





# Structure of cyclin G-associated kinase (GAK) trapped in different conformations using nanobodies

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GAK (cyclin G-associated kinase) is a key regulator of clathrin-coated vesicle trafficking and plays a central role during development. Additionally, due to the unusually high plasticity of its catalytic domain, it is a frequent 'off-target' of clinical kinase inhibitors associated with respiratory side effects of these drugs. In the present paper, we determined the crystal structure of the GAK catalytic domain alone and in complex with specific single-chain antibodies (nanobodies). GAK is constitutively active and weakly associates in solution. The GAK apo structure revealed a dimeric inactive state of the catalytic domain mediated by an unusual activation segment interaction. Co-crystallization with the nanobody NbGAK\_4 trapped GAK in a dimeric arrangement similar to the one observed in the apo structure, whereas

NbGAK\_1 captured the activation segment of monomeric GAK in a well-ordered conformation, representing features of the active kinase. The presented structural and biochemical data provide insight into the domain plasticity of GAK and demonstrate the utility of nanobodies to gain insight into conformational changes of dynamic molecules. In addition, we present structural data on the binding mode of ATP mimetic inhibitors and enzyme kinetic data, which will support rational inhibitor design of inhibitors to reduce the off-target effect on GAK.

Key words: activation loop, cyclin G-associated kinase, drug side effect, kinase inhibitor, nanobody, protein structure.

#### INTRODUCTION

Kinases are highly dynamic enzymes and key regulators of signalling pathways. The proper timely and spatial activation of these pathways requires fine tuning and a tight regulation of the proteins involved. In a crystal structure only one conformation of a kinase is trapped and stabilized by crystal contacts. Understanding the function of a kinase requires understanding of its structural plasticity and, as a consequence, the generation of multiple structures in diverse conformations.

GAK (cyclin G-associated kinase) is a member of the NAK (numb-associated kinase) family, which in humans also includes STK16 (serine/threonine kinase 16)/MPSK1 (myristoylated and palmitoylated serine/threonine kinase 1), AAK1 (adaptorassociated kinase 1) and BIKE [BMP2 (bone morphogenetic protein 2)-inducible kinase]. This small subfamily of kinases is located in the centre of the kinase phylogenetic tree and shows a large sequence and structure diversity to other kinases as well as within the NAK subfamily [1]. GAK was originally identified as an association partner of cyclin G and CDK5 (cyclin-dependent kinase 5) [2]. It is essential for clathrin trafficking, mediating binding of clathrin to the plasma membrane and the *trans*-Golgi network, and regulating receptor signalling by influencing

trafficking downstream of clathrin-coated vesicles [3,4]. In addition to its role in the cytoplasm, GAK has important functions in the nucleus. It is required for the maintenance of proper centrosome maturation and progression through mitosis [5]. GAK plays a central role during development and GAK-/- mice die early in gestation. Deleting GAK in adult mice in an inducible knockout mouse model resulted in death of these animals after 3 weeks, demonstrating that GAK is also essential for the viability of adult mice. Tissue-specific conditional knockout of GAK in the skin, liver or developing brain also resulted in lethal phenotypes shortly after birth with severe alteration of the affected tissues and a failure of progenitor cells to differentiate [6]. The kinase activity of GAK plays an essential role in viability and mice expressing only a kinase-dead form of GAK also die shortly after birth. Death is caused by respiratory dysfunction due to altered distribution of surfactant protein [7]. This critical role for GAK in the maintenance of respiratory function is thought to be the cause of the side effects observed with the EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor) kinase inhibitor gefitinib, used in the treatment of patients with NSCLC (non-small-cell lung cancer), as GAK is potently inhibited by this drug [7].

Activation of kinases frequently occurs via phosphorylation of the activation loop, also called the T-loop, a stretch of usually

Abbreviations: ASCH, activation segment C-terminal helix; AUC, analytical ultracentrifugation; CDR, complementarity-determining region; DARPin, designed ankyrin-repeat protein; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; GAK, cyclin G-associated kinase; HA, haemagglutinin; MPSK1, myristoylated and palmitoylated serine/threonine kinase 1; NAK, numb-associated kinase; Nb, nanobody; RU, resonance unit; SeMet, selenomethionine; SPR, surface plasmon resonance; TCEP, tris-(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine; TEV, Tobacco etch virus.

The crystal structures reported in this paper have been deposited in the PDB under codes 4O38, 4C57, 4C58 and 4C59.

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30–40 amino acids that is located between two conserved motifs found in kinases: the DFG (Asp/Phe/Gly) and APE (Ala/Pro/Glu) motifs. Of the NAK family of kinases only the structure of MPSK1 has been determined so far. This structure is characterized by an unusual activation segment comprising an additional  $\beta$ -sheet and a large  $\alpha$ -helical insertion, termed the ASCH (activation segment C-terminal helix), which is anchored to the lower kinase lobe by a number of family-specific hydrophobic interactions [8]. This unusual arrangement has been predicted to be present in all NAK family members, but the presence of this atypical activation segment has not been confirmed experimentally.

Nbs (nanobodies) are robust small (15 kDa) single domain antigen-binding fragments derived from heavy chain-only antibodies, naturally occurring in Camelids, which can efficiently be produced by a variety of different hosts [9,10]. They contain a more diverse structural repertoire of their paratopes than mouse or human antibodies, as their hypervariable loops can adopt new folds not observed in conventional mouse or human antibodies. Their antigen-recognition sites typically form a convex surface with a large CDR (complementarity-determining region) loop 3 (CDR3) capable of reaching antigen-binding pockets that are less antigenic for other types of binders. It is thought that this helps to compensate for the loss of repertoire caused by the loss of the combinatorial VH-VL diversity [11]. In addition, high solubility due to specific hydrophilic amino acids found in the framework-two regions between CDRs, as well as their resistance to temperature and denaturing, make them ideally suitable for application in structural biology [12,13]. High-affinity Nbs and other affinity reagents are thought to be conformation sensitive [14,15], thus using them in crystallization complexes can aid in the determination of conformation-specific structures of dynamic molecules such as kinases.

In the present paper, we report the first crystal structures of the GAK catalytic domain. The apo structure of GAK revealed a dimeric assembly mediated by the disordered elongated activation segment that dislodges from the lower lobe to interact with a second kinase molecule. Weak association of the GAK kinase domain was also observed in solution using AUC (analytical ultracentrifugation). Additional GAK and Nb co-crystalization structures revealed two distinct kinase conformations: one capturing a conformation similar to the one observed in the unliganded GAK kinase domain confirming the dimeric arrangement in a different crystal form, and a second structure with an active conformation of GAK revealing a folded activation segment architecture characterized by the insertion of an unusual  $\beta$ -sheet and the ASCH that has also been described in MPSK1, suggesting a conserved architecture of the activation segment in NAKs. The different conformations observed in these three diverse crystal structures revealed a large degree of domain plasticity that include significant changes in the GAK active site providing a rational for the potent inhibition of GAK by a large diversity of kinase inhibitors.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

#### Cloning and protein purification

DNA fragments encoding the kinase domain of human GAK (residues 14–351 for the co-crystal structure or 12–347 for the apo structure) were subcloned into either the pNIC-H102 or pNIC28-Bsa4 vector, both incorporating an N-terminal TEV (tobacco etch virus)-cleavable His<sub>6</sub> tag. The recombinant protein was expressed in *Escherichia coli* BL21(DE3)-R3 cells cultured in LB medium at 37 °C and induced with 0.5 mM IPTG at 18 °C overnight. For the SeMet (selenomethionine)-labelled protein, 90 mg of SeMet and

150 mg each of inhibitory amino acids (VILKTF) was added to the cultures as described previously [16]. Cells were harvested and resuspended in lysis buffer comprising 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.5), 500 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole, 5% glycerol and 0.5 mM TCEP [tris-(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine]. After breaking the cells by sonication, the supernatant was separated by centrifugation (55 914 g for 60 min at 4°C) and the proteins were purified by Ni-affinity and size-exclusion (Superdex S200) chromatography. The His<sub>6</sub> tag was removed by TEV protease treatment, after which the cleaved protein was passed over Ni–Sepharose resin. The pure protein was stored in storage buffer [10 mM Hepes (pH 7.5), 300 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol and 0.5 mM TCEP] at -80°C.

