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# Crystal structure of the RNA-recognition motif of Drosophila melanogaster tRNA (uracil-5-)-methyltransferase homolog A 

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Human tRNA (uracil-5-)-methyltransferase 2 homolog A (TRMT2A) is the dedicated enzyme for the methylation of uridine 54 in transfer RNA (tRNA). Human TRMT2A has also been described as a modifier of polyglutamine (polyQ)-derived neuronal toxicity. The corresponding human polyQ pathologies include Huntington's disease and constitute a family of devastating neurodegenerative diseases. A polyQ tract in the corresponding disease-linked protein causes neuronal death and symptoms such as impaired motor function, as well as cognitive impairment. In polyQ disease models, silencing of TRMT2A reduced polyQ-associated cell death and polyQ protein aggregation, suggesting this protein as a valid drug target against this class of disorders. In this paper, the $1.6 \AA$ resolution crystal structure of the RNA-recognition motif (RRM) from Drosophila melanogaster, which is a homolog of human TRMT2A, is described and analysed.

## 1. Introduction

RNAs have been described to be post-transcriptionally modified with more than 170 chemical alterations installed by a multitude of enzymes or enzyme complexes. Amongst different RNA species, tRNA is the most heavily modified class, with tRNA modification and its abrogation being associated with different disease states (Orellana et al., 2022; Suzuki, 2021).

Several nucleotides in the T-loop of tRNA are modified during evolution, such as $\mathrm{m}^{1} \mathrm{~A} 58$ or $\mathrm{m}^{5} \mathrm{U} 54$, suggesting an important role of these modifications. In humans, tRNA methyltransferase 2 homolog A (hsTRMT2A) is the dedicated enzyme for the methylation of uridine at position 54 of cytosolic tRNA, whereas tRNA methyltransferase 2 homolog B (TRMT2B) methylates mitochondrial tRNA (Carter et al., 2019; Powell \& Minczuk, 2020). The Escherichia coli paralog TrmA has been associated with increased efficiency and fidelity of protein translation in vitro (Davanloo et al., 1979; Kersten et al., 1981). However, the biological function of TRMT2A and TRMT2B beyond the methylation of U54 in metazoa has largely been unexplored. A recent observation suggested $h s$ TRMT2A to be involved in modulating translation fidelity (Witzenberger et al., 2023).

PolyQ diseases constitute a group of diseases that are autosomally dominantly inherited and linked to an expanded cytosine-adenine-guanine (CAG) tract in the respective diseaselinked gene. In patients with Huntington's disease (HD) the disease-linked Huntingtin gene harbours a pathologically long CAG tract that is transcribed and then translated into an
uninterrupted polyglutamine (polyQ) tract. Accumulation of the aggregation-prone Huntingtin protein, CAG repeatcontaining RNA and the associated toxic gain of function interfere with normal cellular function on various levels (Bates et al., 2015; Bennett et al., 2007; Berendzen et al., 2016). Various approaches to ameliorate disease symptoms or to slow disease progression have included attempts to reduce mutant Huntingtin mRNA or the mutant protein and therefore protein aggregation (Estevez-Fraga et al., 2022; Tabrizi et al., 2019). A promising clinical trial using antisense oligonucleotides to degrade mutant Huntingtin mRNA was recently halted (Tabrizi et al., 2019; Generation HD1, NCT03761849). Therefore, the need for other strategies to lower polyQinduced aggregation and toxicity is pressing.

