

# Growth mechanism of amyloid Fibrils and Oligomers

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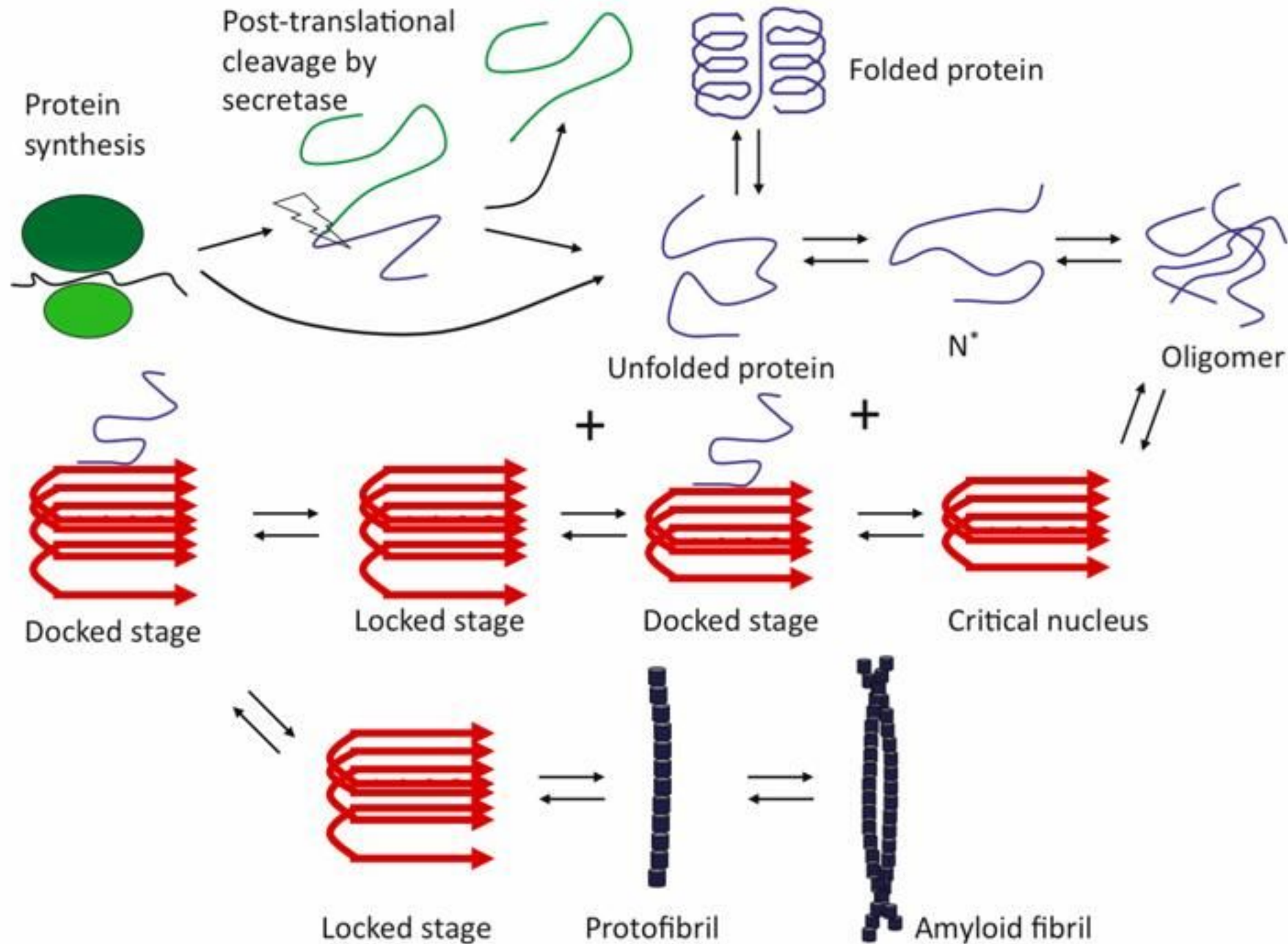
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Funding NIH

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Gerhard Stock (Germany)

# Fate of a Polypeptide Chain





# “Post Evolutionary” Diseases

[Nature 418, 729-730 (2002)]

## *Clinical Syndrome*

Alzheimer's disease

Transmissible spongiform  
encephalopathies

Reactive systemic amyloidosis

Type II diabetes mellitus

Senile systemic amyloidosis

Hemodialysis-related amyloidosis

## *Fibril subunit*

1-40 or 1-42 fragment of A $\beta$  protein

Full-length or fragments of prion protein

Fragment of amyloid A protein

Islet amyloid polypeptide (IAPP)

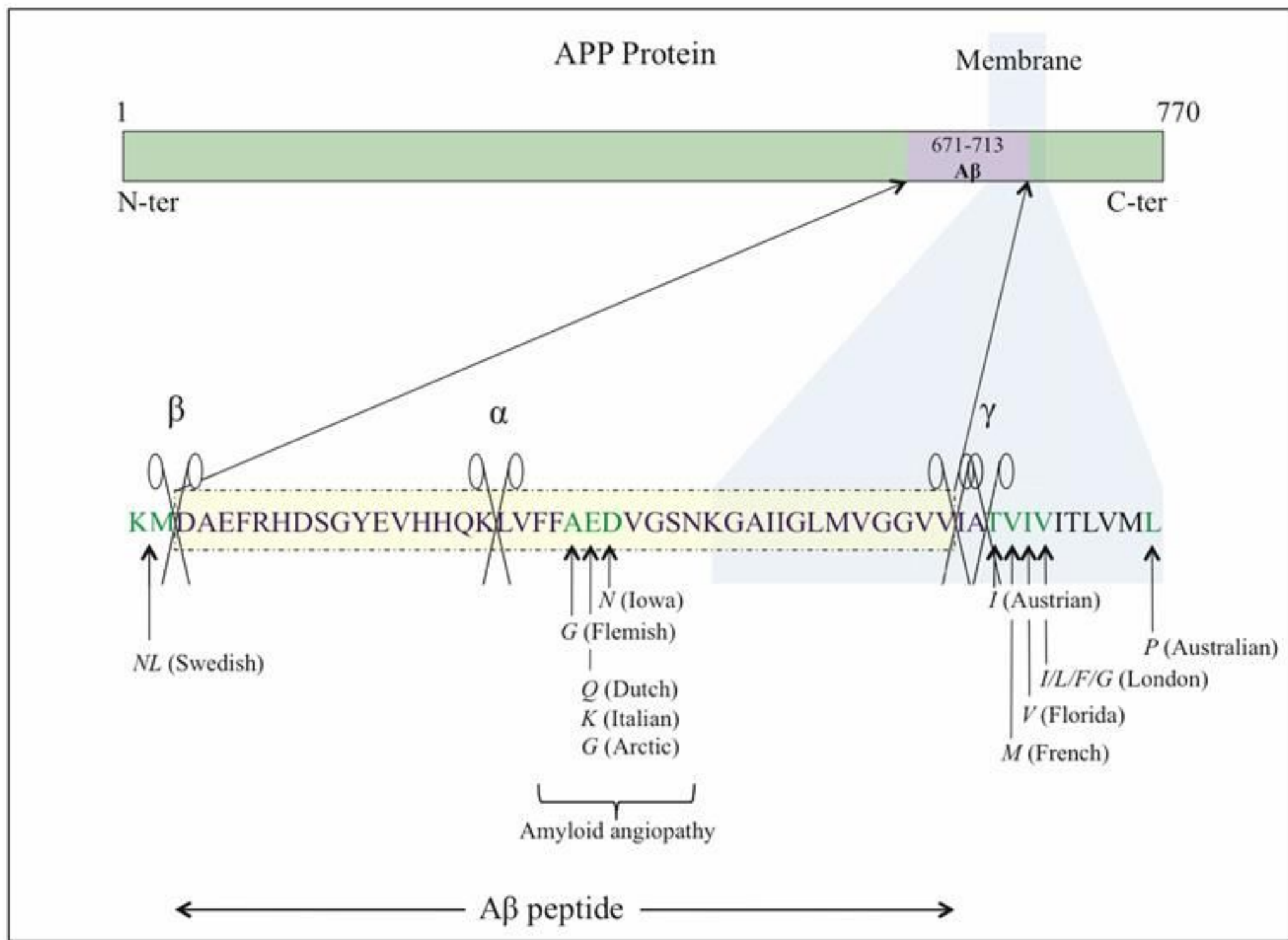
Wild-type transthyretin

Full-length, wild-type  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin

What is the common molecular growth mechanism, if any?

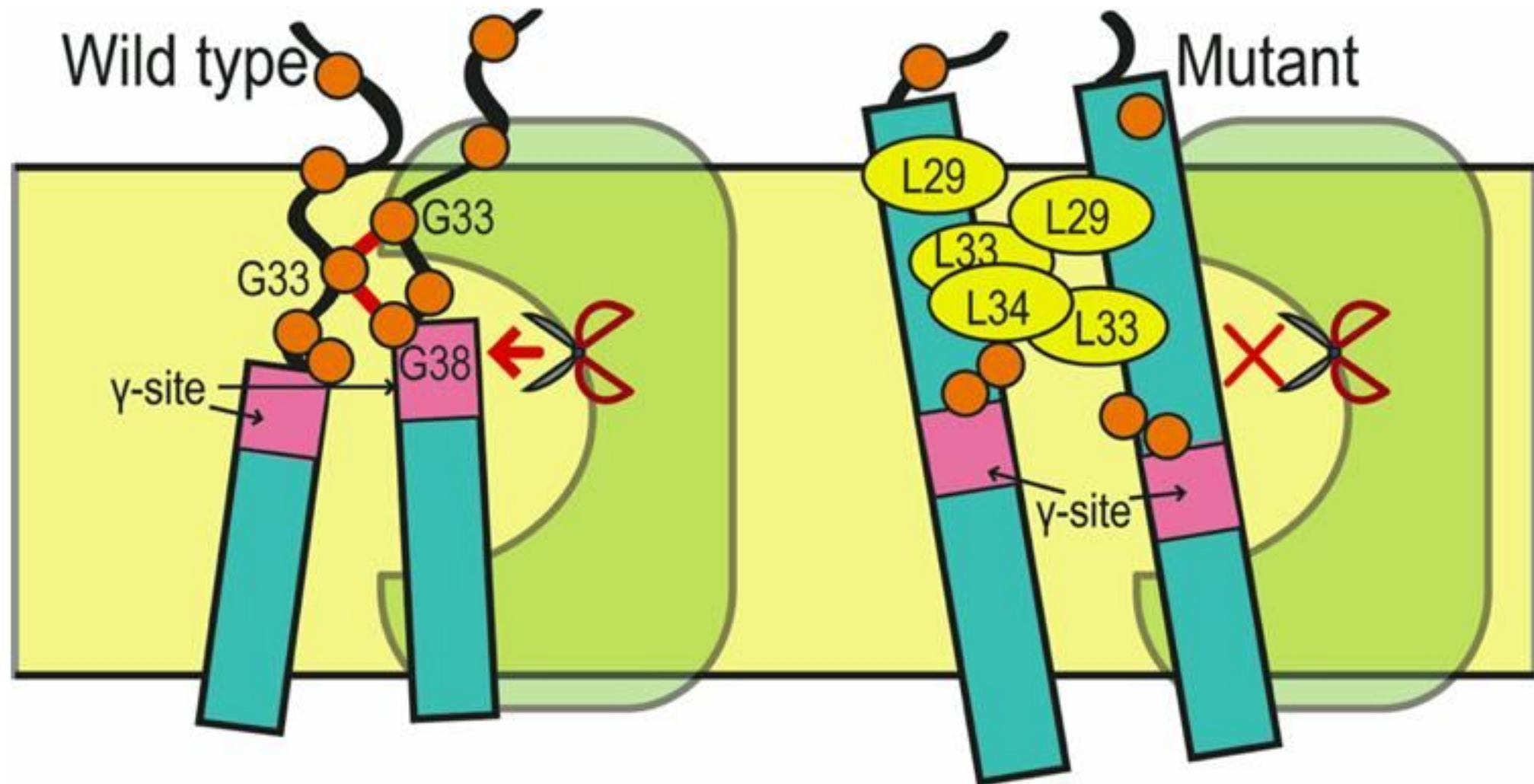
## Current Problems of Interest (to us)

Role of secretases (Drug Targets) in metabolic processing of APP into A $\beta$





## Cleavage & products



Once cleaved how does  $A\beta$  associate?

Kinetics of oligomer formation, Growth of fibrils

Toy model +  $A\beta$  + Sup35 (Yeast prions)

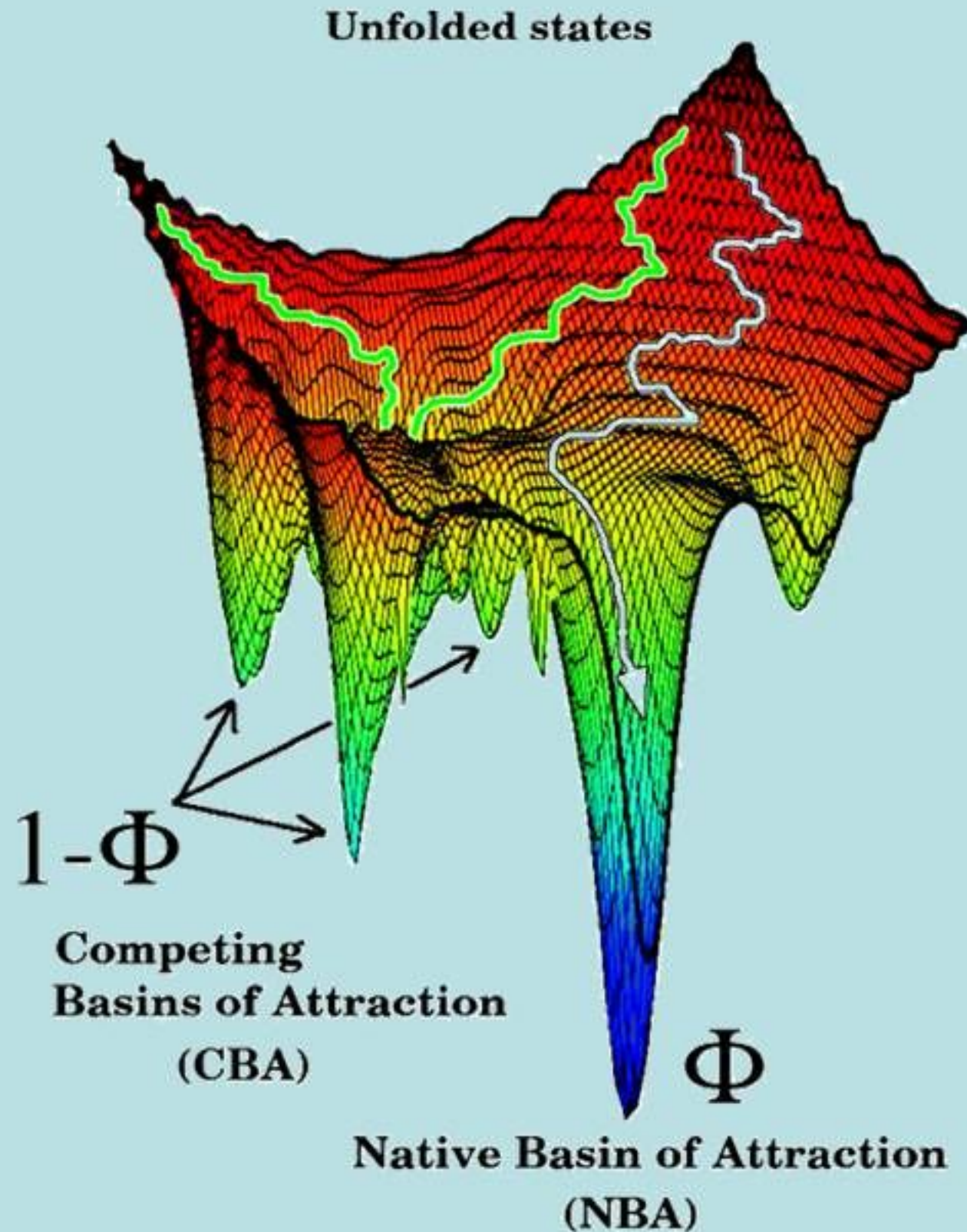
# Outline of the Talk

- Fluctuations in the Monomers & Implications
- Growth of monomers and Nucleation (?)
- Molecular events in the addition of monomers to fibrils (role of water Key)

Protein Misfolding Consequences



# Relation to monomeric folding: Conformational Diseases



Hyeon and dt  
Biochemistry (05)

Monomer can misfold to multiple conformations

Structural variations in the CBAs imprinted in oligomers and fibrils

# Scenarios for AGgregation

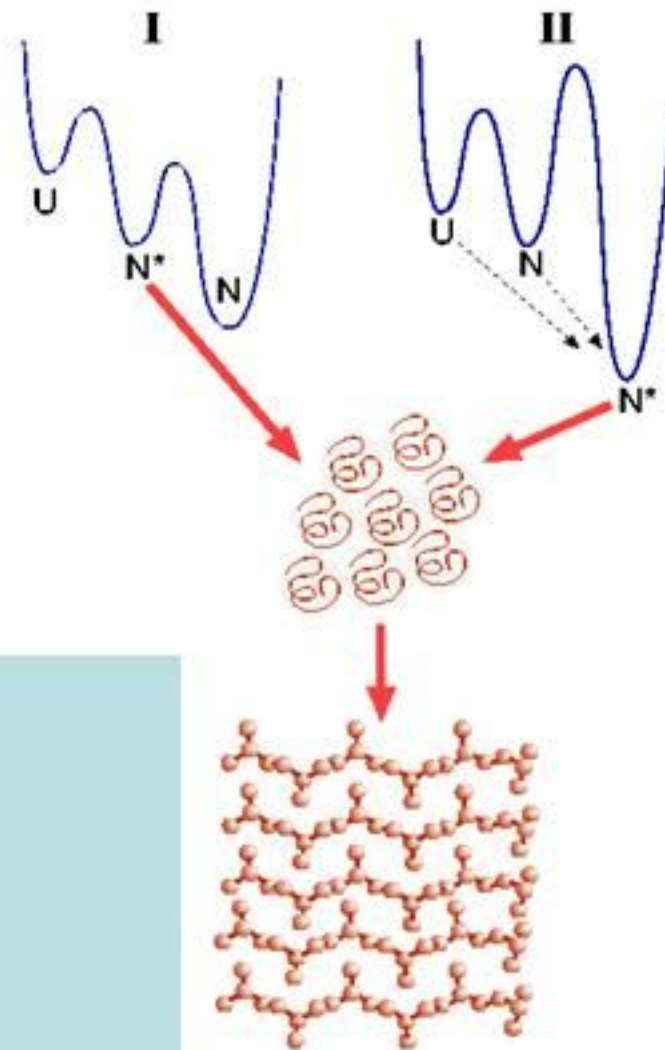
(dt, D. Klimov and R.Dima, Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol., 2003)

## Example TTR

$N^*$  = metastable  
(conformational  
variations)

$N^*$  formation = partial  
unfolding

$K_G$  depends  
on rate of  
formation of  
 $N^*$  from  $N$  or  
 $U$  (Evidence from  
J. Kelly for TTR)



## Mammalian Prions

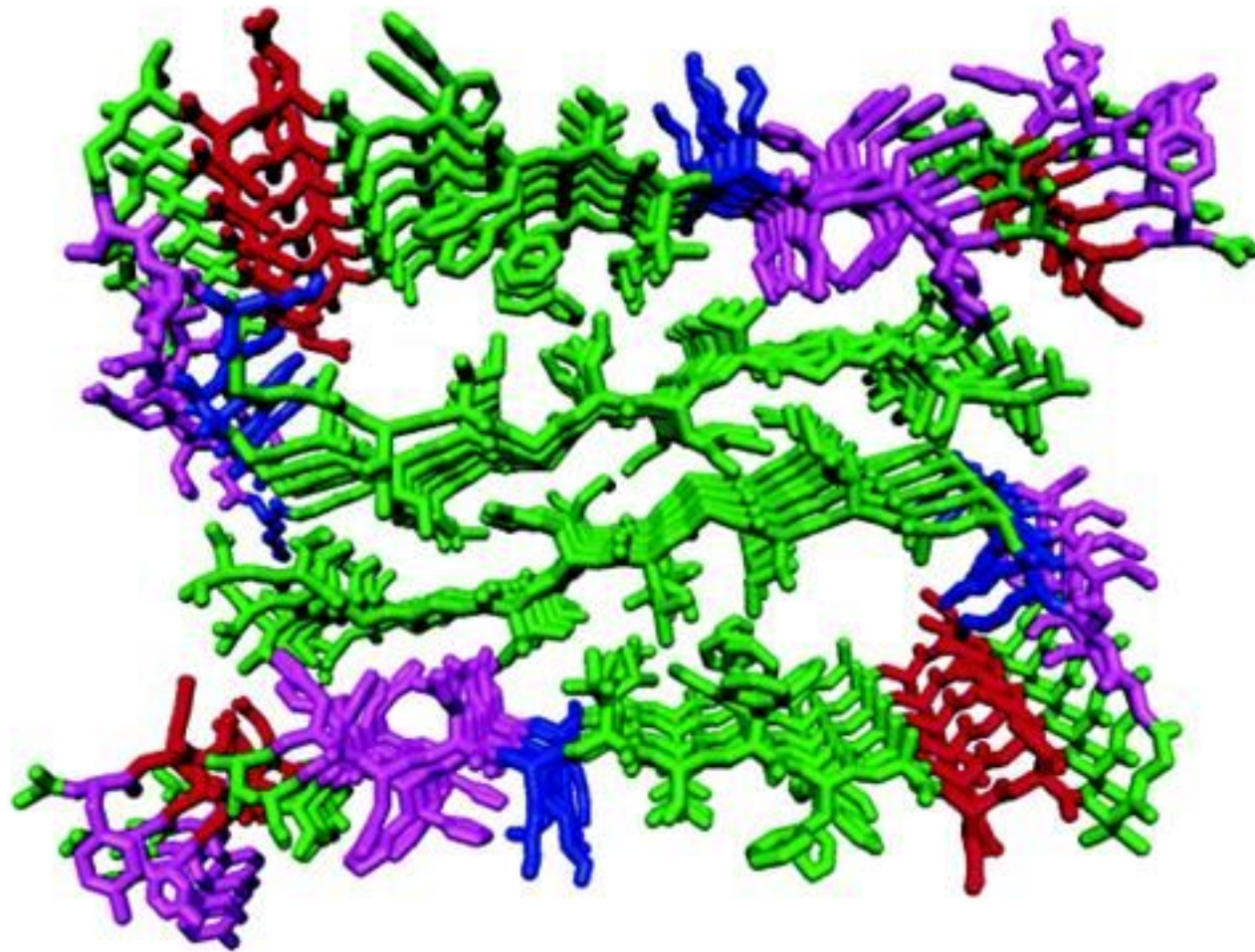
$N^*$  = stable

$N^*$  formation in prions =  
unfolding of N

$PrP^c$  is metastable  
with respect to  $PrP^*$   
aggregation prone  
Particle; Prediction  
Dima and dt PNAS (04)  
Surewicz PNAS (08)



