 x 5 cm) cation exchange resin using 150 mM NaCl as an eluent and desalted over a P-2 column using H₂O as an eluent. The desired fractions were combined, concentrated and lyophilized to afford product as white solid (0.55 g, 64.7%); LRMS (ESI): calcd. for C13H25N2O7 [M+H]⁺ 321.16, found 321.09. Synthesized Ribulose-*N*- α -Ac-lysine was characterized using NMR and ESI (Fig. S10).

Supplementary Materials

Fig. S1. Hydrogen bonds and disulfide bridges between chain A and chain B in AtFN3K WT.

Fig. S2. Oxidized monomeric species are an artifact of the SDS-PAGE gel.

Fig. S3. WT and triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala) exist as two distinct species.

Fig. S4. Reducing and non-reducing SDS-PAGE of AtFN3K WT and triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala) dimer and monomer fractions.

Fig. S5. Effects of thiol reagents on activity of AtFN3K and cysteine mutants.

Fig. S6. P-Loop Cysteine (Cys24) is critical for the formation of disulfide linked dimer in HsFN3K.

Fig. S7. Western blot of HsFN3K Knock Out (KO) in HepG2 cells.

Fig. S8. WT and Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala AtFN3K localizes to the nucleus.

Fig. S9. Analysis of FN3K and FN3KRP expression in human tumors.

Fig. S10. Spectral data of Ribulose-N-α-Ac-lysine.

Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics of WT AtFN3K.

Table S2. Metabolites identified in extracts of WT HepG2 and FN3K-KO cells.

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contributions: NK conceived and designed the project. SS and SK performed the experiments. CEZ contributed to mutational analysis. DB and PAE contributed reagents and analyzed redox data. NRK, RK and ZAW contributed to X-ray crystallography and structural analysis. HWK collected and analyzed sedimentation velocity data. CP and ASE contributed to NMR studies. SK, MC and ASE contributed to the metabolomics studies. NK and EVK contributed to localization studies on AtFN3K. PC and G-JB contributed to synthesis and purification of ribulose lysine. NK and SS wrote the manuscript with contributions from all authors.

Competing interests: There are no competing interests. **Data and materials availability**: All data associated with this article are either publicly available or included in the article. Structural coordinate and structure factors are made available in the Protein Data Bank (PDB code 60ID).

Figure Legends

- Fig. 1. FN3K adopts a Protein Kinase fold. (A) FN3Ks are conserved across all the domains of life. (B) Overall fold of TfFN3K (PDBID: 3F7W), APH (PDBID: 1L8T) and PKA (PDBID: 1ATP) shown in cartoon representation. The N lobe is colored in light blue and the C lobe in olive. The phosphorylated substrates are shown as either sticks or cartoons, and colored green. The hydroxyl group oxygen atom where phosphate is transferred in each substrate is colored in red.
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Figures

