



**The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics**



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**Conference on Structure and Dynamics in Soft Matter and
Biomolecules: From Single Molecules to Ensembles**

4 - 8 June 2007

The role of intrinsic structural disorder on protein-protein interactions

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The role of intrinsic structural disorder in protein-protein interactions

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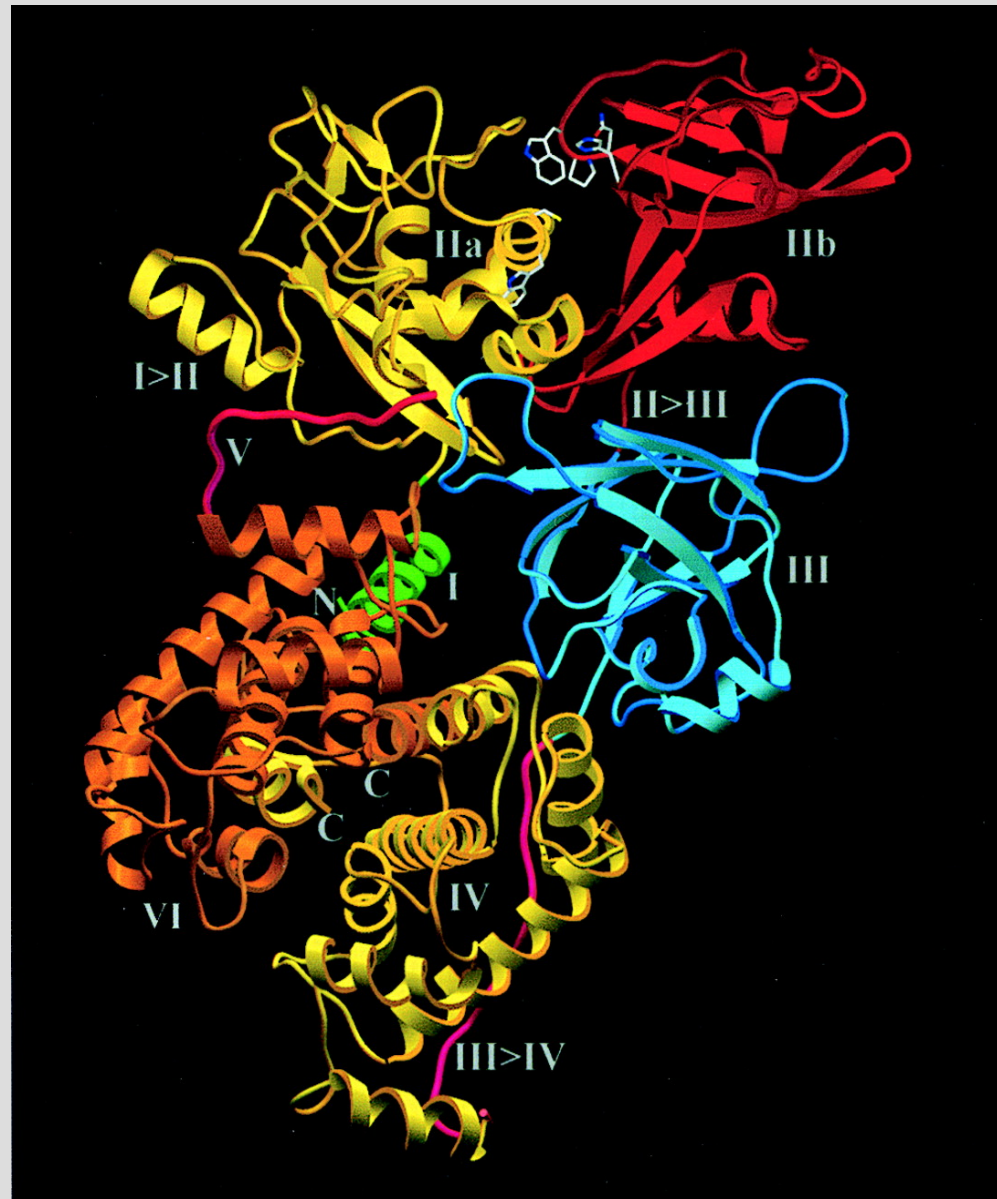
- 1) disorder: general introduction
- 2) disorder: functional classification
- 3) disorder: its role in protein-protein interactions

1) disorder: general introduction

2) disorder: functional classification

3) disorder: its role in protein-protein interactions

The X-ray structure of human m-calpain



Early observations

Neurochemical Research, Vol. 17, No. 2, 1992, pp. 157-166

Is Myelin Basic Protein Crystallizable?

Jan Sedzik^{1,2} and Daniel A. Kirschner¹

(Accepted June 18, 1991)

Early observations

melting and other isobaric phase changes.

Jordan^{2,8} instead attributes the high velocities below 200 km under shields to petrologically distinct material which accumulated during the early chemical fractionation of the continents. This compositional root must move with the underlying continental plate and it must resist the erosive effects of thermal convection in the surrounding system. It is also necessary to juggle possible chemical and temperature effects in the deep root to explain the absence of geoid (gravitational) anomalies associated with shields.

Additional evidence for the unusual properties of the deep continental environment have come from thermobarometry studies⁹ of mantle xenoliths (emplaced rock fragments) and modelling studies of surface heat-flow measurements within and along the margins of continental shields¹⁰. These indicate that low temperatures underlying the upper 200 km of continental shields have persisted for up to 3,500 million years, despite dynamic processes which tend to destabilize thick thermal boundary layers. A thick, durable chemical and thermal boundary layer which formed very early in the continental evolution could explain this. But the interpretation is complicated by the intrinsic tendency of continents to override cool subducting oceanic plates, which provides an alternative mechanism for maintaining long-term lower temperatures beneath continents⁷.

Although continental areas cover only one-third of the Earth's surface, and the stable shield regions are only a fraction of this area, it is still critical to resolve the thickness of the coherently translating surface plates. The maximum depth of the

within continental regions. In fact, the most extreme lateral variations in shear velocity in the upper 300 km of the mantle that we know of are found between the Canadian shield and the tectonic belt of western North America. Temperature causes stronger variations in shear velocities than in compressional velocities, and thermally activated processes are also the cause of anelastic attenuation of seis-

mic waves. Thus, modelling of regional variations in seismic attenuation, together with studies of the elastic velocities, could be the key to apportioning the chemical and thermal interpretations of the deep continental root controversy. □

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Transcriptional activation

Acid blobs and negative noodles

Paul B. Sigler

THE more that is known about the amino-acid sequences of proteins that participate in transcriptional activation, the clearer it becomes that many of the critical events cannot depend upon the precise geometrical complementarity that we associate with the interactions of globular proteins during molecular assembly, and the binding of substrates, cofactors and haptens. The latest entries in this chronicle of molecular imprecision are the activator domains of the proteins that stimulate

for correct placement and orientation with respect to the start site of transcription'. The promoter sequences are a defined distance upstream of the transcriptional start site. Modulating the activity of the incipient transcriptional complexes is a wide variety of transcriptional activator proteins that bind to specific DNA targets called by various names, such as 'enhancers', upstream activating sequences (UASs) or hormone response elements (HREs). The position and polarity of

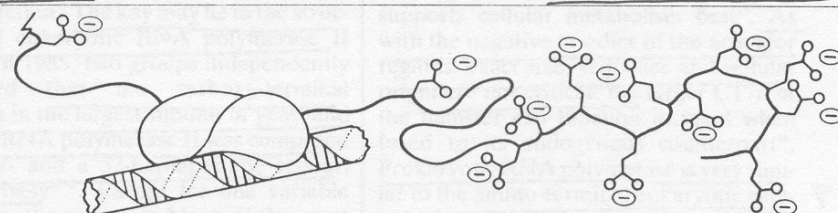
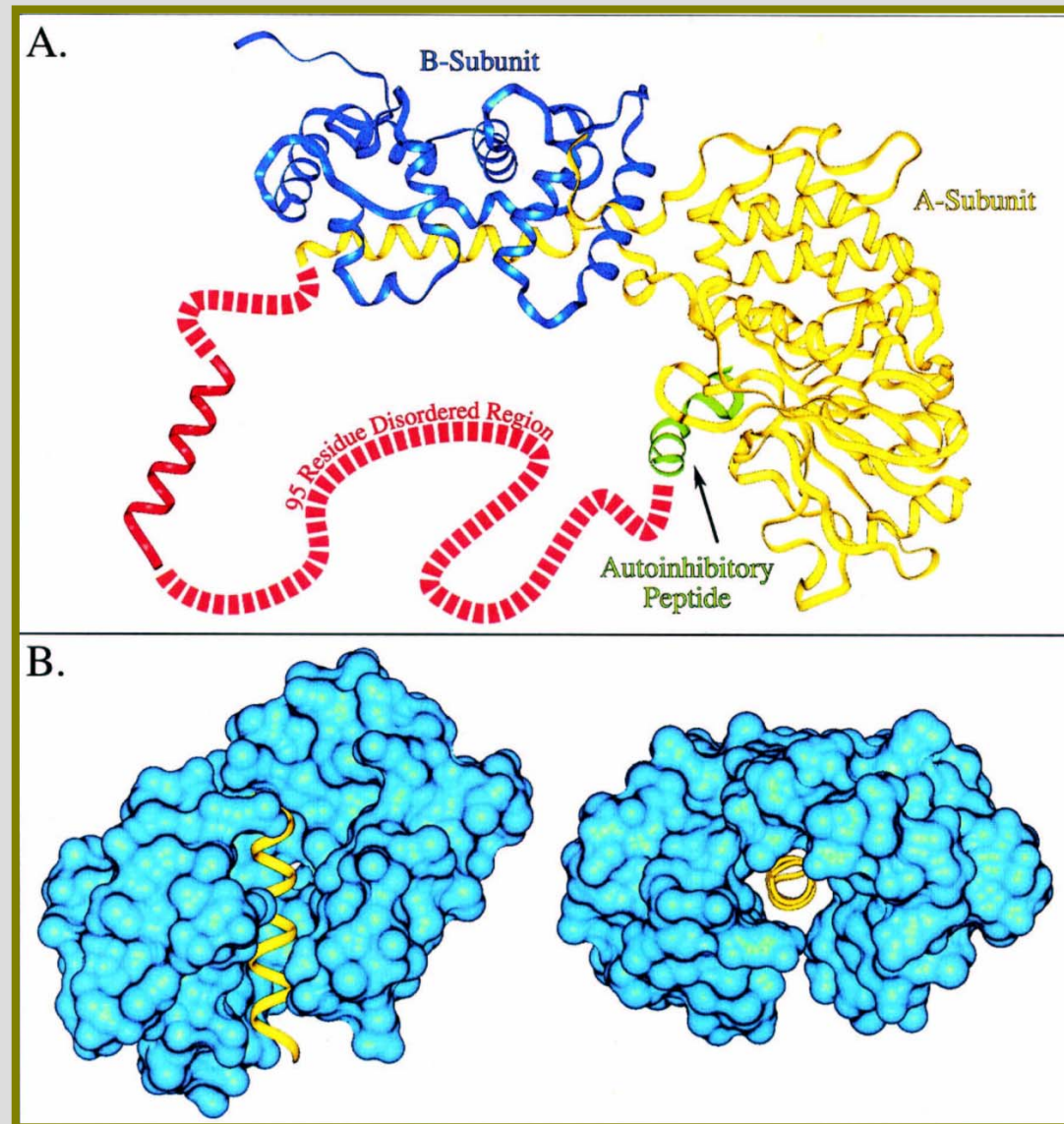


Fig. 1 A generic transcriptional-regulatory protein. A DNA-binding domain with a well-defined conformation (often dimeric) and a peptide with an excess of negatively charged side chains that has a poorly defined conformation (here, none at all).