## Towards a $A\beta$ Inspired Toy Model

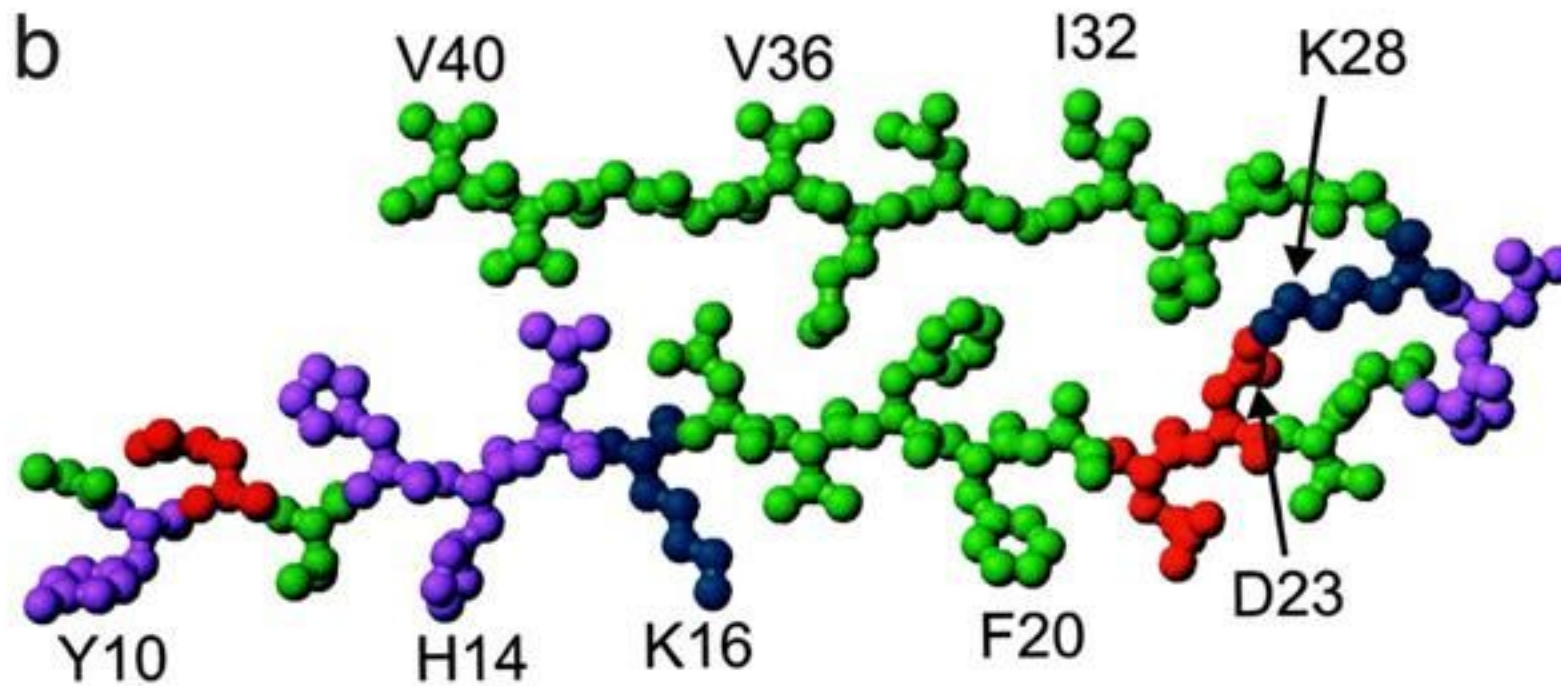
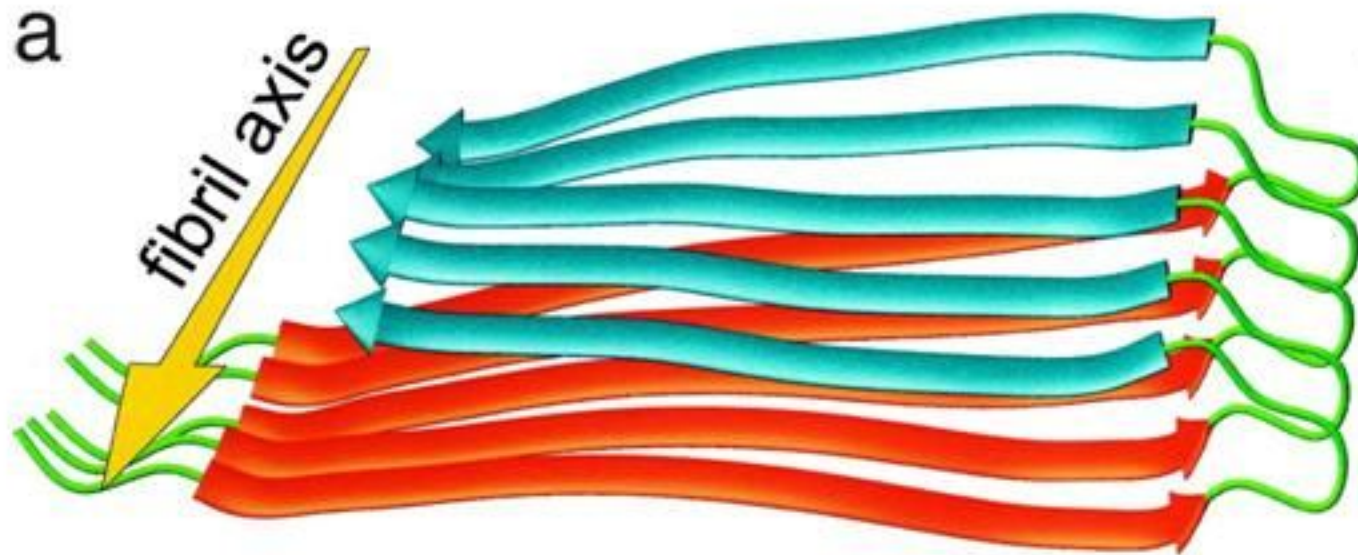


Double-layer (two)  
protofilaments ( $A\beta_{1-40}$ )

Strands ( $\beta$ -turn- $\beta$ )  
Perpendicular to fibril  
axis

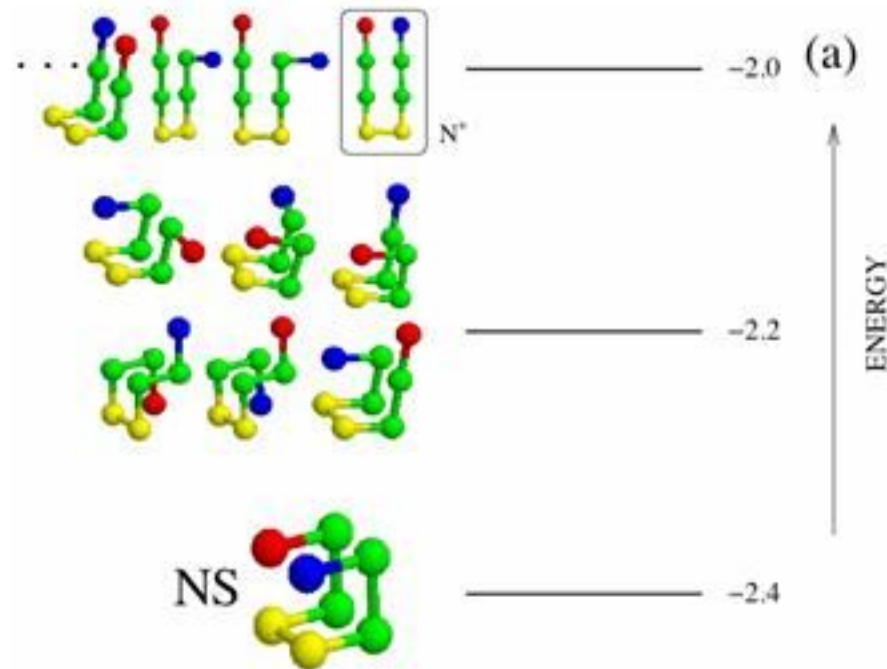
Tycko and company (NIH)

# $A\beta_{1-40}$ Structural Model (Tycko)





# Toy Model (Is the fibril structure encoded in monomer spectrum) Prot Sci 2002; JCP 2008

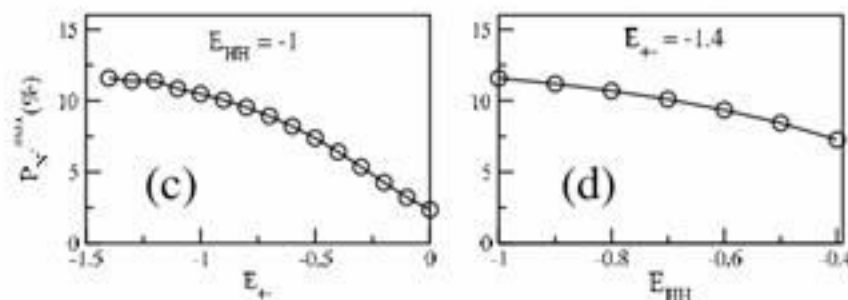
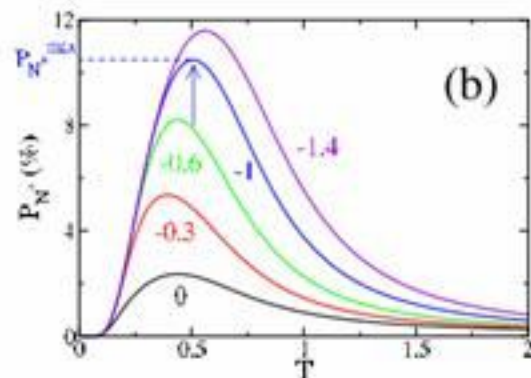


4 types of monomers  
(H, P, +, -)

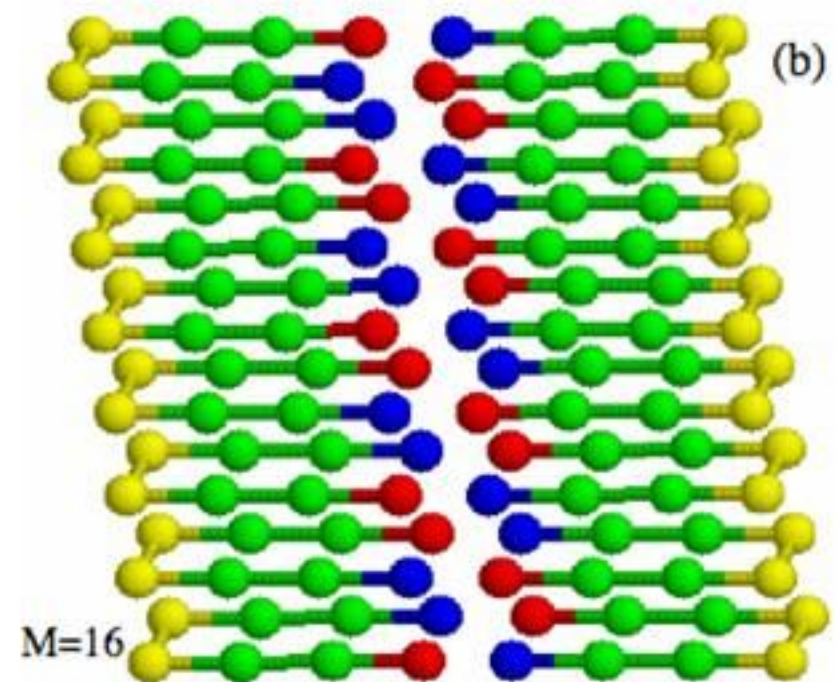
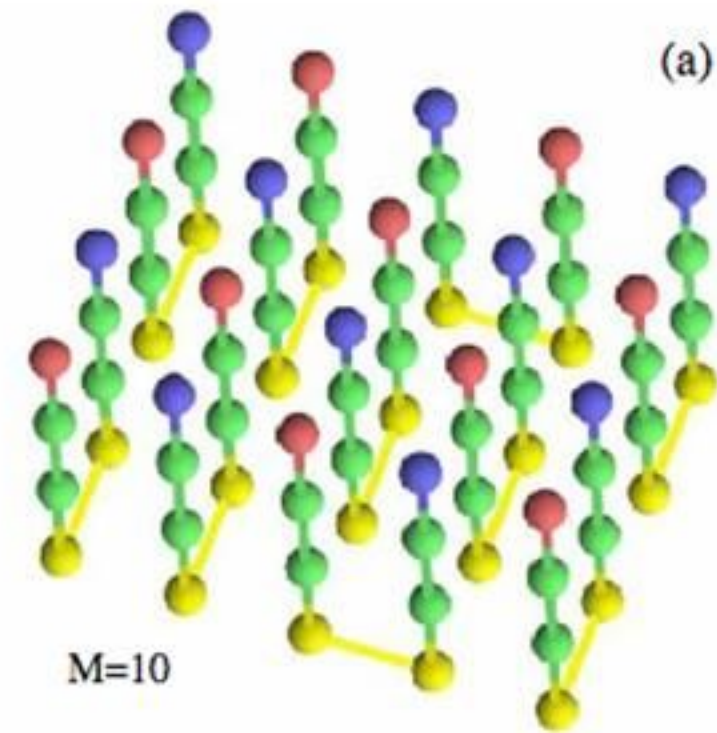
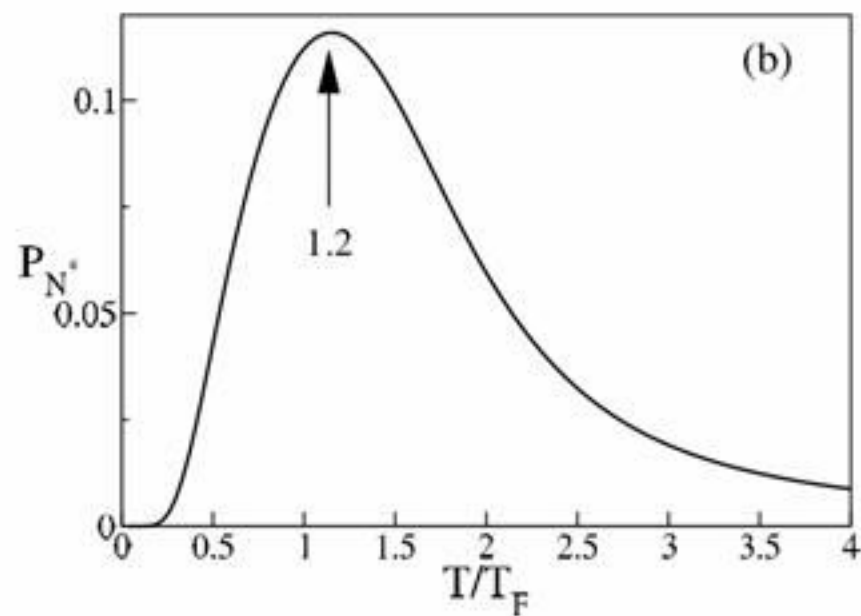
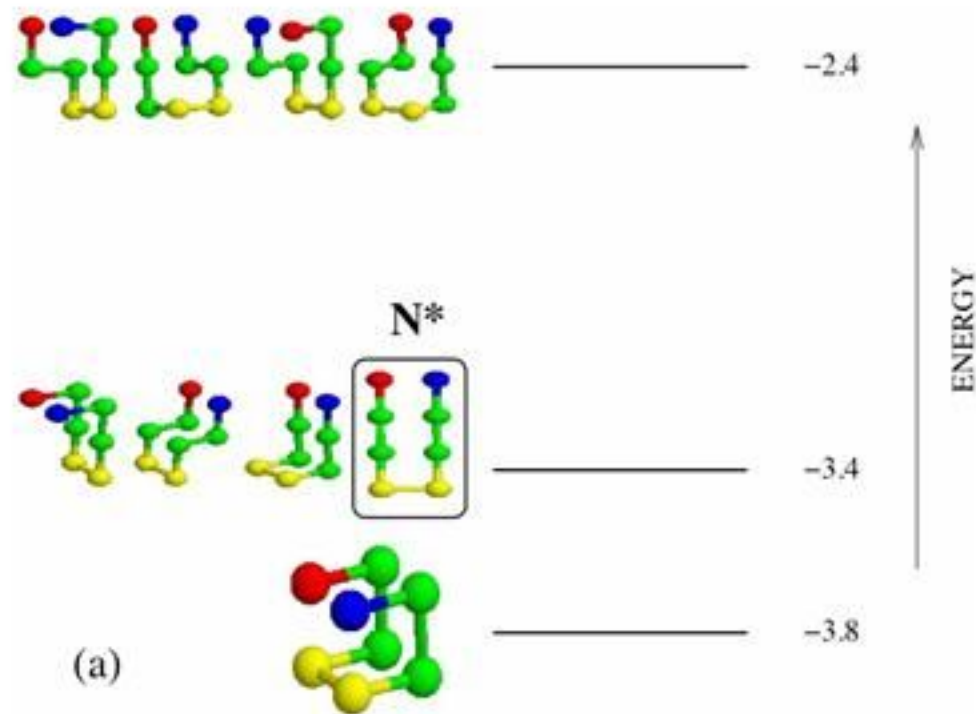
Monomer has 8 beads

# of sequences =  $4^8$   
(amyloime)

# of conformations on  
cubic lattice = 1,841

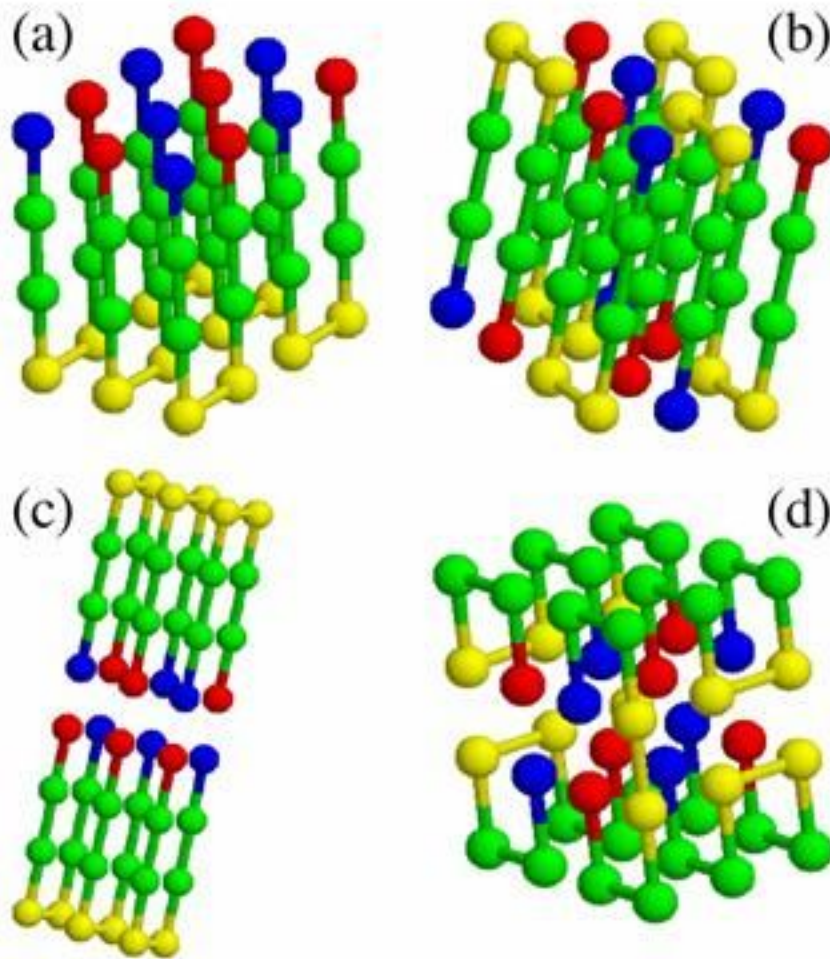


# Structure of “protofilament” + “fibril” Single and double layer





## Interplay of $E_{+-}$ and $E_{HH}$

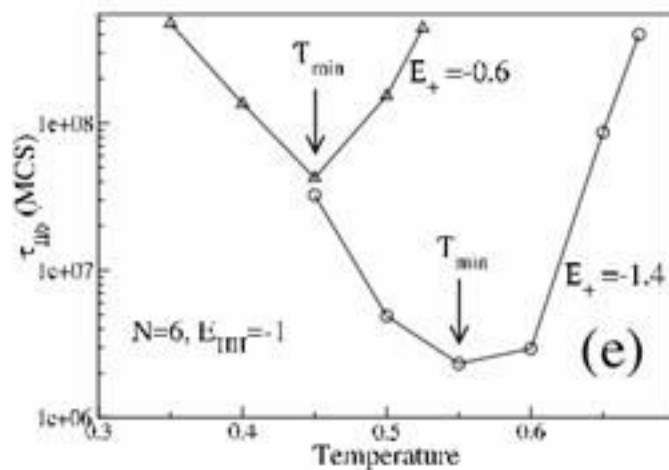


a: Monomers parallel  
 b: Monomer alternate  
 c: Double layer  
 d: No fibril compact