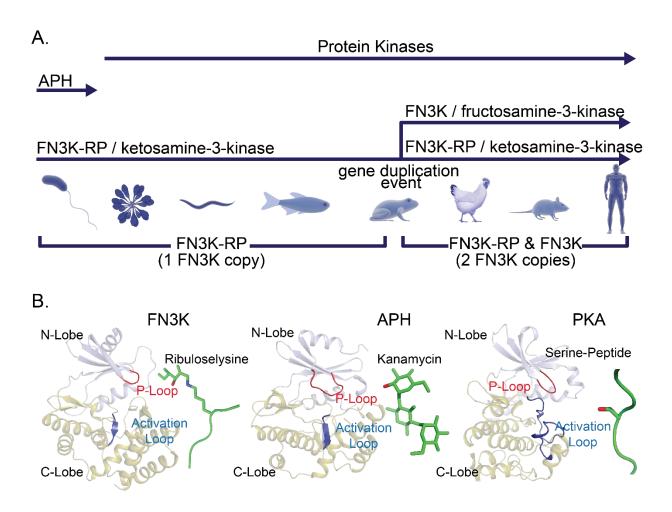


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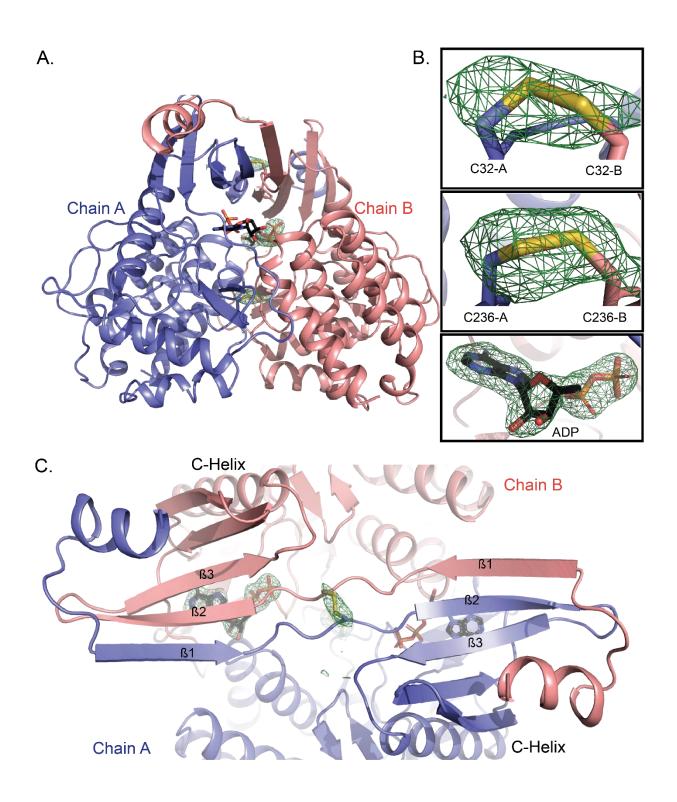


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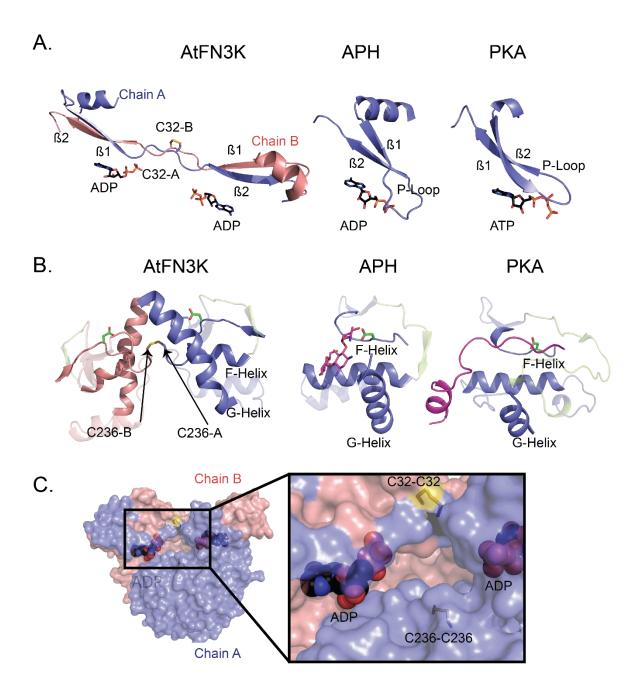


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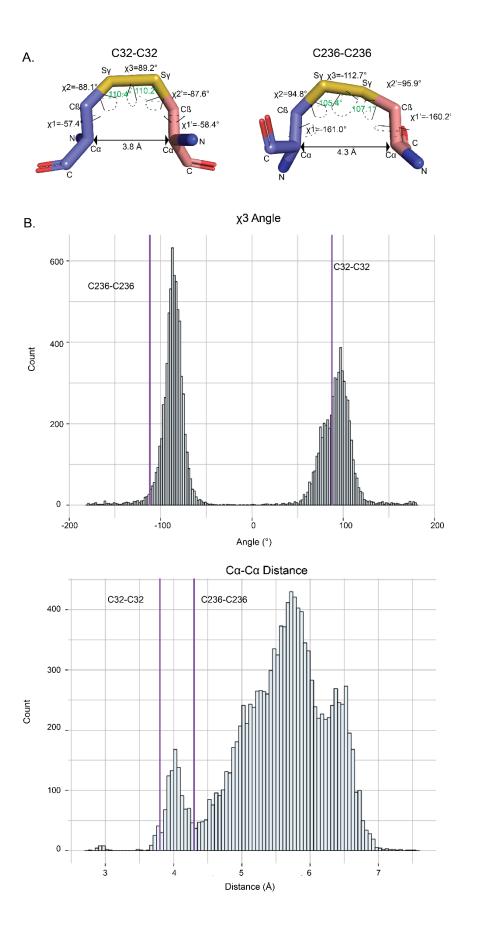


