

# Protein Scaffold and Motif Design

**Bold text means that these files and/or this information is provided.**

*Italicized text means that this material will NOT be conducted during the workshop.*

fixed width text means you should type the command into your terminal.

If you want to try making files that already exist (e.g., input files), write them to a different directory! (`mkdir my_dir`)

**Introduction** In the case of either protein scaffold or motif design, the binding site and binding orientation are known, but need to be improved in some manner. More specifically, the purpose of scaffold design is to transplant a known binding motif onto another peptide backbone, possibly to stabilize the binding motif, moderate binding, or combine functional sites onto one backbone. In this case, one would use the known binding pose of the original ligand to dock other peptides/proteins with a backbone segment matching the backbone geometry of the original ligand into the known binding site and then optimize the side chain interactions within the binding site while keeping the known binding motif. However, in the case of motif design, one may want to improve/destabilize the binding affinity of a known ligand by altering side chain interactions between the ligand and the binding site. This tutorial describes two methods to perform scaffold design and another method to do more general motif design.

**Side Chain Grafting Tutorial** This tutorial is designed to graft functional motifs onto protein scaffolds. There are two different methods that are provided within this tutorial: *Side Chain Grafting* and *Backbone Grafting*. A library of protein scaffolds is computationally scanned for possible graft sites. If the motif and scaffold backbones superimpose with very low root mean squared deviation ( $\text{RMSD} < 0.5$ ), then only hot spot side chains need be transplanted from the motif to the corresponding positions in the matching site of the scaffold. This is known as Side Chain Grafting. Subsequently, surrounding residues on the scaffold surface that are in contact with the target, or binding partner that binds to the motif, are designed for favorable interactions.

Side Chain Grafting makes the minimal number of changes to the scaffold, increasing the chances of obtaining correctly folded designs during experimental validation. However, side chain grafting often is not possible because the motif and scaffold structures are too dissimilar. In these cases, even though the motif and scaffold may have very different structures, it is still possible to use an alternative method known as Backbone Grafting. During Backbone Grafting, the algorithm looks for segments of the scaffold backbone that align closely to the termini of the motif (both N- and C-terminal sides), and then the scaffold segment between these alignment points is replaced by the motif. This technique is extremely versatile, for example, a loop in the scaffold might be replaced by a peptide motif with different secondary structure, or even with a different amino acid length. Since the changes to the scaffold structure following Backbone Grafting can disrupt the overall fold, it is important to design the hydrophobic core to support the new backbone structure of the scaffold, followed by design of the protein-protein interface. The Backbone Grafting procedure often introduces many mutations to the scaffold, requiring careful filtering of designs to select those that present quality interfaces and high stability of the new scaffold.

In this tutorial we are going to use a co-crystal structure of Estrogen Receptor (ER) in complex with a helical peptide from a transcriptional co-activator (1GWQ.pdb). We will follow the steps described below to design a protein binder for ER.

1. Definition of the binding motif for interface design
2. Preparing a scaffold database
3. Matching for putative scaffolds (i.e., motif grafting)
4. Sequence design
5. Selection and Improvement of Designs

The first two steps are similar for both Side Chain and Backbone Grafting. Step 3 will be different because the two methods use different algorithms to search for putative scaffolds to graft the binding/functional motif. Last two steps are also similar but more rigorous for Backbone Grafting.

**Create a directory** in the SideChainGraft directory called my\_files and switch to that directory. Although many files you need for the tutorial are located in the input\_files directory, we will work from my\_files for the rest of this section of the tutorial.

```
cd ~/rosetta_workshop/tutorials/scaffolding/SideChainGraft/  
mkdir my_files  
cd my_files
```

### A. Prepare the input files for motif grafting.

In this step we will define the binding/functional motif that we want to graft onto a protein scaffold.

1. Download the co-complex from the Protein Databank (PDB). This complex is under the PDB ID “1gwq”.

The 1GWQ.pdb file is provided in the input\_files directory. However the instructions for downloading this PDB file are also provided below.

- a. Go to <http://www.rcsb.org> and type 1gwq in the search bar.
- b. Click on “Download Files” on the right side of the page, then “PDB Format”.
- c. Save the PDB file in the my\_files directory as 1GWQ.pdb.
- d. Prepare the PDBs for running through Rosetta.

In general before running a PDB through Rosetta you should remove water molecules and all ligands that are non-essential to your protocol. We will use an automated script to do this processing.