Optimal growth temp  
 $\tau_{\text{fib}} = (10^4 - 10^n)\tau_F$

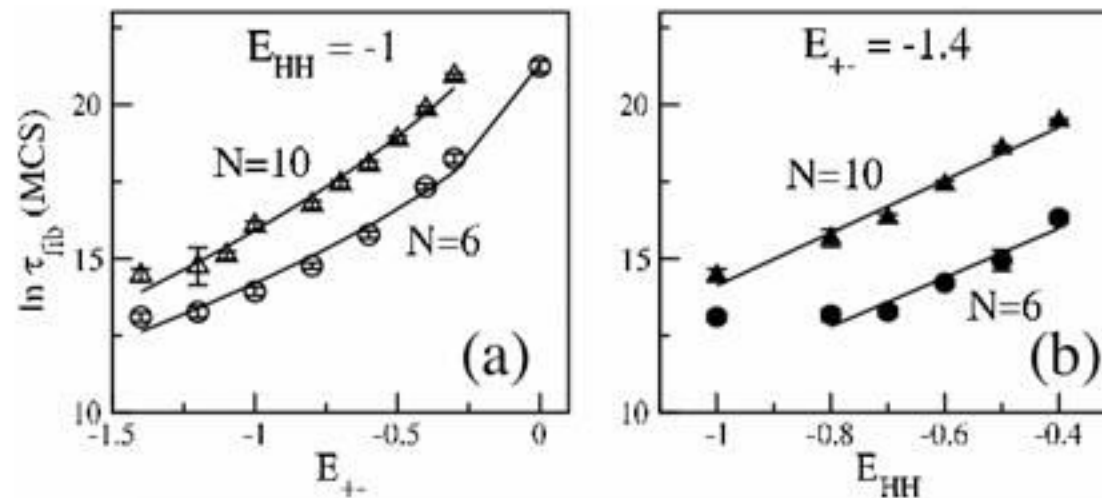
Largest n about 9

Seeding speeds up fibril  
 rate formation

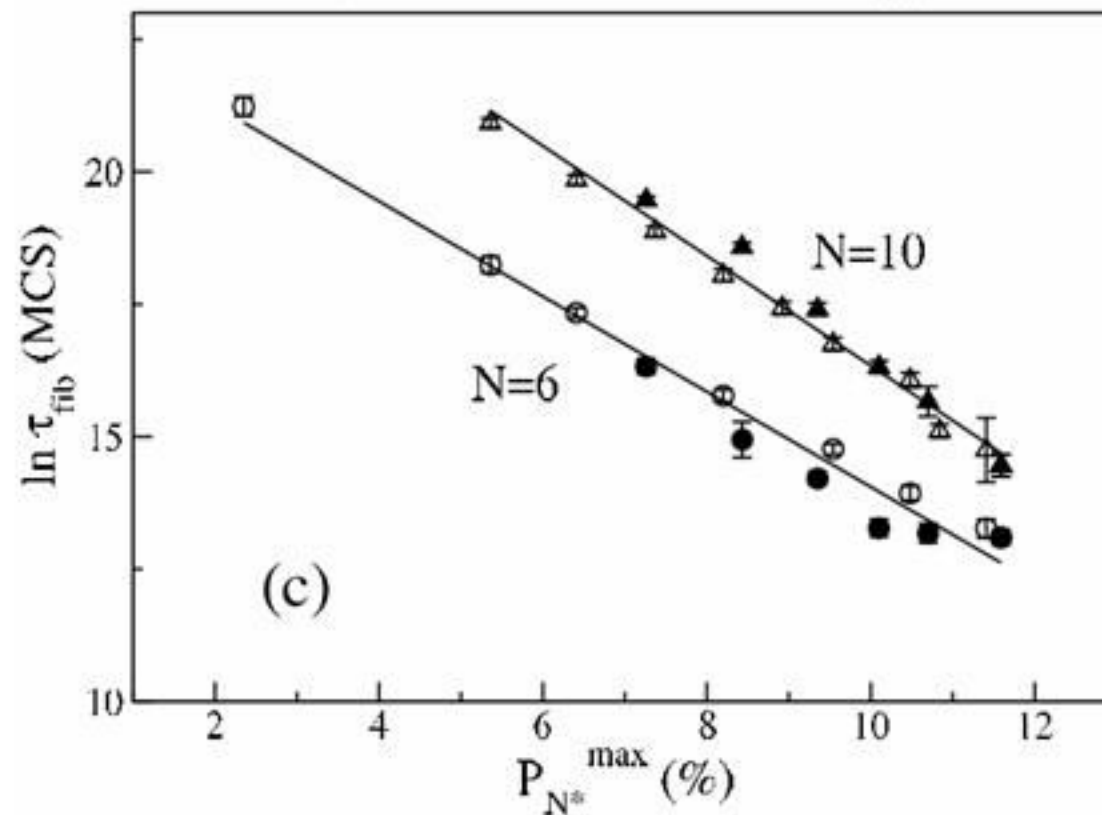


# Growth rate depends on $N^*$ population $P_{N^*}$

## Depends on sequence



Sequence +  $N^*$  ensemble  
fibril kinetics  $\Rightarrow$  monomer  
landscape encodes  
structure + growth rate

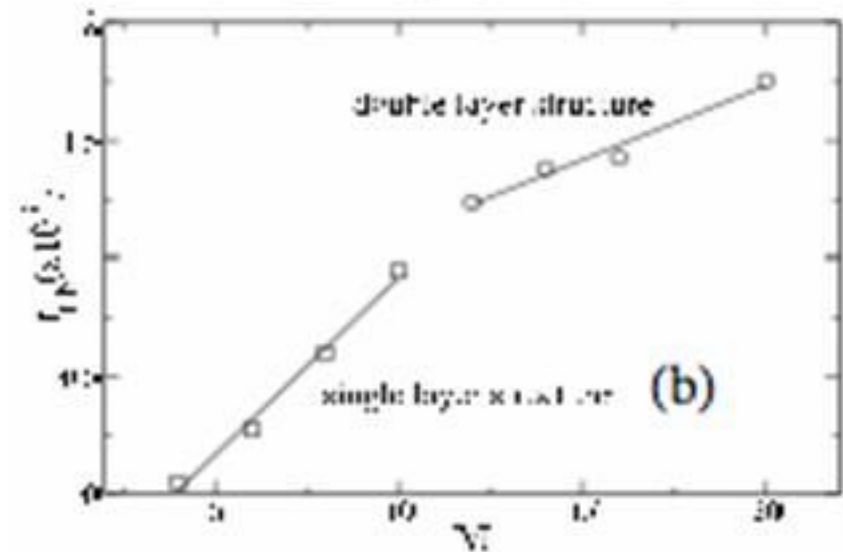
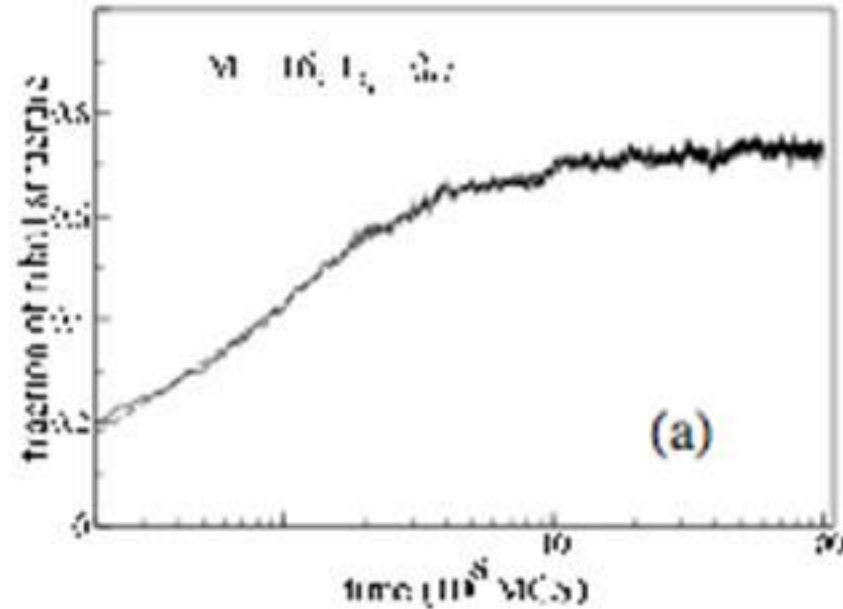




# Lifshitz-Slyazov Growth Law

## Supersaturated solution

J. Phys. Chem. Solids (1961)

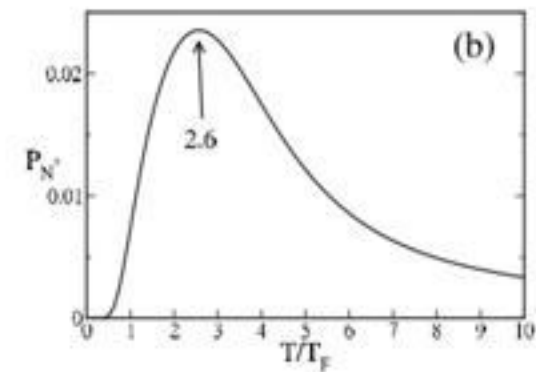
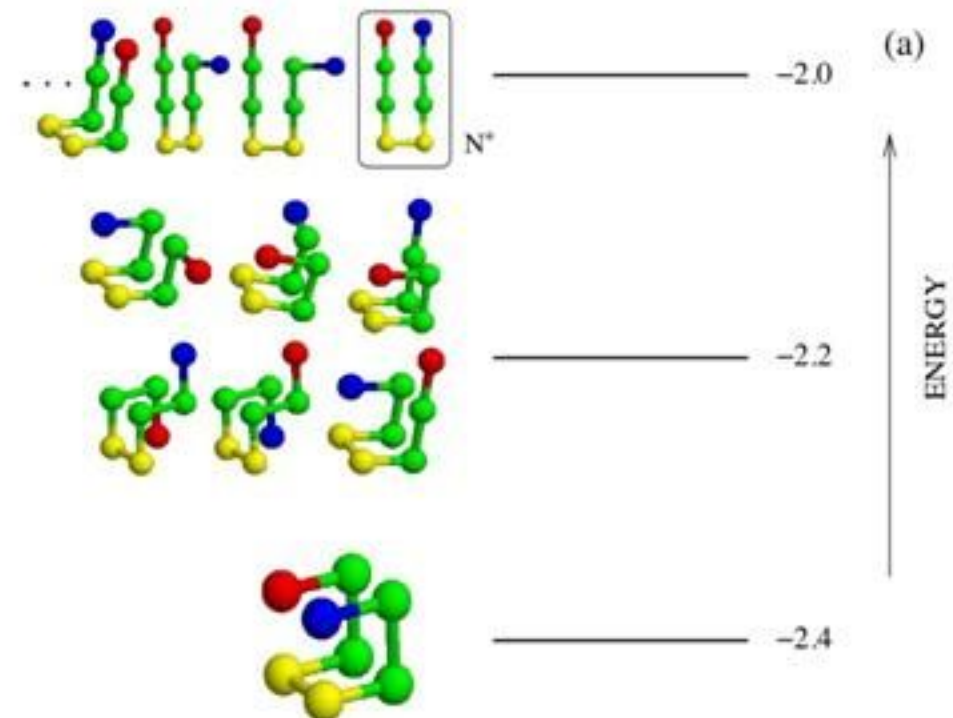
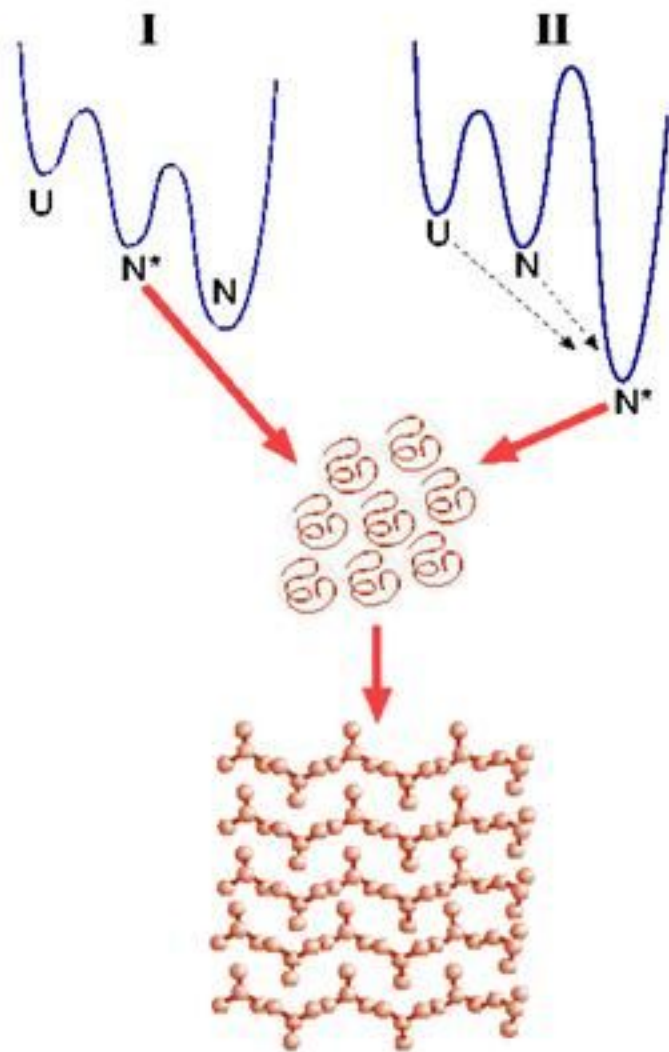


$$\tau_G \approx \tau_0 M^{1/3}$$

Large clusters  
incorporate  
small oligomers



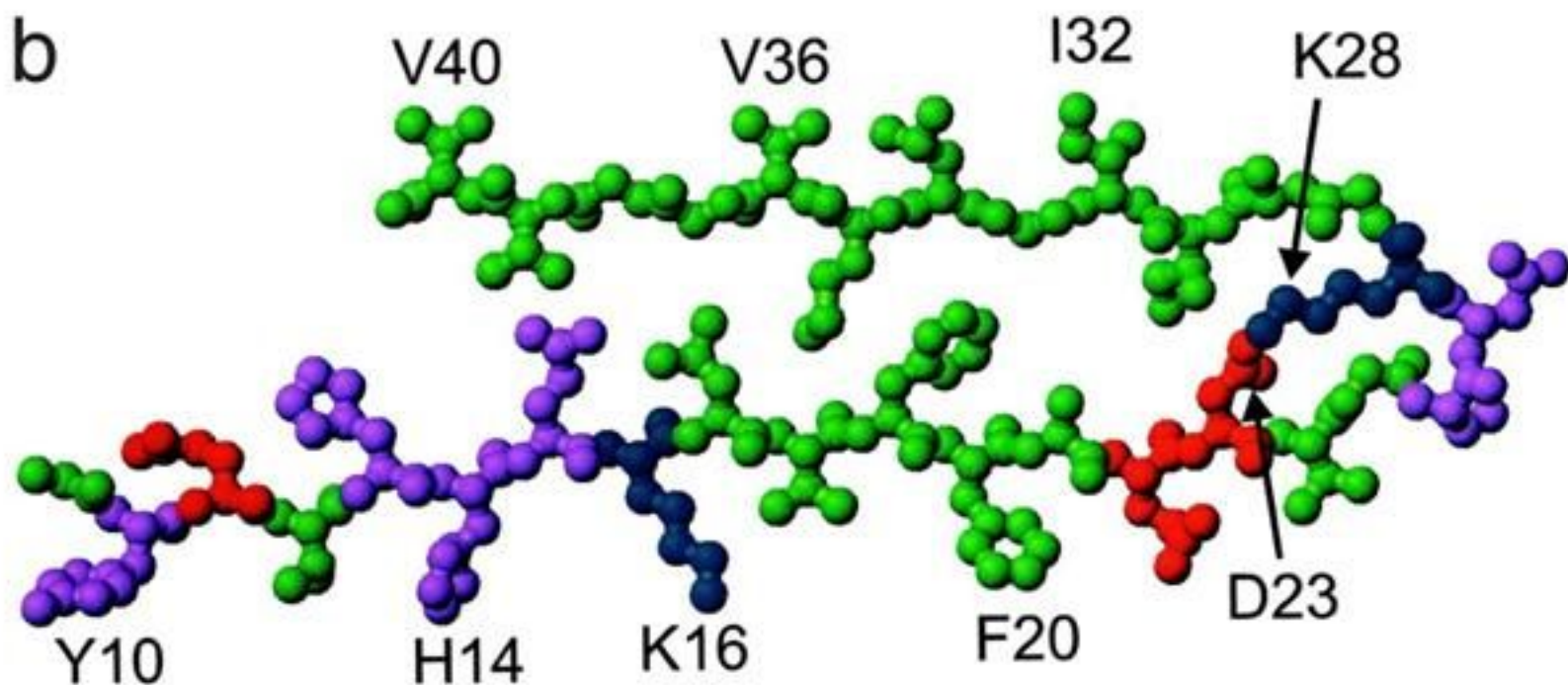
# Heterogeneity of $N^*$ determines polymorphism?



Nature of  $N^*$  depends on sequence



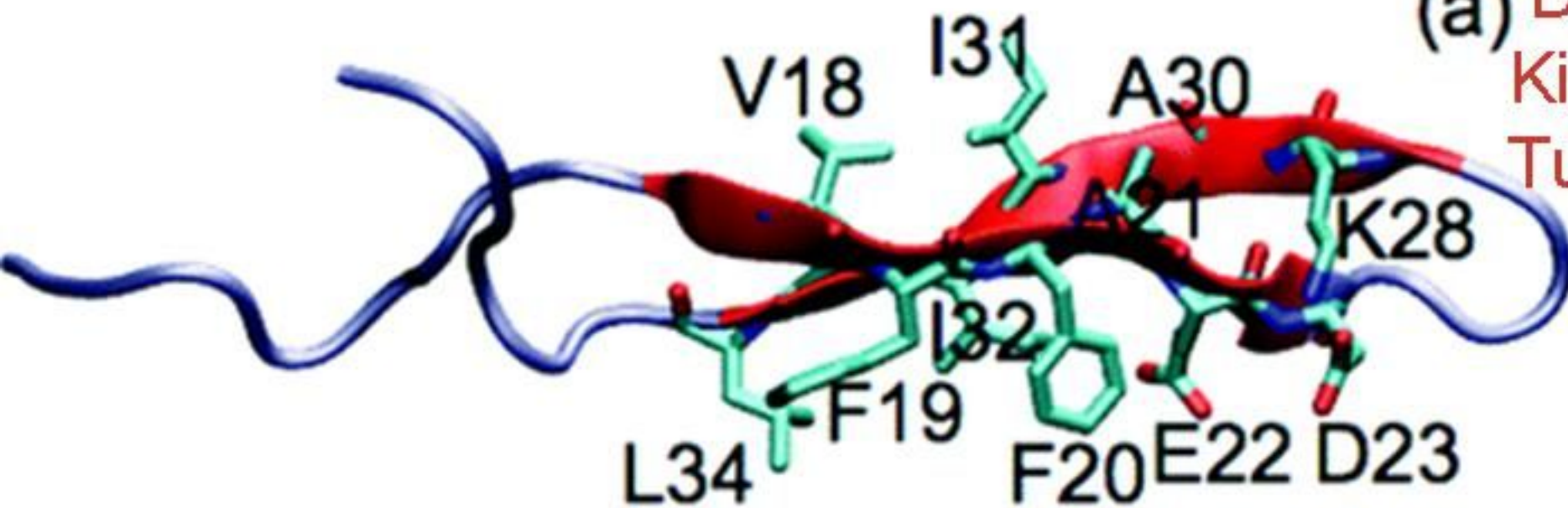
# N\* and Fibril monomer



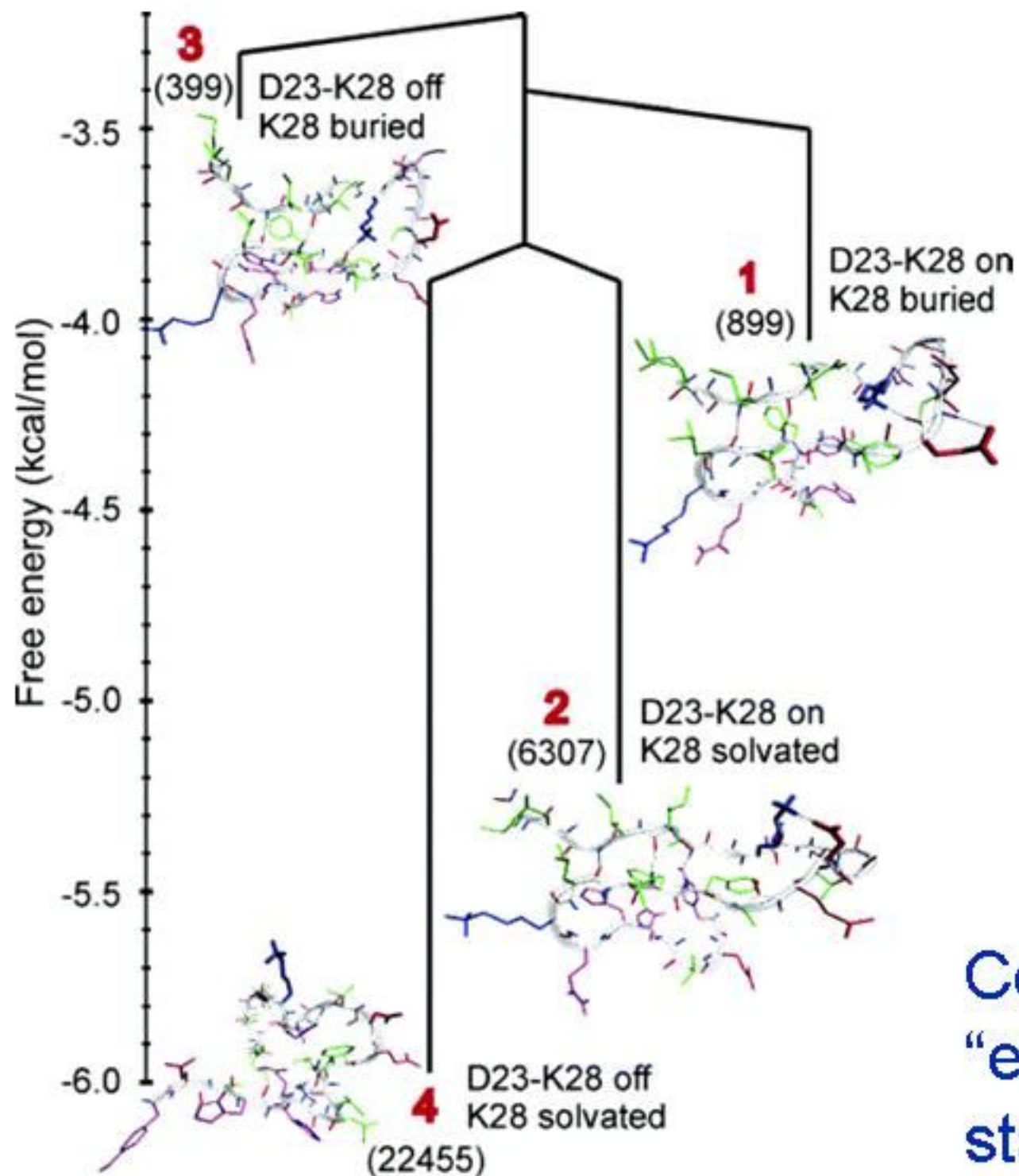
Tycko PNAS (02)

Reddy JPCB (09)

(a) D23-K28 +  
Kirschner-Straub  
Turn(VGSN)



# Free energy “spectra” for A $\beta$ (10-35) Tarus, Straub & dt JACS (2006)

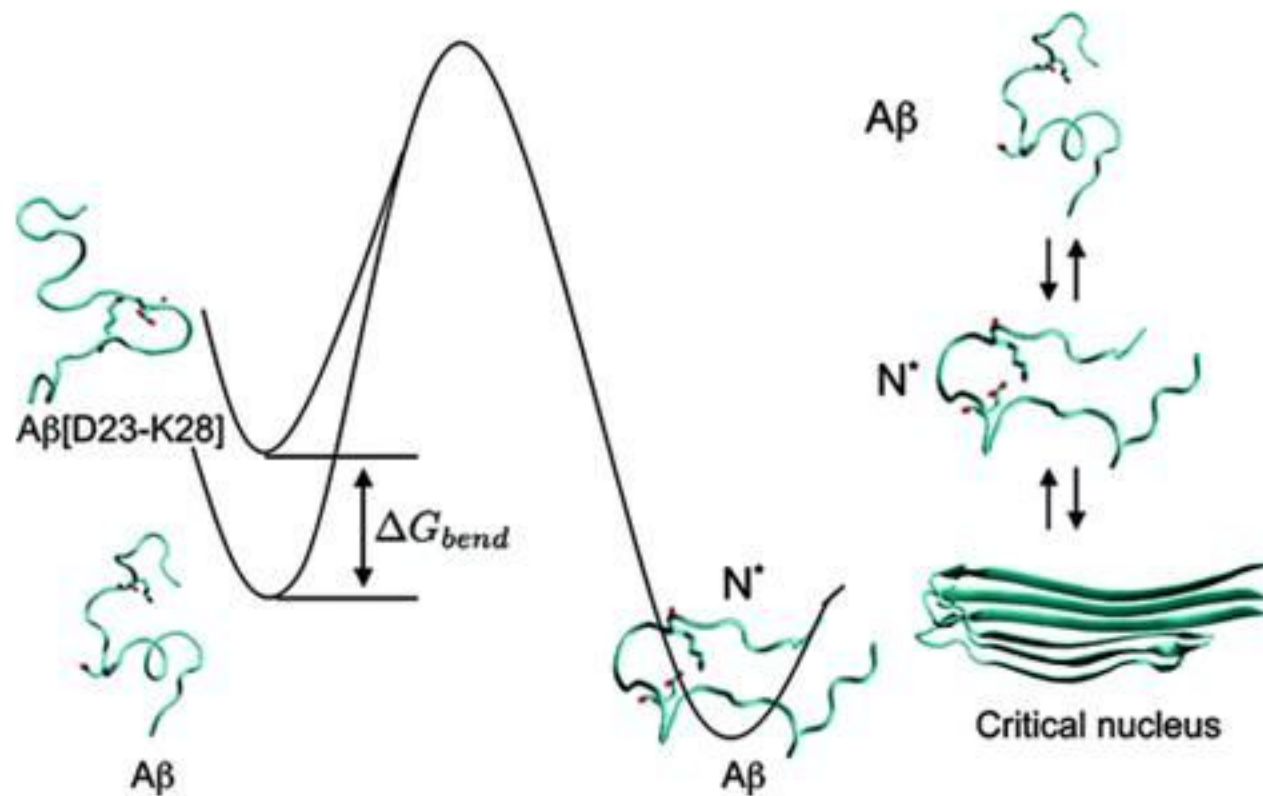


1 & 2 are N\* states!

