

Dr. Nikolaus Grigorieff
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415 South Street
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RE: MOLECULAR-CELL-*--*-*****

NER Machinery Recruitment by the Transcription-Repair Coupling Factor
Involves Unmasking of a Conserved Intramolecular Interface

Dear Dr. Grigorieff,

Thank you for submitting your paper to Molecular Cell. We have read the manuscript with interest, surveyed the relevant literature, and discussed the work editorially. The work describes the mechanism of UvrA recruitment by TRCF, which you elucidate using X-ray crystallography and SAXS. We appreciate that your data indicate that the C-terminal domain of TRCF is inhibitory for UvrA binding, but not RNAP release. You also show that nucleotide binding by TRCF induces concerted multi-domain motions within the protein and propose that engaging the DNA damage site relieves the TRCF autoinhibition of UvrA binding; thus TRCF may exist in a dynamic equilibrium of conformations. We also appreciate how this work extends the existing literature on the TRCF/UvrA interaction, and therefore the potential interest these findings may have for the immediate field. However, unfortunately, the paper does not seem to provide the kind of major conceptual advance we normally expect for the broad readership of Molecular Cell. Therefore, we would like to suggest that publication would be more appropriate in another journal.

This decision does not involve any criticism of your data, rather, it simply reflects the broad scope of Molecular Cell and the intense pressure for space in the journal. These constraints make it impossible for Molecular Cell to publish all the submitted papers that are of high quality and interest in the field they represent. The number of submissions is several times greater than the number of papers that could be published, so we are compelled to make a preliminary selection of manuscripts at the stage of submission, before review. When it seems that a paper falls short of meeting our standard publication criteria, we try to avoid unnecessary delays by returning the manuscript without a detailed review. We believe that in such cases it is in the best interest of the author to indicate immediately that there is high probability that reviewers would recommend against publication in Molecular Cell.

I am sorry that the outcome for this manuscript could not have been more positive. However, I hope that you will feel free to submit other papers to Molecular Cell in the future when it seems appropriate.

Best wishes,

Scientific Editor, Molecular Cell