# A Consensus Model of Human Apolipoprotein A-I in its Monomeric and Lipid-free **State**

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**Online Supplement**



*Identified INTRA-peptide BS3 and CBDPS cross-links in isolated lipid-free, monomeric apoA-I samples derived from mixed 14N and 15N labeled proteins*

<sup>a</sup> Lysines or serines involved in cross-links are in bold.

 $b$  Chemical modifications: XL = 1 complete cross-link (BS $3$  +138.06808 Da, CBDPS +509.09682 Da), H

= 1 hydrolyzed cross-linker (BS<sup>3</sup>: +156.07864 Da, CBDPS: +527.10738 Da).

<sup>c</sup> Experimentally derived monoisotopic mass for each peptide with each isotope and the combinations.

 $d$  Not detected. These ions were detectable in one sample set; for example CBDPS but not BS<sup>3</sup>.

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ApoA-I <b>Sample</b>	$I(O)^a$ (Guinier)	$R_g^b$ (Guinier)	Real Space $R_q$	$D_{\text{max}}^{\text{c}}$	<b>Volume</b>	<b>DAMMIF</b> <b>NSD<sup>d</sup></b>
	$cm-1$	Å	Å	Å	Å <sup>3</sup>	Å
<b>CBDPS</b>						
$4.0$ mg/ml	603	26	25.29	85	70165	
$2.0$ mg/ml	301	25.8	25.24	83	68091	$0.579 \pm 0.032$
$1.0$ mg/ml	149	25.1	25.53	83	70191	
BS <sup>3</sup>						
$4.0$ mg/ml	569	25.95	25.54	88	77337	
$2.0$ mg/ml	294	25.58	25.25	81	77334	$0.596 \pm 0.024$
$1.0$ mg/ml	140	27.67	25.24	81	83946	

*Experimental parameters from SAXS sampling of monomeric apoA-I cross-linked with CBDPS or BS3*

*Universal cross-linking list across four studies on lipid-free monomeric apoA-I*





<sup>a</sup> Cross-linked residues reported in the current study or Silva et al <sup>1</sup>, Pollard et al <sup>2</sup>, or Segrest et al <sup>3</sup>.

<sup>b</sup> Cross-link found with cross-linking reagent

 $\textdegree$  Upper-limit Cα-Cα distance used as cross-linking constraint for consensus model

*Reported structural features of lipid-free monomeric apoA-I determined by far circular dichroism*



<sup>a</sup> Studies performed on recombinant human apoA-I which contains Met-Arg-Gly-Ser-(His)<sub>6</sub> on the NT

**b** CD was obtained on a range of values that both fall within and exceed concentrations reported for monomeric apoA-I .

 $\textdegree$  The source of apoA-I is unclear. "Lyophilized apoA-I (purity > 96%) were purchased from Biogenesis."

<sup>d</sup> Studies performed on recombinant human proapoA-I which contains a hexapeptide on the NT normally cleaved when secreted into plasma.

<sup>e</sup> Studies performed on recombinant human apoA-I which containing a Gly-Ser, on the NT.

<sup>f</sup> Studies performed on recombinant human apoA-I containing a Gly-Ala-Met-Gly-Ser, on the NT.

<sup>g</sup> Studies performed on recombinant human proapoA-I containing a hexapeptide on the NT normally cleaved when secreted into plasma. Protein was expressed in either a baculovirus (top) or adenovirus (bottom) system.

h Studies performed on recombinant human apoA-I containing a Gly-Gly on the NT.

<sup>i</sup> Studies performed on recombinant human apoA-I which contains a point mutation, E2D at the Nterminus.



*Reported cleavage sites on lipid-free monomeric apoA-I determined by limited proteolysis*

<sup>a</sup> Chymotrypsin: Cleaves at the carboxy-terminal side of Tyrosine (Tyr, Y), Phenalanine (Phe, F), Tryptophan (Trp,W), and Leucine (Leu, L).

<sup>b</sup> S. Aureus V8 protease: Cleaves at the carboxy-terminal side of glutamic acid (Glu, E) residues

*Reported molecular dimensions for lipid-free monomeric apoA-I measured by sedimentation velocity*





**Supplementary Figure 1. Separation and purification of lipid-free apoA-I monomer by gel filtration chromatography.** ApoA-I was cross-linked and subjected to gel-filtration chromatography and fractions corresponding to the stable monomeric species were pooled. Chromatograms of apoA-I cross-linked with CBDPS and  $BS<sup>3</sup>$  are shown in panels (a) and (c), respectively. The shaded area represents the fractions corresponding to monomeric apoA-I that were pooled for cross-linking and SAXS analysis. Corresponding SDS-PAGE analysis of lipidfree apoA-I cross-linked with CBPDS and  $BS<sup>3</sup>$  are shown in panels (b) and (d), respectively. Molecular weight markers are shown in lane 1, cross-linked apoA-I prior to separation is shown in lane 2, and cross-linked monomeric apoA-I after separation is shown in lane 3. Gels were stained with coomassie blue.