Conjecture: Polymorphism  
“encoded” in spectra of N\*  
states



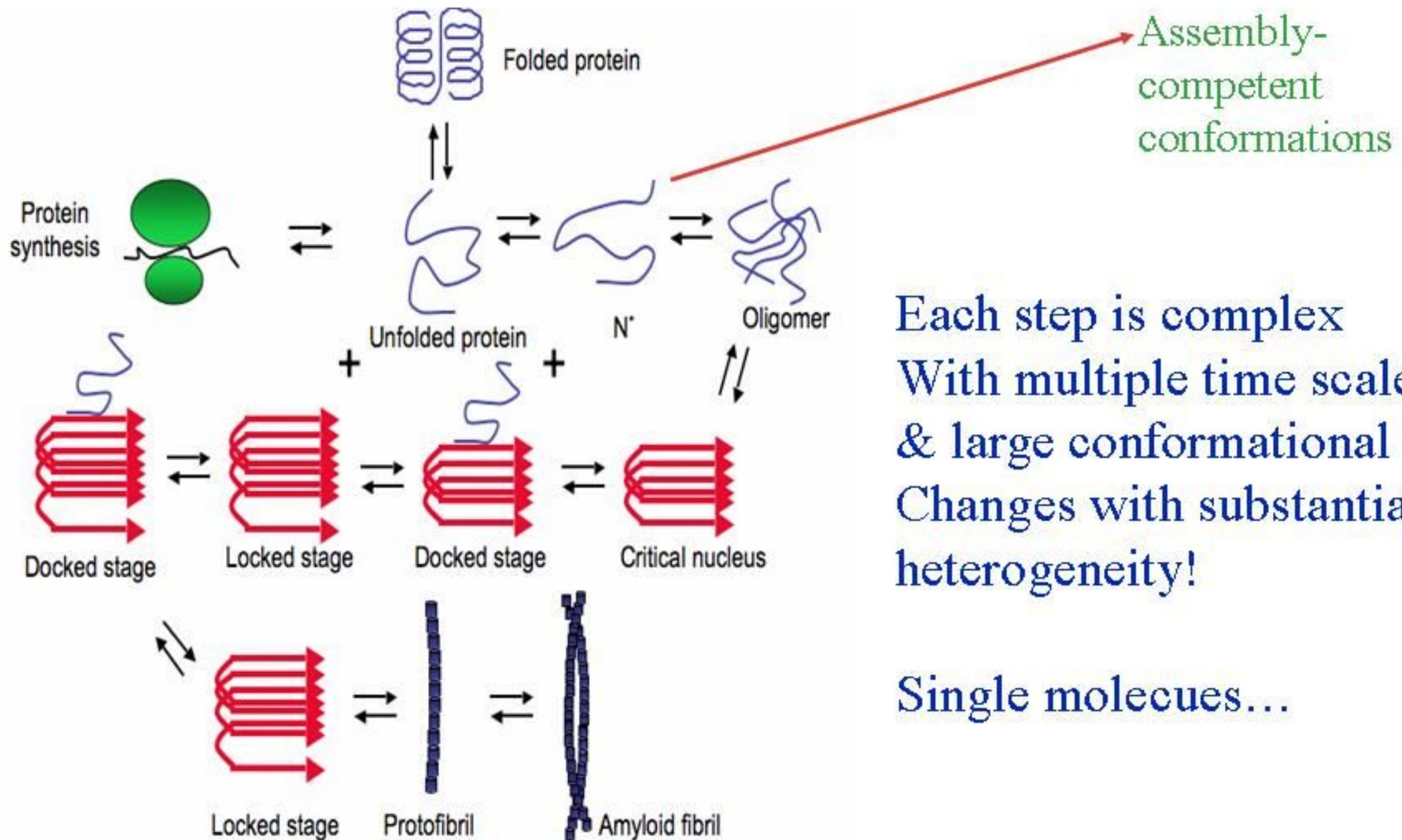
# D23-K28 salt bridge enhances fibril rate by 1000 (Meredith + Tycko)



Distinct N\*  
States could  
Grow into  
Different  
Fibrils..Monomer  
Spectra “encode”  
The distinct strains

Desolvation (water dehydration)  
a free energy barrier to form N\* in WT

# Cascade of events in protein aggregation (no chaperones, crowding..)



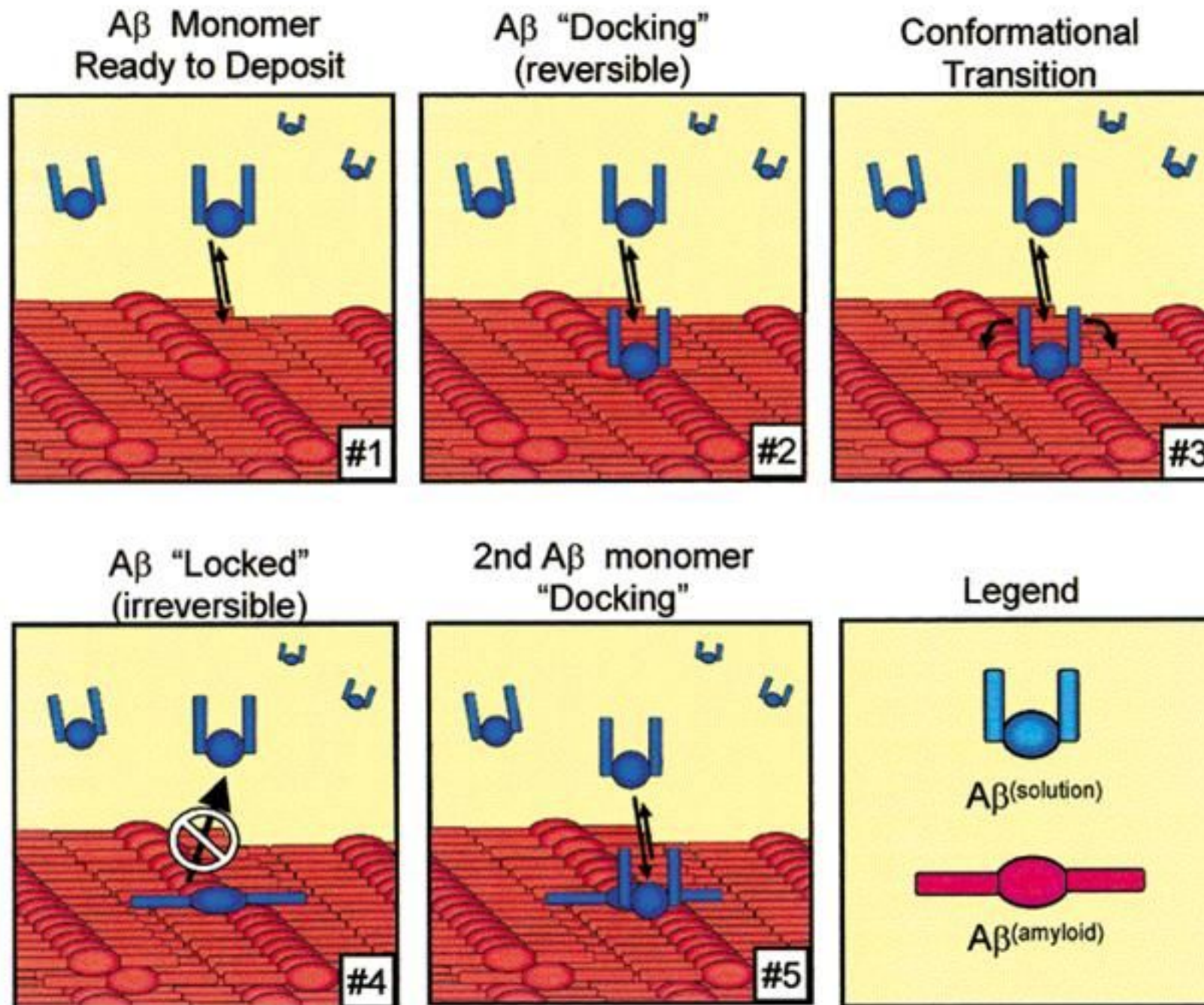
Each step is complex  
With multiple time scales  
& large conformational  
Changes with substantial  
heterogeneity!

Single molecules...



# Schematic View of Dock-Lock Process

Template = existing fibril



Lee-Maggio (2000)  
Wetzel (2004)

What are the  
Molecular  
Events?  
Role of water?

MD simulations  
 $A\beta_{16-22}$  oligomers  
Addition of  
Sup35 (7-13) pD  
 $A\beta_{35-40}$  &  $A\beta_{37-42}$  to  
fibrils

# Growth of oligomers & Fibrils

MD simulations

A $\square_{16-22}$  oligomers

Addition of

Sup35 (7-13) pD

A $\square_{35-40}$  & A $\square_{37-42}$  to

Fibrils

Starting structures

From atomic coordinates

(Eisenberg & company)

All atom representation

Thermodynamics: Replica  
Exchange (implicit solvent)

Dynamics: MD

Simulations explicit water..



Monomer addition to  $A\beta_{16-22}$  oligomers  
Nguyen & Li PNAS (2007)



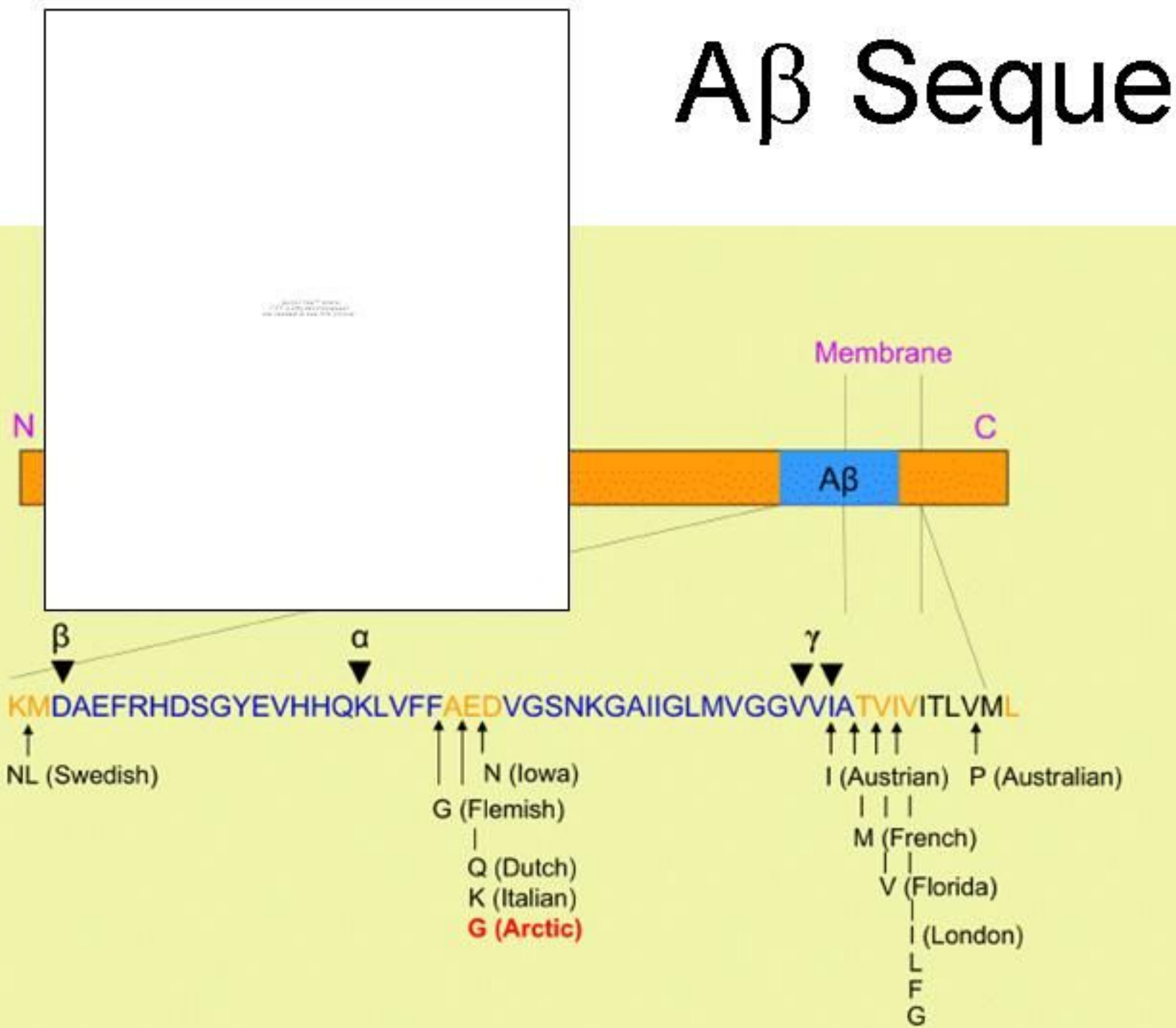
↓  
Random Coil

↓  
Preformed

Simulations get  
difficult to carry out  
for n bigger than 5

AD (Deposition diseases) oligomers  
are neurotoxic with plaques being end product  
discovered in autopsy

# A $\beta$ Sequence



16<sub>KLVFFAE</sub>22  
Central hydrophobic cluster

Hexapeptides

35<sub>MVGGV</sub>40  
Antiparallel

37<sub>GGVIA</sub>42  
Parallel



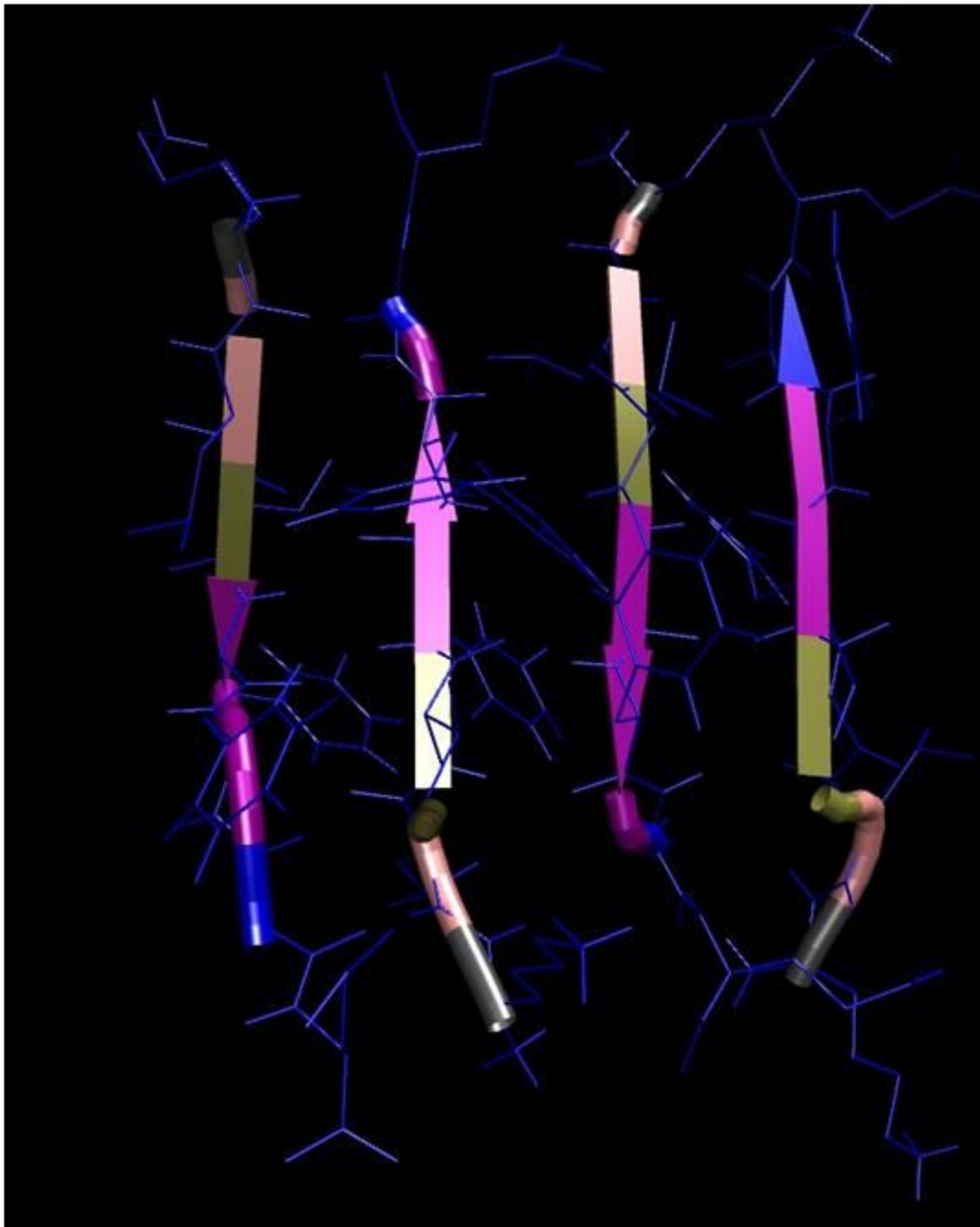
# Oligomer assembly

Insert  $A\beta_{16-22}$  monomer

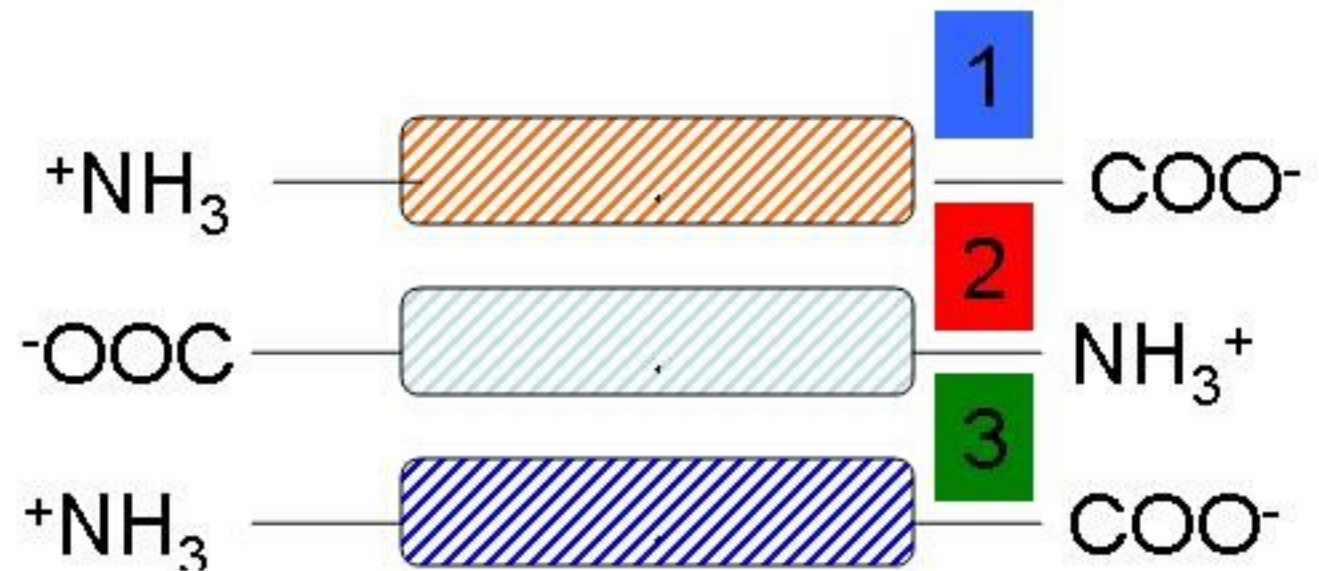
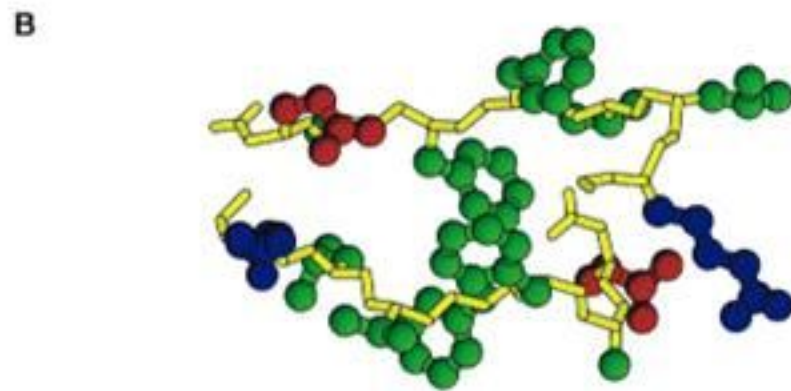
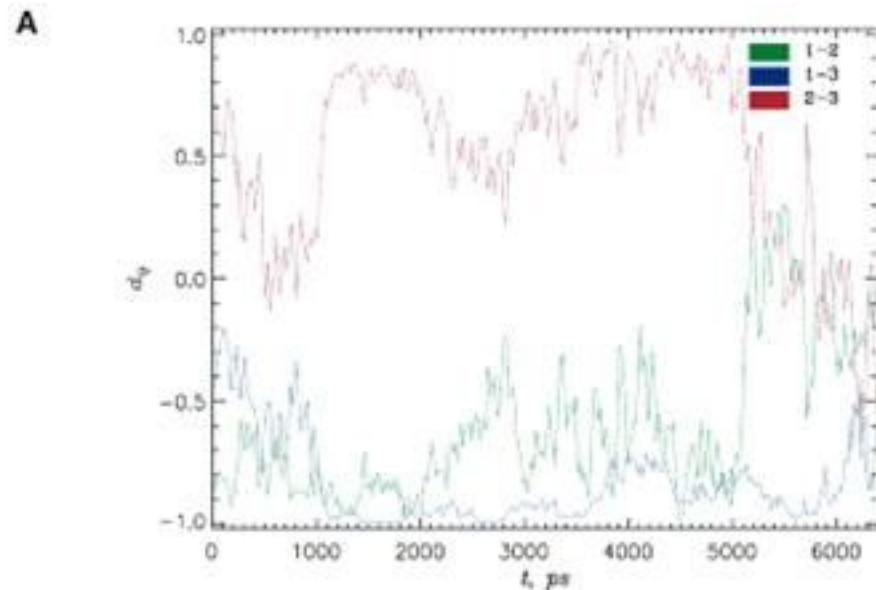


