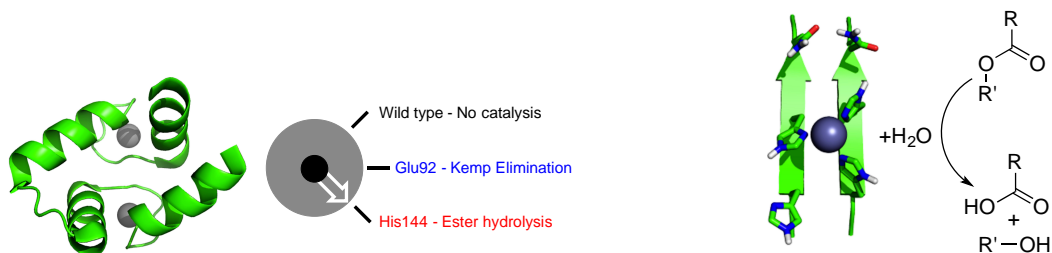


De Novo Design of Protein and Peptide Catalysts.

Ivan V. Korendovych (Syracuse University)



Abstract: Design of a novel catalytic function in proteins and peptides, apart from its inherent practical value, is important for fundamental understanding of origins of enzymatic activity. Two applications of a minimalistic approach to design of artificial catalysts will be presented.

1. Strategic introduction of single mutations is sufficient to confer catalytic activities (Kemp elimination, ester hydrolysis, retroaldol reaction) onto calmodulin, a non-enzymatic protein. The catalytic efficiencies of the resulting allosterically regulated catalysts are on par with those of the best computational approaches. Directed evolution allowed for further improvement of catalysts' efficiency.
2. We designed a series of 7-residue peptides that self-assemble into amyloid-like fibrils to act as metal-dependent esterases and oxidases. Metal ions, help stabilize the fibril formation, while also acting as cofactors to catalyze chemical reactions. The resulting catalytic amyloids show efficiency that rivals that of some enzymes by weight. These results indicate that amyloid fibrils are able to not only catalyze their own formation . they also can catalyze chemical reactions. Thus, amyloids might have served as intermediates in the evolution of modern-day enzymes.

References:

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Prof. Korendovych received both B.S. (1999) and M.S. (2000) degrees with distinction from National Taras Shevchenko University of Kiev, Ukraine. He

received his PhD from Tufts University in 2006 for his studies of mechanistic aspects of dioxygen activation using complexes of iron with macrocyclic ligands in Prof. Rybak-Akimova's lab. Prof. Korendovych then joined the group of Prof. William F. DeGrado at the University of Pennsylvania as a postdoctoral fellow working on *de novo* design of proteins. In 2011, he joined the faculty at Syracuse University and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2017. Prof. Korendovych has received a number of awards, most notably, American Chemical Society Young Investigator Award, Humboldt Research Fellowship, ORAU Ralph E. Powe Award.