An enzyme that made the difference: calcineurin



A change in paradigm: Dunker, 1998

Predicting Disordered Regions from Amino Acid Sequence: Common Themes Despite Differing Structural Characterization

Ethan Garner ¹

Paul Cannon ²

Pedro Romero ²

THOUSANDS OF PROTEINS LIKELY TO HAVE LONG DISORDERED REGIONS

PEDRO ROMERO, ZORAN OBRADOVIC
*School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164*

PROTEIN DISORDER AND THE EVOLUTION OF MOLECULAR RECOGNITION: THEORY, PREDICTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

A. K. DUNKER, E. GARNER, S. GUILLIOT
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*Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics,
Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4660*

A change in paradigm: Wright and Dyson, 1999

Article No. jmbi.1999.3110 available online at <http://www.idealibrary.com> on IDEAL® J. Mol. Biol. (1999) 293, 321–331

JMB



Intrinsically Unstructured Proteins: Re-assessing the Protein Structure-Function Paradigm

Peter E. Wright* and H. Jane Dyson*


*Department of Molecular
Biology and Skaggs Institute of
Chemical Biology, The Scripps
Research Institute, 10550 North
Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla
CA 92037, USA*

A major challenge in the post-genome era will be determination of the functions of the encoded protein sequences. Since it is generally assumed that the function of a protein is closely linked to its three-dimensional structure, prediction or experimental determination of the library of protein structures is a matter of high priority. However, a large proportion of gene sequences appear to code not for folded, globular proteins, but for long stretches of amino acids that are likely to be either unfolded in solution or adopt non-globular structures of unknown conformation. Characterization of the conformational propensities and function of the non-globular protein sequences represents a major challenge. The high proportion of these sequences in the genomes of all organisms studied to date argues for important, as yet unknown functions, since there could be no other reason for their persistence throughout evolution. Clearly the assumption that a folded three-dimensional structure is necessary for function needs to be re-examined. Although the functions of many pro-

Intrinsically unstructured proteins (IUPs/IDPs)


- 1) *In vitro* evidence (X-ray, NMR, CD, SAXS, limited proteolysis...) shows that they lack a well-defined 3D structure (look like denatured globular proteins)
- 2) Evidence *in vivo* (rapid evolution, binding in an open conformation, predictability...)
- 3) Provides functional advantages (special functions, specificity without strong binding, binding promiscuity, increased speed of interaction...)
- 4) Frequent in proteomes

DisProt, <http://www.disprot.org>



Indiana University | Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics | Temple University | Center for Information Science and Technology

DisProt



Home Search Browse Functions Bibliography References Help

DisProt News

Current release: **3.4**
Release date: **08/15/2006**
Number of proteins: **460**
Number of disordered regions: **1103**
[Release notes](#)

Latest additions:

[Seryl-tRNA synthetase](#)

Database of Protein Disorder

The Database of Protein Disorder (DisProt) is a curated database that provides information about proteins that lack fixed 3D structure in their putatively native states, either in their entirety or in part. DisProt is a collaborative effort between [Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics](#) at Indiana University School of Medicine and [Center for Information Science and Technology](#) at Temple University.

Download DisProt

Download DisProt in FASTA or XML format.

Disorder Predictors

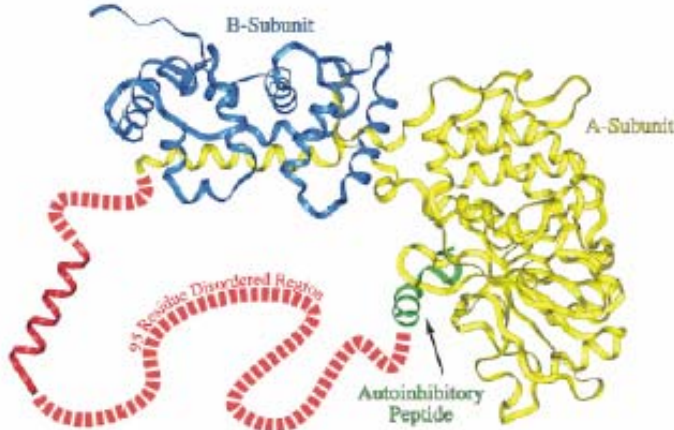
Links to predictors.

Disorder Characterization

Read about how disorder is characterized.

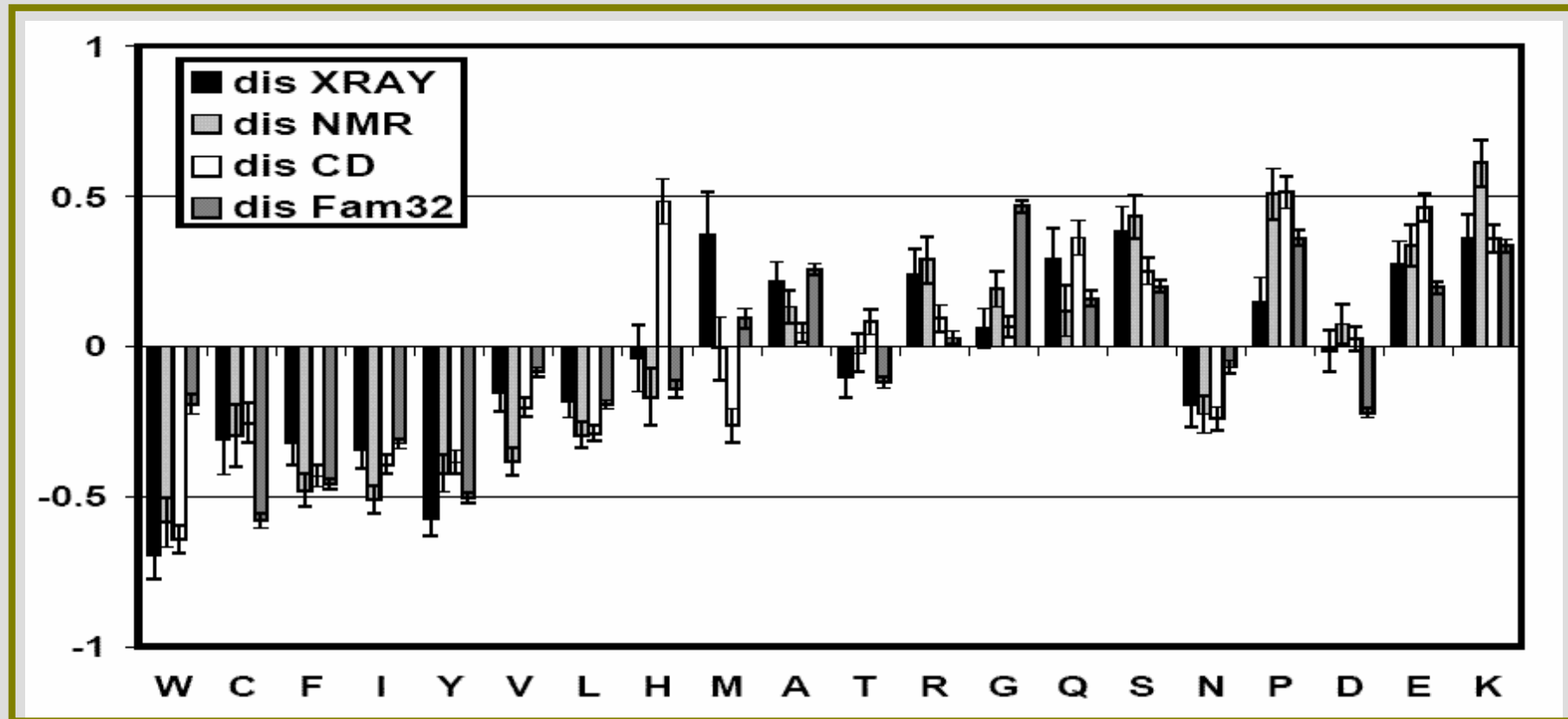
Supplemental Datasets

Download three different flavors of disorder or a set of PDB chains with missing



(Image adapted from: Kissinger CR, et al. 1995. "Crystal structures of human calmodulin and the human FKBP12-FK506-calmodulin complex." Nature 378:641-4.)

The primary cause of disorder: AA composition

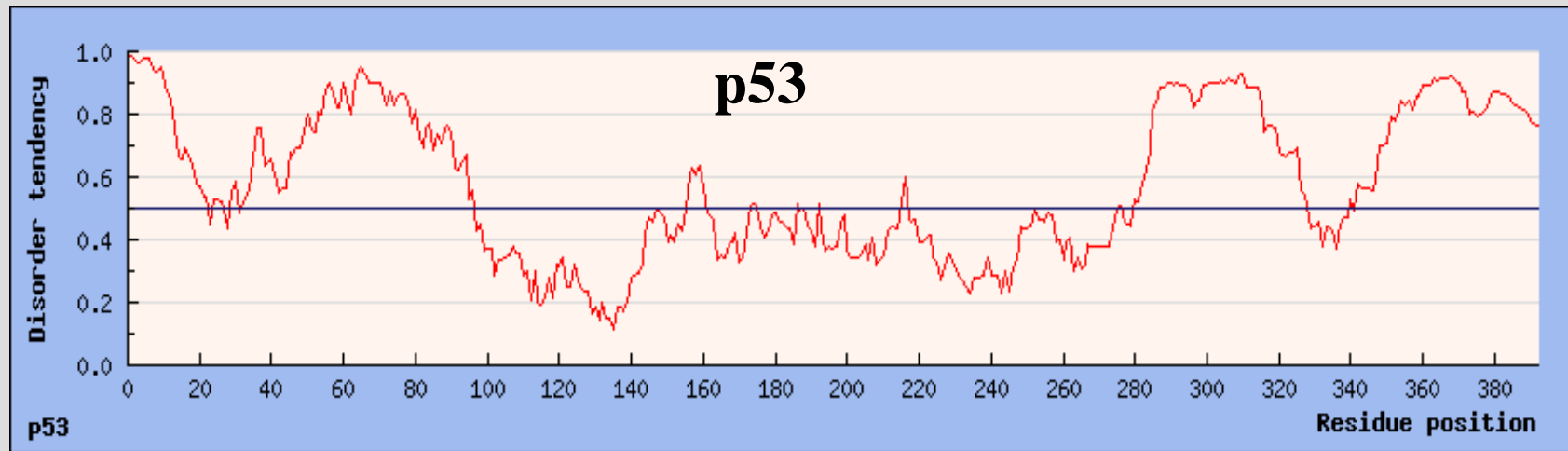


order-promoting

disorder-promoting

Prediction of disorder: IUPred

<http://iupred.enzim.hu>

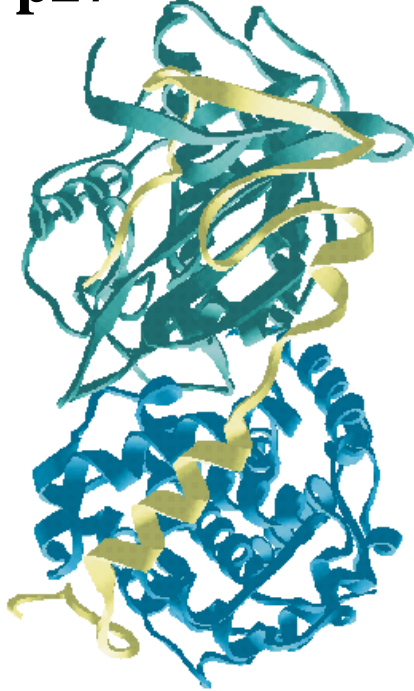


Intrinsically unstructured proteins (IUPs/IDPs)

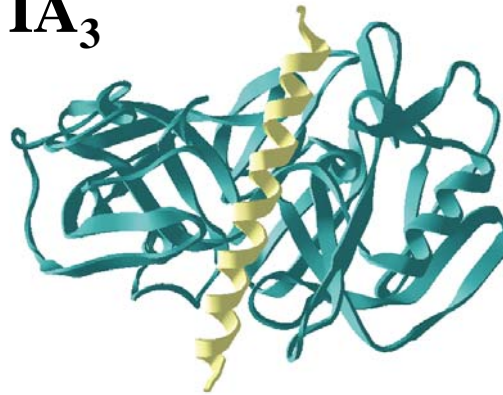
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IUPs bind in an open conformation