$n = 4, 5, \text{ and } 6$

MD simulations in water

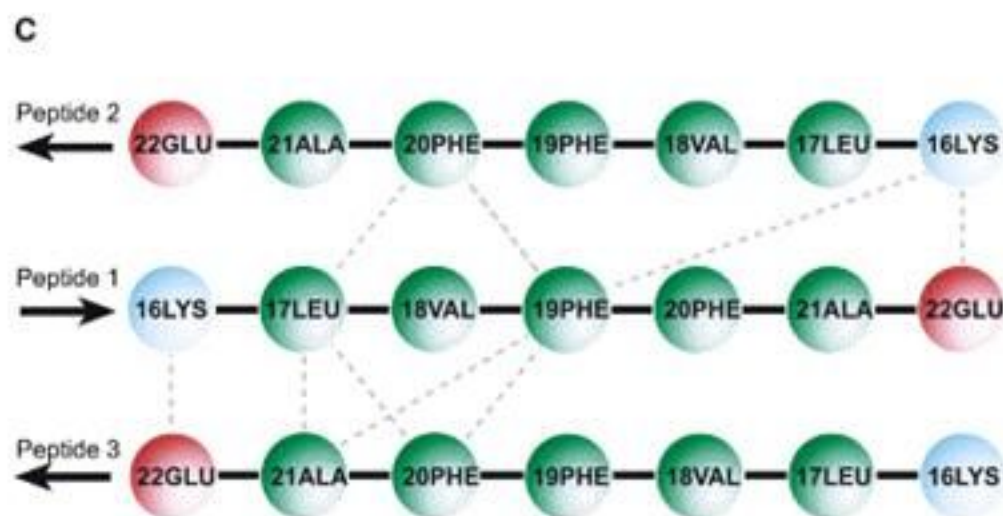


# Hydrophobic and charged residues stabilize oligomers

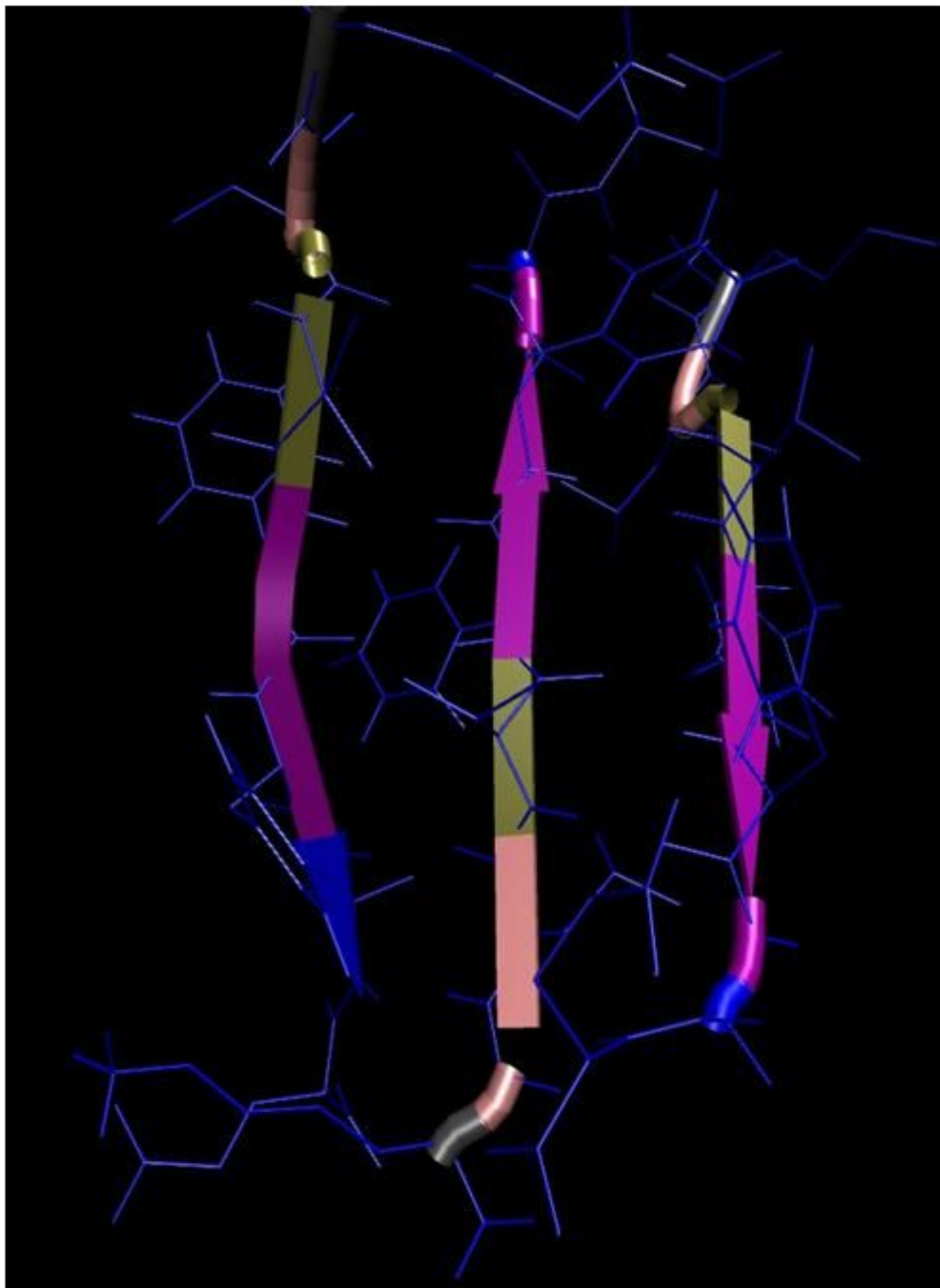


## Principle of Amyloid Self-assembly (PASA)

Anti-parallel registry satisfies Hydrophobic and charged interactions







## Trimer Structure from MD

Antiparallel  $\beta$  sheets

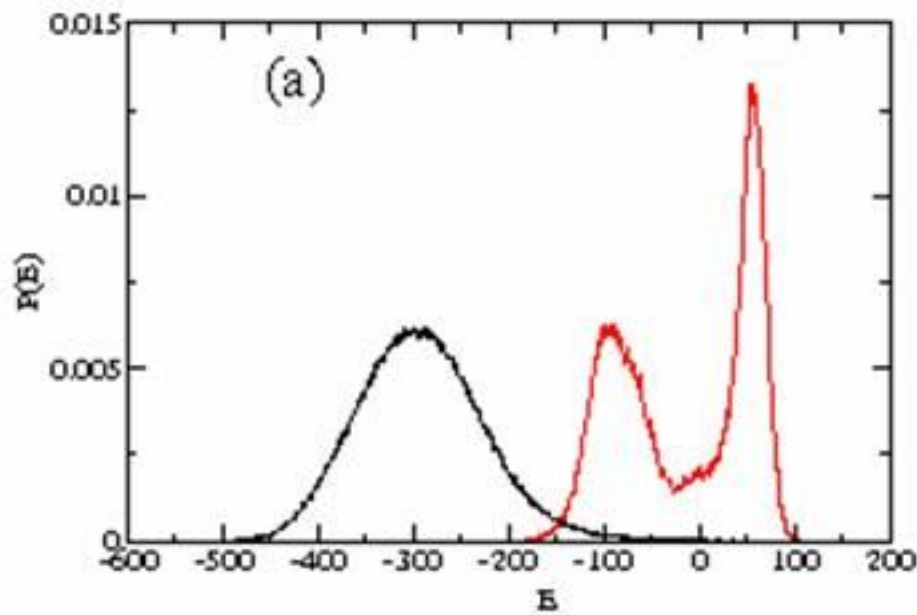
Monomer is Random Coil  
Negligible  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$  content

Structure: Interaction  
Driven

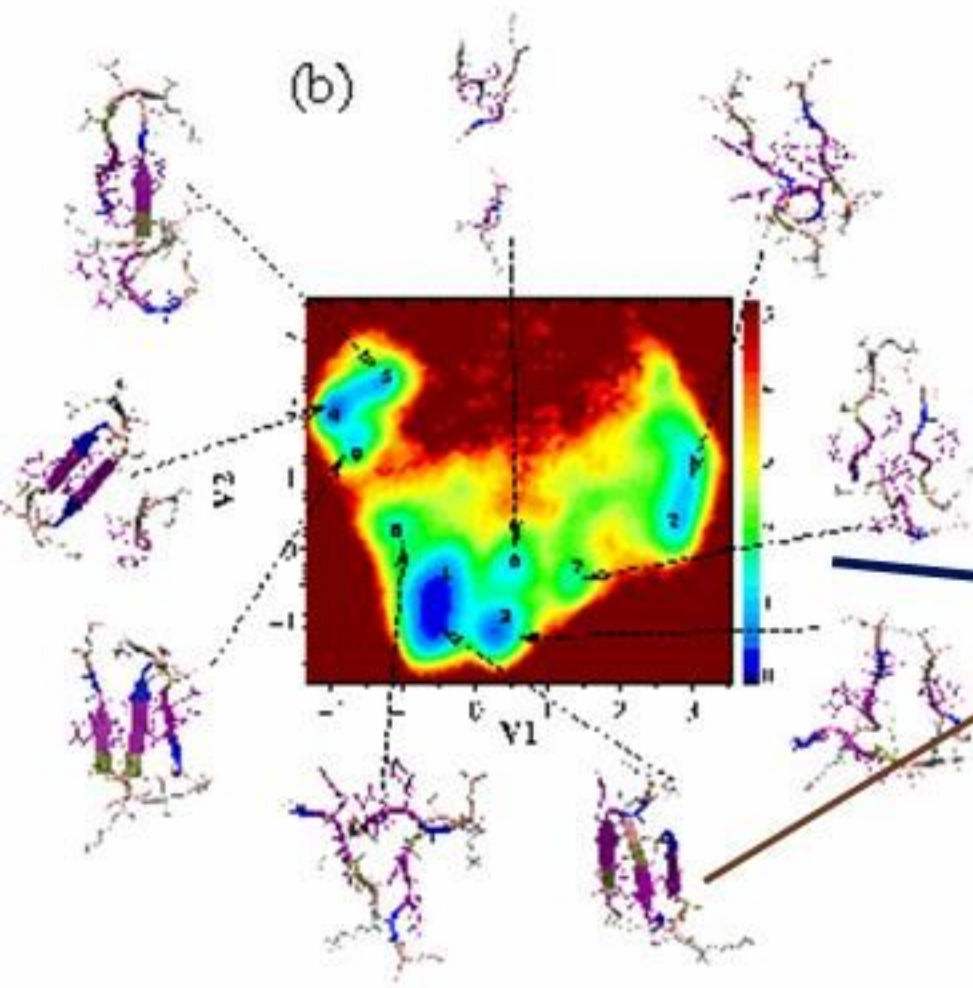
DKlimov & dt  
Structure *11*, 295 (2003)

# $A\beta_{16-22}$ trimer forms antiparallel structure

*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*  
**104, 111 (2007)**



Trimer undergoes substantial conformational fluctuations (Fluid-like)

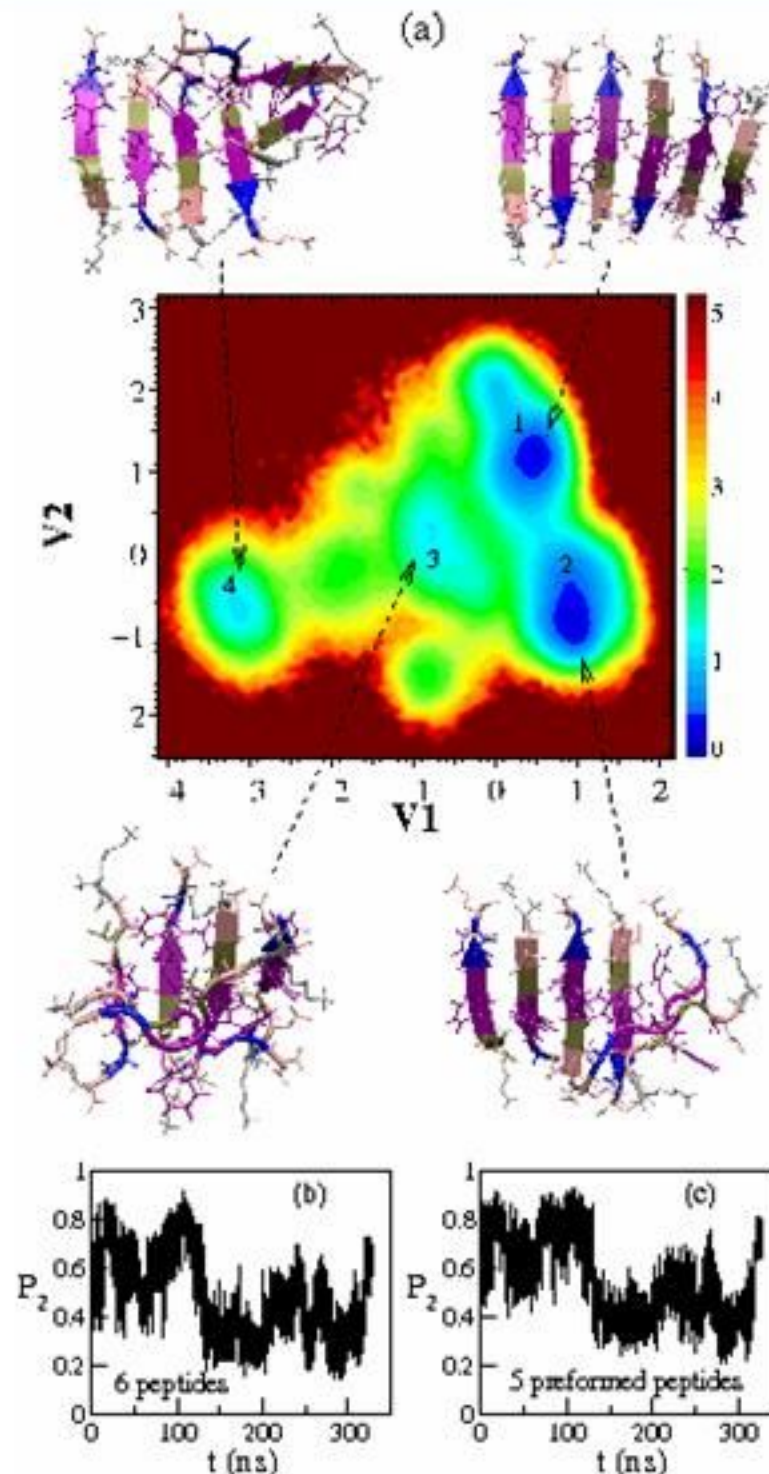


Most stable

Energy Landscape  
PCA



# Ordered oligomer fluctuates greatly to accommodate added monomer



$$P_2 = \text{nematic order parameter} \\ = 1.5(\cos^2\theta - 1)$$

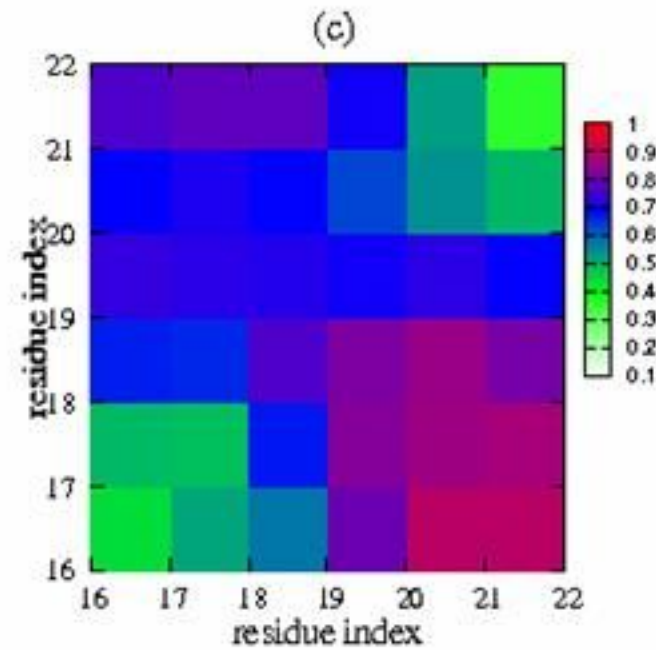
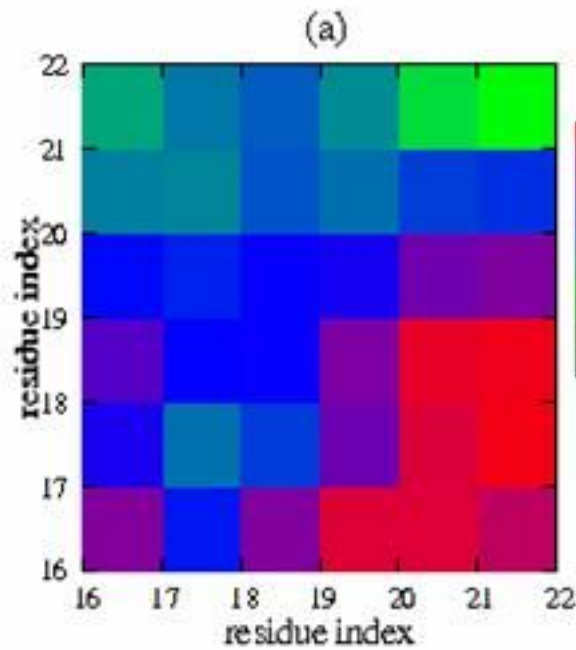
$\Delta P_2(n)$  (fluctuations in nematic parameter) decreases as  $n$  increases



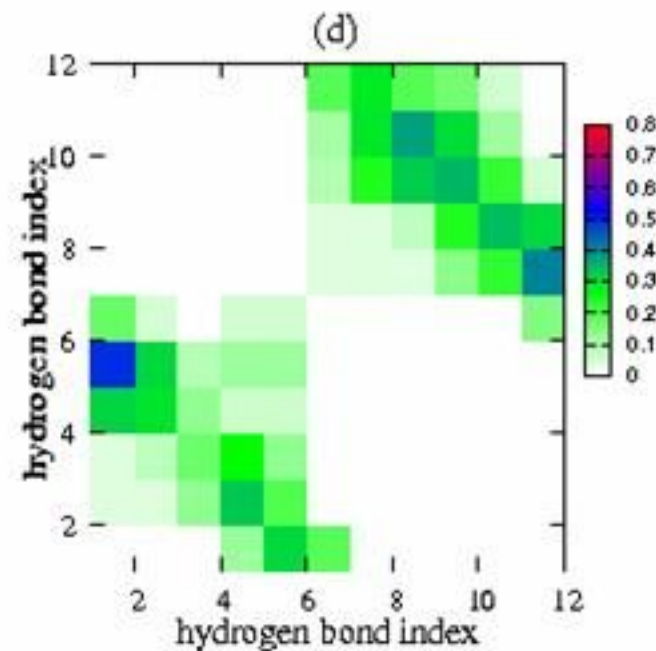
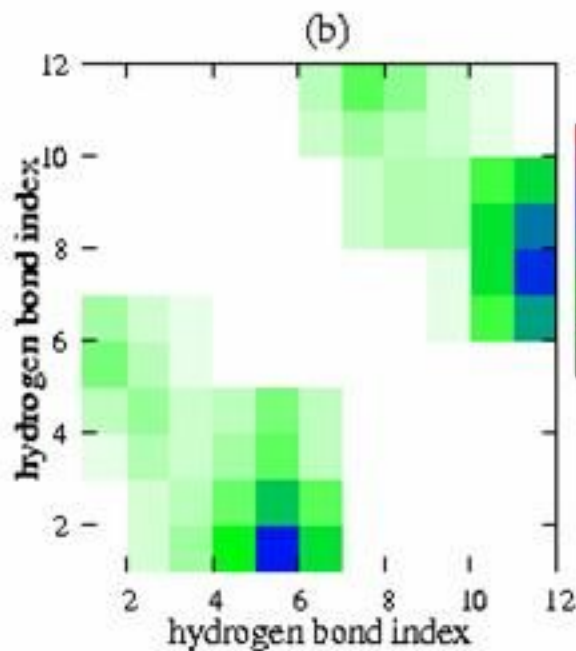
Oligomers are fluctuating Nematic droplets!

