Supporting Information to

DNA-programmed spatial screening of heterobivalent binding to the endocytic AP-2 adaptor complex

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1 Materials and methods

Materials

Chemicals for DNA synthesis such as acetonitrile (water content < 30 ppm), DMT-removal reagent (3) % trichloroformic acid in dichloromethane), capping reagents I + II (1-methylimidazole/THF and acetic anhydride/pyridine/THF) and oxidizing reagent (iodine/water/pyridine/THF) were purchased from Roth (Karlsruhe, Germany). Dichloromethane (DNA-synthesis grade) was purchased from AppliChem (Darmstadt, Germany). DNA-monomers (DMT-dA(Bz)-β-cyanoethylphosphoramidite, DMT-dC(Bz)- β -cyanoethylphosphoramidite, DMT-dG(DMF)-β-cyanoethylphosphoramidite and DMT-dT- β -cvanoethylphosphoramidite) were obtained from Proligo (Sigma-Aldrich, Hamburg, Germany) and used as a 0.2 M solution in acetonitril for the coupling. Hyacinth-DMF (5-Benzylmercaptotetrazole) from emp-Biotech (Berlin, Germany) was used as 0.3 M solution in acetonitrile as coupling reagent. Fmoc-protected PNA-monomers were purchased from ASM Research Chemicals (Burgwedel, Germany). DMF for peptide synthesis as well as Fmoc-protected amino acids were purchased from Biosolve (Valkenswaard, Netherland), Fmoc-Lys(Mmt)-OH from Iris Biotech (Marktredwitz, Germany). Rink amide resin was supplied by Novabiochem (Schwalbach, Germany). HCTU was acquired from Chemcube (Bochum, Germany). Acrylamide-buffer for PAGE-analysis was supplied by Carl Roth GmbH + Co. KG (Karlsruhe, Germany). Gene Ruler[™] Ultra Low Range DNAladder (ready-to-use) was obtained from Fermentas GmbH (St. Leon-Rot, Germany) and 10000× SYBR-Gold for gel-staining was purchased from Invitrogen (Molecular Probes). All other chemicals were purchased from Acros, Sigma-Aldrich and Fluka and used without further purification. Water was used after purification with an Astacus Milli-Q Ultra Pure Water Purification System from membraPure GmbH (Bodenheim, Germany).

Instruments and Methods

Automated DNA-synthesis was carried out by using a 3400 DNA-Synthesizer (Applied Biosystems) in 1 µmol columns for DNA synthesis (Proligo, Sigma-Aldrich, Hamburg, Germany).

Manual solid phase synthesis was performed by using 2 mL polyethylene syringe reactors (from MultSynTech) equipped with a fritted disc. For automated linear solid phase synthesis of peptides and PNA-oligomers a MultipepRS Syntheziser and a ResPep-Parallel Synthesizer of Intavis Bioanalytical Instruments AG were used.

Analytical HPLC of peptide-DNA-conjugates was performed on a Waters-Acquity-UPLC system by using an UV/Vis-detector (260 nm detection wavelength) and a thermostated (55°C) analytical Waters-X-Bridge C18-column, BEH300, 1.7 μ m, 100x2 mm. Eluent A (0.1 M triethylammonium acetate at pH 7.0) and eluent B (MeCN) were used in a linear gradient (3-50 % B in 2 min) at a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min. Preparative HPLC was performed by using a Gilson-HPLC system and an UV/Vis-detector (260 nm detection wavelength) and a thermostated (55°C) semi-preperative Waters-X-Bridge C18-column, BEH300, 5 μ m, 250x10 mm. Eluent A (0.1 M triethylammonium acetate at pH 7.0) and eluent B (MeCN) were used in a linear gradient (3-50 % B in 40 min) at a flow rate of 4 mL/min.

For analytical and semi-preparative HPLC of peptides and PNA-conjugates an Agilent 1100 series instrument was used. Absorbance of analytical HPLC was measured by using a photo diode array detector at 210 and 260 nm and columns from *Macherey & Nagel* (semi-preparative: 5µ, 250x21 mm; analytical: 3µ, 125x4 mm). Samples were eluted using solvents A (98.9% water, 1% MeCN, 0.1% formic acid) and B (98.9% MeCN, 1% water, 0.1% formic acid) for analytical HPLC and A (98.9% water, 1% MeCN, 0.1% TFA) and B (98.9% MeCN, 1% water, 0.1% TFA) for semi-preparative

HPLC in linear gradients (see analytical details) at a flow rate of 16 mL/min (preparative) und 0.3 mL/min (analytical) at 55° C.

MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry of peptide-DNA-conjugates was performed on a Voyager-DE Pro Biospectrometry Workstation from PerSeptive Biosystems. A nitrogen laser at $\lambda = 337$ nm was used as excitation source. 0.15 M 2, 3, 4-Trihydroxyacetophenone in water/ethanol (1:1 [v/v]) with 0.5 M diammonium-citrate was used as matrix.

For the determination of the solid phase synthesis yields, the Fmoc-load was determined. The required UV-VIS-spectroscopical measurements were performed by using a Varian Carey 100 Bio (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany). An aliquot of the filtrate obtained after Fmoc-cleavage was diluted and the absorption at 301 nm was determined. Loading was calculated applying Lambert law $(A = \varepsilon_{301} \cdot c \cdot d)$. The concentration of PNA-/DNA-stock solutions was determined by measuring optical density at 260 nm using a quartz cuvette at 1 cm path length. The extinction coefficients were calculated using the OligoAnalyzer 3.1 from Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) (http://eu.idtdna.com/analyzer/ applications/oligoanalyzer/).

Fluorescence anisotropy experiments were performed by using a SPEX Fluoromax 3 fluorescence spectrometer (HORIBA Jobin Yvon) equipped with a peltier thermostated single cell holder (set to 25 °C) and automated polarizers. The measurements were performed in a 0.25 mL fluorescence cuvette (105.250-QS, *Hellma*). Slits were set to yield an intensity of approximately 1.0•10⁶ counts with both polarizers set to vertical orientation (8-13 nm). For each data point 10 values were measured and the last 5 were averaged. All protein containing solutions were kept on ice until measuring.

