Transmembrane region dimer structures of Type 1 receptors readily sample alternate configurations: MD simulations using the Martini 3 coarse grained model compared to AlphaFold2 Multimer

Amita R. Sahoo[1], Paulo C. T. Souza[2], Zhiyuan Meng[1+] and Matthias Buck[1]*

[1]*Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, U. S. A.*

[2]*Molecular Microbiology and Structural Biochemistry (MMSB, UMR 5086), CNRS & University of Lyon, 7 Passage du Vercors, 69007, Lyon, France*

+ current address: *Biophysics Graduate Program, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210, U. S. A.*

* To whom correspondence may be addressed: matthias.buck@case.edu

Summary

Determination of the structure and dynamics of transmembrane (TM) regions of single-transmembrane receptors is key to understanding their mechanism of signal transduction across the plasma membrane. Although many studies have been performed on isolated soluble extra- and intracellular receptor domains in aqueous solutions, limited knowledge exists on the lipid embedded TM domain. In this study, we examine the assembly of configurations of receptor TM region dimers using the Martini 3 force field for coarse-grain (CG) molecular dynamics simulations. This recently published version of Martini has new bead types and sizes, which allows more accurate predictions of molecular packing and interactions compared to the previous versions. At first glance our results with Martini 3 simulations show only a reasonable agreement with *ab initio* predictions using PREDDIMER (for TM domains only), AlphaFold2 Multimer and with available NMR derived structures for TM helix dimers. Surprisingly, AlphaFold2 predictions are more comparable with NMR structures when the database of 2001 (mainly composed of soluble proteins) instead of 2020 PDB structures are used. While there are some differences in the conditions used, simulations primarily reveal that alternate configurations of the TM dimers that are sampled, which readily interconvert with a predominant population. The implications of these findings for our understanding of the signalling mechanism of TM receptors are discussed, including opportunities for the development of new pharmaceuticals, some of which are peptide based.

Keywords

Transmembrane (TM) region, TM dimerization, Coarse grain simulation, PREDDIMER prediction, AlphaFold2 multimer prediction.

Introduction

Membrane proteins account for 20-30 % of all proteins identified in the genomes of prokaryotes and eukaryotes (Wallin and von Heijne, 1998). Compared with the multi-pass membrane proteins, single-pass transmembrane (type 1) receptors are the most abundant and functionally diverse category of membrane proteins (Arkin and Brunger, 1998). These proteins are often highly flexible near the membrane and very difficult to characterize structurally. Signal transduction across the plasma membrane typically involves receptor dimerization, not just of TM regions but also of TM adjacent regions (Sahoo and Buck, 2021). The TM region, comprising the membrane embedded TM domain and the membrane surrounding region of amino acids, can contribute to the stability of full-length receptor dimers and hence, help maintain configurations which are either competent for signalling or inactive. Specific sets of interhelix contacts between the TM region, set up distinct "on"/ "off" states through change in the orientation, if not oligomerization of the TM regions. Within a biological membrane, individual TM helices usually interact to form one or only a few thermodynamically stable structures. Properties of the lipid bilayer, such as the thickness of the membrane, the nature of lipid tails and headgroups are also key contributing factors to the stability of TM domain configurations (Andersen and Koeppe, 2007; Cymer et al., 2012; Li et al., 2012). Solution NMR has been the main tool for the determination of TM helical dimer structures using detergent micelles (typically DPC), or more realistic membrane mimics, such as bicelles, a mixture of DMPC lipid and DHPC detergent. However, the NMR data are typically collected and analysed in a way to determine the structure for one particular configuration of a dimer promoted by such environment (Polyansky et al., 2011) and it is noticeable that most structures were determined at an unphysiologically low pH (Table S1) which tends to stabilize a particular configuration of the TM dimer. In fact, there is a His and/or Glu residue within 6 residues (potentially <2 helical turns, but often closer) to the N- and/or C-terminus of the non-polar TM segment in many (type 1) receptors.

To date the structures of several TM helix homo- or heterodimers have been solved. Analyzing these structures and how they assemble by studying the dynamics of the simple TM helix dimers helps us to understand the type and mode of interactions between individual TM helices, at the level of amino acids and/or amino acid motifs (Sahoo and Buck, 2021). In this study, we focused on a computational characterization of the structural dynamics of the TM domains of a total of 11 receptors (Bocharov et al., 2007, 2008a, 2008b, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2017; MacKenzie et al., 1997; Mineev et al., 2010, 2011; Muhle-Goll et al., 2012). Of the 11 TM regions studied, all are from receptor tyrosine kinases (RTK) with an exception of Bnip3, which is a bcl2-family (non-kinase receptor) and GpA, Glycophorin A, a previously established model system for TM dimers. *Ab initio* predictions have been made for these receptors (Polyansky et al., 2012, 2014a) and further structural refinements using μs level all-atom molecular dynamics (MD) simulations (Polyansky et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2013) and also CG simulations using the Martini 2 force field have been carried out for some of the 11 systems (Chavent et al., 2014; Javanainen et al., 2017; Lelimousin et al., 2016; Majumder and Straub, 2021). Much of the attention has been focused on reproducing the experimental NMR structures. However, the configurational dynamics of the slightly wider TM region at neutral pH remain far less explored and given Martini 3 (Souza et al., 2021) has been reasonably validated with several examples of TM region helix dimers, this is our focus here.

All-atom simulations have been employed to study the binding mode of TM helices previously, but since the movement of lipids and TM helices in lipids is relatively slow, these methods demand extensive computational resources that are difficult to access (Chavent et al., 2016). For example, in the landmark 2013 study of EGFR TM by Kuriyan and Shaw (Arkhipov et al., 2013), it took > 100 μs for the TM regions to dimerize correctly. Significant

computational speed-ups (typically 100 to 1000-fold over all-atom MD) can be achieved by carrying out coarse grained (CG) simulations using a recently developed Martini 3 force field (Souza et al., 2021). This version has new particles with improved packing and interaction balance of all the non-bonded interaction terms, allowing more realistic modelling of biomolecular systems, including protein-protein and protein-membrane interactions examined here. Using Martini 3, we gained insights into how these 11 TM peptides associate/dimerize in the CG simulations in a DMPC lipid bilayer. Surprisingly we obtained a predominant structural ensemble, but also several side, alternate configurational states in most cases. Significantly, these structures are seen to readily interconvert in interhelix crossing angle, even when the helices only modestly separated. Comparison with *ab initio* PREDDIMER (Polyansky et al., 2014a), Alphafold2 Multimer (Evans et al., 2022) predictions and the solution NMR structures (Bocharov et al., 2007, 2008a, 2008b, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2017; MacKenzie et al., 1997; Mineev et al., 2010, 2011; Muhle-Goll et al., 2012) suggest that the presence of alternate structures and their interconversion likely arises from regions just outside the TM hydrophobic domain. This view is consistent with experimental findings and emphasizes the multistate nature of transmembrane proteins, where further extra- and intracellular domain interactions likely synergize to define a few TM crossing configurational states.