A high-throughput RNAi knockdown screen using a Drosophila melanogaster HD disease model identified dCG3808, the homolog of $h s$ TRMT2A, as a novel modifier of polyQ-induced toxicity and aggregation (Vossfeldt et al., 2012). TRMT2A is predicted to consist of an N-terminal RNA-recognition motif (RRM) and a C-terminal catalytic domain folded into the Rossmann motif typical of methyltransferases (Carter et al., 2019). Previously, we solved the structure of $h s$ TRMT2A RRM (Margreiter et al., 2022). This experimental structure, together with structural predictions of the catalytic domain, allowed us to develop in silico predicted inhibitors of $h s$ TRMT2A and a tRNA-protein binding model (Witzenberger et al., 2023). In cell culture, some of these compounds showed reduced polyQ protein aggregation in a HEK cell polyQ disease model. To further confirm the validity of the results from a fly RNAi screen for a human disease model, we solved the X-ray structure of the RRM from Drosophila TRMT2a (dmTRMT2A). The structure shows the typical fold of an RRM, with high structural similarity to $h s$ TRMT2A RRM, despite low sequence similarity ( $32 \%$ ). These findings confirm the high structural and most likely functional similarity of the proteins, but also shed light on the highly versatile yet conserved structural motif class of RNAbinding domains.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Macromolecule production

Standard molecular-biology procedures were applied for the cloning of SUMO-His-tagged $d m$ TRMT2A RRM (57137) (Table 1). The $d m$ TRMT2A RRM DNA sequence was PCR-amplified from a template using Phusion polymerase (Thermo). The correctly sized PCR product was excised for purification with a NucleoSpin Gel and PCR Clean-Up kit (Qiagen). Gibson cloning of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM with pOPINS3C vector was performed using an InFusion HD cloning kit (Takara). For this purpose, pOPINS3C was linearized with the restriction enzymes KpnI and NcoI. Religation was prevented by $5^{\prime}$-dephosphorylation with FastAP thermosensitive alkaline phosphatase (Thermo). Finally, 3$10 \mu \mathrm{l}$ of InFusion reaction was transformed into Escherichia coli DH5 $\alpha$ cells.

The expression of native SUMO-tagged $d m$ TRMT2A RRM (57-137) in E. coli Rosetta (DE3) cells was induced with 0.5 M isopropyl $\beta$-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside at an OD of 0.6. The protein was expressed in ampicillin-supplemented LB at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 3 h . The bacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation for 20 min at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at 5000 g . For cell lysis, the pellet was resuspended in lysis buffer ( $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES pH $8.5,20 \mathrm{~m} M$ imidazole, $0.5 \%$ Tween, $2 \%$ glycerol) containing one Pierce Protease Inhibitor tablet (Roche). Typically, 25 ml lysis buffer was added per 31 of culture. The resuspended bacterial cell pellet was sonified at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ with a Branson sonifier 250 (Emerson) 3-4 times for 6 min at an amplitude of $40 \%$. Insoluble cellular debris was separated from soluble E. coliexpressed proteins by centrifugation for 30 min at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ at 20000 g . Before proceeding with further purification steps, the supernatant was filtered with a $2.7 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ filter (Whatman). The clarified and filtered supernatant was loaded onto a 5 ml HisTrap FF column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with His- $A$ buffer ( $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES $\mathrm{pH} 8.5,20 \mathrm{~m} M$ imidazole). The protein was then washed with 10 column volumes (CV) of His- $A$ buffer ( $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES pH 8.5 , $20 \mathrm{~m} M$ imidazole) followed by washing with 10 CV of high-salt-containing His- $B$ buffer ( $2000 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES $\mathrm{pH} 8.5,20 \mathrm{~m} M$ imidazole). SUMO-tagged protein was eluted with a 10 CV gradient of His- $A$ buffer and His- $C$ elution buffer ( $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES $\mathrm{pH} 8.5,500 \mathrm{~m} M$ imidazole). For SUMO-tag cleavage, the eluate was supplemented with $100 \mu \mathrm{~g}$ PreScission protease and dialyzed against dialysis buffer ( $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES $\mathrm{pH} 7.5,1 \mathrm{~m} M$ DTT) in 6.0 S tubing (ZelluTrans, Carl Roth) overnight at $4^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The next day, the cleaved protein was applied onto an equilibrated subtractive HisTrap FF column and the proteincontaining flowthrough was collected. This flowthrough was concentrated to 2 ml with a centrifugal filter (Amicon Ultra, Merck, 3K cutoff) and loaded onto a Superdex 75 (10/300 GL) size-exclusion chromatography column equilibrated in SEC buffer ( $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES pH 7.5 ). The proteincontaining fractions were combined and concentrated to $8 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{ml}^{-1}$ (Supplementary Fig. S1). Aliquots were flashfrozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