2 Synthesis

Synthesis of peptides

Manual solid-phase synthesis according to the Fmoc/tBu-strategy

Resin loading: TentaGel R RAM resin (100 µmol) was allowed to swell for 30 min in 2 mL DMF. A solution of 4 eq. (400 µmol) Fmoc-Lys(Mmt)-OH, 4 eq. (400 µmol) HCTU and 8 eq. (800 µmol) NMM in DMF (final concentration 0.2 M) was added to the resin. After 2 h the resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL DMF) and dried in vacuo. *Fmoc cleavage:* DMF/piperidine (4:1 [v/v], 1 mL) was added to the resin. After 5 min, the procedure was repeated once. The resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL DMF). *Coupling:* 4 eq. (corresponding to resin loading) amino acid was dissolved in DMF (final concentration 0.2 M) and 3.6 eq. of HCTU and 8 eq. of NMM were added. The solution was then added to the resin. After 30 min, the resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL DMF). *Capping:* Ac₂O/ 2,6-lutidine/DMF (5:6:89 [v/v/v]) was added to the resin. After 5 min the resin was washed (5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL DMF). *Capping:* Ac₂O/ 2,6-lutidine/DMF (5:6:89 [v/v/v]) was added to the resin. After 5 min the resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL DMF). *Capping:* Ac₂O/ 2,6-lutidine/DMF (5:6:89 [v/v/v]) was added to the resin. After 5 min the resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 5x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂, 5x 1 mL DMF).

Automated solid-phase synthesis according to the Fmoc/tBu-strategy

TentaGel R RAM resin (25 μ mol) was allowed to swell for 30 min in 1 mL DMF. During solid phase synthesis reactors were vortexed every 3 min for 30 s. *Fmoc cleavage:* DMF/piperidine (4:1 [v/v], 400 μ L) was added to the resin. After 2 min, the procedure was repeated once. The resin was then washed with DMF (7x 800 μ L). *Coupling:* A preactivation vessel was charged with a 0.6 M solution of HCTU in DMF (5 eq. corresponding to resin loading), a 4 M solution of NMM in DMF (10 eq.) and a solution containing 0.6 M amino acid and 0.6 M HOBt in DMF (5 eq). After 2 min the solution was added to the resin. After 30 min, the resin was washed with DMF (2x 800 μ L). In synthesis of longer peptides coupling step was repeated as of 10th reaction cycle. *Capping:* Ac₂O/2,6-lutidine/DMF

(5:6:89 [v/v/v], 400 μ L) was added. After 5 min the resin was washed with DMF (5x 800 μ L). At the end of linear solid phase peptide assembly, resin was washed with DCM (4x 200 μ L).

Mmt-cleavage: A solution of TFA in DCM (5% [v/v]) was added to the resin (5x 1 min). Afterwards the resin was washed (10x 1 mL DCM, 5x 1 mL DMF).

Coupling: (A) To yield fluorophore-labeled peptides (1-10) a solution of 10 eq. (corresponding to resin loading) of 5,6-carboxyfluorescein in DMF, 20 eq. NMM and 10 eq. PyBOP (final concentration 0.4 M) was added to the resin. After 6 h the resin was washed (at least 10x with DMF/Piperidin (4:1 [v:v]), 5x 1 mL DMF, 10x 1 mL DCM). (B) To obtain acetylated peptides (11-20) the ε -amino group of C-terminal lysine was capped with Ac₂O/ 2,6-lutidine/DMF (5:6:89 [v/v/v], 2x 5 min). At the end the resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 10x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂). (C) To obtain maleimide peptides (21-30) a solution of 4 eq. 3-maleimide propionic acid in DMF, 8 eq. NMM and 3.6 eq. HCTU (final concentration 0.4 M) was added to the resin. After 2 h the coupling was repeated and the resin was washed (5x 1 mL DMF, 10x 1 mL CH₂Cl₂).

Cleavage from solid support: the resin was treated with a mixture of TFA/H₂O/triisopropylsilane (950 μ L : 25 μ L : 25 μ L) for 90 min and subsequently washed with 500 μ L TFA. The combined solutions were concentrated to 1/5 of the volume under reduced pressure following precipitation by addition of cold diethylether. The supernatant was discarded and the precipitate dissolved in water. The solution was lyophyllized. For HPLC-purification the crude product was dissolved in a water/MeCN mixture (max 900 μ L, 0-50% MeCN). Product purity was verified by HPLC or UPLC analysis and MALDI-TOF/MS.

peptide sequence	$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{F}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{M}$	R = MIC
Ac-Ser-Asp-Pro-Phe-Lys(R)-NH ₂	1	-
Ac-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Lys (\mathbf{R}) -NH ₂	2	18
$\label{eq:ac-lie-Asn-Phe-Bhe-Glu-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Glu-Ile-Lys(\textbf{R})-NH_2$	3	-
$\label{eq:ac-lie-Asn-Phe-Bhe-Glu-Asp-Asp-Phe-Val-Pro-Glu-Ile-Lys(\textbf{R})-NH_2$	4	-
$\label{eq:c-Leu-Asp-Gly-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Asn-Leu-Gln-Ser-Lys(\textbf{R})-NH_2$	5	-
Ac-Pro-Asn-Asn-Trp-Ala-Asp-Phe-Ser-Lys(\mathbf{R})-NH ₂	6	19
Ac-Pro-Asn-Asn-Trp-Ala-Asp-Phe-Ser-Ser-Thr-Trp-Pro-Lys(\mathbf{R})-NH ₂	7	-
Ac-Lys-Gly-Trp-Val-Thr-Phe-Glu-Glu-Lys(\mathbf{R})-NH ₂	8	20
Ac-Trp-Val-Thr-Phe-Asp-Asp-Asp-Lys(\mathbf{R})-NH ₂	9	-
$\label{eq:ac-Asn-Pro-Lys-Gly-Trp-Val-Thr-Phe-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys({\bf R})-\rm NH_2$	10	-
$\label{eq:construction} Ac-Ile-Ser-Asn-Trp-Val-Gln-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asp-Thr-Pro-Lys(\mathbf{R})-NH_2$	11	-

Table S1. Synthesized peptide sequences. The ε -amino group of C-terminal lysine was coupled to 5,6-carboxyfluorescein (R = FAM), fluoresceinisothiocyanate (R' = FITC) or 3-maleimido propionic acid (R, R' = MIC).

