

AIF pathway (which would be independent of DEVDases) can also be excluded. For example, CED-3 protease is absolutely required for programmed cell death in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (37), and caspase-3 (CPP32) is obligatory for cell death in areas of the developing murine brain (38).

Bcl-x_L is structurally related to certain bacterial pore-forming proteins (39), and Bcl-2 probably has a similar structure (40). Thus, Bcl-2 could conceivably block cytochrome c efflux directly. Or, Bcl-2 may prevent this event indirectly by regulating the flow of ions, including Ca²⁺, across the mitochondrial and ER membranes (41–46). Such a scenario could explain the ability of Bcl-2, in some cell types, to block apoptosis even when its location is restricted to the ER (47). In the cell-free system described here, ER membranes are not required for activation of DEVD-specific proteases (Fig. 4), and thus a possible effect of Bcl-2 on this compartment may not be discernible.

Our results show that Bcl-2 acts on the mitochondria with which it is associated (Fig. 4). This localized action of Bcl-2 may depend on the ability of Bcl-2 to target the kinase Raf-1 to mitochondrial membranes (48). The Bcl-2-dependent mitochondrial sequestration of Raf-1 could be a mechanism underlying our finding that, when Bcl-2 was preincubated in cytosol with one aliquot of mitochondria, it failed to protect a second portion of mitochondria added later (Fig. 4, C and D).

Our observations have identified the mitochondrial release of cytochrome c as a major target for the anti-apoptotic effects of Bcl-2. The ability of cytochrome c to activate CPP32-like proteases and cell death appears to be distinct from this protein's life-sustaining role in respiration. Cytochrome c is highly conserved in eukaryotes (49). If its function in apoptosis is also conserved, this would explain how Bcl-2 or similar molecules can effectively regulate most forms of apoptosis.

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Role for the Amino-Terminal Region of Human TBP in U6 snRNA Transcription

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Basal transcription from the human RNA polymerase III U6 promoter depends on a TATA box that recruits the TATA box-binding protein (TBP) and a proximal sequence element that recruits the small nuclear RNA (snRNA)-activating protein complex (SNAP_c). TBP consists of a conserved carboxyl-terminal domain that performs all known functions of the protein and a nonconserved amino-terminal region of unknown function. Here, the amino-terminal region is shown to down-regulate binding of TBP to the U6 TATA box, mediate cooperative binding with SNAP_c to the U6 promoter, and enhance U6 transcription.

The TATA box-binding protein is a central transcription factor required for transcription by all three RNA polymerases. The highly conserved COOH-terminal domain performs all of the TBP functions examined so far, including binding to the TATA box and interacting with TBP-associated factors, general transcription factors, and activators (1). In vivo, this domain can functionally replace the full-length protein for all promoters tested in mammalian systems (2); and in yeast, strains carrying a TBP missing the NH₂-terminal domain are viable (3). The role of the nonconserved NH₂-terminal domain is unknown.

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Most RNA polymerase III promoters consist of gene-internal elements and recruit TBP as part of the TBP-containing transcription factor III_B (TFIIIB), through protein-protein interactions with the DNA-binding TFIIIC (4). However, in some unusual cases, exemplified by the human U6 snRNA promoter, the promoter elements are located upstream of the transcription start site (5) and appear to recruit neither TFIIIC (6) nor the same TFIIIB complex recruited by RNA polymerase III promoters with gene-internal elements (7). Instead, the U6 promoter contains two basal promoter elements, a proximal sequence element (PSE), which recruits a multisubunit complex referred to as the SNAP complex (SNAP_c) or PSE transcription factor (8) and a TATA box,

which recruits TBP (9).

To test whether SNAP_c and TBP might bind to the U6 promoter cooperatively, as suggested by previous results (10), we performed an electrophoretic mobility shift analysis (EMSA) (11) with a probe corresponding to the basal human U6 promoter but containing the mouse U6 PSE, which is a higher affinity binding site for SNAP_c. A barely detectable complex formed when full-length human TBP fused to glutathione-S-transferase (G-hTBP), was incubated with the probe, but a prominent complex formed when a fraction highly enriched in SNAP_c was incubated with the probe (Fig. 1A). When G-hTBP and SNAP_c were co-incubated with the probe, a prominent complex of slower mobility was observed, and its formation was dependent on an intact PSE and an intact TATA box (Fig. 1A). This complex contained both G-hTBP and SNAP_c, as determined by antibody supershift experiments (12). Similar results were obtained when hTBP was used instead of the G-hTBP fusion protein (12). Thus, SNAP_c appeared to enhance binding of TBP to the U6 promoter probe. The COOH-terminal core of TBP lacking the NH₂-terminal region (G-hTBPΔN) bound much more efficiently to the TATA box than did G-hTBP on its own, and G-hTBPΔN binding was not substantially increased in the presence of SNAP_c bound to the PSE (Fig. 1A). Thus, although both

