

1 **Hierarchized phosphotarget binding by the seven human 14-3-3 isoforms**

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21

## 22 Abstract

23 The seven human 14-3-3 isoforms, highly similar yet encoded by distinct genes, are among  
24 the top 1% highest-expressed human proteins. 14-3-3 proteins recognize phosphorylated  
25 motifs within numerous human or viral proteins. We analyzed by crystallography,  
26 fluorescence polarization, mutagenesis and fusicoccin-mediated modulation the structural  
27 basis and druggability of 14-3-3 binding to four E6 oncoproteins of tumorigenic HPV. The  
28 seven isoforms bound variant and mutated phospho-motifs of E6 and unrelated protein  
29 RSK1 with different affinities, albeit following an ordered ranking profile with conserved  
30 relative  $K_D$  ratios. Remarkably, 14-3-3 isoforms obey the same hierarchy when binding to  
31 most of their established targets, nicely supported by a recent proteome-wide human  
32 complexome map. This knowledge allows predicting the proportions of 14-3-3 isoforms  
33 engaged with phosphoproteins in various tissues. Notwithstanding their individual  
34 functions, cellular concentrations of 14-3-3 may be collectively adjusted to buffer the  
35 strongest phosphorylation outbursts, explaining their expression variations in different  
36 tissues and tumors.

37

### 38 **Keywords:**

39 14-3-3 proteins; affinity trends; HPV E6 oncoprotein; fusicoccin; phosphopeptides;  
40 phosphorylation.

41

## 42 INTRODUCTION

43 14-3-3 proteins recognize protein partners phosphorylated at serine or threonine in certain  
44 sequence motifs in all eukaryotic organisms. The seven human 14-3-3 "isoforms",  
45 individually named  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\zeta$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $\tau$  (beta, gamma, epsilon, zeta, eta, sigma and tau)<sup>1</sup>,  
46 are distinct gene encoded paralogs which are highly similar in sequence and in their  
47 phosphopeptide-recognition mode, yet display different expression patterns across tissues  
48 <sup>2, 3</sup>. 14-3-3 proteins are highly abundant in most human tissues, where several 14-3-3  
49 isoforms are systematically found among the top 1% of the ~20,000 human gene-encoded  
50 proteins <sup>3</sup>. For instance, according to the Protein Abundance Database, PAXdb, <sup>3</sup> the  
51 cumulated seven 14-3-3 isoforms are within the five most abundant protein species in  
52 platelets.

53 14-3-3 proteins function as dimers able to bind phosphopeptides <sup>4, 5</sup>. Phosphorylated 14-3-  
54 3-binding sequences usually correspond to internal motifs I RSX(pS/pT)X(P/G) and II  
55 RXY/FX(pS/pT)X(P/G) <sup>5</sup> and to the C-terminal motif III (pS/pT)X<sub>0-2</sub>-COOH <sup>6, 7</sup>, where pS/pT  
56 denotes phosphorylated serine or threonine and X denotes any amino acid. The regulation  
57 by 14-3-3 binding typically protects 14-3-3 targets from dephosphorylation, thereby  
58 affecting their activities, their interactions with other proteins, their turnover and intracellular  
59 localization <sup>8</sup>. 14-3-3 proteins are indispensable in a diversity of processes such as  
60 apoptosis, cell cycle, or signal transduction <sup>1, 9</sup>. They are involved in neurodegenerative  
61 disorders, viral infection and cancer, often representing promising drug targets <sup>10</sup>.

62 14-3-3 also directly interact with several viral proteins <sup>11</sup>, such as the E6 oncoprotein of  
63 high-risk mucosal human papillomaviruses (hrm-HPV) <sup>12, 13, 14</sup> responsible for genital  
64 cancers (cervix, anus) and a growing number of head-and-neck cancers <sup>15, 16</sup>. E6 is one of

65 the two main early-expressed HPV oncoproteins. In HPV-transformed cells, E6 interacts  
66 with numerous host proteins<sup>17</sup> to counteract apoptosis, alter differentiation pathways,  
67 polarity and adhesion properties and thereby sustain cell proliferation<sup>18, 19</sup>. Inhibition of E6  
68 in HPV-positive cell lines results in the cell growth arrest and induces apoptosis or rapid  
69 senescence<sup>20, 21, 22, 23</sup>. All hrm-HPV E6 proteins harbor a phosphorylatable dual-specificity  
70 C-terminal motif<sup>24</sup> (Fig. 1A). In its unphosphorylated state, it is a PDZ-domain binding motif  
71 (PBM) that mediates E6 binding to a range of cognate host proteins regulating cell polarity,  
72 adhesion, differentiation or survival<sup>14</sup>. When the motif is phosphorylated, E6 proteins, in  
73 particular those of hrm-HPV 16, 18 and 31, acquire the capacity to bind 14-3-3<sup>12, 13, 25</sup>.

74 Here we study the structural basis and druggability of 14-3-3 binding to E6 oncoproteins of  
75 four tumorigenic HPV types by a combination of crystallography, binding assays, and  
76 mutagenesis. We show that the seven isoforms bound phospho-PBMs of E6 proteins and  
77 of the unrelated human RSK kinase with different affinities, albeit obeying a hierarchized  
78 profile with conserved relative  $K_D$  ratios. This hierarchy turns out to be a general feature of  
79 the interaction of 14-3-3 isoforms with most of their targets, supported by both literature  
80 and a recently released proteome-wide human complexome map<sup>26</sup>. Using this knowledge,  
81 we built a predictor that estimates the proportions of 14-3-3 isoforms engaged with  
82 phosphoproteins in various human tissues, cell lines or tumors.

83

## 84 RESULTS

### 85 Selected E6 PBMs reveal parallel binding profiles to human 14-3-3 isoforms

86 Among all 225 HPV E6 proteins curated in the PaVE database (<https://pave.niaid.nih.gov/>,  
87 last accessed on 28 September 2020), 31 E6 proteins from mucosal  $\alpha$ -genera HPV  
88 possess a C-terminal PBM with the class 1 consensus (X(S/T)X(L/V/I/C)-COOH, where X  
89 is any amino acid residue<sup>27, 28</sup>). E6 PBMs are phosphorylatable by protein kinases at their  
90 conserved antepenultimate S/T residue<sup>12, 13, 29</sup>. This phosphosite is preceded by arginine  
91 residues in most of the HPV-E6 PBM sequences with recognizable basophilic kinase  
92 substrate consensus motifs, R(X/R)X(S/T) and RXRXX(S/T)<sup>30, 31</sup>. The E6 PBMs can be  
93 classified in three subgroups: subgroups 1 and 2 prone to phosphorylation by the  
94 basophilic kinases and "orphan" subgroup 3 with a less predictable phosphorylation  
95 propensity (Supplementary Fig. 1). In line with earlier observations<sup>12, 25, 32</sup>, the phospho-  
96 PBM sequences from subgroups 1 and 2 ideally match the C-terminal 14-3-3-binding motif  
97 III<sup>6</sup> (Fig. 1A).

98 Four phospho-PBMs from E6 proteins of HPV types 16, 18, 33 and 35 belonging to  
99 subgroups 1 and 2 (as defined in Supplementary Fig. 1) were analyzed for their interaction  
100 with all seven full-length human 14-3-3 isoforms. For comparison, we also measured two  
101 non-viral phospho-PBMs originating from protein kinase RSK1<sup>25</sup>. We used a competitive  
102 fluorescence polarization assay that measures the displacement of a fluorescent tracer  
103 phosphopeptide (here, HSPB6) bound beforehand to 14-3-3, by an increasing amount of  
104 the peptide of interest. All binding curves are shown in Supplementary Fig. 2A.

105 All phospho-PBMs (p16E6, p18E6, p33E6, p35E6, RSK1\_-1P, and RSK1\_-2P) detectably  
106 bound to 14-3-3 proteins, in sharp contrast to their unphosphorylated counterparts. The  
107 interactions between E6 phospho-PBMs and 14-3-3 proteins spanned very wide affinity  
108 ranges, from just below 1  $\mu$ M (p33E6–14-3-3 $\gamma$ ) to above 300  $\mu$ M (Fig. 1B and

109 Supplementary Fig. 2A). Such large binding affinity differences are noteworthy since the  
110 four E6 PBM sequences are very similar (Fig. 1A), and all 14-3-3 isoforms share highly  
111 conserved phosphopeptide-binding grooves.

112 Remarkably, the six phospho-PBMs obeyed a consistent hierarchized profile in their  
113 relative binding preferences towards the seven 14-3-3 isoforms, albeit with an overall shift  
114 in affinity from one peptide to another. For each phosphopeptide, the seven 14-3-3  
115 isoforms systematically clustered as four groups of decreasing affinity, in a conserved  
116 order from the strongest to the weakest phospho-PBM binder: gamma, eta, zeta/tau/beta  
117 and epsilon/sigma ( $\gamma$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\zeta/\tau/\beta$ , and  $\epsilon/\sigma$ ) (Fig. 1C). These conserved relative affinity shifts  
118 can be quantified by calculating, for two distinct 14-3-3 isoforms, their differences of free  
119 energy of binding ( $\Delta\Delta G$ ) towards each individual phosphopeptide, then calculating the  
120 average difference ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av}$ ) with its standard deviation (Fig. 1D). Between the strongest  
121 and the weakest binders (isoforms  $\gamma$  and  $\sigma$ , respectively) the average phosphopeptide-  
122 binding energy difference is  $\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -5.1 \pm 1.3$  kJ/mol, roughly corresponding to a 11-fold  
123  $K_D$  ratio.