Characterization data for peptides

FAM-labeled peptides

Peptides were synthesized at 3 µmol scale. The yield was determined by measuring the absorption at 492 nm (ϵ_{492} (FAM) = 78000 M⁻¹•cm⁻¹) (R. P. Haugland, *Handbook of Fluorescent Probes and Research Products*, 9. Auflage, Molecular Probes Inc., Eugene, **2002**, S. 46-56) of peptides dissolved in 1% NaCO₃ in water.

$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Lys(FAM)-NH}_2 \ \ 2 \\ & \text{C}_{70} \ \text{H}_{79} \ \text{N}_{11} \ \text{O}_{20} \ (1394.2 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{492} = 36.4 \ (467 \ \text{nmol}, \ 16 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \ \text{M}^{-1} \text{\cdot cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}} : 12.7 \ \text{min} \ (3\text{-}90\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}) : \ \text{calc.: } 1394.2 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+, \ 698.1 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}; \ \text{found: } 1394.5 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+, \ 697.8 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+} \end{split}$$



Ac-Ile-Asn-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Glu-Ile-Lys(FAM)-NH₂ **3** C_{100} H₁₂₃ N₁₇ O₂₈ (2011.5 g/mol) $OD_{304} = 4.0$ (6450 nmol, 43 %), $\epsilon_{304} = 616.8$ M⁻¹•cm⁻¹

HPLC: t_R: 10.6 min (30-70% MeCN, 210 nm);

ESI/MS (m/z): calc.: 1006.8 [M+2H]²⁺, 671.5 [M+3H]³⁺; found: 1006.4 [M+2H]²⁺, 671.2 [M+3H]³⁺



Ac-Ile-Asn-Phe-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asp-Phe-Val-Pro-Glu-Ile-Lys(FAM)-NH₂ 4 C_{90} H₁₂₂ N₁₆ O₂₉ (2011.9 g/mol) OD₄₉₂ = 1.2 (16 nmol, 1 %), ϵ_{492} = 78000 M⁻¹•cm⁻¹ HPLC: t_R: 14.6 min (3-90% MeCN, 210 nm); ESI/MS (m/z): calc.: 1007.0 [M+2H]²⁺, 671.6 [M+3H]³⁺; found: 1007.0 [M+2H]²⁺, 671.5 [M+3H]³⁺



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Leu-Asp-Gly-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Asn-Leu-Gln-Ser-Lys(FAM)-NH}_2 \ \textbf{5} \\ & \text{C}_{90} \ \textbf{H}_{112} \ \textbf{N}_{18} \ \textbf{O}_{30} \ (1925.7 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{492} = 17.6 \ (225 \ \text{nmol}, 8 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \ \text{M}^{-1} \bullet \text{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_R: \ 12.9 \ \text{min} \ (\ 3-90\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}): \ \text{calc.:} \ 1926.7 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+, \ 963.9 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}, \ 642.9 \ [\text{M}+3\text{H}]^{3+}; \\ & \text{found:} \ 1927.7 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+, \ 963.9 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}, \ 643.1 \ [\text{M}+3\text{H}]^{3+} \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Pro-Asn-Asn-Trp-Ala-Asp-Phe-Ser-Lys(FAM)-NH}_2 \ \textbf{6} \\ & \text{C}_{72} \ \text{H}_{80} \ \text{N}_{14} \ \text{O}_{21} \ (1477.2 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{492} = 17.9 \ (229 \ \text{nmol}, 8 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \ \text{M}^{-1} \ \textbf{\cdot} \ \textbf{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}} : 12.3 \ \text{min} \ (3\text{-}90\% \ \text{MeCN}, 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}) : \ \text{calc.: } 1478.2 \ [\text{M}\text{+}\text{H}]^+, \ 739.6 \ [\text{M}\text{+}2\text{H}]^{2+}, \ 493.4 \ [\text{M}\text{+}3\text{H}]^{3+}; \\ & \text{found: } 1477.5 \ [\text{M}\text{+}\text{H}]^+, \ 739.4 \ [\text{M}\text{+}2\text{H}]^{2+}, \ 493.4 \ [\text{M}\text{+}3\text{H}]^{3+}; \end{split}$$



 $Ac-Pro-Asn-Asn-Trp-Ala-Asp-Phe-Ser-Ser-Thr-Trp-Pro-Lys (FAM)-NH_2\ \textbf{7}$

 $C_{95}\,H_{109}\,N_{19}\,O_{27}\,(1948.7\text{ g/mol})$

 $OD_{492} = 3.7 (47 \text{ nmol}, 2 \%), \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$

HPLC: t_R: 12.9 min (3-90% MeCN, 210 nm);

