In the format provided by the authors and unedited.

Structural basis for membrane anchoring and fusion regulation of the herpes simplex virus fusogen gB

Rebecca S. Cooper¹, Elka R. Georgieva^{2,3}, Peter P. Borbat^{2,3}, Jack H. Freed^{2,3} and Ekaterina E. Heldwein^{1*}

¹Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA. ²Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA. ³National Biomedical Center for Advanced Electron Spin Resonance Technology (ACERT), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA. *e-mail: katya.heldwein@tufts.edu



Purification and crystallization of gBd71.

a, SEC of gB Δ 71 in 0.05% *n*-dodecyl- β -D-maltopyranoside (DDM) reveals a trimer with an apparent molecular weight of 415 kDa. **b**, SDS–PAGE analysis of the peak SEC fractions, separated from aggregated protein. **c**, Representative H32 crystals of gB Δ 71 in 0.075% *n*-undecyl- β -D-maltopyranoside and 0.0075% A8-35 amphipol. **d**, Representative P321 gB Δ 71 crystals in 0.05% *n*-dodecyl- β -D-maltopyranoside and 0.01% A8-35 amphipol. **e**, bG Δ 71 packing within P321 crystals. The folded CTD core (blue) packs against the crown of the trimer below (orange), an interaction that presumably stabilizes both the CTD and TMD.



Residue conservation in human herpesviruses.

a, Sequence alignment of eight human herpesviruses, with identical residues boxed in magenta and similar residues boxed in gray. Residues that contribute to potentially important HSV-1 CTD features, including its acidic face and membrane-binding basic belt, are indicated with stars. Nearby basic residues that may perform a similar function in other herpesviruses are boxed. The regions resolved in the crystal structure and by ESR are underlined in orange and green, respectively. Secondary structure elements are shown above the alignment. **b**,**c**, Top and side views of the MPR–TMD–CTD pedestal, with protomers shown in different shades of blue. Identical residues in the alignment are shown as magenta spheres. **d**, A close-up view of the TMD–h1a–h1b zigzag.



Residue conservation in α -herpesviruses.

a, Sequence alignment of 13 α -herpesviruses. Residues that contribute to important HSV-1 CTD features, including its membranebinding basic belt and acidic face, are indicated with stars. Nearby basic residues that may perform a similar function in other herpesviruses are boxed. **b**, Residues identical in these viruses, as well as among eight human herpesviruses from different subfamilies, are mapped onto side and top views of the MPR-TMD-CTD.



Effect of the ordered CTD on TMD and MPR.

a, The well-ordered CTD of FL-gB (P321 crystals) packs against the crown of the trimer below (Supplementary Fig. 1e), which appears to stabilize the position of the TMD helices. **b**, When the CTD of FL-gB is disordered (H32 crystals), the C terminus of the TMD is unresolved and both the MPR–TMD and TMD–TMD angles increase.



Interprotomer interactions in the CTD.

Four classes of interactions were identified using CCP4 Contact. Only interactions ≤ 4 Å are depicted for simplicity. The "van der Waals + mixed" category indicates that a pair of residues may be linked by either van der Waals interactions or a combination of hydrophobic and van der Waals interactions. Positions where mutations alter the rate of fusion are shaded. Bolded residues are conserved in α -herpesviruses. Box colors indicate hyperfusogenic mutations identiufied in clinical isolates (light orange) or engineered (light green) as well as a single slow-entry mutation (light blue). Box outline colors indicate whether the collective interactions of a residue are mediated by main chain atoms (red), side chain atoms (blue), or both (purple).



Fusion activity of single-cysteine FL-gB mutants.