#### Nb generation and purification

A dromedary (Veterinary Faculty, University of Las Palmas, Spain) was immunized using injections of 100  $\mu$ g of GAK protein in adjuvant. Blood was collected 4 days after the last boost injection. Library generation, phage display, Nb expression and purification were performed according to procedures described in [17]. All animal vaccination experiments were performed in strict accordance with good practices, following EU animal welfare legislation. Every effort was made to minimize suffering. Briefly, after subcloning the variable domain repertoire in the pMECS phage display vector, which adds an HA (haemagglutinin) and a His tag, a library of  $1.2 \times 10^7$  transformants, which has been panned on recombinant GAK, was generated, of which 78 % had correctly sized inserts. The Nb repertoire of the library was then expressed in phages after rescue with the VCS helper phage. After three rounds of panning, 24 clones of the second round and 23 clones of the third round of panning were picked randomly for antigen-binding screening. The cell lysates of 28 clones scored positive in ELISA after detection with a mouse anti-HA antibody (Covance) and an alkaline phosphatase-anti-(mouse IgG) conjugate (Sigma). Sequence analysis revealed four unique sequences.

The corresponding plasmids containing DNA fragments encoding the GAK-specific Nbs were transformed into non-suppressor WK6 *E. coli* cells for recombinant protein expression in the periplasm. Cultures in TB (Terrific broth; 2.3 g of KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 16.4 g of K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>·3H<sub>2</sub>O, 12 g of tryptone, 24 g of yeast extract and 4 ml of 100% glycerol) medium supplemented with 0.1% glucose were induced with 1 mM IPTG overnight at 28 °C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation (11 300 g for 8 min at 4 °C) and subjected to an osmotic shock to obtain the periplasmic extract. The recombinant proteins were purified by Ni-affinity and size-exclusion (Superdex S75) chromatography. The pure Nbs were stored at 4 °C in 20 mM Tris/HCl (pH 8.0) and 125 mM NaCl.

#### Kinetics of GAK-kinase inhibitor and GAK-Nb interaction

Interaction analyses of GAK with Nbs were performed by SPR (surface plasmon resonance) using a Biacore 3000 optical biosensor (GE Healthcare) at 25 °C with a flow rate of 30  $\mu$ l/min. All samples were diluted in analysis buffer composed of 50 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 50  $\mu$ M EDTA and 0.005 % Tween 20. Biotinylated GAK was immobilized on to the CAP chip surface using the Biotin CAPture kit (GE Healthcare) at capture levels between 60 and 120 RU (resonance units). Serial 2-fold dilutions of the respective Nbs were injected for 3 min. After recording the dissociation, analysis buffer supplemented with 1.5 M NaCl was injected for 1 min. No additional surface regeneration step was needed due to complete dissociation of Nbs.

Kinase inhibitor binding to GAK was characterized using a Biacore T100 instrument (GE Healthcare) at 25 °C with a flow

rate of 100  $\mu$ l/min in HBS/DMSO analysis buffer [20 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 50  $\mu$ M EDTA, 0.005 % surfactant P20 and 3 % DMSO]. For each analysis cycle, GAK was freshly immobilized on to a CAP chip surface resulting in reproducible capture levels (between 720 and 3400 RU depending on the molecular mass of the respective inhibitor). The amount of GAK on a sensor chip surface was kept as low as possible in order to minimize secondary effects such as mass transport limitation and rebinding.

Serial 3-fold dilutions of kinase inhibitors were injected for 1 min with various dissociation times. Solvent correction was applied to all datasets.

Sensorgrams were processed and analysed using BIAevaluation software version 4.1.1 (for Biacore 3000) or Biacore T100 evaluation software version 2.0.3. Double referencing of all binding curves was applied as described in [18]. The binding data were fitted to a 1:1 Langmuir interaction model to calculate the rate constants for association ( $k_a$ ) and dissociation ( $k_d$ ) and the equilibrium dissociation constant ( $K_D = k_d/k_a$ ) for kinase inhibitor and Nb interactions.

#### **Crystallization of GAK**

SeMet-labelled GAK was treated with 1 mg/ml chymotrypsin and incubated for 2 h on ice. However, chymotrypsin did not cleave GAK in solution. The integrity of the protein in the measured crystal was not tested and we cannot exclude that the catalytic domain or termini were cleaved during crystallization. Crystallization was performed in 400-nl sitting drops at 16 °C using a reservoir solution containing 1.0 M succinic acid (pH 7.0) and 0.1 M Bis-Tris propane (pH 7.0). Viable apo crystals were cryoprotected in mother liquor supplemented with 25 % glycerol before flash-freezing in liquid nitrogen.

## **Complex purification and crystallization**

Both GAK and Nb proteins were initially buffer-exchanged in 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.5) and 100 mM NaCl, and mixed at a 1:1.2 molar ratio. After 2 h of incubation on ice, the complexes were prepared by size-exclusion chromatography to remove the excess Nbs, and were then concentrated to 10–15 mg/ml. The GAK–NbGAK\_1 and GAK–NbGAK\_4 complexes were pre-incubated with 1 mM inhibitors, and crystallized using the sitting-drop vapour-diffusion method at 4°C or 20°C respectively. Crystals were obtained under various conditions (Supplementary Table S1 at http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm) and were cryoprotected in mother liquor supplemented with ethylene glycol before flash-freezing in liquid nitrogen.

#### Data collection, structure solution and refinement

Two-wavelength peak (0.9791 Å) and inflection (0.9794 Å) MAD diffraction data for apo-GAK were collected at the 19-ID beamline of the Structural Biology Center at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory using the program SBC collect and processed and scaled with HKL3000. The apo structure was solved by the two-wavelength MAD method with the SHELX programs from the HKL3000 suite using a Se anomalous signal, and the final model was refined using REFMAC and peak data. For the Nb–GAK complexes, diffraction data were collected at the Diamond Light Source (Harwell, U.K.), and processed either with MOSFLM [19] or XDS [20] before subsequent scaling with SCALA from the CCP4 suite [21]. The structures of the complexes were solved by molecular replacement

with the PHASER program [22] using the co-ordinates of apo-GAK and the Camelid single-domain antibody NbHuL6 [23] as search models. Density modification was performed using the PARROT program [24], and the improved phases were used for automated model building in BUCCANEER [25]. The initial output structures were subjected to iterative cycles of manual model rebuilding using COOT [26] alternated with refinement in Buster [27] for the GAK-NbGAK\_1 structure or REFMAC [28] for the GAK-NbGAK\_4 structures. The complete models were checked for geometric correctness with MolProbity [29]. Data collection and refinement statistics are summarized in Supplementary Table S1.

#### In vitro kinase assay

An ADP  $Glo^{TM}$  assay (Promega) was carried out according to the manufacturer's instructions in buffer containing 50 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.4) and 1 mM DTT. In brief, reactions were performed in a 25- $\mu$ l volume using GAK and the histone H1 substrate (Calbiochem) at a concentration of 250 nM and 0.2 mg/ml respectively. The reactions were initiated by the addition of 100  $\mu$ M ATP and 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, before incubation for 1 h at room temperature (22 °C) with shaking. To measure the effect of Nbs or inhibitors on the activity of GAK, the reactions were supplemented with the Nbs or inhibitors at a 5-fold molar excess of the kinase. Data analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism.