Results and Discussion

The non-polar, that is membrane-crossing part of the transmembrane (TM) region for the 11 receptors were initially modeled as ideal α-helices. Because the regions immediately outside this TM segment can affect the structure of the TM region and stability of the dimeric configuration states, we extended the N-terminus and C-terminus of the TM region by 8-9 residues and 10 residues, respectively (Table S2), modelling them initially as extended conformation. For each protein, we modeled two identical TM peptides and placed them in parallel to the membrane normal, in the center of the DMPC bilayer with an interhelical separation of 50 Å from each other (Fig. 1). Each system was then run in quadruplicate for 4 μs each. The TM peptides came closer via diffusion in the membrane, and typically within 0.1 – 1.0 μs first interacted with each other, forming TM dimers (Fig. 1). To follow the association of the TM peptides, we monitored the distance between the center of mass (COM) of the helix monomers for all the 11 receptors (Fig. S1). The TM peptides for all the 11 receptors dimerize in the DMPC bilayer and appeared stable throughout the simulation, in that few, if any large scale helix separations (> 20 Å) are seen for the remainder of the simulations.

To simplify the analysis of the systems, all 4 repeat simulations for each TM dimer system were concatenated and total populations of the TM dimers are calculated considering the inter-helical angle and distance as shown in the 2D plot for Glycophorin A and EphA1 as well as EphA2 (Fig. 2A-C). Each 2D plot has one global minimum (highly dense population) and 2/3 local minima (2D plots for the other 9 systems are shown in Fig. S2). In few cases (ErbB1, ErbB1/B2, ErbB2), we saw the distribution of one large global minimum, with modest indication of side-minima, but nevertheless, we divided this into three groups in order to look at the other structures for possible alternate configurational states. We then selected up to 5 representative structures from the geometric center of each of these 3 clusters for each of the 11 TM proteins, comparing them with the NMR structure for further analysis. The best ones, in terms of crossing angle and root mean square deviation (RMSD), are reported in Figure 3, the average and standard deviations are shown in Table 1. Interestingly, using only the non-polar sequences of the TM helices did not yield stable dimers in many of the 11 systems (data not shown) using Martini 3 CG simulations, again pointing to the importance of the flanking regions. By contrast, the webserver PREDDIMER is a method which is able to reliably deal with TM domains only and produces model structures close to those derived by NMR for the

11 systems (Polyansky et al., 2011, 2012, 2014a) (Table S3). This approach is based on the interhelix alignment of the peptide's surfaces, with the possible dimers ranked by a parameter, Fscor, which considers the best packing and non-polar/hydrophobic complementarity between peptides and exposed dimer surface to lipids. Most important here is that PREDDIMER also gives several models (i.e. alternate configurations) which can be compared with the structures from the CG simulations (Table S3). As an additional comparison, we also include predictions using Alphafold2 Multimer for the sequences with N- and C-terminal extensions in Table S2, but considering only the models with the highest confidence values (Table S4).

The comparison of the RMSD of the CG simulated TM dimers with the NMR structures (Fig. 3, Table 1), using the non-polar TM helical region of the structures only, shows that the CG structures range from nearly similar (Chen and Skolnick, 2008; Chothia et al., 1981; Kufareva and Abagyan, 2012; Lee and Im, 2007) (1.4 Å for ErbB1/ B2 dimer) to more distant (4.8 Å for PDGFRb). The same is the case for the *ab initio* PREDDIMER models (Table S3) where the RMSD with the NMR structure also ranges from 1.7 Å (for GpA) to very distant 9 Å (for ErbB1/2). It should be noted that in general the CG structures compare less well with the NMR structures than the best PREDDIMER models, suggesting that the flanking region have an effect on this comparison for some of systems, as well as dynamics (see below). Specifically, EphA1 and –A2 as well as ErbB4, FGFR3, GpA and PDGFRb are all predicted well (< 2.5 Å backbone RMSD) by PREDDIMER whereas the CG simulations all yield structures with RMSDs > 3.5 Å (3.0 Å in case of GpA). Nevertheless, most of the CG simulated TM dimers (10 out of 11) share, within +/- 20°, similar values of crossing angle with that of the NMR structures (Table 1). The exception is PDGFRb, where the CG TM dimer configurations are right-handed (a negative value of the crossing angle) compared to left-handed (a positive value of the crossing angle) NMR dimer structures. It is also remarkable that not always the lower energy (best Fscore) or first PREDDIMER model corresponds to the NMR structure (as is the case for EphA2, ErbB1, ErbB1/B2 and PDGFRb, where the second model is the better one. This was observed in a previous PREDDIMER study as well (Polyansky et al., 2014a), even though the PREDIMER method has been refined since.

As expected, given its recent success, Alphafold2 Multimer showed the best comparison with NMR structures, with lower RMSD values than those of PREDDIMER and especially Martini 3 structures (Table S4). Despite this good agreement, however, some dimers (with RMSDs equal or lower than 1.0 Å to the NMR structures) show relatively low confidence scores, in the range of 0.3-0.4, for AlphaFold2 Multimer (for instance ErbB3, ErbB4 and FGFR3). Alphafold2 Multimer confidence scores of > 0.5 are thought to be show reliable structures – on the other hand, EphA1 which has an RMSD of > 6Å has a score of 0.5. Indeed, one may think that Alphafold could be highly influenced by the TM helix dimer structures which exist in the PDB (of which the 11 examples here form a significant subset). In order to test the possibility that the neural network learned (or even simply remembered facets of) these structures, we also ran the program when it was trained on the PDB only having structures of 2001 and prior (Table S5). Since all TM dimer structures were determined after this date (even the first GPCR multi-TM membrane crossing structure was published only in 2001), this could have led to a different/less biased prediction. However, the prediction is very similar, in fact significantly better for some TM dimers (RMSDs for EphA1 and ErbB1, now 1.3 and 0.9Å compared to 6.6 and 4.2Å, respectively for the 2020 database) whereas some are worse (e.g. ErbB3 3.6Å vs. 1.0Å, but both at 0.4 confidence). This result, surprisingly suggests that most information needed to accurately predict NMR TM dimer structures was already present in the PDB in 2001, although few membrane structures had been solved and implies that the structures of non-polar helices in (the interior of) soluble proteins may not be that different from the helixes of TM crossing proteins.

How do relatively large RMSDs arise in the comparison of the non-polar helical segments of the TM regions? It is instructive to consider the meaning of RMSD when comparing TM helix dimers with different crossing angles and helix rotations. Fig. S3 gives a RMSD reference for changes of an ideal modeled parallel helix dimer of EphA1, illustrating that RMSD values quickly become considerable upon rotation of one or both helices and crossing angle changes, even though the correct segment of the helices (N- vs. C-term) may still be in contact. Models such as these did not allow us to pin-point a systematic difference between AlphaFold2 Multimer and PREDDIMER models and those generated by CG Martini 3 peptide association simulations (effects due to the Martini 3 particle vs. all-atom representation are considered removed upon conversion to the latter, used prior to all analyses). However, the difference could simply arise from wider conformational energy landscapes/basins sampled in the CG simulations.