p27^{Kip1}



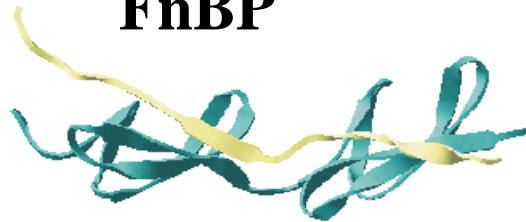
IA₃



Tcf3



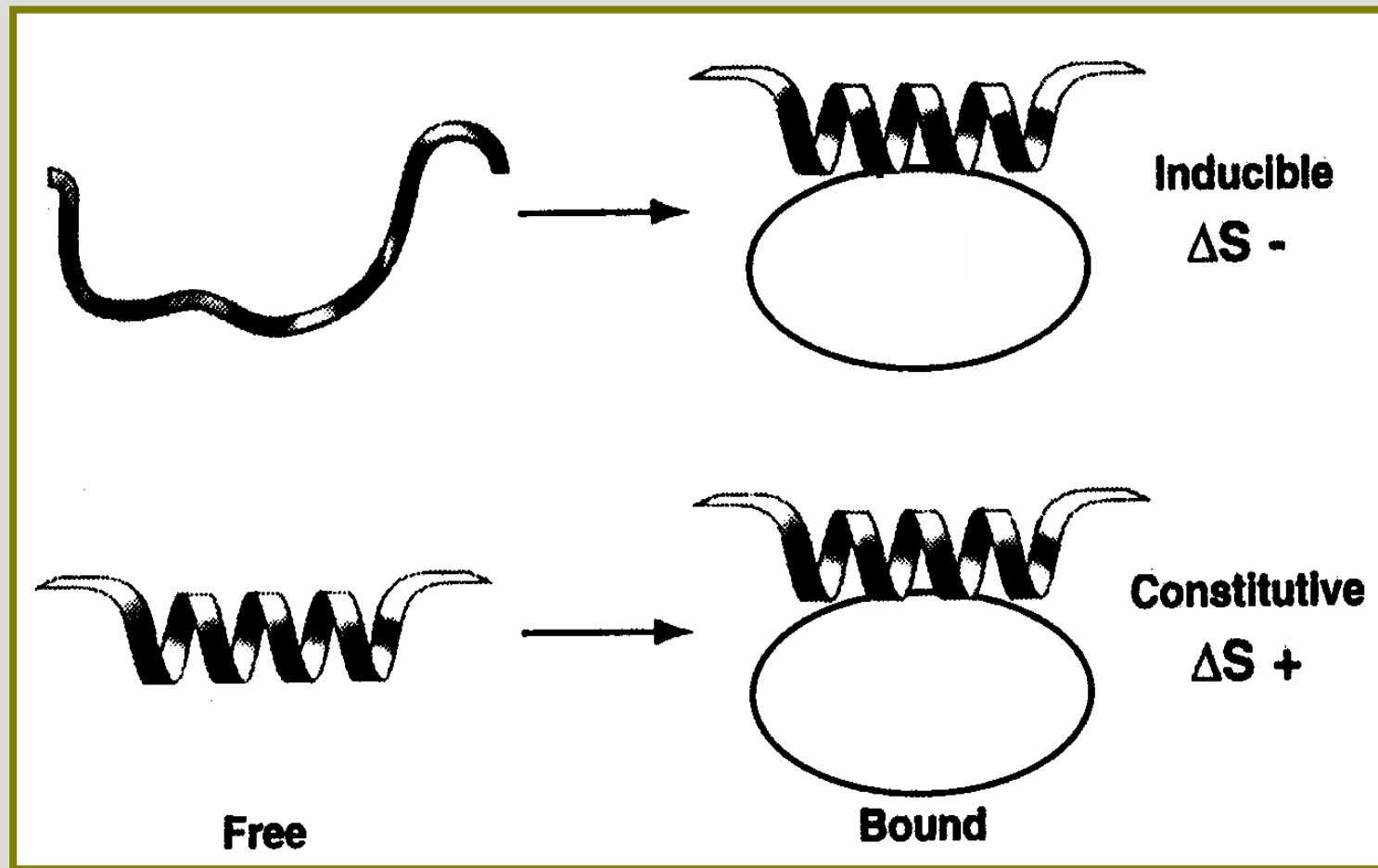
FnBP



Intrinsically unstructured proteins (IUPs/IDPs)

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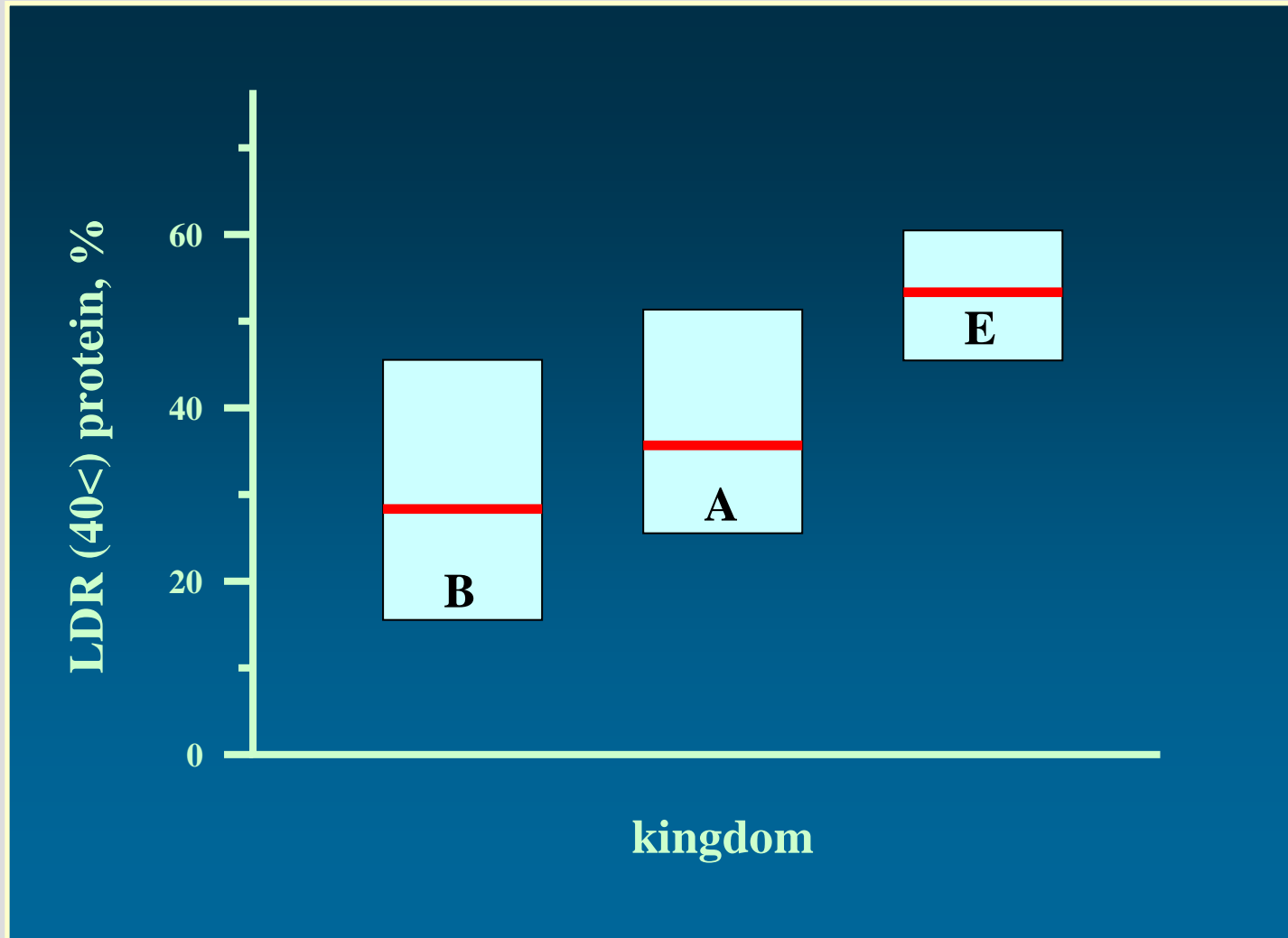
Specificity without excessive binding strength



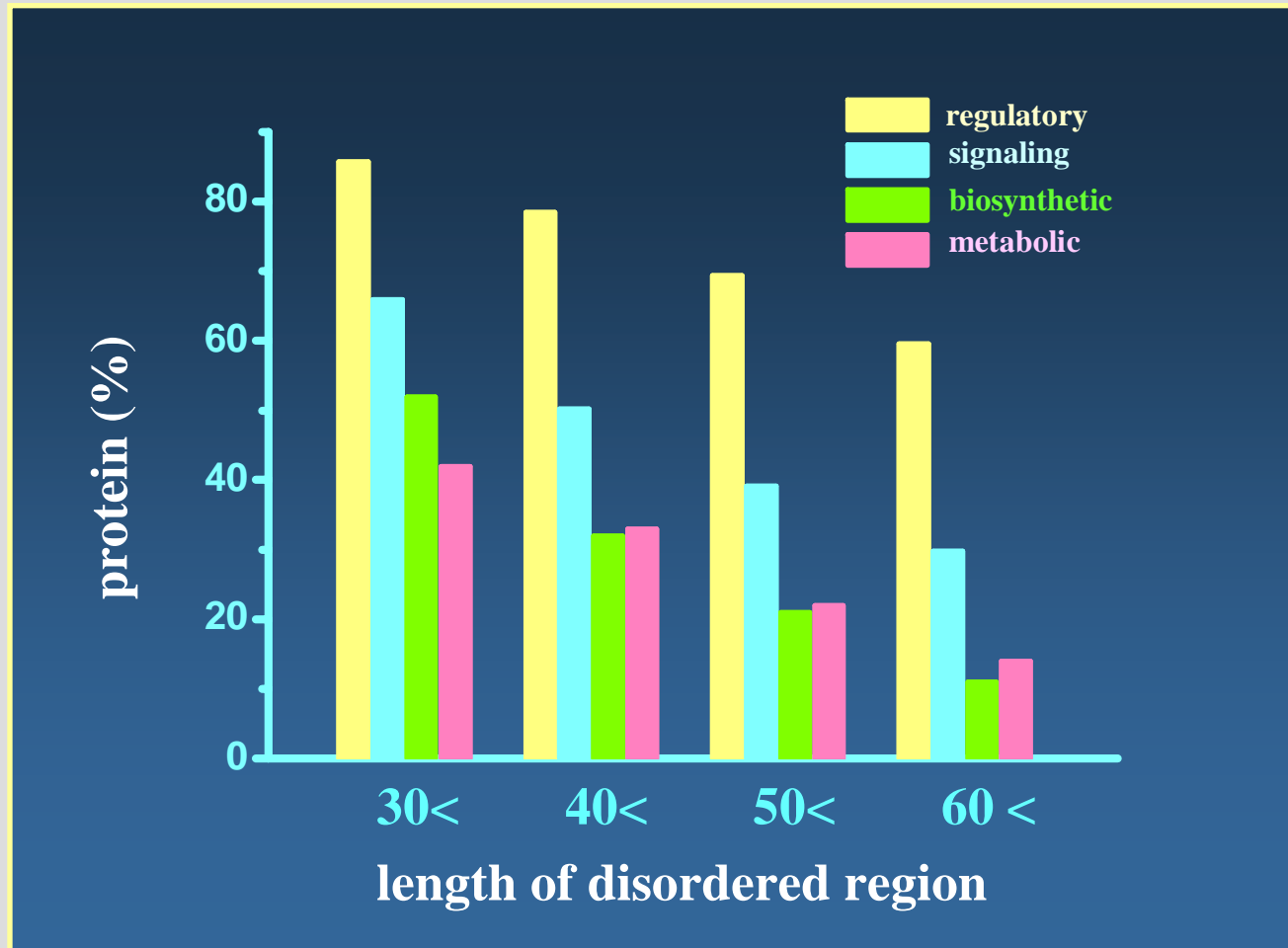
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Protein disorder: an evolutionary success-story