**Supplementary Figure 2. Derivation of an all atom model of full-length, lipid-free monomeric apoA-I.** Panel (a) shows a single molecule from the reported crystal structure of the apoA-I<sup>1-184</sup> dimer. Panel (b) shows the folding of helix 6 previously proposed by Mei et. al.<sup>34</sup>, and the fold of helix 6 used for the timeaveraged structure (right). Panel (c) shows the final time-averaged model. Molecules are colored as previously defined by Mei et. al.<sup>34</sup>. Purple and cyan represent consensus sequence peptide A and B homology sequences, green represents exon-3-encoded region (residues 1-43) and yellow are prolines.



**Supplementary Figure 3. Comparison of the newest model to previous models with respect to various pieces of experimental data.** The line diagrams show the fit of the models relative to the target value (black circle) derived from current and previous data on lipid-free monomeric apoA-I. Panel (a) shows the model fits to experimental cross-links from the universal cross-linking list (**Supplemental Table 4**) with the target being zero violations. Panel (b) shows the model fits to experimental H-DX data<sup>26</sup> with the target being zero violations. Panel (c) shows the averaged  $x^2$  values for all models fit to the scattering profiles derived from apoA-I cross-linked with BS<sup>3</sup> and CBDPS. The target for SAXS is the lowest  $\chi^2$  value possible with lower values indicating better fits to the experimental scattering curve. Panel (d) shows the fits to overall α-helical data derived values reported across 27 studies as shown in **Supplementary Table 5**. Panel (e) shows the rank of the MolProbity score of all reported models of apoA-I relative to 27,675 crystal structures reported in the protein database.



**Supplementary Figure 4: Effect of temperature on H-DX in lipid-free apoA-I.** The plots compare the measured H-DX kinetics of the apoA-I peptide 159-169 from a helical region at pD 7 and **(A)** 5°C, **(B)** 25°C and **(C)** 37°C to the rate for the peptide in a dynamically disordered state (dashed line). Comparison of the rate constants derived by fitting the dashed and solid time-courses to mono-exponential rate equations yields the protection factor (Pf) and hence the free energy (ΔG) of helix stabilization. After correcting for the effect of temperature on the intrinsic chemical HX rate, the apparent ΔG of helix stability at  $5^{\circ}$ C and  $25^{\circ}$ C is 5.3 and 3.8 kcal/mol, respectively. The helix stability is less at  $37^{\circ}$ C and H-D exchange is complete in ~3 min. [From <sup>26</sup>]

#### **Supplementary Note**

Due to space restrictions of the Journal, we were asked to abbreviate our discussion of the model in the main paper. What follows is the original, more complete discussion.

*Consistency with previously reported data.* Analytical ultracentrifugation (AUC) can provide lowresolution molecular shape information. **Supplementary Table 7** summarizes three analytical ultracentrifugation studies<sup>31-33</sup> on lipid-free apoA-I, which conclude that monomeric apoA-I is asymmetrical in shape with an axial ratio of  $\sim$  6.5 (161 x 24 Å). This contrasts with our SAXS envelopes which had an axial ratio of 2.1-2.8. The discrepancy between AUC and SAXS measurements may reflect the dynamics of apoA-I in solution vs the 'locked' state after cross-linking. Using Forster resonance energy transfer, Brouillette and colleagues later concluded apoA-I is more compact<sup>35</sup> and that the AUC results<sup>31</sup> were probably reflective of an unfolded protein due to high external centrifugal forces. The molecular length measured by AUC is about double what we measured by SAXS while the width is about half. This is consistent with the notion that monomeric apoA-I, like apoA-IV<sup>36</sup>, can open up like a pocket knife to oligomerize or bind lipids. This may be further supported by EPR studies identifying residues 26, 44, 64, 167, 217, and 226 to be in the same plane<sup>37</sup>. In the time-averaged structure all but residues 217 and 226 fall within the same plane. Given that EPR studies were executed on multimeric apoA-I, it's plausible that when H6 opens and apoA-I self-associates, residues 217 and 226 fall in-plane with the remaining residues. Several laboratories<sup>38-40</sup> have suggested that helix 5 may be the center of such a hinge. Additionally, the positioning of H6 on the new model appears poised to unfold for interaction with lipid or another molecule. The exact nature of this unfolding must await further studies focused specifically on apoA-I oligomerization.