The 1GWQ.pdb file contains a dimer of ER-alpha bound to helical peptides. We want to pull the target structure, i.e., ER-alpha (chain A, renamed as context.pdb) and the binding motif structure (chain C, renamed as motif.pdb) from the PDB 1GWQ. For future reference, context.pdb serves as the binding partner you would be trying to maintain binding affinity to, and motif.pdb would serve as the template for identifying scaffolds and grafting its structure and sequence motif.

```
python2.7 ~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/tools/protein_tools/scripts/clean_pdb.py 1GWQ A  
python2.7 ~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/tools/protein_tools/scripts/clean_pdb.py 1GWQ C  
mv 1GWQ_A.pdb context.pdb  
mv 1GWQ_C.pdb motif.pdb
```

Copy context.pdb and motif.pdb to my\_files/ directory.

```
cp ../input_files/context.pdb .  
cp ../input_files/motif.pdb .
```

### B. Preparing the Scaffold Database

To prepare an inclusive scaffold database that can be searched for a variety of structural motifs, you can download structures from the PDB (<http://www.rcsb.org>) based on the following four criteria using advanced search module: (1) crystal structures with high-resolution x-ray diffraction data ( < 2.5 Å), (2) the proteins had been reported to be expressible in E. coli (this simplifies later experimental characterization), (3) a single protein chain in the asymmetric unit (MotifGraft only works with monomeric scaffolds as grafting targets), and (4) no bound ligands or modified residues.

In some circumstances, a focused scaffold library may produce more useful matches. For our particular example, the peptide that seeds interface design has an alpha-helical conformation. Therefore, we also prepared a small focused scaffold library of 18 helical proteins.

**A scaffold database is provided in the scaffolds/ directory.**

The scaffold PDB files were formatted for ROSETTA and subjected to an energy minimization step as described below.

1. Make a list of all pdb files being used as scaffold.

```
ls ../scaffolds/*.pdb > scaffolds.list
```

2. *For this tutorial, skip this step.* Relax the pdb structures while constraining the structure to its initial coordinates. Note that the “\” at the end of line 1 only marks the end of the line. If you copy-paste the command into the terminal, remove the “\” before running so that the command is one line.

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/relax.linuxgccrelease -ignore_unrecognized_res \  
-relax:constrain_relax_to_start_coords -ex1 -ex2 -use_input_sc -l scaffolds.list
```

### C. Motif Grafting and Sequence Design

Motif matching and interface design are distinct conceptual steps, but due to the flexibility of the RosettaScripts framework, both can be included in a single computational step.

Since putative scaffold matching is different for Side Chain and Backbone Grafting, we are first going to use Side Chain grafting procedure. It is recommended that you attempt Side Chain Grafting before Backbone Grafting for your own functional motif, as it requires less changes in the protein scaffold, increasing the chances of obtaining correctly folded designs during experimental validation.

Now that we have our input pdb files for the motif and context ready along with the scaffolds database to scan and put the motif onto putative scaffolds, we will perform Side Chain Grafting using the MotifGraft\_sc.xml script.

Copy the MotifGraft\_sc.xml script from scripts/ directory to my\_files/ directory.

```
cp ../scripts/MotifGraft_sc.xml .
```

Execute the MotifGraft\_sc.xml rosettascripts using the following command. It will take approximately 15 minutes to generate 1 scaffold for each of the 18 input protein structures. Again, if you copy-paste the command, make sure to remove any “\” at the end of each line so that the command is one line.

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/rosetta_scripts.linuxgccrelease \  
-l scaffolds.list -use_input_sc -ex1 -ex2 -nstruct 1 \  
-parser:protocol MotifGraft_sc.xml
```

Execution of this script will generate one design for each scaffold. To generate more than one design, you will need to use the MultiplePoseMover. See [https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/scripting\\_documentation/RosettaScripts/Movers/movers\\_pages/RosettaScripts-MultiplePoseMover](https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/scripting_documentation/RosettaScripts/Movers/movers_pages/RosettaScripts-MultiplePoseMover) for documentation.

The expected\_output/ directory has designs from a previous run. One should look at the designs in Pymol.

For further explanation of the options used in the XML script, see this methods paper <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27094298>.

### D. Selection and Improvement of Designs

To date, no computational method has been developed that can predict with perfect accuracy which designs will be functional when challenged experimentally. Therefore, it is wise to proceed with designed sequences that present good metrics by multiple criteria.