Prediction: disorder prevails in regulatory proteins

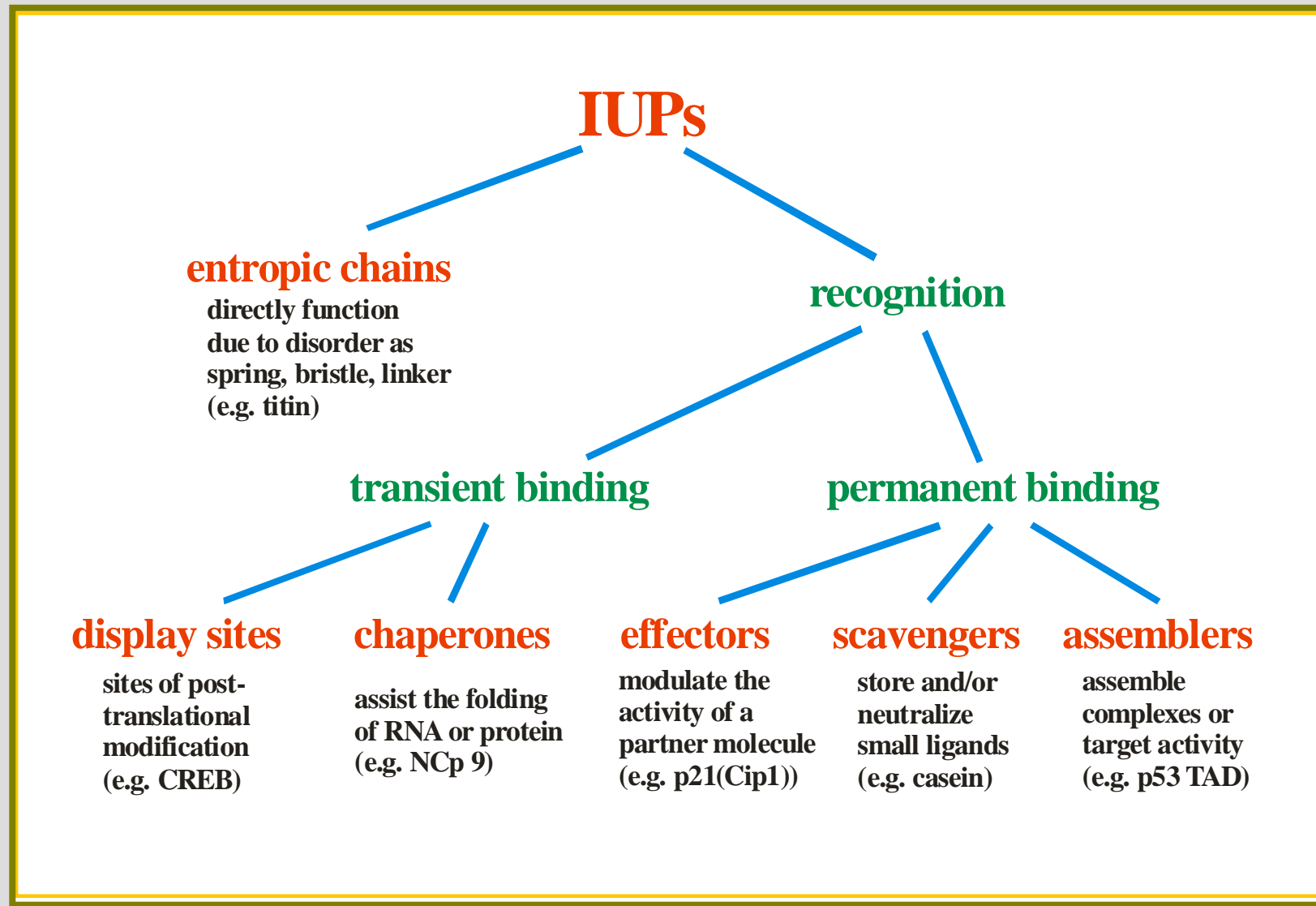


1) disorder: general introduction

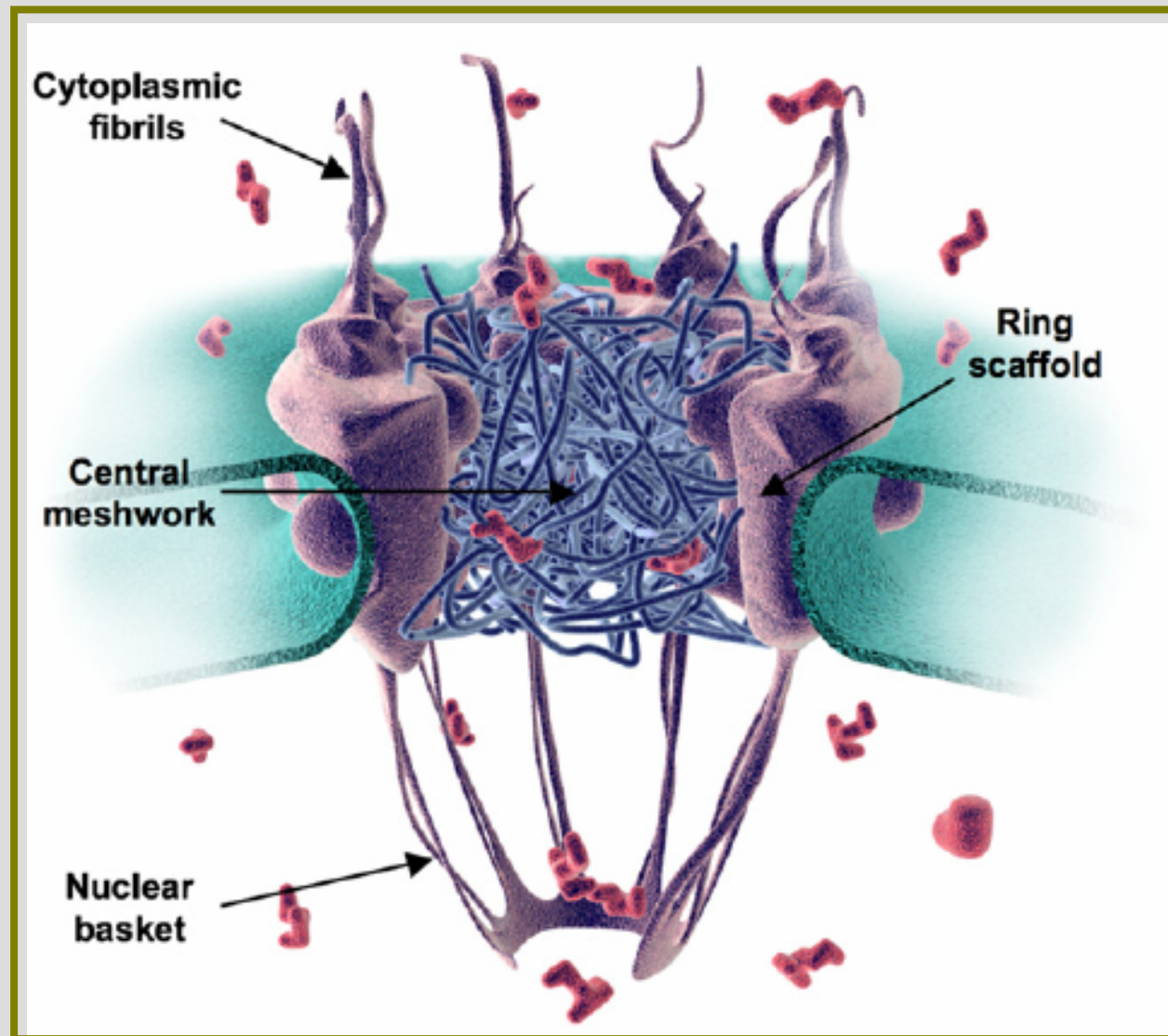
2) disorder: functional classification

3) disorder: its role in protein-protein interactions

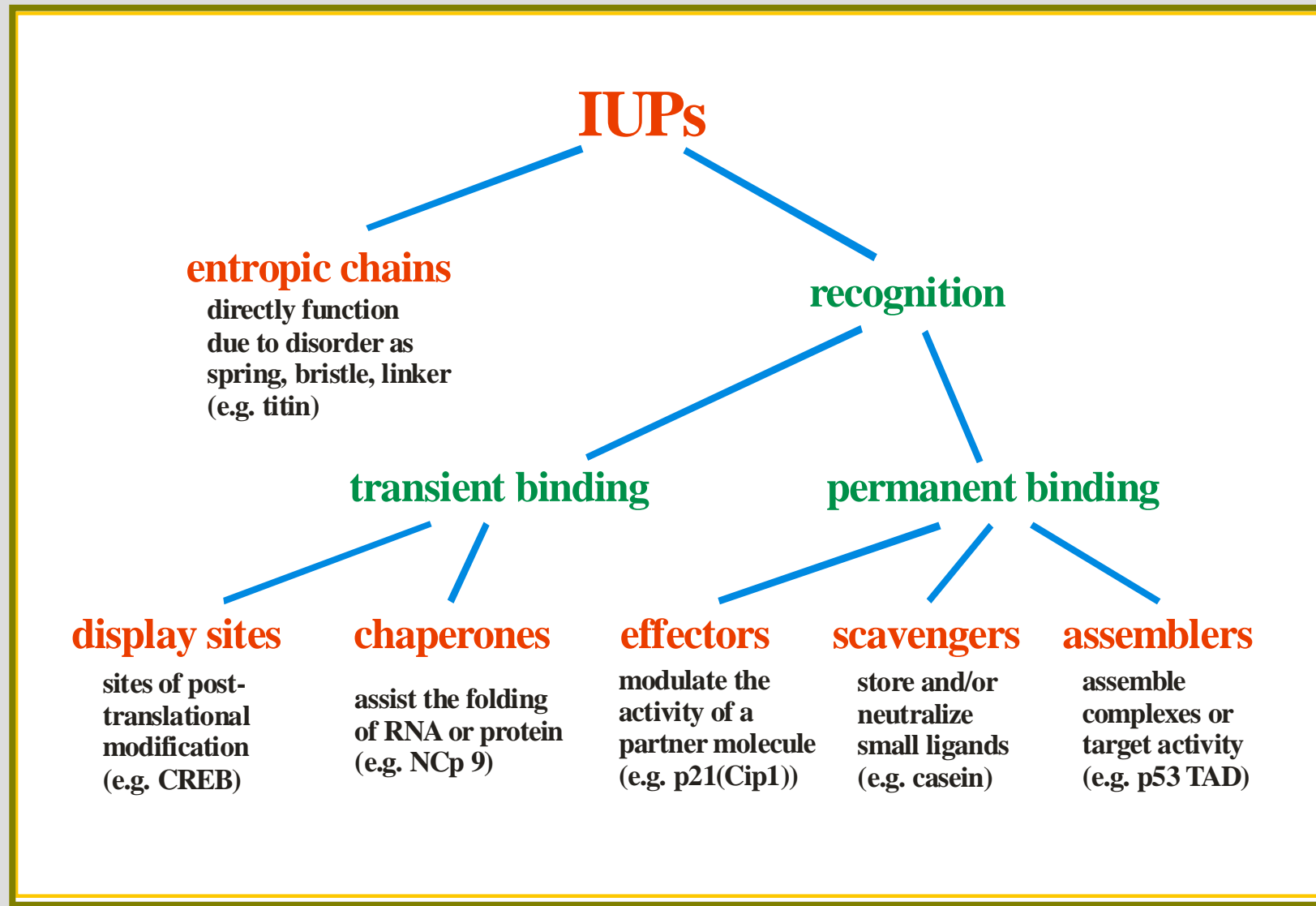
IUPs belong to 6 functional categories




Entropic gating in nuclear pore



IUPs belong to 6 functional categories



The ELM server <http://elm.eu.org/>

**The Eukaryotic Linear Motif resource for
*Functional Sites in Proteins***

serverbrowselinksaboutusagenews**help**

Functional site prediction

Protein sequence
Enter SWISS-PROT/TrEMBL identifier or accession number:

Or paste the sequence (Single letter code sequence only or FASTA format):

Context information
Species
select from list:

Homo sapiens

or type in manually:

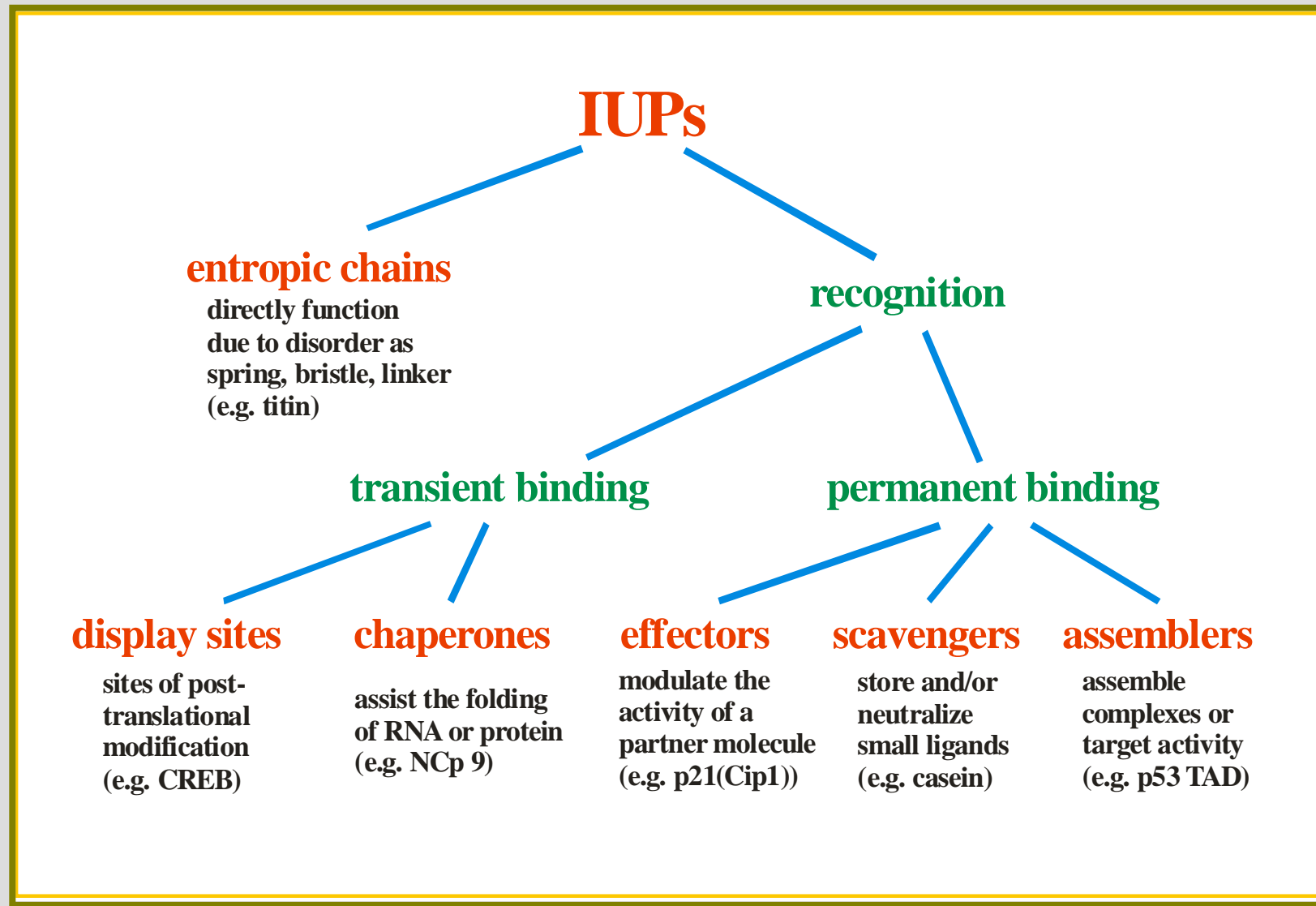
■ **The ELM server**

ELM is a resource for predicting [functional sites](#) in eukaryotic proteins. Putative functional sites are identified by patterns ([regular expressions](#)). To improve the predictive power, [context-based rules and logical filters](#) are applied to reduce the amount of false positives. Known [ELM instances](#) and predictions in sequences similar to [ELM instance sequences](#), where the motif is positionally conserved, are identified and displayed (see [ELM instance mapper](#)).

