Supplementary Information

The molecular architecture of the desmosomal outer dense plaque by integrative structural modeling

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Section 1: Modeling

Section: 1.1 Stoichiometry Simulations

The number of molecules that could be accommodated in the PG layer was unclear since it was not possible to unambiguously dock the molecules manually in this region. A higher number would result in an overcrowded model or push molecules outside the envelope of the cryo-ET density map, while a smaller number would not be enough to explain the whole density map. To determine this, we performed separate simulations ("stoichiometry simulations") that only included the PG and DP molecules and the PG layer EM density. We ran six simulations, each with an equal number of PG and DP molecules ranging from 2 to 7. Each stoichiometry simulation consisted of five independent runs. For each of these runs, the representation and sampling followed the IMP modeling protocol (Saltzberg et al., 2021; Viswanath et al., 2017). The restraints applied included the EM restraint, the immuno-EM restraint, the excluded volume restraint, the connectivity restraint, and the cylinder restraint to ensure that the molecules are not too far away from the cryo-ET map. 3 million models were simulated per stoichiometry. After filtering the models sampled before equilibration, the top 10% of models were determined based on the cross-correlation coefficient of the models to the cryo-ET map (Bonomi et al., 2019) (Fig. S1). In summary, an ensemble of models was computed for each stoichiometry to estimate the uncertainty around stoichiometry and determine which stoichiometry best fits the cryo-ET map. The uncertainty in stoichiometry is captured by error bars representing the standard deviation of the cross-correlation values (Fig. S1). The error bars are overlapping for 3,4, and 5 molecules of PG/DP, which suggests that these stoichiometries do not have a large significant difference between them in their fit to the map (Fig. S1).

Based on the above results and the following considerations, the number of PG/DP molecules was taken to be four. The average cross-correlation for four molecules was only slightly lower than the crosscorrelation for three PG/DP molecules. Further, selecting four PG/DP copies allowed selecting of four PKPs in the PKP layer including the central PKP without introducing any asymmetries in the selection. It also allowed us to maintain 1:1:1:1 stoichiometry for PG:DP:PKP:DC with equal numbers of DSC and DSG (2 each). Finally, it was consistent with previous studies which showed that no more than four PG and DP molecules each could fit in the PG layer (Al-Amoudi et al., 2011).

Section: 1.2 Restraints

Distance threshold for sequence connectivity restraint

To set up the connectivity restraint, we need to scale the inter-bead distance to allow the more disordered N/C termini as well as the DC proteins to span a greater end-to-end distance compared to the globular protein domains. For each protein domain with at least a partial disorder (for example, PKP-N, DP-N, etc), we first find the radius of gyration of this fragment assuming the fragment to be completely disordered, using $R_g = 1.92N^{0.6}$ (Kohn et al., 2004) where *N* is the number of residues. We model the fragment as a chain of monomers composed of *n* statistically independent segments each of length *a*. We assume *n* to be approximately equal to the number of beads in our representation of the fragment as two adjacent beads are free to be in any relative orientation without any other restraints; *a* is then the inter-bead distance. We then use a relation between the RMS Distance between the two ends of the chain ($R_F = a n^{0.6}$) and the radius of gyration (R_G) to estimate *a* for our fragment: $R_G^2/R_F^2 = 25/176$ (Teraoka, 2002). Another estimate for *a* is calculated internally in IMP and comes from the assumption that the fragment is globular (Alber et al., 2007). The final scaling depends on the weighted sum of these

two estimates, the weights corresponding to the portion of the fragment predicted to be disordered by PSIPRED (Buchan & Jones, 2019). Given an estimate of *a*, we can calculate the surface-to-surface distance for adjacent beads to create an harmonic upper bound restraint such that the beads are only penalized when they are farther than this distance apart. We use the maximum end-to-end distance (*an*) and find the bead surface-to-surface distance needed to achieve this end-to-end distance. This is approximated by the following relation where r is the typical radius of a bead in our model: $d =$ $(an - 2r)/n - 2r$. The calculated scale matches the scale calculated using a more accurate measure for ${R_G}^2/{R_F}^2 \approx 0.95/6$ given by renormalization theory (Teraoka, 2002) up to rounding. However, the scale is only a heuristic parameter and the results obtained are relatively robust to its exact value.