### 2.2. Crystallization

Crystallization experiments for the $d m$ TRMT2A RRM domain were performed at the X-ray Crystallography Platform at Helmholtz Zentrum München. dmTRMT2A RRM crystals grew in $2 M$ ammonium sulfate, $2 M \mathrm{NaCl}$ (Ammonium Sulfate Screen, Hampton Research) at 292 K using a protein concentration of $4-8 \mathrm{mg} \mathrm{ml}^{-1}$ (Table 2). Heavy-atomcontaining compounds were soaked into $d m$ TRMT2A RRM crystals to obtain a data set for phase calculation and hence structure determination of the protein by single-wavelength anomalous dispersion (SAD). For soaking, $10 \mathrm{~m} M$ stock solution was added to the drop to obtain a final concentration of $1-3 \mathrm{~m} M$. For screening, $\mathrm{Ta}_{6} \mathrm{Br}_{12}, \mathrm{NaBr}$ and the derivatives Pt2 $\left[\left(\mathrm{NH}_{4}\right)_{2} \mathrm{PtCl}_{4}\right]$ and $\mathrm{Au} 3\left(\mathrm{NaAuCl}_{4}\right)$ from the Heavy Atom Screen (Hampton Research) were used. The soaked crystals

Table 1
Macromolecule-production information.

| Source organism | D. melanogaster |
| :---: | :---: |
| DNA source | \#FI05218, Gold vector containing dGC3808 (dmTRMT2A) from Drosophila Genomics Center |
| Forward primer $\dagger$ | AAGTTCTGTTTCAGGGCCCGACTTCGGAA ATATTCAAA |
| Reverse primer $\dagger$ | ATGGTCTAGAAAGCTTTAATCGGCCGAGG CCTTGGCA |
| Cloning vector | pOPINS3C |
| Expression vector | pOPINS3C |
| Expression host | E. coli Rosetta (DE3) strain |
| Complete amino-acid sequence of the construct produced $\ddagger$ | GPTSEIFKVEVKNMGYFGIGEFKKLLRNT LKFDVTKIKAPTRKEFAFVCFRSQEDQ QRALEILNGYKWKGKVLKAHVAKASAD |

$\dagger$ The primer sequence complementary to the selected fragment of TRMT2A is shown in bold. The stop codon in the reverse primer is underlined. The 3C PreScission proteasecleavage site sequence is shown in italics. $\ddagger$ The GP residues (underlined) at the N -terminus of the produced protein fragment are artefacts left after truncation with 3C PreScission protease.

Table 2
Crystallization of the $d m$ TRMT2A RRM domain.

| Method | Vapour diffusion, hanging drop |
| :--- | :--- |
| Plate type | VDX 24-well plate |
| Temperature (K) | 292 |
| Protein concentration $\left(\mathrm{mg} \mathrm{ml}^{-1}\right)$ | $4-8$ |
| Buffer composition of protein | $500 \mathrm{~m} M \mathrm{NaCl}, 50 \mathrm{~m} M$ HEPES pH 7.5 |
| $\quad$ solution |  |
| Composition of reservoir solution | $2 M$ ammonium sulfate, $2 M \mathrm{NaCl}$ |
| Volume and ratio of drop | $3 \mu \mathrm{l}, 1: 1$ ratio |
| Volume of reservoir (ml) | 1 |

were cooled either directly or after 24 h equilibration. $30 \%(v / v)$ ethylene glycol was used as a cryoprotectant.

### 2.3. Data collection and processing

Diffraction data were collected from crystals cooled to 100 K on the X06DA beamline at Swiss Light Source (SLS), Villigen, Switzerland. Heavy-atom-containing crystals were measured to obtain the structure of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM. A fluorescence scan was performed on the mounted crystal to identify the respective heavy-atom absorption edge and thus determine the X-ray energy needed for data collection. The diffraction data were indexed and integrated using $X D S$ (Kabsch, 2010) and scaled using SCALA (Evans, 2006). Intensities were converted to structure-factor amplitudes using TRUNCATE (French \& Wilson, 1978). Data-collection and processing statistics are presented in Table 3. Only the data set for the crystals soaked with the heavy-atom compound $\mathrm{NaAuCl}_{4}$ contained strong anomalous signal that was useful for further steps.