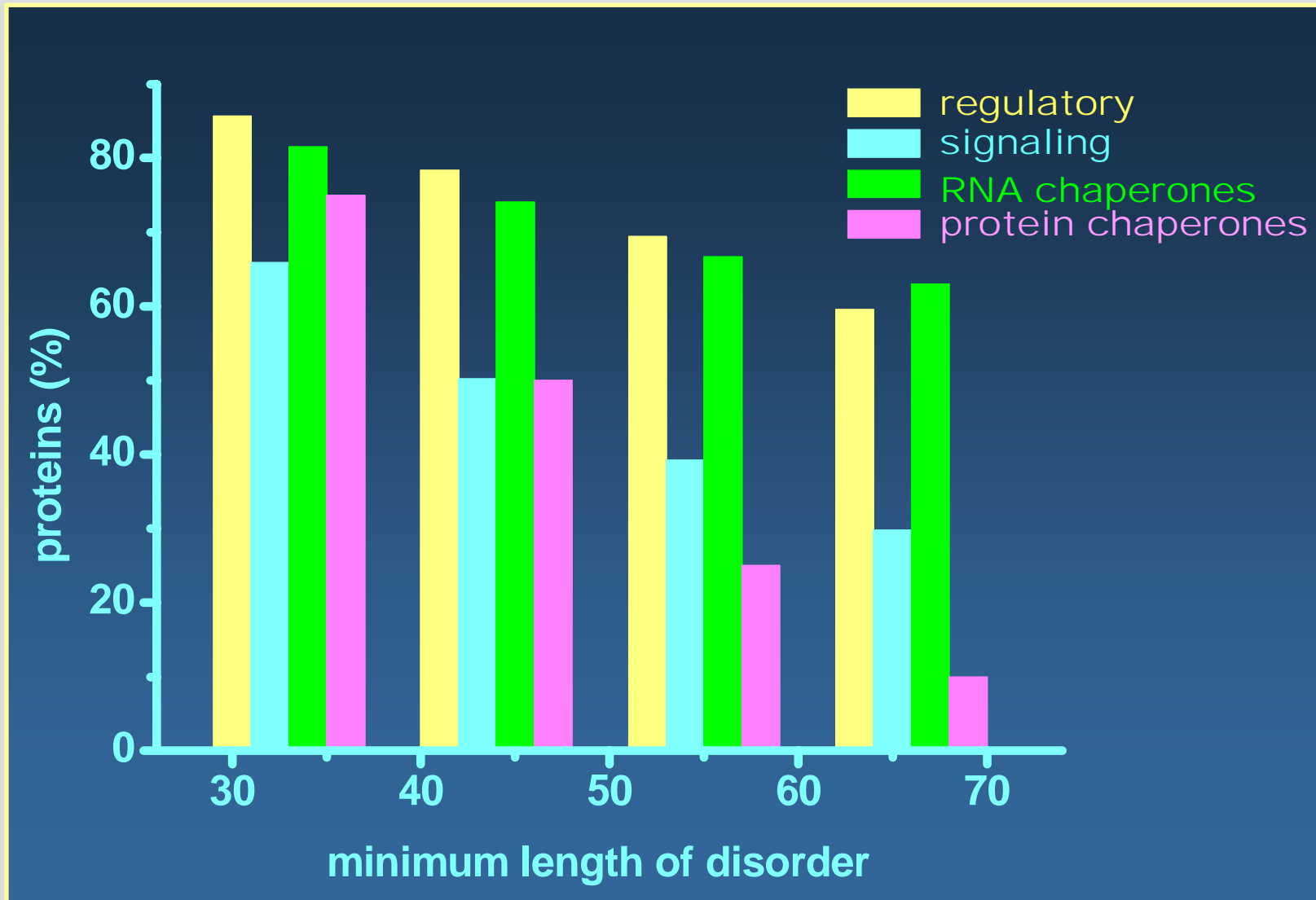
[Users are encouraged to supply context information](#) in order to obtain relevant predictions.

The current version of the ELM server provides basic functionality including filtering by taxonomy, cell compartment and globular domain clash (using the SMART/Pfam