factors could co-occupy the U6 probe, in this case they did not influence each other's ability to bind DNA. Similarly, in assays with the TATA box of the adenovirus 2 major late (Ad2 ML) promoter, G-hTBP bound more weakly than did G-hTBPΔN (12). These results suggest that the NH₂-terminal region of human TBP down-regulates binding to the TATA box and allows SNAP_c to mediate recruitment of TBP to the U6 TATA box.

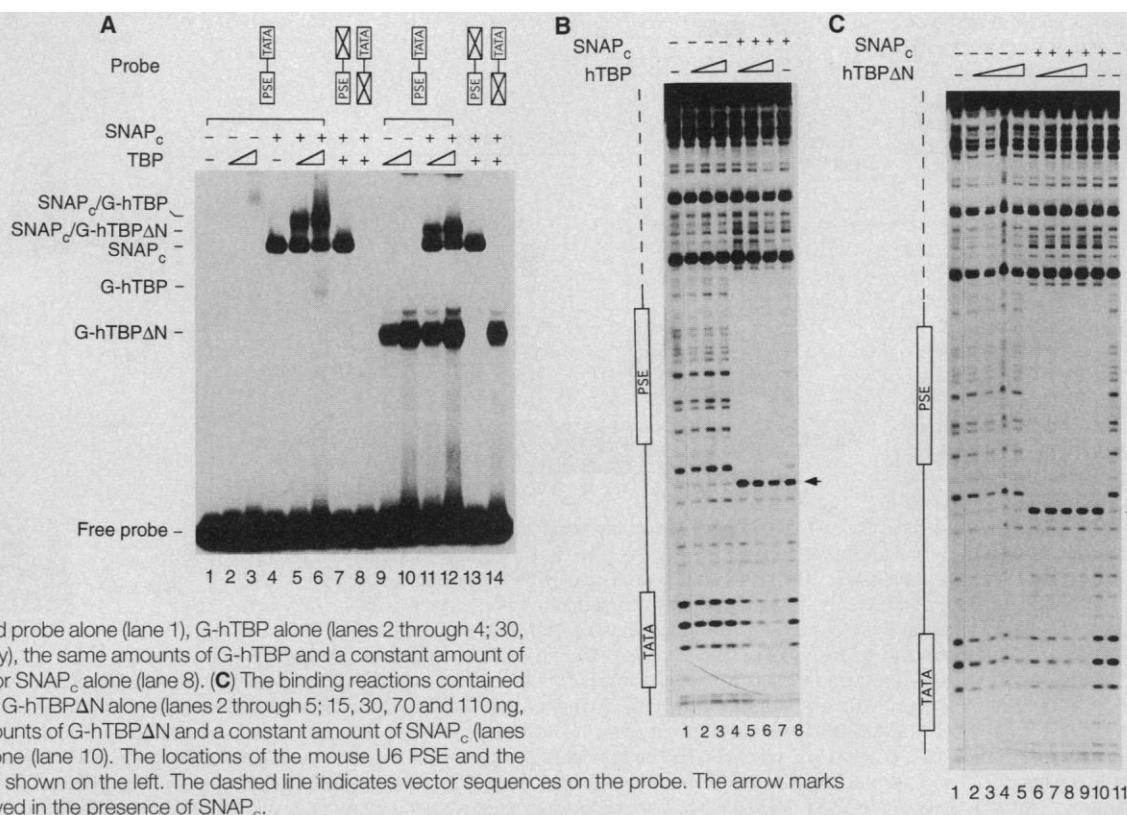
To determine whether the same effect could be observed at equilibrium in solution, we performed a deoxyribonuclease I (DNase I) footprinting experiment (13). Addition of increasing amounts of human G-hTBP to the U6 probe did not result in any detectable footprint, indicating that under the conditions used, full-length G-hTBP did not bind stably to the probe (Fig. 1B). In contrast, in the presence of SNAP_c, which gave a footprint over the high-affinity mouse U6 PSE on its own, a clear footprint over the TATA box was observed, confirming that SNAP_c recruits and stabilizes TBP on the TATA box. Recruitment of TBP by SNAP_c was also observed with non-glutathione-S-transferase (GST) TBP purchased from Promega (12). In contrast, G-hTBPΔN generated a clear footprint over the TATA box in the absence of SNAP_c, and this footprint was not increased in the presence of SNAP_c (Fig. 1C). The results confirm that G-hTBPΔN binds

more efficiently to the TATA box than does G-hTBP and cannot be further stabilized on the DNA by SNAP_c.