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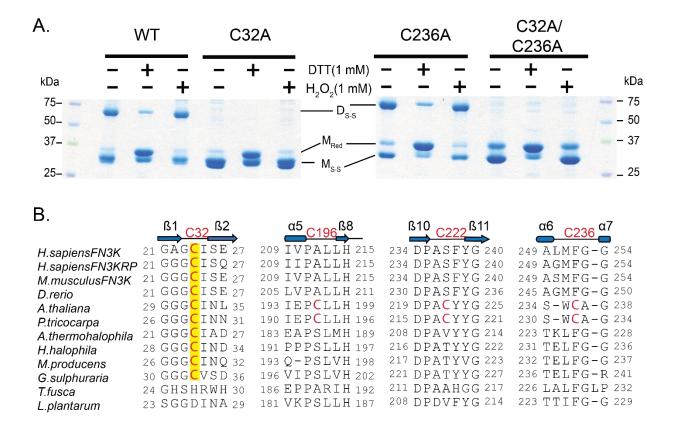


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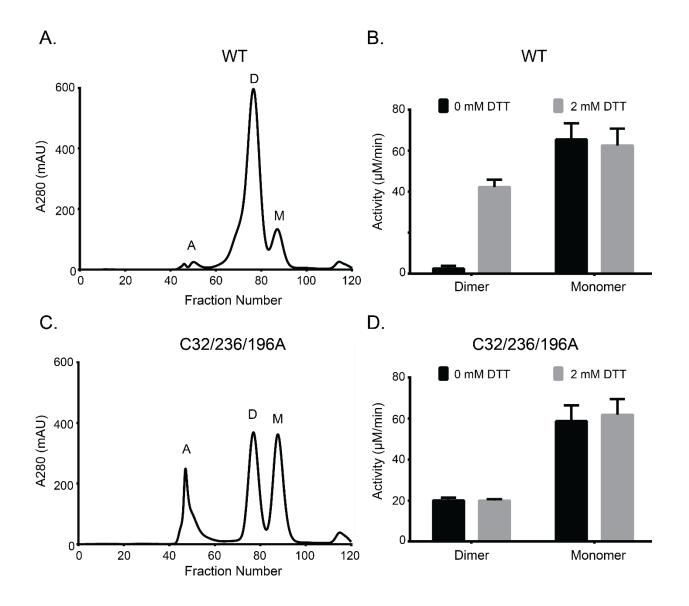


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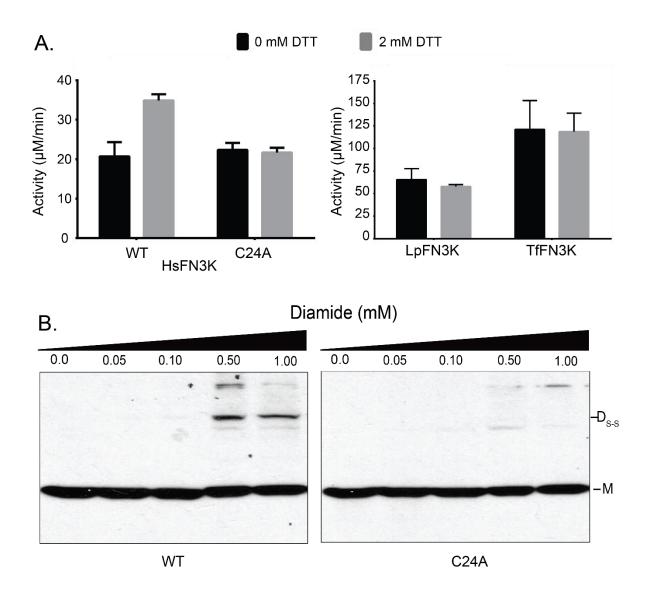