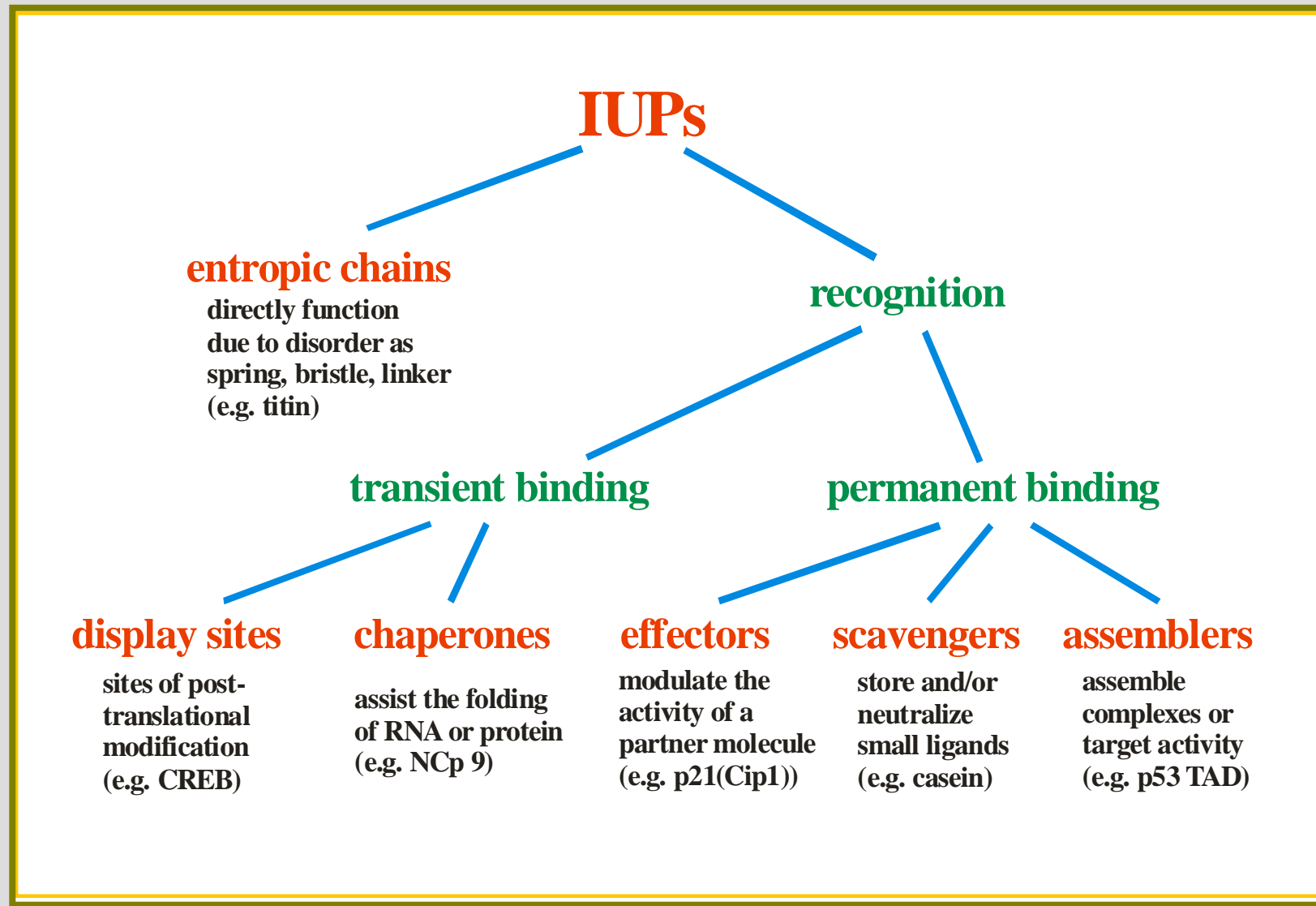
IUPs belong to 6 functional categories



Prediction: disorder prevails in chaperones

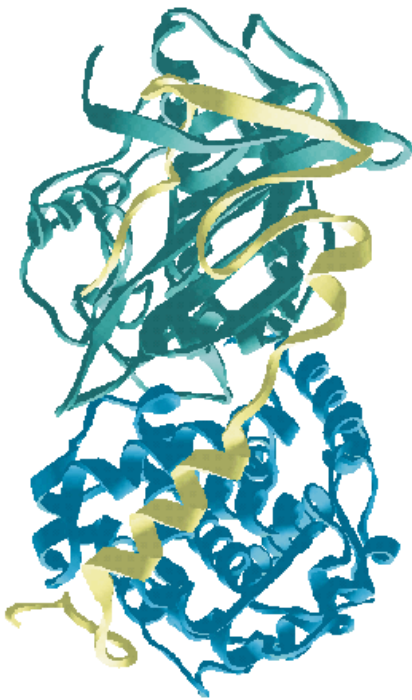


IUPs belong to 6 functional categories

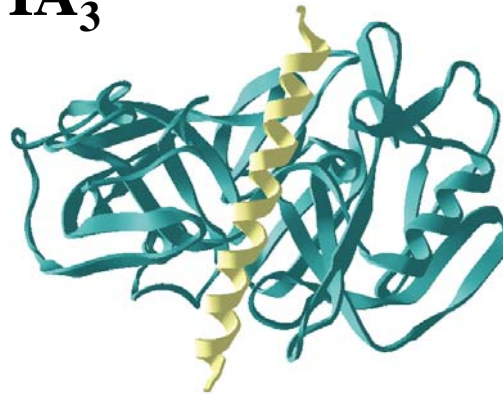


p27^{Kip1}: an effector (inhibitor) of Cdks

p27^{Kip1}



IA₃



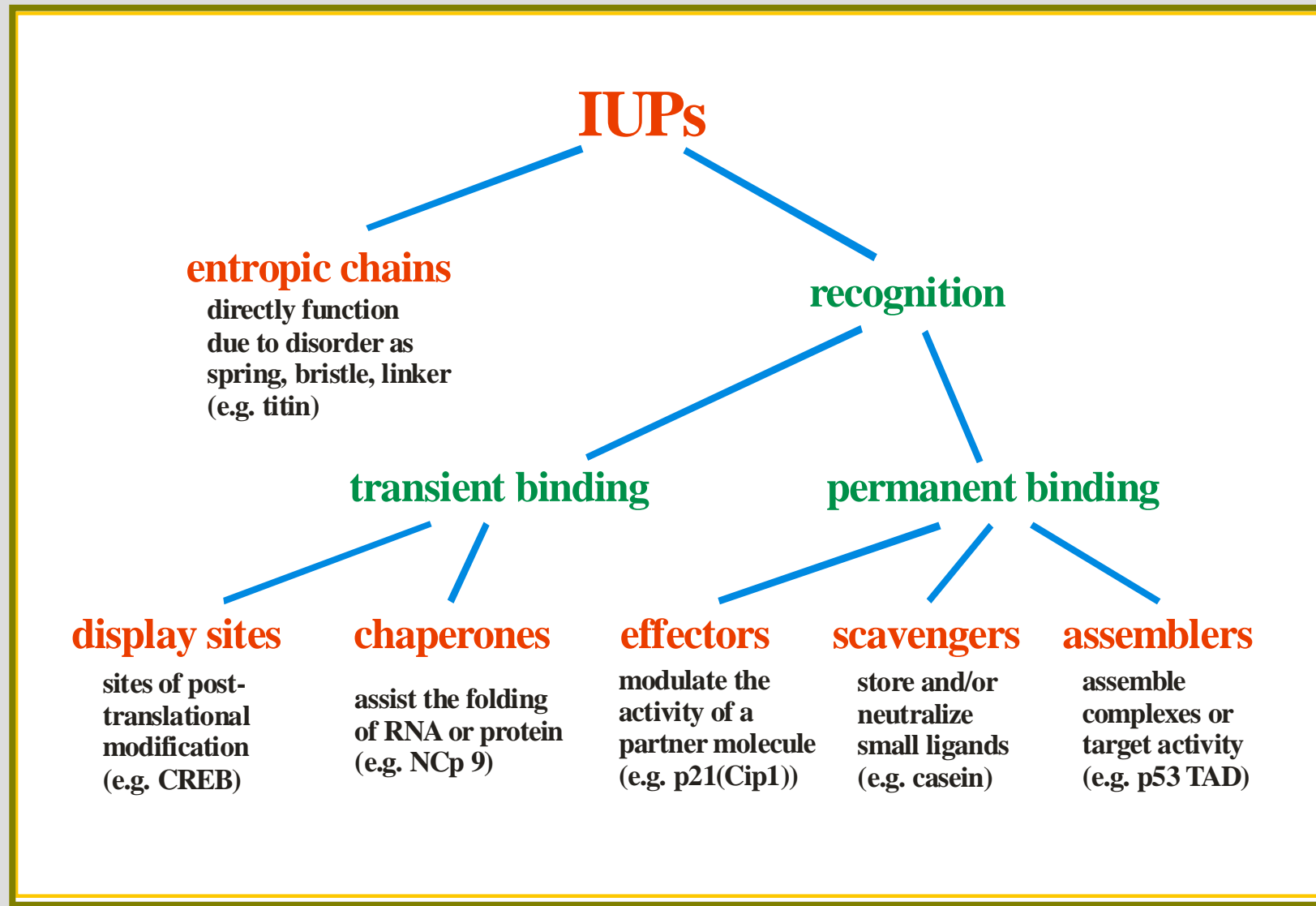
FnBP



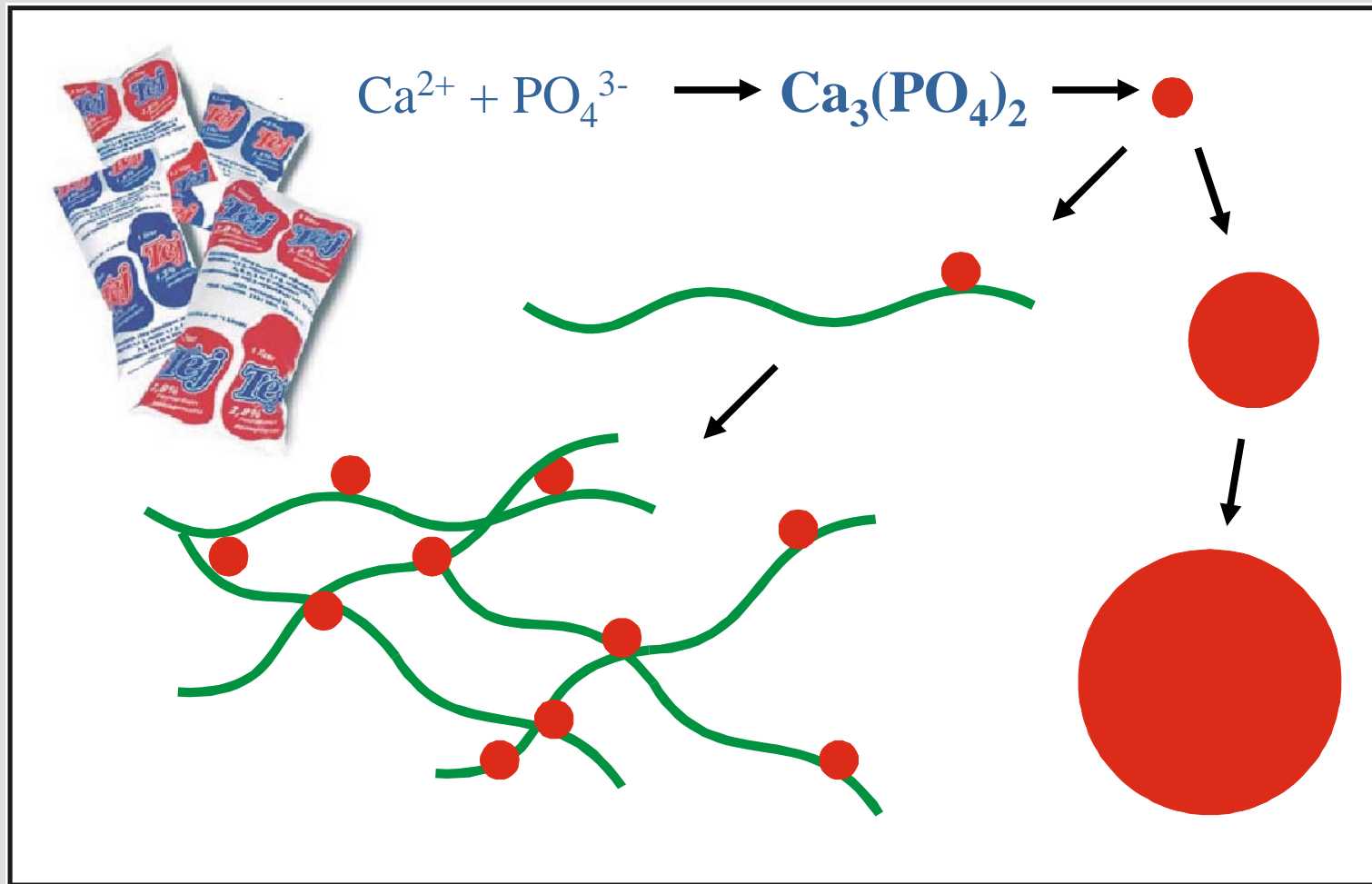
Tcf3



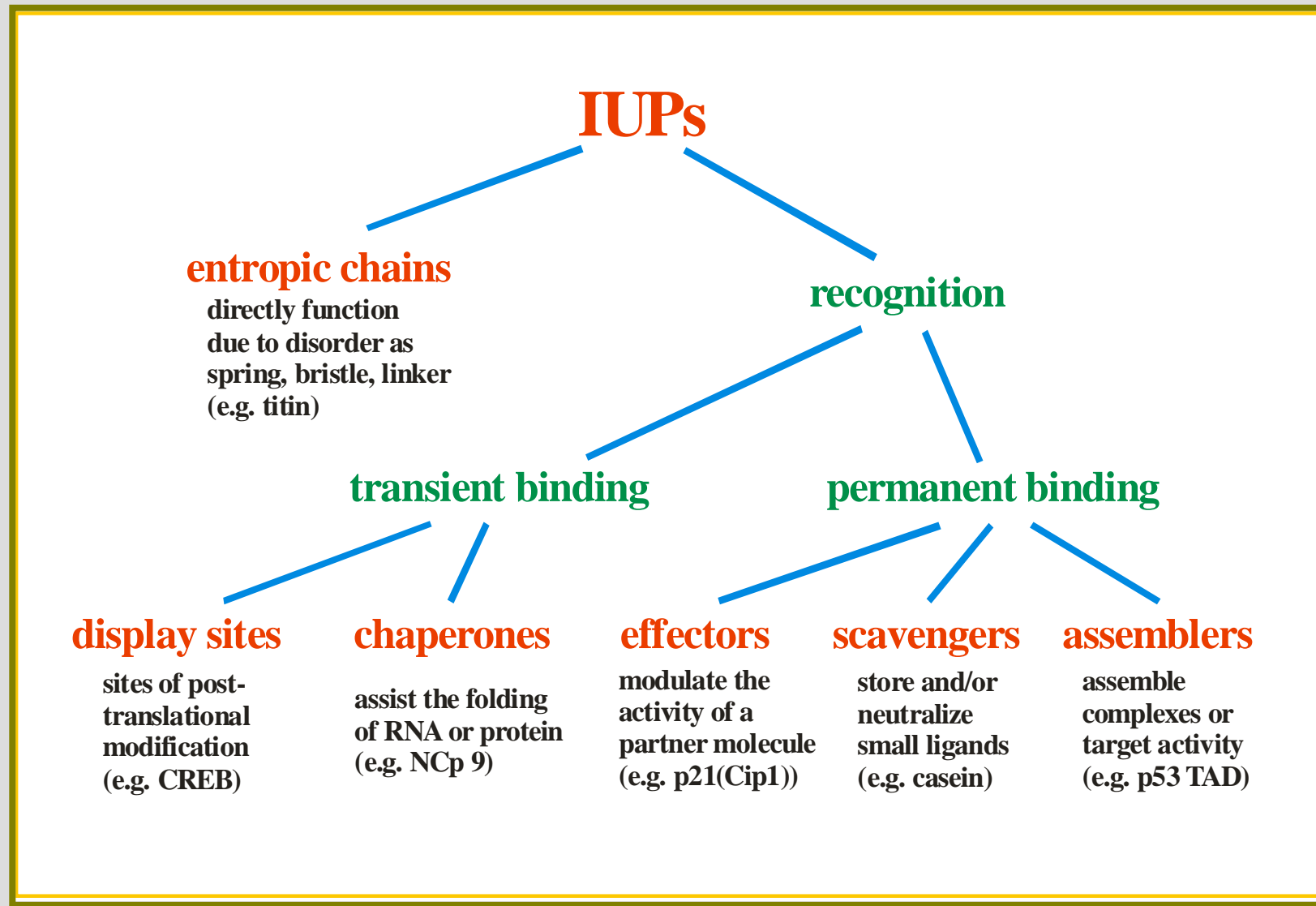
IUPs belong to 6 functional categories



