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# The Oxygen Sensor Mechanism of PHD

2020/2/6

Literature Seminar

B4 Fujiyoshi

# Contents

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- Introduction
  - The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019
  - Mechanism of hypoxia response
- Basic characteristics of PHD
- Structural analysis of PHD2
- Contribution of residue of PHD2 to O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity
- Summary

# Contents

---

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# The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019

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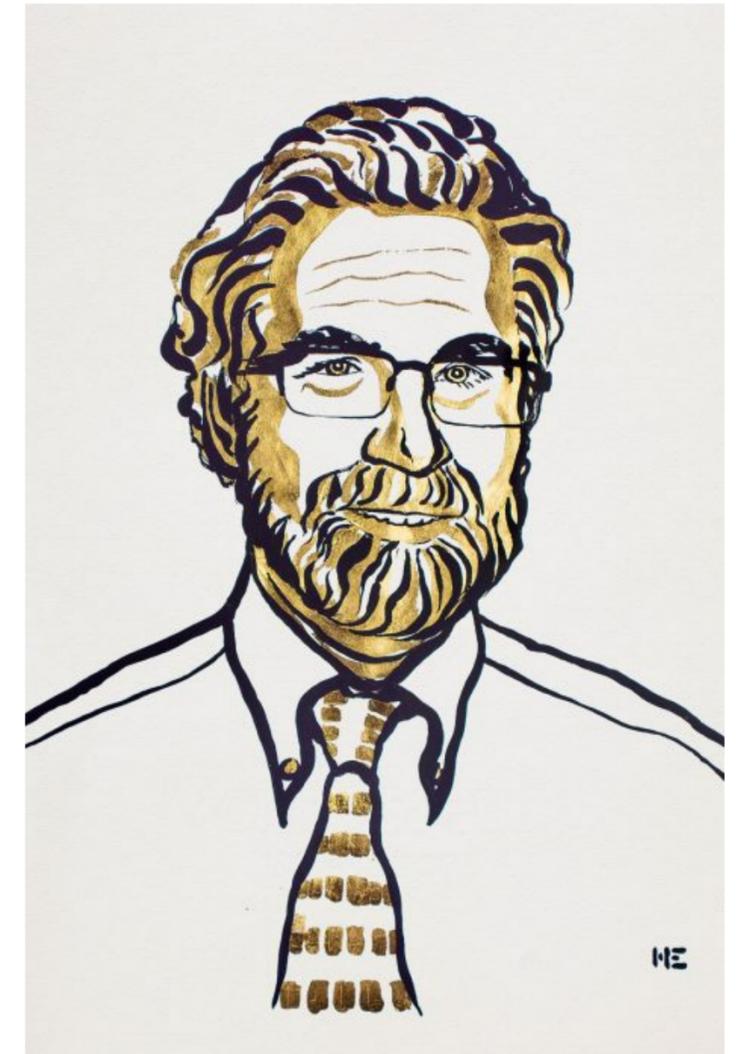
Discovery: How cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability



William G. Kaelin Jr



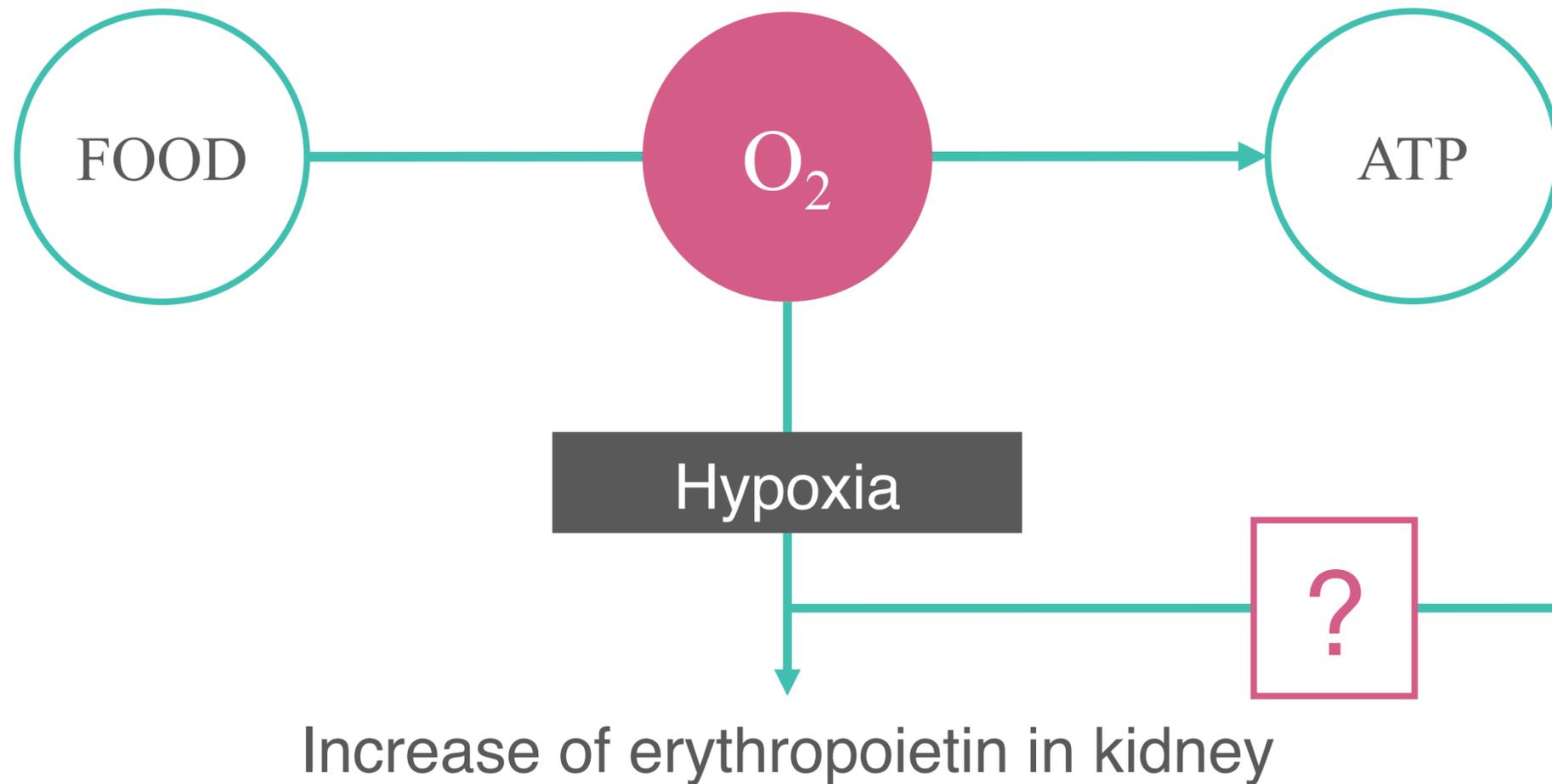
Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe



Gregg L. Semenza

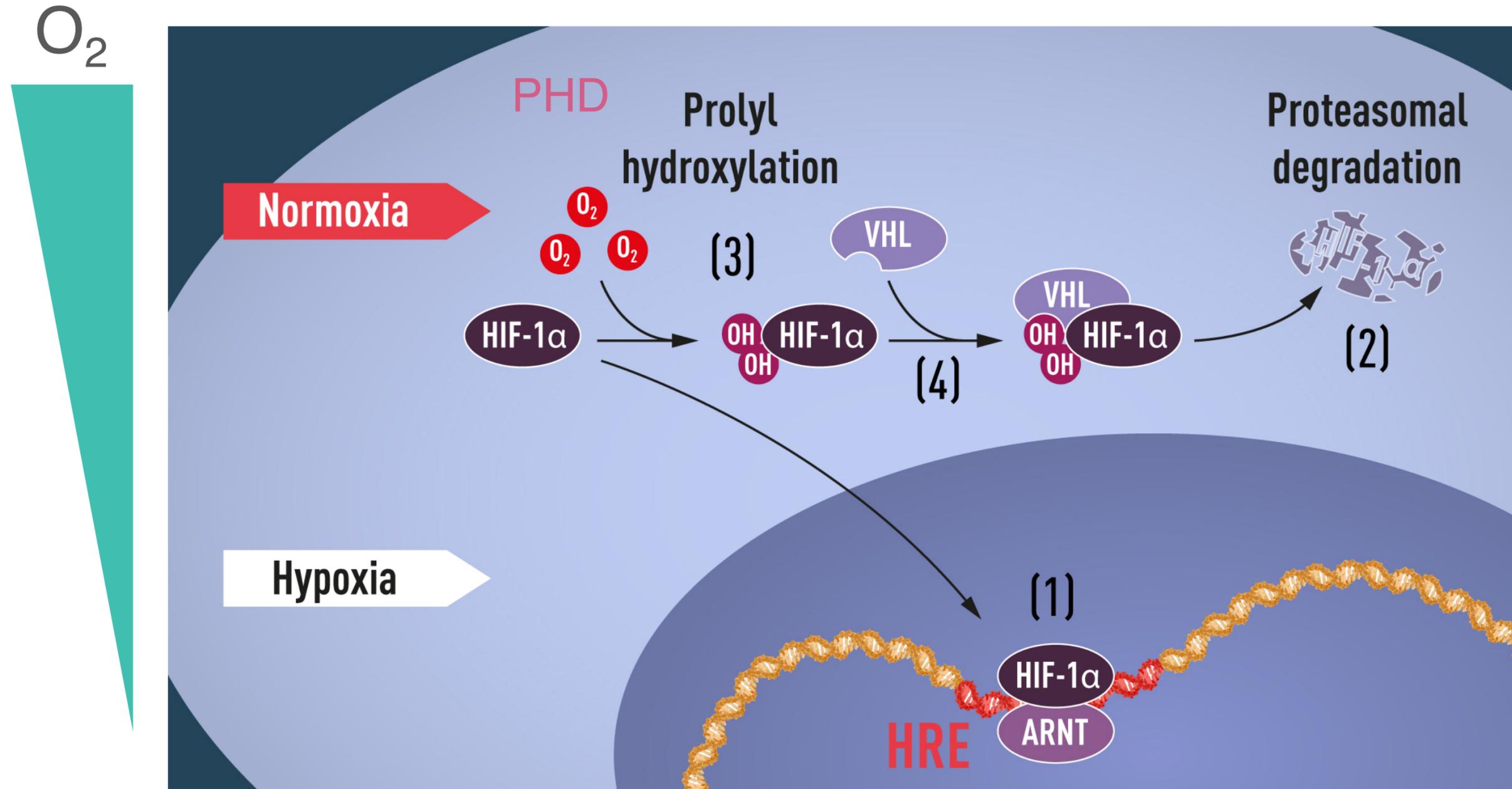
# Question: How do cells sense and adapt to the oxygen availability?

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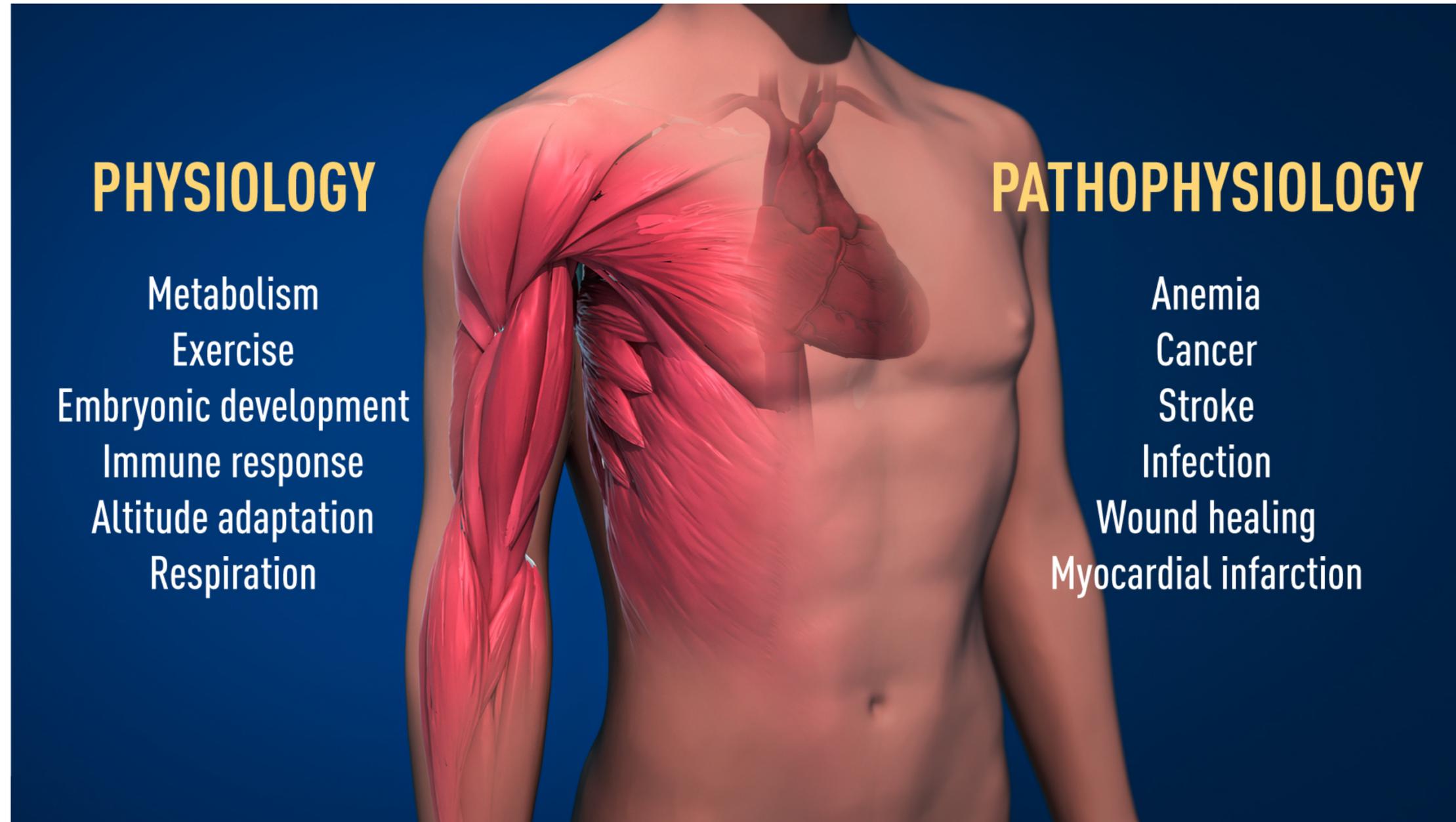


William G. Kaelin Jr., Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe and Gregg L. Semenza identified molecular machinery that regulates the activity of genes in response to varying levels of oxygen.