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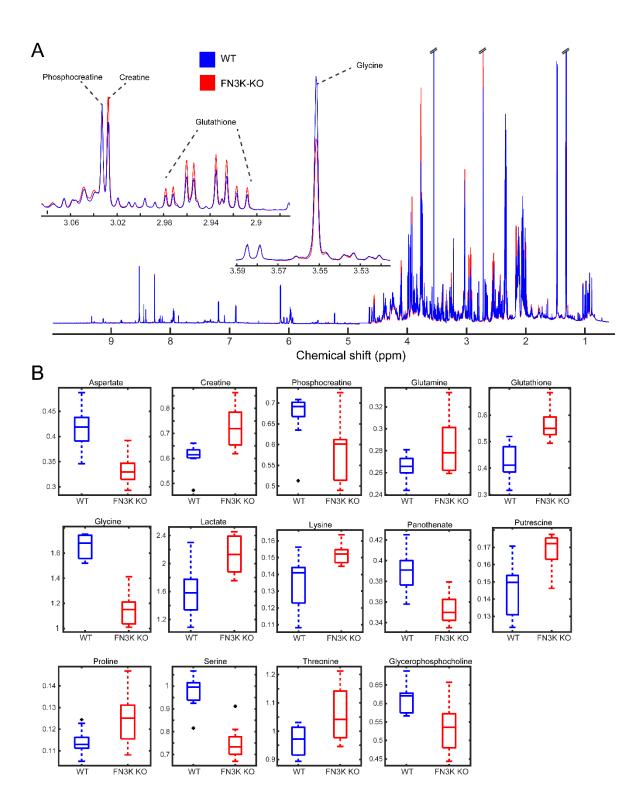


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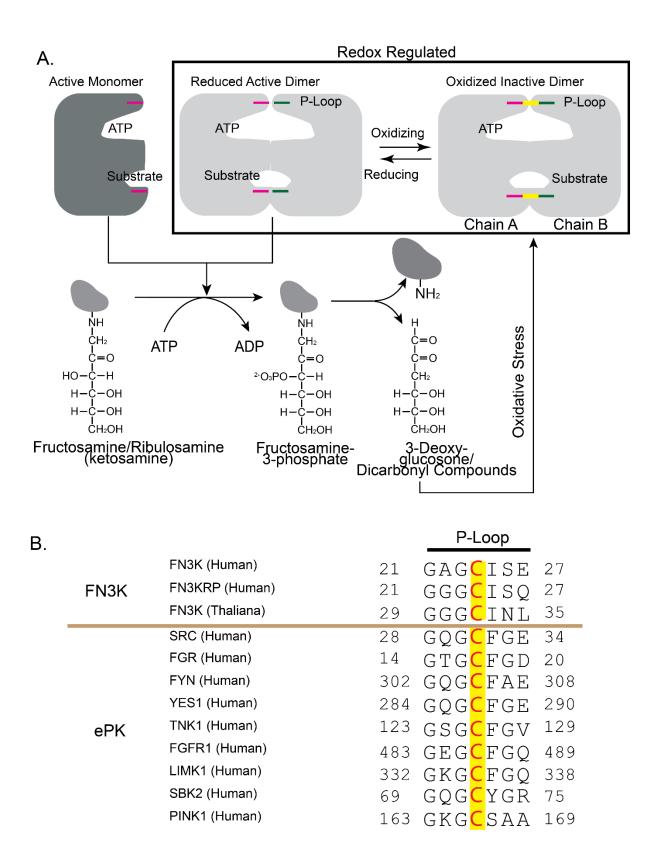


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Supplementary Materials

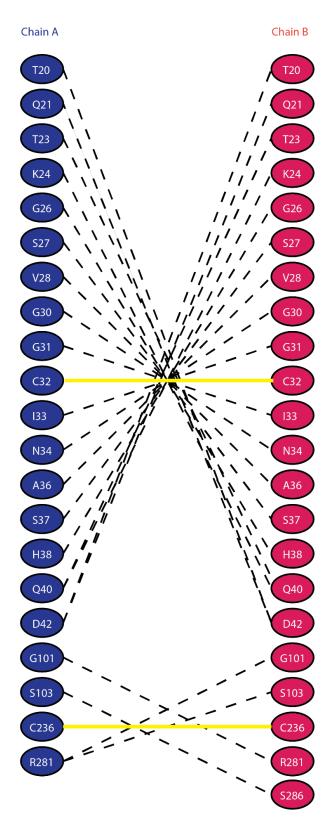


Fig. S1. Hydrogen bonds and disulfide bridges between chain A and chain B in AtFN3K WT.

