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Aarya Venkat

Ph.D. Student, Biochemistry and Microbiology Second Year ARCS Scholar Swensson/ARCS Award

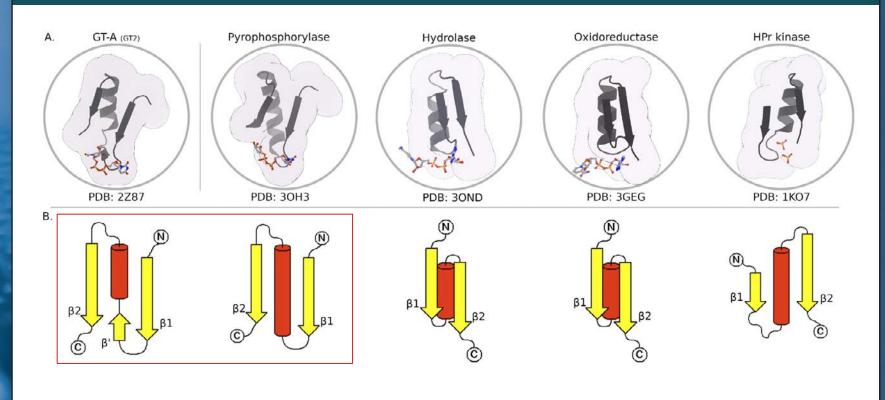


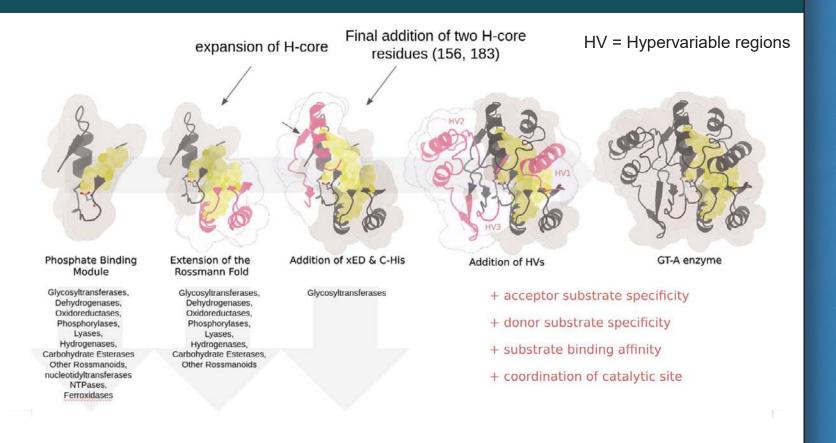
Modularity of the hydrophobic core and evolution of functional diversity in fold A glycosyltransferases

Glycosyltransferases (GTs) are an extraordinarily diverse class of sugar-transferring enzymes, involved in nearly all aspects of cellular function. We analyze sequence, structure-function, and dynamics to uncover the molecular origins of Glycosyltransferase evolution, guiding the engineering of new GTs.

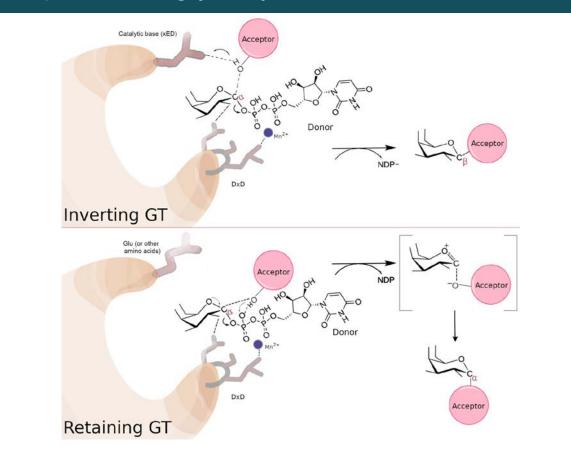
An ancestral fragment shared amongst diverse enzymes ²