1. Designs are initially filtered based on calculated metrics for interface quality, including a favorable binding energy ( $\text{ddG} < 0$  ROSETTA energy units, ideally the energy should be lower than the native interface from which the motif was taken), high shape complementarity ( $\text{Sc} > 0.65$ ), and a low number of buried unsatisfied hydrogen-bonding atoms. In the XML scripts above, these filters report to a score file and will also be appended at the end of any ROSETTA output PDBs. If you are generating more than one designs per scaffold (for example, 10 designs per scaffold), you can select them based on the total score before looking for  $\text{ddG}$ ,  $\text{Sc}$  and other metrics.

2. Once a set of designs has been selected based on the calculated metrics, it is important to perform human-guided inspection of the designed structures. There are many qualities of interfaces that are apparent to structural biologists that are not captured in standard metrics. Two common defects in ROSETTA-designed structures that are very important to avoid are: *i*) buried charged residues and *ii*) under-packed interfaces dominated by alanine residues.
3. Reverting designs back to native residues: It is also important to consider whether the designed scaffold will fold to its intended structure; having a spectacular interface on a computational model is irrelevant if the protein cannot fold in an experimental setting. This is particularly problematic for designed interfaces that have a large surface area dominated by hydrophobic residues. It is generally assumed that the probability of a designed sequence properly folding is inversely correlated with the number of mutations imposed on the scaffold during the design process. Therefore, it is beneficial to be conservative and make as few mutations as possible by reverting residues back to their native identities in a post-design stage. For this step, we will revert one of the scaffold designs 1ji6\_0001\_0001.pdb to its native sequence from 1ji6\_0001.pdb in complex with the target (context.pdb).

```
cat context.pdb ../scaffolds/1ji6_0001.pdb >nativecplx.pdb
```

Note that ../scaffolds/1ji6\_0001.pdb here is the protein structure that was designed during Side Chain grafting by putting the motif.pdb onto a protein structure to generate 1ji6\_0001\_0001.pdb.

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/revert_design_to_native.linuxgccrelease \
  -revert_app:wt nativecplx.pdb -revert_app:design 1ji6_0001_0001.pdb -ex1 -ex2 -use_input_sc
```

4. Manually adjusting designs: The user may wish to correct a number of frequent problematic features in ROSETTA designs, such as hydrophobic residues at the water-exposed interface edge, revert designed residues back to their native identities, mutate buried charged residues to hydrophobics, etc. There are no hard rules for manually improving designs; it is simply a matter of the designers preference and experience.
5. Filtering Designs based on folding probability: Many designed sequences will not fold correctly when experimentally tested. We have found structure prediction to be a powerful filter; the designed amino acid sequences when subjected to structure prediction calculations should yield similar structures to the designed models. If structure prediction returns an alternative conformation, or fails to converge on an energy minimum in a conformational landscape, then it is unlikely that the designed sequence will correctly fold.

**Backbone Grafting Tutorial** All the steps in Backbone Grafting tutorial are same as in the Side Chain Grafting Tutorial. We have changed the scaffolds database for this part. The MotifGraft\_bb.xml script incorporates the backbone grafting algorithm for scaffold matching.

1. Create my\_files directory in BackboneGraft directory.

```
cd ../../BackboneGraft/
mkdir my_files
cd my_files/
```

2. Motif and Context pdb files

```
cp ../input_files/motif.pdb .
cp ../input_files/context.pdb .
```

3. Make Scaffolds list.

```
ls ../scaffolds/*.pdb > scaffolds.list
```

4. Motif Grafting and Sequence Design

```
cp ../scripts/MotifGraft_bb.xml .
```

and execute the backbone grafting script using following commandline.

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/rosetta_scripts.linuxgccrelease \  
-l scaffolds.list -use_input_sc -nstruct 1 -parser:protocol MotifGraft_bb.xml
```

Note: running MotifGraft\_bb.xml takes longer than MotifGraft\_sc.xml.

## 5. Selection and Improvement of Designs

Designs from backbone grafting require extra attention, as the engineering of a protein core to support the grafted motif can be challenging. Therefore, one should check to see how motif placement has changed the structure of initial scaffold using PyMol or other protein visualization tool.

**Rosetta Remodel Tutorial** The remodel application is a Rosetta flexible loop-modeling tool that is tailor-made for protein design – in this case, motif design. It uses a simple interface, the *blueprint*, to coordinate various protein modeling tasks, which can include backbone building, sidechain design, disulfide pairing, and constraint assignments during run-time, making the application a versatile tool for motif design. For this tutorial, we will reuse the previous example, ER bound to a helical peptide from a transcriptional co-activator, but this time we will perform design on the binding pocket on chain A of 1GWQ to search for stabilizing mutations within the binding interface. This is a rather limited example of Rosetta Remodel, but given it's flexible design capabilities, the purpose of this tutorial is to orient you with the application input files and limitations.