Cell–cell fusion between effector cells expressing gD, gH–gL, and single-cysteine gB mutants and target cells expressing gD receptor HVEM was tested using a luciferase assay. The previously identified hyperfusogenic mutant R858H was included as a control for each assay. Every mutant was tested in at least two biological replicates (*n*), each consisting of three technical replicates. Dots show the average fusion activity of each biological replicate relative to wild-type gB (100% fusion). Depending on the background plasmid for mutant construction (indicated in the source data available online), wild-type gB denotes either pPEP98 or pRC30. Error bars show 1 s.d. from the biological replicate average, which is marked with a wider central bar. The activity of E816C was not tested. Most mutants had a wild-type or mildly hyperfusogenic phenotype, indicating that the global structure of the h2–h3 region was not significantly altered by these substitutions. For K862C, V880C, M881C, and R882C, which have hyperfusogenic phenotypes, interaction of the native side chains with the membrane may be stronger than that of the cysteine and important for CTD stability.



Accessibility and mobility of the CTD C terminus in the presence of membrane.

a, Accessibility (*II*) of CTD residues 861–885 to 4.5 mM NiEDDA and O_2 . **b**, Mobility ($1/\Delta H$) of CTD residues 861–885. **c**, The mobility of residues 876–884 follows a periodic pattern (inset) that is consistent with an amphipathic helix in which the movement of membrane-facing residues is restricted. The D878C mutant precipitated and was excluded from measurements. Measurements were collected once on each mutant, with the exception of V876C, M879C, R882C, and R884C, which were tested twice. Initial validation of the data collection protocol on these isolated mutants produced similar results, but only the complete range was used for depth calculations and subsequent analysis.

Supplementary Note 1.

Cell-cell fusion assay. CHO cells (a gift from J. M. Coffin) were grown in Ham's F-12 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) at 37°C in the presence of 5% CO2, except where noted otherwise. Cells were not tested for Mycoplasma contamination. Plasmids pPEP98, pPEP99, pPEP100, and pPEP101 encode HSV-1 (strain KOS) gB, gD, gH, and gL genes, respectively, in a pCAGGS vector and were gifts from P. G. Spear. Plasmids pCAGT7 (carrying the T7 polymerase gene) and pT7EMCLuc (carrying the firefly luciferase gene) were also gifts from P. G. Spear. Plasmid pSC386 carrying the herpesvirus entry mediator (HVEM) gene and the pCAGGS vector were gifts from G. H. Cohen and R. J. Eisenberg. Cell fusion was measured by using the luciferase assay²⁷. CHO cells were seeded into 6-well and 24-well plates and transfected the next day at 70-90% confluence using Lipofectamine 2000. Target cells in the 6well plate were transfected with 1.6 µg pSC386 (HVEM) DNA and 0.4 µg pT7EMLuc (firefly luciferase) in 1 ml Optimem with 5 µl Lipofectamine 2000 per well. Effector cells in 24-well plates were transfected with 80 ng each pCAGT7 (T7 polymerase), pPEP99 (HSV-1 gD), pPEP100 (HSV-1 gH), and pPEP101 (gL), plus 80 ng of either pCAGGS (empty vector), pPEP98 or pRC30 (WT HSV-1 gB), or a single cysteine gB mutant in 200 µl Optimem and 1 µl Lipofectamine 2000 per well. After 4 hours, the target cells were washed with phosphatebuffered saline (PBS), treated with trypsin, and co-cultured with effector cells at a 1:1 ratio for 16 hrs. Cells were then washed with 1 ml PBS per well and lysed with 200 µl/well of 1x lysis buffer (Promega) and either frozen at -80°C and assayed at a later time or assayed immediately. Luciferase production for each sample was assayed by measuring luminescence on a BioTek plate reader after adding 100 µl of substrate (Promega). After the pCAGGS background was subtracted from all samples, the light output of each mutant was expressed as a percentage of the matched WT gB construct (pPEP98 or pRC30). Every mutant was tested in at least two biological replicates, each consisting of three technical replicates. Values reported here represent average fusion activity of each biological replicate relative to WT gB (100% fusion). Error bars show one standard deviation from the biological replicate average.