Interior is dry, few hydrogen bonds, stabilized by side chain contacts

Tetramer



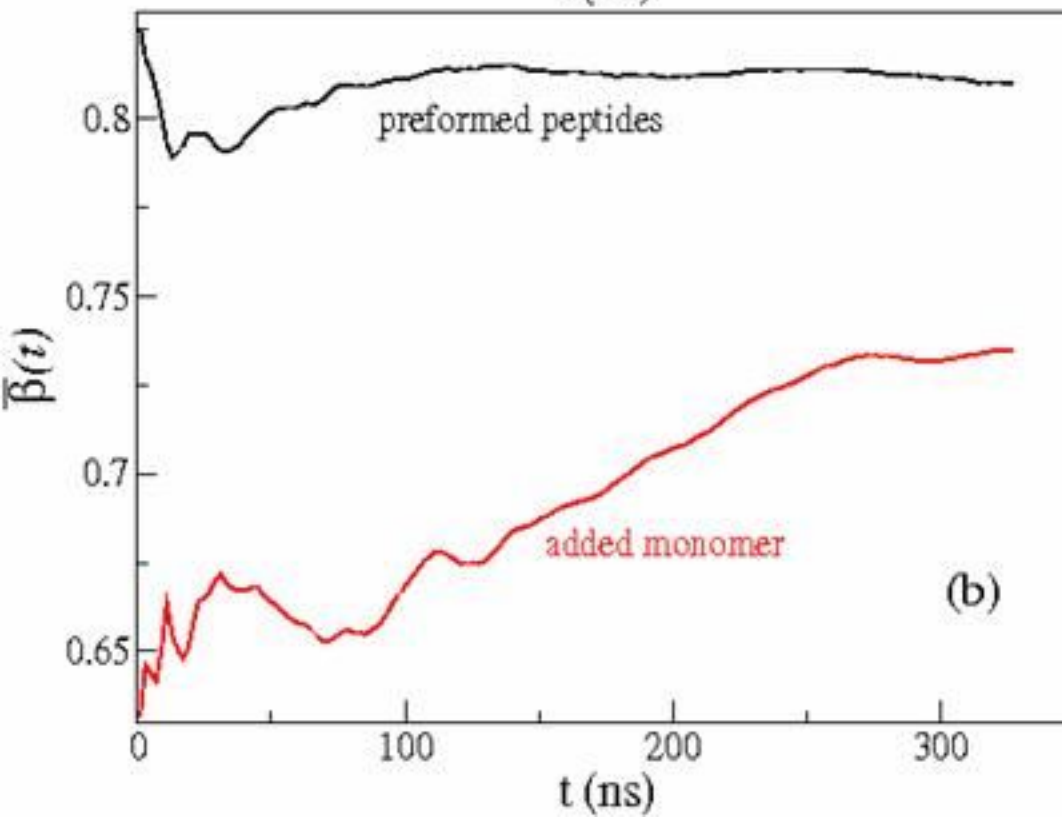
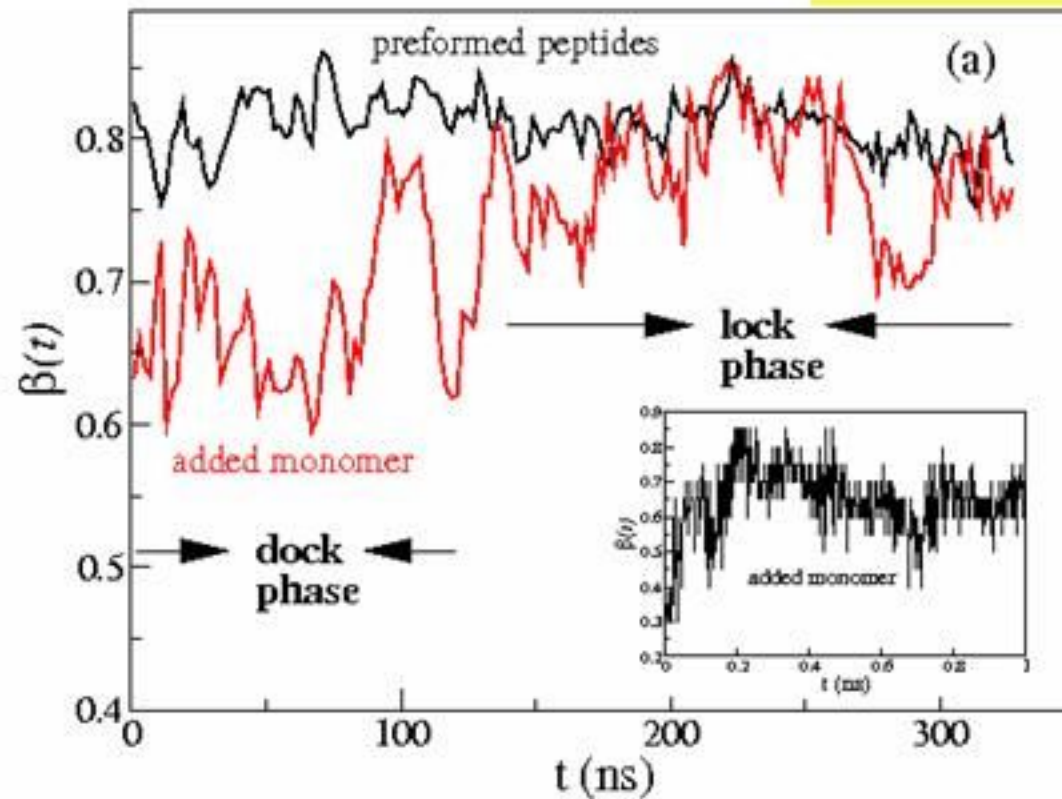
Pentamer



Drying  
an early  
event



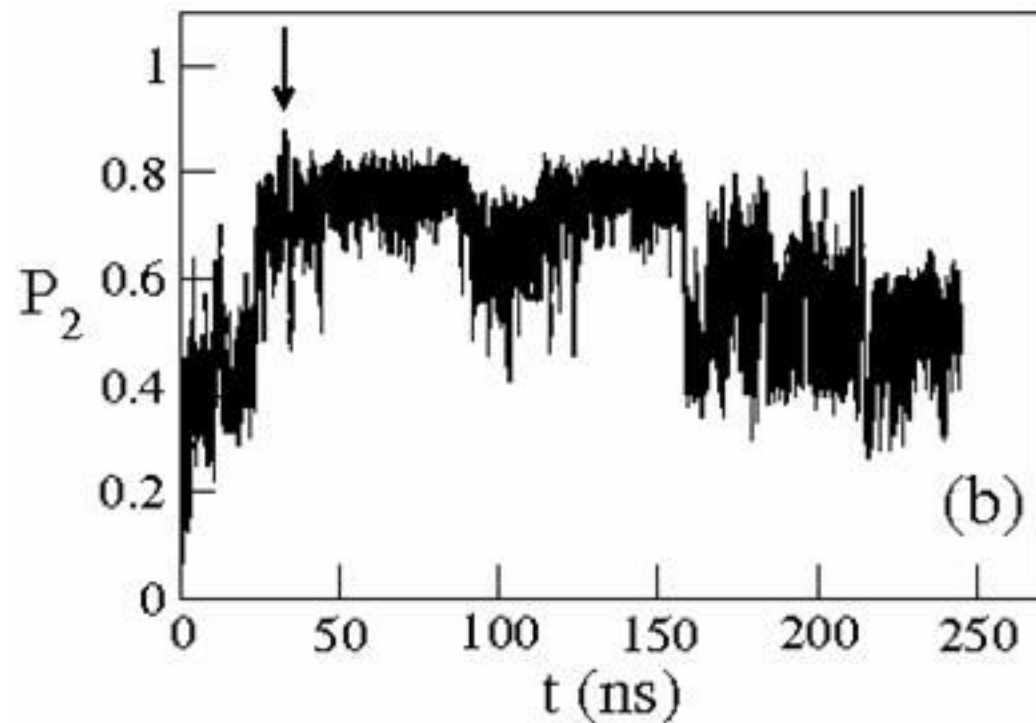
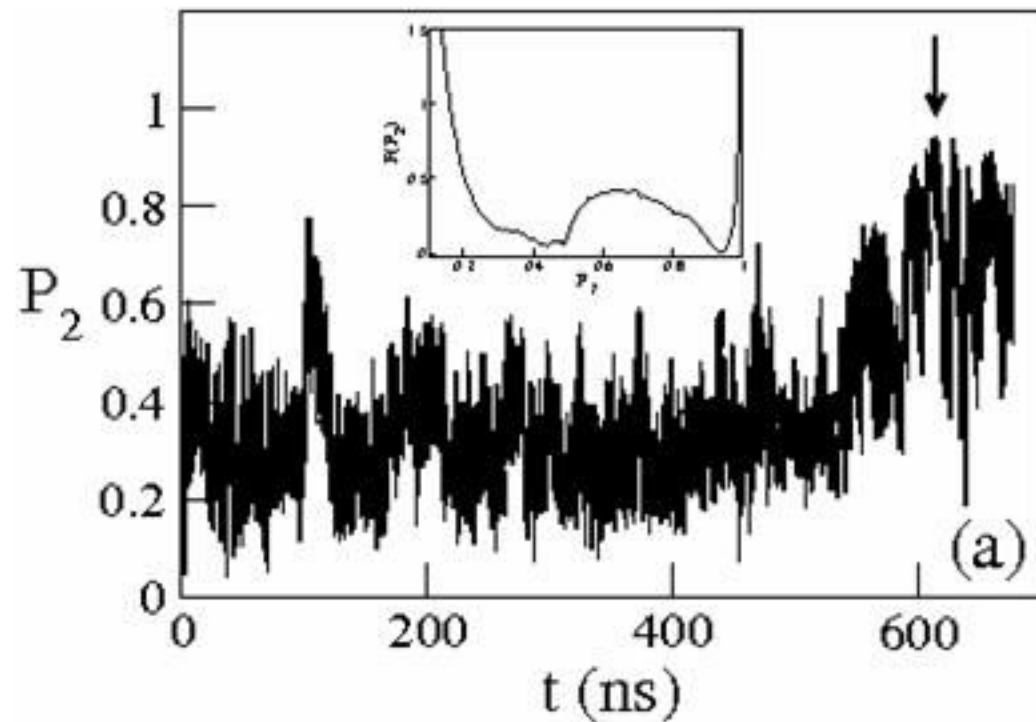
# Oligomers grow by a multistage Simplified as (Dock-Lock) mechanism



- Docking (rapid)  $\square$  content small
- $\square_{\text{LOCK}} \gg \square_{\text{Dock}}$
- Ordered oligomers  
orientationally melt but retain  
 $\square$ -strand content
- Dock-Lock mechanism is  
be sequence independent.

Time averaged

# Estimating Oligomer Formation Time Scale (C-dependent)



Multiple Assembly Pathways  
Random coil monomers add  
fast (rate  $\propto$  contact area)

$\tau(n)$  (MFPT) from  $F(P_2)$   
Using Kramers theory

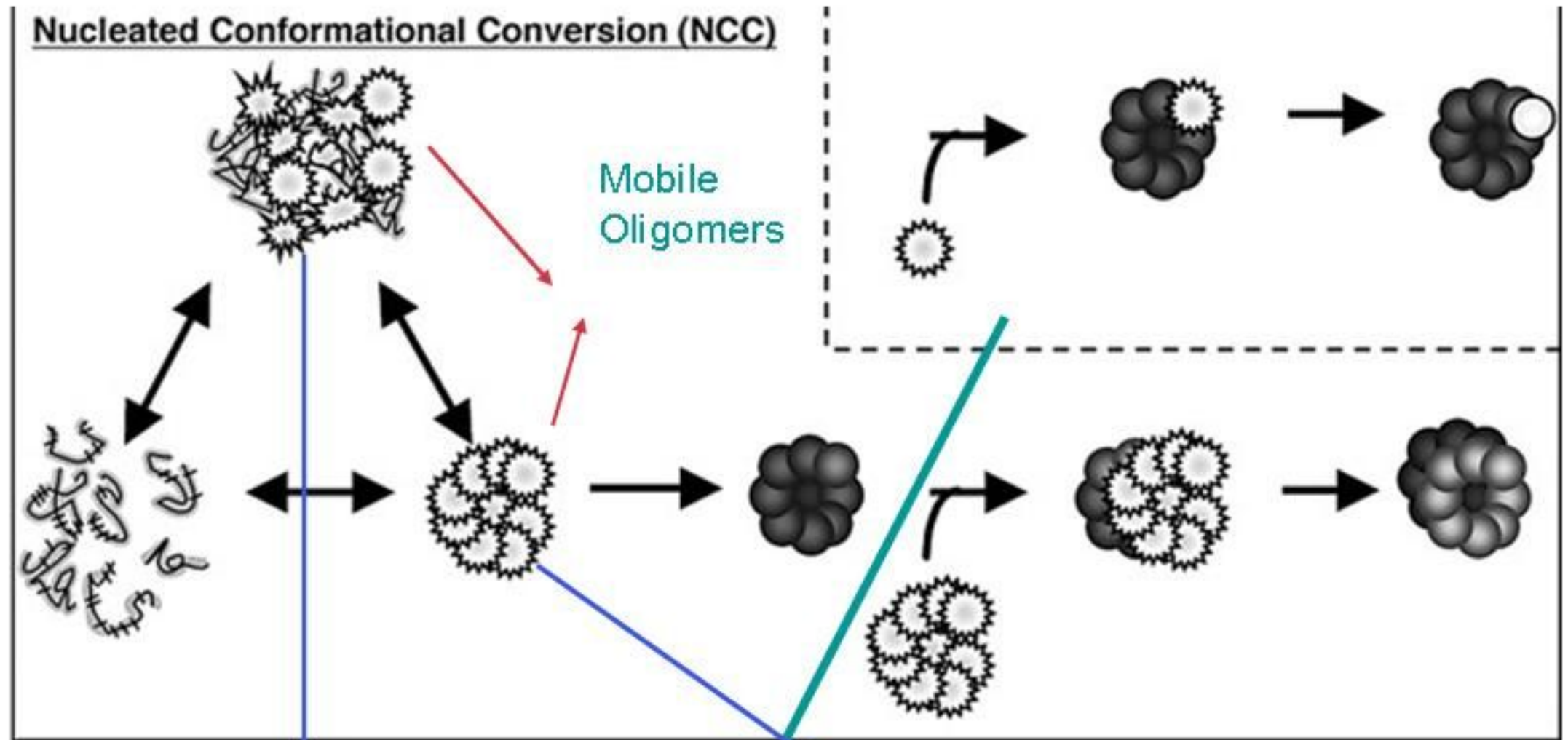
$$\tau(n) \approx \exp(\beta G(n))$$

$n > n^*$   $\tau(n)$  diffusion  
limited

$n^* \sim (6-8)$  Using Kramers + naïve  
nucleation theory



# Picture of Oligomer growth



Serio...Lindquist *Science* (2000)

$$(N^*)_m + (RC)_{n-m}$$

$$(N^*)_n$$

Diffusion-limited growth: concentration dependence  
(no prayer of computing  $\beta\Delta G^\ddagger$ )

Smoluchowski Theory of association  
(preformed fibril stationary)

$$k_G \cdot 4\pi\alpha\sigma \exp(-\beta\Delta G^\ddagger)/(\eta_0 + \eta_c C + k_H \eta_c C^2)$$

$$k_G \cdot C \text{ (small } C)$$

$$k_G \cdot C/(1 + \delta C) \text{ (moderate } C)$$

$$k_G \cdot 1/C \text{ (large } C)$$

Fit Experiments to C dependent  $k_G$



# Dynamics of locking of a monomer to a growing fibril

Molecular events in the growth of fibrils Peptides from  
Sup35 and  $A\beta$  peptides

Preformed fibrils (Eisenberg and company)  
add an “unstructured” peptide

Role of water in creating a dry interface

# X-ray Structure of a Fibrillar Peptide

Crystal structure of a 7-residue peptide from Sup35 prion (7-13) (David Eisenberg) shows that the peptides stack parallel

GNNQQNY

From Prion Domain;

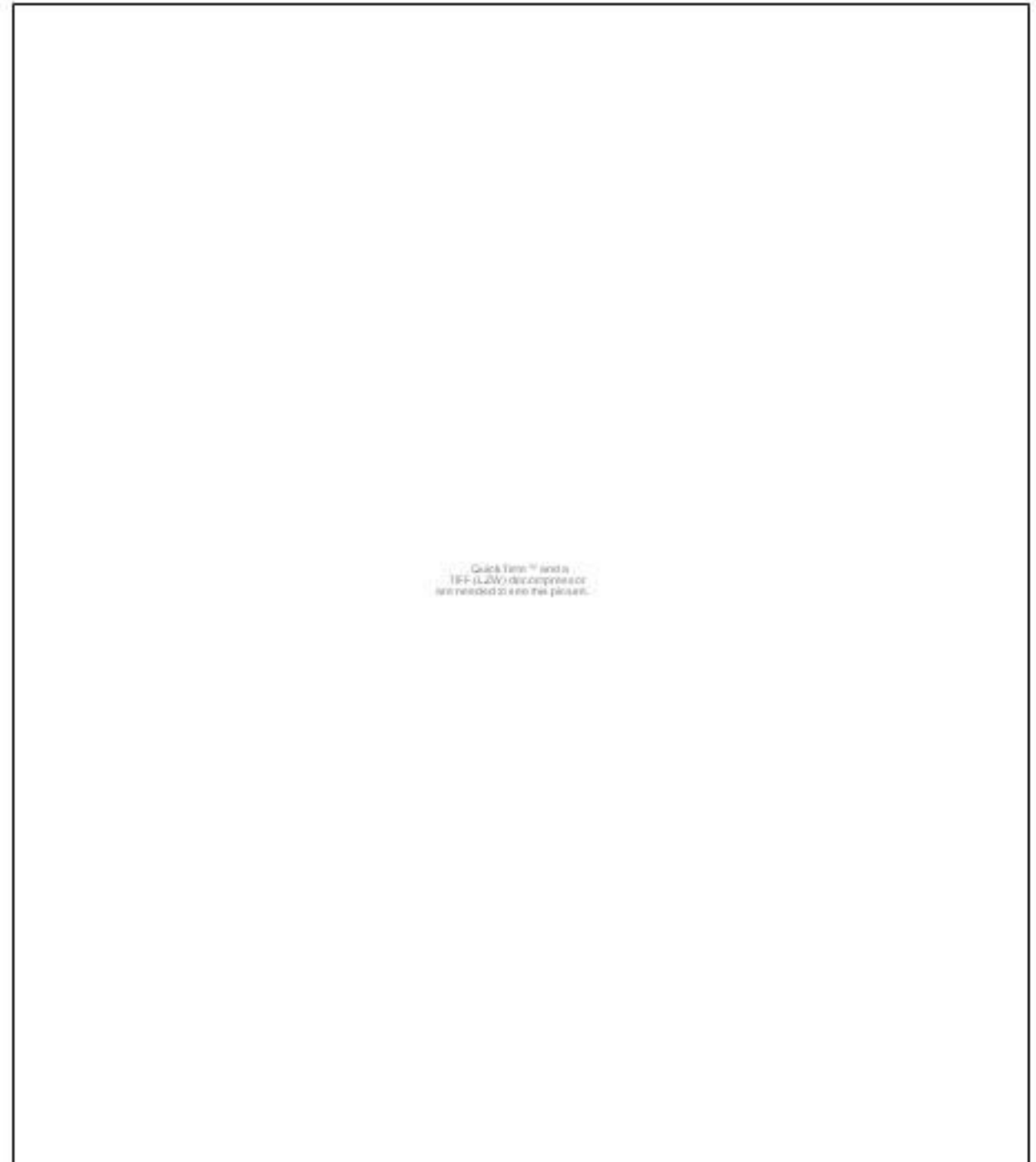
Sheets antiparallel

Dry interface

“Steric Zipper”

Full inter digitation

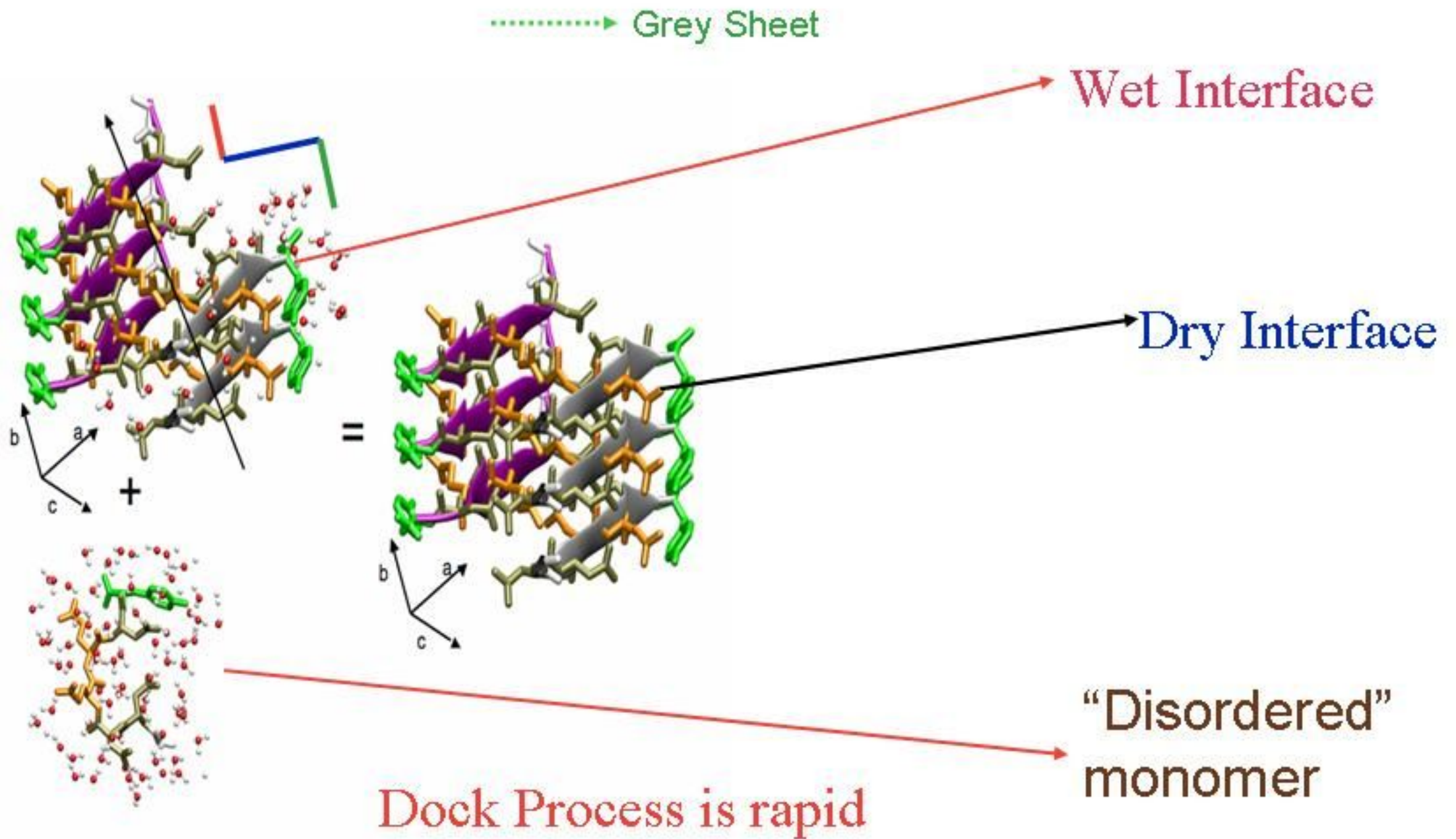
H-bonds



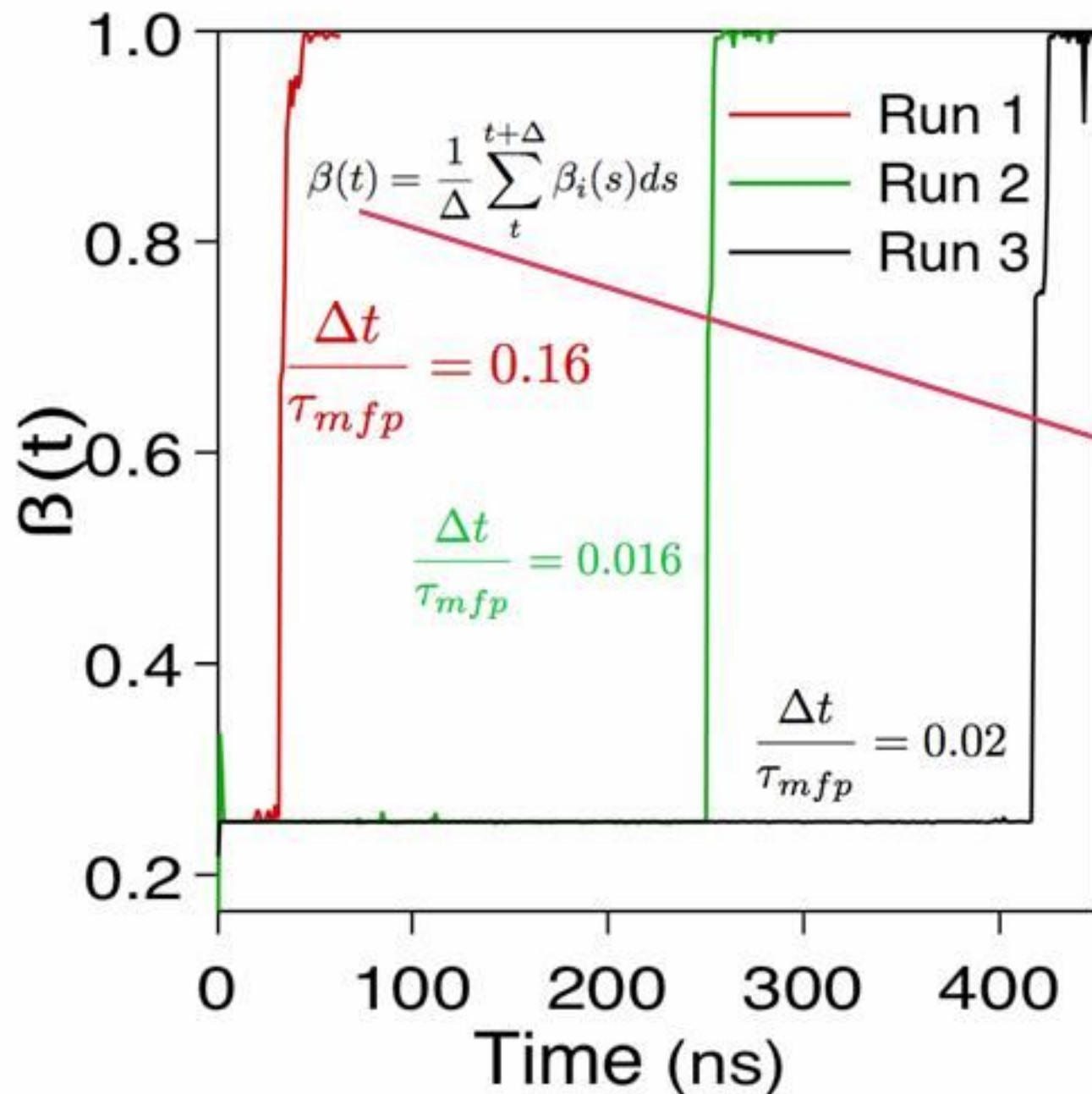


# Locking of GNNQQNY & Role of Water

## All Atom MD Simulations



# Growth by docking is dynamically highly cooperative!



$$\beta(s) = (1/4) \sum \delta_{i,\beta}$$

$\delta_{i,\beta} = 1$  if  $i^{\text{th}}$  residue is in a strand “ $\beta$ state”