#### **AUC**

Sedimentation velocity experiments were performed at 4°C in a Beckman Optima XL-I Analytical Ultracentrifuge using a Ti-50 rotor at 98 607 g. The proteins used were in PBS buffer and at a concentration of ~20  $\mu$ M. Data were analysed with SEDFIT [30] to the calculate c(s) distributions, which were then normalized into the sedimentation coefficients in water at 20 °C ( $s^{\circ}_{20,w}$ ) using the values for the solvent density ( $\rho_{\circ}$ ) of 1.0056 g/ml, viscosity ( $\eta_{\circ}$ ) of 1.0198 × 10<sup>-2</sup> and the protein partial specific volume of 0.7309 ml/g.

#### Inhibitor screening

Thermal stability-shift assays were carried out using a Real-Time PCR Mx3005p machine (Stratagene). In brief, GAK at 2  $\mu$ M was mixed with 10  $\mu$ M kinase inhibitors. The experiments and data evaluation for the melting temperatures were performed according to previously described protocols [31,32].

#### **RESULTS**

#### Structure of the apo-GAK kinase domain

Crystallization of the GAK kinase domain (residues 14–351) yielded apo crystals that diffracted to 2.1 Å resolution. Overall, GAK adopts the typical bi-lobal kinase architecture with most of the structural elements characteristic of kinases in both the N- and C-lobes highly maintained. Two kinase molecules occupied the asymmetric unit of the hexagonal unit cell and associated in a head-to-toe arrangement (Figure 1A). In that arrangement, the largely disordered activation segment (Asp<sup>181</sup>– Ile<sup>230</sup>) dislodged from the lower kinase domain and bound to the upper kinase lobe of the interacting protomer. Using AUC we confirmed dimerization of GAK in solution, which was, however, weak and therefore not detected in the gel-filtration experiments

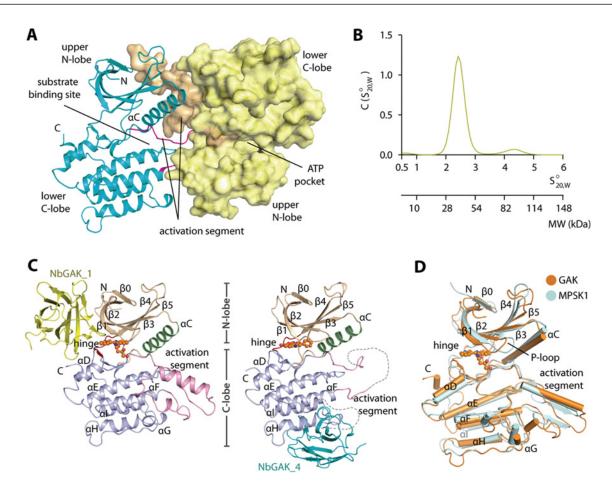


Figure 1 Overview of GAK and its Nb complexes

(A) Dimeric assembly of GAK in the apo structure, which is enabled by an exchange in the extended activation segments. (B) Sedimentation velocity AUC of GAK demonstrates an existence of mainly monomeric kinase in solution with a possibility of a weak dimeric formation. Also see Supplementary Figure S1(B) (http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm). (C) Ribbon representations of the structures of GAK—NbGAK\_1 (left-hand panel) and GAK—NbGAK\_4 (right-hand panel), in which the Nbs are coloured yellow and cyan respectively. Secondary structure elements of the kinase are labelled and kinase inhibitors are shown as sphere. (D) Superimposition of GAK and MPSK1 revealing a highly conserved overall topology.

(Figure 1B and Supplementary Figure S1 at http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm).

#### Overview of the GAK-Nb complex structures

In order to study in more detail the activation mechanism of GAK we strived to generate additional crystal forms of the kinase using Nbs for stabilization. Peripheral blood lymphocytes from a GAK-immunized dromedary were isolated and served to clone the gene fragment repertoire of the antigen-binding domains present on the camel-specific heavy chain-only antibodies. Four Nbs with unique sequences were identified from a library  $(1.2 \times 10^7 \text{ individual transformants})$  and 78% correctly sized inserts), which had been panned on recombinant GAK.

All four successfully isolated GAK-specific Nbs formed tight complexes with the GAK catalytic domain. Of these four, two Nbs, NbGAK\_1 and NbGAK\_4, yielded crystals. The asymmetric unit of the primitive monoclinic  $P2_1$  crystals of GAK-NbGAK\_1 contained two molecules of the complex, whereas the GAK-NbGAK\_4 complex crystals exhibited a C-centred monoclinic C2 lattice comprising only one complex in the asymmetric unit (Figure 1C). The differences in the crystal packing of these complexes were mainly due to the presence of the Nbs, which acted as additive binders to provide additional contact surfaces.

This also led to the alteration of both interactions between kinase molecules within the crystals and, hence, the conformation of the kinase, which are explained in detail below. A summary of the statistics for data collection and refinement is shown in Supplementary Table S1.

The kinase domain of GAK was well defined in the electron density map of both structures. The GAK-NbGAK\_4 complex showed a similar dimeric arrangement as observed in the apo structure with large portions of the activation segment and the  $\alpha G$  helix (residues 265–274) disordered. In contrast, a near complete kinase molecule (residues 25-334) was seen in the GAK-NbGAK\_1 structure revealing that the structure of the folded form of the activation segment was reminiscent of the unusual activation loop architecture described for MPSK1 (Figure 1D). Superimposition of the kinase from the two complexes revealed high similarity in the core kinase domain (Cα RMSD of 0.9 Å). The N-terminal region further formed an additional  $\beta$ -strand ( $\beta$ 0) that joined and extended further the canonical N-lobe  $\beta$ -sheet. Similar to the observations for the unliganded GAK form, a structural comparison of GAK with MPSK1 demonstrated similarity in their overall kinase topology (C $\alpha$  RMSD of  $\sim$ 2.0 Å) despite sharing only ~26% sequence identity (Figure 1D), suggesting conservation of the main structural elements within this highly diverse kinase family.

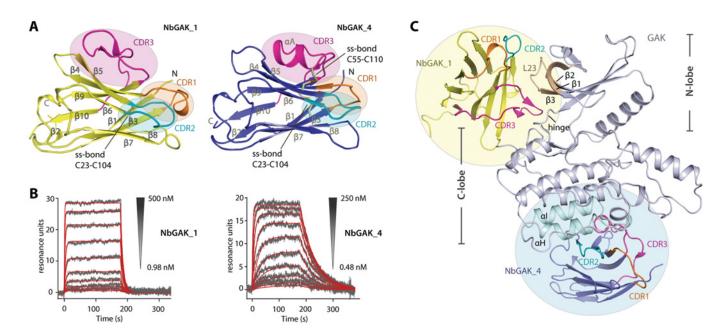


Figure 2 Analysis of specific NbGAK\_1 and NbGAK\_4 binding to GAK

(A) Overall structures of the two Nbs demonstrate a classical β-sheet immunoglobulin scaffold. Their CDR regions are highlighted and disulfide bridges are indicated. For detailed structural and sequence analysis of the Nb interaction see Supplementary Figure S2 (http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm). (B) Interaction analysis of GAK with NbGAK\_1 and NbGAK\_4. Grey curves represent the measured responses, whereas red lines reflect the applied global fit using the 1:1 Langmuir interaction model. (C) Different epitopes of GAK are recognized by two Nbs. NbGAK\_1 (yellow) binds to the N-terminal lobe, whereas NbGAK\_4 (pale blue) recognizes the helical architectures of the C-terminal lobe of the kinase. For details see Supplementary Figures S3(A) and S3(B) (http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm).