The hydrogen bonds between the chains are shown as black dashed lines and disulfide bridges between residues are shown as solid yellow lines. The hydrogen bonds were detected using PISA.

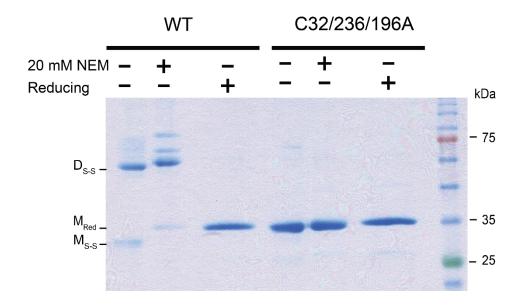


Fig. S2. Oxidized monomeric species are an artifact of the SDS-PAGE gel. SDS-PAGE of AtFN3K WT and triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala) dimer species. D_{S-S}: Disulfide linked dimer, M_{Red}: Monomer reduced, M_{S-S}: Monomer with intramolecular disulfide.

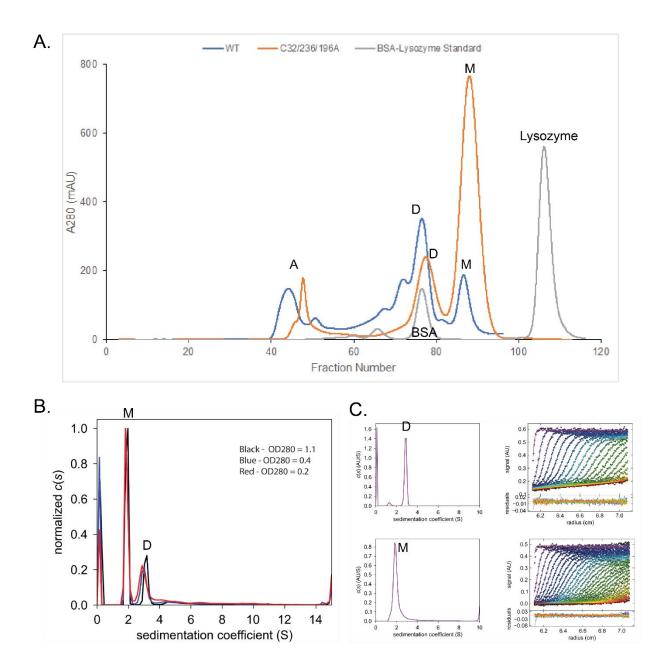


Fig. S3. WT and triple cysteine mutant (Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala) exist as two distinct species. (A) SEC of AtFN3K WT and the mutant overlaid with the SEC of BSA-Lysozyme mix. (B) Sedimentation velocity analysis of the triple cysteine mutant pre-SEC modeled as continuous c(s) distribution. Three different protein concentrations were used. (C)

Sedimentation velocity analysis of the triple cysteine mutant modeled as continuous c(s) distribution. Dimer and monomer fractions were isolated using SEC. (A, B, C) A: Aggregates, D: Dimer, M: Monomer. AtFN3K WT and triple cysteine mutants were purified without co-expression with GroEL.

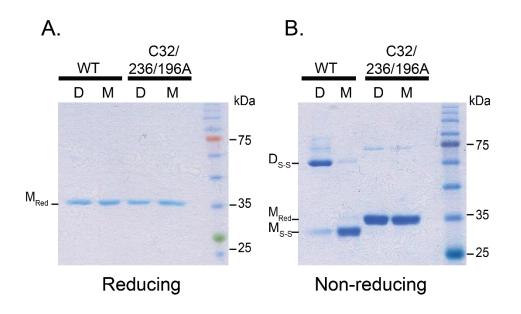


Fig. S4. Reducing and non-reducing SDS-PAGE of AtFN3K WT and triple cysteine mutant

(Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala/Cys196Ala) dimer and monomer fractions. (A, B): D_{S-S} : Disulfide linked dimer; M_{Red} : Monomer Reduced; M_{S-S} : Monomer with intramolecular disulfide. Approximated 3 µg of protein was loaded. The gel was stained with Coomassie and de-stained with water.