Protomer	В	Protomer		Distance, Å
LEU 788	CD2	LEU 783	CG	3.82
	СВ	GLY 787	0	3.35
	0	ALA 790	СВ	3.86
ALA 791			Ν	3.63
	CB	ALA 791	CA	3.74
			СВ	3.53
	CE2		CD1	3.86
	CZ	LEU /83	CDI	3.5
PHE 792		CL N 707	CA	3.4
	CEI	GLY /8/	Ν	3.82
	CD		0	3.94
	СВ		CD	3.75
DUE 705	CG	ALA 790	СВ	3.88
PHE 795	CD1		0	3.92
	Ν		CD	3.89
	CA	ALA 794	СВ	3.72
			CB	3.71
	CC1		CG	3.35
	CGI	TYR 797	CD1	3.66
VAL 798			CD2	3.53
			CB	3.96
	CG2		CG	3.95
			CD2	3.53
	CD1	LEU 801	CD1	3.87
LEU 801	0	LEU 809	LEU 783 CG GLY 787 O ALA 790 CB ALA 791 CA ALA 791 CA ALA 791 CA ALA 791 CA B CD1 ALA 793 CD1 GLY 787 CA GLY 787 CA ALA 790 CB ALA 790 CB ALA 790 CB ALA 790 CB ALA 794 CB CQ CD1 ALA 794 CB CG CD1 CD2 CB CG CD1 CD2 CB CG CD2 LEU 801 CD1 LEU 809 CD2 TYR 797 OH CD1 CD2 CD1 CD2 TYR 810 OH	3.31
	N			3.54
GLN 802	CA	TYR 797	OH	3.31
	CB			3.66
	CD		CD1	3.81
	CB		CD2	3.74
PKU 805	00	LEU 809	CD1	3.82
	CG		CD2	3.53
	CG		CI1	3.35
MET 806	SD	1 1 1 K 810	OH	3.71
TYR 810	CE1	MET 850	0	3.87

Supplementary Table 1. Inter-protomer contacts in TMD and CTD

	T		T	
	CZ			3.67
			С	3.43
	OH		0	2.73
			CP	3.84
		VAL 853	CD	3.95
			N	3.59
	CE1		CA	3.75
		CED 054	CB	3.93
		3EK 834		3.02
	CZ	CZ	OG	3.13
TYR 810	OH			2.67
			CD	3.75
	CA	A	OE1	3.43
			OE2	3.49
			CD	3.79
	С		OE1	3.00
		GLU 857	OE2	3.96
	0		OE1	3.56
	CB			3.69
	CG		OE2	3.72
	CD1			2.89
	CE1			3.79
	N		CD	3.7
	IN			2.81
	CA		OE1	3.46
PRO 811	С	GLU 857		3.15
	CG			3.52
	CD		CD	3.63
	CD		OE1	3.11
	N		CD	3.42
	IN		OE1	2.26
	CA			3.08
	С	GLU 857		3.57
			CG	3.65
			CD	3.75
	CB		OE1	3.19
			CD	3.97
		GLU 860	OE1	3.4
	CG		CG	3.93

			CD	3.42
			OE1	3.31
			OE2	3.81
LEU 812			CD	3.6
			OE1	3.82
	CD1		OE2	3.47
		I VS 864	CE	3.96
		L15 004	NZ	3.18
	CG2	VAL 853	CG1	3.52
	N		CD	3.89
TUD 912	1		OE1	3.09
1ПК 015		GLU 857	CD	3.47
	CG2		OE1	3.49
			OE2	3.24
LYS 815	NZ	LYS 864	NZ	2.87
			CD	3.25
GLU 845	OE2	LYS 839	CE	3.29
			NZ	3.98
	CD		CA	3.95
	5D	ALA 843	СВ	3.8
MET 846		MET 846	CG	3.75
	CE		СВ	3.79
			CE	3.81
		MET 806	CE	3.61
			СВ	3.75
	CG2	TYR 810	CG	3.93
ILE 847			CD2	3.9
		TUD 912		3.64
	CD1	111K 015	OG1	3.91
	CG2	THR 814		3.75
ARG 848	CG	THR 813	0	3.91
	OH	ASP 834	0	3.88
	CE1		0	3.4
	CEI		N	3.95
I I K 849		ASP 836	N	3.15
	OH		CA	3.72
			CP	3.23
	CD1	LYS 839	CD	4.00