Remarkably, the PREDDIMER models share similarities with both CG simulated and the NMR derived structures (Tables 1 and S3). As shown in Fig. S4, the best fit structure from the 3rd cluster of PDGFRb from simulation is a right-handed dimer with a larger crossing angle of -55° and shares close similarity (RMSD 3.2 Å) with the 3rd predicted model of PREDDIMER. By contrast the NMR structure for this protein's TM domain is left-handed dimer with crossing angle of 23° which shares similarity (RMSD 2.3Å) with the 2nd predicted model. As the *ab initio* PREDDIMER program (Polyansky et al., 2014a) predicts different possible arrangements between the TM peptides, our CG simulation in most cases also provides similar information represented by the best fit configurations from the three most populated clusters. (Tables 1 and S3). Specifically, PREDDIMER and less so the CG simulations produce alternate configurations for the majority of systems, often as side clusters of higher energy (lower Fscor) and population, respectively. Alphafold2 Multimer is not yet sampling nearby states/ensembles, but this may be available in the nearer future (Del Alamo et al., 2022). For the simulations, a critical question is whether these are local minima in which the simulation became "stuck" or whether there is adequate sampling and convergence (i.e. transitions between configurational states allowing their equilibration) (Majumder et al., 2022).

The concern that the CG simulations are insufficiently converged is lessened by the observation that nearly identical regions of the 2D interhelix distance – crossing angle plots are sampled in all of the 4 trajectories and that we observe a considerable number of transitions (~ 10 or more) between states with different crossing angles. Representative examples are shown for EphA1, A2 and GpA in Fig. 4 (with the full set of plots in Fig. S5-S7). In most cases, we observed transitions between the clusters for all the receptors (Figs. 2 and S2). Moreover, the analysis of the overall TM crossing angle distribution (Fig 4 and Fig S5-S7) for all the 11 TM dimers shows the existence of both the right- and left-handed configurations. By contrast, the NMR structures of each TM dimer only provide one configuration, resolved at particular pH and in a suitable bicelle or micelle environment. Therefore, as shown in Table 1 and S3, the TM models obtained from the CG simulations go hand in hand with *ab initio* PREDDIMER predicted models and share similarity with the NMR structures in terms of RMSD, Fscor and inter-helical crossing angle (Figs. 3 and S4). However, there are also examples of less than perfect agreement in case of Bnip3, EphA2, FGFR3 and PDGFRb. Possible origins of these differences are discussed below.

A switching between the interaction interface of the TM regions results in different helix orientations in the membrane environment which needs to be coordinated with the proximity of the helices as it is typically difficult to have large changes in crossing angles without a temporary at least partial separation of helices (since larger sidechains would be blocking the transitions). To measure the change in TM orientation during the simulations, we calculated the 2D distribution of helix dimerization as a function of inter helical distance and the inter helical crossing angle (Figs. 2 and S2) and also plotted the contact map for the obtained

TM dimers (Fig. S8). As expected, based on population density, both left-handed or right-handed configurations of the TM dimer are seen in some of the cases, most clearly for EphA1 (but several configurations- even though some are relatively close in crossing angle- are seen for most). The dimeric interface of the TM peptides from our study shows a high level of similarity with the NMR structures (Fig. S8). All the TM dimers except ErbB3, FGFR3 and PDGFRb contain a canonical extended GxxxG or SxxxG motif, starting from the middle of the sequence to the C-termini of the TM domains (Table S2). This motif allows for potential stabilization by Cα-H hydrogen bonding in the typical GAS_{right} dimer motif (Anderson et al., 2017; Cymer et al., 2012). In fact, as shown in Figs. 2, 4 and Figs. S2, S5-S7, EphA1, ErbB3 and ErbB4 showed an equal population of both right-handed and left-handed TM dimer configurations whereas Bnip3, ErbB1, ErbB1/ B2, ErbB2, FGFR3 and PDGFRb showed predominantly right-handed TM dimer configurations. Moreover, EphA2 and GpA demonstrated mostly parallel dimer configurations with a range of both right- and left-handed configurations. However, structural and MD simulation studies on the isolated TM helices of EphA1, EphA2, ErbB2, ErbB3, and the heterodimer ErbB1/ B2 have also shown that the TM helices dimerize in two different ways: either right-handed or left-handed helical dimers (Bocharov et al., 2008a, 2008b, 2010; Mineev et al., 2010, 2011). In fact, the NMR structure of EphA1 dimer is left-handed which uses the GxxxG motif interface whereas EphA2 also has this GxxxG motif like EphA1 but the NMR dimer interface shows the involvement of leucine zipper motif showing right-handed dimer configuration. This difference suggests that both the EphA1 and EphA2 can alternate between two possible TM dimer configurations. In general, some ambiguity remains about what governs the arrangement in either of the left-, right- or even parallel configurations and whether these several configurations are relevant for activation/may represent different activation states. As a further examination of the different dimer binding modes, we calculated the free energy of binding for EphA1, EphA2, ErbB2 and for the well-studied helix dimer of GpA (Doura and Fleming, 2004; Duong et al., 2007; Mottamal et al., 2006; Zhang and Lazaridis, 2009) starting umbrella sampling (US) runs from each of the three cluster centres as well as from the NMR structure. We found that the potential of mean force derived free energy estimates are similar despite using presumably higher energy starting structures (for details, see Figs. S9 and S10 and additional discussion in the supporting material). Several studies also suggested that the lipid environment may control the mode of dimerization (Gopal et al., 2020; Muhle-Goll et al., 2012; Polyansky et al., 2012). For example, it is known that negatively charged lipids, such as POPS and cell signalling lipids PIP2 and PIP3 alter the functional behavior of TM- but also TM peripheral proteins cells (Abd Halim et al., 2015; Cao et al., 2019; Yen et al., 2018). Specifically, it is noticeable that almost all of the 11 systems chosen here contain a cationic "plug" to prevent sliding of the C-terminal region into the membrane and recent work by Barerra and colleagues (Stefanski et al., 2021) suggests that EphA2 may switch from a parallel TM helix dimer in a wider membrane with PIP2, where positive charges can be tolerated to the structure with a wider crossing angle in a thinner membrane without PIP2, where the juxtamembrane regions may repulse. In this sense the NMR studies of and the predictions/simulations of TM dimers here seem rather artificial since only neutral zwitterionic detergents/lipids were used.

The overall picture which emerges from the CG simulations in this study (but is supported by PREDDIMER *ab initio* models) is that TM helix dimers of most of the 11 systems examined assume a preferred configuration but that side-minima and in many cases alternate configurations of the dimer are also sampled. Importantly, these structures can interconvert on the μs- CG-timescale without requiring a complete separation and rebinding of the TM helices. This suggests that TM dimers by themselves are not as locked into one configurational state as one might have perceived from NMR studies, which are –by necessity- presenting a relatively tight ensemble of a single conformer. Alphafold2 Multimer goes in line with NMR structures

given the AI nature of approach, which can reproduce quite well-defined experimental structures present in the PDB dataset. Which particular conformer is stabilized or destabilized by the further addition of TM domain flanking residues and especially charged lipids needs further study, as does the integration between TM domain configurations and the protein-protein as well as protein-membrane interactions of lipid-bilayer proximal extracellular and intracellular domains. Still, the experimental results on the efficacy of TM-like activating and inhibiting peptides on some of the type-1 receptor systems (Arpel et al., 2014; Westerfield et al., 2021) as well as key TM localized cancer mutants (Arkhipov et al., 2013; Pahuja et al., 2018) suggest that configurational equilibria involving the TM region has a considerable influence on the function of the TM proteins.