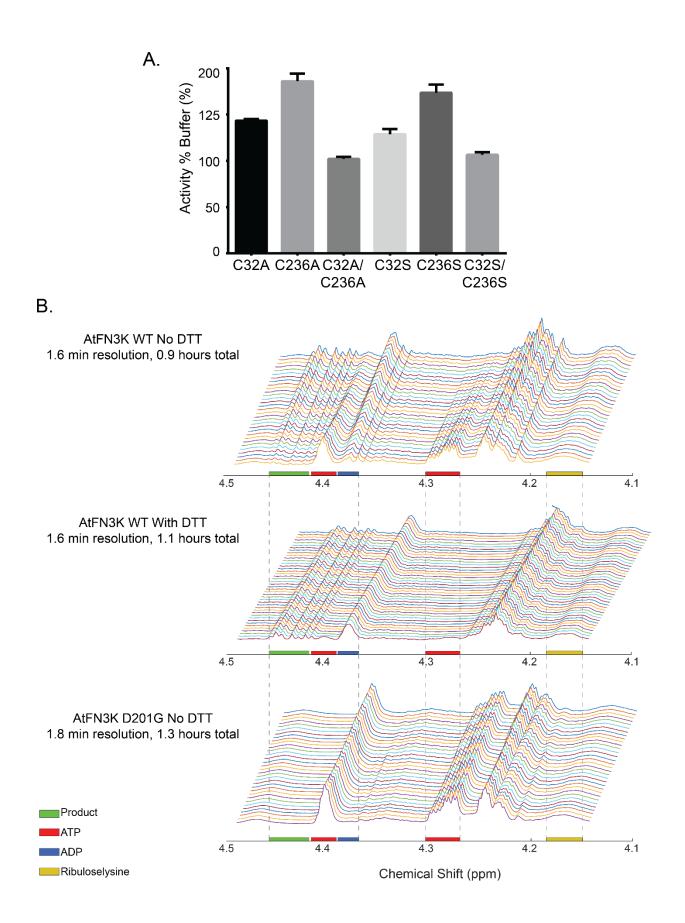


Fig. S5. Effects of thiol reagents on activity of AtFN3Kand cysteine mutants. (A) PK/LDH assay of AtFN3K cysteine mutants. Error bars indicate the standard error of three independent experiments. Activity % Buffer is calculated by dividing activity in the presence of 2 mM DTT by activity in buffer alone and converting to percentage. (B) NMR spectrum showing the formation of product overtime for AtFN3K WT in the presence and absence of DTT. Kinase dead (Asp201Gly) is used as negative control. These assays were performed with purified protein without SEC. Because the purified proteins are a mixed population of active and inactive species, the fold change in activity is not comparable to the AtFN3K WT dimer isolated using SEC.

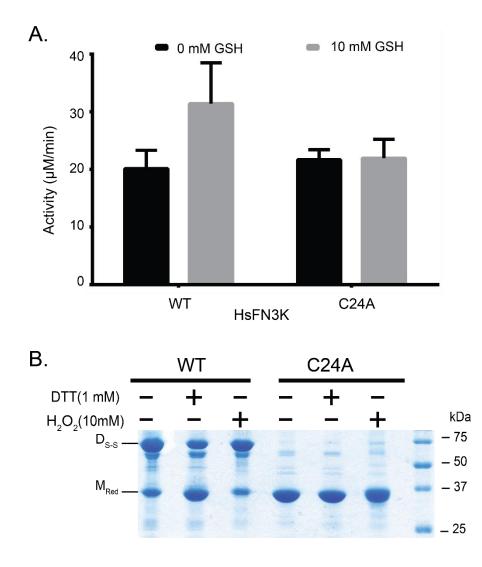


Fig. S6. P-Loop Cysteine (Cys²⁴) is critical for the formation of disulfide linked dimer in HsFN3K. (A) PK/LDH assay of HsFN3K WT and Cys24Ala in presence and absence of reduced glutathione (GSH). (B) Non-reducing SDS-PAGE of HsFN3K WT and Cys24Ala mutant. 15 μ g of the recombinant protein was incubated with either water, 1 mM DTT or 10 mM H₂O₂ for half an hour before adding 4X Sample Buffer. The bands representing disulfide linked dimeric and monomeric species are labelled as D_{S-S} and M_{Red} respectively. The gels were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue. The molecular marker is shown on the right.