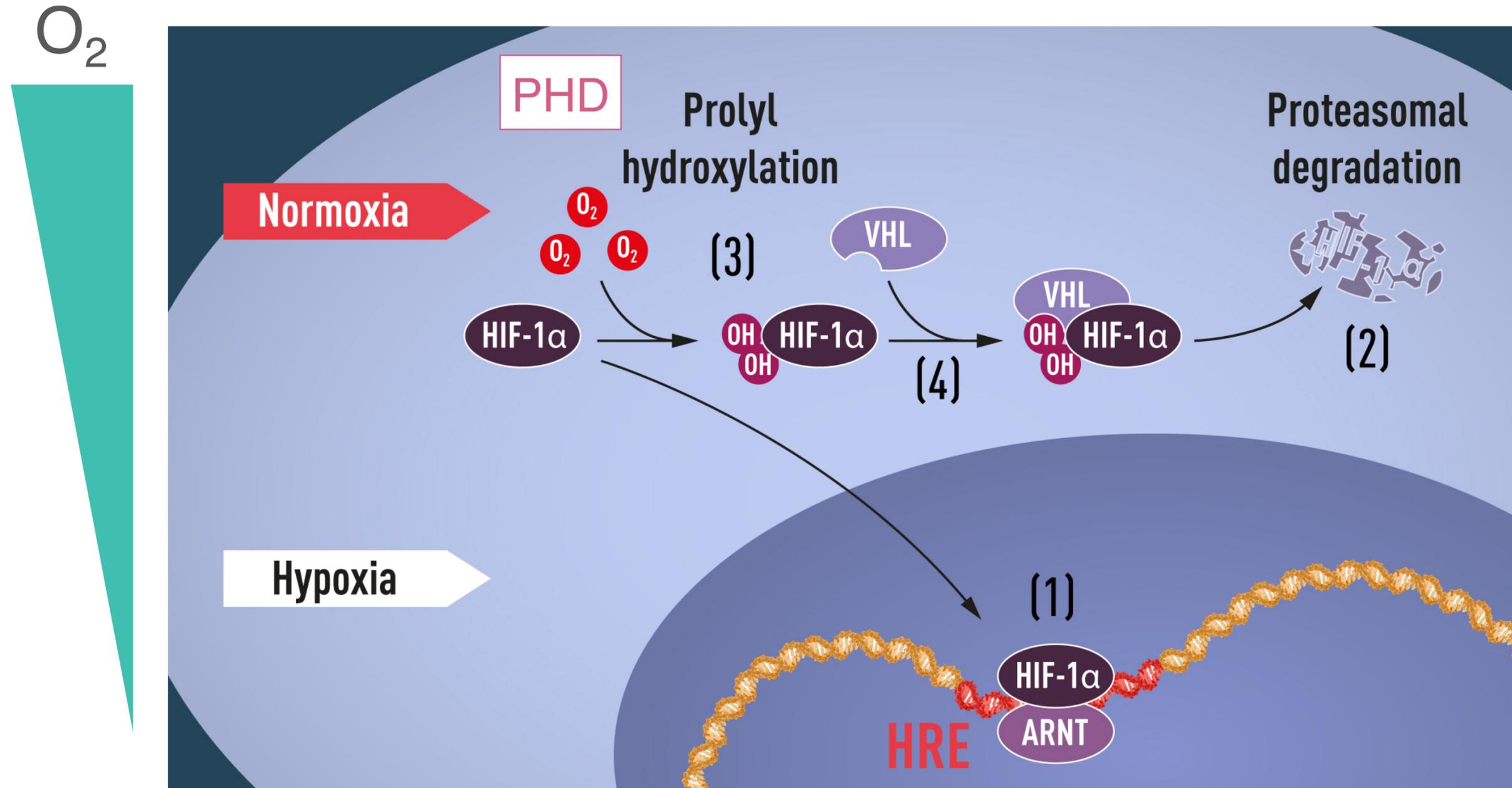
# Overall mechanism of hypoxia response



# Physiology and pathology related to hypoxia response



# Main topic: prolyl hydroxylase domain (PHD)

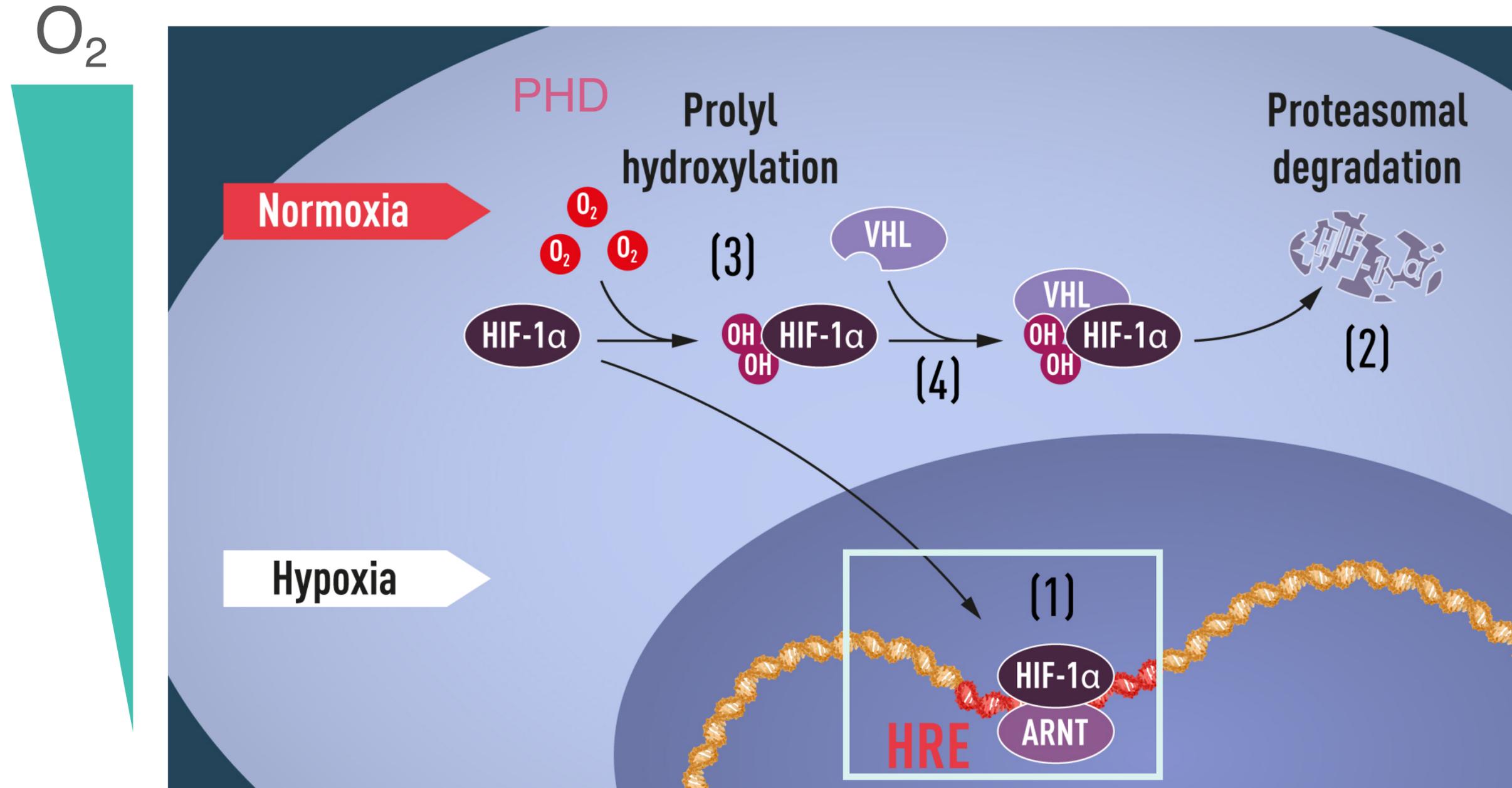


# Contents

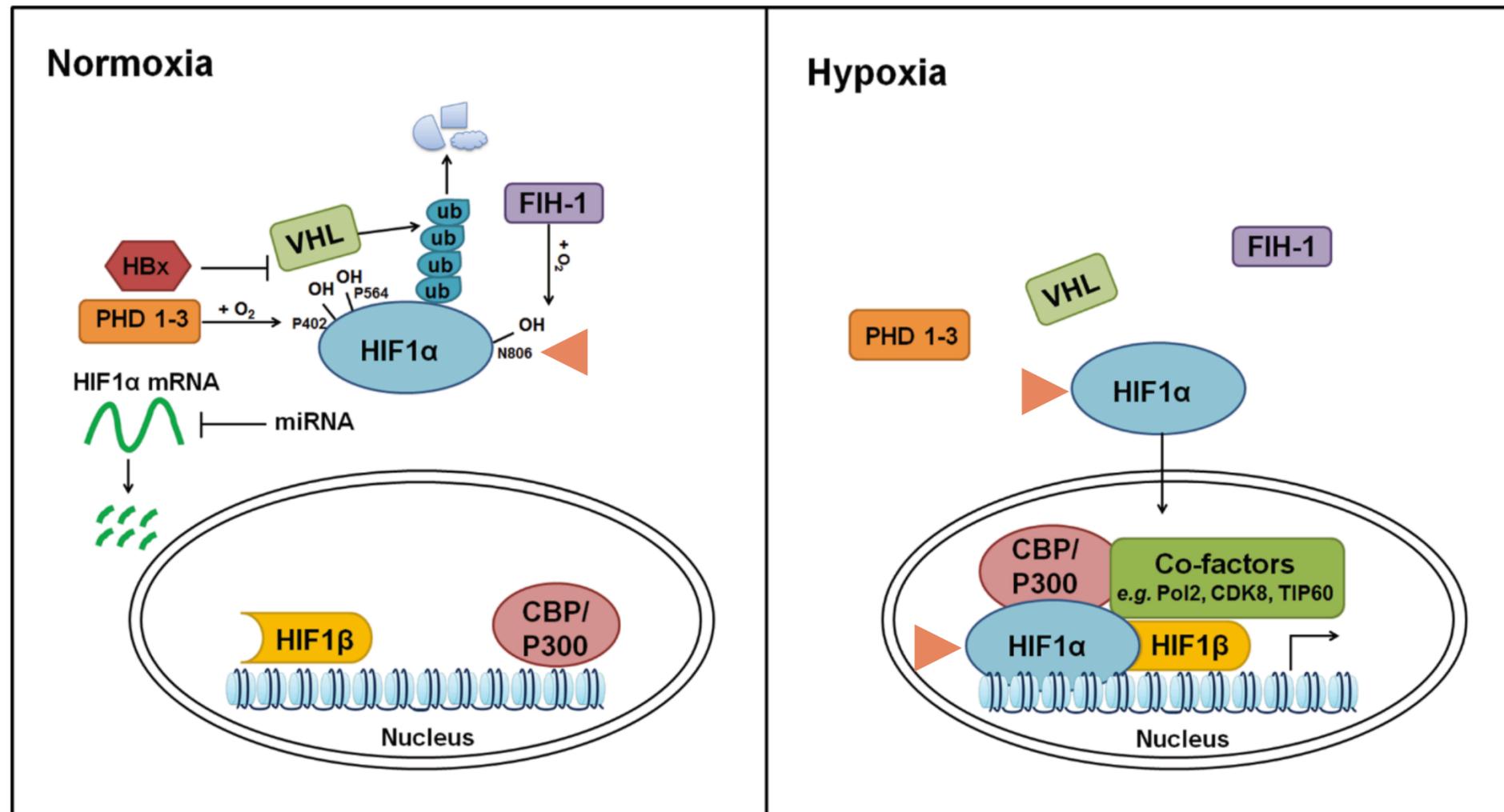
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# Transcriptional activation by HIF- $\alpha$ in hypoxia



# Transcriptional activation by the interaction of HIF1 $\alpha$ and p300/CBP

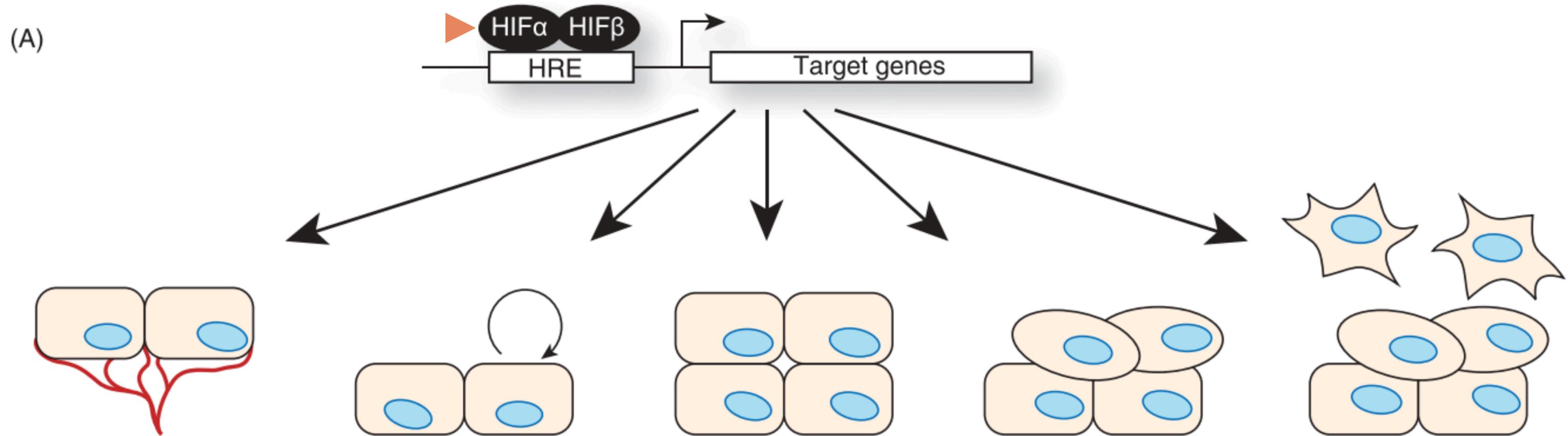


## HIF1 $\alpha$ in Hypoxia

1. No degradation
2. Nucleus translocation
3. Complex formation with HIF $\beta$ , CBP/p300 and other co-factors
4. Transcription activation