	CE1			3.67
	CE2			3.9
TVR 8/10	CZ			3.61
	0		CD1	3.57
	CD1	LEU 840	Ν	3.71
	CDI		CA	3.91
	С	MET 806	CG	3.82
MET 950	CB		CE	3.91
MET 630	CE	ILE 847	CG1	3.61
	UE	MET 850	SD	3.74
	CA	A CNI 204	0D1	3.97
	CB	ASN 804	ODI	3.86
	N		CG	3.56
	IN		CB	3.98
ALA 851	CA	MET 806	CG	3.66
	CA		CD	3.78
	CD		CD	3.57
	Св	THR 814	CG2	3.85
	CG2	LEU 840		3.53
VAL 052	CB		CD1	3.89
VAL 853	CG1	ILE 847	CDI	3.58
	CG2			3.82
	CD		CA	3.55
	ASN 804	0D1	3.66	
SED 954	OG		ODI	3.95
JEK 0.34	CB		CD	3.78
	00	PRO 805		3.32
	00		CG	3.88
			CB	3.31
	NE		CA	3.63
			С	3.44
ARG 858			CB	3.63
	CZ	SER 803	С	3.85
1110 030		JER OUJ	OG	3.91
			CB	3.26
	NH2		CA	3.91
			С	3.37
			0	3.39

ARG 858			OG	3.08
			Ν	3.1
	NE		CA	3.77
		CB	3.33	
	C7	ASN 804	N 3.75 CB 3.37	3.75
	CZ			3.37
	NILIO		N	3.64
	11112		CB	3.33

Supplementary Table 2. Mutations and their predicted effect on structure. Interactions <4Å that may be disrupted by the specified mutation are listed in reference to "protomer B". Mutations identified in HSV-2 are identified with an "*". Further residue contact details can be found in Supplementary Fig. 5 and Supplementary Table 1. A truncation resulting from a naturally occurring frameshift, rather than being engineered, is marked with a "#".

Hyperfusogeni	c Point Mutations		
Mutation	Isolated (I) or Engineered (E)	Location in the CTD	Possible effect on the structure
R796C ²	E	TMD, next to R800, may interact with headgroups	Elimination of basic charge and possible disruption of membrane interactions
R800W ²	E	TMD, next to R796, may interact with headgroups	Elimination of basic charge and possible disruption of membrane interactions
P805A* ³	E	start of h1a, invariant residue	Disruption of h1 structure and thus h1/h2 and h1/tmd packing
Y810A* ³	E	follows h1a, sc makes HB with sc of S854 and mc of M850 in C	Disruption of HBs at the h1/h2 interface
T813I ²	E	h1b, sc has numerous weak interactions with h2 of A and C	Disruption of h1/h2 packing
L817H ⁴ or L817P ⁵ or E816/L817 2aa insertion ⁶	I/E	end of h1b	Unclear
D836A* ³	E	h2, conserved among alphas, contributes negative charge to the inner face, sc makes HBs to A838 and K839 in B.	Unclear, possible decrease in CTD base negative charge, disruption of h1/h2 packing, and h1b to h2 linker structure
Y849A* ⁷	E	h2, sc makes HB with mc of D834 and mc of D836 in C	Disruption of HBs at the h2/h2 interface
V853A* ³	E	h2, sc makes hydrophobic contacts with h1 region of A and h2 of C	Disruption of h1/h2 packing
S854F ⁸	Ι	h2, sc makes HB with sc of Y810 of A and weak interactions with h1a of C	Disruption of HBs at the h1/h2 interface
A855V ^{4,9}	Ι	h2, no contacts of note	Unclear, potential increase in hydrophobicity
E857D*10	Ι	h2, sc makes HBs with mc	Disruption of HBs at the

		of L812 and T813 of A	h1/h2 interface
R858H ^{6,11} or	I/E	h2, poor density for sc, sc	Elimination of basic charge
R858C ²		makes weak interactions	and possible disruption of
		with tmd-h1a connector of	membrane interactions,
		C, may interact with	disruption of h2/TMD/h1
		headgroups	interface
T859P*12	Ι	h2, no contacts of note	Proline would disrupt the h2
			helix thereby disrupting
			h1/h2 and h2/tmd packing
K864A/K865	Е	C terminus of h2, may	Elimination of basic charge
A/K866A ¹³		interact with headgroups	and possible disruption of
			membrane interactions