 $ESI/MS \ (m/z): \ calc.: \ 975.4 \ [M+2H]^{2+}, \ 650.6 \ [M+3H]^{3+}; \ found: \ 975.4 \ [M+2H]^{2+}, \ 650.5 \ [M+3H]^{3+}; \ found: \ 975.4 \ [M+2H]^{3+}; \ found:$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Lys-Gly-Trp-Val-Thr-Phe-Glu-Glu-Lys(FAM)-NH}_2 \ & \text{S}\\ & \text{C}_{76} \ H_{91} \ N_{13} \ O_{21} \ (1521.6 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{492} = 23.9 \ (306 \ \text{nmol}, \ 10 \ \%), \ & \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \ \text{M}^{-1} \text{\cdot} \text{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{UPLC: } t_{\text{R}} : \ 0.91 \ \text{min} \ (3-90\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}) : \ \text{calc.: } 1522.6 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+, \ 761.8 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}, \ 508.2 \ [\text{M}+3\text{H}]^{3+}; \\ & \quad \text{found: } 1522.6 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^+, \ 761.9 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}, \ 508.4 \ [\text{M}+3\text{H}]^{3+} \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} &Ac\text{-}Trp\text{-}Val\text{-}Thr\text{-}Phe\text{-}Asp\text{-}Asp\text{-}Lys(FAM)\text{-}NH_2~\textbf{9}\\ &C_{70}~H_{77}~N_{11}~O_{22}~(1423.5~g/mol)\\ &OD_{492}=22.7~(291~nmol,~10~\%),~\epsilon_{492}=78000~M^{-1}\text{\cdot}cm^{-1}\\ &HPLC:~t_R:~13.1~min~(3\text{-}90\%~MeCN,~210~nm);\\ &ESI/MS~(m/z):~calc.:~1424.5~[M+H]^+,~712.8~[M+2H]^{2+},~475.5~[M+3H]^{3+};\\ &~found:~1424.4~[M+H]^+,~712.8~[M+2H]^{2+},~475.7~[M+3H]^{3+} \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Asn-Pro-Lys-Gly-Trp-Val-Thr-Phe-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys(FAM)-NH}_2 \ \textbf{10} \\ & \text{C}_{95} \ \text{H}_{118} \ \text{N}_{18} \ \text{O}_{30} \ (1991.8 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{492} = 17.0 \ (218 \ \text{nmol}, \ 7 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \ \text{M}^{-1} \ \text{cm}^{-1} \end{split}$$

UPLC: t_R: 0.89 min (3-90% MeCN, 210 nm);

ESI/MS (m/z): calc.: 996.9 [M+2H]²⁺, 664.9 [M+3H]³⁺; found: 996.9 [M+2H]²⁺, 664.9 [M+3H]³⁺



Ac-Ile-Ser-Asn-Trp-Val-Gln-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asp-Thr-Pro-Lys(FAM)-NH2 11

C₉₄ H₁₁₆ N₁₈ O₃₀ (1977.8 g/mol)

 $OD_{492} = 2.1 (27 \text{ nmol}, 1 \%), \epsilon_{492} = 78000 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$

HPLC: t_R: 12.9 min (3-90% MeCN, 210 nm);

ESI/MS (m/z): calc.: 989.9 [M+2H]²⁺, 660.3 [M+3H]³⁺; found: 989.9 [M+2H]²⁺, 660.2 [M+3H]³⁺





Maleimide peptides

Peptides were synthesized at 15 μ mol scale. The yield was determined by measuring the absorption at 304 nm (ϵ_{304} (MIC) = 616.8 M-1•cm-1.

$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Lys(MIC)-NH}_2 \ \textbf{18} \\ & \text{C}_{56} \ \text{H}_{74} \ \text{N}_{12} \ \text{O}_{17} \ (1186.5 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{304} = 3.8 \ (6200 \ \text{nmol}, \ 41 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{304} = 616.8 \ \text{M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}} : 11.2 \ \text{min} \ (3\text{-}90\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}) : \ \text{calc.: } 1187.5 \ [\text{M}\text{+H}]^+, \ 594.3 \ [\text{M}\text{+}2\text{H}]^{2+}; \ \text{found: } 1187.5 \ [\text{M}\text{+H}]^+, \ 594.4 \ [\text{M}\text{+}2\text{H}]^{2+} \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-Pro-Asn-Asn-Trp-Ala-Asp-Phe-Ser-Lys(MIC)-NH}_2 \ \textbf{19} \\ & \text{C}_{58} \ \text{H}_{75} \ \text{N}_{15} \ \text{O}_{18} \ (1269.5 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{304} = 1.9 \ (3070 \ \text{nmol}, \ 28 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{304} = 616.8 \ \text{M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}} : 10.7 \ \text{min} \ (3-90\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}) : \ \text{calc.} : 1270.5 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}, \ 635.8 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}; \text{found: } 1270.5 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}, \ 635.8 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+} \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} &\text{Ac-Lys-Gly-Trp-Val-Thr-Phe-Glu-Glu-Lys(MIC)-NH}_2 \ \textbf{20} \\ &\text{C}_{62} \ H_{86} \ N_{14} \ O_{18} \ (1314.6 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ &\text{OD}_{304} = 2.6 \ (4240 \ \text{nmol}, \ 28 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{304} = 616.8 \ \text{M}^{-1} \ \text{cm}^{-1} \\ &\text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}} : 9.6 \ \text{min} \ (3-60\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 210 \ \text{nm}); \\ &\text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}): \ \text{calc.}: \ 1315.6 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}, \ 658.3 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+}; \ \text{found}: \ 1315.6 \ [\text{M}+\text{H}]^{+}, \ 658.4 \ [\text{M}+2\text{H}]^{2+} \end{split}$$



Synthesis of PNA-oligomers

Automated PNA synthesis was performed at 2 μmol scale by using Fmoc/Bhoc-protected PNA building blocks.

TentaGel R RAM resin (2 µmol) was allowed to swell for 30 min in 350 µL DMF. *Fmoc cleavage:* the resin was treated for 2 min with DMF/piperidine (4:1 [v/v], 2x 200 µL) and washed with DMF (7x 200 µL). Coupling of PNA-monomers: a preactivation vessel was charged with a 0.2 M solution of the PNA monomer in NMP (40 µL), a 0.6 M solution of HCTU in DMF (12 µL) and a 4 M solution of NMM in DMF (6 μ L). After 1 min, the solution was transferred to the resin. After 30 min, the resin was washed (2x 200 µL DMF). Capping: a mixture of Ac₂O/2,6-lutidine/DMF (5:6:89 [v/v/v], 200 μ L) was added to the resin. After 3 min the resin was washed (6x 200 μ L). Cleavage from the solid support: the resin was treated with a mixture of TFA/H₂O/triisopropylsilane (950 μ L : 25 μ L : 25 μ L) for 90 min and subsequently washed with 500 µL TFA. The combined solutions were concentrated to 1/5 of the volume under reduced pressure. Addition of cold diethylether yielded a precipitate. The supernatant was discarded and the precipitate dissolved in water. The solution was lyophyllized. For HPLC-purification the crude product was dissolved in water/MeCN mixture (max 900 µL, 0-50% MeCN). Product purity was verified by HPLC or UPLC analysis and MALDI-TOF/MS. The yield was determined by measuring the absorption at 260 nm and using the extinction coefficients calculated with the OligoAnalyzer 3.1 from Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) (http://eu.idtdna.com/analyzer/applications/oligoanalyzer/).