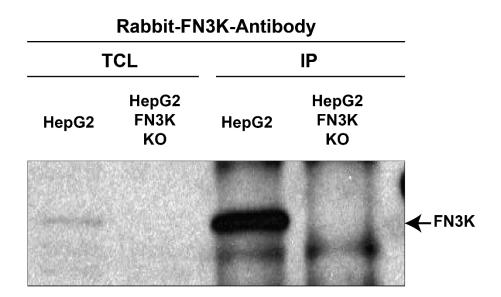


Fig. S7. Western blot of HsFN3K Knock Out (KO) in HepG2 cells. HepG2 (WT/KO) cells were lysed in lysis buffer (50mM Tris HCl pH 7.4, 100mM NaCl, 10% Glycerol, 1mM EDTA, 1% TritonX-100). Total cell lysate (TCL) was subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP) with anti-FN3K antibody. Proteins were resolved on 12% SDS PAGE gel and immunoblotted with Rabbit-FN3K antibody.

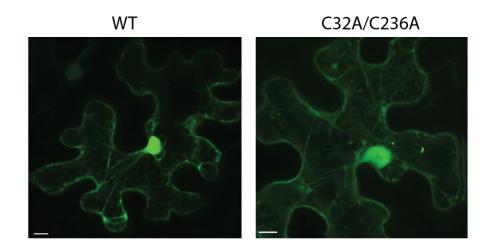


Fig. S8. WT and Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala AtFN3K localizes to the nucleus. Subcellular localization of AtFN3K WT and Cys32Ala/Cys236Ala respectively, in *N. benthamiana* leaf epidermal cells. Scale bar:10 μm.

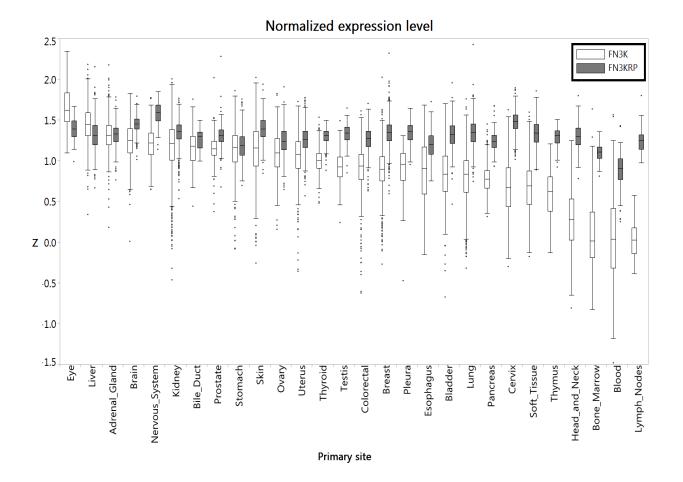


Fig. S9. Analysis of FN3K and FN3KRP expression in human tumors. Human tumor expression data (processed by upper quartile normalization) were obtained from GDC Data Portal (*73*). Expressions of FN3K and FN3KRP were then taken logarithm and standardized as z scores according to the mean and standard deviation of each sample. The boxplots show the z score distributions of FN3K (white boxes) and FN3KRP (gray boxes) in different tumor primary sites in descending order of the median z score of FN3K. Outliers are marked as dots.