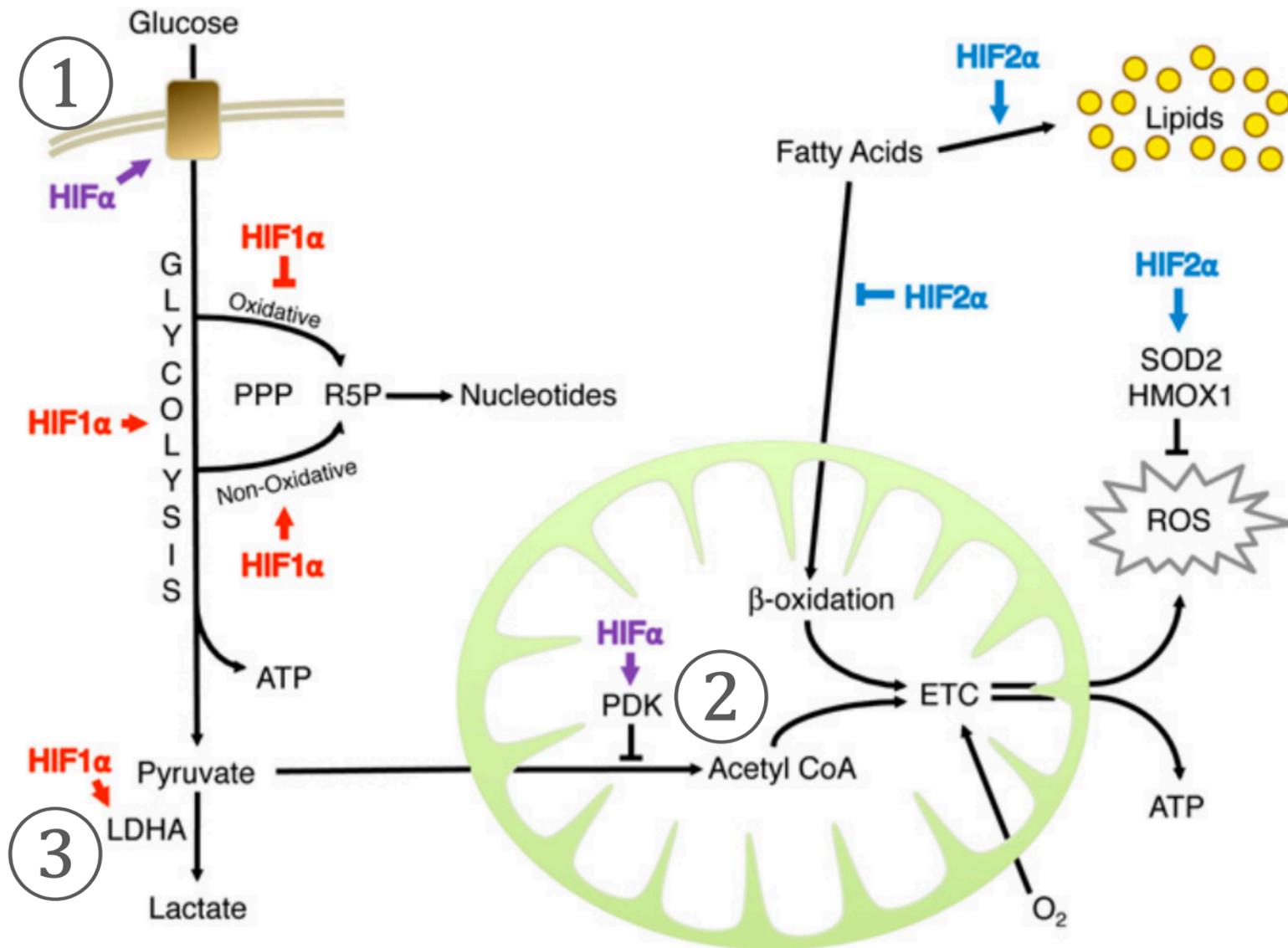
Chen, C., and Lou, T. (2017).  
Oncotarget; Vol 8, No 28.

# HIF $\alpha$ target genes for hypoxia response



Angiogenesis O <sub>2</sub> supply	Stemness Self renewal	Proliferation	EMT
Metabolism	Redox Homeostasis	Apoptosis	Metastasis Invasion

# HIF $\alpha$ modulate cellular metabolism.



In hypoxia, the aerobic metabolism is switched to the anaerobic metabolism.

HIF $\alpha$  induces

1. GLUT1

1. To increase the glucose transportation (much glucose for anaerobic metabolism)

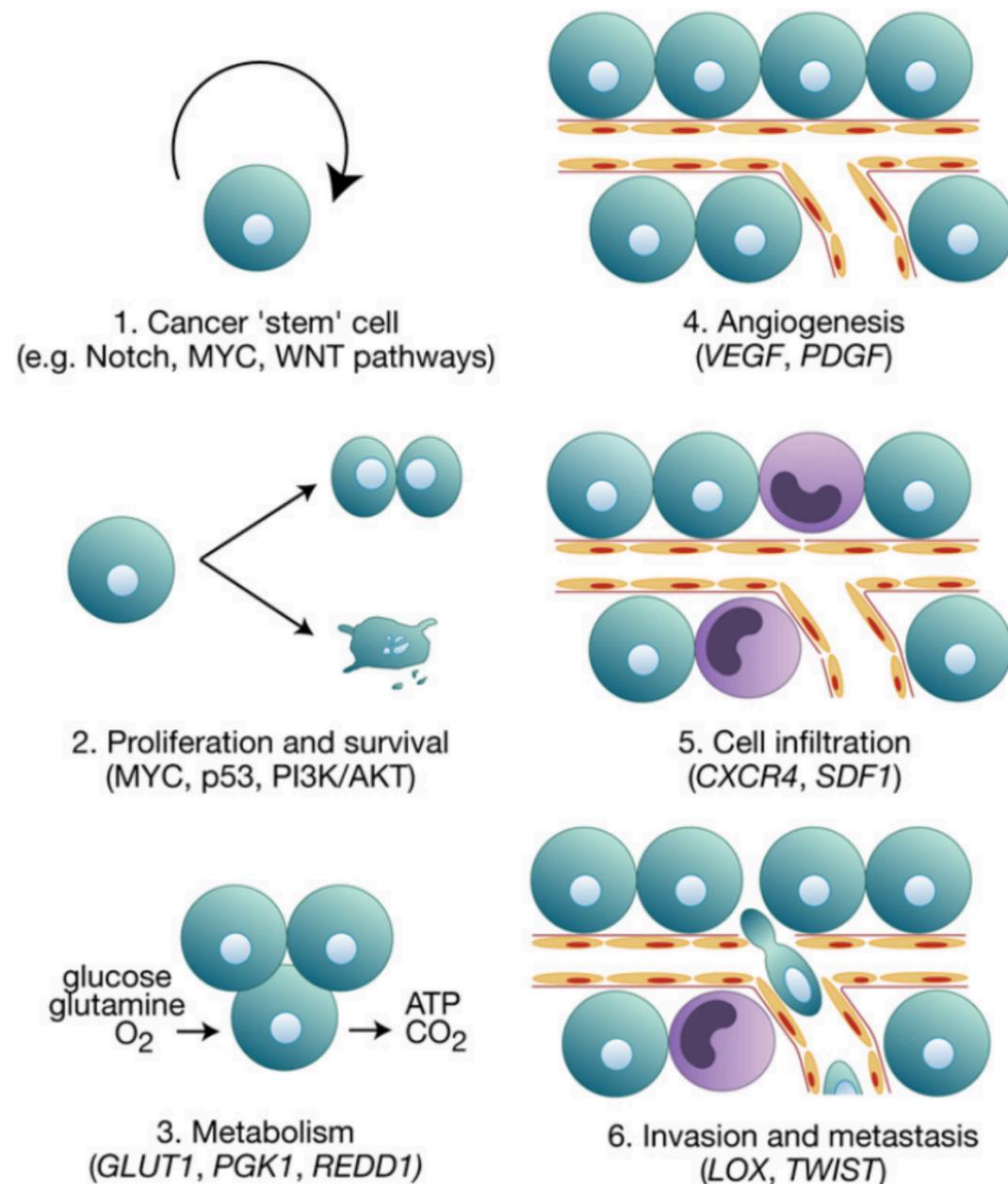
2. PDK

1. To inhibit the conversion from pyruvate to acetylCoA (Stop TCA cycle)

3. LDHA

1. To convert pyruvate to lactate (Oxidize NADH)

# Effect of HIF $\alpha$ on multiple steps of cancer development



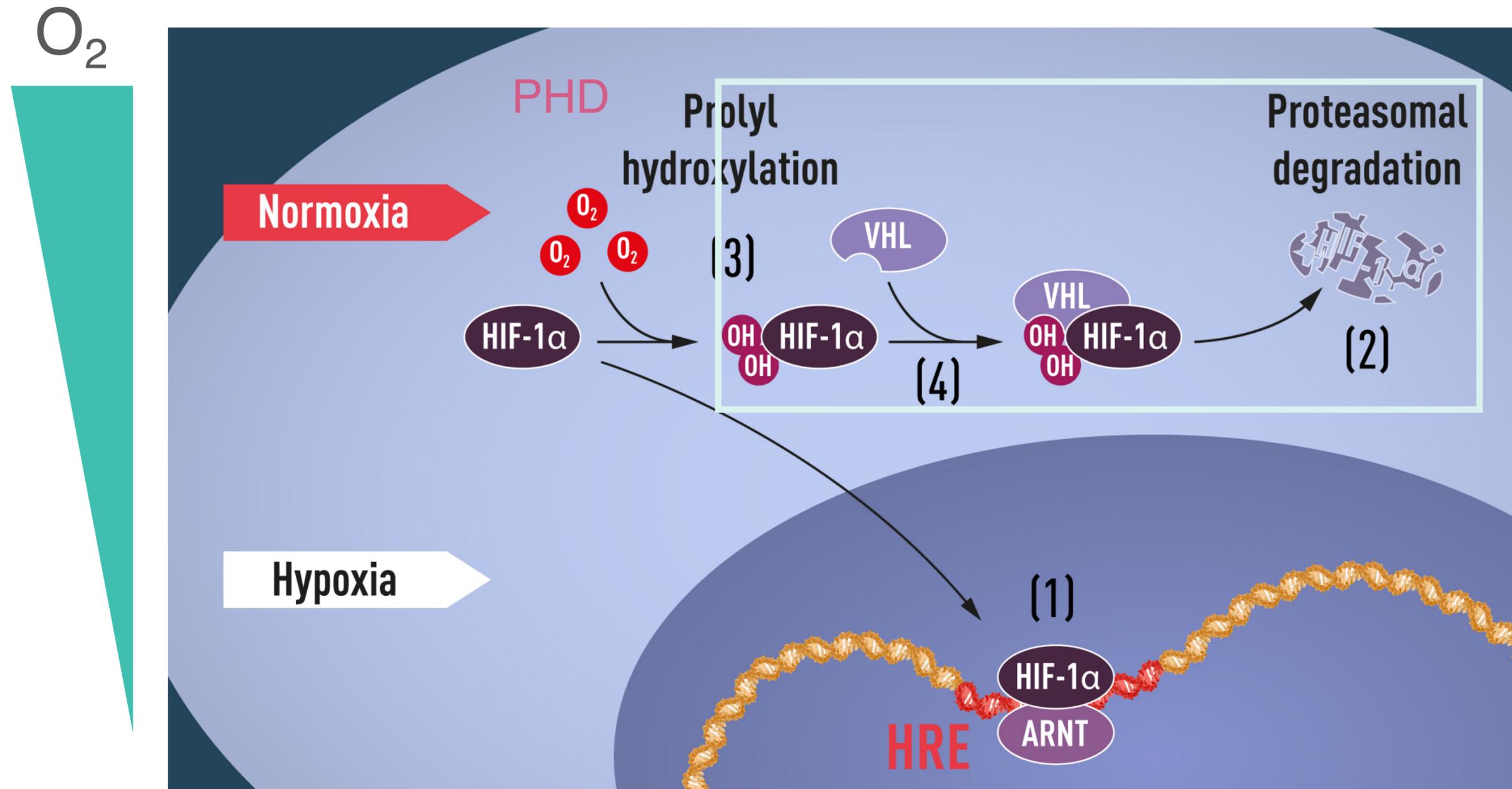
Rapidly proliferating cancer cells may outgrow their vascular network, limiting O<sub>2</sub> diffusion within the tumor.

→ Hypoxic stress

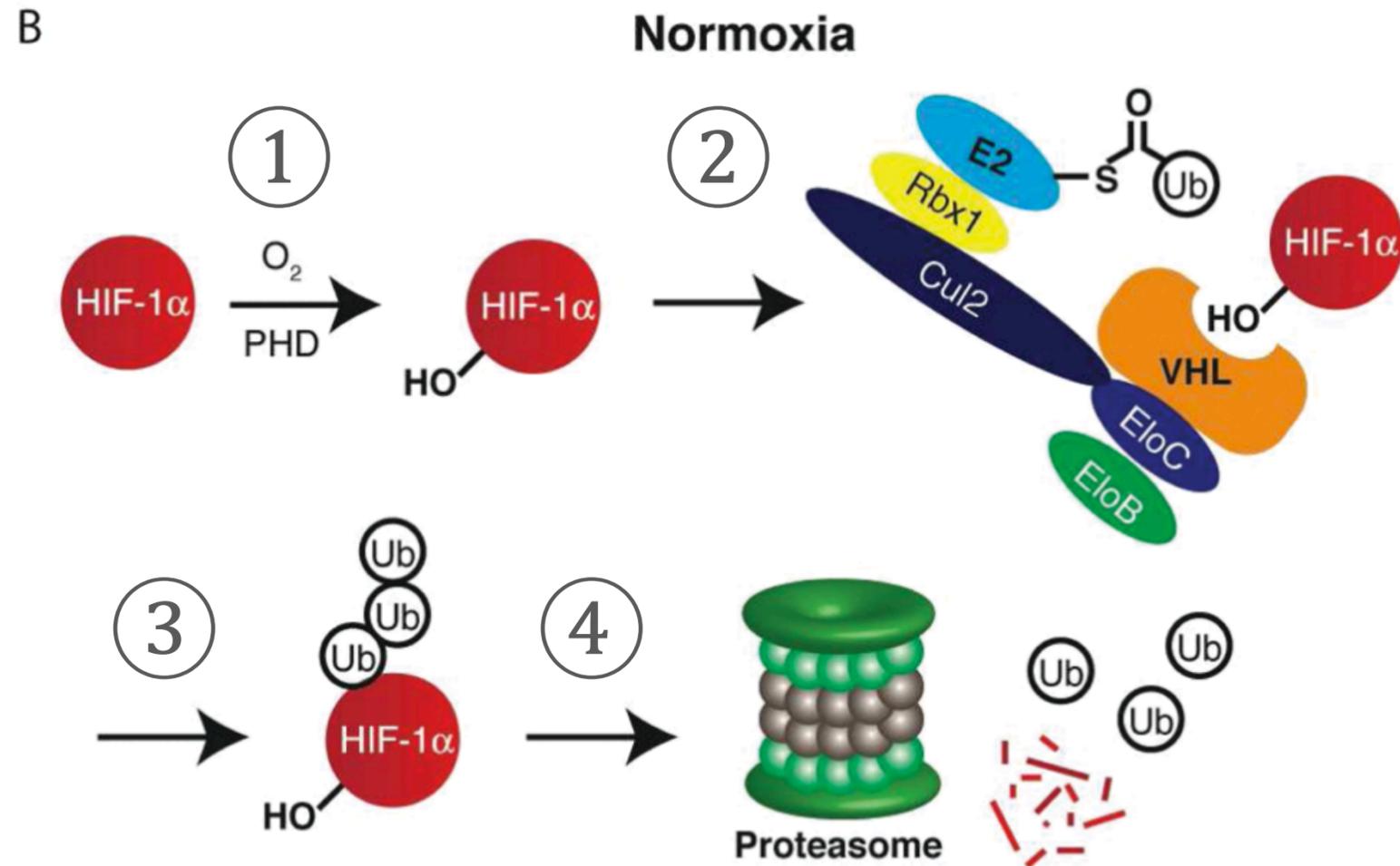
→ HIF $\alpha$  expression and the downstream activation of the hypoxic stress response are widespread in many cancers.