 $\begin{array}{l} \label{eq:constraint} Ac\text{-}cgg\ cgg\ c\text{-}NH_2\ \textbf{23}; \\ C_{76}\,H_{96}\,N_{44}\,O_{22}\ (1977.9\ g/mol) \\ OD_{260} = 47.1\ (857\ nmol,\ 43\ \%),\ \epsilon_{260} = 54900\ M^{-1}\text{\cdot}cm^{-1} \\ HPLC:\ t_R;\ 8.8\ min\ (0\text{-}30\%\ MeCN,\ 260\ nm); \\ ESI/MS\ (m/z):\ calc.:\ 990.0\ [M+2H]^{2+},\ 660.3\ [M+3H]^{3+},\ 495.5\ [M+4H]^{4+},\ 396.6\ [M+5H]^{5+}; \\ \ found:\ 989.8\ [M+2H]^{2+},\ 660.2\ [M+3H]^{3+},\ 495.5\ [M+4H]^{4+},\ 396.5\ [M+5H]^{5+} \end{array}$



 $\begin{array}{l} \label{eq:capacity} Ac-acg \ gca \ gc-NH_2 \ \textbf{24}: \\ C_{87} \, H_{109} \, N_{51} \, O_{23} \ (2237.1 \ g/mol) \\ OD_{260} = 44.7 \ (576 \ nmol, \ 29 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{260} = 77500 \ M^{-1} \ \hbox{cm}^{-1} \\ HPLC: \ t_R: \ 9.0 \ min \ (0\ -20\% \ MeCN, \ 260 \ nm); \\ ESI/MS \ (m/z): \ calc.: \ 1119.6 \ [M+2H]^{2+}, \ 746.7 \ [M+3H]^{3+}, \ 560.3 \ [M+4H]^{4+}, \ 448.4 \ [M+5H]^{5+}; \\ \ found: \ 1119.4 \ [M+2H]^{2+}, \ 746.5 \ [M+3H]^{3+}, \ 560.2 \ [M+4H]^{4+}, \ 448.5 \ [M+5H]^{5+} \end{array}$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-tac ggc agc-NH}_2 \ \textbf{25}; \\ & \text{C}_{98} \, H_{123} \, N_{55} \, \text{O}_{27} \, (2503.4 \text{ g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{260} = 43.1 \, (504 \text{ nmol}, \, 25 \ \%), \, \epsilon_{260} = 85500 \ \text{M}^{-1} \text{\cdot cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}}; \, 10.0 \ \text{min} \, (0\text{-}20\% \ \text{MeCN}, \, 260 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \, (\text{m/z}); \, \text{calc:} \, 1252.7 \, [\text{M}{+}2\text{H}]^{2+}, \, 835.5 \, [\text{M}{+}3\text{H}]^{3+}, \, 626.9 \, [\text{M}{+}4\text{H}]^{4+}, \, 501.7 \, [\text{M}{+}5\text{H}]^{5+} \\ & \quad \text{found:} \, 1252.5 \, [\text{M}{+}2\text{H}]^{2+}, \, 835.3 \, [\text{M}{+}3\text{H}]^{3+}, \, 626.8 \, [\text{M}{+}4\text{H}]^{4+}, \, 501.7 \, [\text{M}{+}5\text{H}]^{5+} \end{split}$$



 $\begin{array}{l} \label{eq:constraint} Ac\text{-cta} \mbox{ cgg} \mbox{ cag} \mbox{ c-NH}_2 \mbox{ 26}: \\ C_{108} \mbox{ H}_{136} \mbox{ N}_{60} \mbox{ O}_{30} \mbox{ (2754.6 g/mol)} \\ OD_{260} = 66.3 \mbox{ (772 nmol, 39 \%)}, \mbox{ ϵ_{260} = 92000 M^{-1} \mbox{ cm}^{-1}$ \\ UPLC: \mbox{ t}_R: 1.06 \mbox{ min (0-30\% MeCN, 260 nm);} \\ ESI/MS \mbox{ (m/z): calc: 1378.3 $[M+2H]^{2+}, 919.0 $[M+3H]^{3+}, 689.7 $[M+4H]^{4+}, 551.9 $[M+5H]^{5+}; $$ found: 1378.1 $[M+2H]^{2+}, 919.0 $[M+3H]^{3+}, 689.6 $[M+4H]^{4+}, 551.9 $[M+5H]^{5+}$ \\ \end{array}$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-atg cta cgg cag c-NH}_2 \ \textbf{27}; \\ & \text{C}_{141} \, H_{176} \, \text{N}_{78} \, \text{O}_{39} \, (3587.4 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{260} = 59.9 \, (484 \ \text{nmol}, 24 \ \%), \, \epsilon_{260} = 123800 \ \text{M}^{-1} \text{\cdot} \text{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{HPLC: } t_{\text{R}}; \ 10.0 \ \text{min} \, (0\text{-}20\% \ \text{MeCN}, 260 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \, (\text{m/z}); \ \text{calc.}; \ 1196.8 \ [\text{M}\text{+}3\text{H}]^{3+}, \ 897.9 \ [\text{M}\text{+}4\text{H}]^{4+}, \ 718.5 \ [\text{M}\text{+}5\text{H}]^{5+}, \ 598.9 \ [\text{M}\text{+}6\text{H}]^{6+}; \\ & \text{found: } 1096.6 \ [\text{M}\text{+}3\text{H}]^{3+}, \ 897.7 \ [\text{M}\text{+}4\text{H}]^{4+}, \ 718.4 \ [\text{M}\text{+}5\text{H}]^{5+}, \ 598.9 \ [\text{M}\text{+}6\text{H}]^{6+}; \end{split}$$