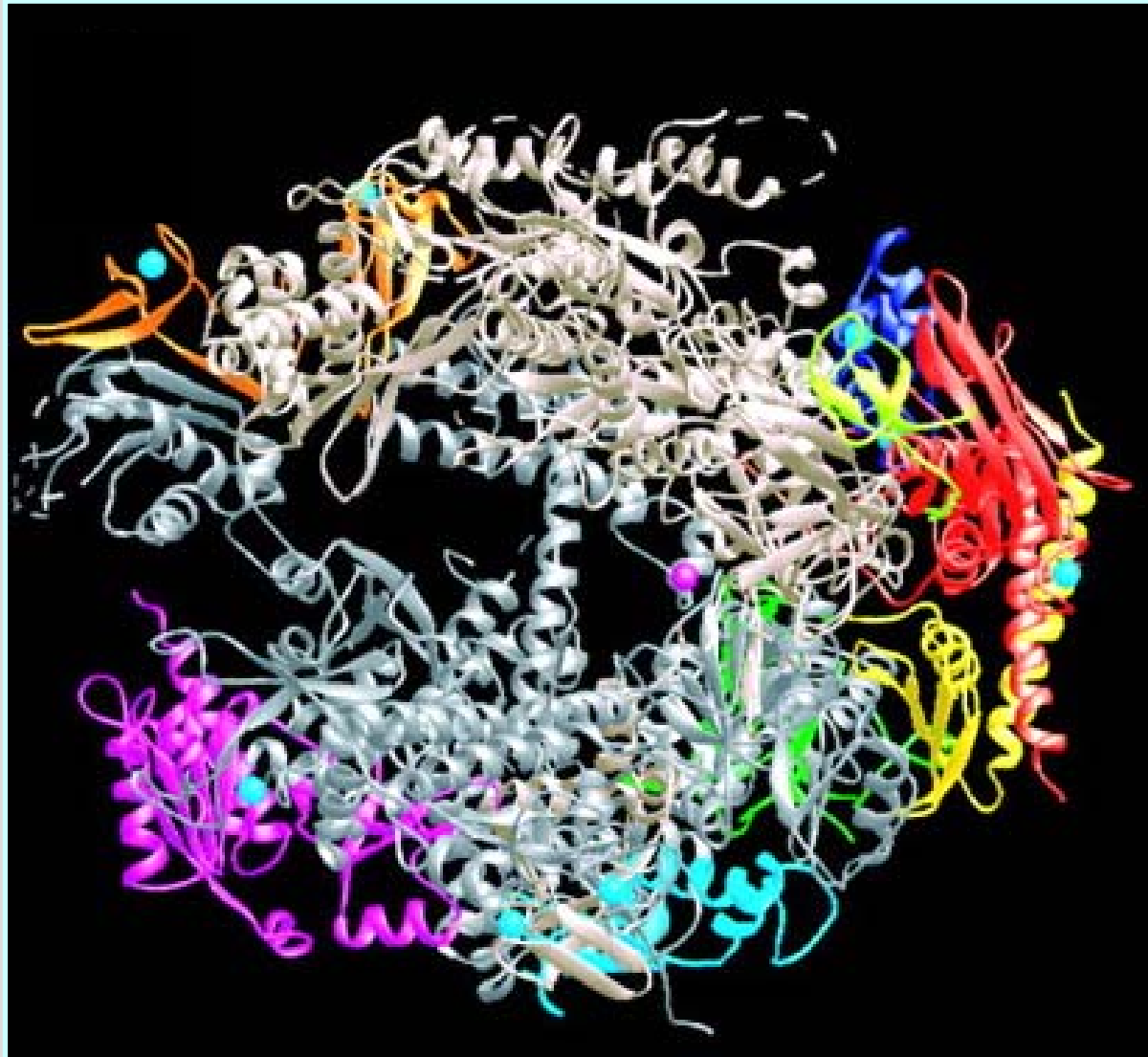
Casein: scavenger of calcium phosphate



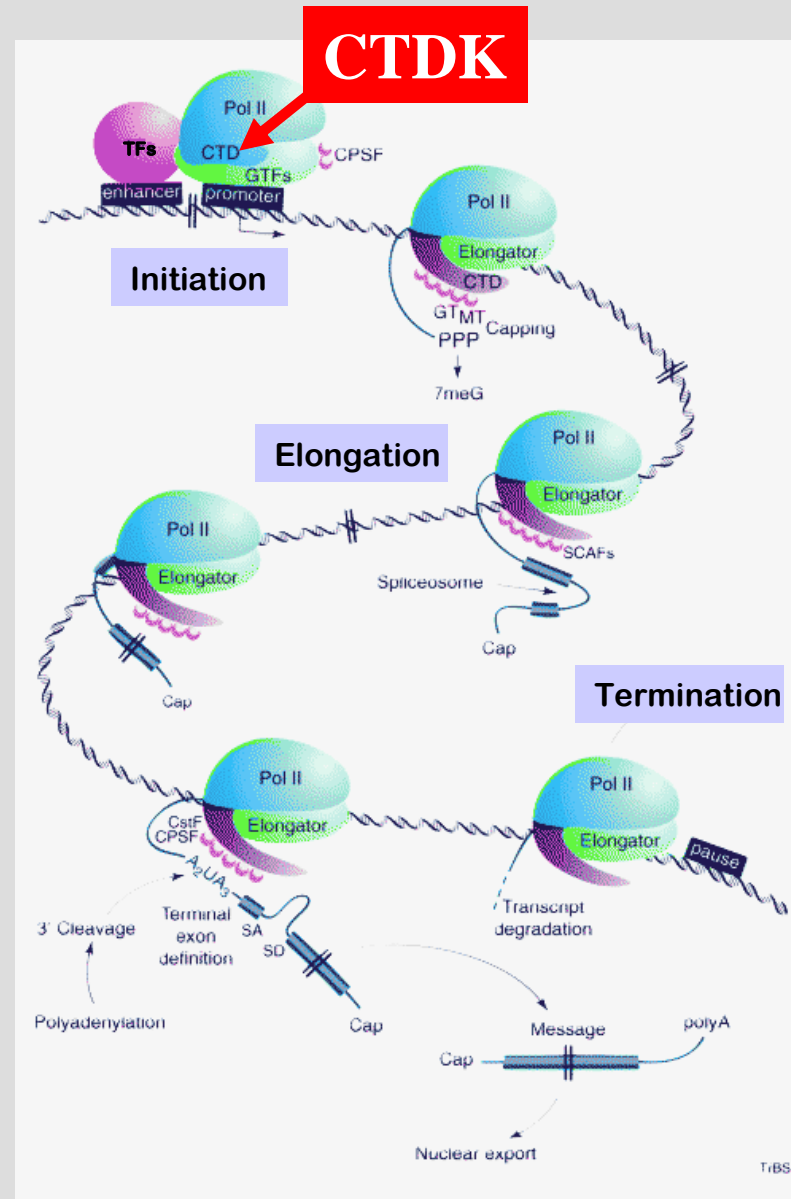
IUPs belong to 6 functional categories



RNAP II




RNAP II CTD: coordination of 5' capping, splicing, 3' polyadenylation



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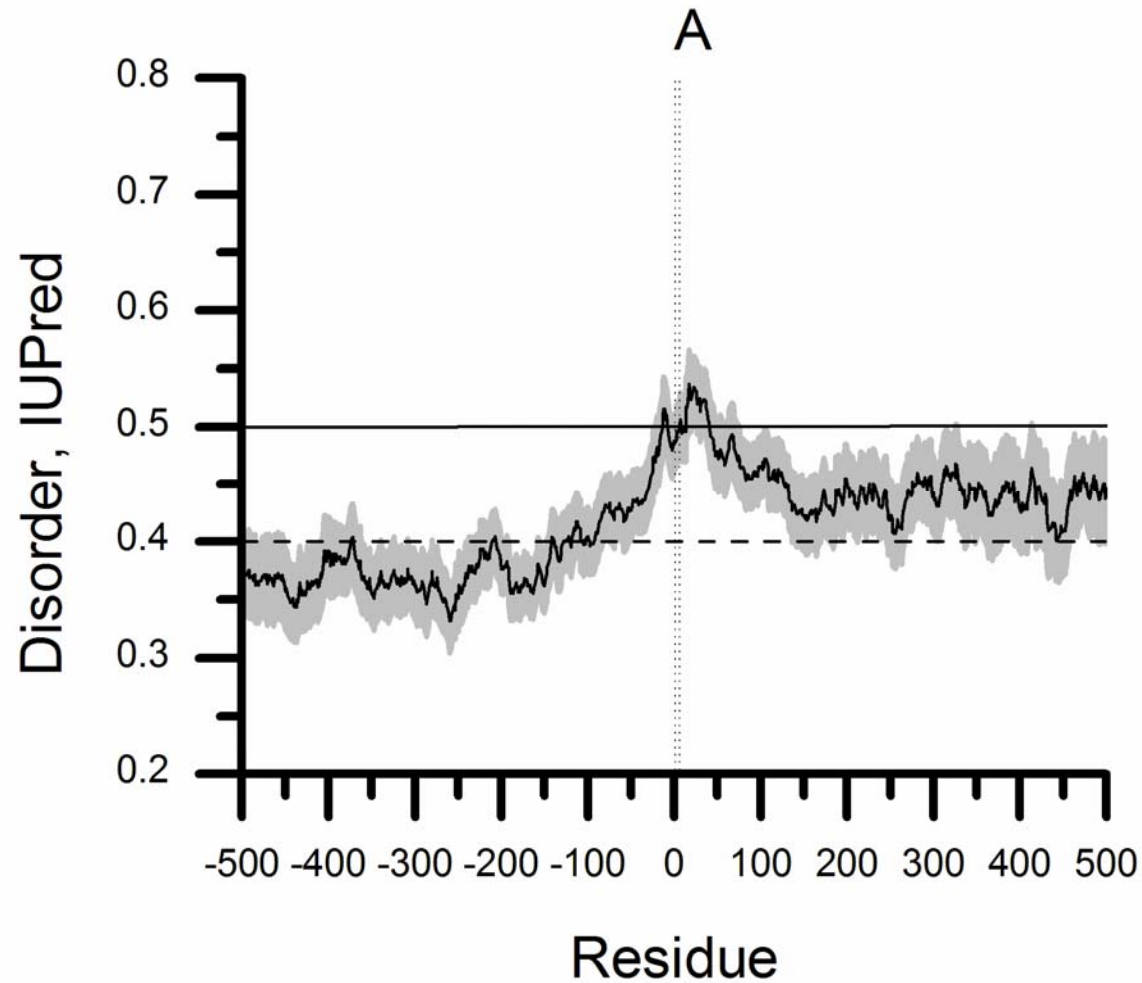
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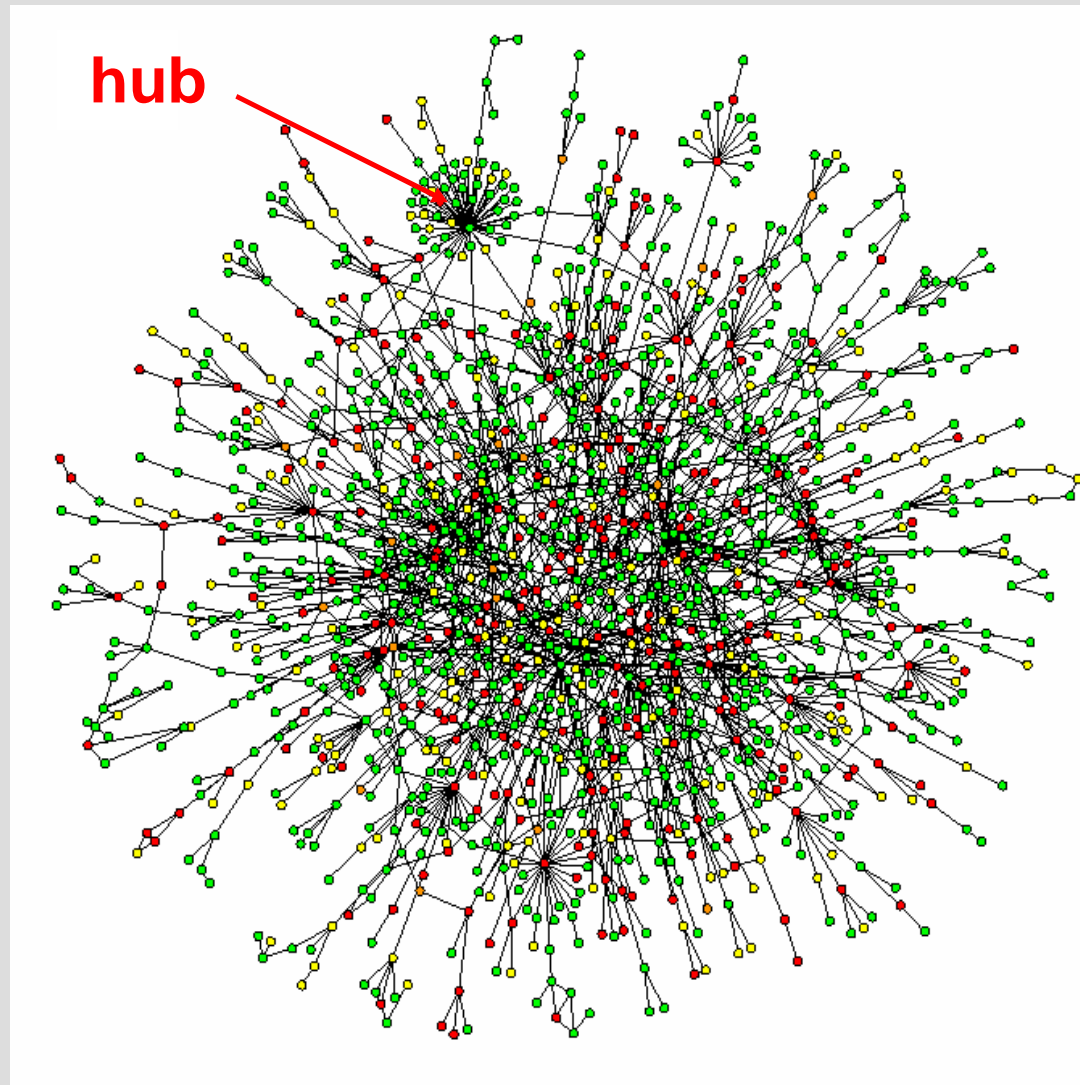
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ELMs and local disorder