Caution needs to be exercised when comparing *ab initio* predictions, MD simulation results or even structures derived from experiments. First, the comparison needs to be performed for the same TM peptide or protein construct, which is not the case here. Also, we did not see value in doing calculations at unphysiological low pH (Table S1 and S2). Second, membrane model system composition is important and some of the NMR structures were determined in DPC detergent, rather than in bicelles, but there is no systematic difference among this set of examples. However, even bicelles are not the idealized DMPC-composed planar bilayer in the middle, with DHPC detergent at the bicelle-disk edge, as some studies are showing a peptide dependent mixing of the DHPC and DMPC molecules. Third, the NMR derived structures are biased by restraints between the two helices which are for the most part symmetric. By contrast, in the simulations a sliding of helices relative to one another is observed (most noticeably for EphA2 and ErbB2). It is worth remarking that *ab initio* predictions as PREDDIMER (and Alphafold2 Multimer) cannot consider variations in membrane thickness, lipid composition or salt concentration in the aqueous solution, while MD simulations with Martini 3 can naturally include these environmental effects. Even differences in pH can be mimicked by defining different charged states for acidic/basic groups, or by using the Titratable Martini approach (Grünewald et al., 2020). Moreover, trimers or oligomer can be accurately studied (Westerfield et al., 2021) with Martini 3 or even interactions with larger protein complexes (Liaci et al., 2021). Additional simulations and experimental studies are needed to delineate the possible effects of such variables on the TM dimer structural configurations and their stability.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated with an established set of type-1 TM proteins of interest to the structural community, that Martini 3 CG simulations can predict the structure of TM dimers, as well as their tendency to form alternate structures, reflecting different specific residue-residue (motif) interactions, between the TM peptides in an overall reliable manner. Our results suggest that TM domain flanking sequences are likely responsible at least for a shift in the population of TM configurational states which are sampled and that such sequences should be considered in the design of TM-like peptides which may inhibit or activate the TM protein's function.

Acknowledgements: This work is supported by a NIH R01 grant from the National Eye Institute R01EY029169 and previous grants from NIGMS (R01GM073071 and R01GM092851) to the Buck lab. We acknowledge Gilberto Pereira for supporting us with the AlphaFold2 Multimer predictions.

Author Contributions: ARS generated the PREDDIMER predictions, the protein coarse-grained models and performed the MD simulations and analysed the data. ZM carried out early simulations with the beta release of Martini 3. PCTS contributed with critical data, discussions and guidance for the coarse-grained model generation and for analysis performed. MB conceived, supervised and led the project. ARS and MB co-wrote the paper, with contributions from PCTS. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript and supporting information.

Competing Interests: Authors declare no competing interests.

STAR Methods

Data Sets and Modeling of the TM peptides

The NMR structures of 11 TM dimers were extracted from the PDB database, using the first structure of the ensemble. All the TM dimer structures were determined either in DPC micelles or DMPC/DHPC bicelles with the pH value ranges from 4.5 to 6.8 (Table S1). The TM region sequences for all the 11 proteins were extracted from the UniProt database and the UniProt definition of the TM hydrophobic domain was used (sequence in bold). The TM domain of the peptides was modeled as an ideal α-helix using PyMOL 2.4. We then added extra 8-9 residues at N-terminal and 10 residues at the C-terminal of the TM models as an extended conformation (Table S2) as these extra- and intracellular membrane proximal regions are known to provide better stability for some systems in the lipid bilayer.

Coarse-grain molecular dynamics simulation

In order to characterize the dimerization of TMs, we built 11 TM peptide systems with the monomers placed 50 Å apart from each other (Fig. 1). For this, atomistic (AT) modeled systems of all the 11 TMs were converted to coarse-grained (CG) representation using the *martinize2.py* workflow module of the MARTINI 3 force field (Souza et al., 2021) (see https://github.com/marrink-lab/vermouth-martinize) considering the secondary structure DSSP assignment (Kabsch and Sander, 1983). We used the elastic network to reinforce the stability of the helical secondary structure of the TM monomers. We used default values of the force constant of 500 kJ/mol/nm^2 with the lower and upper elastic bond cut-off to 0.5 and 0.9 nm respectively. CG simulations were performed using GROMACS version 2016.5 (Abraham et al., 2015). The *insane.py* script (Wassenaar et al., 2015) was used for setting up of the DMPC bilayer (typically 306 lipids and 4870 CG water molecules) around the peptides in a cubic box with dimensions of 100×100×100 Å^3. The pH of the systems was considered neutral. All the simulations were run in presence of regular MARTINI water and neutralised and brought up to 0.15M NaCl. The systems were equilibrated for 500 ps. The long-range electrostatic interactions were used with a reaction type field having a cutoff value of 11 Å (de Jong et al.,

2016). We used potential-shift-verlet for the Lennard-Jones interactions with a value of 11 Å for the cutoff scheme and the V-rescale thermostat with a reference temperature of 320 K in combination with a Berendsen barostat with a coupling constant of 1.0 ps, compressibility of 3.0×10^{-4} bar $^{-1}$, and a reference pressure of 1 bar was used. The integration time step was 20 fs. All the simulations were run in quadruplicate for 4 µs. For further analysis and comparison, the extracted CG structures were then converted to all atomistic (AA) representation using the Backward tool (Wassenaar et al., 2014) of Martini (as shown in Fig. S11).

Data Analysis

The PREDDIMER webserver was used both to predict models for the 11 TM dimers *ab initio*, but also to analyse the NMR and CG MD derived structures based on the Fscor and helix crossing angle (Polyansky et al., 2014b). Alphafold2 Multimer (Evans et al., 2022) was used to predict dimer models for the same set of complexes, using a local installation of the ParaFold pipeline (Zhong et al., 2022). This installation was recently validated by Martin and colleagues in 2022 (Martin, 2022), reproducing the results predicted by Evans et al., 2021 (Evans et al., 2022). Only the best model with the highest confidence value was used for the comparisons here. Analysis of the trajectories was carried out using tools in GROMACS (Abraham et al., 2015). All the analyses have been carried out considering only the non-polar (uniprot defined) TM region of the peptides. The contact maps between the helices (again non-polar TM regions only) were calculated with a distance cut off 5.5 Å for all the backbone and side-chain atoms. Interhelix distances are calculated between the center of masses of the TM, but not of the N- and C-terminal regions. 2D plots were plotted in Origin2020b using the inter-helical distance and the inter-helical angle between the TM helices, as x- and y-axes respectively. Each plot shows the presence of one global minimum and up to 2 local minima and we therefore divided into three populations in all cases. except for ErbB1, ErbB1/B2 and ErbB2. In these three cases, we saw the distribution of one large global minimum, with modest indication of side-minima and therefore decided to divide the global minimum into three groups in order to look at other near-by structures for more sampling. In all cases, for each of the three populations/groups, 5 representative configurations were extracted near the population maxima and then further compared with the experimentally derived NMR structures. The best one, in terms of RMSD and crossing angles, was then reported for the 3 minima (Table 1 and Fig. 3). The comparison with the NMR structure is done by calculation of backbone RMSD considering only the non-polar helical TM regions of the receptors. We have also added the initial parameters for the 11 systems in the GitHub repositories for reproducibility (https://github.com/amita-bucklab/TM-dimerization).

Supporting Information Available: Additional results, methods, supporting tables and figures are included in the supporting information

References:

Abd Halim, K.B., Koldsø, H., and Sansom, M.S.P. (2015). Interactions of the EGFR juxtamembrane domain with PIP2-containing lipid bilayers: Insights from multiscale molecular dynamics simulations. Biochim. Biophys. Acta *1850*, 1017–1025. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbagen.2014.09.006.