1. Cancer stem cell
2. Proliferation and survival
3. Metabolism
4. Angiogenesis
5. Cell infiltration
6. Invasion and metastasis

# VHL recognition of HIF- $\alpha$ and proteasomal degradation



# HIF $\alpha$ is ubiquitination by E3 ligase and degraded by proteasome.

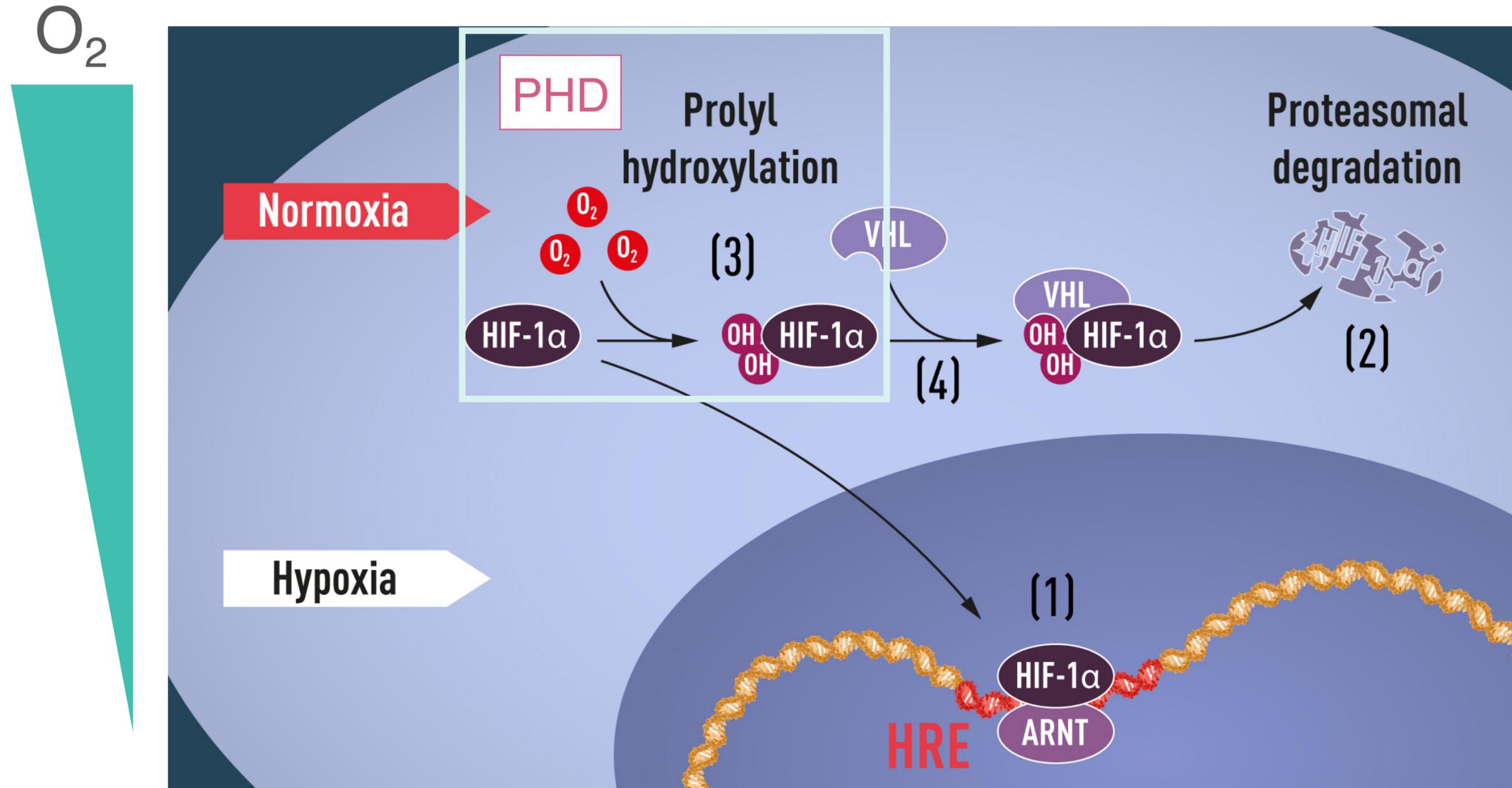


## HIF $\alpha$ in normoxia

1. Hydroxylation of proline
2. Recognition of hydroxyproline by VHL
3. Ubiquitination by E2
4. Degradation by proteasome

Buckley, D.L., Van Molle, I., Gareiss, P.C., Tae, H.S., Michel, J., Noblin, D.J., Jorgensen, W.L., Ciulli, A., and Crews, C.M. (2012). *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 134, 4465–4468.

# PHD is an oxygen sensor in hypoxia response



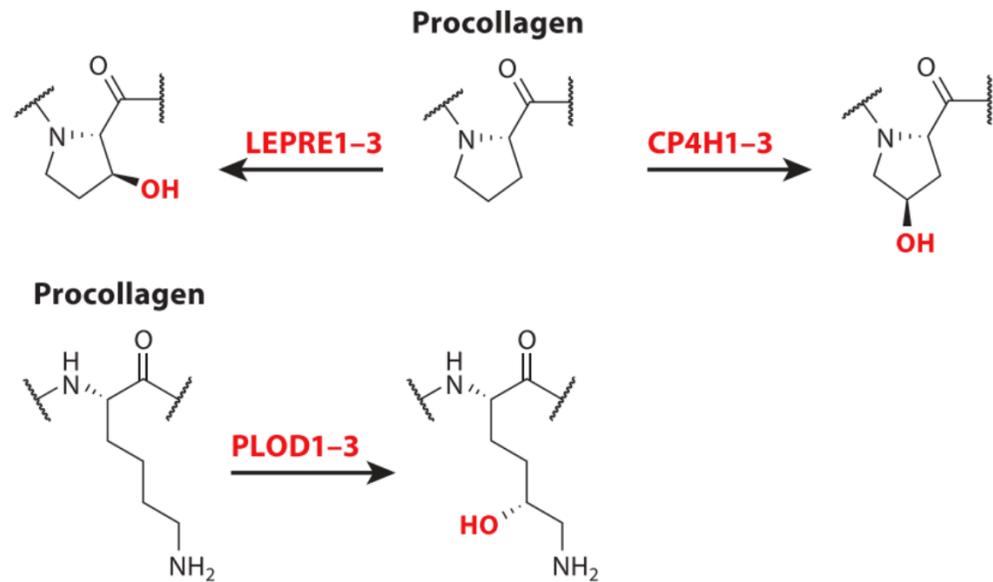
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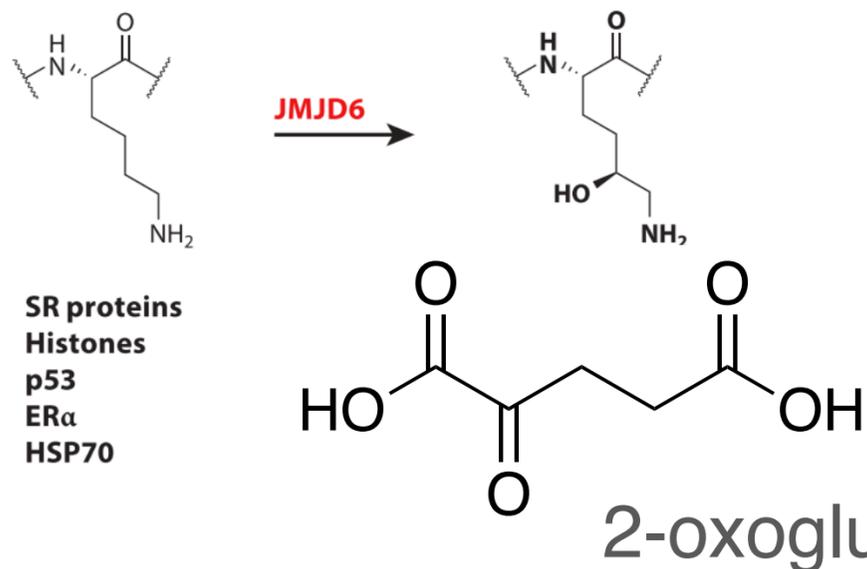
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  - Mechanism of hypoxia response
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# Fe(II)/2OG dependent oxygenase

