nucleic acid-peptide binding was mostly due to interactions between the peptide and phosphate backbone of nucleic acids, providing an explanation for the lack of sequence specificity observed experimentally. These insights regarding nucleic acid binding of butofuran II and DesHDAP1, paired with a deeper understanding of the peptides’ structures and membrane interactions, are necessary for development of novel pharmaceutical applications using AMPS.

2766-Pos Board B143
Oxygen-to-Sulfur Substitution of DNA Phosphate Entropically Enhances Protein-DNA Affinity
Dan Nguyen1, Levani Zandarashvili2, Kurtis M. Anderson1, Mark A. White1, David G. Gorenstein2, Junji Iwahara1.
1University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, USA, 2University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX, USA.

For some proteins, dithioation of DNA phosphate is known to enhance binding affinity. We provide evidence that the lysine side chain in contact with the DNA phosphate becomes more dynamic upon dithioation. Our thermodynamic, structural, and dynamic investigations collectively show that the affinity enhancement by the oxygen-to-sulfur substitution in DNA phosphate is largely due to an entropic gain arising from the mobilization of the intermolecular ion pair at the protein-DNA interface. This work was supported by Grant RO1-GM105931 from the National Institutes of Health (to J.I.) and Grant CHE-1307344 from the National Science Foundation (to J.I.).

2767-Pos Board B144
Role of the Moiety Chirality in Determining the DNA Binding Characteristics of Threading Intercalators
Thayaparan Paramanathan1-2, Nicholas Bryden1, Fredrik Westerlund1, Per Lincoln2, Micah McCauley2, Ioulia Rouzina5, Mark C. Williams2.
1Biology and Biological Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, 3Chemistry and Biochemistry, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA.

Threading intercalators are small molecules that bind to DNA by threading their ancillary groups through the DNA bases to intercalate their middle planar section between the DNA base pairs. The high binding affinity and slow dissociation rates of threading intercalators have put them in the class of prospective anti-cancer drugs. In this study we explore the binding of a specific threading intercalator, the binuclear ruthenium complex ΔΔ-P (ΔΔ-[µ-bidppz(phen)Ru]2) using optical tweezers. A single molecule is held at a constant force and ΔΔ-P is introduced to the system in varying concentrations until equilibrium is achieved. Measurements of DNA extension at various concentrations of ΔΔ-P as a function of time provide the DNA equilibrium binding affinity and binding kinetics for this molecule. Preliminary data analysis at constant force suggests that ΔΔ-P exhibits significantly faster binding kinetics compared to the very similar ΔΔ-P ([µ-bidppz(phen)Ru]2). These complexes have the same chemical structure and only differ in their chirality, which suggests that the left handed (ΔΔ) threading moiety requires less DNA structural distortion for threading compared with the right handed (ΔΔ) threading moieties.

2768-Pos Board B145
Direct Observation of the Stepping Behavior of E. Coli UvrD Helicase
Kevin D. Whiteley1, Matthew J. Comstock1, Haifeng Jia3, Matthew J. Comstock2, Haifeng Jia3, Per Lincoln2, Micah McCauley2, Ioulia Rouzina5, Mark C. Williams2.
1Biophysics and Quantitative Biology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA, 2Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA, 3Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA, 4Physics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, USA, 5Chemistry and Biochemistry, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA.

E. coli UvrD is a prototypical superfamily 1 helicase involved in the unwinding mechanism of this helicase, but there has not yet been a direct observation of the individual motor steps involved in the process. Here, we use high-resolution optical tweezers to observe directly the stepping behavior of UvrD at a single molecule level as it unwinds and rezipps a DNA hairpin. Interestingly, we measure a step size of 3-4 base pairs for both unwinding and rezipping activities. Furthermore, our analysis of the stepping kinetics indicates that a single rate-limiting step governs the process, which is consistent with ensemble studies measuring an unwinding step size of 4-5 base pairs per rate-limiting step. However, previous studies have determined that 1 ATP molecule is hydrolyzed per base pair translocated, and would predict 3-4 rate-limiting steps per unwinding step. Our results therefore suggest a mechanism whereby UvrD rapidly unwind 3-4 base pairs, and then must slowly “reset” itself in order to continue its unwinding cycle.

2769-Pos Board B146
Effects of Hfq on the Conformation and Compaction of DNA
Johan R. van der Maarel1, Kai Jiang1, Veronique Arluison2, Jeroen van Kan1.
1National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore, 2Université Paris Diderot, Paris, France.

Hfq is a bacterial pleiotropic regulator that mediates several aspects of nucleic acids metabolism. The protein notably influences translation and turnover of cellular RNAs. Although most previous contributions concentrated on Hfq’s interaction with RNA, its association to DNA has also been observed in vitro and in vivo. Here, we focus on DNA-compacting properties of the Hfq hexamer as well as the NTR and CTR regions. Various experimental technologies, including fluorescence microscopy imaging of single DNA molecules confined inside nanofluidic channels, atomic force microscopy and small angle neutron scattering have been used to follow the assembly of Hfq on DNA. Our results show that Hfq forms a nucleoprotein complex, changes the mechanical properties of the double helix and compacts DNA into a condensed form. We propose a compaction mechanism based on protein-mediated bridging of DNA segments. The propensity for bridging is related to multi-arm functionality of the Hfq hexamer, resulting from binding of the C-terminal domains to the duplex.

2770-Pos Board B147
Effects of H2A Histone Variants on DNA Sequence and Nucleosome Structure using Coarse Grain Simulations
Ignacio Faustino, Siewert-Jan Marrink.
University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands.

Coarse grain molecular dynamics (CG-MD) simulations are seeing a rising tendency in a wide range of applications because their potential to enhance the sampling of all-atomistic simulations (AA-MD) and the capacity to make near-atomistic millisecond-timescale simulations practical, putting the second threshold on the horizon. In this field, the coarse-grained Martini force field has a prominent position and has recently extended its already range of applications to DNA-

2771-Pos Board B148
Effector-Free Molecular Mechanism of Epigenetic Regulation Revealed by Molecular Dynamics Simulations and Single-Molecule FRET Experiments
Jejoong Yoo1, Hajin Kim1, Taekjip Ha2, Aleksei Aksimentiev2.
1University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, CHAMPAIGN, IL, USA, 2UNIST, Ulsan, Korea, Republic of, 3Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA.

Although the genomic DNA of a eukaryotic cell encodes for all of its genes, what really control the cell’s fate is epigenetic markers that determine activation or repression of the genes. The known epigenetic markers include methylation and acetylation of the N-terminal tail of histone proteins and methylation