### 2.4. Structure solution and refinement

The structure of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM (57-137) was solved using the SAD protocol of Auto-Rickshaw, the EMBL Hamburg automated crystal structure-determination platform (Panjikar et al., 2005, 2009). The input diffraction data were prepared and converted for use in Auto-Rickshaw using programs from the CCP4 suite (Agirre et al., 2023). $F_{\mathrm{A}}$ values were calculated with SHELXC (Sheldrick, 2010). On the basis of an initial analysis of the data, the maximum resolution for

Table 3
Data-collection and processing statistics for $d m$ TRMT2A RRM.
Values in parentheses are for the outer shell.

| Diffraction source | Beamline X06DA, SLS |
| :--- | :--- |
| Wavelength (A) | 1.0366445 |
| Temperature (K) | 100 |
| Detector | PILATUS 2M-F |
| Crystal-to-detector distance (mm) | 185.057 |
| Rotation range per image $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 0.1 |
| Total rotation range $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 360 |
| Exposure time per image (s) | 0.1 |
| Space group | $C 2$ |
| $a, b, c(\AA)$ | $92.41,41.89,48.82$ |
| $\alpha, \beta, \gamma\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | $900.110 .80,90$ |
| Mosaicity $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ | 0.3 |
| Resolution range $(\AA \AA)$ | $50-1.6(1.64-1.60)$ |
| Total No. of reflections | $150144(9039)$ |
| No. of unique reflections | $23209(1684)$ |
| Completeness (\%) | $99.7(99.0)$ |
| CC $1 / 2$ | $99.8(91.1)$ |
| Multiplicity | $6.5(5.6)$ |
| $\langle I / \sigma(I)\rangle$ | $11.6(3.5)$ |
| $R_{\text {ri.m. }}(\%)$ | $10.1(43.3)$ |
| Overall $B$ factor from Wilson plot $\left(\AA^{\circ}\right)$ | 11.9 |

Table 4
Structure solution and refinement.
Values in parentheses are for the outer shell.

| Resolution range ( $\AA$ ) | $45.64-1.60(1.64-1.60)$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Completeness (\%) | 99.9 |
| $\sigma$ Cutoff | $F>0.000 \sigma(F)$ |
| No. of reflections, working set | $22079(1584)$ |
| No. of reflections, test set | $1130(99)$ |
| Final $R_{\text {cryst }}$ | $0.141(0.173)$ |
| Final $R_{\text {free }}$ | $0.199(0.323)$ |
| Cruickshank DPI | 0.082 |
| No. of non-H atoms |  |
| $\quad$ Protein | 1337 |
| $\quad$ Solvent | 147 |
| $\quad$ Ions | 68 |
| $\quad$ Total | 1552 |
| R.m.s. deviations |  |
| $\quad$ Bond lengths (A) | 0.016 |
| $\quad$ Angles ( ${ }^{\circ}$ ) | 1.936 |
| Average $B$ factors ( $\AA^{2}$ ) |  |
| $\quad$ Protein | 21.1 |
| $\quad$ Solvent | 40.0 |
| $\quad$ Ions | 38.9 |
| Ramachandran plot |  |
| $\quad$ Most favoured (\%) | 93 |
| $\quad$ Allowed (\%) | 7 |

substructure determination and initial phase calculation was set to $2.3 \AA$. Eight heavy-atom positions were located with SHELXD (Sheldrick, 2010). The correct hand of the substructure was determined with $A B S$ (Hao, 2004) and SHELXE (Sheldrick, 2010). The occupancies of all substructure atoms were refined with MLPHARE from the CCP4 suite (Agirre et al., 2023) and the phases were improved by density modification with $D M$ (Cowtan \& Zhang, 1999). The initial model was partially built with ARP/wARP (Morris et al., 2004; Perrakis et al., 2001). Further model building and refinement were performed with Coot (Emsley et al., 2010) and REFMAC5 (Murshudov et al., 2011), respectively, with the maximum-likelihood target function including anisotropic refinement. The final model was characterized by $R_{\text {work }}$ and $R_{\text {free }}$ factors of $14.1 \%$ and $19.9 \%$, respectively (Table 4).