#### Structural variations of Nbs

Both NbGAK\_1 and NbGAK\_4 comprise ~120 amino acids, and their structures contained a single-domain immunoglobulin fold consisting mainly of  $\beta$ -strands from which two layers of  $\beta$ -sheets are formed (Figure 2A). These two layers of the sheets are linked by a conserved disulfide bond between framework regions 1 (FR1), and 3 (FR3), a characteristic that lends stability to the Nbs [11]. Although their core domains were structurally highly conserved (Ca RMSD of 1.2 Å), several structural differences were observed in all three of their CDRs (Figure 2A and Supplementary Figure S2 at http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm). Most notable is the third loop (CDR3 or H3) of NbGAK\_4, which forms a unique helical segment created by a patch of hydrophobic amino acids (Figure 2A and Supplementary Figure S2). The overall differences in their CDRs play an important role regarding their antigen-binding properties and result in their different binding affinities for GAK. The SPR analysis revealed that NbGAK\_1 binds to the kinase with a  $K_D$  value of 60 nM, a nearly 6-foldlower affinity than that of NbGAK\_4 ( $K_D = 10 \text{ nM}$ ) (Figure 2B and Table 1). Although no crystals could be obtained with NbGAK\_2, this Nb showed the highest affinity to GAK target in comparison with all other Nbs tested in direct binding experiments using SPR (Table 1), whereas no rate and equilibrium-binding constants could be determined in a direct binding assay for the fourth Nb due to unspecific binding (results not shown).

### Nbs confer different epitope recognition sites

Superimposition of the two Nb complex structures revealed different recognition sites in GAK (Figure 2C). Although NbGAK\_1 binds to the N-lobe, in particular  $\beta$ 1,  $\beta$ 2,  $\beta$ 3, L23

loop and the hinge, the  $\alpha H$  and  $\alpha I$  helices are the regions in the C-lobe that are recognized by NbGAK\_4. Although several regions of the kinase, including the activation segment and parts of the C-lobe, are disordered in the GAK-NbGAK\_4 structure, the distant binding site of this Nb is unlikely to interfere with the folding of these structural elements (Figure 2C).

Both global shape and electrostatic complementarities between the Nb epitope-recognition sites and the GAK antigens provide a structural basis for selection of the binding site (details in Supplementary Figures S3A and S3C at http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm). NbGAK\_1 makes specific contacts to the extended feature of the L23 loop through a shallow elongated cavity formed by the CDR regions. In addition the protruding CDR3 reaches underneath the N-lobe contacting the kinase  $\beta$ -sheet (numbering of Nbs based on the IMGT scheme from [33]). In contrast, the rather surface-filled CDRs of NbGAK 4 favour the shallower flat binding cavity created by helices  $\alpha H$  and  $\alpha I$ . In addition to the overall shape complementarity, the number of local intermolecular hydrogen bonds observed between the kinase antigens and the residues from the antigen-recognition sites provide a high degree of epitope discrimination and specificities (Supplementary Figures S3B and S3D).

## **GAK** dimerization

The dimeric assembly of GAK is a phenomenon not only observed in the apo form, but also in the crystals of the GAK–NbGAK\_4 complex (Figure 3A). An application of the crystallographic two-fold symmetry to the complex subunit in the asymmetric unit results in a dimeric assembly of the kinase catalytic domain, which highly resembles that of the apo structure. The N-lobe  $\alpha C$  and the C-lobe activation segment are the parts of the catalytic

#### Table 1 Kinetics of the interaction between NbGAK4 and NbGAK1 with GAK

Calculated rate constants and equilibrium-binding constants for the binding of NbGAK\_1 and NbGAK\_4 to biotinylated GAK. Rate constants for all experiments were determined using a global fit analysis.  $K_D$  values represent the ratio of  $k_d$  to  $k_a$ . A Langmuir 1:1 binding was employed to analyse the binding data in perfect agreement with the model, indicating direct interaction of GAK with each of the Nbs tested.

Analyte	Kinetic global fit	Steady-state analysis				
	$k_{\rm a}  ({\rm M}^{-1} \cdot {\rm s}^{-1})$	$k_{\rm d} \ ({\rm s}^{-1})$	$K_D$ (nM)	$R_{\rm max}$ (RU)	Percentage active	$K_{\rm D}$ (nM)
NbGAK_4	1.8 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	1.8 × 10 <sup>-2</sup>	10.3	19.8	67.7	12.8
NbGAK_1 NbGAK_2	$2.2 \times 10^6$ $3.3 \times 10^6$	$1.3 \times 10^{-1}$ $9.7 \times 10^{-4}$	59.9 0.294	32.5 22.1	70.5 78.6	60.3

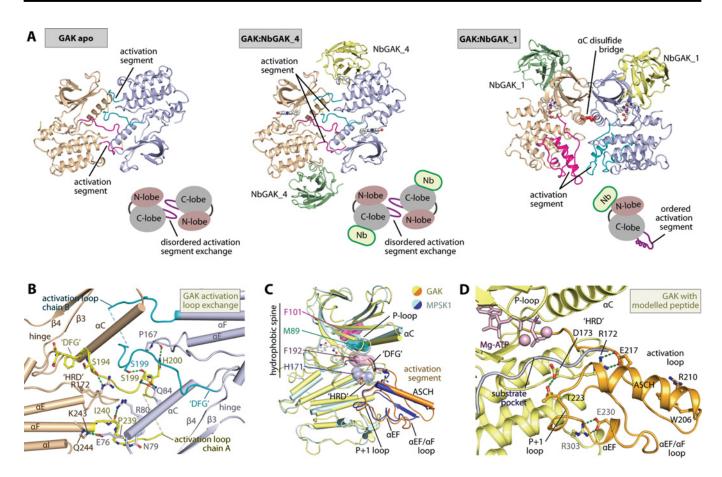


Figure 3 Nb\_GAK1 and Nb\_GAK4 capture different activation states of GAK

(A) Arrangement of GAK oligomeric states in the crystals of dimeric apo-GAK (left-hand panel), dimeric GAK—NbGAK\_4 (middle panel) and monomeric GAK—NbGAK\_1 (right-hand), in which each kinase molecule is coloured wheat and pale blue, and their activation segments are in magenta and cyan. In the apo and NbGAK\_4-complexed structures, formation of a homodimer in a head-to-tail fashion is assisted by an activation segment-exchange mechanism, whereas this is not observed in a fully ordered activation segment that prompts a monomeric form in the NbGAK\_1-complexed crystals. The disulfide bridge formed between two cysteine residues from the  $\alpha$ C observed in the GAK—NbGAK\_1 complex is coloured red. (B) Details of intersubunit contacts within the activation segment-exchange region of the GAK—NbGAK\_4 structure. (C) Superimposition of GAK from the NbGAK\_1-complexed structure and MPSK1 reveal similar topology of the fully ordered activation segment with two highly conserved unique features, the ACSH and the parallel loop within the activation loop. This conformation of GAK also demonstrates a formation of the hydrophobic regulatory spine (R-spine), a characteristic of an active kinase. (D) Conformation of the activation segment confers an active state of GAK. Interactions between the HRD motif residues to both ASCH Glu<sup>217</sup> and P + 1 loop Thr<sup>223</sup> residues, including communication between the  $\alpha$ EF Glu<sup>230</sup> to the C-lobe Arg<sup>303</sup>, lock the typically flexible activation segment in place, and this creates a platform for substrate binding. Modelling of the substrate peptide (grey ribbon) and ATP-MgCl<sub>2</sub> (pink stick and ball) from the PKA structure (PDB code 1ATP) into GAK suggests a suitable pocket for accommodation of a substrate peptide for phosphorylation.

domain that are located at the two-fold interface and primarily mediate intermolecular contacts. In contrast, although containing two molecules of the complex in the asymmetric unit, the limited intermolecular contacts suggest that the GAK-NbGAK\_1 complex depicts the kinase in its monomeric active form. In this monomer, no activation segment exchange between the two kinase molecules is observed, and the activation segments of both

kinase molecules are fully ordered, a particularly interesting feature discussed below. However, a disulfide bridge formed between the two  $\text{Cys}^{87}$  located in the  $\alpha\text{C}$  helices link the two molecules together in the GAK–NbGAK\_1 complex. It is probable that this covalent linkage has been introduced during crystallization and is not relevant in the reducing environment of the cellular cytosol.