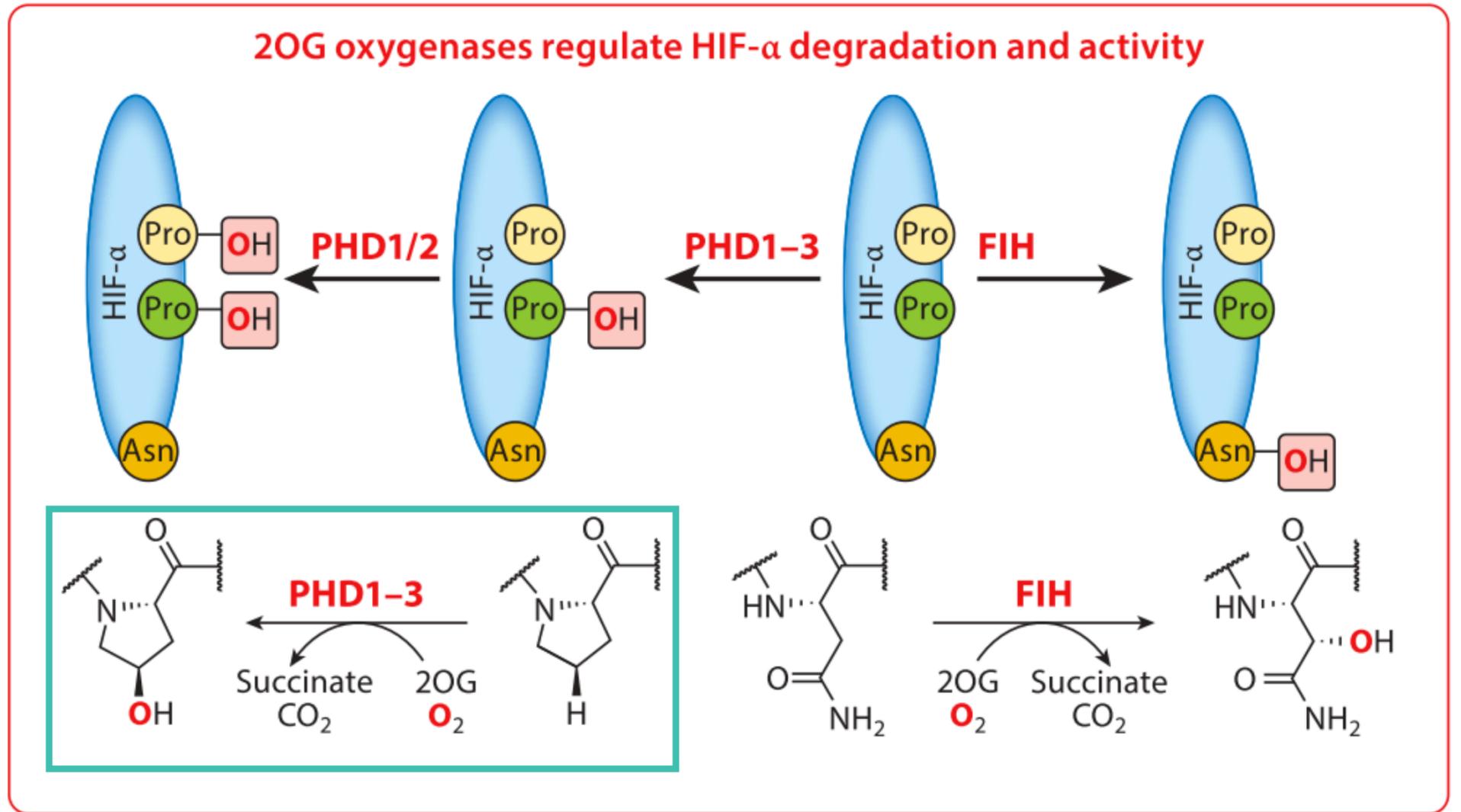
## Hydroxylation of Pro in procollagen



## Hydroxylation of Lys in histone

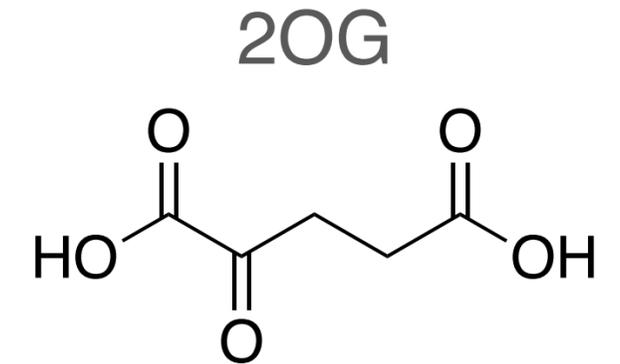
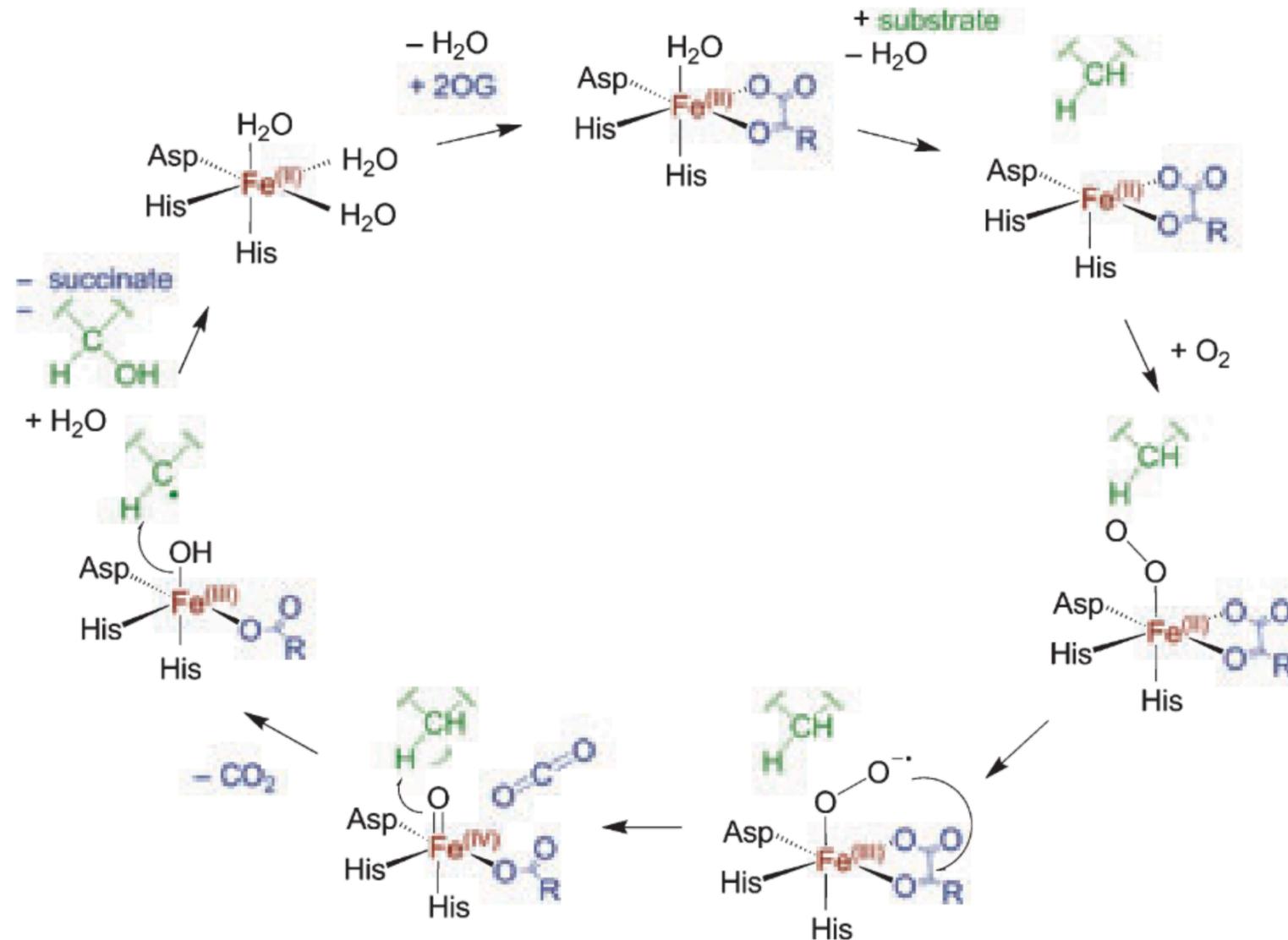


## Hydroxylation of Pro and Gln in HIF $\alpha$



Islam, M.S., Leissing, T.M., Chowdhury, R., Hopkinson, R.J., and Schofield, C.J. (2018). *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 87, 585–620.

# General catalytic cycle for Fe(II)/2OG-dependent oxygenase



2-oxoglutarate (2OG):  
decarboxylation to succinate

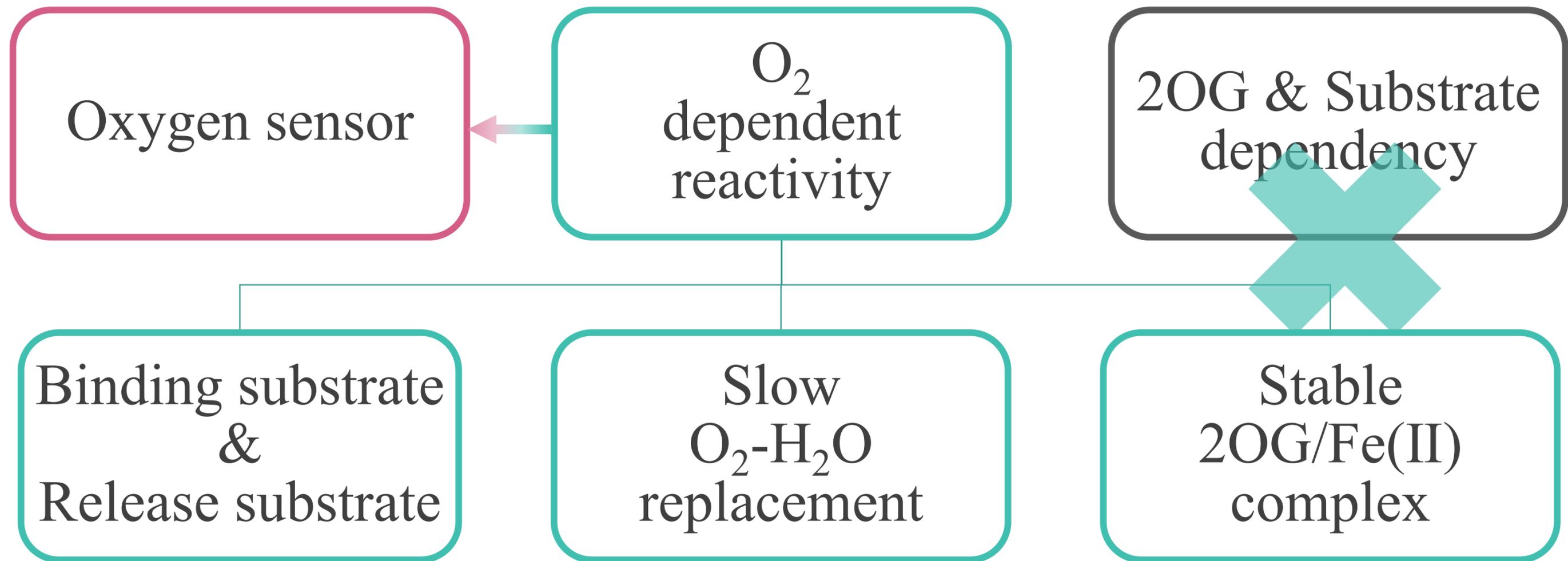
Fe(II): Fe(IV)=O a reactive intermediate

Two His and one Asp or Glu: Fe(II) ligand

Water: Fe(II) ligand replaced to O<sub>2</sub>

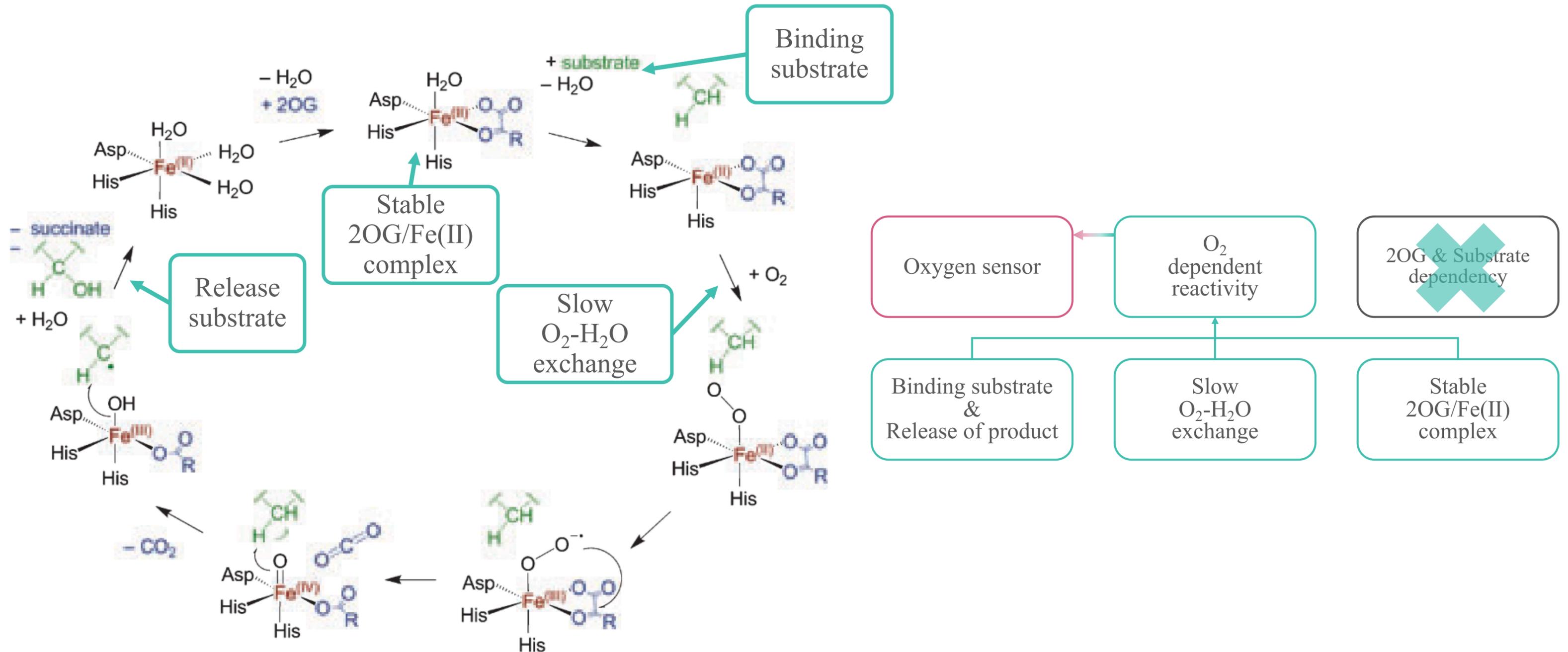
**Fig. 1.** Proposed general catalytic mechanism for the Fe(II)/2OG oxygenases.

# Essentials for O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity in PHD



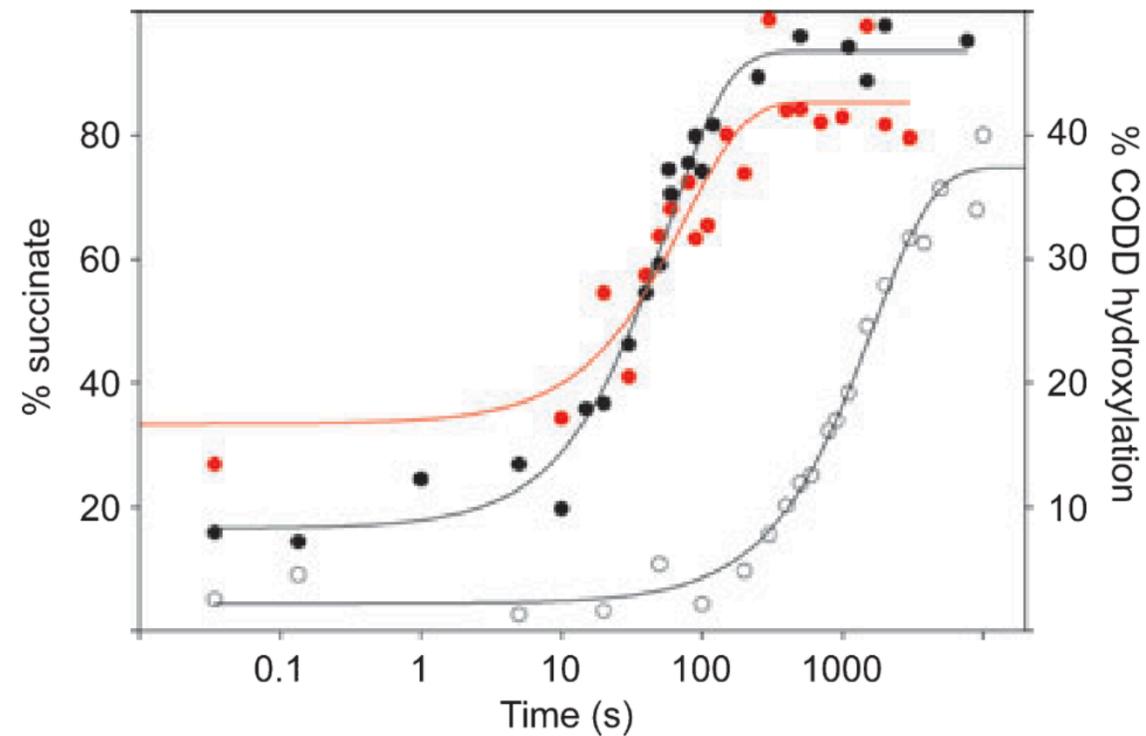
$$v([S],[2OG],[O_2]) = \frac{k_{cat} \cdot [E]_T \cdot [O_2]}{K_m + [O_2]} \approx \frac{k_{cat} \cdot [E]_T \cdot [O_2]}{K_m} \left( K_m \gg [O_2] \right)$$

# The rate-determining steps for O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity



# Substrate binding

Stable binding of substrate and  
easy release of product



PHD:Fe(II):2OG

Binding of substrate to enzyme generally stimulates a reaction in other hydroxylase. (**TauD**; w/ : w/o = **1000** : 1)