124

### [Figure 1]

125 **Fig. 1. Selected E6 PBMs reveal parallel binding profiles to human 14-3-3 isoforms.**  
126 **A.** Exemplary phosphorylatable C-terminal E6 PBMs from high-risk mucosal HPV types  
127 overlap with the 14-3-3-binding motif III<sup>6</sup>. The positions are numbered above, according to  
128 conventional PBM numbering. **B.** Affinities of four selected HPV-E6 phospho-PBMs, p35E6  
129 mutants and RSK1 phosphopeptides towards the seven human 14-3-3 isoforms as  
130 determined by fluorescence polarization using FITC-labeled HSPB6 phosphopeptide as a  
131 tracer. Apparent  $K_D$  values determined from competitive FP experiments are presented. **C.**  
132 The heatmap representation of the data on panel A showing the affinity trends in the  
133 interaction profiles between 14-3-3 isoforms and four HPV-E6 phospho-PBMs from  
134 weakest (white) to strongest (red). **D.** Averaged  $\Delta\Delta G$  values between 14-3-3 isoforms or  
135 E6 phospho-PBM pairs, calculated based on their observed order of binding affinities (from  
136 weakest to strongest). Individual  $K_D$  values from Supplementary Fig. 2 were first converted  
137 into  $\Delta G$  values (at  $T=295$  K; excluding cases when  $K_D > 300$   $\mu$ M) and average  $\Delta\Delta G$  values  
138 ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av}$ ) were calculated between the indicated motifs/isoforms.

139

140 The seven 14-3-3 isoforms also showed consistent profiles in their relative binding  
141 preferences towards the four E6 phospho-PBMs. For each 14-3-3 isoform, the four  
142 phospho-PBMs systematically rank the same way from the strongest to the weakest  
143 binder: p33E6, p18E6, p16E6 and p35E6 (Fig. 1D). The average 14-3-3 binding free  
144 energy difference between p33E6 and p35E6 was  $\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -10.9 \pm 0.7$  kJ/mol, roughly  
145 corresponding to a 100-fold  $K_D$  ratio.

146

### 147 Atomic structure reveals the 14-3-3 $\zeta$ -18E6 PBM interface

148 To get structural insight into the 14-3-3 $\zeta$  interaction with 18E6 PBM, we determined a  
149 crystal structure of the 14-3-3 $\zeta$ -18E6 phospho-PBM complex at a 1.9 Å resolution using a  
150 previously reported chimeric fusion strategy<sup>33, 34</sup> (Table 1, Fig. 2, Supplementary Figs 3  
151 and 4). The phosphopeptide establishes multiple polar interactions with the basic pocket in

152 the amphipathic groove of 14-3-3 (Supplementary Fig. 5), largely reminiscent of previously  
153 solved structures of 14-3-3–phosphopeptide complexes<sup>5, 33</sup>. The conformation of 18E6  
154 phosphopeptide bound to 14-3-3 $\zeta$  within the chimera is practically identical (RMSD = 0.17  
155 Å upon superimposition of C $\alpha$  atoms of the peptides) to the 14-3-3 $\sigma$ -bound conformation of  
156 a synthetic 16E6 phosphopeptide reported very recently at a lower resolution (Fig. 2B)<sup>25</sup>.  
157 The observed conservation of most interface contacts within the two complexes suggest  
158 that these crystal structures can serve as templates to build accurate homology models of  
159 14-3-3 complexes for other E6 phospho-PBMs or, more generally, other C-terminal motif III  
160 peptides phosphorylated on the antepenultimate position.

161 Nonetheless, a few noteworthy differences appear in a subset of the crystallographic  
162 conformers of 14-3-3/16E6 and 14-3-3/18E6 complexes. On the one hand, in 1 of the 4  
163 conformers observed in the asymmetric unit of the 14-3-3 $\sigma$ /16E6 crystal, the side chains of  
164 Arg -7 (Gln in 18E6) and Glu -3 form an additional *in-cis* salt bridge (Fig. 2B). On the other  
165 hand, Arg -6 of 18E6 (Thr in 16E6) mediates a bipartite interaction with 14-3-3 in most of  
166 the observed conformers. It simultaneously interacts with the carbonyl of Asp223 and  
167 participates in a water-mediated interaction with Asn224 (Fig. 2B and Supplementary Fig.  
168 5).

169

## [Figure 2]

170 **Fig. 2.** Molecular interface between 14-3-3 $\zeta$  and phosphorylated 18E6 PBM at a 1.9 Å  
171 resolution. **A.** An overall view on the 14-3-3 $\zeta$  dimer (subunits are in tints of grey) with two  
172 bound 18E6 phosphopeptides (cyan sticks). **B.** An overlay of the two 14-3-3 bound  
173 phosphopeptides from 16E6 (6TWZ.pdb) and 18E6 (this work) showing the similarity of the  
174 conformation. # denotes the C-terminus (-COOH). w – the water molecule,  $\pi$  –  $\pi$ -stacking  
175 interaction. Key positions are numbered according to the PBM convention. **C.** Averaged  
176  $\Delta\Delta G$  values between 14-3-3 isoforms or 35E6 phospho-PBM pairs, calculated based on  
177 their observed order of binding affinities (from weakest to strongest). Individual  $K_D$  values  
178 from Supplementary Fig. 2 were first converted into  $\Delta G$  values (at T=295 K; excluding  
179 cases when  $K_D > 300 \mu\text{M}$ ) and average  $\Delta\Delta G$  values ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av}$ ) were calculated between the  
180 indicated motifs/isoforms.

181

## 182 **Rescue of the weakest E6–14-3-3 interaction by rational design**

183 Next, we investigated possible causes of the remarkable 14-3-3 binding affinity differences  
184 observed between the four E6 phospho-PBMs.

185 In principle, the affinity of a series of variant peptides for a given protein may be modulated  
186 by two types of atomic contacts: intermolecular and intramolecular contacts within the  
187 formed complexes, and intramolecular contacts in the free unbound peptides.

188 As concerns contacts within the 14-3-3/E6 complexes, the crystal structures have shown  
189 that Arg -6 can mediate more interactions than Thr -6 with the generic 14-3-3 interface (Fig.  
190 2B). Interestingly, position -6 is an Arg in the two strongest 14-3-3-binders (18E6 and  
191 33E6) versus a Thr in the weakest ones (35E6 and 16E6).

192 As concerns possible contacts within the unbound peptides, we noticed that all E6  
193 phospho-PBMs have a delicate charge distribution, with an acidic C-terminal segment (that



194 includes the C-terminus and the natural acidic or phosphorylated residues) and a basic N-  
195 terminal segment (that is also involved in recognition by kinases). These local charged  
196 segments may form transient *in-cis* interactions within the unbound phosphopeptide, so-  
197 called “charge clamps”<sup>35</sup>. We speculated that Glu -1 in p35E6, the weakest 14-3-3 binder,  
198 might participate in such a charge clamp, thereby disfavoring its binding to 14-3-3.

199 To address these potential mechanisms, we synthesized three variants of the weakest 14-  
200 3-3 binder, p35E6. The first variant contained a T-6R substitution, which in principle could  
201 allow a more stable bound conformation, but may also stabilize charge clamps in the free  
202 form of the motif. The second variant contained an E-1A substitution, which in principle  
203 could destabilize *in-cis* charge-clamps. A third variant contained both substitutions. All  
204 substitutions turned out to reinforce the binding affinities of 35E6 without altering the  
205 apparent preferences of the different 14-3-3 isoforms (Fig. 1B and Fig. 2C). Taken  
206 individually, T-6R moderately increased binding ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -1.1 \pm 0.5$  kJ/mol, 1.5-fold  $K_D$   
207 ratio), while E-1A strongly reinforced it ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -5.1 \pm 0.2$  kJ/mol, 11-fold  $K_D$   
208 ratio). When combined, the two substitutions synergistically increased binding ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -8.7 \pm 0.4$   
209 kJ/mol, 35-fold  $K_D$  ratio), thereby turning p35E6 into a strong 14-3-3 binder, just below  
210 p33E6. These results indicate that the two above-stated mechanisms act in combination to  
211 generate the wide 14-3-3-binding affinity range displayed by distinct E6 phospho-PBMs  
212 despite of their high sequence conservation.

213

#### 214 **The 14-3-3/E6 PBM interaction is druggable by fusicoccin**

215 Fusicoccin (FSC) is a commonly used stabilizer of 14-3-3 complexes, when its binding in  
216 the distinct pocket in the 14-3-3/phosphopeptide interface is allowed by phosphopeptide  
217 side chains of the amino acids in downstream positions relative to the phospho-residue<sup>36,</sup>  
218 <sup>37, 38, 39</sup>. This is especially the case with motif III phosphopeptide complexes of 14-3-3  
219 having only one residue after the phosphosite<sup>37, 39, 40</sup>. However, the effect of FSC on  
220 interaction of longer motif III phosphopeptides with 14-3-3 is less characterized  
221 (Supplementary Table 1).