Abraham, M.J., Murtola, T., Schulz, R., Páll, S., Smith, J.C., Hess, B., and Lindahl, E. (2015). GROMACS: High performance molecular simulations through multi-level parallelism from laptops to supercomputers. SoftwareX *1–2*, 19–25. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.softx.2015.06.001.

Del Alamo, D., Sala, D., Mchaourab, H.S., and Meiler, J. (2022). Sampling alternative conformational states of transporters and receptors with AlphaFold2. Elife *11*. https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.75751.

Andersen, O.S., and Koeppe, R.E. 2nd (2007). Bilayer thickness and membrane protein function: an energetic perspective. Annu. Rev. Biophys. Biomol. Struct. *36*, 107–130. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.biophys.36.040306.132643.

Anderson, S.M., Mueller, B.K., Lange, E.J., and Senes, A. (2017). Combination of Cα–H Hydrogen Bonds and van der Waals Packing Modulates the Stability of GxxxG-Mediated Dimers in Membranes. J. Am. Chem. Soc. *139*, 15774–15783. https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.7b07505.

Arkhipov, A., Shan, Y., Das, R., Endres, N.F., Eastwood, M.P., Wemmer, D.E., Kuriyan, J., and Shaw, D.E. (2013). Architecture and Membrane Interactions of the EGF Receptor. Cell *152*, 557–569. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2012.12.030.

Arkin, I.T., and Brunger, A.T. (1998). Statistical analysis of predicted transmembrane alpha-helices. Biochim. Biophys. Acta *1429*, 113–128. https://doi.org/10.1016/s0167-4838(98)00225-8.

Arpel, A., Sawma, P., Spenlé, C., Fritz, J., Meyer, L., Garnier, N., Velázquez-Quesada, I., Hussenet, T., Aci-Sèche, S., Baumlin, N., et al. (2014). Transmembrane domain targeting peptide antagonizing ErbB2/Neu inhibits breast tumor growth and metastasis. Cell Rep. *8*, 1714–1721. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2014.07.044.

Bocharov, E. V, Pustovalova, Y.E., Pavlov, K. V, Volynsky, P.E., Goncharuk, M. V, Ermolyuk, Y.S., Karpunin, D. V, Schulga, A.A., Kirpichnikov, M.P., Efremov, R.G., et al. (2007). Unique dimeric structure of BNip3 transmembrane domain suggests membrane permeabilization as a cell death trigger. J. Biol. Chem. *282*, 16256–16266. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M701745200.

Bocharov, E. V, Mayzel, M.L., Volynsky, P.E., Goncharuk, M. V, Ermolyuk, Y.S., Schulga, A.A., Artemenko, E.O., Efremov, R.G., and Arseniev, A.S. (2008a). Spatial structure and pH-dependent conformational diversity of dimeric transmembrane domain of the receptor tyrosine kinase EphA1. J. Biol. Chem. *283*, 29385–29395. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M803089200.

Bocharov, E. V, Mineev, K.S., Volynsky, P.E., Ermolyuk, Y.S., Tkach, E.N., Sobol, A.G., Chupin, V. V, Kirpichnikov, M.P., Efremov, R.G., and Arseniev, A.S. (2008b). Spatial structure of the dimeric transmembrane domain of the growth factor receptor ErbB2 presumably corresponding to the receptor active state. J. Biol. Chem. *283*, 6950–6956. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M709202200.

Bocharov, E. V, Mayzel, M.L., Volynsky, P.E., Mineev, K.S., Tkach, E.N., Ermolyuk, Y.S., Schulga, A.A., Efremov, R.G., and Arseniev, A.S. (2010). Left-handed dimer of EphA2 transmembrane domain: Helix packing diversity among receptor tyrosine kinases. Biophys. J. *98*, 881–889. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bpj.2009.11.008.

Bocharov, E. V, Mineev, K.S., Goncharuk, M. V, and Arseniev, A.S. (2012). Structural and thermodynamic insight into the process of "weak" dimerization of the ErbB4 transmembrane domain by solution NMR. Biochim. Biophys. Acta *1818*, 2158–2170. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2012.05.001.

Bocharov, E. V, Lesovoy, D.M., Goncharuk, S.A., Goncharuk, M. V, Hristova, K., and Arseniev, A.S. (2013). Structure of FGFR3 transmembrane domain dimer: implications for signaling and human pathologies. Structure *21*, 2087–2093. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.str.2013.08.026.

Bocharov, E. V, Bragin, P.E., Pavlov, K. V, Bocharova, O. V, Mineev, K.S., Polyansky, A.A., Volynsky, P.E., Efremov, R.G., and Arseniev, A.S. (2017). The Conformation of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Transmembrane Domain Dimer Dynamically Adapts to the Local Membrane Environment. Biochemistry *56*, 1697–1705. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.biochem.6b01085.

Cao, S., Chung, S., Kim, S., Li, Z., Manor, D., and Buck, M. (2019). K-Ras G-domain binding with signaling lipid phosphatidylinositol (4,5)-phosphate (PIP2): membrane association, protein orientation, and function. J. Biol. Chem. *294*, 7068–7084. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.RA118.004021.

Chavent, M., Chetwynd, A.P., Stansfeld, P.J., and Sansom, M.S.P. (2014). Dimerization of the EphA1 receptor tyrosine kinase transmembrane domain: Insights into the mechanism of receptor activation. Biochemistry *53*, 6641–6652. https://doi.org/10.1021/bi500800x.

Chavent, M., Duncan, A.L., and Sansom, M.S. (2016). Molecular dynamics simulations of membrane proteins and their interactions: from nanoscale to mesoscale. Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol. *40*, 8–16. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbi.2016.06.007.

Chen, H., and Skolnick, J. (2008). M-TASSER: an algorithm for protein quaternary structure prediction. Biophys. J. *94*, 918–928. https://doi.org/10.1529/biophysj.107.114280.

Chothia, C., Levitt, M., and Richardson, D. (1981). Helix to helix packing in proteins. J. Mol. Biol. *145*, 215–250. https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-2836(81)90341-7.

Cymer, F., Veerappan, A., and Schneider, D. (2012). Transmembrane helix–helix interactions are modulated by the sequence context and by lipid bilayer properties. Biochim. Biophys. Acta - Biomembr. *1818*, 963–973. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2011.07.035.

Doura, A.K., and Fleming, K.G. (2004). Complex interactions at the helix-helix interface stabilize the glycophorin A transmembrane dimer. J. Mol. Biol. *343*, 1487–1497. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2004.09.011.

Duong, M.T., Jaszewski, T.M., Fleming, K.G., and MacKenzie, K.R. (2007). Changes in apparent free energy of helix-helix dimerization in a biological membrane due to point mutations. J. Mol. Biol. *371*, 422–434. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2007.05.026.

Evans, R., O'Neill, M., Pritzel, A., Antropova, N., Senior, A., Green, T., Žídek, A., Bates, R., Blackwell, S., Yim, J., et al. (2022). Protein complex prediction with AlphaFold-Multimer. BioRxiv 2021.10.04.463034. https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.10.04.463034.