Table 5
The results of the structural similarity search performed with PDBeFold.
The structures are ordered according to their r.m.s.d. to $d m$ TRMT2A RRM. The values in the table include the r.m.s.d. in $\AA$, the number of aligned $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ atoms ( $N_{\text {align }}$ ) and the sequence identity in \% (\%seq).

| R.m.s.d. | $N_{\text {align }}$ | \%seq | PDB code/chain | Organism | Protein | Reference |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1.14 | 65 | 18 | 6f4j/D | D. melanogaster | U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein A | Weber et al. (2018) |
| 1.23 | 65 | 18 | 1oia/B | H. sapiens | U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein A | Nagaie et al. (1990) |
| 1.24 | 69 | 17 | 4a8x/A | H. sapiens | RNA-binding protein with serine-rich domain 1 | Murachelli et al. (2012) |
| 1.24 | 69 | 26 | 2x1f/A | S. cerevisiae | mRNA 3'-end-processing protein RNA15 | Pancevace et al. (2010) |
| 1.27 | 68 | 29 | 1 P7f/A | D. melanogaster | Sex-lethal (Sxl) protein | Handa et al. (1999) |

Stereochemical analysis of the final model with PROCHECK (Laskowski et al., 1993) showed no residues with generously allowed or unfavourable backbone dihedral angles, whereas $93 \%$ of all residues are in the core region of the Ramachandran plot. The final model was deposited in the Protein Data Bank (https://www.rcsb.org) with PDB code 7pv5.

## 3. Results and discussion

To obtain a three-dimensional experimental model of the RNA-recognition domain (RRM) of $D$. melanogaster tRNA (uracil-5-)-methyltransferase homolog A, the protein fragment comprising amino acids 57-137 was successfully cloned, expressed, purified to homogeneity and crystallized. To solve the phase problem, the crystals were soaked with different heavy-atom derivatives. However, only one of them, $\mathrm{NaAuCl}_{4}$, allowed us to obtain sufficient anomalous signal. The anomalous diffraction data were collected at the $\mathrm{Au} L_{\text {III }}$ absorption edge at a wavelength of $1.0366445 \AA$. The structure was solved using the single-wavelength anomalous dispersion method as implemented in the Auto-Rickshaw pipeline (Panjikar et al., 2005, 2009). The $d m$ TRMT2A 57-137 fragment poses the typical domain fold of an RRM, with a five-stranded antiparallel $\beta$-sheet and two $\alpha$-helices (Fig. 1a) with the topology $\beta 1-\alpha 1-\beta 2-\beta 3-\alpha 2-\beta 4-\beta 5$. It highly resembles the recently published structure of the RRM from human TRMT2A (hsTRMT2A; Margreiter et al., 2022; Fig. 1b). These protein fragments share $32 \%$ sequence identity. The crystals of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM contain two molecules in the asymmetric unit, with an r.m.s.d. of $0.39 \AA$ for 74 superimposed $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ atoms (Supplementary Fig. S2). The $\mathrm{NaAuCl}_{4}$ compound used to derivatize the crystals caused chemical modification of the surface Cys103. The S atom of Cys103 has been covalently modified by two AuCl moieties (Fig. 1c).