222 We performed FP experiments to measure equilibrium binding affinity constants of  
223 complexes between the four HPV-E6 phosphopeptides and 14-3-3 isoforms  $\zeta$  and  $\gamma$ , in the  
224 presence of 100  $\mu$ M FSC (Supplementary Fig. 2B and Fig. 3A). The addition of FSC  
225 consistently decreased by 1.5 to 2 fold the affinities of all eight interactions ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -1.3 \pm$   
226  $0.5$  and  $-1.8 \pm 0.4$  kJ/mol for  $\zeta$  and  $\gamma$ , respectively) without altering the apparent  
227 preferences of the different peptides (Fig. 3A and B).

228 Next, we used a soaking approach to crystallize the ternary 14-3-3 $\zeta$ /18E6 PBM/FSC  
229 complex and solved its structure at 1.85 Å resolution (Fig. 3C, Supplementary Fig. 4, 6 and  
230 Table 1). FSC binding in the well-defined cavity did not disrupt the overall assembly  
231 (Supplementary Fig. 4 and Fig. 3C), but it induced a hallmark  $\sim 4$  Å closure of the last  $\alpha$ -  
232 helix of 14-3-3 $\zeta$  (Fig. 3D) as observed for other 14-3-3 complexes containing FSC<sup>41</sup>. Also,  
233 FSC binding reoriented the C-terminal carboxyl group and caused local destabilization of  
234 the very C-terminal residues of the phosphopeptide, increasing their temperature factors  
235 and dispersing the local electron density (Fig. 3D and Supplementary Fig. 6). As a result of  
236 FSC binding, the water network around the phospho-PBM C-terminus significantly changed  
237 (Supplementary Fig. 7).

238 Nevertheless, the simultaneous binding of FSC and E6 PBM in the amphipathic groove of  
239 14-3-3 indicates that such ternary complex can be used as a starting point to design both  
240 stabilizers and inhibitors of 14-3-3/E6 interactions.

241 **[Figure 3]**

242 **Fig. 3.** The 14-3-3 $\zeta$ /18E6 PBM interaction is druggable by FSC. **A.** Affinities of four  
243 selected HPV-E6 phospho-PBMs towards human 14-3-3 $\zeta$  and 14-3-3 $\gamma$  in the absence and  
244 in the presence of FSC as determined by fluorescence polarization using FITC-labeled  
245 HSPB6 phosphopeptide as a tracer. Apparent  $K_D$  values determined from competitive FP  
246 experiments are presented. The binding curves are shown in Supplementary Fig. 2. **B.**  
247 Averaged  $\Delta\Delta G$  values between 14-3-3–E6 phospho-PBM pairs in the absence or in the  
248 presence of FSC, calculated based on their observed order of binding affinities (from  
249 weakest to strongest). Individual  $K_D$  values from Supplementary Fig. 2 were first converted  
250 into  $\Delta G$  values (at  $T=295$  K; excluding cases when  $K_D > 300$   $\mu$ M) and average  $\Delta\Delta G$  values  
251 ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av}$ ) were calculated between the indicated motifs/isoforms. **C.** An overall view on the  
252 ternary complex between 14-3-3 $\zeta$  (subunits are shown by surface using two tints of grey),  
253 18E6 phosphopeptide (cyan sticks) and FSC (pink sticks). FSC was soaked into the 14-3-  
254 3 $\zeta$ –18E6 chimera crystals.  $2F_o - F_c$  electron density maps contoured at  $1\sigma$  show are shown  
255 for the phosphopeptide and FSC only. **D.** The effect of FSC binding. Conformational  
256 changes upon FSC binding are shown by red arrows, a significant rise of the local B-  
257 factors of the phosphopeptide is shown using a gradient from blue to red as indicated. The  
258 amplitudes of the conformational changes in 14-3-3 and 18E6 peptide are indicated in  $\text{\AA}$  by  
259 dashed arrows.

260

261 **Hierarchized peptide-affinity profiles are a general feature of human 14-3-3 isoforms**

262 Former studies have measured the binding of the seven human 14-3-3 isoforms to  
263 unrelated phospho-motifs derived from Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance  
264 Regulator (CFTR), Leucine-Rich Repeat Kinase 2 (LRRK2), Potassium channel subfamily  
265 K members (TASK1/3), C-Raf, the p65 subunit of the NF- $\kappa$ B transcription factor, and from  
266 Ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal hydrolase 8 (USP8), representing a wide variety of different 14-  
267 3-3-binding motifs, including C-terminal, internal, monovalent or divalent motifs<sup>38, 42, 43, 44,</sup>  
268<sup>45, 46</sup>. These phosphorylated motifs from different origins have a strikingly wide affinity  
269 range, spanning from low nanomolar to low millimolar detectable dissociation constants  
270 (Fig. 4A-C). For instance, for 14-3-3 $\gamma$ , the  $K_D$  ratio between the strongest and the weakest  
271 binding phosphopeptide is almost 625-fold in the present work, and 39,000-fold when  
272 taking into account affinities from the literature (Fig. 4B).

273 Conversely, the hierarchized relative binding profile of the seven human 14-3-3 isoforms  
274 observed herein for E6 and RSK1 phosphopeptides is remarkably confirmed in most  
275 published data that have also measured affinities for all these seven isoforms<sup>38, 42, 43, 44, 45,</sup>  
276<sup>46</sup>, with 14-3-3 $\gamma$  and 14-3-3 $\eta$  consistently being the strongest binders and 14-3-3 $\sigma$  and 14-  
277 3-3 $\epsilon$  being the weakest binders, independently of the nature of the target motif (Fig. 4C).  
278 Furthermore, the average maximal  $K_D$  ratio between the strongest-binding and the  
279 weakest-binding 14-3-3 in the literature is around 12-fold, like in our present work (~11-  
280 fold).

281 Moving further, we wondered whether the observed trends would be conserved at a full  
282 proteome-wide scale. The Gygi laboratory (Harvard University) applied a massive parallel  
283 affinity-purification coupled to mass-spectrometry (AP-MS) technique to decipher the  
284 complexomes of more than 10,000 recombinantly expressed bait proteins in two  
285 orthogonal cell lines<sup>26</sup>. We retrieved from the "Bioplex3" database (a compendium of all  
286 data from the Gygi laboratory) the numbers of detected interaction partners for each 14-3-3  
287 isoform (Fig. 4D-G). In total, 547 unique proteins were detected as an interaction partner of  
288 at least a single 14-3-3 isoform. Out of those, 14-3-3 $\gamma$  and 14-3-3 $\eta$  had the highest number  
289 of interaction partners, followed by a second group including 14-3-3 $\beta$ , 14-3-3 $\zeta$ , and 14-3-3 $\tau$ ,  
290 and a third group comprising 14-3-3 $\sigma$  and 14-3-3 $\epsilon$  (Fig. 4D). Most of these interaction  
291 partners were found to bind more than a single 14-3-3 isoform (Fig. 4F and G). While the  
292 strongest-binding isoforms ( $\gamma$  and  $\eta$ ) do not share ~30% of their interactome with the other  
293 isoforms, they interact with more than 85% of the binders of the mild-binding isoforms ( $\beta$ ,  $\zeta$ ,  
294 and  $\tau$ ) and more than 90% of the binders of the weak-binding isoform 14-3-3 $\epsilon$ . Indeed, out  
295 of the 75 detected binders of 14-3-3 $\epsilon$ , only 1 (below 2% of the total) is unique to 14-3-3 $\epsilon$ .  
296 By contrast, the other weak-binding isoform, 14-3-3 $\sigma$ , has a distinct behavior. Out of its 51  
297 detected binders, 26 interactions are unique to 14-3-3 $\sigma$  (above 50% of all its binders).

298 In the AP-MS experiments, interaction partners (and 14-3-3 proteins in particular) can be  
299 either "baits" or "preys". Baits are recombinantly expressed in the cells using the same  
300 promoter, which should ensure a relatively even expression for all 14-3-3 isoforms. By  
301 contrast, the preys are proteins naturally expressed by the cells, so that the distinct 14-3-3  
302 preys should be present in very different amounts, depending on their intrinsic levels of  
303 expression in the host cells. We observed a remarkable linear correlation ( $R^2 = 0.96$ )  
304 between the numbers of detected interaction partners (as preys) captured by different 14-  
305 3-3 isoforms (as baits) and their relative affinity ( $\Delta\Delta G_{av}$ ) for the best phosphopeptide-  
306 binder, 14-3-3 $\gamma$  isoform (Fig. 4G). The correlation decreased when using 14-3-3 prey-  
307 binding baits ( $R^2 = 0.84$ ) or the using the mixture from 14-3-3 bait and 14-3-3 prey pools  
308 ( $R^2 = 0.91$ ) (Supplementary Fig. 8A). In support of these interrelations, the number of 14-3-  
309 3 prey-binding baits also indicated correlation with the affinity trend of 14-3-3 isoforms  
310 when using data from a recent independent study ([https://sec-  
311 explorer.shinyapps.io/Kinome\\_interactions/](https://sec-explorer.shinyapps.io/Kinome_interactions/) and<sup>47</sup>) that used AP-MS to uncover the  
312 interactions of more than 300 protein kinases ( $R^2 = 0.64$ ) (Supplementary Fig. 8A).