# Activation segment-mediated dimerization confers an inactive conformation

The complex of GAK with NbGAK\_4 traps the catalytic domain in an inactive conformation, in which the activation segment exerts a domain-swap conformation. Although the P+1 loop and the  $\alpha EF$  of the activation segment are disordered, the activation loop and the  $\alpha EF/\alpha F$  loop are aligned in a parallel manner and traverse the neighbouring molecule to be in proximity to the  $\alpha C$  (Figure 3B). This leads to several peripheral intermolecular contacts in the dimeric self-assembly, including a network of hydrogen bonds. In addition, at the crossing point of two activation segments an exchange interaction between two Ser^{199} side chains and an intermolecular contact between His^{200} and the Pro^{167} main chain stabilize further the dimerization.

The engaged and partly unfolded activation segment in GAK in combination with the disordered  $\alpha G$  leave the front of the active site with a large void that precludes the formation of a binding groove for substrates. The structural features in this complex therefore probably depict an inactive conformation of GAK on the basis of the dynamic properties of its activation segment.

# NbGAK\_1 stabilizes an active conformation of the activation segment

In comparison with apo-GAK and the GAK-NbGAK\_4 complex, significant structural rearrangements of the activation segment are observed in the GAK-NbGAK\_1 complex. The structural changes are characterized by a major positional shift of the entire activation segment with a swing towards the C-lobe inducing an ordering of helix  $\alpha G$  and the entire activation segment itself. The architecture of the GAK activation segment is similar to the one reported for MPSK1, as indicated by an RMSD of 1.7 Å in the superimposition of this region (Figure 3C). Stabilization of this conformation is achieved through various interactions, including hydrogen bonds between the main chain atoms of His<sup>200</sup> from the N-terminal part of the activation loop to Pro<sup>239</sup> and Ile<sup>240</sup> located in the  $\alpha E/\alpha F$  loop. These contacts prompt a unique parallel loop section within the activation segment (Supplementary Figure S4 at http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm). The Cterminus of the activation loop thereby adopts a unique  $\alpha$ -helix, a structural feature that has been predicted to be conserved within the NAK family [8]. The arginine and aromatic amino acid-rich content within the unique helix ASCH and its surrounding area enables the formation of several cation- $\pi$  stacking interactions, for example between Trp<sup>206</sup> and Arg<sup>210</sup> and Arg<sup>211</sup> and Tyr<sup>235</sup> (Supplementary Figure S4).

An ordering of the activation segment is a hallmark of an active kinase, typically complemented by the closure and alignment of the N- and C-lobes and by the formation of the regulatory hydrophobic spine [34,35]. In the NbGAK\_1 complex  $\beta$ 4 Phe<sup>101</sup>, αC Met<sup>89</sup>, the DFG motif Phe<sup>192</sup> and the HRD motif His<sup>171</sup> align to form the regulatory spine (Figure 3C). Phe<sup>101</sup>, however, does not align efficiently with the other spine residues leading to a distortion. Furthermore, another important role of the ordered activation segment is to create a substrate-binding site and link the catalytic loop (HRD motif) with the activation segment. The latter is typically accomplished in kinases that require activation segment phosphorylation by polar interactions between phosphorylated activation loop residues and the HRD motif arginine residue. Interestingly, GAK mimics these interactions with a stretch of acidic residues in ASCH, in particular the central Glu<sup>217</sup>, which forms a salt bridge with the HRD motif Arg<sup>172</sup> (Figure 3D) explaining why GAK is constitutively active and does not require phosphorylation of its activation segment. Further stabilization of this activation segment conformation is provided by a hydrogen bond between Thr<sup>223</sup> at the tip of the P + 1 loop and the HRD motif  $Asp^{173}$  and a conserved salt bridge between Glu<sup>230</sup> from the  $\alpha$ EF and the  $\alpha$ H/ $\alpha$ I Arg<sup>303</sup>. The latter provides a cross communication between the activation segment and the C-lobe in an active state [36]. Superimposition of the PKA-ATP-peptide complex (PDB code 1ATP) revealed that a docking groove created within the active site of GAK would be suitable to accommodate a peptide substrate (Figure 3D), which therefore suggests that this conformation of the activation segment may serve as an active conformation of the enzyme to enable peptide binding. However, the tight interaction of NbGAK\_1 with the upper lobe induces structural changes that distort slightly the catalytic spine alignment and the upper lobe itself, which also affects the conserved salt bridge between Lys<sup>69</sup> and αC Glu<sup>85</sup> increasing the optimal distance of 3 Å seen in the GAK-NbGAK\_4 structure to a distance of 4 Å (Supplementary Figure S5A at http://www.biochemj.org/bj/459/bj4590059add.htm).

To assess the effect of the bound Nbs on the activity of GAK, we performed in vitro kinase assays using histone H1 as a substrate [37] (Figure 4A). GAK was shown to be constitutively active in the absence of phosphorylation of the activation loop. Interestingly, its activity was slightly enhanced by the addition of NbGAK\_4, but not by NbGAK\_1, which is in contrast with the active conformation of the kinase trapped in the complex structure by NbGAK\_1, but not NbGAK\_4. NbGAK\_2 and NbGAK\_5 did not have any significant effect on the activity of GAK (results not shown). Structural analyses suggest that modest increase in enzymatic activity may be due to the more stable C-lobe in the GAK-NbGAK\_4 complex as indicated by the generally lower Bfactors in the NbGAK\_4 complex (Supplementary Figure S5B). Potentially, the observed NbGAK\_1 distortion of the upper Nlobe and the induced misalignment of the catalytic spine may offset any contributions to the stimulation of kinase activity that may result in stabilization of the folded activation segment in this monomeric state (Supplementary Figure S5C). In addition, due to the low concentrations used in enzyme kinetic assays any inhibiting effects by the very weak catalytic domain dimerization are expected to only minimally disturb catalytic activity.

#### Inhibitor binding

To gain information on chemical scaffolds that could target GAK, we profiled the kinase against a collection of kinase inhibitors using thermal stability-shift assays, which identify inhibitor binding by a shift in the melting temperature  $(\Delta T_m)$ (Figure 4B) [38]. A number of diverse compounds showed strong temperature stabilization, suggesting potent binding of the screened inhibitors. Interaction of the clinically approved drugs ponatinib, dasatinib, bosutinib, sunitinib and gefitinib gave rise to  $\Delta T_{\rm m}$  value of 6.4–13.8°C, typically observed for inhibitors with a low nanomolar activity. Interestingly, the EGF1R inhibitor gefitinib, which is thought to cause some adverse effects due to its off-target activity towards GAK, showed the lowest  $\Delta T_{\rm m}$  value among the clinical inhibitors studied. Verification of some of the inhibitors by measuring the  $\Delta T_{\rm m}$  value using SPR confirmed that the binding affinities of these drugs were in the low nanomolar range. The trend in increasing affinity was in agreement with the higher  $\Delta T_{\rm m}$  value shifts, showing that bosutinib ( $\Delta T_{\rm m}$  of 10.8 °C and  $K_D$  of ~3.8 nM) was a better inhibitor of GAK than staurosporine ( $\Delta T_{\rm m}$  of 9.1 °C and  $K_{\rm D}$  of  $\sim$ 30 nM) and sunitinib  $(\Delta T_{\rm m} \text{ of } 6.8\,^{\circ}\text{C} \text{ and } K_{\rm D} \text{ of } \sim 65\,\text{nM})$  (Figure 4C and Table 2).