Gopal, S.M., Pawar, A.B., Wassenaar, T.A., and Sengupta, D. (2020). Lipid-dependent conformational landscape of the ErbB2 growth factor receptor dimers. Chem. Phys. Lipids *230*, 104911. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemphyslip.2020.104911.

Grünewald, F., Souza, P.C.T., Abdizadeh, H., Barnoud, J., de Vries, A.H., and Marrink, S.J. (2020). Titratable Martini model for constant pH simulations. J. Chem. Phys. *153*, 24118. https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0014258.

Javanainen, M., Martinez-Seara, H., and Vattulainen, I. (2017). Excessive aggregation of membrane proteins in the Martini model. PLoS One *12*, e0187936. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0187936.

de Jong, D.H., Baoukina, S., Ingólfsson, H.I., and Marrink, S.J. (2016). Martini straight: Boosting performance using a shorter cutoff and GPUs. Comput. Phys. Commun. *199*, 1–7. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpc.2015.09.014.

Kabsch, W., and Sander, C. (1983). Dictionary of protein secondary structure: pattern recognition of hydrogen-bonded and geometrical features. Biopolymers *22*, 2577–2637. https://doi.org/10.1002/bip.360221211.

Kufareva, I., and Abagyan, R. (2012). Methods of protein structure comparison. Methods Mol. Biol. *857*, 231–257. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-61779-588-6_10.

Lee, J., and Im, W. (2007). Implementation and application of helix-helix distance and crossing angle restraint potentials. J. Comput. Chem. *28*, 669–680. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcc.20614.

Lelimousin, M., Limongelli, V., and Sansom, M.S.P. (2016). Conformational Changes in the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor: Role of the Transmembrane Domain Investigated by Coarse-Grained MetaDynamics Free Energy Calculations. J. Am. Chem. Soc. *138*, 10611–10622. https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.6b05602.

Li, E., Wimley, W.C., and Hristova, K. (2012). Transmembrane helix dimerization: Beyond the search for sequence motifs. Biochim. Biophys. Acta - Biomembr. *1818*, 183–193. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2011.08.031.

Liaci, A.M., Steigenberger, B., Telles de Souza, P.C., Tamara, S., Gröllers-Mulderij, M., Ogrissek, P., Marrink, S.J., Scheltema, R.A., and Förster, F. (2021). Structure of the human signal peptidase complex reveals the determinants for signal peptide cleavage. Mol. Cell https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2021.07.031.

MacKenzie, K.R., Prestegard, J.H., and Engelman, D.M. (1997). A transmembrane helix dimer: structure and implications. Science *276*, 131–133. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.276.5309.131.

Majumder, A., and Straub, J.E. (2021). Addressing the Excessive Aggregation of Membrane Proteins in the MARTINI Model. J. Chem. Theory Comput. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jctc.0c01253.

Majumder, A., Kwon, S., and Straub, J.E. (2022). On Computing Equilibrium Binding Constants for Protein–Protein Association in Membranes. J. Chem. Theory Comput. *18*, 3961–3971. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jctc.2c00106.

Martin, J. (2022). When Alphafold2 predictions go wrong for protein–protein complexes, is there something to be learnt? Q. Rev. Biophys. *55*, e6. https://doi.org/DOI: 10.1017/S0033583522000051.

Mineev, K.S., Bocharov, E. V, Pustovalova, Y.E., Bocharova, O. V, Chupin, V. V, and Arseniev, A.S. (2010). Spatial structure of the transmembrane domain heterodimer of ErbB1 and ErbB2 receptor tyrosine kinases. J. Mol. Biol. *400*, 231–243. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmb.2010.05.016.

Mineev, K.S., Khabibullina, N.F., Lyukmanova, E.N., Dolgikh, D.A., Kirpichnikov, M.P., and Arseniev, A.S. (2011). Spatial structure and dimer--monomer equilibrium of the ErbB3 transmembrane domain in DPC micelles. Biochim. Biophys. Acta *1808*, 2081–2088. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2011.04.017.

Mottamal, M., Zhang, J., and Lazaridis, T. (2006). Energetics of the native and non-native states of the glycophorin transmembrane helix dimer. Proteins *62*, 996–1009. https://doi.org/10.1002/prot.20844.

Muhle-Goll, C., Hoffmann, S., Afonin, S., Grage, S.L., Polyansky, A.A., Windisch, D., Zeitler, M., Bürck, J., and Ulrich, A.S. (2012). Hydrophobic matching controls the tilt and stability of the dimeric platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR) β transmembrane segment. J. Biol. Chem. *287*, 26178–26186. https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M111.325555.

Pahuja, K.B., Nguyen, T.T., Jaiswal, B.S., Prabhash, K., Thaker, T.M., Senger, K., Chaudhuri, S., Kljavin, N.M., Antony, A., Phalke, S., et al. (2018). Actionable Activating Oncogenic ERBB2/HER2 Transmembrane and Juxtamembrane Domain Mutations. Cancer Cell *34*, 792-806.e5. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccell.2018.09.010.

Polyansky, A.A., Volynsky, P.E., and Efremov, R.G. (2011). Structural, dynamic, and functional aspects of helix association in membranes: a computational view. Adv. Protein Chem. Struct. Biol. *83*, 129–161. https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-381262-9.00004-5.

Polyansky, A.A., Volynsky, P.E., and Efremov, R.G. (2012). Multistate Organization of Transmembrane Helical Protein Dimers Governed by the Host Membrane. J. Am. Chem. Soc. *134*, 14390–14400. https://doi.org/10.1021/ja303483k.

Polyansky, A.A., Chugunov, A.O., Volynsky, P.E., Krylov, N.A., Nolde, D.E., and Efremov, R.G. (2014a). PREDDIMER: a web server for prediction of transmembrane helical dimers. Bioinformatics *30*, 889–890. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btt645.

Polyansky, A.A., Chugunov, A.O., Volynsky, P.E., Krylov, N.A., Nolde, D.E., and Efremov, R.G. (2014b). PREDDIMER: a web server for prediction of transmembrane helical dimers. Bioinformatics *30*, 889–890. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btt645.

Sahoo, A.R., and Buck, M. (2021). Structural and Functional Insights into the Transmembrane Domain Association of Eph Receptors. Int. J. Mol. Sci. *22*. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22168593.

Souza, P.C.T., Alessandri, R., Barnoud, J., Thallmair, S., Faustino, I., Grünewald, F., Patmanidis, I., Abdizadeh, H., Bruininks, B.M.H., Wassenaar, T.A., et al. (2021). Martini 3: a general purpose force field for coarse-grained molecular dynamics. Nat. Methods *18*, 382–388. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-021-01098-3.

Stefanski, K.M., Russell, C.M., Westerfield, J.M., Lamichhane, R., and Barrera, F.N. (2021). PIP2 promotes conformation-specific dimerization of the EphA2 membrane region. J. Biol. Chem. *296*, 100149. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.RA120.016423.

Wallin, E., and von Heijne, G. (1998). Genome-wide analysis of integral membrane proteins from eubacterial, archaean, and eukaryotic organisms. Protein Sci. *7*, 1029–1038.

https://doi.org/10.1002/pro.5560070420.