313

#### [Figure 4]

314 **Fig. 4.** Hierarchized target binding by the seven human 14-3-3 isoforms is a general trend.  
315 **A.** Affinity maps of 14-3-3 interactions based on experimentally determined dissociation  
316 constants against the 14-3-3ome, as obtained in the current work and in<sup>38, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46</sup>.  
317 Binding motifs that are analyzed in other studies are highlighted with a grey background<sup>38,</sup>  
318 <sup>42, 43, 44, 45, 46</sup>. The color scale is either based on affinity values or in  $K_D$  ratios.  $\sqrt{\phantom{x}}$  denotes  
319 affinities weaker than the limit of quantitation of the experimental assays. **B.** Same map as  
320 in (A), normalized to the strongest 14-3-3-binding motif. An average 34,000-fold  $K_D$  ratio is  
321 observed between the strongest and weakest 14-3-3-binding peptide. **C.** Same map as in  
322 (A), normalized to the strongest phosphopeptide-binder 14-3-3 $\gamma$ . Note that all peptides are  
323 following very similar affinity trends between the different 14-3-3 isoforms, with an average  
324 12-fold  $K_D$  ratio between the strongest-binding and weakest-binding 14-3-3 isoform. **D.**  
325 Number of unique partners detected according to the Bioplex database  
326 (<https://bioplex.hms.harvard.edu> and<sup>26</sup>) for each 14-3-3 isoform, taken individually (left) or  
327 grouped in three subsets (right) following their relative affinity trends (strong, intermediate,



328 and weak binders). **E.** From left to right: number of 14-3-3 partners in the Bioplex database,  
329 that bound to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or all 7 isoforms, respectively. Within each bar, the proportion  
330 of partners that bound to each individual isoform is indicated (same isoform color code as  
331 in (D)). **F.** Venn diagram showing the repartition of the 14-3-3 partners from the Bioplex  
332 database among the strong, medium and weak phosphopeptide-binding subsets, defined  
333 as in (D). **G.** Correlation between the number of "prey" binders of 14-3-3 isoforms used as  
334 "baits", according to the Bioplex database, and the average free binding energy difference  
335  $\Delta\Delta G$  between the strongest phosphopeptide-binder 14-3-3 $\gamma$ , and all individual isoforms  
336 (same color code as in (D)).  $\Delta\Delta G$  values were calculated from the average  $K_D$  ratios from  
337 panel C. **H.** Abundance of the seven 14-3-3 isoforms across different human tissues and in  
338 the whole human organism, according to the PAXdb database (<https://pax-db.org> and <sup>3</sup>). **I.**  
339 Predicted proportions of 14-3-3-bound phosphoproteins that would be engaged with each  
340 individual isoform in different tissues, assuming that the majority of 14-3-3 molecules are  
341 available for interaction (same color code as in (D)).

342

343 Remarkably, the level of overall sequence divergence of 14-3-3 isoforms, using 14-3-3 $\gamma$  as  
344 a reference ( $\gamma < \eta < \beta \approx \zeta < \tau < \sigma < \epsilon$ ; i.e.,  $\epsilon$  is the most divergent from  $\gamma$ ; Supplementary  
345 Fig. 9A), also correlates very well with their hierarchized affinity differences (Fig. 1 and 4).  
346 However, the latter cannot be explained merely by features of the phosphopeptide-binding  
347 regions of 14-3-3 isoforms, which in fact are identical in all seven human 14-3-3 proteins  
348 (Supplementary Fig. 9A and B). Indeed, even the extreme isoforms on the peptide-affinity  
349 scale, 14-3-3 $\gamma$  and 14-3-3 $\sigma$ , have only minor sequence variations and only at the periphery  
350 of the peptide-binding grooves (Supplementary Fig. 9C), which are unlikely to dictate the  
351 phosphopeptide binding differences. Interestingly, the sequence divergence trend relative  
352 to 14-3-3 $\gamma$  (Supplementary Fig. 9A) remains conserved when considering diverse sub-  
353 regions of the sequence (Supplementary Fig. 10). This indicates that the general target  
354 affinity differences arise from fine conformational effects spanning the entire structure,  
355 rather than a defined sub-region.

### 356 **Prediction of cellular 14-3-3/phosphotargets complexomes**

357 14-3-3 proteins are highly expressed. Therefore, their abundances in all human tissues  
358 have been reliably quantified. According to the integrated whole human body dataset of the  
359 Protein Abundance Database, PAXdb (<https://pax-db.org> and <sup>3</sup>), 14-3-3 $\epsilon$  is the 48th most  
360 abundant human protein (2479 ppm) and 14-3-3 $\zeta$  is the 72nd (1680 ppm) out of 19949  
361 proteins. Considered as a whole, the cumulated seven 14-3-3 isoforms even rank within  
362 the top 20 (i.e., top 0.1%) most abundant human proteins. However, 14-3-3 isoforms are  
363 not uniformly distributed across tissues. Each human cell type has a specific distribution of  
364 the 14-3-3 family (Fig. 4H).

365 We took advantage of the quantified hierarchized affinity profile of 14-3-3 isoforms to build  
366 a predictor tool, which estimates the fraction of a given phosphoprotein that is engaged  
367 with each distinct 14-3-3 isoform (Supplementary file 1). As an input, the predictor requires  
368 (i) the  $K_D$  of that phosphoprotein for at least one 14-3-3 isoform, and (ii) the cellular  
369 concentrations of the seven 14-3-3 isoforms and of the phosphoprotein of interest. The  
370 concentrations of a given protein species in a given cell type can be roughly estimated from  
371 protein abundance databases (PAXdb database <sup>3</sup>), by using a simple conversion rule (see  
372 Methods).

373 We used this approach to predict the proportions of each 14-3-3 isoform among the overall  
374 14-3-3/phosphoprotein complexes formed in various tissues, including uterus, rectum and  
375 oral cavity, which are all susceptible to hrm-HPV infection, as well as in five other organs  
376 (esophagus, skin, lung, brain and heart) (Fig. 4H, I, Supplementary Fig. 8).

377 Conversely, the free fraction of each phosphoprotein depends on absolute affinity  
378 constants. HPV-positive cell lines have been estimated to produce an average of ~1 ng of  
379 E6 per  $10^6$  cells, corresponding to an approximate intracellular concentration of 25 nM (<sup>48</sup>  
380 and personal communication from Dr. J. Schweizer, Arborvita Corp, USA). In a situation  
381 where the E6 PBM would be fully phosphorylated, we can estimate, using the predictor,  
382 that 98%, 85%, 65% or 35% of phosphorylated 33E6, 18E6, 16E6 and 35E6, respectively,  
383 would be engaged in 14-3-3 complexes in cells containing the average 14-3-3  
384 concentrations found in human cells (estimated from integrated human data in PAXdb  
385 database <sup>3</sup>) (Supplementary Fig. 8).

386

## 387 **DISCUSSION**

388 E6 oncoproteins of all hrm-HPV types contain a conserved C-terminal PDZ-Binding Motif  
389 which can become a potential 14-3-3-binding motif upon phosphorylation <sup>12, 13, 25</sup>  
390 (Supplementary Fig. 1 and Fig. 1A). Here, we initially set out to analyze the mechanistic  
391 and structural basis for the 14-3-3 $\zeta$  binding to the 18E6 oncoprotein. Comparison to a  
392 previously solved complex between 14-3-3 $\sigma$  and HPV16 E6 <sup>25</sup> revealed conserved binding  
393 principles (Fig. 2B) that are likely to be valid for most hrm-HPV E6/14-3-3 complexes. We  
394 also showed that the fusicoccin molecule, a well-known modulator of 14-3-3 interactions,  
395 moderately destabilizes E6 binding to 14-3-3 (Fig. 3). This indicated that the hrm-HPV  
396 E6/14-3-3 complexes are in principle druggable.

397 The phosphorylated PBMs of four selected hrm-HPV E6 all detectably bound to 14-3-3  
398 proteins, albeit with surprisingly wide affinity variations spanning a 100-fold  $K_D$  range for  
399 different E6 PBMs binding to a given 14-3-3 isoform (Fig. 1). In the literature, interactions of  
400 phosphorylated peptides with 14-3-3 even cover a wider ~40,000-fold affinity range, from  
401 low nanomolar to low millimolar (Fig. 4). As shown in the present work, very modest  
402 sequence variations of a phosphopeptide can be sufficient to alter its unbound and/or  
403 bound states in a way that greatly impacts binding affinity. Similar principles may govern  
404 14-3-3-binding affinity variations of many other phosphopeptides.

