tions revealed how the mutant, but not the wild-type, protein exhibited a dynamic behavior more characteristic of calmodulin than of troponin-C in its ability to bring about structural changes that have been shown to be important for calmodulin complexes with protein targets in the cell (*2*). The ability of this troponin-C mutant to bind calcium was shown not to be significantly affected by the mutation (*1*). The conjoint simulations suggested that Arg 11 in wild-type troponin-C forms water-mediated hydrogen bonds that may help maintain a more rigid structure than that found for calmodulin (*3*, *4*). In the mutant, these hydrogen bonds are not present. The dynamic properties of calmodulin had been characterized from a computational molecular dynamics study of its structural flexibility (*3*, *5*), which implicated a single residue, Arg 74 (*5*), in the major configuration changes that subsequently were shown to be important for the binding of this protein to its targets (*6*).

Harel Weinstein
Ernest L. Mehler
Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One Gustave Levy Place, New York, NY 10029–6574, USA

References

1. J. Gulati *et al.*, *Biochemistry* **34**, 7348 (1995).
2. H. Weinstein and E. L. Mehler, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* **56**, 213 (1994).
3. E. L. Mehler, J. L. Pascual-Ahuir, H. Weinstein, *Protein Eng.* **4**, 625 (1991).
4. G. Barbato *et al.*, *Biochemistry* **31**, 5269 (1992).
5. J.-L. Pascual-Ahuir, E. L. Mehler, H. Weinstein, *Mol. Eng.* **1**, 231 (1991).
6. M. Ikura *et al.*, *Biochemistry* **30**, 5498 (1991); M. Ikura *et al.*, *Science* **256**, 632 (1992); W. E. Meador, A. R. Means, F. A. Quiocho, *ibid.* **257**, 1251 (1992).

■

Whistleblowers Not Polled

A Random Samples item (5 Jan., p. 35) and Lawrence J. Rhoades of the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) (Letters, 8 Mar., p. 1345) describe the results of a poll of whistleblowers done for ORI to learn how they thought whistleblowing had affected their careers. Neither Holden nor Rhoades notes that the survey excluded most of the whistleblowers who brought complaints to ORI and its predecessor offices.

ORI's contractor polled only whistleblowers whose cases led to reports. In 1994, ORI received 185 queries (ORI's term), of which 24 were referred to other agencies (*1*). Of the remaining 161, 38 resulted in inquiries or investigations and reports. The rest, 123, were rejected with neither formal investigation nor formal reports, branding the complainants, rightly or wrongly, as having made charges that were obviously false or frivolous and rendering them defenseless against retaliation. These whistleblowers were not polled.

Charles W. McCutchen
5213 Acacia Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA

References

1. *1994 Annual Report, Office of Research Integrity* (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC, 1995).

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-289-7562), or regular mail (*Science*, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.