Section 2: Analysis

Section: 2.1 Filtering based on Autocorrelation

To filter a computationally feasible subset of models from the large set of sampled models, we first remove the initial few models based on statistical testing (Chodera, 2016; Saltzberg et al., 2021), to consider only the models after equilibration assumed to be in the stationary distribution. Next, we only take every 20th model in the MCMC sampling run (PMI analysis parameter nskip=2, writing every 10th frame to disk). To identify an appropriate number of models to skip, we ran eight independent single replica runs with all the restraints. We analyzed the spatial autocorrelation of the XYZ coordinates of each bead along the sampling trajectory. We chose as our cutoff the smallest number of sampling steps after which the autocorrelation of all the beads had fallen to at most 85-90%. This allows us to remove the highly correlated models to obtain an independent set of models to analyze downstream.

Section: 2.2 Cross-Correlation of Localization Densities and cryo-ET maps

We first computed the predicted localization density by combining the densities from all modeled proteins for the major cluster separately for the PKP layer (PKP-S) and PG-Layer (PG-N,S,C, DP-N,S). We then calculated the cross-correlation between the predicted density and the reference cryo-electron tomography map by calculating the Pearson correlation between the voxel-wise values in the two maps. This is calculated at all grid points at a voxel spacing of 5Å spread over the volume enclosing both the predicted localization density and the cryo-ET map. The values of the maps at these grid points were found by interpolation (RegularGridInterpolator in scipy (Virtanen et al., 2020)). This is similar to calculating Correlation around the mean in UCSF Chimera (fitmap) except that the Chimera calculation only involves the non-zero grid points of the reference map, causing the correlation value to change depending on the order of the two maps.

Supplementary Figures

Figure S1 Estimating the number of PG and DP molecules and selecting the layout for PKP1 molecules. The graph shows the results for stoichiometry simulations with the number of PG and DP molecules ranging from 2 to 7. The boxplot marks the mean (red dot) and the standard deviation (black error bars) of the cross-correlation coefficient (Bonomi et al., 2019) between the top 10% of models with the best cross-correlation scores and the cryo-ET map. **(Inset)** The seven densities in the PKP layer of the cryo-ET map (top view) are shown. Of these, four were full-length PKPs in our model (filled circles) and three were fixed, non-interacting PKP1-S regions (empty circles). See also Methods, Stage 2, and Supplementary Section 1.1.

Figure S2 Sampling Exhaustiveness protocol for Desmosomal ODP A) Test for the convergence of the model score for the 24016 good-scoring models. The scores do not continue to improve as more

models are added independently. The error bar represents the standard deviations of the best scores, estimated by repeating sampling of models 10 times. The red dotted line indicates a lower bound reference on the total score. **B)** Testing the similarity of model score distributions between samples 1 (red) and 2 (blue). The difference in the distribution of scores is significant (Kolmogorov-Smirnov twosample test p-value less than 0.05) but the magnitude of the difference is small (the Kolmogorov-Smirnov two-sample test statistic D is 0.04); thus, the two score distributions are effectively equal. **C)** Three criteria for determining the sampling precision (Y-axis), evaluated as a function of the RMSD clustering threshold (X-axis). First, the p-value is computed using the χ^2 -test for homogeneity of proportions (red dots). Second, an effect size for the χ^2 -test is quantified by the Cramer's V value (blue squares). Third, the population of models in sufficiently large clusters (containing at least 10 models from each sample) is shown as green triangles. The vertical dotted grey line indicates the RMSD clustering threshold at which three conditions are satisfied (p-value > 0.05 [dotted red line], Cramer's V < 0.10 [dotted blue line], and the population of clustered models > 0.80 [dotted green line]), thus defining the sampling precision of 82 Å. **D)** Populations of sample 1 and 2 models in the clusters obtained by threshold-based clustering using the RMSD threshold of 82 Å. Cluster precision is shown for each cluster **E-F)** Comparison of localization probability densities of models from sample A and sample B for the major cluster. The cross-correlation of the density maps (see Supplementary section 2.2) of the two samples is greater than 0.98 (Viswanath et al., 2017).