Limited surface expression mutations				
Mutation	Isolated (I) or Engineered (E)	Location in the CTD	Possible effect on the structure	
L801A*3	E	TMD, faces CTD symmetry	Disruption of tmd/h1 and	
		axis, mc interacts with h1a of	threefold tmd	
		C and sc interacts with	interactions	
		equivalent residues on A and C		
M806A*3	E	h1a, faces CTD symmetry	Disruption of h1/h1 and	
		axis, sc contacts h1a-h1b	h1/h2 interactions	
		connector of C and h2 of A		
L809A*3	E	h1a, faces CTD symmetry	Disruption of h1/tmd and	
		axis, contacts tmd and h1a of	h1/h1 interactions	
		А		
P811A*3	E	precedes h1b, invariant residue	Disruption of h1	
			structure and thus h1/h2	
			packing	
M846A* ³	E	h2, faces CTD symmetry axis,	Disruption of threefold	
		sc interacts with equivalent	h2 interaction	
		residues on A and C		
L852A*3	E	h2, no known contacts	Unclear	

Slow rate-of-entry mutation				
Mutation	Isolated (I) or Engineered (E)	Location in the CTD	Possible effect on the structure	
A851V ²	Ι	h2, mc and sc interact weakly	Stabilization of h1/h2	
		with h1a and h1b of C	packing	

C-terminal truncations					
Mutation	Expression	gB-null virus complementation	Fusion phenotype	Possible effect on the structure	
HSV-1 gB810 ⁶	ND	No	No fusion	Loss of h1b, h2, and h3; loss of CTD core	
HSV-1 gB838 ⁶	ND	No	No fusion	Loss of h2 and h3; misfolded CTD core	
HSV-1 gB840 ¹⁴	ND	No	ND	Loss of h2 and h3; misfolded CTD core	
HSV-1 gB849 ⁶	ND	No	No fusion	Loss of h3, partial loss of h2; misfolded CTD core	
HSV-1 gB851 ^{6,15} HSV-2 gB851 ⁷	Reduced/ Reduced	No/ No	No fusion/ No fusion	Loss of h3, partial loss of h2; misfolded CTD core	
HSV-1 gB855 ¹⁴ HSV-2 gB855 ⁷	ND/ >WT	No/ Poor	ND/ Syncytial, hyperfusogenic	Loss of h3, partial loss of h2; misfolded CTD core in HSV-1 but not HSV-2	
HSV-2 gB858 ⁷	>WT	Yes	Syncytial, hyperfusogenic	Loss of h3, partial loss of h2	
HSV-1 gB863 ⁶	ND	Yes	Reduced	Loss of h3, partial loss of h2	
HSV-2 gB866 ⁷	>WT	Yes	Syncytial, hyperfusogenic	Loss of h3	
HSV-1 gB868 ^{15,16}	WT	ND	Hyperfusogenic	Loss of h3	
HSV-2 gB870 ¹² #	WT	ND	Syncytial	Loss of h3	
HSV-2 gB874 ⁷	>WT	Yes	Syncytial, hyperfusogenic	Loss of h3	
HSV-1 gB876 ¹⁴⁻¹⁶	WT	Yes	Syncytial, hyperfusogenic	Partial loss of h3	
HSV-2 gB879 ⁷	>WT	Yes	Syncytial, hyperfusogenic	Partial loss of h3	
HSV-2 gB884 ⁷	>WT	Yes	hyperfusogenic	Loss of unstructured C terminus	
HSV-1 gB888 ¹⁶	ND	ND	WT	Loss of unstructured C terminus	
HSV-2 gB894 ⁷	WT	Yes	WT	Loss of unstructured C terminus	