$$\begin{split} & \text{Ac-gtc atg cta cgg cag c-NH}_2 \ \textbf{28}; \\ & \text{C}_{173} \, \text{H}_{216} \, \text{N}_{94} \, \text{O}_{49} \ (4396.2 \ \text{g/mol}) \\ & \text{OD}_{260} = 61.7 \ (412 \ \text{nmol}, \ 21 \ \%), \ \epsilon_{260} = 149700 \ \text{M}^{-1} \ \text{cm}^{-1} \\ & \text{UPLC: } t_{\text{R}}; \ 1.17 \ \text{min} \ (0\text{-}30\% \ \text{MeCN}, \ 260 \ \text{nm}); \\ & \text{ESI/MS} \ (\text{m/z}); \ \text{calc.}; \ 1099.6 \ [\text{M}\text{+}4\text{H}]^{4+}, \ 880.2 \ [\text{M}\text{+}5\text{H}]^{5+}, \ 733.7 \ [\text{M}\text{+}6\text{H}]^{6+}, \ 629.0 \ [\text{M}\text{+}7\text{H}]^{7+}; \\ & \quad \text{found}; \ 1099.9 \ [\text{M}\text{+}4\text{H}]^{4+}, \ 880.1 \ [\text{M}\text{+}5\text{H}]^{5+}, \ 733.6 \ [\text{M}\text{+}6\text{H}]^{6+}, \ 629.0 \ [\text{M}\text{+}7\text{H}]^{7+} \end{split}$$



Ac-atg gtc atg cta cgg cag c-NH₂ **29**: $C_{206} H_{256} N_{112} O_{58} (5229.0 \text{ g/mol})$ $OD_{260} = 46.3 (255 \text{ nmol}, 13 \%), \epsilon_{260} = 181400 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ UPLC: t_R: 1.01 min (0-40% MeCN, 260 nm); ESI/MS (m/z): calc.: 1308.3 [M+4H]⁴⁺, 1046.8 [M+5H]⁵⁺, 872.5 [M+6H]⁶⁺; found: 1308.1 [M+4H]⁴⁺, 1046.7 [M+5H]⁵⁺, 872.4 [M+6H]⁶⁺;



Synthesis of oligonucleotides

The DMT-5-S-tert.-Butylthio-cysteinyl-propragylamino-desoxyuridine- β -cyanoethyl-phosphoramidite (CysT) was prepared as described elsewhere (F. Diezmann, H. Eberhard, O. Seitz, Biopolymers 2010, 94/4, 397-404) and directly used for DNA-synthesis. Automated DNA-synthesis was performed as described in Biopolymers 2010, 94/4, 397-404. Yields of the DNA-peptideconjugates have been calculated by using the extinction coefficients calculated by using the OligoAnalyzer 3.1 from Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) (http://eu.idtdna.com/analyzer/applications/oligoanalyzer/). Unmodified and template oligonucleotides were purchased from Biotez GmbH, Berlin und used without further purifications. Cysteine-modified 50-mers were synthesized from NOXXON Pharma AG (Berlin, Germany) using our provided CysT. Concentration and purity was controlled by UV-Vis-spectroscopy and MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

Synthesis of peptide-DNA-conjugates

The synthesis of peptide-DNA-conjugates was performed as previously published (H. Eberhard, F. Diezmann, O. Seitz, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 4146-4150). **Z** denotes the modified nucleoside cysteinyl-propargylamino-desoxyuridine and indicates the position of peptide conjugation.

5'-CGG CAT CGA GCG G(**Z**(Lys Gly Trp Val Thr Phe Glu Glu Lys))C-3' **30** $C_{212} H_{259} N_{75} O_{110} P_{15} S$ (6048.9 g/mol) $OD_{260} = 23.9$ (171 nmol, 34 %), $\epsilon_{260} = 139600 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ UPLC: t_R : 1.31 min MALDI-TOF (m/z): calc.: 6049.9 [M+H]⁺; found: 6049 [M+H]⁺



5'-C(**Z**(Phe-Glu-Asp-Asn-Phe-Val-Pro-Lys))G GCA CTG AGC GCG-3' **31** $C_{206} H_{247} N_{73} O_{109} P_{15} S$ (5920.8 g/mol) $OD_{260} = 45.0$ (331 nmol, 66 %), $\epsilon_{260} = 136100 \text{ M}^{-1} \cdot \text{cm}^{-1}$ UPLC: t_R: 1.32 min MALDI-TOF (m/z): calc.: 5921.8 [M+H]⁺; found: 5921 [M+H]⁺