Previously, conserved consensus regions in the two middle $\beta$-sheets have been identified as a canonical RNA-binding platform where RNA nucleotides interact with solventexposed aromatic residues. They were termed ribonucleoprotein 1 (RNP1) and ribonucleoprotein 2 (RNP2) (Cléry \& Allain, 2011; Fig. 1b). For $d m$ TRMT2A RRM, RNP1 consists of Lys97-Glu98-Phe99-Ala100-Phe101-Val102-Cys103-Phe104 and RNP2 consists of Val63-Glu64-Val65-Lys66-Asn67-Met68 (where the conserved $d m$ TRMT2A residues are shown in bold). Positions 3 and 5 of RNP1, as well as position 2 of RNP2 (all three of which are underlined), are the respective RNAbinding residues (Cléry \& Allain, 2011; Fig. 1b). The structure of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM shows the expected conserved RNA-
binding residues Phe99 and Phe101 in positions 3 and 5 of RNP1, whereas the nonconserved residue Glu64 is found in position 2 of RNP2. A comparison with human TRMT2A showed that Glu76 of its RRM is in the same position 2 in RNP2, as well as Cys111 and Phe113 in positions 3 and 5 in RNP1, respectively (Fig. 1b). To further investigate the importance of Glu64, Phe99 and Phe101 for the interaction with nucleic acids, we performed an in silico analysis. Using the PDBeFold protein structure comparison service at the European Bioinformatics Institute (https://www.ebi.ac.uk $/ \mathrm{msd}$-srv/ssm; Krissinel \& Henrick, 2004), we identified structurally similar proteins in complex with nucleic acids and superimposed them onto the structural model of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM (Fig. $1 d$ ). In the analysed co-complexes, the nucleic acids interact with the solvent-exposed parts of the $\beta$-sheet where RNP1 and RNP2 are located. Phe101 emerges as being particularly crucial, as it is fully conserved across the analysed homologous structures (Supplementary Table S1). Its involvement in nucleic acid interaction is marked by hydrophobic stacking with the bases (Fig. 1d). In contrast, Glu64 and Phe99, which lack conservation, make a minor contribution (Glu64) or no contribution (Phe99) to the binding event. This emphasizes the specificity of Phe101 (Phe113 in the human protein) in mediating the interactions between the protein and nucleic acids and its central role in this molecular-recognition mechanism. While the binding mode of nucleic acids to the analysed RRM domains remains largely consistent, it is important to acknowledge the possibility of variations in the interaction in the case of the Drosophila or human homologs. To better understand such differences and their impact on RNA-protein binding, additional experiments will be required.

A comparison of the RRM from $d m$ TRMT2A with other known structures using PDBeFold (Krissinel \& Henrick, 2004) yielded high conservation of the fold among different species. Despite very low sequence identity, the Drosophila structure shows very high fold similarity, as measured by the r.m.s.d. to the compared models (Fig. 2, Tables 5 and 6). So far, the most similar structure with regard to sequence identity is the abovementioned hsTRMT2A RRM (Margreiter et al., 2022; Fig. 1b; Table 6). On the other hand, it is remarkable how different protein sequences can lead to nearly identical folds. The best example is the RRM of the U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein A from $D$. melanogaster (PDB entry 6f4j; Weber et al., 2018), which shares an r.m.s.d. of $1.14 \AA$ with $d m$ TRMT2A RRM with an insignificant sequence identity of 18\% (Fig. 2a, Table 5).