Figure S3 Fit to data used in modeling A) Fit to the data from biochemical experiments formulated as binding restraints (Methods). Each violin corresponds to the absolute closest distance between the two interacting domains across all protein copies for a model in the major cluster (Methods). Each distribution corresponds to a restraint in Table S2A. Red horizontal lines correspond to the 5th, 50th, and 95th percentile (in **A** and **B**) after outlier removal. **B)** Fit to immuno-EM data (North et al., 1999). Each violin corresponds to the absolute difference between the experimental mean and the model-predicted distance from the membrane across all protein copies for a model in the major cluster (Methods). The inset shows the same information without the absolute value (i.e. signed difference). **C-D)** Fit to the cryo-ET map for the PKP Layer (**C**) and the PG Layer (**D**). Densities from the model (colored) are shown along with the segmented densities from the cryo-ET map, EMD-1703 (Al-Amoudi et al., 2011) (Methods). The crosscorrelation (CC) is mentioned for each of the fits (Methods, Supplementary Section 2.2). PKP1-S density (including the non-interacting PKP1 molecules) and the PG + DP density are visualized at a \sim 10% threshold and the map is visualized at the recommended threshold. See also Fig. 3, Table S2.

Figure S4 Fit to data not used in modeling A) Fit to the data from biochemical experiments not used for modeling (Methods). The violin corresponds to the closest distance between the two interacting domains across all copies for a model in the major cluster (Methods). Red horizontal lines correspond to the 5th, 50th, and 95th percentile after outlier removal. **B)** Fit to the super-resolution imaging data from (Stahley et al., 2016). The violin corresponds to the signed difference between the experiment mean and the model-predicted distance from the membrane across all protein copies for a model in the major cluster (Methods). The red lines show the standard deviation of the imaging data. **C)** Fit to the cadherin spacing data from (Sikora et al., 2020). The black histogram displays the minimum distance between DSC1-DSG1 at the plasma membrane for each model. The red histogram displays the corresponding distance in a null model, where the membrane-anchored DSG1 and DSC1 beads are placed at random within a circle defined by the extent of the cryo-ET map. The data from (Sikora et al., 2020) (green line), the mean of the distribution from integrative models (blue solid line), and the mean of the distribution from the null model (blue broken line) are also depicted.

Figure S5 Additional contact maps Protein-protein contact maps for DP-DSG1 (**A**), DP-PKP1 (**B**), PG-DSC1 (**C**), and PG-DSG1 (**D**) pairs. Maps are colored by the proportion of the models in the major cluster where the corresponding two bead surfaces are within contact distance (10 Å). Rectangles with solid green (broken green) lines outline novel contacts present in >25% (>20%) of the models. Interacting residues are marked in green text in the format Y-axis protein residues: X-axis protein residues. See also Fig. 4 and Table S4.

Figure S6 Prediction of disorder in PKP1, DP, and PG and sequence conservation for PKP1 The PSIPRED (Buchan & Jones, 2019) outputs for PKP1 (**A**), DP-N (**B**), and PG (**C**) are shown with the color scheme displayed below panel C. **D)** Sequence conservation output using Clustal Omega for Chick, Human and Mouse PKP1¹⁻²²⁹ (Goujon et al., 2010; Sievers et al., 2011). The colors represent different kinds of amino acids (acidic: blue, basic: magenta, hydrophobic/small: red, Hydroxyl/sulfhydryl/amine/G: green). An asterisk (*) represents an exact residue match, a colon (:) represents a strongly similar match, and a period (.) represents a weakly similar match.