### 1. Create my\_files directory in RosettaRemodel directory.

```
cd ~/rosetta_workshop/tutorials/scaffolding/RosettaRemodel/  
mkdir my_files  
cd my_files/
```

### 2. Prepare the input PDBs. Like our previous examples we must first relax our input structure, **1gwq.pdb**. Both **1gwq.pdb** and the relaxed structure **1gwq\_0001.pdb** are provided for you in the `../input_files/` directory. It is important to note that Rosetta Remodel can only design one chain during each simulation and the chain considered for design must be consecutively numbered, starting from 1. Even though our relaxed structure contains two chains, we will renumber the pdb file so that chain A begins with 1 using the option flag “-out:file:renumber\_pdb”. If we were to consider chain C for design, we would first want to remove all information for chain A, and the renumber chain C starting with 1. *Skip this step*, but for reference, the following was used to prepare the input files:

```
cp ../input_files/1gwq.pdb .  
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/relax.default.linuxgccrelease \  
-s 1gwq.pdb -ignore_unrecognized_res -use_input_sc -constrain_relax_to_start_coords \  
-relax:fast -out:file:renumber_pdb
```

### 3. Prepare the blueprint file. In general, a blueprint file contains three columns, where the first column is the residue position, the second column is the residue identity – in one letter codes, such as A for alanine, and the third is the design option to be performed on that residue. To fully understand all the design options included in a blueprint file, it is highly recommended that you refer to Huang, P-S et al., 2011 (Reference 1 at the end of this section). In our example blueprint file **1gwqA.blueprint**, we will only consider residues for design that are within 5 Angstroms of the helical peptide ligand, which includes residues 50, 52, 53, 56, 57, 62, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74, 75, 233, 234, 237 and 238 on chain A with the design specification “`. ALLAA`” in the third column, which means that the backbone is fixed and all amino acid substitutions are allowing during design. In addition, we will also specify to repack flanking residues with the design specification “`. NATAA`”. Otherwise, all other residues will be fixed.

```
cp ../input_files/1gwqA.blueprint .
```

If you were to make the blueprint file yourself, first make a general blueprint file, specifying all positions as fixed.

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/tools/remodel/getBlueprintFromCoords.pl \  
-pdbfile 1gwq_0001.pdb > test.blueprint
```

Now specify the correct design options. The **1gwqA.blueprint** has already been amended to include the correct design options. However, if you were to make the changes yourself, you would need to change the third column option “.” in the test.blueprint file to include the design options “ALLAA” or “NATAA” on the lines corresponding to the residue number:

```
...  
49 L . NATAA  
50 V . ALLAA  
51 H . NATAA  
52 M . ALLAA  
53 I . ALLAA  
54 N . NATAA  
55 W . NATAA  
56 A . ALLAA  
57 K . ALLAA  
58 R . NATAA  
...  
61 G . NATAA  
62 F . ALLAA  
63 V . NATAA  
...  
66 T . NATAA  
67 L . ALLAA  
68 H . ALLAA  
69 D . NATAA  
70 Q . ALLAA  
71 V . ALLAA  
72 H . NATAA  
73 L . NATAA  
74 L . ALLAA  
75 E . ALLAA  
76 C . NATAA  
...  
232 Y . NATAA  
233 D . ALLAA  
234 L . ALLAA  
235 L . NATAA  
236 L . NATAA  
237 E . ALLAA  
238 M . ALLAA  
239 L . NATAA  
...
```

4. Run RosettaRemodel Executing the command below will take much longer than the length of this session, so please don't try to run it as is. All output files have been generated for the following analysis step. However, if you do want to run it, change the options “-num\_trajectory 50” to “-num\_trajectory 1” and “-save\_top 10” to “-save\_top 1”. Since our input pdb contains two chains, it is important to note that Rosetta Remodel will work on the first chain unless the flag “-chain” specifies the chain to remodel. Moreover, Rosetta Remodel can only work on one chain at a time (at least by default), and depending on which version of Rosetta you use, it is possible to get an error regarding missing residues. Even if you only have one chain, it is suggested you use the “-run::chain” option.

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/remodel.default.linuxgccrelease \
-s input_files/1gwq_0001.pdb -remodel:blueprint input_files/1gwqA.blueprint \
-run::chain A -extrachi_cutoff 1 -ex1 -ex2 -use_input_sc \
-num_trajectory 50 -save_top 10 -use_clusters false -find_neighbors
```