In order to provide insight into the binding modes of some of the identified inhibitors, several inhibitors were used in

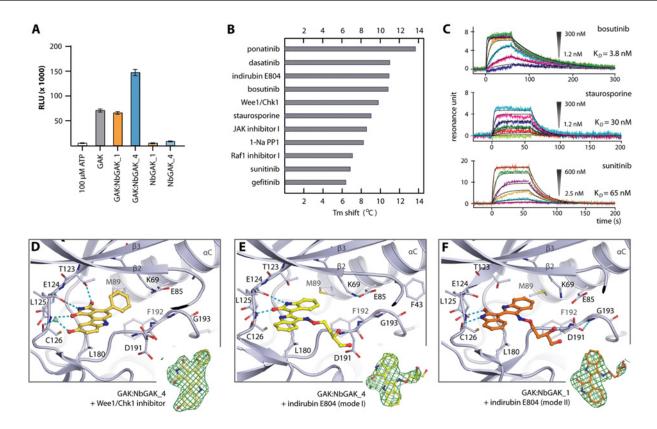


Figure 4 Kinase activities of GAK and its binding with inhibitors

(A) Kinase activities of GAK in the absence or presence of the Nbs. Results are means  $\pm$  S.E.M. (B)  $\Delta T_m$  values for several commercially available kinase inhibitors. (C) SPR binding assays of some inhibitors to GAK. Detailed interactions between Wee1/Chk1 (D) and indirubin E804 (E and F) and the kinase with the insets showing the  $|F_0| - |F_c|$  omitted map contoured at  $3\sigma$ . Note that two modes of binding of indirubin E804 are observed in two different complexes.

Table 2 Kinetic constants and equilibrium dissociation constants of selected kinase inhibitors binding to GAK

Results are means of at least two independent experiments.

	Kinetic global fit (1	Steady state		
Kinase inhibitor	$k_a (M^{-1} \cdot s^{-1})$	$k_{\rm d}  ({\rm s}^{-1})$	K <sub>D</sub> (nM)	$K_{\rm D}$ (nM)
Bosutinib Staurosporine Sunitinib	$3.6 \times 10^{6}$ $2.4 \times 10^{6}$ $7.5 \times 10^{5}$	$   \begin{array}{c}     1.4 \times 10^{-2} \\     7.1 \times 10^{-2} \\     5.0 \times 10^{-2}   \end{array} $	3.8 30 65.8	31.9 64.8

co-crystallization, but only two compounds, the Wee1/Chk1 kinase inhibitor and indirubin E804 which produced ~72 % and  $\sim 90\%$  GAK inhibition at  $10 \,\mu\text{M}$  respectively, yielded crystals that enabled successful structure determination. All cocrystallized compounds were clearly defined by the electron density map and showed a typical ATP mimetic type-I binding mode (Figures 4D-4F). The Wee1/Chk1 inhibitor binds with its phenyl ring located deep towards the back pocket (Figure 4D). The planar carbazole core is placed along the kinase hinge where it forms hydrogen-bond networks between the pyrolidine-dione moiety to the Thr<sup>123</sup> side chain, and the carbonyl and amine main chain atoms of Glu<sup>124</sup> and Cys<sup>126</sup> respectively. The hydroxy group at the other end of the carbazole core interacts with the Cys<sup>126</sup> carbonyl atom via a water molecule. Interestingly, the indirubin E804 complex exhibits two binding modes which can be explained by the near-symmetrical core scaffold (Figures 4E and 4F). Two molecular contacts between the inhibitor and the kinase hinge residues are conserved in both orientations.

#### DISCUSSION

Our previous work on MPSK1 revealed several molecular features predicted to be unique for the NAK family including an atypical activation segment [8]. The structural models shown in the present paper demonstrate that GAK shares similar activation segment architecture as described for MPSK1, suggesting conservation of this unique topology in NAKs. Networks of polar interactions link the activation segment with the catalytic loop HRD motif providing a structural rational for the constitutive activity of GAK.

Both the apo-GAK and GAK-NbGAK 4 complex crystallized as dimers with their disordered activation segments exchanged between the monomers. However, although intermolecular contacts in the GAK-NbGAK\_4 dimer and in the GAK apo structure were primarily mediated by a large interface formed by the N-lobe  $\alpha C$  and the C-lobe activation segment, the dimer observed in the GAK-NbGAK1 complex showed few intermolecular contacts. It is therefore probable that the observed dimer represents only a crystal contact region rather than an interface important for GAK activity. In addition, the putative dimer seen in the asymmetric unit of the GAK-NbGAK\_1 complex was linked by a disulfide bridge formed between two cysteine residues located in helix  $\alpha$ C. It is unlikely that a dimer is formed by an external/highly exposed disulfide bond in cells under the physiological normal reducing conditions present in the cellular cytosol. Therefore we consider each molecule to represent

a monomeric state of the kinase with an active conformation of the enzyme that associated during crystallization due to oxidation of surface cysteine residues.

However, dimeric arrangements of catalytic domains with domain-exchanged activation segments have been described for a number of kinases including LOK (lymphocyte-oriented kinase), SLK (STE20-like kinase), CHEK (checkpoint kinase 1) and DAPK3 (death-associated protein kinase 3). These conformations facilitated trans-autophosphorylation at non-consensus sites in the activation segment [39]. In contrast with those dimeric kinase structures, the activation segment in dimeric GAK does not position a residue amenable for phosphorylation transfer into the active site of the interacting protomer. It is therefore not probable that the dimeric inactive state of GAK observed in GAK-NbGAK\_4 as well as the apo structure is important for GAK autophosphorylation. This observation is in agreement with the constitutive activity of this kinase which does not require phosphorylation of the activation segment. The potential biological function of the observed dimerization in two structures, as well as in solution, therefore remains to be investigated. Dimerization of GAK in vitro has only been observed at a high protein concentration, which may, however, occur in cells. GAK seems to be located at the trans-Golgi and focal adhesions [40], probably contributing to the uncoating of clathrin vesicles, and the accumulation of GAK may occur at these sites leading to high local concentration and, as a consequence, to dimerization and inactivation of the kinase domain. In addition to the Nterminal kinase domain, GAK harbours other domains in its Cterminus, which are highly homologous with auxillin, namely an N-terminal tensin domain, a clathrin-binding domain and a J-domain. However, so far, none of these domains has been implicated in dimerization [2,40].

Nb-identification technology has been developed during the last two decades and recombinant Nbs have found wide applications in various diverse fields such as cancer diagnostics [41,42] anti-thrombotic therapy in coronary artery disease [43] and immunotherapy, or as a tool for use in cell biology such as developing specific binders for ChIP assays [44], protein purification [45] and crystallization [12,13]. Nbs possess a variety of features that make them ideally suited for crystallization studies. They are highly soluble due to specific hydrophilic amino acids found in the framework-two region between CDR1 and CDR2. They are very stable both in terms of temperature resistance as well as against denaturing effects and, therefore, are resistant to the chemicals used in crystallization trials, and they can be produced in large amounts in a variety of host systems including bacteria [11]. Nbs bind to their antigens with a high affinity, usually in the nanomolar range as confirmed in the present study. However, no direct correlation could be observed in the present study between affinity and the ability to co-crystallize. The high-affinity antibody Nb\_GAK2, with a  $K_D$  value of 294 pM, did not result in co-crystals.