3 DNA-complexes and thermal denaturation experiments

D1	30 T(D1)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG					
D2	31 T(D2)	C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC ₃	30 · 31 T(TC ₃)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C-C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC1 _n (L1 L2	$TC1_{n}$ (L1 L2); Y = T						
TC1 ₆	30 · 31 T(C1 ₆)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TTT-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC18	30 · 31 T(C1 ₈)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXCCXG GCA CTG AGC GCGGCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TTT TT-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC110	30 · 31 T(C1 ₁₀)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXCCXG GCA CTG AGC GCGGCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TTT TTT T-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC1 ₁₃	30 · 31 T(C1 ₁₃)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXC CXG GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TTT TTT TTT T-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC1 ₁₈	30 · 31 T(C1 ₁₈)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXCCXG GCA CTG AGC GCGGCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TTT TTT TTT TTT-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC1 ₂₃	30 · 31 T(C1 ₂₃)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXC CXG GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TTT TTT TTT TTT TTT-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 _n (L1 L2	2); Y = mixed						
TC2 ₆	30 · 31 T(C2 ₆)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TCG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 ₈	30 · 31 T(C2 ₈)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C CXG GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-CGT CG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 ₁₀	30 · 31 T(C2 ₁₀)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-GCC GCC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC211	30 · 31 T(C2 ₁₁)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXC CXG GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TGC CGT CG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 ₁₂	30 · 31 T(C2 ₁₂)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXC CXG GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-ATG CCG TCG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 ₁₃	30 · 31 T(C2 ₁₃)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXCCXG GCA CTG AGC GCGGCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 ₁₆	30 · 31 T(C2 ₁₆)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC219	30 · 31 T(C2 ₁₉)	CGG CAT CGA GCG GXCCXG GCA CTG AGC GCGGCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-CAG TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
TC2 ₂₂	30 · 31 T(C2 ₂₂)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C CC GCG GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TAC CAG TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC _n (L1 L2); DNA-rigidified						
QC10 ^{DNA}	$\frac{30 \cdot R1 \cdot 31}{T(C2_{10})}$	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C CGG CGG C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-GCC GCC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC11DNA	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{30}\cdot\textbf{R2}\cdot\textbf{31}\\ \textbf{T(C2_{11})} \end{array}$	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C ACG GCA GC C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TGC CGT CG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC ₁₂ ^{DNA}	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{30}\cdot\textbf{R3}\cdot\textbf{31}\\ \textbf{T(C2}_{12}) \end{array}$	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C TAC GGC AGC C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-ATG CCG TCG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC ₁₃ ^{DNA}	30 · R4 · 31 T(C2 ₁₃)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C CTA CGG CAG C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC ₁₆ ^{DNA}	30 · R5 · 31 T(C2 ₁₆)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C ATG CTA CGG CAG C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC19 ^{DNA}	30 · R6 · 31 T(C2 ₁₉)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C GTC ATG CTA CGG CAG C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-CAG TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					
QC22 ^{DNA}	30 · R7 · 31 T(C2 ₂₂)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C ATG GTC ATG CTA CGG CAG C C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TAC CAG TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC					

QC _n (L1 L2); PNA-rigidified				
QC ₁₀ ^{PNA}	30 · 23 · 31 T(C2 ₁₀)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C cgg cgg c C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-GCC GCC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		
QC11 PNA	30 · 24 · 31 T(C2 ₁₁)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C acg gca gc C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TGC CGT CG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		
QC ₁₂ ^{PNA}	30 · 25 · 31 T(C2 ₁₂)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C tac ggc agc C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-ATG CCG TCG-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		
QC ₁₃ ^{PNA}	30 · 26 · 31 T(C2 ₁₃)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C cta cgg cag c C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		
QC ₁₆ ^{PNA}	30 · 27 · 31 T(C2 ₁₆)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C atg cta cgg cag c C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		
QC ₁₉ ^{PNA}	30 · 28 · 31 T(C2 ₁₉)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C gtc atg cta cgg cag c C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-CAG TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		
QC ₂₂ ^{PNA}	30 · 29 · 31 T(C2 ₂₂)	CGG CAT CGA GCG G <mark>X</mark> C atg gtc atg cta cgg cag c C <mark>X</mark> G GCA CTG AGC GCG GCC GTA GCT CGC CAG-TAC CAG TAC GAT GCC GTC G-GAC CGT GAC TCG CGC		

Table S2. Composition of peptide-DNA-complexes. X = Z with conjugated peptide ligands L1 – L2.

Ternary and quaternary complexes were assembled by mixing equal amounts of required conjugates and templates, heating the mixture to 75° C and cool down slowly. For the preparation of pentameric complexes the solution was heated to 85° C and subsequently cooled to 20° C at 1° C/min.

Denaturation experiments were performed by using a Cary 100 Bio UV/Vis spectrophotometer (Varian, Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) equipped with a peltier thermostated cell changer and a heating rate of 0.5 °C/min. The oligonucleotides were dissolved at 1.0 μ M concentration in 10 mM NaH₂PO₄, 100 mM NaCl buffer at pH 7.0. The T_M-values were determined based on the mean of the maximum of the first derivative of at least three denaturation curves.

Figure **S1** shows denaturation experiments proving the stability of the modified peptide-DNAconjugates. Similar stability studies have been published previously (F. Diezmann, H. Eberhard, O. Seitz, *Biopolymers* **2010**, *94*/4, 397-404; H. Eberhard, F. Diezmann, O. Seitz, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2011, 50, 4146-4150).



Figure S1. Thermal denaturation curves and their derivatives of peptide-modified duplexes D1 (A) and D2 (C) and their corresponding unmodified duplexes (B) and (D).

The complexes QC_n formed upon addition of rigidifiers were characterized by means of three independent thermal denaturation experiments which involved the template strand alone, template + DNA-rigidifier and template + PNA-rigidifier. Figure S2 shows denaturation curves measured for QC_{10} (A) and QC_{16} (B). The sigmoidal curve observed in the melt analyses of single stranded templates point to intramolecular base pairing. The 13 nt long DNA- and PNA-rigidifiers successfully competed with intramolecular hybridization and provided duplexes that have higher T_M than the template strand alone (Fig S2B). In contrast to the 7 nt long PNA rigidifier, the 7 nt long DNA-rigidifier failed in competing with intramolecular base pairing (Fig. S2A).



Figure S2. Thermal denaturation curves showing the stability of duplexes formed upon addition of rigidifiers in QC_{10} (A) and QC_{16} (B). A) Left: template $T(C2_{10})$; middle: template $T(C2_{10}) + DNA-7mer$ rigidifier **R1**; right: template $T(C2_{10}) + PNA-7mer$ rigidifier **23**; B) Left: template $T(C2_{16})$; middle: template $T(C2_{16}) + DNA-13mer$ rigidifier **R5**; right: template $T(C2_{16}) + PNA-13mer$ rigidifier **27**.