For those who are specifically interested in protein design techniques for motif transplanation onto another backbone without docking the ligand to the binding site, this can be achieved using the “0 x I” (insertion) notation in the blueprint file, indicating the location and length of the motif graft site to insert into your backbone of choice, and the specified option “-remodel:domainFusion:insert\_segment\_from\_pdb” which specifies the PDB file of the motif sequence you would like to insert. For the motif PDB file, the PDB does not need to be renumbered so that it starts with 1, but the PDB file that serves as the graft site will need to be renumbered.

If you are using manual mode (which most likely you will be), it is recommended that you assign all positions included in the rebuilt segment, or else they will be turned into valines since valine is the default residue during the centroid phase. The blueprint file is essentially like a resfile, where you can declare your design specifications to guide the all-atom phase – and Rosetta Remodel works best when you explicitly tell it what to do!

If you would like to have more examples of use cases for Rosetta Remodel, refer to the Rosetta Remodel wiki documentation (listed below) for additional information and documentation.

## 5. Analyze results

Rosetta Remodel handles its own file I/O and only uses the job\_distributor to launch processes. Therefore, typically you would expect all output in the format of XXXX\_0001.pdb with the 0001 suffix increasing incrementally to match the total number of requested output models. That is not the case in Rosetta Remodel, which outputs 1.pdb, 2.pdb, etc., for the total number of models you requested with “-save\_top”. Rosetta Remodel will only output a single file as XXXX\_0001.pdb, which represents the lowest scoring model from the “-save\_top” models.

The type of analysis you would want to perform is dependent on what your desired outcome is. Since Rosetta Remodel automatically chooses the lowest energy model, you could just trust this model for your future experiments. You should, however, do further analysis of your models to understand what changes Rosetta made to the original structure/sequence. Since we performed design on the ligand binding pocket of ER, we should start looking at two things: i) The RMSD of the models to the starting model, and ii) the sequence identity of the designed models. Calculating the RMSD for design models is likely not very informative, but for loop insertion or motif grafting, it is very important to check if your starting backbone retains its original geometry to some degree. To calculate the RMSD of the output models to the input model 1gwq\_0001.pdb:

```
calculate_rmsd.py -n input_files/1gwq_0001.pdb -o output -d expected_output/*.pdb
cat output_align_all_model.tsv
```

Since this tutorial only used design, a better way to assess the output models is look at the type of designed mutations Rosetta introduced in the ER binding pocket. You can do this either by generating a weblogo or by performing a multiple sequence alignment of the output sequences. To generate a weblogo:

```
deep_analysis --prefix designs_ --native input_files/1gwq_0001.pdb --stack_width 30 --seq \
--format pdf --title "Designed residue frequencies" --labels sequence_numbers --debug \
--res input_files/1gwqA.resfile -s d expected_output/output_pdb/* \
--path /dors/meilerlab/apps/Linux2/x86_64/weblogo/3.5/weblogo
```

Or to do a multiple sequence alignment:

```
cat *_A.fasta > output.fasta
clustalw output.fasta
```

By looking at the weblog of the designed positions, **weblogo.png** in the `expected_output/` directory, Rosetta Remodel quickly converges onto a single sequence, with the exception of positions 71 and 75, which helps explain why all designs have an 0.11 Angstrom RMSD to the starting relaxed model. With the multiple sequence alignment file, **output.aln**, you can see that 6.pdb is the only model with a differing sequence. However, if you notice in position 233, Rosetta Remodel completely replaces the native aspartic acid for a glutamic acid, which may be due to Rosetta's sampling bias. For this tutorial, it is likely best to visualize changes to side chain contacts to see why Rosetta replaced the native sequence. To do this open PyMOL and load the output PDB files (1.pdb - 10.pdb) and the starting PDB, 1gwq\_0001.pdb. You can compare similarities of the side chain contacts by selecting the designed residue and the residue it makes contact with, followed by "Show -> side chain -> as sticks" and then "Action -> find -> any contacts -> within 3 (or 4 for some) Angstroms", which should illustrate the number and length of each of the side chain contacts. By comparing the designed and native side chain contacts, it is generally observed that Rosetta favors increased number of side chain interactions, which presumably correlates with a higher binding interface stability. To go one step further, you should look at individual residue score breakdowns. To do this:

```
~/rosetta_workshop/rosetta/main/source/bin/residue_energy_breakdown.linuxgccrelease \
-in:file:1 input_files/compare.list -out:file:silent per_res.sc
```