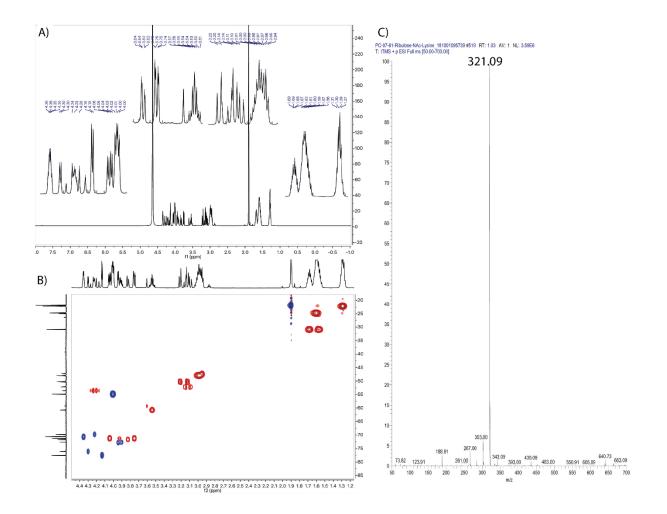


Fig. S10. Spectral data of Ribulose-N-α-Ac-lysine. (**A**) ¹H NMR (600MHz, D₂O) (**B**) HSQC (600MHz, D₂O) (**C**) LRMS (ESI-MS)

Data Collection					
Space Group	C 2 2 21				
Unit cell dimensions (158.86 163.64 70.72				
a, b, c, (Å) α , β , γ)	90.00 90.00 90.00				
Total reflections	551252 (39245)				
Unique reflections	38000 (2683)				
Redundancy	14.5 (14.6)				
Completeness (%)	1.00 (0.97)				
Ι/σ(Ι)	14.3 (1.44)				
R-meas ^b (%)	0.157 (2.50)				
$CC_{1/2}^{c}$ (%)	0.999 (0.519)				
Refinement					
Resolution (Å)	53.50 - 2.37				
Rwork / Rfree	0.175 / 0.204				
No. atoms					
Protein/Ligand/Water	4583/154/89				
<i>B</i> -factors (Å ²)					
Protein/Ligand/Water	64.1/92.4/56.3				
Stereochemical Ideality					
Bond lengths ($Å^2$)	0.009				
Bond angles (°)	1.07				
Ramachandran favored	97				
(%)					
Ramachandran allowed	3				
(%)					
Ramachandran outliers	0				
(%)					

^aValues in parentheses are for highest-resolution shell.

^b R_{meas} is the redundancy independent merging R-factor of Diederichs and Karplus (74) ^c $CC_{1/2}$ is the percentage of correlation between intensities from random half-data sets (75)

Table S1. Data collection and refinement statistics of WT AtFN3K.

	Mean and SE				Fold	FDR-
Metabolite	WT		FN3K-KO		Change KO vs WT	corrected <i>p-</i> value
Glycine	1.655	0.029	1.152	0.043	-0.304	4.50E-07
Serine	0.976	0.022	0.754	0.024	-0.227	2.82E-05
Formate	0.080	0.002	0.059	0.002	-0.267	2.82E-05
Aspartate	0.417	0.012	0.333	0.010	-0.202	3.17E-04
Glutathione	0.422	0.019	0.565	0.022	0.339	0.001
Panothenate	0.390	0.006	0.353	0.005	-0.095	0.001
Creatine	0.608	0.016	0.725	0.026	0.192	0.004
Thioacetamide	0.124	0.006	0.153	0.004	0.238	0.004
Putrescine	0.146	0.005	0.168	0.003	0.147	0.005
UDP GlcNAc	0.050	0.002	0.035	0.003	-0.289	0.006
Lactate	1.598	0.118	2.112	0.089	0.321	0.007
Glycerophosphocholine	0.615	0.012	0.535	0.021	-0.130	0.008
Lysine	0.136	0.005	0.152	0.002	0.119	0.015
Phosphocreatine	0.670	0.019	0.583	0.024	-0.130	0.017
Keto-methylvalerate	0.117	0.005	0.134	0.003	0.149	0.023
Threonine	0.967	0.017	1.061	0.034	0.097	0.029
Proline	0.114	0.002	0.124	0.004	0.089	0.039
Glutamine	0.265	0.004	0.286	0.009	0.079	0.043
Valine	0.537	0.016	0.518	0.017	-0.036	0.528
Leucine	0.879	0.037	0.845	0.038	-0.038	0.638
Glutamate	1.116	0.023	1.096	0.037	-0.018	0.740
Citrate	0.225	0.005	0.223	0.004	-0.008	0.854
Glucose	0.081	0.020	0.074	0.021	-0.084	0.854
Alanine	2.788	0.086	2.793	0.103	0.002	0.974

Table S2. Metabolites identified in extracts of WT HepG2 and FN3K-KO cells.