4 **Overexpression and purification of GST fusion proteins**

E. coli bacteria were used as host organisms for overexpression of soluble recombinant proteins. As expression strains *E. coli* BL21 and ER2566 carrying the desired expression vector were used (Table **S3**).

Protein	vector	amino acids	kDa	extinction coefficient
GST- α-ear	pGEX 4T-1	702-938	53.568	51290 l·mol ⁻¹ ·cm ⁻¹
GST- Amphiphysin 1 B/C	pGEX 4T-1	250-578	38.507	52300 l·mol ⁻¹ ·cm ⁻¹

Table S3. Fusion proteins used in this study.

The LB/ampicillin-media (50 mL, 0.5 % [w/v] yeast extract, 1 % [w/v] trypton, 0.5 % [w/v] NaCl, pH 7.2 50 µg/mL ampicilin) were inoculated with a pipette tip of a bacteria glycerol stock and gently shaken at 37°C and 200 rpm overnight. The overnight culture was diluted (1:20) in selective 2xYT-medium (1 % [w/v] yeast extract, 1.6 % [w/v] trypton, 0.5 % [w/v] NaCl, pH 7.2) and incubated by shaking at 37°C until the OD₆₀₀ reached 0.7 to 0.8. Protein expression was induced by adding isopropyl- β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) to a final concentration of 0.5 mM. Protein expression cultures were grown for 4 h at 30°C. After overexpression, the bacteria were harvested by centrifugation at 4000 x g for 15 min at 4°C. Cell pellets from 500 ml cultures were suspended in 35 mL ice-cold PBS and stored at -80°C. Bacterial pellets were supplemented with 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM DTT, 100 units of benzonase endonuclease (Sigma) and a "tip of a spatula" of lysozyme (Roth) and 1 % Triton X-100. The cells were sonicated by using a Microtip System Sonopuls from Bandelin (Berlin, Germany) for 90 s using 70 % power and 50 % duty cycle. The samples were centrifuged for 15 min at 17,000 x rpm at 4°C. The supernatant was added to pre-washed GST-binding resin (Novagen, 0.5 ml slurry per 500 ml expression culture) and incubated for 2 h at 4°C. The suspension was centrifuged at 2000 x g at 4°C for 2 min and beads were washed three times with PBS.

For protein elution, beads were incubated in 0.5 mL elution buffer (PBS containing 20 mM reduced glutathione) for 1 h at 4°C and centrifuged shortly. The protein solution was ultracentrifuged at 50.000x g at 4°C for 30 min and the protein buffer was exchanged. For this purpose, the protein solution was centrifuged in filter tubes (*Millipore*, Amicon Ultra-15, 30,000 MWCO) at 4300 rpm and 4°C until the total volume was reduced to ~1.0 mL. Then assay buffer (20 mM HEPES, 50 mM NaCl, 3 mM EDTA at pH 7.4) was added and the procedure was repeated four times. Finally, the solution was centrifuged until the total volume was reduced to ~1.0 mL. The concentration of protein in the resulting solution was determined via the absorption at 280 nm and by Bradford assay. Concentrations obtained were between 200 and 400 μ M. The samples were aliquoted, snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80 °C. Protein integrity was verified by SDS-PAGE (Figure S5).



Figure S3. SDS-PAGE-gel of GST- α -ear. start (lane 1), pellet (lane 2), beads (lane 3), supernatant (lane 4), 1 µg (lane 5) and 5 µg (lane 6) of GST- α -ear. Conditions: 10% acrylamide gel loaded with protein marker (*Fermentas* prestained broad range 20-212 kDa, running time 60 min at 15-20 mA)

5 Estimation of distances

Distance between top site and side site binder of the AP-2 α -ear domain



Figure S4. Crystal structure of AP-2 α -ear (pdb 2VJO) in complex with peptide ligands FEDNFVP (top site) and PKGWVTFE (side site). Distance between C-terminal prolin (anchor for attachment of DNA) of the top site binder and C-terminal glutamic acid of the side site binder was determined by using Swiss-PdbViewer 4.0.4.

6. Pull-down assay

The rat brain lysate (0.5 mL) was incubated with the immobilized GST-amphiphysin (25 μ g) at 4°C for 1h as described in the methods section. After separation of the beads by centrifugation and washing the captured proteins were eluted by addition of SDS gel loading buffer (50 μ L), as described in the methods section. Aliquots (25 μ L) were analyzed by SDS gel electrophoresis. The gel was stained with Coomassie in order to prove that all samples contained the identical amount of GST-amphipysin or GST (Figure S5A). The gel also shows untreated rat brain extract. A second SDS gel (8%) was blotted after electrophoresis with a nitrocellulose membrane, which was stained by using PonceauS (Figure S5B). This stain confirmed that identical amounts of proteins were transferred onto

the membrane. After washing with 1% acetic acid and TBS the membrane was cut and the separate fragments incubated with different solutions of primary antibodies. An antibody against the AP-2 μ -domain was used for the detection of AP-2 (Figure S5C, lower segment). Because amphiphysin binds the α ear domain, positive staining confirmed the integrity of AP-2. Another antibody was used to detect clathrin (Figure S5C, upper segment). Clathrin also binds to amphiphysin, but at a different site. In the absence of competitors of the amphiphysin-AP2 interaction, the ratio between bands from AP-2 and clathrin should remain constant regardless of the concentration of rat brain lysate used for incubation with the bait. This proved true (Figure S5C).



Figure S5. AP2 pull-down using diverse concentrations of rat brain extract. A) Coomassie-Gel (10%) of GST-proteins; B) Ponceau-staining of GST-Amphiphysin; C) Western Blot. Compared are different concentrations of rat brain extract (0.5, 1.0, and 2.0 mg/ml). Conditions: 25 μ g GST or GST-Amph, 0.5 mL of 0.5, 1.0 or 2.0 mg/mL rat brain lysate, 1 h incubation, buffer: 20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 50 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl₂, 1% TritonX-100, 1 mM PMSF. Chc – Clathrin heavy chain.