The output file **expected\_output/per\_res.sc** is a table of all onebody and pairwise interaction scores for each residue in each model. The score file was converted to a csv file, **per\_res.csv** so that you can create a plot of all of the designed positions and the onebody total score values of each of the models. A plot of the per-residue total scores has been provided for you, **expected\_output/per\_res\_scores.png**, but if you would like to generate/change the plot in anyway, you can start with this:

```
cp expected_output/per_res.csv .
R
> install.packages("ggplot2","cowplot")
> library(ggplot2, cowplot)
> setwd("~/rosetta_workshop/tutorials/scaffolding/Rosetta_Remodel/")
> data <- read.csv("per_res.csv", header = T, sep = ",")
> data$resid1 <- as.factor(data$resid1)
> designs = subset(data, resid1=="50"|resid1=="52"|resid1=="53"|resid1=="56"|resid1=="57"| \
  resid1=="62"|resid1=="67"|resid1=="68"|resid1=="70"|resid1=="71"|resid1=="74"|resid1=="75"| \
  resid1=="233"|resid1=="234"|resid1=="237"|resid1=="238")
> onebody = subset(designs, restype2=="onebody")
> ggplot(onebody, aes(x = description, y = total, fill = pose_id)) + geom_col() + \
  facet_grid(~ resid1) + labs(x = "Designed residue position", \
  y = "Rosetta Total Score per residue (in REU)") + theme(axis.text.x = element_blank(), \
  strip.background = element_rect(color = "black", fill = "white"))
```

Note: ">" represents the R environment, and all commands must be typed in an R shell. After you have finished making your plot, type "q()" to exit out of the R shell.

By looking at the individual onebody score terms, it becomes apparent that Rosetta Remodel per residue scores are the same, or at least very similar to the native structure, with some key exceptions. For position 68 on chain A, Rosetta scores the native histidine as highly unfavorable, whereas the models have a much lower-scoring aspartic acid. If you were to visualize the side chain interactions of 1gwq\_0001.pdb and one of the output models (say 1.pdb), you can see that in the original sequence the native histidine does not make any contacts with its neighboring side chains. By replacing the histidine with an aspartic acid, the now negatively charged residue is able to make a polar contact with the histidine in the ligand (H247). However, by replacing the native histidine with a negatively charged aspartic acid, there are now three negatively charged residues in close vicinity, that is D68, S158, and S159, in the model sequence, which may or may not be an issue. This is where also looking at the pairwise per residue scores would be useful to see if the native or designed sequence is likely to be favorable or not. For position 233, even though Rosetta Remodel replaces the native aspartic acid everytime, the native sequence scores more favorably than any of the designed E233 positions, and in this case you should probably assume that the D233E mutation is not a functionally relevant mutation. Time permitting, go back and take a look at positions 71 and 75, which Rosetta does not converge on a single sequence or score.

## Useful References For Scaffold Design:

1. Silva, D., Correia, B.E., and Procko, E. (2016) Motif-driven Design of Protein-Protein Interactions. *Methods Mol. Biol.* 1414:285-304.
2. Azoitei, M.L., Ban, Y.A., Julien, J., Bryson, S., Schroeter, A., Kalyuzhniy, O., Porter, J.R., Adachi, Y., Baker, D., Pai, E.F., and Schief, W.R. (2012) Computational Design of High-Affinity Epitope Scaffolds by Backbone Grafting of a Linear Epitope. *J Mol. Biol.* 415:175-192.
3. Azoitei, M.L., Correia, B.E., Ban, Y.A., Carrico, C., Kalyuzhniy, O., Chen, L., Schroeter, A., Huang, P., McLellan, J.S., Kwong, P.D., Baker, D., Strong, R.K., Schief, W.R. (2011) Computation-Guided Backbone Grafting of a Discontinuous Motif onto a Protein Scaffold. *Science* 334:373-376.

## For Rosetta Remodel:

1. Huang, P.S., Ban, Y.E., Richter, F., Andre, I., Vernon, R., Schief, W.R., Baker, D. (2011) RosettaRemodel: A Generalized Framework for Flexible Backbone Protein Design. *PLoS One* 6(8):e24109.
2. [https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/application\\_documentation/design/rosettaremodel](https://www.rosettacommons.org/docs/latest/application_documentation/design/rosettaremodel)