Wassenaar, T.A., Pluhackova, K., Böckmann, R.A., Marrink, S.J., and Tieleman, D.P. (2014). Going Backward: A Flexible Geometric Approach to Reverse Transformation from Coarse Grained to Atomistic Models. J. Chem. Theory Comput. *10*, 676–690. https://doi.org/10.1021/ct400617g.

Wassenaar, T.A., Ingólfsson, H.I., Böckmann, R.A., Tieleman, D.P., and Marrink, S.J. (2015). Computational Lipidomics with insane: A Versatile Tool for Generating Custom Membranes for Molecular Simulations. J. Chem. Theory Comput. *11*, 2144–2155. https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jctc.5b00209.

Westerfield, J.M., Sahoo, A.R., Alves, D.S., Grau, B., Cameron, A., Maxwell, M., Schuster, J.A., Souza, P.C.T., Mingarro, I., Buck, M., et al. (2021). Conformational clamping by a membrane ligand activates the EphA2 receptor. BioRxiv 2021.04.08.439029. https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.04.08.439029.

Yen, H.-Y., Hoi, K.K., Liko, I., Hedger, G., Horrell, M.R., Song, W., Wu, D., Heine, P., Warne, T., Lee, Y., et al. (2018). PtdIns(4,5)P(2) stabilizes active states of GPCRs and enhances selectivity of G-protein coupling. Nature *559*, 423–427. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0325-6.

Zhang, J., and Lazaridis, T. (2009). Transmembrane helix association affinity can be modulated by flanking and noninterfacial residues. Biophys. J. *96*, 4418–4427. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bpj.2009.03.008.

Zhang, L., Sodt, A.J., Venable, R.M., Pastor, R.W., and Buck, M. (2013). Prediction, refinement, and persistency of transmembrane helix dimers in lipid bilayers using implicit and explicit solvent/lipid representations: microsecond molecular dynamics simulations of ErbB1/B2 and EphA1. Proteins *81*, 365–376. https://doi.org/10.1002/prot.24192.

Zhong, B., Su, X., Wen, M., Zuo, S., Hong, L., and Lin, J. (2022). ParaFold: Paralleling AlphaFold for Large-Scale Predictions. In International Conference on High Performance Computing in Asia-Pacific Region Workshops, (New York, NY, USA: Association for Computing Machinery), pp. 1–9.

Table 1: Comparison of CG simulated TM dimers with the NMR structures. Central conformers of the three most populated clusters from the CG simulation are considered for calculating the mean and SD of the crossing angle values. Similar/ near crossing angle (X) values (± 20°) and RMSD ≤ 4.5 Å between the CG and NMR are marked as red. All the receptors except PDGFRb show similarity in the crossing angle values and are within the RMSD range of 4.5 Å.

TM Dimers	CG simulation						NMR
	X (deg)			RMSD (Å) from NMR			X (deg)
	1st Cluster	2nd Cluster	3rd Cluster	1st Cluster	2nd Cluster	3rd Cluster	
1-Bnip3	-60 ± 10	-87 ± 4	-89 ± 5	4.1 ± 0.5	5.2 ± 0.3	5.4 ± 0.3	-41
2-EphA1	-47 ± 5	49 ± 6	-15 ± 10	3.5 ± 0.2	6.5 ± 0.2	4.8 ± 0.1	-52
3-EphA2	-11 ± 3	29 ± 4	33 ± 8	5.1 ± 0.7	5.2 ± 0.5	4.6 ± 0.1	17
4-ErbB1	-30 ± 2	-8 ± 6	-20 ± 8	3.3 ± 0.4	3.9 ± 0.1	4.3 ± 0.3	-42
5-ErbB1/2	-16 ± 4	-55 ± 5	-26 ± 5	4.0 ± 0.2	3.6 ± 0.3	2.4 ± 0.9	-51
6-ErbB2	-60 ± 4	-18 ± 5	-88 ± 8	2.7 ± 0.9	4.1 ± 0.1	3.6 ± 0.6	-43
7-ErbB3	40 ± 11	-8 ± 4	-41 ± 9	3.9 ± 0.1	4.5 ± 0.2	5.1 ± 0.3	30
8-ErbB4	-30 ± 4	-56 ± 4	-10 ± 6	3.9 ± 0.4	4.1 ± 0.2	5.4 ± 0.3	-41
9-FGFR3	-18 ± 8	-50 ± 3	34 ± 5	5.6 ± 0.1	5.2 ± 0.2	5.6 ± 1.2	35
10-GpA	-19 ± 5	0 ± 4	14 ± 3	3.0 ± 0.2	4.6 ± 0.2	3.4 ± 0.3	-39
11-PDGFRb	-84 ± 3	-132 ± 7	-61 ± 8	5.5 ± 0.4	6.9 ± 0.1	5.3 ± 0.5	23

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Association of TM dimers in the DMPC bilayer. TM peptides are initially placed 50 Å apart from each other and then inserted into DPMC bilayer. TM peptides interact quickly and the final 4 µs dimer conformation is shown here. TM region of the peptides are shown as magenta and red. N- and C-terminal regions are shown as yellow.

Figure 2. 2D distribution plot (interhelix angle vs. distance) for (A) EphA1 (B) EphA2 and (C) GpA. Each plot is divided into 3 population clusters based on the inter-helical angle and the inter-helical distance, as described in Methods. The population of each cluster are shown in Table1. Several structures from each population cluster was extracted and then their average compared with the NMR structure (shown in Table1). Data from the last 2.5µs simulations are considered. Data points at intervals of < 500ps are skipped for clarity.

Figure 3. Superposition of the 11 solution NMR TM dimer structures (in yellow) with best fit CG simulated structures (vars. colors). All the CG structures are converted to all-atom (AA) representation. Best fit structure represents the one (among the 5 structures picked from each of the clusters) that has lowest backbone RMSD from the NMR structure. Only the non-polar helical TM region is considered for backbone RMSD calculation.

Figure 4. 2D Plots showing the conformational transition of TM dimers over the simulation time considering the inter-helical angle vs inter-helical distance for (A) EphA1, (B) EphA2 and (C) GpA. Results from 4 trajectories are shown here. The plots are colored based on the inter-helical distance from 0.5- 1.0 nm (green), 1- 1.5 nm (red) and 1.5-2.0 nm (purple).

Figure 1.

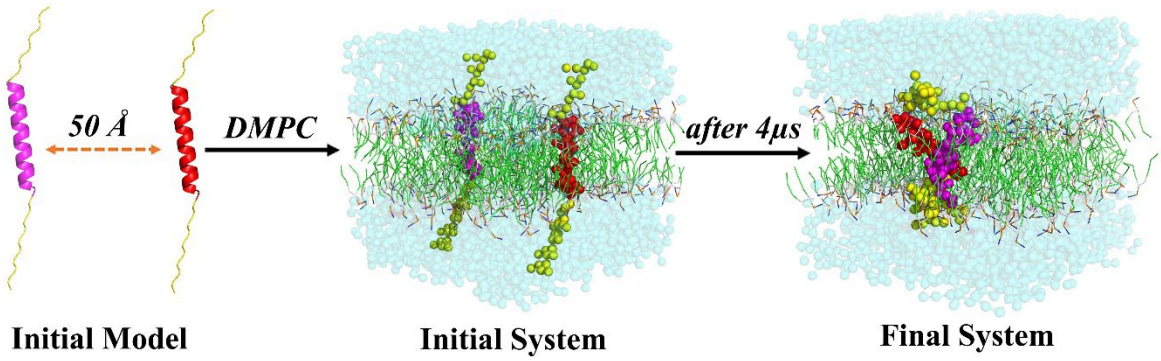

Figure 2.