Figure S7 Alphafold3 predictions The best-ranked models, along with the corresponding PTM + IPTM scores from AF3 are displayed for **A)** the full desmosome ODP, **B)** PG-DSC1, **C)** PG-DSG1, and **D)** DP-PKP1. Only sequence regions corresponding to the ODP were submitted to Alphafold3 (e.g., DP-584 in **A** refers to the C-terminal end of DP in the ODP). Proteins are colored as in the main figures. **B)** and **C)**: only the residues from the AF3 model corresponding to the homology model are shown. The ligand RMSD between the AF3 model and the corresponding homology model is computed by superposing on PG (orange) and computing the RMSDs on DSC1 (blue: homology, grey:AF3) /DSG1(purple: homology, grey:AF3). **D)** The PKP1 residues at the interface to DP are shown (lime green).

Supplementary Tables

Table S1 Modeled protein domains The different domains of the modeled proteins are shown along with their residue ranges. Regions of unknown structure were represented as flexible 20-residue beads, while regions of known structure were represented as rigid bodies consisting of 30-residue beads. The colors refer to domains without a known structure (red), domains which are homology modeled on a structure template of an isoform or homolog (yellow), and domains for which a structure exists in the PDB (green). Only the domains in the ODP were modeled; extracellular and transmembrane domains (DSG1¹⁻ 569, DSC1¹⁻⁷¹⁴) and intracellular domains outside the ODP (DP⁵⁸⁵⁻²⁸⁷¹, DSG1⁸⁴³⁻¹⁰⁴⁹) were not modeled (Al-Amoudi et al., 2011; Garrod & Chidgey, 2008; Nilles et al., 1991).

Table S2A Binding Restraints The protein-protein binding restraints are shown along with the experimental data they are based on. Only residues that are modeled in our ODP model are included in the restraints. If multiple experiments provide data for a protein pair, the data from the experiment with the highest resolution is used. In columns 3, 4 (and 5), the green background (or text) represents the highest resolution information that was used to formulate the restraint, and gray represents other information that is at a lower resolution than the restraint. Experiment abbreviations are as follows: Y2H: Yeast 2 Hybrid, OA: Overlay Assay (in-vitro), Loc: Co-Localization assays, Co-IP: Co-Immunoprecipitation.

Table S2B Immuno-EM Restraints The antibody-binding domains for the different termini, the mean distance of the termini from the plasma membrane, and the respective standard errors are shown (North et al., 1999). Domain names are per Fig. 1.

Table S3A Validation data not used in modeling The data not used in modeling is shown along with the corresponding references. Data for validation was obtained using the same reasoning as in Table S2A. Experiment abbreviations are as follows: OA: Overlay Assay, cryo-ET: cryo-electron tomography, dSTORM: direct stochastic optical reconstruction microscopy.

Table S3B Other data consistent with the data used in modeling Data from imaging and biochemistry experiments that is consistent with the data used for modeling is shown along with the corresponding references. Experiment abbreviations are as follows: dSTORM: direct stochastic optical reconstruction microscopy, cryo-ET: cryo-electron tomography, ABE: acyl biotin exchange assay., Y2H: Yeast-2-Hybrid, co-IP: Co-Immunoprecipitation, Loc: Co-Localization assays, ITC: Isothermal Calorimetry. Rows in gray represent data that is not consistent with the data used for modeling.

Table S4 Protein-Protein contacts in the ODP All the contacts identified in at least 20% (yellow) to 25% (green) of the models in the ensemble are shown (Methods). Contacts consistent with subcomplexes of known structure are marked with an asterisk in column 1. See also Fig. 4 and Fig. S5.

Table S5 Mutations The mutations of interest in the different protein domains are shown along with the pathology associated with the mutations (Fig. 5, Results). Domain names are following Fig. 1.

*DSG1a and DSC1a rigid bodies are counted as part of the complex with PG.

Table S6 Degrees of freedom The sampling degrees of freedom and the number of immuno-EM and protein-protein binding restraints associated with each protein are shown.

restraints ²⁰ **Total protein-protein binding restraints** ³⁴

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