● 2OG to succinate with CODD

$$k_{\text{cat}} = 0.018 \text{ s}^{-1}$$

○ 2OG to succinate without CODD

$$k_{\text{cat}} = 0.0006 \text{ s}^{-1} \rightarrow \text{30-fold slower}$$

● CODD hydroxylation:  $k_{\text{cat}} = 0.013 \text{ s}^{-1}$

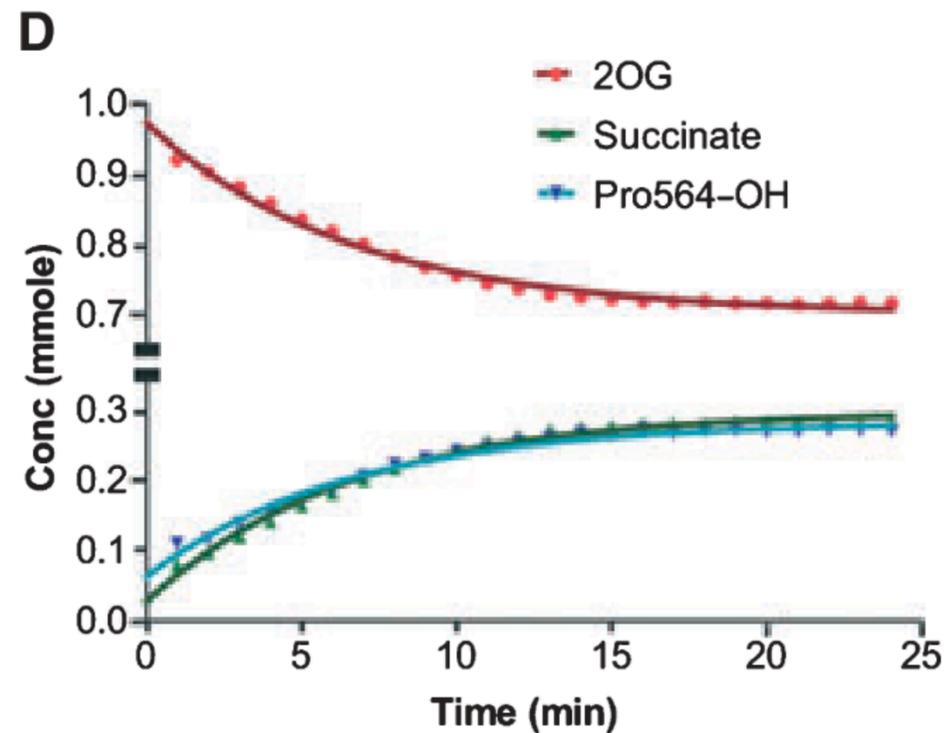
(CODD:

C-terminal oxygen-dependent degradation domain)

→ In PHD2, **substrate binding** may

**not be a rate-determining step.**

# Stable 2OG/Fe(II) complex



Previous EPR analysis showed that unstable 2OG chelation caused uncouple 2OG decarboxylation and produced reactive Fe ion, which was quenched by reductant such as ascorbate.

2OG decarboxylation is coupled to production of succinate and CDD hydroxylation.

→ 2OG/Fe(II) complex is quite stable.

**2OG binding** may not be a rate-determining step in PHD2

# O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity

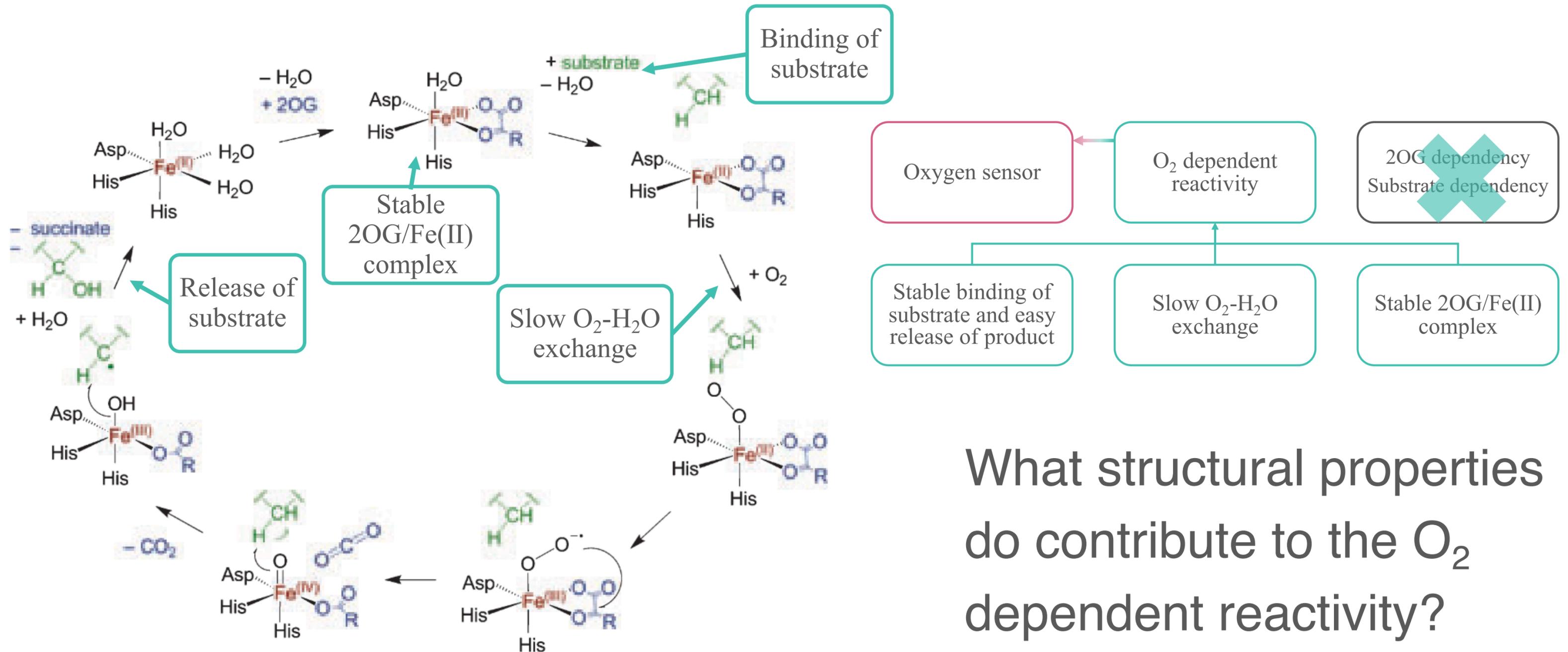
Enzyme	$K_m$		
	2-Oxoglutarate	Ascorbate	O <sub>2</sub>
		$\mu M$	
HIF-P4H-1 = PHD1	60	170	230
HIF-P4H-2 = PHD2	60	180	250
HIF-P4H-3 = PHD3	55	140	230
C-P4H-I	20 <sup>a</sup>	300 <sup>a</sup>	40

$K_m$  for O<sub>2</sub>      PHD2: 250  $\mu M$       Other oxygenase: 40  $\mu M$

PHD2 has a higher  $K_m$  for O<sub>2</sub> than other oxygenases.

→ O<sub>2</sub> binding may be a **rate-determining step** in PHD2.

# The rate-determining steps for O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity



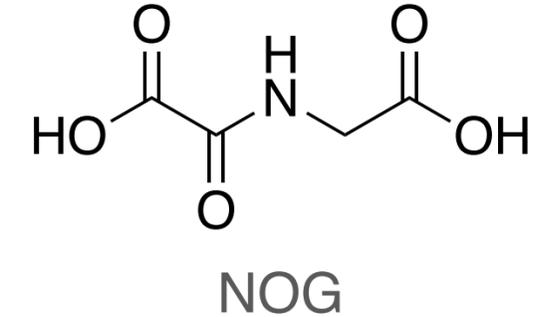
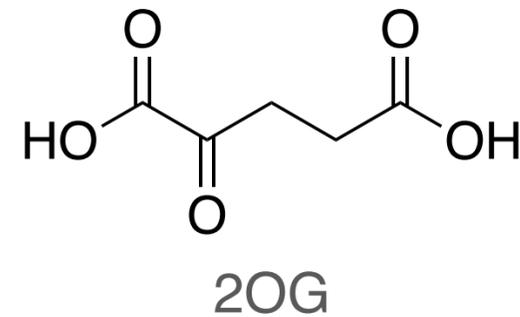
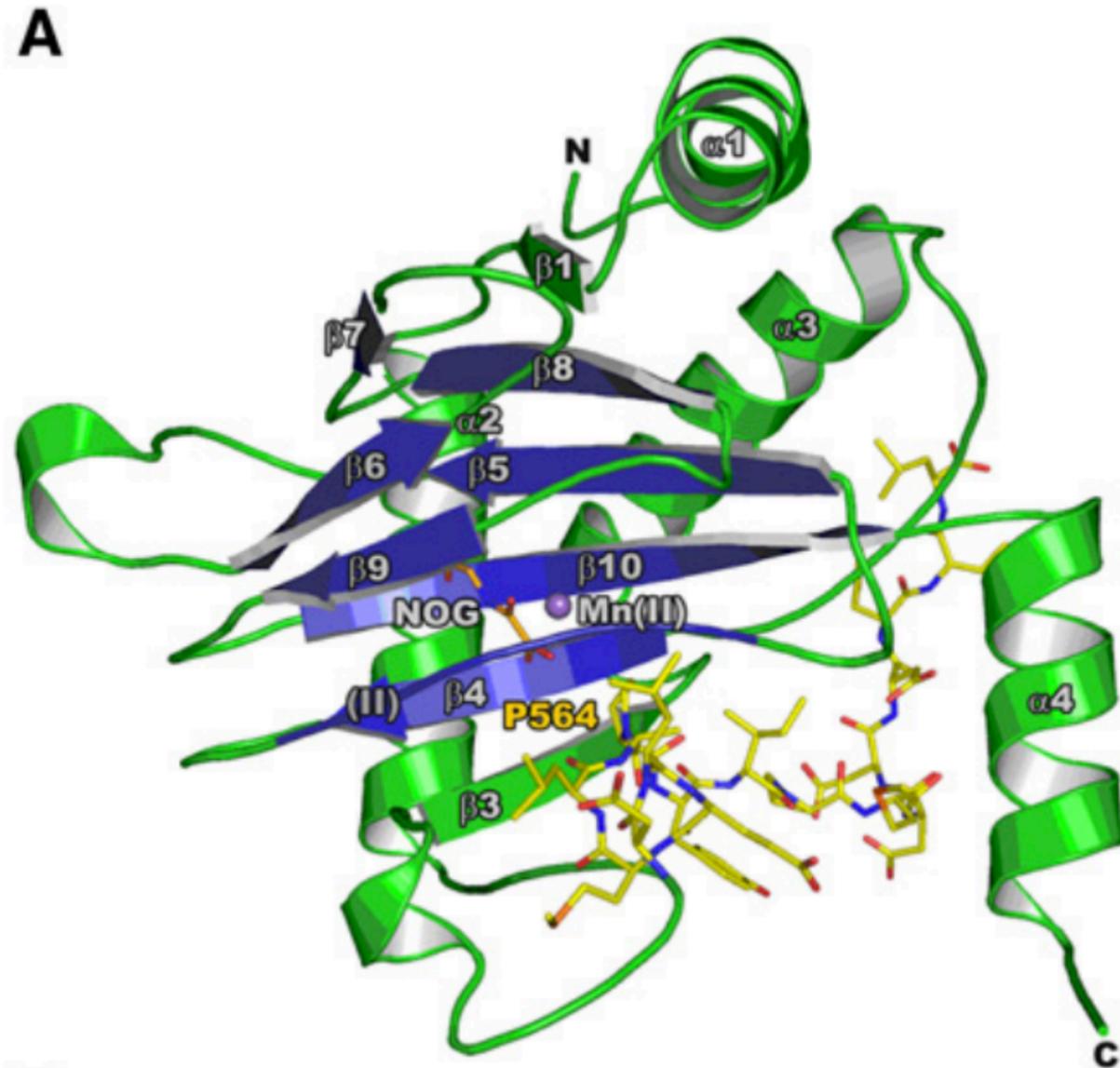
What structural properties do contribute to the O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity?

# Contents

---

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# The structure of PHD2.NOG.Mn(II).CODD



NOG (Orange) and Mn(II) (Purple) are substituted for 2OG and Fe(II) as non-reactive analogs.

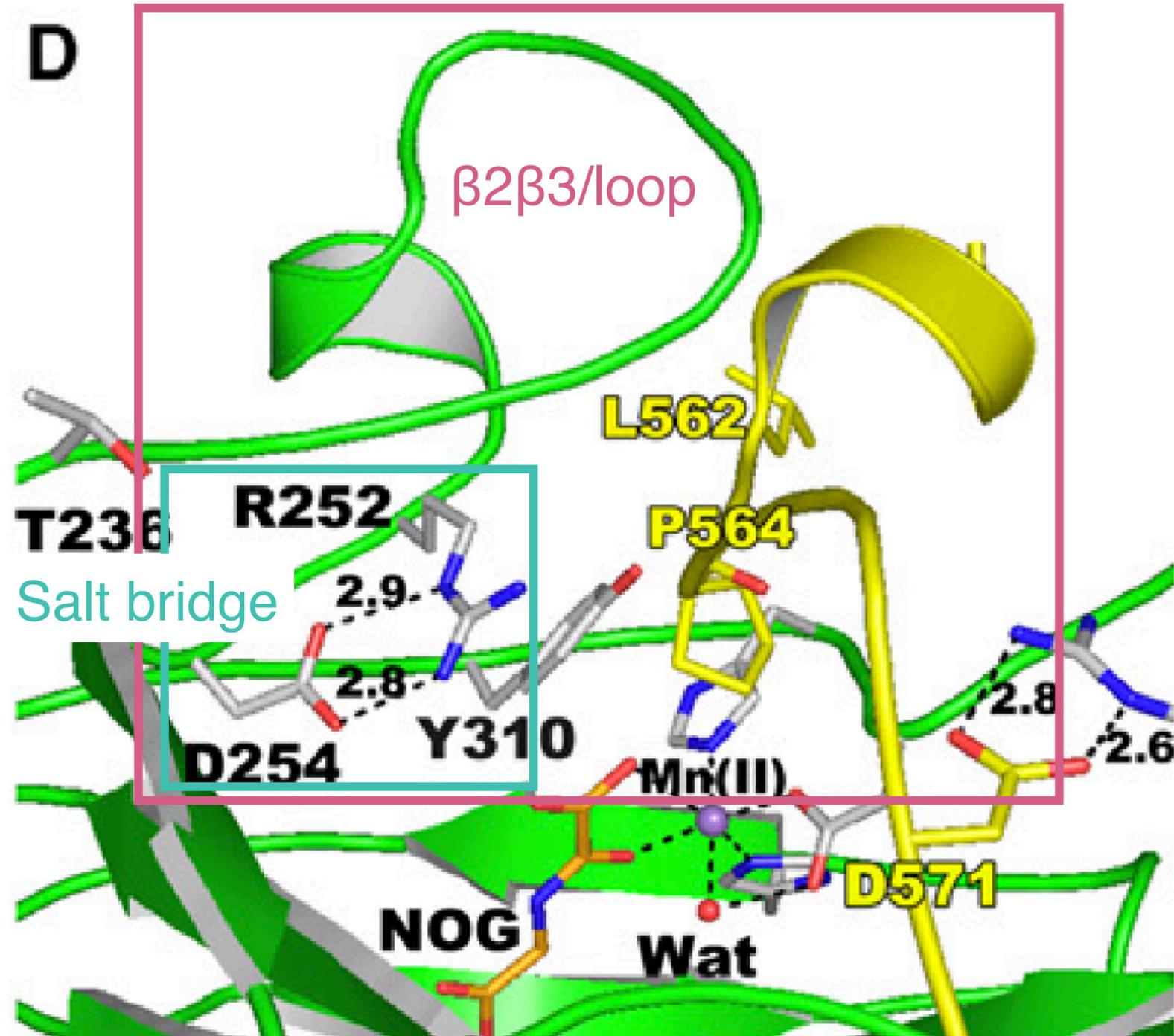
CODD (HIF1 $\alpha$  peptide including Pro-564, Yellow) is used as a substrate.