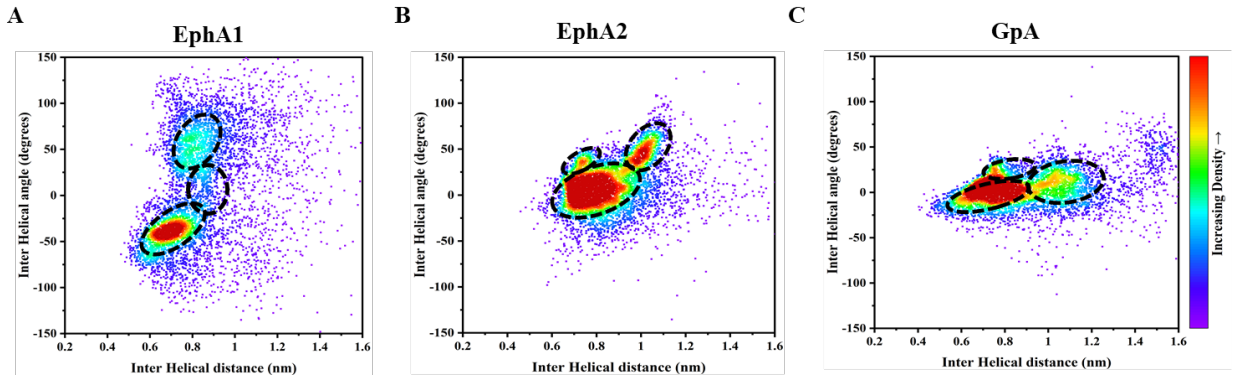

Figure 3.

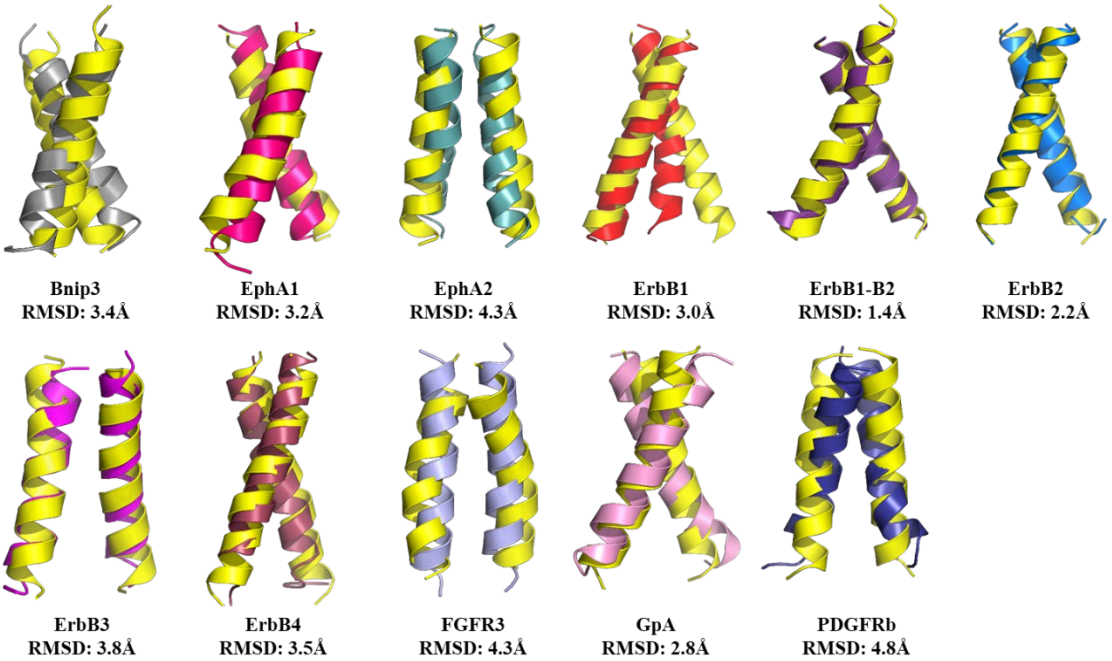
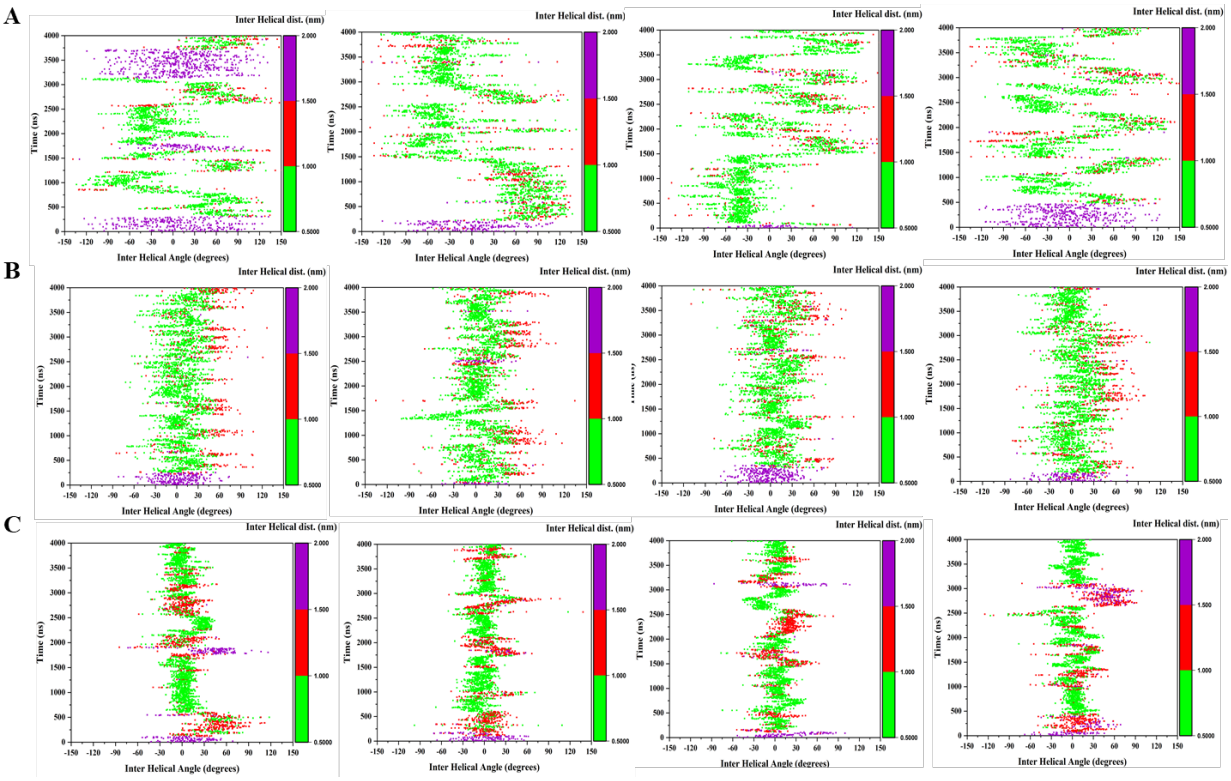
Figure 4.