405 Conversely, the seven isoforms bound each E6 phosphopeptide following a conserved  
406 hierarchized profile, with an approximate 11-fold  $K_D$  ratio between the strongest-binding  
407 and the weakest-binding 14-3-3 isoform. Remarkably, 14-3-3s obey the same hierarchy  
408 when binding to most of their targets, as supported by our own data on RSK1 and HSPB6  
409 peptides, by our literature curation <sup>38, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46</sup>, and by the unbiased proteome-wide  
410 complexome data very recently made available by the Gygi group in the "Bioplex3"  
411 database (<https://bioplex.hms.harvard.edu> and <sup>26</sup>) and the human kinome interactome  
412 ([https://sec-explorer.shinyapps.io/Kinome\\_interactions/](https://sec-explorer.shinyapps.io/Kinome_interactions/) and <sup>47</sup>). Only 14-3-3 $\sigma$  may stand  
413 out as a partial exception to this rule. While displaying a low affinity to most 14-3-3 targets,  
414 it nonetheless binds to a small subset of "proprietary" targets that are not shared with other  
415 14-3-3 isoforms (Fig. 4). This outlier character of 14-3-3 $\sigma$  has already been noticed in  
416 previous works dedicated to the structural and functional peculiarities of that isoform <sup>49, 50</sup>.

417 We took advantage of the hierarchized target-binding profiles of 14-3-3 isoforms to develop  
418 a prediction approach of the 14-3-3 complexome. This approach can compute, for a given  
419 cell population, the free and 14-3-3-bound fractions of any phosphoprotein whose cellular  
420 concentration and affinity for at least one 14-3-3 isoform are available. The concentration of  
421 host proteins can be inferred from the protein abundance databases such as PAXdb  
422 (<https://pax-db.org> and <sup>3</sup>), while the affinity to a 14-3-3 isoform can easily be obtained using  
423 state-of-the-art in vitro protein-peptide binding approaches.

424 When applied to the rather weakly-expressed HPV E6 proteins, predictions indicated that,  
425 in a cellular situation favoring E6 phosphorylation, phospho-E6 molecules should get fully  
426 engaged with the 14-3-3 pool for the strongest 14-3-3-binding E6 variants, and only partly  
427 engaged for the weaker ones. Such differences are likely to influence the de-  
428 phosphorylation kinetics of phospho-E6 molecules from different HPV types, and the  
429 subsequent dynamics of cellular mechanisms involving PDZ-containing proteins targeted  
430 by E6. We also found that, in tissues susceptible to HPV infections, phosphorylated E6  
431 would be complexed to distinct proportions of 14-3-3 proteins. In particular, phosphorylated  
432 E6 might be engaged with a higher proportion of 14-3-3 $\sigma$  in oral cavity, where this  
433 otherwise weakly-expressed isoform is particularly abundant.

434 14-3-3 proteins are abundant in all tissues, yet in variable amounts. It is also known that  
435 most tumors adjust their 14-3-3 concentrations, by altering the expression of at least one  
436 14-3-3 isoform <sup>51, 52, 53</sup>. In all cell types, peaks of bulk phosphorylation occur, for instance at  
437 specific cell cycle steps or in reaction to changes in the extracellular environment <sup>54, 55</sup>. It is  
438 tempting to speculate that, as previously proposed by others <sup>56</sup>, 14-3-3 proteins,  
439 notwithstanding their individual functional specificities, may collectively provide a buffering  
440 system for intracellular signaling. In such a view, the cumulated concentrations of 14-3-3  
441 are adjusted in each cell type for coping with the most acute phosphorylation outbursts  
442 possible in that very cell type. We notice that the highest concentrations of 14-3-3 in human  
443 cells are found in platelets (Fig. 4H). Indeed, platelet activation is a phenomenon known to  
444 involve powerful phosphorylation events <sup>57</sup>.

445 To conclude, the present work opens novel avenues for interpreting, predicting and  
446 addressing in a quantitative and global manner the way that distinct 14-3-3 isoforms bind to  
447 pools of phosphorylated proteins and thereby modulate their activities.

448

## 449 METHODS

### 450 Cloning, recombinant protein purification and peptide synthesis

451 Previously described chimeras contained the C-terminally truncated human 14-3-3 $\sigma$   
452 (Uniprot ID P31947; residues 1-231, 14-3-3 $\sigma\Delta$ C) bearing on its N-terminus a His<sub>6</sub>-tag  
453 cleavable by 3C protease and phosphorylatable peptides tethered to the 14-3-3 $\sigma$  C-  
454 terminus by a GSGS linker<sup>33</sup>. The novel chimera was designed taking into account the  
455 following modifications. First, it contained the C-terminally truncated human 14-3-3 $\zeta$   
456 sequence (Uniprot ID P63104; residues 1-229, 14-3-3 $\zeta\Delta$ C) connected to the PKA-  
457 phosphorylatable 18E6 heptapeptide around Thr156. Second, the 14-3-3 $\zeta$  core was  
458 modified to block Ser58 phosphorylation (S58A)<sup>58, 59</sup>. Third, to improve crystallizability, the  
459 14-3-3 $\zeta$  sequence was mutated by introducing the <sup>73</sup>EKK<sup>75</sup>→AAA and <sup>157</sup>KKE<sup>159</sup>→AAA  
460 amino acid replacements in the highest-scoring clusters 1 and 2 predicted by the surface  
461 entropy reduction approach<sup>60, 61</sup>. Finally, the linker was changed to GGGG to exclude its  
462 unspecific phosphorylation (Supplementary Fig. 3A).

463 cDNA of the 14-3-3 $\zeta$ -18E6 chimera was codon-optimized for expression in *Escherichia coli*  
464 and synthesized by IDT Technologies (Coralville, Iowa, USA). The 14-3-3 $\zeta\Delta$ C gene was  
465 flanked by *Nde*I and *Age*I restriction endonuclease sites to enable alteration of the 14-3-3  
466 or E6 PBM peptide sequences. The entire 14-3-3 $\zeta$ -GGGG-18E6 PBM construct was  
467 inserted into a pET28-his-3C vector<sup>62</sup> using *Nde*I and *Xho*I restriction endonuclease sites.  
468 The resulting vector was amplified in DH5 $\alpha$  cells and verified using DNA sequencing in  
469 Evrogen (Moscow, Russia, [www.evrogen.ru](http://www.evrogen.ru)).

470 The assembled vector (Kanamycin resistance) was transformed into chemically competent  
471 *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells for expression either in the absence or in the presence of the His<sub>6</sub>-  
472 tagged catalytically active subunit of mouse PKA<sup>62</sup>. Protein expression was induced by the  
473 addition of isopropyl- $\beta$ -thiogalactoside (IPTG) to a final concentration of 0.5 mM and  
474 continued for 16 h at 25 °C. The overexpressed protein was purified using subtractive  
475 immobilized metal-affinity chromatography (IMAC) and gel-filtration essentially as  
476 described earlier for 14-3-3 $\sigma$  chimeras<sup>33</sup> (Supplementary Fig. 3B and C). The purified  
477 phosphorylated 14-3-3 $\zeta$ -18E6 chimera revealed the characteristic downward shift on native  
478 PAGE compared to the unphosphorylated counterpart (Supplementary Fig. 3D). Given the  
479 absence of PKA phosphorylation sites in the modified 14-3-3 $\zeta$  core and the linker, this  
480 strongly indicated 18E6 phosphorylation by co-expressed PKA. The chimera was fully  
481 soluble and stable at concentrations above 20 mg/ml required for crystallization. Protein  
482 concentration was determined at 280 nm on a Nanophotometer NP80 (Implen, Germany)  
483 using extinction coefficient equal to 0.93 (mg/ml)<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>.

484 For affinity measurements, full-length human 14-3-3 constructs with a rigid N-terminal MBP  
485 fusion were used. The coding sequences of the full-length 14-3-3 epsilon, gamma and zeta  
486 were received from Prof. Lawrence Banks. cDNAs encoding other full-length 14-3-3  
487 isoforms  $\beta$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $\eta$  and  $\sigma$  were obtained as codon-optimized for *E.coli* expression synthetic  
488 genes from IDT Technologies (Coralville, Iowa, USA). All 14-3-3 isoforms were fused via a  
489 three-alanine linker to the C-terminus of a mutant MBP carrying the following amino acid  
490 substitutions: D83A, K84A, K240A, E360A, K363A and D364A, as previously described<sup>63</sup>.  
491 All resulting clones were verified by sequencing. The MBP-fused proteins were expressed  
492 in *E.coli* BL21 with IPTG induction. Proteins were affinity purified on an amylose column  
493 and were further purified by ion-exchange chromatography (HiTrap Q HP, GE Healthcare).



494 Protein concentrations were determined by UV spectroscopy. The double-purified samples  
495 were supplemented with glycerol and TCEP before aliquoting and freezing in liquid  
496 nitrogen.