Supplementary References

- 1. Davis, I.W. et al. MolProbity: all-atom contacts and structure validation for proteins and nucleic acids. *Nucleic Acids Res* **35**, W375-83 (2007).
- 2. Gage, P.J., Levine, M. & Glorioso, J.C. Syncytium-inducing mutations localize to two discrete regions within the cytoplasmic domain of herpes simplex virus type 1 glycoprotein B. *J Virol* **67**, 2191-201 (1993).
- 3. Ruel, N., Zago, A. & Spear, P.G. Alanine substitution of conserved residues in the cytoplasmic tail of herpes simplex virus gB can enhance or abolish cell fusion activity and viral entry. *Virology* **346**, 229-37 (2006).
- 4. Engel, J.P., Boyer, E.P. & Goodman, J.L. Two novel single amino acid syncytial mutations in the carboxy terminus of glycoprotein B of herpes simplex virus type 1 confer a unique pathogenic phenotype. *Virology* **192**, 112-20 (1993).
- 5. Diakidi-Kosta, A., Michailidou, G., Kontogounis, G., Sivropoulou, A. & Arsenakis, M. A single amino acid substitution in the cytoplasmic tail of the glycoprotein B of herpes simplex virus 1 affects both syncytium formation and binding to intracellular heparan sulfate. *Virus Res* **93**, 99-108 (2003).
- 6. Cai, W.H., Gu, B. & Person, S. Role of glycoprotein B of herpes simplex virus type 1 in viral entry and cell fusion. *J Virol* **62**, 2596-604 (1988).
- 7. Fan, Z. et al. Truncation of herpes simplex virus type 2 glycoprotein B increases its cell surface expression and activity in cell-cell fusion, but these properties are unrelated. *J Virol* **76**, 9271-83 (2002).
- 8. Walev, I., Lingen, M., Lazzaro, M., Weise, K. & Falke, D. Cyclosporin A resistance of herpes simplex virus-induced "fusion from within" as a phenotypical marker of mutations in the Syn 3 locus of the glycoprotein B gene. *Virus Genes* **8**, 83-6 (1994).
- 9. Haanes, E.J., Nelson, C.M., Soule, C.L. & Goodman, J.L. The UL45 gene product is required for herpes simplex virus type 1 glycoprotein B-induced fusion. *J Virol* **68**, 5825-34 (1994).
- 10. Muggeridge, M.I. Characterization of cell-cell fusion mediated by herpes simplex virus 2 glycoproteins gB, gD, gH and gL in transfected cells. *J. Gen. Virol.*, 2017-2027 (2000).
- 11. Bzik, D.J., Fox, B.A., DeLuca, N.A. & Person, S. Nucleotide sequence of a region of the herpes simplex virus type 1 gB glycoprotein gene: mutations affecting rate of virus entry and cell fusion. *Virology* **137**, 185-90 (1984).
- 12. Muggeridge, M.I., Grantham, M.L. & Johnson, F.B. Identification of syncytial mutations in a clinical isolate of herpes simplex virus 2. *Virology* **328**, 244-53 (2004).
- 13. Rogalin, H.B. & Heldwein, E.E. The interplay between the HSV-1 gB cytodomains and the gH cytotail during cell-cell fusion. *J Virol* (2015).
- 14. Baghian, A., Huang, L., Newman, S., Jayachandra, S. & Kousoulas, K.G. Truncation of the carboxy-terminal 28 amino acids of glycoprotein B specified by herpes simplex virus type 1 mutant amb1511-7 causes extensive cell fusion. *J Virol* **67**, 2396-401 (1993).
- 15. Silverman, J.L., Greene, N.G., King, D.S. & Heldwein, E.E. Membrane Requirement for Folding of the Herpes Simplex Virus 1 gB Cytodomain Suggests a Unique Mechanism of Fusion Regulation. *Journal of virology* **86**, 8171-84 (2012).
- 16. Foster, T.P., Melancon, J.M. & Kousoulas, K.G. An alpha-helical domain within the carboxyl terminus of herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) glycoprotein B (gB) is

associated with cell fusion and resistance to heparin inhibition of cell fusion. *Virology* **287**, 18-29 (2001).