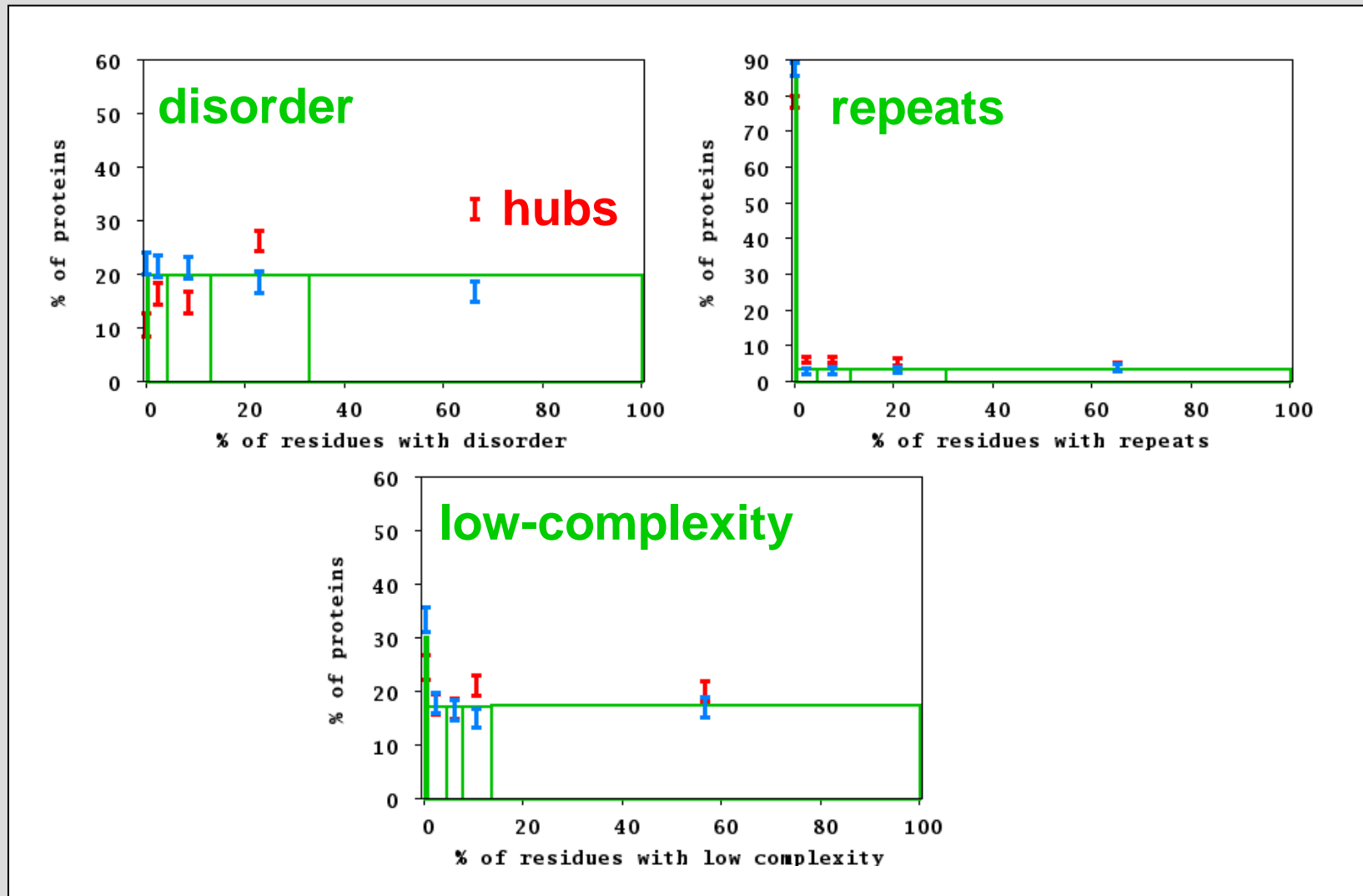
The yeast interactome



Disorder in hubs

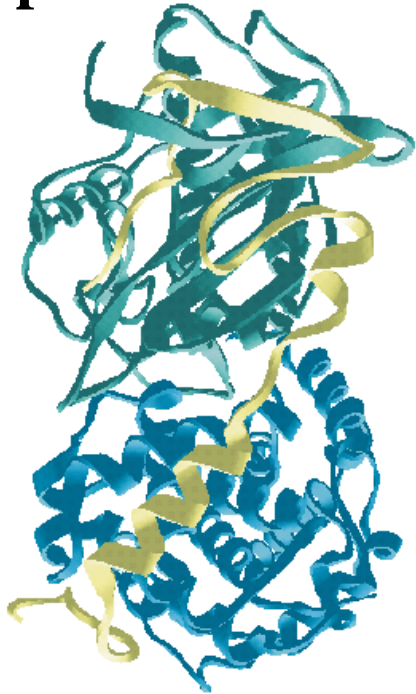
Protein	PONDR %	STRING	Partners
α-synuclein	100	27	parkin, tau, CaM
caldesmon	100	27	ERK, S100, myosin, actin, CAM
HMGA	100	18	AP1, NF- κ B, C/EBP β , Oct-1, Sp1
synaptobrevin	100	8	syntaxin 1, BAP31, VAMP-ass. prot., SNAP-25
BRCA1	79	119	p53, ATM, BRCA2, c-Myc, Chk1
XPA	63	41	RPA70, RPA34, ERCC1, TFIIH, XAB1
estrogen receptor α	31	116	p53, BRCA1, CaM, c-Jun
p53	29	239	Mdm2, ATM, ERK, p38, BCL-XI
Mdm2	26	72	p53, ARF, ATM, CK2, HIF-1 α
calcineurin, subunit A	16	31	NFAT, calcipressin, cabin1, SOCS-3, calsarcin
14-3-3' ξ	12	97	p53, Wee1, tau, Raf-1, Cdc25c, Bad
Cdk2	7	125	PP2A, CycE1, DNA Pol α , BRCA1, cycA
actin	5	33	profilin, RNase I, vit DBP, thymosin β 4, cofilin
calmodulin	3	50	neurogranin, calcineurin, AC1, calponin, caldesmon

(Yeast) hubs contain more of:

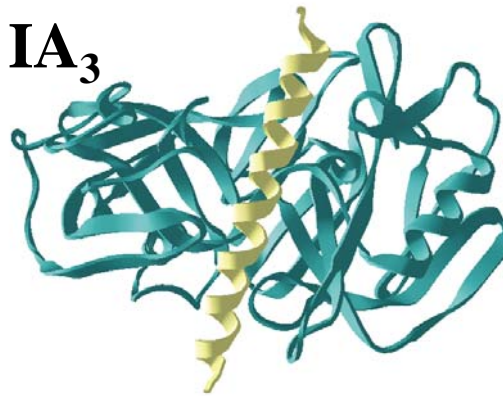


IUP interfaces

p27^{Kip1}



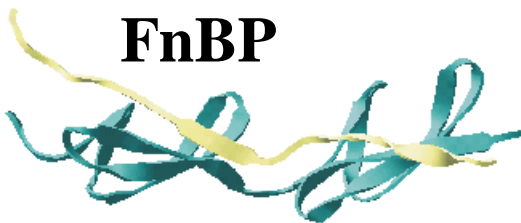
IA₃



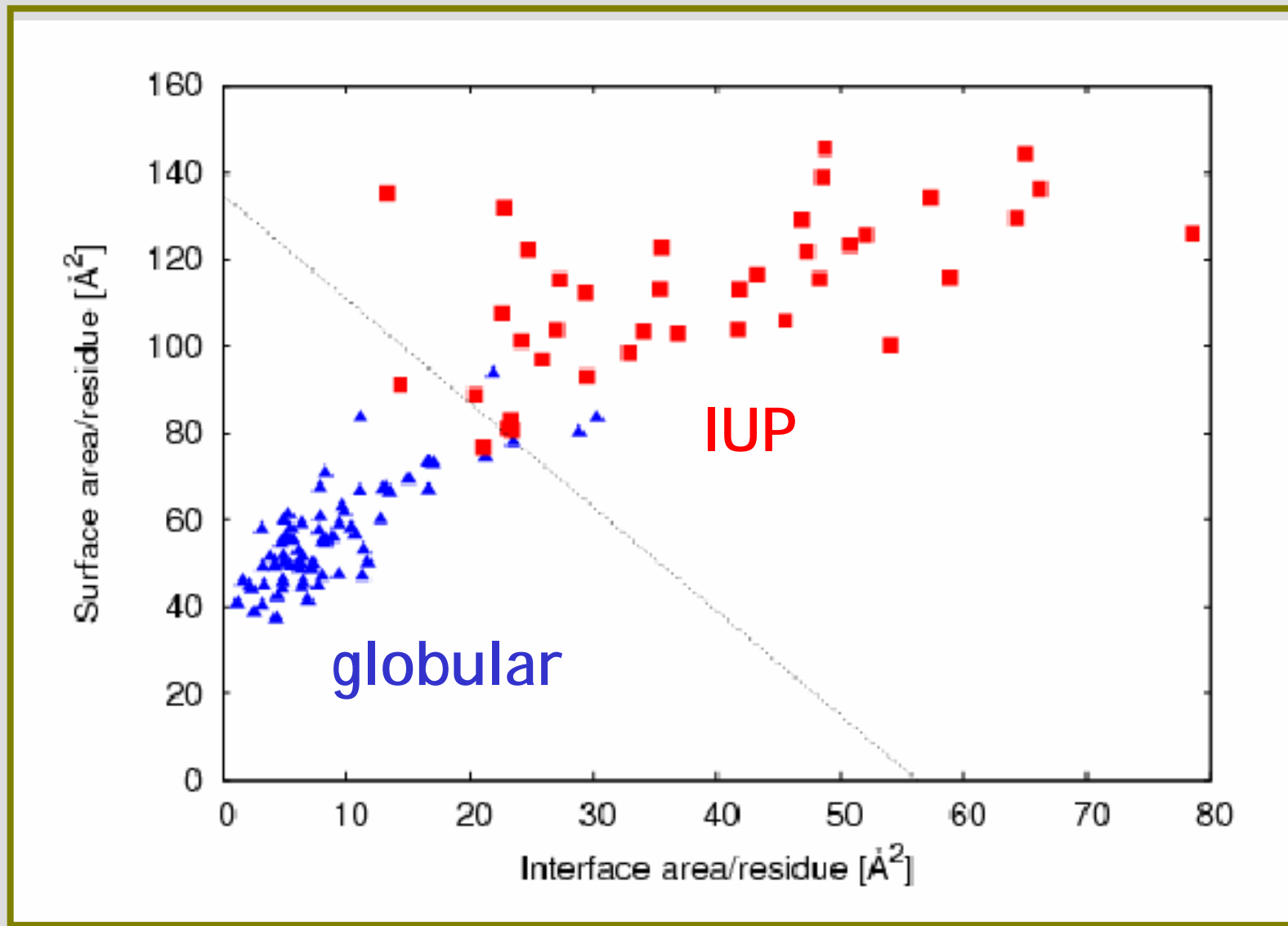
Tcf3



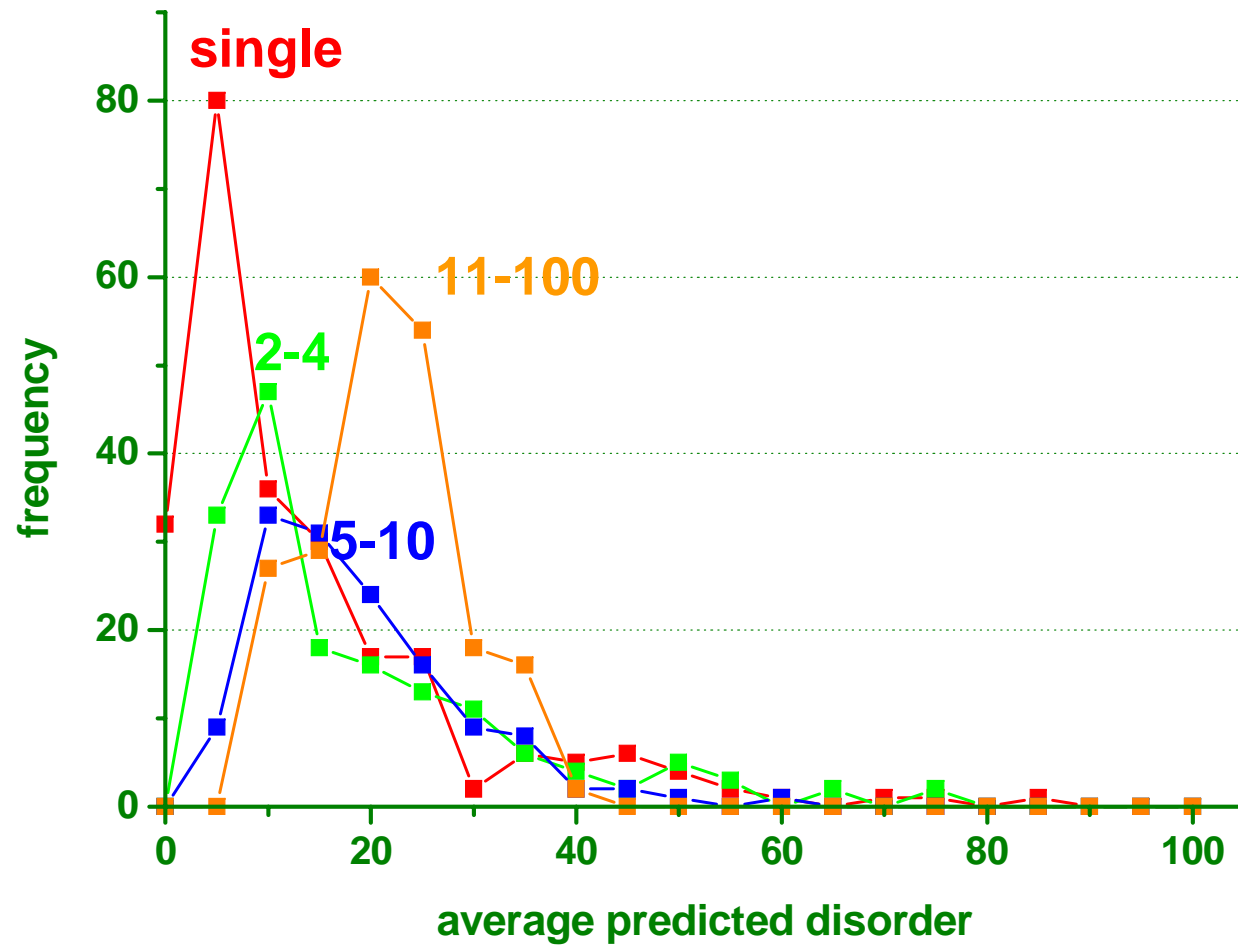
FnBP



IUPs: extended interface for binding



Disorder increases with complex size



Acknowledgements

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Jake Chen