497 HPV peptides (35E6: biotin-ttds-SKPTRRETEV; 16E6: biotin-ttds-SSRTRRETQL; 18E6:  
498 biotin-ttds-RLQRRRETQV; 33E6: biotin-ttds-SRSRRRETAL; p35E6: biotin-ttds-  
499 SKPTRREpTEV; p35E6 E-1A: biotin-ttds-SKPTRREpTAV; p35E6 T-6R: biotin-ttds-  
500 SKPRRREpTEV; p35E6 E-1A T-6R: biotin-ttds-SKPRRREpTAV; p16E6: biotin-ttds-  
501 SSRTRREpTQL; p18E6: biotin-ttds-RLQRRREpTQV; p33E6: biotin-ttds-SRSRRREpTAL)  
502 and RSK1 peptides (RSK1\_-1P: biotin-ttds-RRVRKLPSTpTL and RSK1\_-2P: biotin-ttds-  
503 RRVRKLPSpTTL) were chemically synthesized in-house on an ABI 443A synthesizer with  
504 Fmoc strategy. The fluorescently labeled HSPB6 (WLRRApSAPLPGLK) peptide (fpB6)  
505 was prepared by FITC labeling of the chemically synthesized peptide as described  
506 previously<sup>25</sup>.

### 507 **Fluorescence polarization (FP) assay**

508 Fluorescence polarization was measured with a PHERAstar (BMG Labtech, Offenburg,  
509 Germany) microplate reader by using  $485 \pm 20$  nm and  $528 \pm 20$  nm band-pass filters (for  
510 excitation and emission, respectively). In direct FP measurements, a dilution series of the  
511 14-3-3 protein was prepared in 96-well plates (96 well skirted pcr plate, 4ti-0740, 4titude,  
512 Wotton, UK) in a 20 mM HEPES pH 7.5 buffer containing 150 mM NaCl, 0.5 mM TCEP,  
513 0.01% Tween 20, 50 nM fluorescently-labeled fpB6 peptide and 100  $\mu$ M fusicoccin (FSC),  
514 if indicated. The volume of the dilution series was 40  $\mu$ l, which was later divided into three  
515 technical replicates of 10  $\mu$ l upon transferring to 384-well micro-plates (low binding  
516 microplate, 384 well, E18063G5, Greiner Bio-One, Kremsmünster, Austria). In total,  
517 polarization of the probe was measured at 8 different protein concentrations (whereas one  
518 contained no protein and corresponded to the free peptide). In competitive FP  
519 measurements, the same buffer was supplemented with the protein to achieve a complex  
520 formation of 60-80%, based on the titration. Then, this mixture was used for creating a  
521 dilution series of the unlabeled competitor (i.e. the studied peptides) and the measurement  
522 was carried out identically as in the direct experiment. Analysis of FP experiments were  
523 carried out using ProFit, an in-house developed, Python-based fitting program<sup>64</sup>. The  
524 dissociation constant of the direct and competitive FP experiment was obtained by fitting  
525 the measured data with quadratic and competitive equation, respectively<sup>64, 65</sup>.  $\Delta G$  values  
526 were calculated using the formula  $\Delta G = -RT \cdot \ln(K_D)$ , at 295 K.  $\Delta \Delta G_{av}$  values were obtained  
527 by calculating the average and the standard deviation of all obtained individual  $\Delta \Delta G$  values  
528 (between different motifs or different proteins), excluding cases when  $K_D > 300 \mu$ M.

### 529 **Crystallization and structure determination**

530 Crystallization conditions were screened using commercially available and in-house  
531 developed kits (Qiagen, Hampton Research, Emerald Biosystems) by the sitting-drop  
532 vapor-diffusion method in 96-well MRC 2-drop plates (SWISSCI, Neuheim, Switzerland),  
533 using a Mosquito robot (TTP Labtech, Cambridge, UK) at 4 °C. The optimized condition of  
534 the crystals consisted of 19% polyethylene glycol 4000, 0.1M cacodylate buffered at pH  
535 5.5. For soaking, crystals were transferred to a mother-liquor solution containing  
536 (saturated, partially precipitated) 5 mM fusicoccin and crystals were harvested after an 18h  
537 incubation period. All crystals were flash-cooled in a cryoprotectant solution containing  
538 20% glycerol and stored in liquid nitrogen.



539 X-ray diffraction data were collected at the Synchrotron Swiss Light Source (SLS)  
540 (Switzerland) on the X06DA (PXIII) beamline and processed with the program XDS<sup>66</sup>. The  
541 crystal structure was solved by molecular replacement with a high-resolution crystal  
542 structure of 14-3-3ζ (PDB ID 2O02) using Phaser<sup>67</sup> and structure refinement was carried  
543 out with PHENIX<sup>68</sup>. TLS refinement was applied during the refinement. The  
544 crystallographic parameters and the statistics of data collection and refinement are shown  
545 in Table 1.

## 546 **Predictions of proportions of 14-3-3 isoform complexes**

547  
548 We built a simple predictor tool that can be run using the Excel program (Supplementary  
549 file 1). As an input, the predictor requires (i) the  $K_D$  of binding of the phosphoprotein of  
550 interest for at least one 14-3-3 isoform, and (ii) the cellular concentrations of the seven 14-  
551 3-3 isoforms and of the phosphoprotein of interest. As an output, the predictor estimates  
552 the fraction of phosphoprotein that is engaged with each distinct 14-3-3 isoform.

553  
554 From the provided  $K_D$  value(s), the predictor derives all  $K_D$  values for the remaining 14-3-3  
555 isoforms, using the average relative affinity ratios described in our results.

556  
557 The cellular protein concentrations required by the predictor can either be determined  
558 experimentally or fixed arbitrarily to explore hypotheses. In the present work, we used  
559 "integrated" protein abundance data from the PAXdb database<sup>3</sup>. In this database,  
560 abundance of a given protein is expressed as the ppm fraction of the number of molecules  
561 of that protein species relative to the cumulated number of all molecules of all protein  
562 species detected in the sample<sup>69</sup>. For instance, if the abundance of a protein species  $Prot_n$   
563 is  $Ab_{Prot_n} = 1000$  ppm, this means that over a total one million ( $10^6$ ) counted proteins, one  
564 thousand ( $10^3$ ) correspond to the protein species of interest. Furthermore, the total  
565 intracellular protein concentration  $Prot_{Tot}$  has been estimated to be around 3 mM  
566 (<https://bionumbers.hms.harvard.edu/keynumbers.aspx>). Therefore, for any protein  $Prot_n$  of  
567 interest, one can use the ppm abundance value,  $Ab_{Prot_n}$ , to roughly estimate the cellular  
568 molar concentration of that protein ( $Prot_n$ ) using the following formula:  
569  $(Prot_n) = Ab_{Prot_n} \times 10^{-6} \times (Prot_{Tot}) = Ab_{Prot_n} \times 10^{-6} \times 3 \text{ mM}$ .

570  
571 For instance,  
572 for  $Ab_{Prot_n} = 1$  ppm,  $(Prot_n) = 1 \times 10^{-6} \times 3 \text{ mM} = 3 \text{ nM}$   
573 for  $Ab_{Prot_n} = 1000$  ppm,  $(Prot_n) = 1000 \times 10^{-6} \times 3 \text{ mM} = 3 \text{ } \mu\text{M}$ .

574  
575 While 3 mM is a reasonable estimate of the total intracellular protein concentration, one  
576 might argue that picking this particular value is an arbitrary choice, since total numbers of  
577 protein molecules may vary by up to 10-fold from one cell type to another  
578 (<http://book.bionumbers.org/how-many-proteins-are-in-a-cell/>). However, in practice, we  
579 found that the proportions of bound 14-3-3 isoforms computed by the predictor do not  
580 significantly change for any value of  $(Prot_{Tot})$  taken in the range between 1 mM and 10 mM.

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### 591 **Author contributions**

592 G.G. purified proteins, carried out FP experiments, performed crystallographic and  
593 bioinformatics studies, analyzed the data and edited the paper. K.V.T. cloned, purified and  
594 characterized proteins. C.K. cloned and purified proteins. P.E. synthesized the peptides.  
595 G.T. performed data analysis, data interpretation, wrote and edited the paper. N.N.S.  
596 contributed to protein purification and crystallographic experiments, supervised the  
597 research, analyzed the data, wrote and edited the paper.

### 598 **Conflict of interests**

599 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

### 600 **Data availability**

601 The refined model and the structure factor amplitudes have been deposited in the PDB  
602 with the accession codes 6ZFD and 6ZFG. All other data supporting the findings of this  
603 study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

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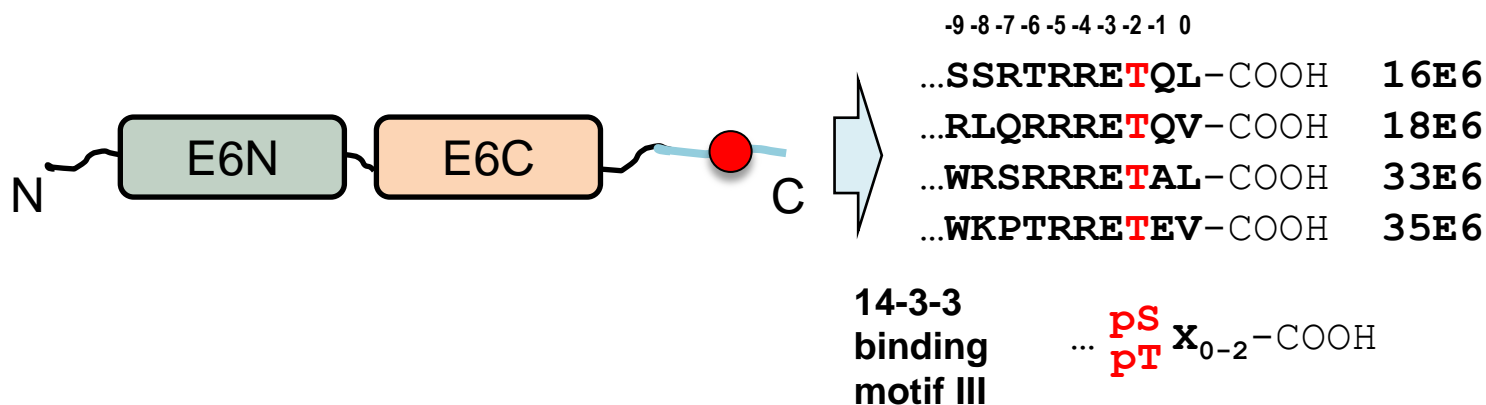
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837 **TABLES**  
838 **Table 1. Crystallographic statistics.**