*Limitations of the model.* A limitation of the current model stems from our attempt to represent a highly dynamic protein with a single, time-averaged model. Numerous studies have documented the "molten globule" nature of apoA-I<sup>16,41</sup>. H-DX quantifies the rate of proton transfer to amide groups in the protein and allows one to determine locations and stabilities of elements of secondary structure<sup>26</sup>. Given that the observed rate constant for hydrogen exchange is lower than the rate constant for helical closing and H-bond formation in apoA-I, the observed hydrogen exchange rate is related to the α-helix openclosed equilibrium constant  $(K_{op})$ , a measure of the free energy ( $\Delta G$ ) of helix stabilization. This concept is illustrated in **Supplementary Figure 4** which compares hydrogen-exchange rates at three temperatures for a peptide segment in an unprotected random coil state (dashed line) and in a protected helical state (solid line). Given the degree of protection, expressed as the protection factor  $P_f$  (=1/K<sub>op</sub>), one can derive K<sub>op</sub> and the ΔG of helix stabilization. ApoA-I has ΔG of helix stabilization ranging from ~3-5 kcal/mol<sup>26</sup>. At neutral pH and room temperature,  $P_f$  for these helices is ~10e<sup>4</sup>, which corresponds with complete hydrogen exchange into the α-helical segments occurring in ~10 minutes (**Supplementary Figure 4B**); i.e. all the helical segments of native apoA-I have opened and closed at least once in this timeframe. To put this in context, a more stable globular protein such as cytochrome C has a ΔG of helix stabilization of 10 kcal/mol corresponding to a  $P_f$  of  $\sim$ 10e<sup>8</sup>, indicating that complete hydrogen exchange would require ~10 weeks. Given this degree of secondary structure dynamics, the overall high content of random coil, and the number of solvent exposed hydrophobic residues in apoA-I, it may not be possible to fully capture apoA-I structure in a single model. At physiological temperatures, apoA-I may adopt many of the structures shown in **Fig. 1**. However, our model is a time-averaged structure derived from experimental data obtained on a time scale that is much longer than typical secondary structure oscillations. For this reason, we think of it as a base model upon which hypothesized dynamics and conformational alterations can be further tested or modeled.

Another issue relates to the notion of solvent accessibility of the cross-linking reagents. While most cross-links fit the model in terms of Euclidian distance ('as the crow flies'), nearly half are impeded by some obstruction. For example, the cross-link path may be sterically hindered by a side chain rotamer from a non-participating residue or it may pass through the backbone of an adjacent helical domain. The answer to how this can happen most likely lies in protein dynamics. Cross-linking experiments are

completed on the time scale of minutes to hours, substantially longer than the timescale described above for helix opening and closing. Thus, α-helical domains in apoA-I have unfolded and refolded multiple times allowing cross-linker access to amines that are otherwise inaccessible. Furthermore, it is possible that cross-links may stabilize low probability structures, which would facilitate these observations. However, previous reports have shown excellent consistency between observed cross-links on solution structures with crystal structures of apoA-I<sup>1-184 (42)</sup> and apoA-IV<sup>36</sup> and non-apolipoproteins<sup>43-46</sup> validating the approach. It's important to recognize that *in vitro* studies presented here are performed on an ensemble of structures that vary at any given time point during the experiment. Additionally, it's likely that most of the dynamics are localized; i.e. lipid-free apoA-I likely exists as a discrete structure that exhibits characteristics of a molten globular protein. Thus, the model represents a time-average of those ensembles and cross-links that appear sterically hindered or solvent inaccessible likely occur on an alternate conformation within the boundaries of the experimental system. Additional studies are needed to better define these boundaries and the extent of rearrangement apoA-I can achieve *in vivo* and *in vitro*.

Finally, despite its consistency with much of the known structural data, we note that the model is still limited in resolution compared to NMR or X-ray crystallography. The general backbone configuration is likely correct, but more refined molecular interactions such as salt-bridging and hydrogen bonding are still unclear. While the protein clearly has a somewhat defined structure and shape as captured by SAXS, the exact lengths of helical domains, the precise positions of N- and C-termini and even the integrity of the helical bundle itself are likely to be in flux on the timescale of seconds. Highly unstable helices ( $P_f$ <10) that have ΔG stabilization of < 1.3 kcal/mol and are open > 10% of the time are not detected in the timescale of the H-DX kinetic experiments but are detected by CD measurements. However, truncation of the C-terminus from residue 243 to residues 221 and 231 reduces CD-detectable helix content by 14 and 7 amino acid residues, respectively<sup>16,40</sup>. On the basis of such observations, Mei and Atkinson<sup>40</sup> suggested that the segment spanning residues 231-241 contains α-helical structure. This C-terminal segment is located near the N-terminus (**Fig. 5c**) and it may contribute to the stabilization of the NT helix bundle induced by the C-terminal domain<sup>47</sup>. The existence of such a C-terminal helical domain is further supported by preliminary molecular dynamics simulations of the new model (Segrest et al, unpublished observation).

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