In the two GAK–Nb complexes two conformations of the activation segment have been observed, echoing the flexible nature of this region. The Nb co-crystal structure using NbGAK\_1 displayed an ordered activation segment conformation and an active kinase conformation suggesting a high degree of intrinsic plasticity and a highly dynamic ability to switch between the inactive and active states through its flexible activation segment. Despite trapping of GAK in the active conformation NbGAK\_1 had no influence on kinase activity, whereas binding of NbGAK\_4 resulted in a small, but reproducible, increase in kinase activity. Thus both Nbs act primarily as binders that can provide crystal contacts compatible with either an active or an inactive conformation of the kinase domain. Thus using

the generated Nbs in crystallization experiments provided a tool for sampling the conformational space of this dynamic protein kinase and for the reproducible crystallization of GAK in these two key conformations. This will be particularly important for the development of inhibitors that target either the active or the inactive state of GAK. The characterized binders also provide useful tools to study the role of GAK with traditional cell biology methods and can be used, for instance, in combination with a fluorescent tag to recognize endogenous GAK in cells.

Very few crystal structures of kinases in complex with specific binders have been solved so far [46,47]. Specific DARPins (designed ankyrin-repeat proteins) have been generated recognizing the phosphorylated active or unphosphorylated inactive form of ERK2 (extracellular-signal-regulated kinase 2), providing insight into the flexibility of the activation loop in the phosphorylated compared with the non-phosphorylated form [47]. Development of a specific DARPin facilitated the crystallization of the kinase structure PLK1 (polo-like kinase 1) [46]. More recently, co-crystal structures of EGFR have been solved with three different Nbs, of which two block the movement of EGFR and the third interferes with ligand binding due to an overlap in the binding site [48]. Nbs have also been used for crystallization of specific conformations of non-kinase proteins. The published structure of the active conformation of the  $\beta_2$ adrenoceptor in complex with an Nb [15] revealed, for the first time, the agonist-bound active state of the GPCR (Gprotein-coupled receptor) helping to stabilize this transitional conformation of the receptor and providing insight into the structural rearrangements during  $\beta_2$  adrenoceptor activation. Thus Nbs are developing into versatile tools for stabilizing specific conformations of enzymes and therefore facilitating the crystallization and structural determination of diverse activation states. Owing to the high plasticity of the kinase catalytic domain these high-affinity binders are of particular interest for the elucidation of structural mechanisms regulating the catalytic activity of these dynamic molecules.

Respiratory side effects in the treatment of human carcinomas due to off-target inhibition have been described for the EGFR kinase inhibitor gefitinib (Iressa), limiting the therapeutic benefit of this drug [7]. These side effects have been linked to the inhibition of GAK as knockout mice expressing the kinase-dead form of GAK display similar respiratory dysfunctions. The present study confirms that not only does gefitinib potently inhibits GAK, but also other clinical kinase inhibitors, such as dasatinib a tyrosine kinase inhibitor approved for the treatment of CML (chronic myelogenous leukaemia) and Ph + ALL (Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia), as well as sunitinib another tyrosine kinase inhibitor approved for the treatment of RCC (renal cell carcinoma) and imatinib-resistant GIST (gastrointestinal stromal tumour), inhibit GAK even more potently. Respiratory side effects observed in patients treated with dasatinib or sunitinib may be associated with inhibition of GAK [49], although a direct link to GAK has not been established so far. The availability of the GAK crystal structure provides the basis for the development of more specific inhibitors for the treatment of these cancers.

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION**

Susanne Müller, Apirat Chaikuad, Stefan Knapp, Friedrich Herberg, Andrzej Joachimiak, Bastian Zimmermann and Serge Muyldermans designed the experiments. Apirat Chaikuad, Cécile Vincke, Stefan Knapp, Tracy Keates, Friedrich Herberg, Andrzej Joachimiak, Catherine Hatzos-Skintges, Rong-guang Zhang, Bastian Zimmermann, Melanie Kaufholz, Susanne Müller and Serge Muyldermans analysed and interpreted the data. Apirat Chaikuad, Tracy Keates, Melanie Kaufholz, Michael Zenn, Cécile Vincke, Carlos Gutiérrez, Rong-guang Zhang and Catherine Hatzos-Skintges performed the experiments. Susanne

Müller, Stefan Knapp and Apirat Chaikuad wrote the paper. All authors critically read, revised and approved the paper before submission.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY ONLINE DATA

# Structure of cyclin G-associated kinase (GAK) trapped in different conformations using nanobodies

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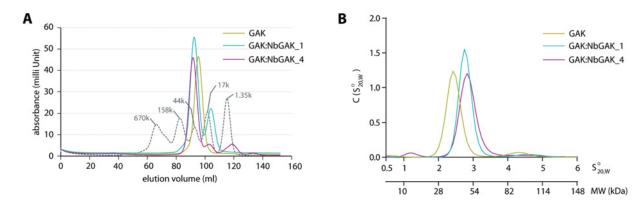


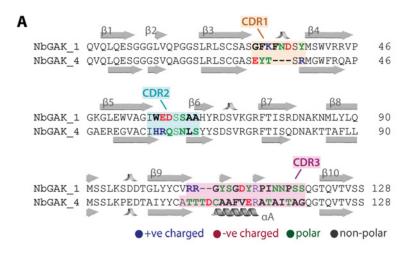
Figure S1 Monomeric GAK in solution

(A) Size-exclusion chromatography profiles of the GAK and Nb complexes performed on Superdex S200 column. (B) Sedimentation velocity AUC of the GAK and Nb complexes performed at 98 607 g using a protein concentration of  $\sim$ 20  $\mu$ M. The peak at 1.2 S corresponds to the free Nb; the kinase domain has a sedimentation coefficient of 2.5S and the kinase Nb complexes sediment around 3S. Some dimerization is obvious at 4.5S.

The crystal structures reported in this paper have been deposited in the PDB under codes 4O38, 4C57, 4C58 and 4C59.

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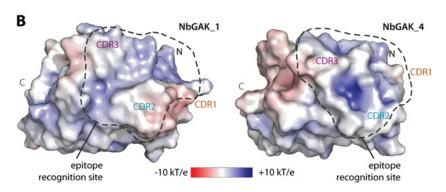


Figure S2 Details of structural comparison of NbGAK\_1 and NbGAK\_4

(A) Structure-based sequence alignment with their corresponding secondary structures annotated. High amino acid variations are observed for the three variable CDRs, and are coloured according to charge properties. NbGAK\_4 has a shorter than normal CDR1 (H1). Highest sequence variation is found in CDR3 (H3), where a stretch of hydrophobic amino acids results in a helical segment  $(\alpha A)$  for NbGAK\_4 compared with a short anti-parallel two-stranded  $\beta$ -sheet insertion for NbGAK\_1. (B) Surface representation and electrostatic potentials demonstrate distinct architectures of the epitope-recognition sites between the two Nbs. The GAK-binding site of NbGAK\_4 is defined by a surface-filled non-charged interaction site with positively charged pockets spreading along the CDR surface. In contrast the epitope-binding site of NbGAK\_1 forms a shallow groove between the CDR3 on one side and CDR1 and CDR2 on the other side, and exhibits a broad positively charged electrostatic surface. Calculation of solvent-accessible area using the PISA server revealed a slightly larger contact surface on GAK (692 Ų) for the NbGAK\_1 interaction, compared with the 578 Ų surface area needed for tight complex formation with NbGAK\_4.