	<b>14-3-3ζ-18E6 chimera</b>	<b>14-3-3ζ-18E6 chimera + FSC</b>
<b>Data collection</b>		
Wavelength	1.00	1.00
Resolution range	<b>39.26 - 1.9</b> (1.95 - 1.9)	<b>38.05 - 1.85</b> (1.9 - 1.85)
Space group	P 21 21 21	P 21 21 21
Unit cell (a, b, c, α, β, γ)	72.35, 78.53, 90.3, 90, 90, 90	73.23, 76.1, 88.95, 90, 90, 90
Total reflections	547783 (37726)	557315 (41375)
Unique reflections	41285 (2986)	41927 (3038)
Multiplicity	13.3 (12.6)	13.3 (13.6)
Completeness (%)	100 (100)	97.1 (96.5)
Mean I/sigma(I)	13.19 (1.39)	12.36 (1.40)
R-meas	16.6 (205)	16.3 (216)
CC1/2	99.9 (54.7)	99.8 (58.4)
<b>Refinement</b>		
R-work	0.1764	0.1908
R-free	0.2071	0.2192
Number of non-hydrogen atoms		
macromolecules	4468	4589
ligands	4034	4004
solvent	24	102
Protein residues	410	483
RMS(bonds)	481	482
RMS(angles)	0.006	0.006
Ramachandran favored (%)	0.83	0.71
Ramachandran allowed (%)	99.36	98.51
Ramachandran outliers (%)	0.64	1.49
Rotamer outliers (%)	0	0
Clashscore	1.65	2.13
Average B-factor	6.68	3.17
macromolecules	33.39	29.6
ligands	32.42	28.49
solvent	62.93	32.67
Number of TLS groups	41.2	38.11
PDB ID	15	11
	<b>6ZFD</b>	<b>6ZFG</b>

839

**A****B**

	K <sub>D</sub> (μM) ± std						
	14-3-3γ	14-3-3η	14-3-3ζ	14-3-3τ	14-3-3β	14-3-3ε	14-3-3σ
pHPV33E6	0.94 ± 0.25	1.98 ± 0.15	2.72 ± 0.39	3.52 ± 0.28	4.05 ± 0.65	10.3 ± 2.39	6.77 ± 1.13
pHPV18E6	11.1 ± 0.6	23.6 ± 6.2	22.4 ± 1.3	37.8 ± 6.0	42.2 ± 6.3	101 ± 20	139 ± 24
pHPV16E6	37.2 ± 3.0	80.5 ± 16.9	73.6 ± 19.1	144 ± 28	159 ± 45	>300	>300
pHPV35E6	125 ± 6	163 ± 19	191 ± 18	233 ± 14	>300	>300	>300
pHPV35E6 <sub>T-6R</sub>	71.2 ± 6.7	85.0 ± 20.6	139 ± 21	194 ± 37	179 ± 29	270 ± 20	>300
pHPV35E6 <sub>E-1A</sub>	9.31 ± 0.72	12.4 ± 1.5	17.6 ± 3.6	21.5 ± 1.2	20.2 ± 1.4	31.9 ± 4.2	44.1 ± 13.3
pHPV35E6 <sub>T-6R, E-1A</sub>	3.27 ± 0.16	4.77 ± 0.53	7.32 ± 0.42	5.84 ± 0.43	7.06 ± 0.51	13.0 ± 2.0	18.9 ± 1.9
RSK1 <sub>-1P</sub>	0.31 ± 0.03	0.46 ± 0.06	0.96 ± 0.10	0.78 ± 0.13	0.74 ± 0.04	1.58 ± 0.21	1.71 ± 0.23
RSK1 <sub>-2P</sub>	0.20 ± 0.01	0.66 ± 0.05	1.54 ± 0.09	0.45 ± 0.08	0.96 ± 0.03	1.22 ± 0.16	3.57 ± 0.32

**C**

	14-3-3γ	14-3-3η	14-3-3ζ	14-3-3τ	14-3-3β	14-3-3ε	14-3-3σ
pHPV33E6							
pHPV18E6							
pHPV16E6							
pHPV35E6							

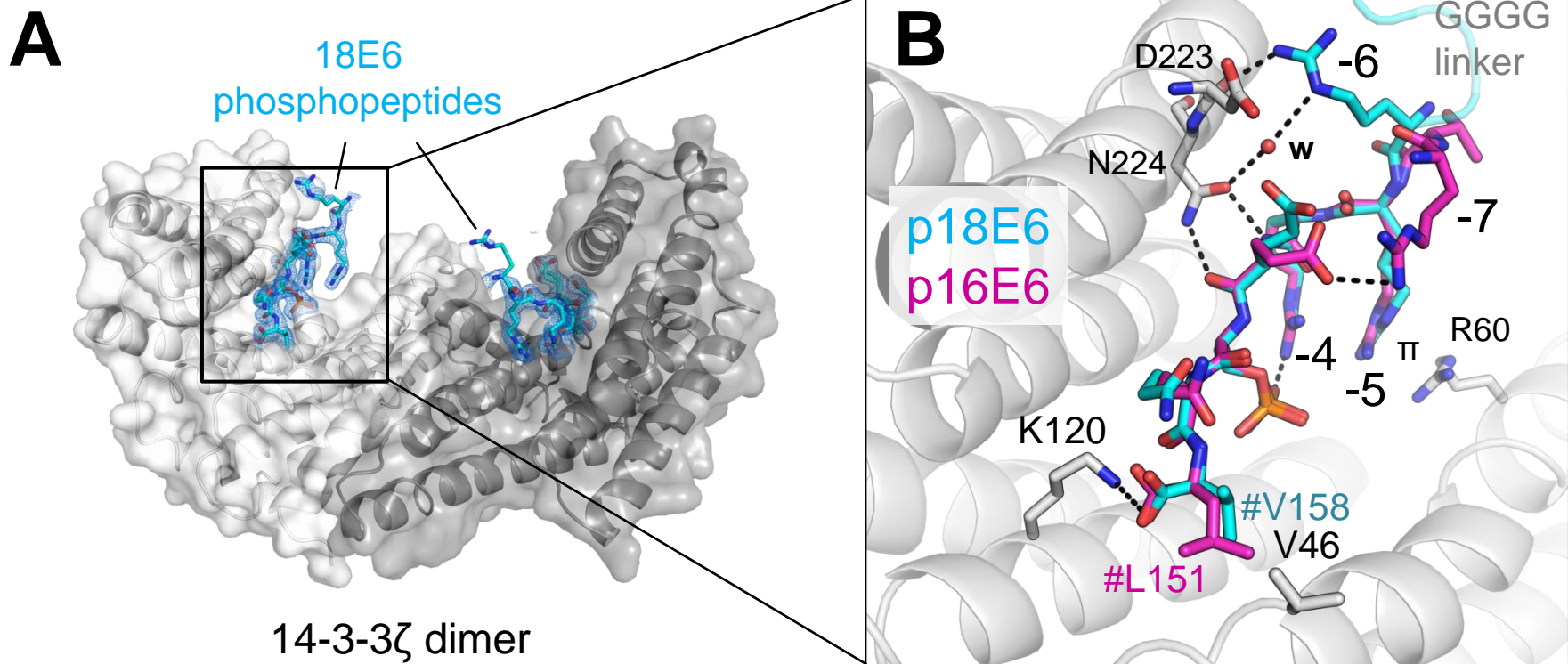
**D**

$$\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -0.71 \pm 1.19 \quad -1.50 \pm 0.63 \quad -0.34 \pm 0.66 \quad -0.14 \pm 1.39 \quad -0.87 \pm 0.78 \quad -1.35 \pm 0.82 \text{ (kJ/mol)}$$

$$14\text{-}3\text{-}3\sigma < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\epsilon < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\beta < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\tau < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\zeta < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\eta < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\gamma$$

$$\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -2.06 \pm 0.67 \quad -3.09 \pm 0.15 \quad -5.98 \pm 0.65 \text{ (kJ/mol)}$$

$$\text{HPV}35\text{E}6 < \text{HPV}16\text{E}6 < \text{HPV}18\text{E}6 < \text{HPV}33\text{E}6$$