Small variations contribute to large functions over evolutionary time

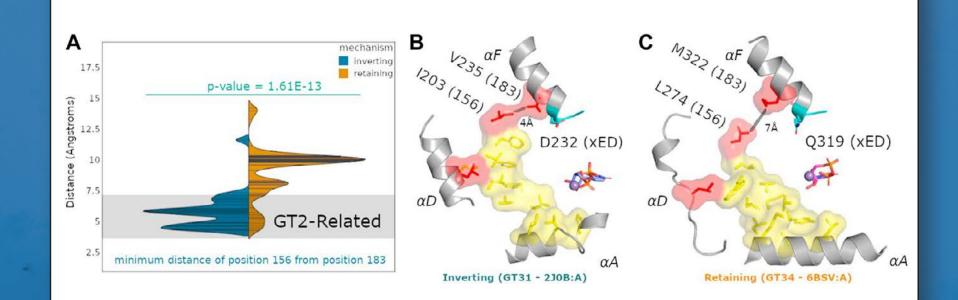




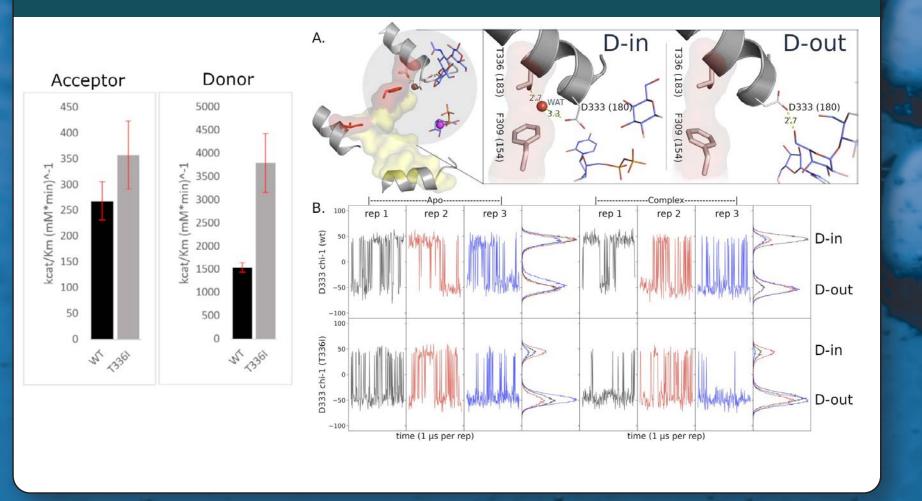
A cartoon depiction of glycosyltransferase function



Structural conservation and variability in the hydrophobic core⁵



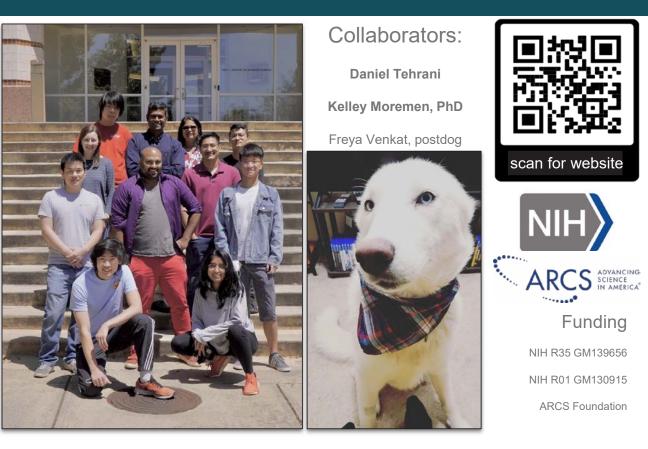
Does mutating the core **correlate** with changes in catalytic activity?



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Alumni: Niral Thaker **Rahil Taujale, PhD** Leon Huang, PhD Annie Kwon, PhD Zheng Ruan, PhD



Venkat, A., Tehrani, D., Taujale, R., Yeung, W., Gravel, N., Moremen, K.W. and Kannan, N., 2022. Modularity of the hydrophobic core and evolution of functional diversity in fold A glycosyltransferases. Journal of Biological Chemistry, 298(8).



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE 2022

Scholar Awards Celebration November 17, 2022