Figure 1
(a) The crystal structure of $D$. melanogaster TRMT2A RRM, fragment 57-137, at $1.6 \AA$ resolution. The structure is shown as a ribbon coloured according to the labelled secondary-structure elements. (b) The superposition of $d m$ TRMT2A (PDB entry 7pv5, shown as a red ribbon) and $h s$ TRMT2A RRM (PDB entry 7 ito, shown as a navy blue ribbon). The putative and conserved RNA-binding residues are depicted. The sequence alignment below shows the positions of the consensus RNA-binding platforms RNP1 and RNP2 in human and fly TRMT2A. Conserved RNA-binding residues at positions 3 and 5 of RNP1 and position 2 of RNP2 are indicated in magenta. (c) A $2 F_{\mathrm{o}}-F_{\mathrm{c}}$ electron-density map contoured at $1 \sigma$ is shown for the modified Cys103 residues. After soaking the crystals with $\mathrm{NaAuCl}_{4}$, the cysteine residue was chemically modified at its S atom with two AuCl moieties. (d) Superposition of the dmTRMT2A RRM domain (PDB entry 7pv5, shown as a grey cartoon) with its homologous RRM structures in complex with nucleic acids as identified by the PDBeFold search. The amino-acid residues in the $d m$ TRMT2A RRM domain indicated in (b) are shown as blue sticks. For clarity, only nucleic acids are shown (as yellow cartoons and orange sticks) in the overlapped homologous structures. The following structures were used for the in silico analysis: human U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein A with glomS ribozyme derived from B. anthracis (PDB entry 313c; Cochrane et al., 2009), the Sex-lethal (Xxl) protein of $D$. melanogaster in complex with ssRNA (PDB entry 1b7f; Hand et al., 1999), the C-terminal RRM2 domain of mouse TDP43 in complex with single-stranded DNA (PDB entry 3d2w; Ko et al., 2009), human TDP-43 RRM1-DNA complex (PDB entry 4iuf; Kuo et al., 2014) and Caenorhabditis elegans MEC-8 C-terminal RRM domain bound to AGCACA (PDB entry 6dg0; H. Soufari \& C. D. Mackereth, unpublished work).

Table 6
The results of the structural similarity search performed with PDBeFold.
The structures are ordered according to their sequence identity to the $d m$ TRMT2A RRM fragment. The values in the table include the r.m.s.d. in $\AA$, the number of aligned $\mathrm{C}^{\alpha}$ atoms ( $N_{\text {align }}$ ) and the sequence identity in \% (\%seq).

| R.m.s.d. | $N_{\text {align }}$ | \%seq | PDB code/chain | Organism | Protein | Reference |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1.65 | 74 | 32 | $7 \mathrm{nto} / A$ | H. sapiens | RNA-recognition motif of TRMT2A | Margreiter et al. $($ (2022) |
| 1.65 | 71 | 30 | $5 \mathrm{iqq} / E$ | H. sapiens | RNA-recognition motif of RNA-binding protein 7 | Sofos et al. (2016) |
| 1.27 | 68 | 29 | $1 \mathrm{~b} 7 \mathrm{f} / A$ | D. melanogaster | Sex-lethal (Sxl) protein | Handa et al. (1999) |
| 1.46 | 67 | 28 | $6 \mathrm{e} 4 \mathrm{n} / A$ | T. brucei | RNA-recognition motif of the putative tbrgg2 protein | Travis et al. (2019) |
| 1.61 | 68 | 28 | $2 \mathrm{cpx} / A$ | H. sapiens | RNA-binding domain of hypothetical protein FLJ11016 | RIKEN Structural Genomics/Proteomics |
|  |  |  |  |  | Initiative (unpublished work) |  |


(a)

(b)

Figure 2
(a) A stereoview of the crystal structure of $d m$ TRMT2A RRM superimposed with the top five results from the PDBeFold search. The selected structures show the lowest r.m.s.d. compared with $d m$ TRMT2A RRM. The structures are shown as ribbons and coloured as follows: $d m$ TRMT2A, PDB entry 7 pv 5 , red; PDB entry 6f4j, cyan (Weber et al., 2018); PDB entry 1oia, green (Nagai et al., 1990); PDB entry 4a8x, yellow (Murachelli et al., 2012); PDB entry 2x1f, navy blue (Pancevac et al., 2010); PDB entry 1b7f, grey (Handa et al., 1999). (b) A stereoview of the superposition of the structures identified by PDBeFold to have the highest sequence identity to $d m$ TRMT2A RRM. The structures are shown as ribbons and coloured as follows: $d m$ TRMT2A RRM, PDB entry 7pv5, red; PDB entry 7nto, green (Margreiter et al., 2022); PDB entry 5iqq, cyan (Sofos et al., 2016); PDB entry 1b7f, grey (Handa et al., 1999); PDB entry 6e4n, navy blue (Travis et al., 2019); PDB entry 2cpx, yellow (RIKEN Structural Genomics/Proteomics Initiative, unpublished work).

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