**C**

$$\Delta\Delta G_{av} = \begin{matrix} -1.05 \pm 0.46 & -5.13 \pm 0.23 & -2.44 \pm 0.36 & \text{(kJ/mol)} \\ \text{HPV35E6} < \text{HPV35E6}_{\text{T-6R}} < \text{HPV35E6}_{\text{E-1A}} < \text{HPV35E6}_{\text{T-6R, E-1A}} \end{matrix}$$



**A**

	$K_D$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) $\pm$ std			
	14-3-3 $\zeta$	14-3-3 $\zeta$ +FSC	14-3-3 $\gamma$	14-3-3 $\gamma$ +FSC
pHPV33E6	$2.72 \pm 0.39$	$3.94 \pm 0.40$	$0.94 \pm 0.25$	$2.15 \pm 0.26$
pHPV18E6	$22.4 \pm 1.3$	$37.3 \pm 5.2$	$11.1 \pm 0.6$	$19.3 \pm 2.0$
pHPV16E6	$73.6 \pm 19.1$	$161 \pm 23$	$37.2 \pm 3.0$	$91.7 \pm 13.2$
pHPV35E6	$191 \pm 18$	$294 \pm 15$	$125 \pm 6$	$228 \pm 61$

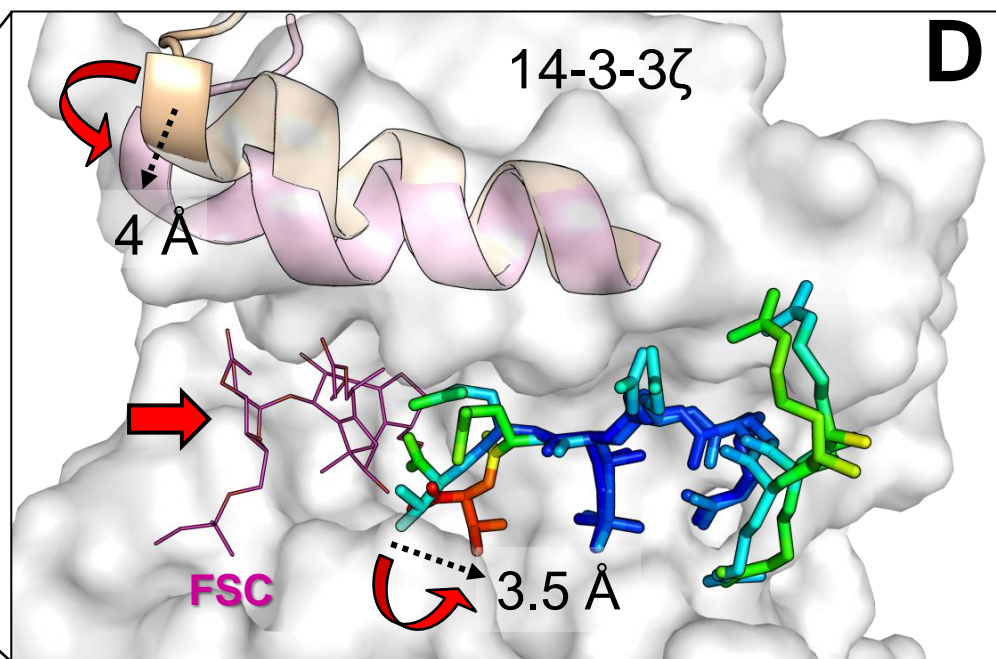
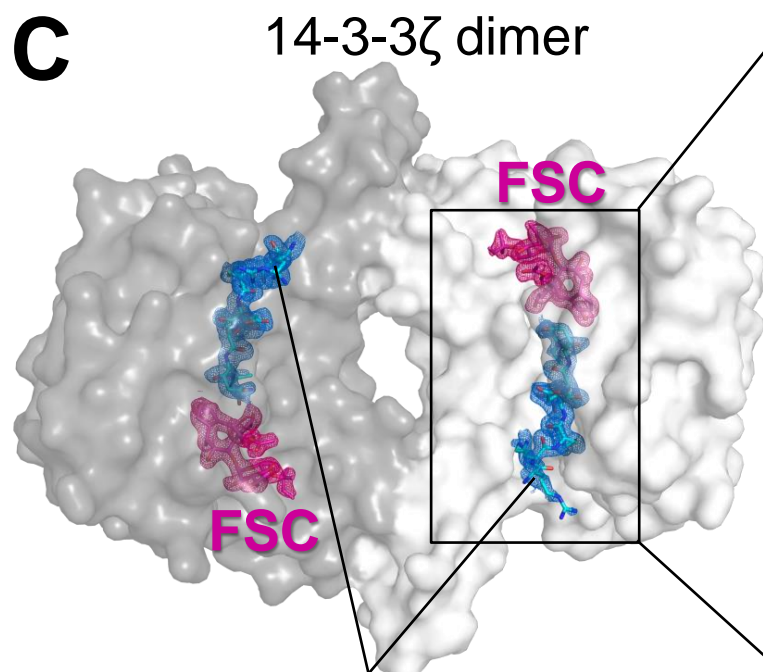
**B**

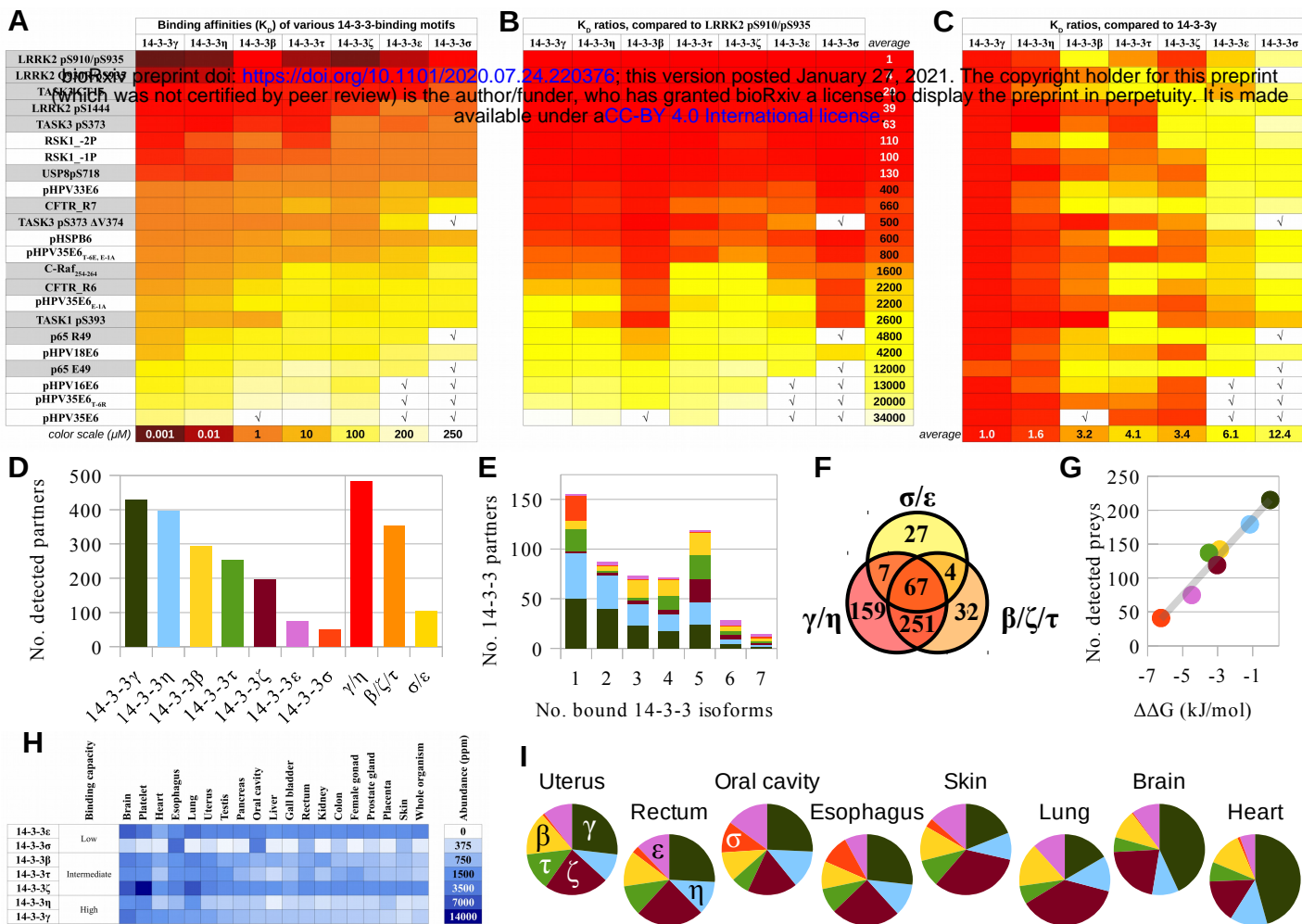
$$\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -1.28 \pm 0.45 \text{ (kJ/mol)}$$

$$14\text{-}3\text{-}3\zeta + \text{FSC} < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\zeta$$

$$\Delta\Delta G_{av} = -1.77 \pm 0.42 \text{ (kJ/mol)}$$

$$14\text{-}3\text{-}3\gamma + \text{FSC} < 14\text{-}3\text{-}3\gamma$$

**C**



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