Fig. 2. Enhanced recruitment of SNAP_c to a low-affinity human PSE by full-length hTBP but not hTBPΔN. The EMSA was performed with a U6 probe containing either the high-affinity mouse U6 PSE (lane 1) or the low-affinity human U6 PSE (lanes 2 through 7) and a TATA box. Either G-hTBP (lanes 3, 4, and 7) or G-hTBPΔN (lanes 5 and 6) and a constant amount of SNAP_c, as indicated above the lanes, was used. Each titration contained 40 and 100 ng of TBP.

Fig. 1. SNAP_c-enhanced binding of full-length human TBP but not TBPΔN to the TATA box. **(A)** The EMSA was performed with a probe containing a high-affinity PSE (mouse U6 PSE) and a TATA box, or mutated versions thereof, and G-hTBP (lanes 2, 3, 5, and 6), or G-hTBPΔN (lanes 9 through 12) or SNAP_c or both, as indicated above the lanes. Proteins were obtained as described (11). Each titration contained approximately 80 and 160 ng of TBP. The positions of the free probe and the protein-probe complexes are indicated. **(B)** The binding reactions for the DNase I footprinting assay contained probe alone (lane 1), G-hTBP alone (lanes 2 through 4; 30, 70, and 110 ng, respectively), the same amounts of G-hTBP and a constant amount of SNAP_c (lanes 5 through 7) or SNAP_c alone (lane 8). **(C)** The binding reactions contained probe alone (lane 1 and 11), G-hTBPΔN alone (lanes 2 through 5; 15, 30, 70 and 110 ng, respectively), the same amounts of G-hTBPΔN and a constant amount of SNAP_c (lanes 6 through 9), or SNAP_c alone (lane 10). The locations of the mouse U6 PSE and the TATA box on the probe are shown on the left. The dashed line indicates vector sequences on the probe. The arrow marks a hypersensitive site observed in the presence of SNAP_c.



To test whether TBP stabilized SNAP_c on the PSE, we assayed binding of SNAP_c and G-hTBP to the wild-type human U6 promoter, which contains a PSE with very low affinity for SNAP_c. The SNAP_c bound efficiently to the mouse U6 PSE but not to the human U6 PSE (Fig. 2). However, upon addition of increasing amounts of G-hTBP, which did not bind effectively to the probe on its own, we observed very efficient formation of a SNAP_c/G-hTBP complex on the human U6 promoter. Remarkably, G-hTBPΔN bound very efficiently to the probe but was unable to recruit SNAP_c to the PSE (Fig. 2). Yeast TBP, whose NH₂-terminal domain bears no homology to human TBP, behaved like hTBPΔN (12). Thus, the NH₂-terminal region of human TBP not only down-regulates binding of full-length TBP to the TATA box, but also mediates cooperative binding with SNAP_c.

The nonconserved NH₂-terminal region of TBP can be divided into three segments: (i) a run of glutamines at position 55 through 95 (segment II), (ii) the segment that precedes it (segment I, amino acids at position 1 through 54), and (iii) the seg-