The tPHD fold comprises four  $\alpha$  helices and ten  $\beta$  strands of which eight form a double-stranded  $\beta$  helix (DSBH, dark blue).

Three of four  $\alpha$  helices ( $\alpha$ 1,  $\alpha$ 2, and  $\alpha$ 3) pack along the major  $\beta$  sheet and stabilize the DSBH.

Chowdhury, R., McDonough, M.A., Mecinović, J., Loenarz, C., Flashman, E., Hewitson, K.S., Domene, C., and Schofield, C.J. (2009). *Structure* 17, 981–989.

# $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop anchored by a salt bridge

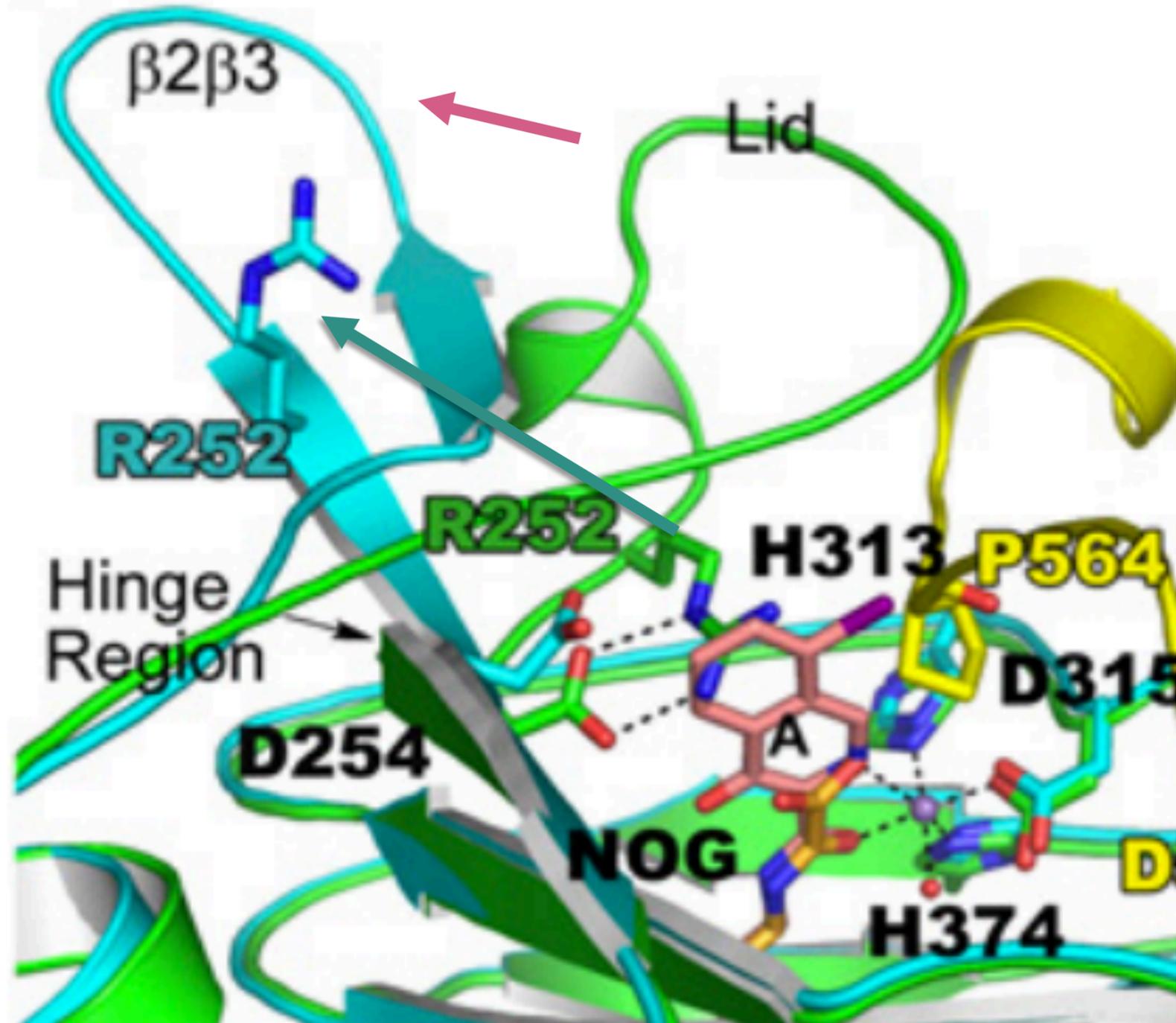


The  $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop of PHD envelops the CODD substrate and stabilizes the substrate-enzyme complex.

→ HIF $\alpha$  stably binds PHD.

$\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop seemed to be anchored by a salt bridge of R252 and D254.

# The $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop is important for substrate binding.



PHD2.CODD (Green)

- R252 and D254 form a **salt bridge**.

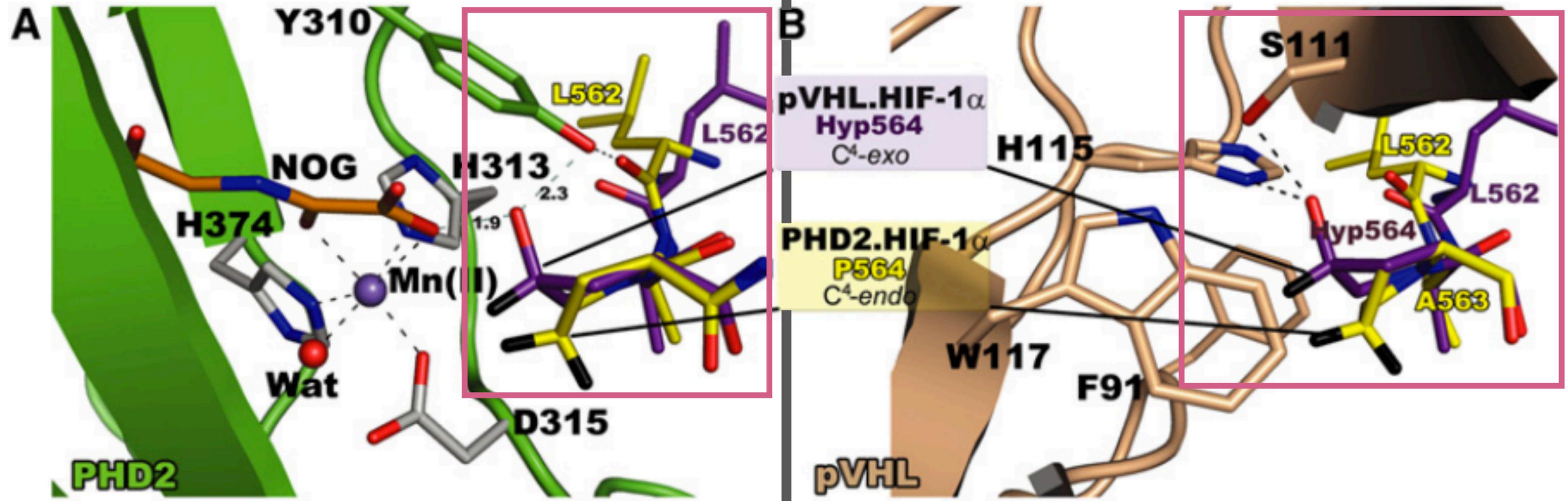
PHD2.Fe(II).inhibitor (Cyan)

- The **inhibitor**(salmon) seemed to prevent the salt bridge formation.

PHD2 R252 and D254 variants couldn't hydroxylate CODD Pro.

→ The  $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop stabilized by the salt bridge of D254 and R252 contributes much to substrate binding

# The conformational change of Pro564 by hydroxylation

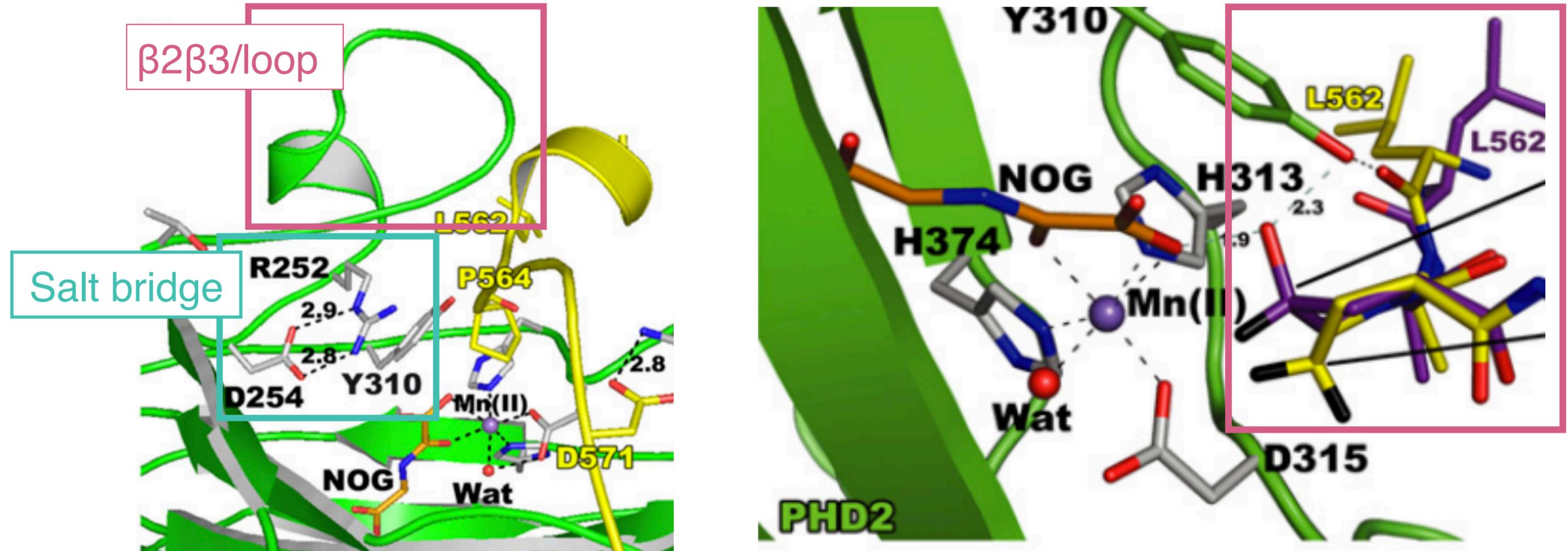


Pro-564<sub>CODD</sub> :  $C^4$  *endo*  $\rightarrow$  Hyp-564<sub>CODD</sub> :  $C^4$  *exo* conformation.

*Endo* to *Exo* switch might contribute to the release of the product from PHD active site.

VHL seemed to recognize *exo* conformation of Hyp-564<sub>CODD</sub> but cannot recognize *endo* conformation of Pro-564<sub>CODD</sub>.

# Summary of structural analysis of PHD2



The  $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop anchored by a salt bridge contribute much to the stable substrate binding.

*Endo* to *exo* conformational switch is important for release of product and recognition by VHL-E3 ligase.