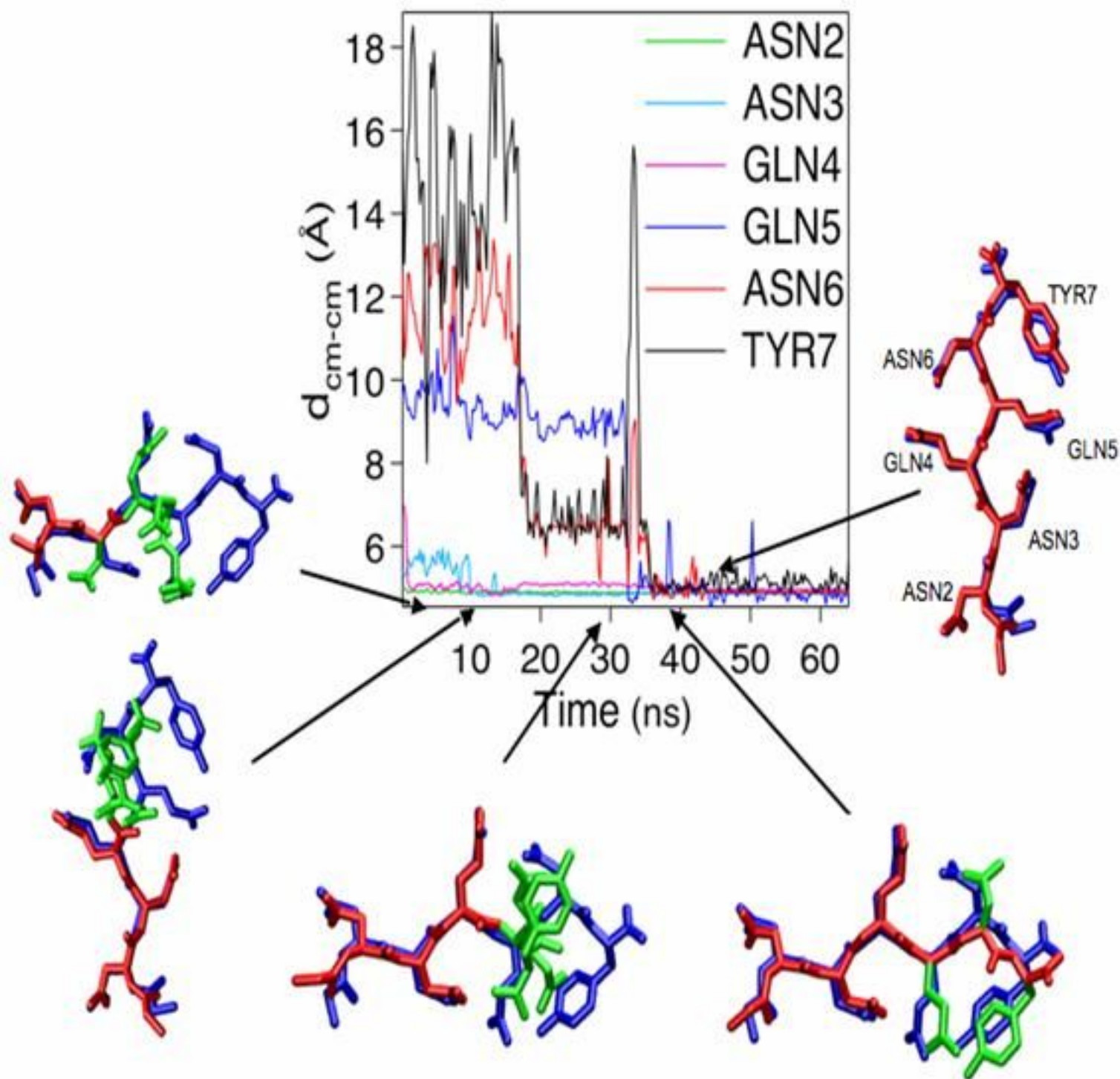
$\beta(t \text{ “long”}) = 1$  implies monomer is locked onto the crystal

$\Delta t$  = transit time

$\tau_{mfp}$  = first passage time

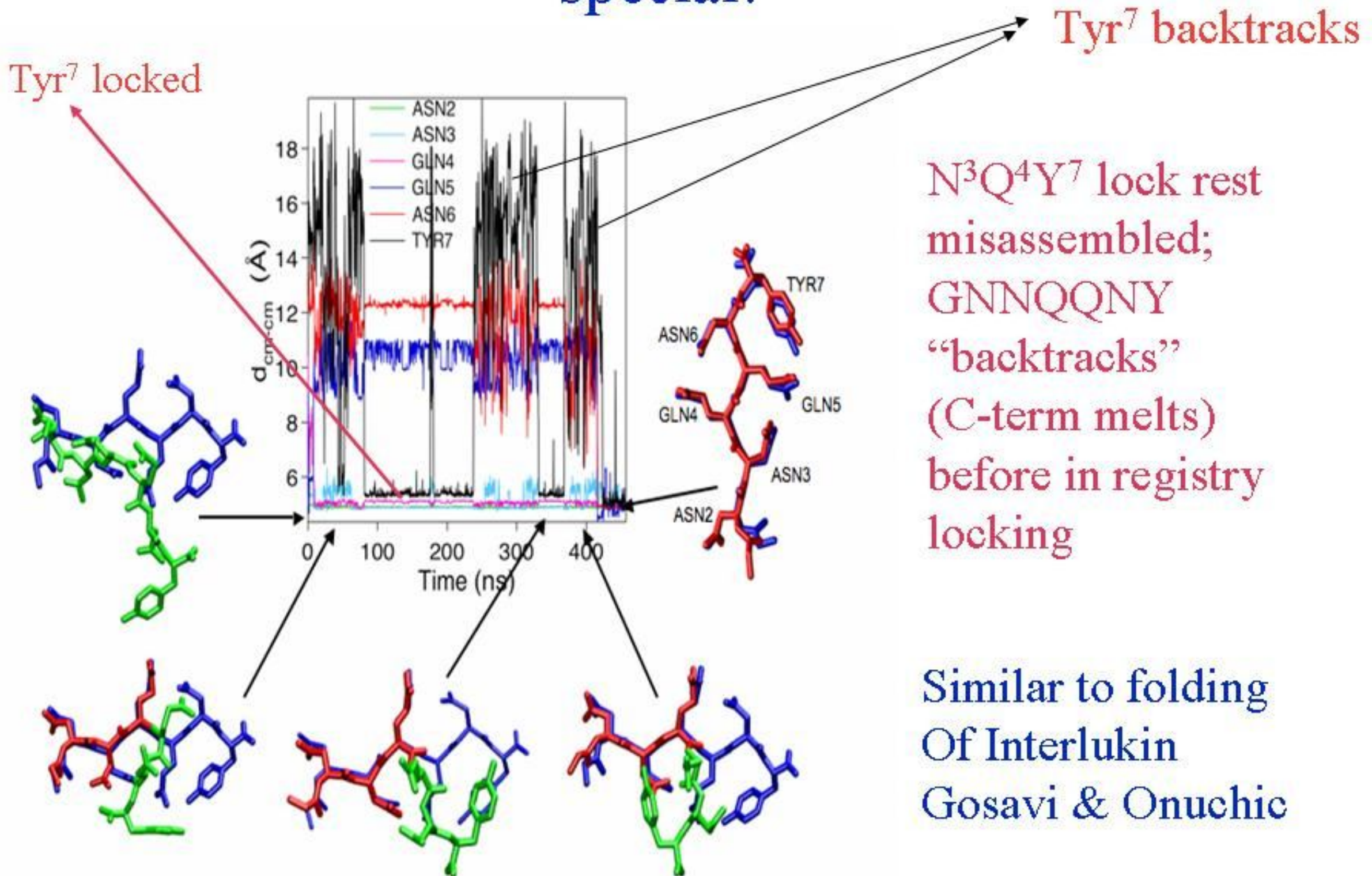


# Dynamics of Ordering at residue level



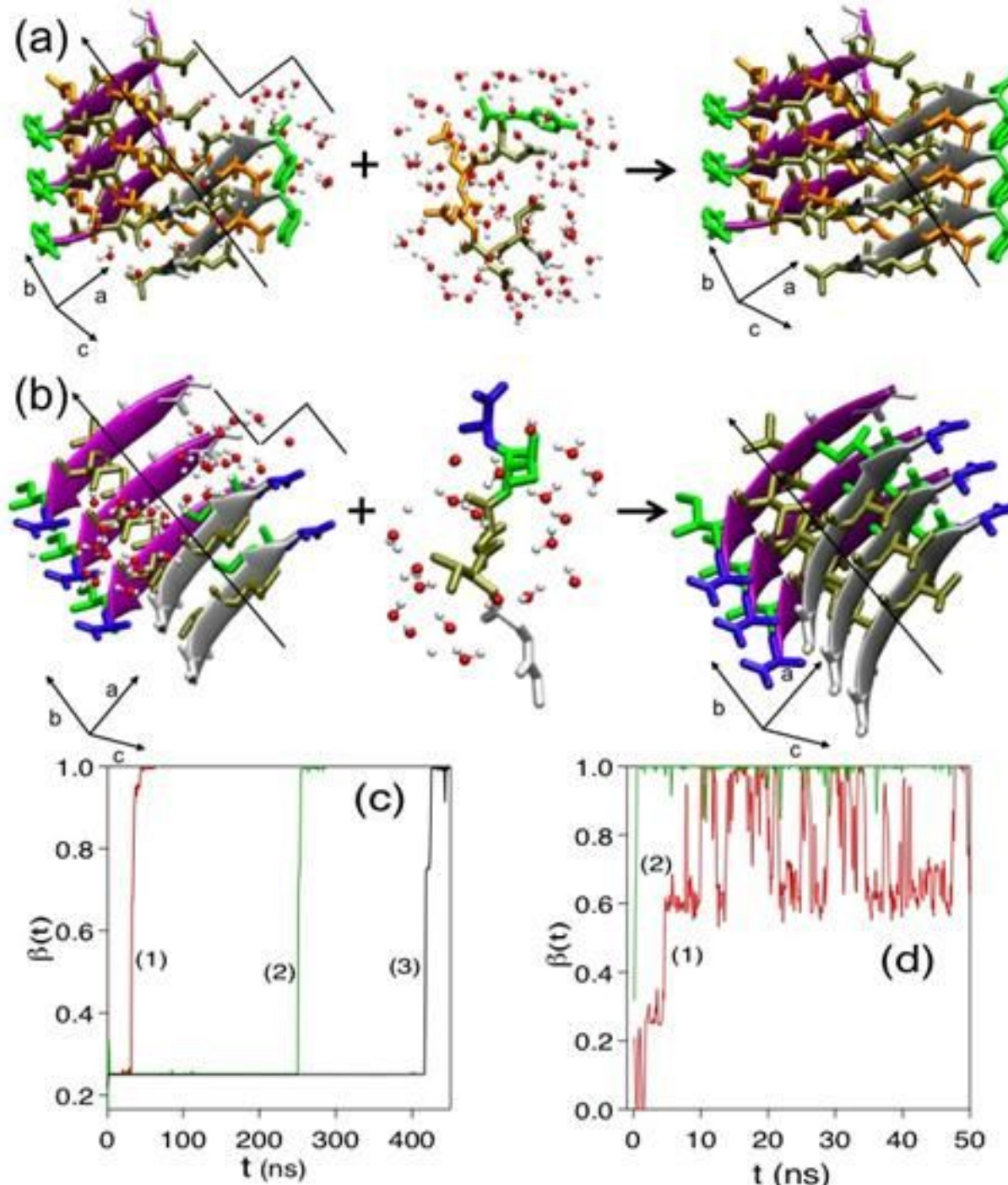
Red = ordered  
Blue = fibril  
Green = disordered