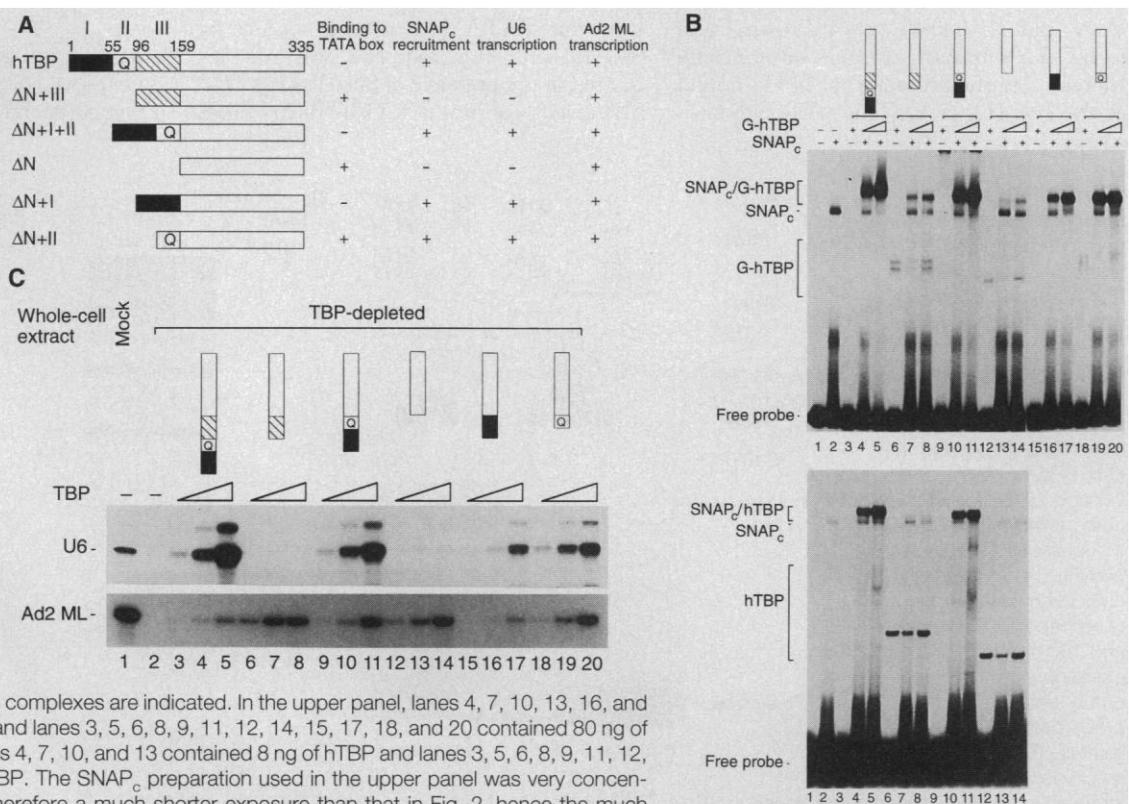
ment that follows it (segment III, amino acids at position 96 through 158) (Fig. 3A). We first generated two constructs that either contained only the third segment (ΔN+III) or only the first two segments (ΔN+I+II) of the NH₂-terminal region, and compared them with full-length TBP and hTBPΔN in their ability to recruit SNAP_c to the low-affinity human PSE. We tested both GST TBP fusion proteins and non-GST TBP proteins (Fig. 3B). SNAP_c alone bound relatively weakly to the PSE, and full-length G-hTBP or hTBP did not show detectable binding. However, SNAP_c and G-hTBP together or SNAP_c and hTBP together bound very efficiently to the human U6 promoter. Both G-hTBPΔN and hTBPΔN bound to the probe on their own but did not recruit SNAP_c to the PSE. G-TBP and TBP proteins containing only the third segment of the NH₂-terminal region (ΔN+III) also bound to the TATA box on their own and also failed to enhance recruitment of SNAP_c to the PSE. In contrast, proteins containing only the first two segments (ΔN+I+II) did not bind efficiently on their own but were able to bind cooperatively with SNAP_c (Fig. 3B). The

TBP molecules lacking the GST moiety were also tested for their ability to bind to the Ad2 ML TATA box, and in this assay too, full-length hTBP and ΔN+I+II bound less efficiently to the TATA box than did hTBPΔN and ΔN+III (12). These results suggest that the first two segments down-regulate binding of human TBP to the TATA box and recruit SNAP_c to the PSE.

We then tested two GST fusion constructs containing either segment I or segment II fused directly to the COOH-terminal domain (constructs ΔN+I and ΔN+II; Fig. 3A). Whereas G-hTBPΔN+I was unable to bind effectively to the U6 TATA box on its own (like full-length and ΔN+I+II TBP), G-hTBPΔN+II could bind to the TATA box (Fig. 3B). These results suggest that segment I down-regulates binding of TBP to the TATA box. Both proteins, however, were capable of binding cooperatively with SNAP_c to the U6 promoter, although less efficiently than either G-hTBP or G-hTBPΔN+I+II (Fig. 3B). This suggests that segments I and II both contribute to cooperative binding with SNAP_c.

To determine whether the NH₂-terminal

Fig. 3. (A) Structure of NH₂-terminal deletion mutants of hTBP and their effect on DNA binding, ability to interact with SNAP_c, and basal U6 and Ad2 ML transcription. The positions of segments I, II, and III in wild-type TBP and the various TBP mutants are indicated. The EMSA and transcription results in (B) and (C) are summarized on the right. **(B)** The first two segments of the NH₂-terminal domain of TBP can recruit SNAP_c to the PSE. The upper panel shows an experiment performed with GST fusion proteins and the lower panel shows an experiment performed with TBP molecules lacking the GST moiety. The NH₂-terminal deletion mutants of hTBP used are indicated above the lanes. The positions of the free probes



ing no antibodies. Transcription reactions for U6 and Ad2 ML were carried out as described by Lobo *et al.* (7). Purified GST-hTBP proteins were added as indicated in the figure legends, and the transcription reactions were allowed to proceed for 30 (for U6) or 90 (for Ad2 ML) min at 30°C.