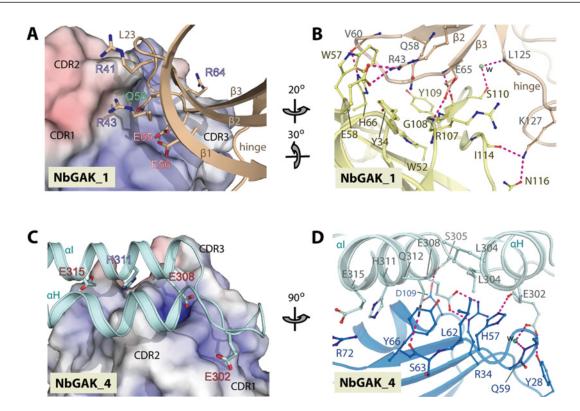


Figure S3 Intermolecular interaction between GAK and Nbs

Surface representation of the Nbs reveals shape and electrostatic complementarities between their epitopes and CDRs, which distinguish the binding sites of NbGAK\_1 (**A**) and NbGAK\_4 (**C**) on to the kinase. Local intermolecular contacts including hydrogen bonds (distance <3.2 Å) and salt bridges between the kinase and NbGAK\_1 (**B**) and NbGAK\_4 (**D**) are represented by broken lines. Some interactions are mediated by water molecules, which are shown as green spheres.

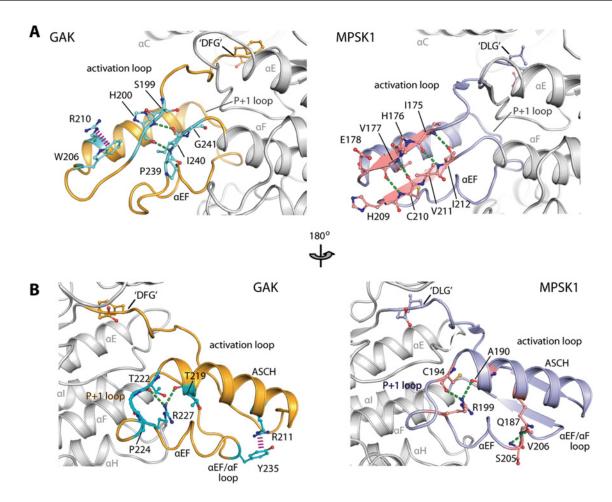


Figure S4 Stabilizing interactions of the active conformation of the activation segment in GAK

Comparison of detailed interactions between residues of GAK (left-hand panel) and MPSK1 (right-hand panel) within the activation loop (**A**) and the ASCH segment (**B**) of the active conformation of the activation segments.

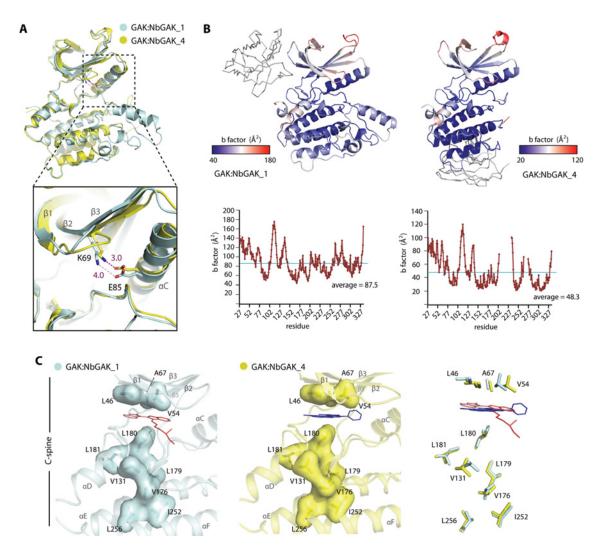


Figure S5 NbGAK\_1 distorted the GAK N-lobe and its overall stability

(A) Superimposition between GAK molecules from two Nb complexes reveals a distorted relatively open N-lobe in the GAK—NbGAK\_1 complex that restricts salt bridge formation. (B) Cartoon representations with colour mapping of temperature (B-) factors on the kinase. In addition to the N-lobe, the C-lobe of GAK in the NbGAK\_1-complexed structure showed a higher degree of flexibility compared with that of the kinase in the GAK—NbGAK\_4 complex. (C) Comparison of the residue compositions of the C-spine in both complexes. Slight shifts in the positions of some residues are observed between the two structures (right-hand panel).

Table S1 Data collection and refinement statistics

Values in parentheses are for the highest-resolution shells. P/L/O, protein, ligand molecules and other (water and solvent molecules).

Complex	Apo-GAK		GAK—NbGAK_1 indirubin E804	GAK-NbGAK_4 Wee1/Chk1	GAK—NbGAK_4 indirubin E804
PDB code	4038		4C57	4C58	4C59
Data collection	Inflection	Peak			
Beamline	APS 19-ID	APS 19-ID	Diamond, I02	Diamond, I04	Diamond, I04
Wavelength (Å)	0.9794	0.9791	0.9795	1.0121	1.0121
Resolution (Å)	50-2.22 (2.26-2.22)	74.11-2.10 (2.14-2.10)	83.39-2.55 (2.69-2.55)	45.09-2.16 (2.28-2.16)	19.75-2.80 (2.95-2.80)
Space group	P3 <sub>2</sub> 21	P3 <sub>2</sub> 21	P2 <sub>1</sub>	C2	C2
Cell dimensions	_	_			
a, b, c (Å)	103.6, 103.6, 132.1	103.4, 103.4, 132.0	75.2, 86.7, 83.9	a = 156.9, b = 37.4, c = 76.0  Å	a = 174.3, b = 37.8, c = 75.6  Å
$\alpha, \beta, \gamma$ (°)	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 90.0, 120.0	90.0, 96.4, 90.0	90.0, 108.5, 90.0	90.0, 111.5, 90.0
Number of unique reflections	41031 (1,999)	48311 (2356)	34717 (4842)	22748 (3292)	11580 (1678)
Completeness (%)	99.9 (100)	99.9 (100.0)	99.1 (95.1)	99.2 (99.7)	99.5 (99.8)
I/σ I	41.3 (4.1)	36.6 (2.2)	10.5 (2.1)	10.3 (2.0)	8.3 (2.0)
R <sub>merge</sub> (%)	7.3 (75.7)	8.2 (95.7)	9.1 (64.1)	10.9 (77.7)	14.1 (69.1)
Redundancy	14.5 (14.7)	14.5 (14.0)	5.2 (3.5)	5.7 (5.7)	3.6 (3.7)
Phasing	MAD	MAD	Molecular replacement	Molecular replacement	Molecular replacement
Resolution (Å)	74.11-2.1	74.11–2.1		•	
Phasing power	1.32	1.32			
Figure of merit					
Acentric/centric	0.84/0.8	0.84/0.8			
After density modification	0.92	0.92			
Refinement					
Number of atoms in refinement (P/L/O)		4314/-/282	6676/54/223	3020/25/206	2976/27/63
R <sub>fact</sub> (%)		16.5	17.8	17.9	20.2
R <sub>free</sub> (%)		19.5	22.8	24.2	26.2
$B_{\rm f}$ (P/L/O) (Å <sup>2</sup> )		57/–/56	80/78/62	44/34/45	61/70/41
RMSD bond (Å)		0.016	0.010	0.014	0.008
RMSD angle (°)		1.6	1.1	1.6	1.0
MolProbity					
Ramachandran favour (%)		96.6	96.7	96.1	97.6
Ramachandran allowed (%)		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Crystallization	1.0 M succinic acid (pł	H7.0) and 0.1 M Bis-Tris propane (pH 7.0)	14% PEG 3350, 0.2 M sodium sulfate, 0.1 M Bis-Tris propane (pH 7.0) and 10% ethylene glycol	12% PEG 3350 and 0.13 M magnesium formate	9% PEG 3350 and 0.06 M magnesium formate

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