# Assembly Heterogeneity: Every event is special!





# Comparing Sup35 and A $\beta$



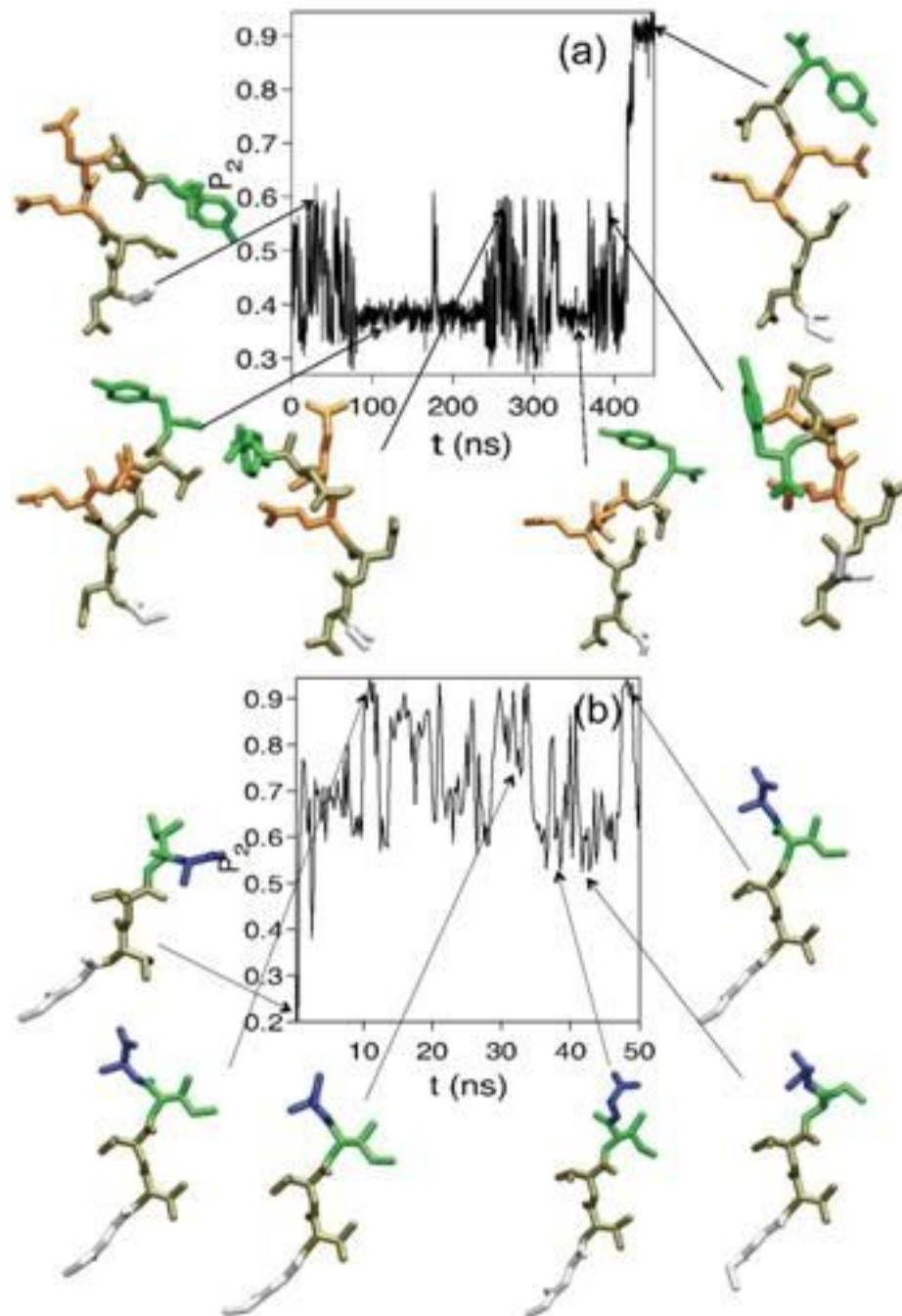
Rapid drying transition

Greater fluctuations

Stability compromised

Sequence affects energetics and growth kinetics

# Contrasting ordering of Sup35 and A $\beta$ addition



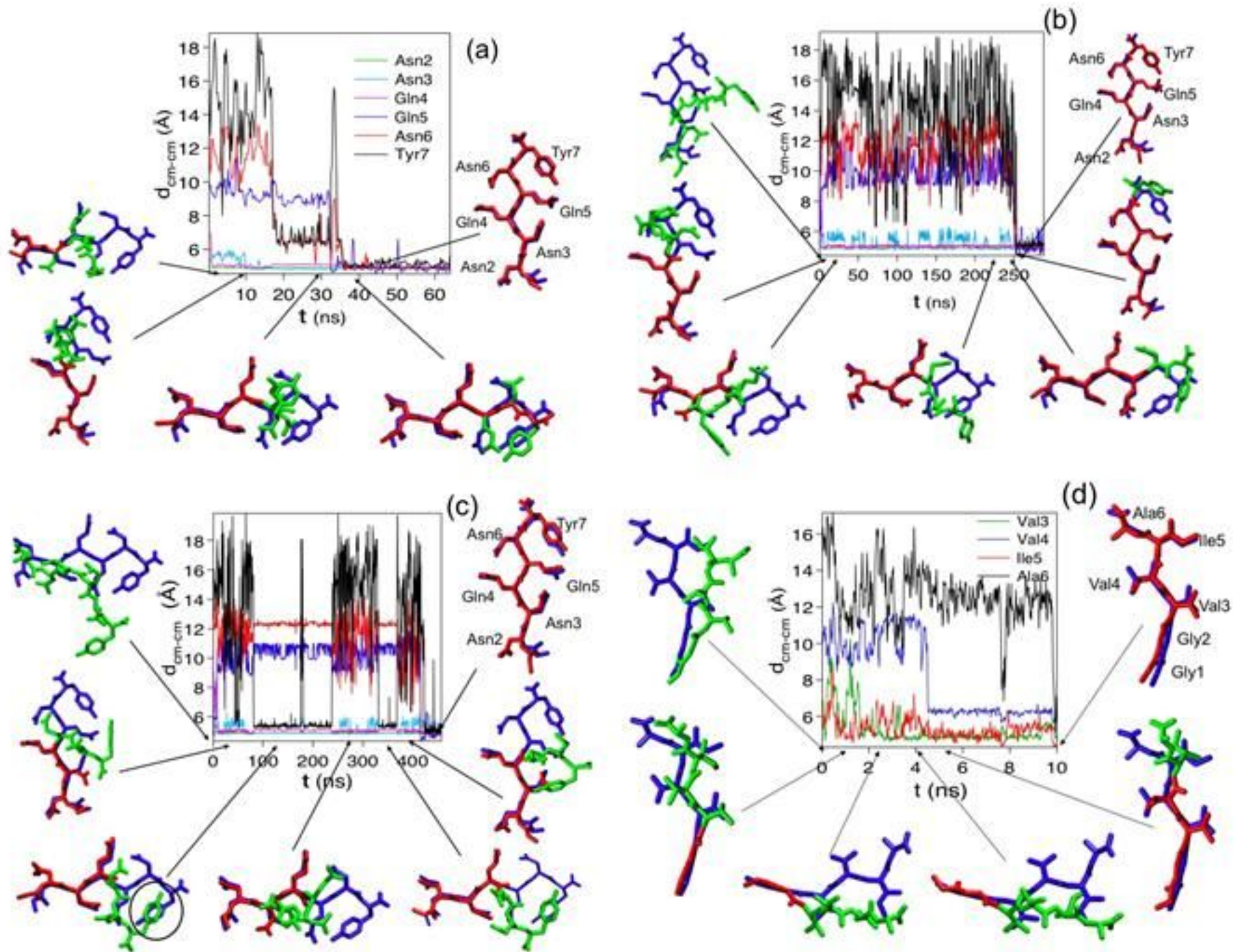
$P_2 = \text{nematic order parameter}$

$P_2 = 1$  implies ordering commensurate with underlying fibril

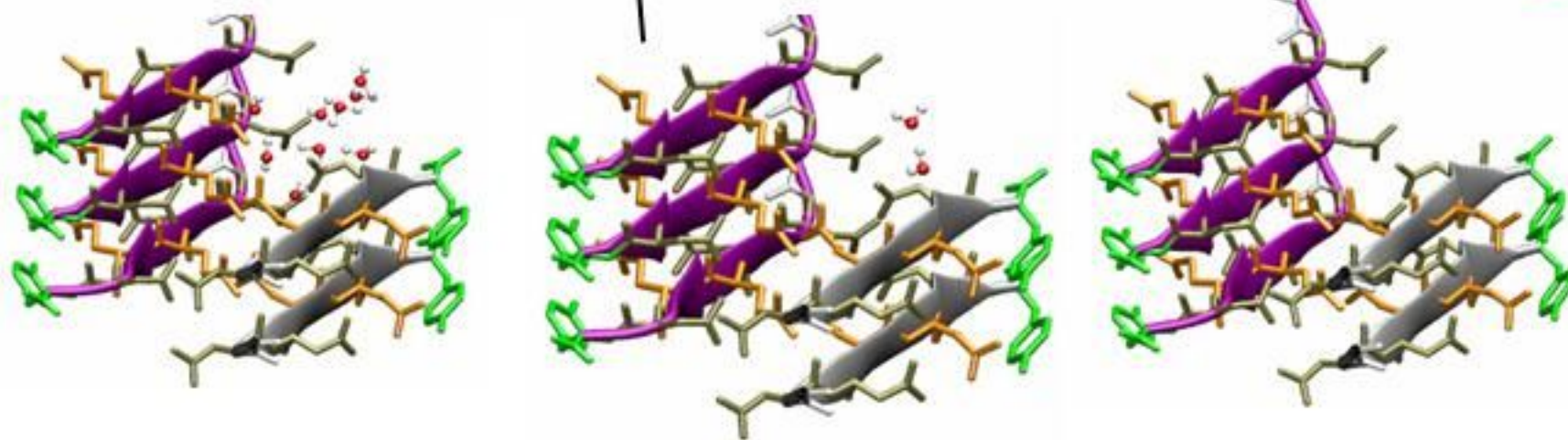
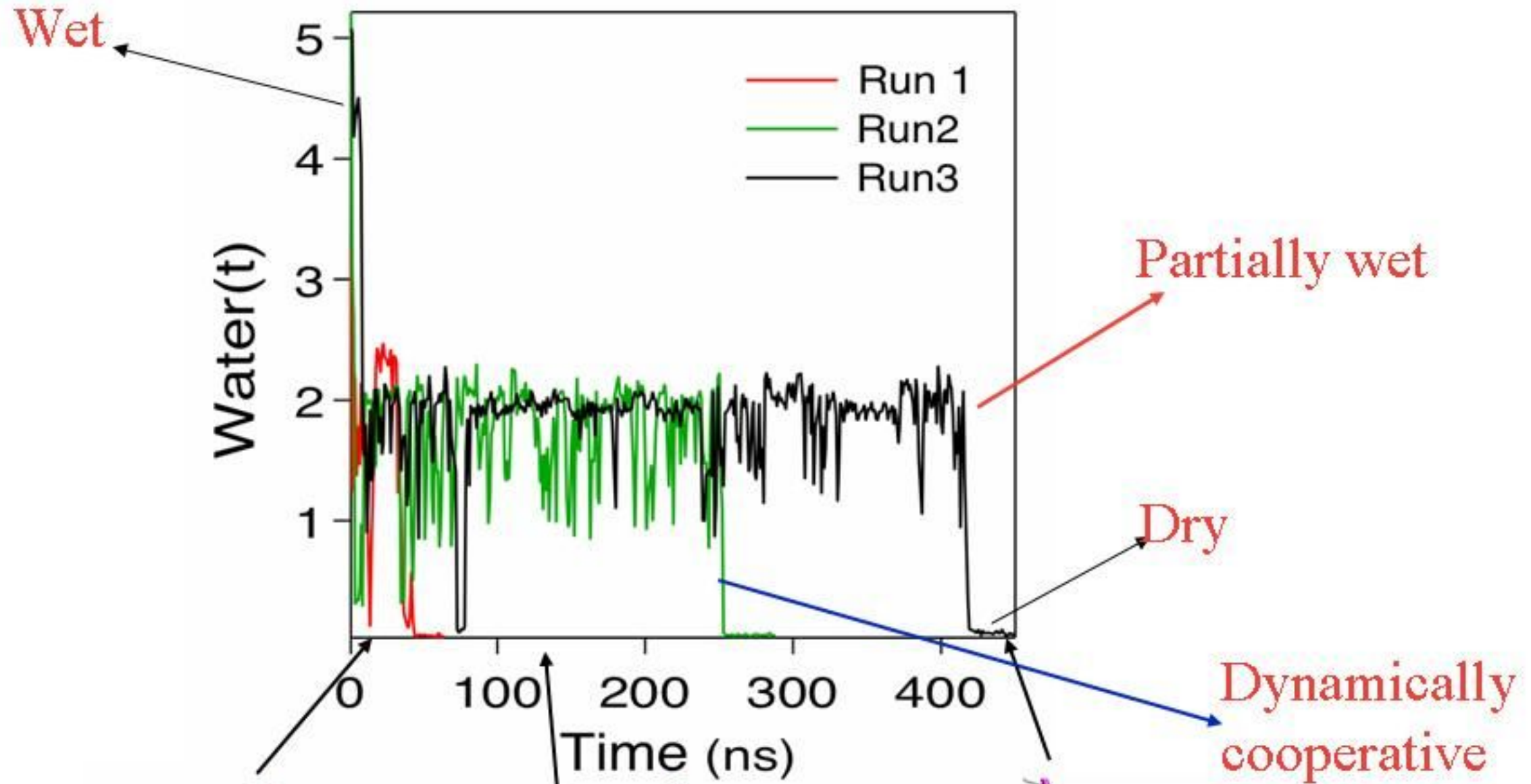
Sup35  $P_2$  pinned at 1:  
A $\beta$  fluctuations even after locking



# Sup35 and A $\beta$ peptide addition

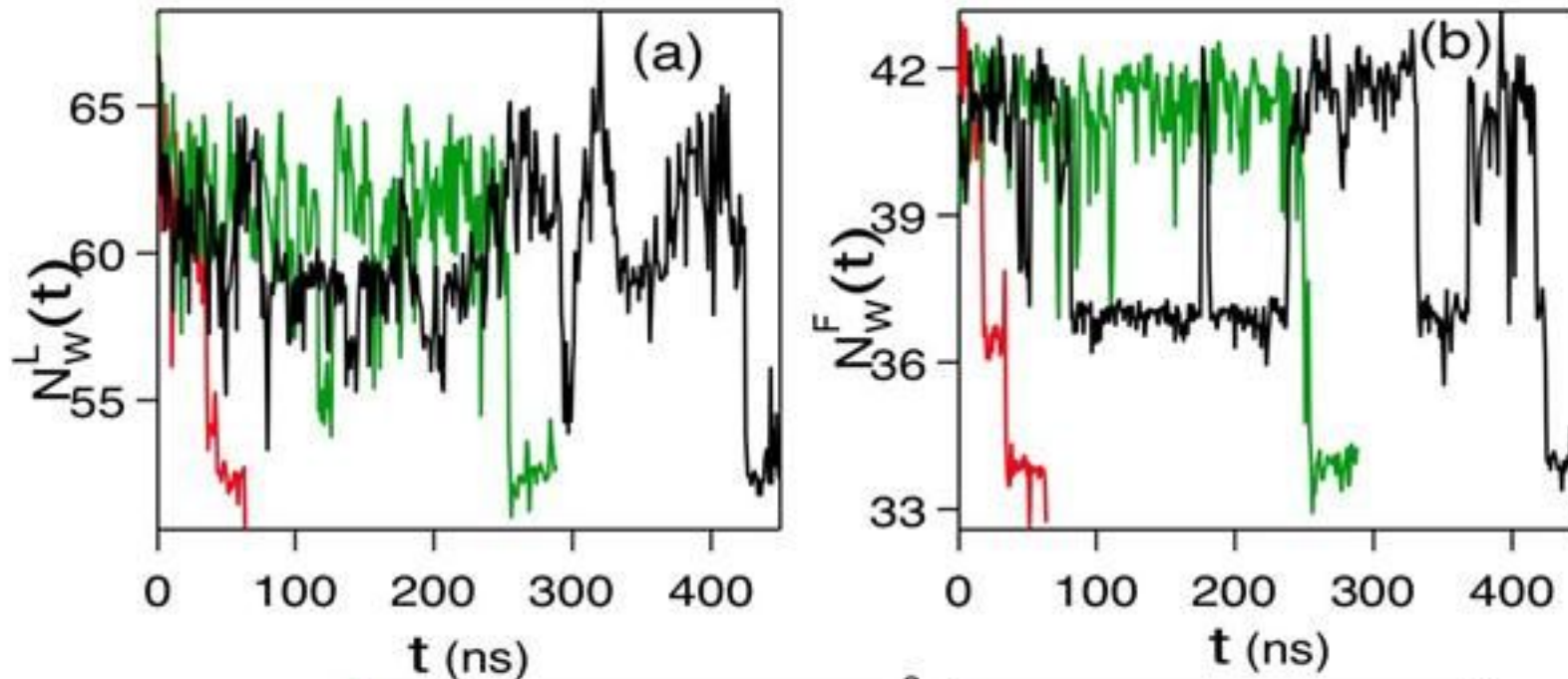


# Drying of strand-strand interface coincides with amyloid growth

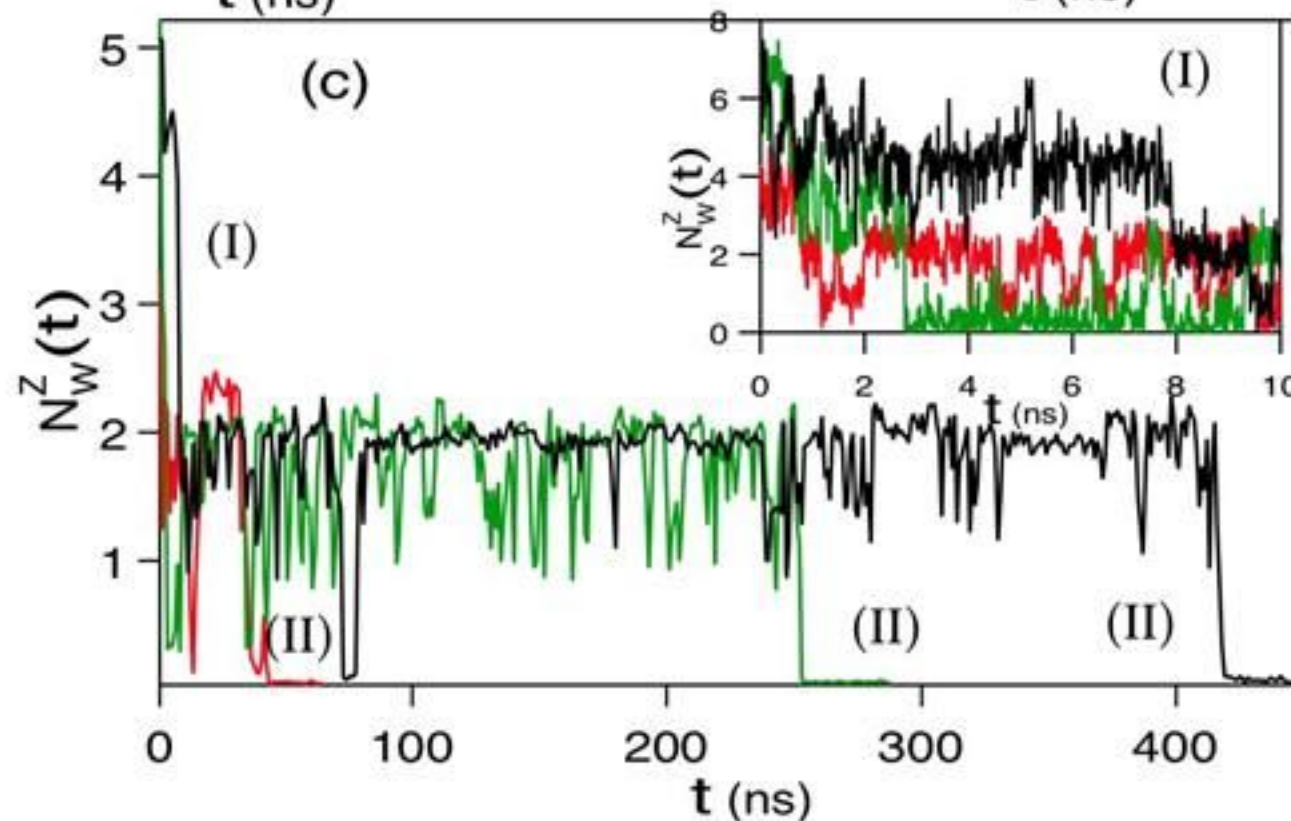




# Dynamics of water expulsion (Sup35)



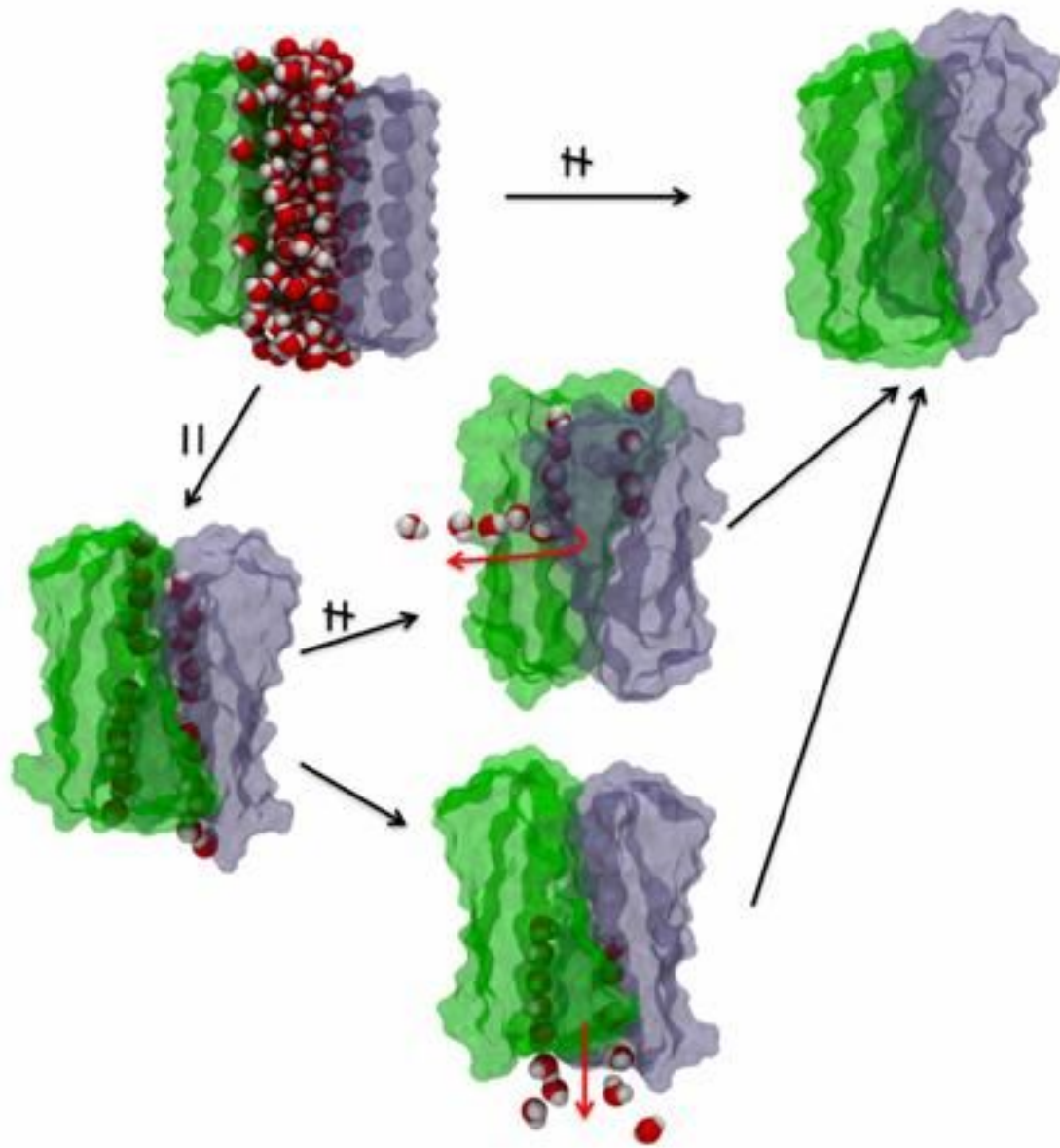
Desolvation  
coincident  
with locking



Two stage “drying”

Stage I: association  
with fibril peptide  
Stage II: dehydration  
from  $\beta$ -strand  
formation

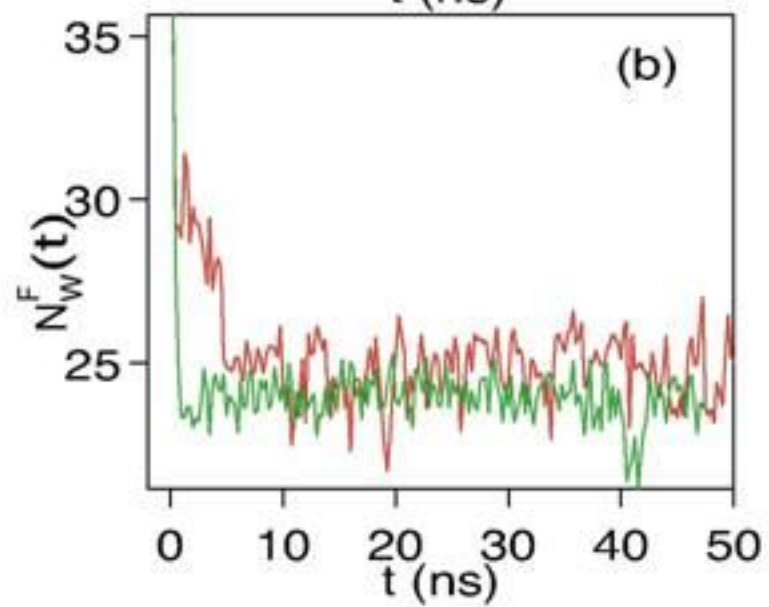
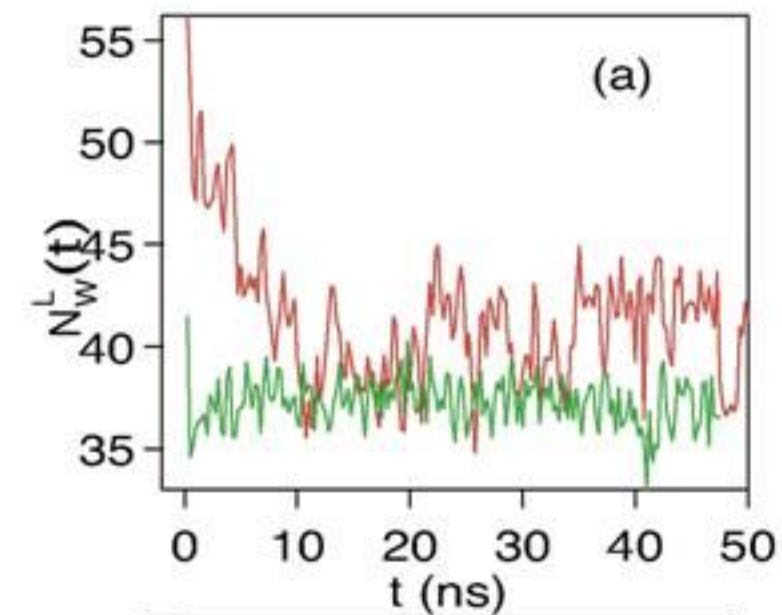
# Two 1d water wires mediate Sup35 protofilament assembly (Govardhan Reddy 2010)



QuickTime™ and a  
YUV420 codec decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



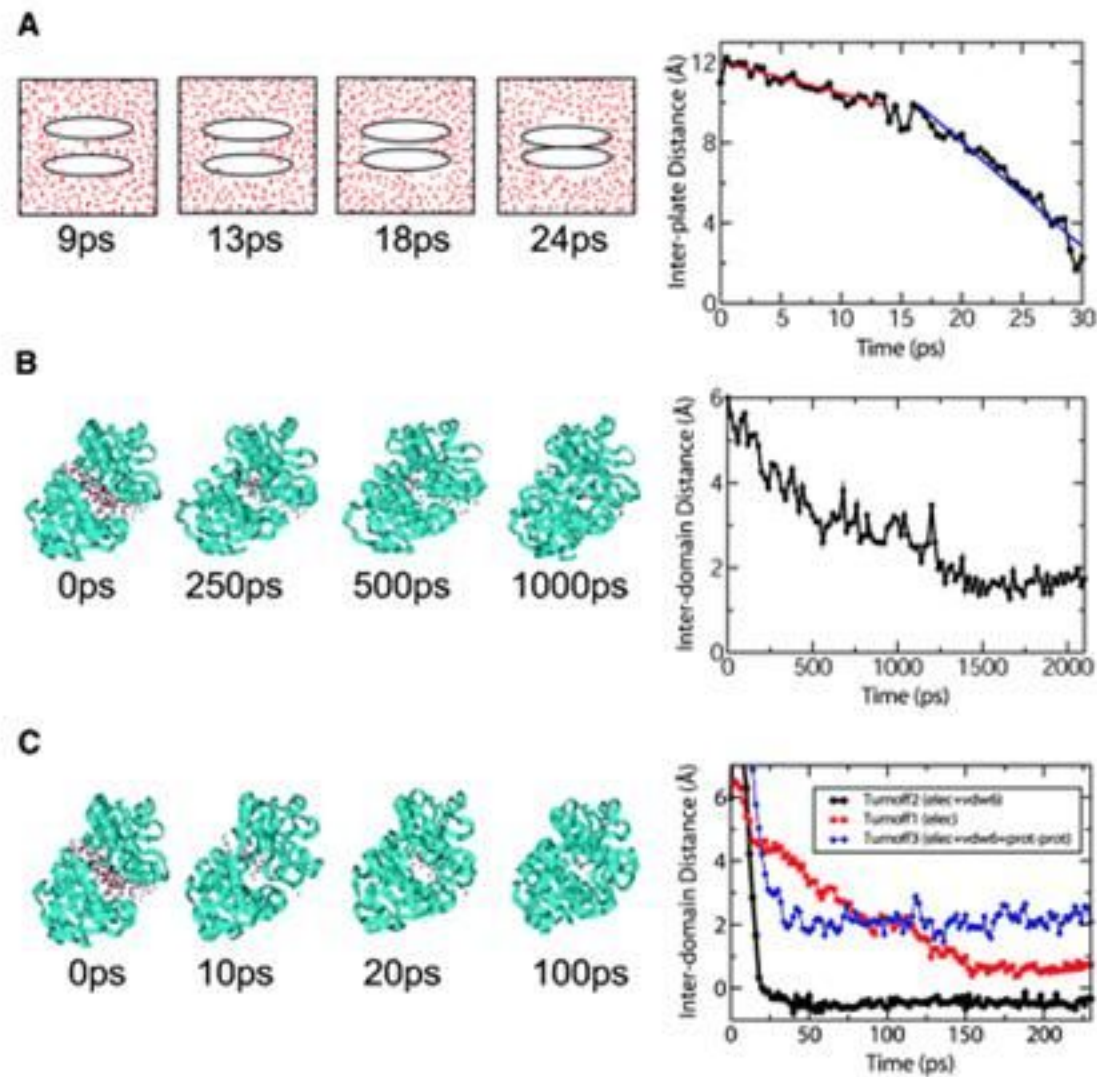
## Water dynamics in A $\beta$ fibrils



Considerable fluctuations  
in water after monomer locks  
compared to Sup35

Sheet assembly occurs  
by a drying step abruptly

# Drying transition between hydrophobic plates similar to A $\beta$ fibril growth





# Conclusions

- Multiple routes and scenarios for fibril formation
- Electrostatic and hydrophobic interactions determine structure and kinetics
- Conformational heterogeneity in  $N^*$  controls oligomer and fibril morphology (relevant for strains)
- Phase diagram (T, C) plane for a single amyloidogenic protein is complex due to structural variations in the misfolded  $N^*$
- Templated growth occurs by addition of one monomer at a time
- Nucleus size and growth mechanism depend on protein
- Growth of oligomers (and fibrils) by a multistage process (well separated time scales)
- Water Plays a key role (barrier to assembly + nucleation) and in a sequence-dependent manner