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Structural Convergence in the Active Sites of a Family of Catalytic Antibodies

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The x-ray structures of three esterase-like catalytic antibodies identified by screening for catalytic activity the entire hybridoma repertoire, elicited in response to a phosphonate transition state analog (TSA) hapten, were analyzed. The high resolution structures account for catalysis by transition state stabilization, and in all three antibodies a tyrosine residue participates in the oxyanion hole. Despite significant conformational differences in their combining sites, the three antibodies, which are the most efficient among those elicited, achieve catalysis in essentially the same mode, suggesting that evolution for binding to a single TSA followed by screening for catalysis lead to antibodies with structural convergence.

Convergent evolution is a frequent outcome of the process of natural selection. At present, we know very little about this process, particularly with respect to proteins and their function. Among the unanswered questions are concerns about how many different ways a protein pocket can effect a given chemical transformation, and what elementary processes once existed and have then been discarded along the evolutionary pathway to the efficient enzymes we see today. Catalytic antibodies that are induced experimentally in real time offer a way to reveal much about enzyme evolution including questions about convergence (1). The proposal that antibodies with catalytic activity (abzymes) could be generated to an analog of a transition state (TSA) of the reaction to be catalyzed (2) has proved widely applicable (3). Now, instead of reporting a singular event via a structure we report and compare

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the best solutions to catalysis in a family of antibodies, thereby offering insight into the power of selection, through a screening for catalytic activity, even when it is only allowed to operate once.

Most abzymes have been identified by screening the immune response for binding to the hapten and then testing the best scoring clones for catalytic activity. X-ray structures of abzymes generated following this general protocol have begun to define relationships between the hapten used to elicit catalytic antibodies and the residues of these antibodies which effect catalysis

(4–8). With a more facile procedure, cat-ELISA, in which product-specific antibodies are used to detect the appearance of product after immobilized substrate is exposed to the supernatant of culture hybridoma cells, we were able to probe the entire hybridoma repertoire for catalytic antibodies (9). The catalytic antibodies D2.3, D2.4, and D2.5 were obtained by immunizing BALB/c mice with phosphonate 1, an analog of the oxyanion intermediate in the hydrolysis of 2, coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH) (Fig. 1), and identified with the use of catELISA. Among a total of 1570 hybrid clones derived from a single mouse, nine scored positive in this assay, a figure to be compared to 970 hapten-binding clones (9). Catalytic antibodies D2.3, D2.4, and D2.5 show specific and efficient hydrolysis, accelerated by up to five orders of magnitude, toward the *p*-nitrobenzyl ester 2 (Table 1) and are significantly more active than the other six catalytic clones that were identified (as determined by cat-ELISA).

The sequences of the variable domains of D2.3, D2.4, and D2.5 have been determined. The most extensive differences are found in the H3 loop (10 residues), which in D2.4 differs from those in D2.3 and D2.5 at four positions and by an insertion (10). Otherwise, the sequences present a high degree of identity, similar to that observed in families of catalytic antibodies elicited with the same hapten (11–13), as opposed to the extensive differences between se-

Table 1. Kinetic and structural data on antibodies D2.3, D2.4, and D2.5.

	D2.3	D2.4	D2.5
k_{cat} (min ⁻¹)*	3.6	1.0	0.07
K_m (μM)	280	300	340
K_D^S/K_D^T TSA	1.1×10^5	3.3×10^4	1.3×10^3
$k_{cat}/k_{uncat}^\dagger$	1.3×10^5	3.6×10^4	2.5×10^3
Resolution (Å)	1.9	3.1	2.2
Precision of atomic positions‡ (Å)	0.25	0.35	0.25
Interactions of TSA 1 with the Fab			
Buried surface§ (Å ²)	515	510	505
van der Waals contacts (nb)	86	96	76
Hydrogen bonds (nb)	5	5	5

*The catalytic activity (per site) and binding parameters were measured as described (9, 19). Data for the most efficient of these antibodies, D2.3, have been reported (9); those for D2.4 and D2.5 are reported in a kinetic study of all three antibodies (19, 28). k_{uncat}^\dagger is measured in the same buffer as used for measuring catalysis, the kinetic constant being extrapolated to zero buffer concentration, at constant ionic strength. ‡The precision of atomic positions is evaluated from the variation of the *R* factor with the resolution, according to the method of Luzzati (20). §An equivalent surface area is buried on the Fab side.