# Summary of structural analysis of PHD2

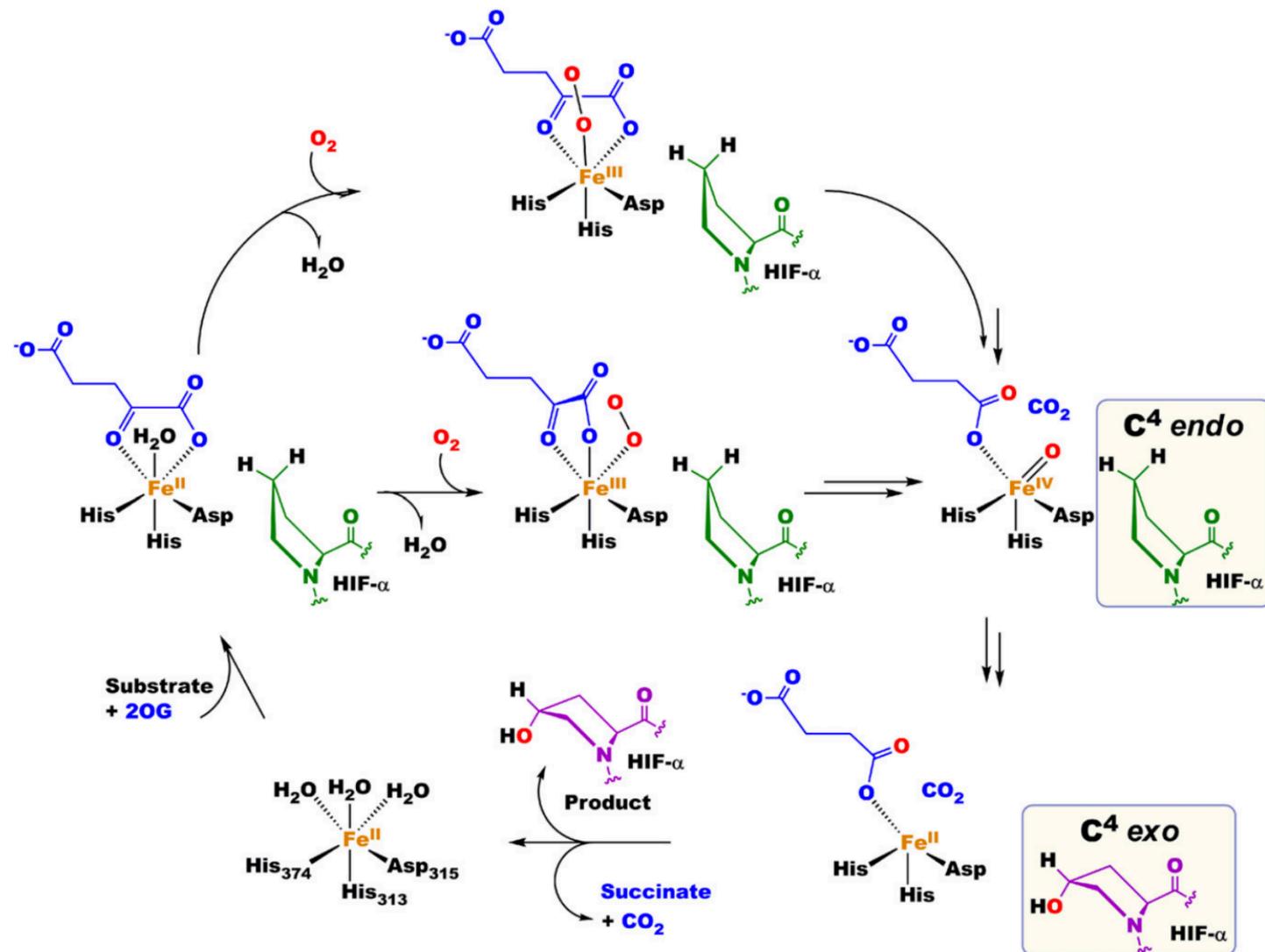


Figure 4. Outline Catalytic Cycle for PHD2 Showing the Proposed Ferryl and Other Intermediates, Highlighting (Boxed) the Proposed Switch in the Pro-564 Ring Conformation

Work with other 2OG oxygenases suggests it is possible that oxygen binding occurs either *trans* to His-313<sub>PHD2</sub> or *trans* to His-374<sub>PHD2</sub> (Zhang et al., 2002) (see Figure 3C).

The conformation of the  $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop of PHD2 is important to enclose the Pro-564 region of HIF $\alpha$ .

The salt bridge comprised of R252 and D254 stabilizes the  $\beta 2\beta 3$ /loop conformation.

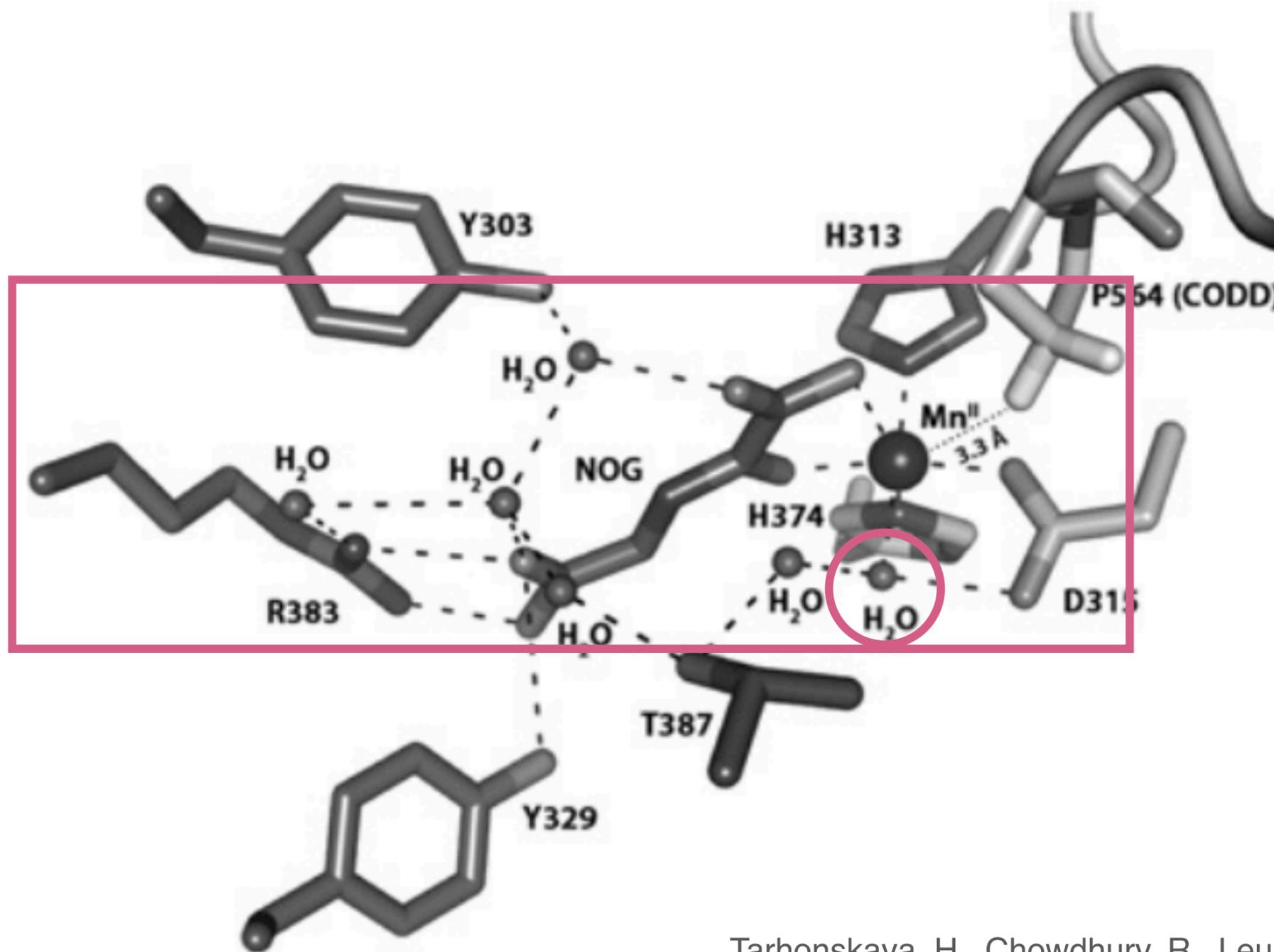
The Pro-564 ring conformation switches *endo* to *exo* by hydroxylation.

# Contents

---

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- Summary

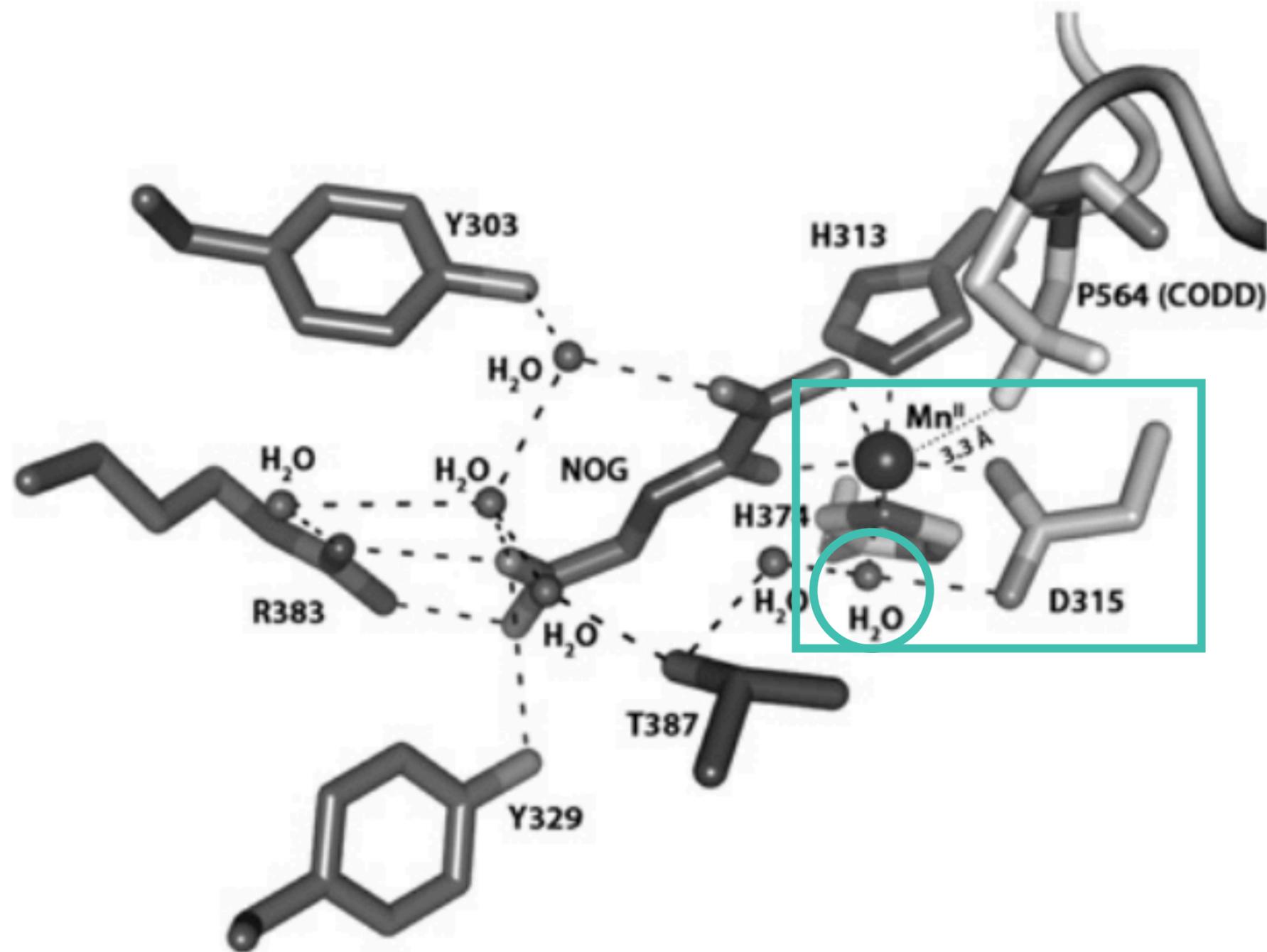
# 2OG is stabilized by R383



Salt bridge between R383 and 2OG stabilize the 2OG/Fe(II) complex

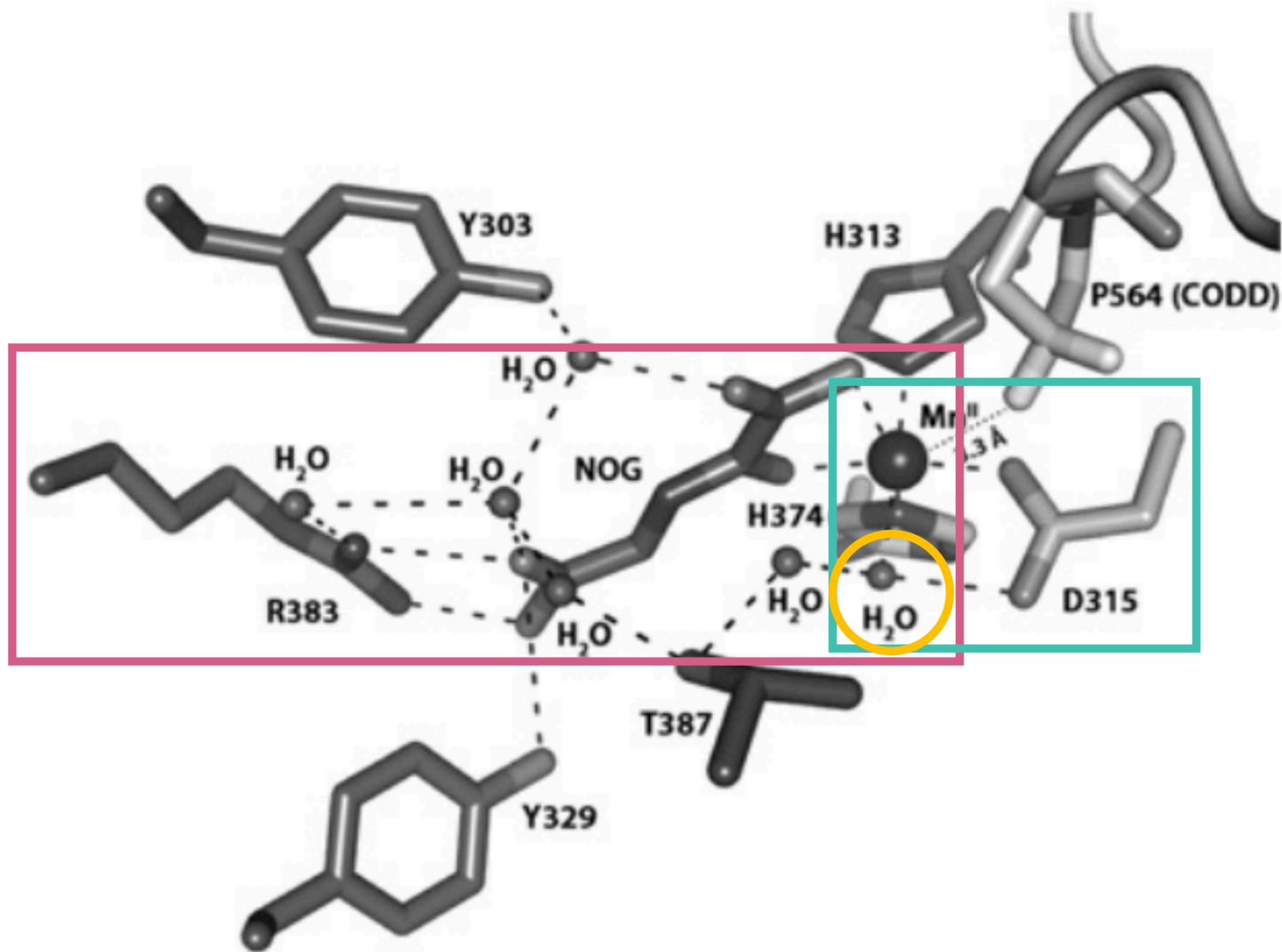
The stability of 2OG/Fe(II) complex inhibit a **rearrangement of 2OG and water** to bring water close to Pro.

# The metal-bound water is stabilized by Asp-315.



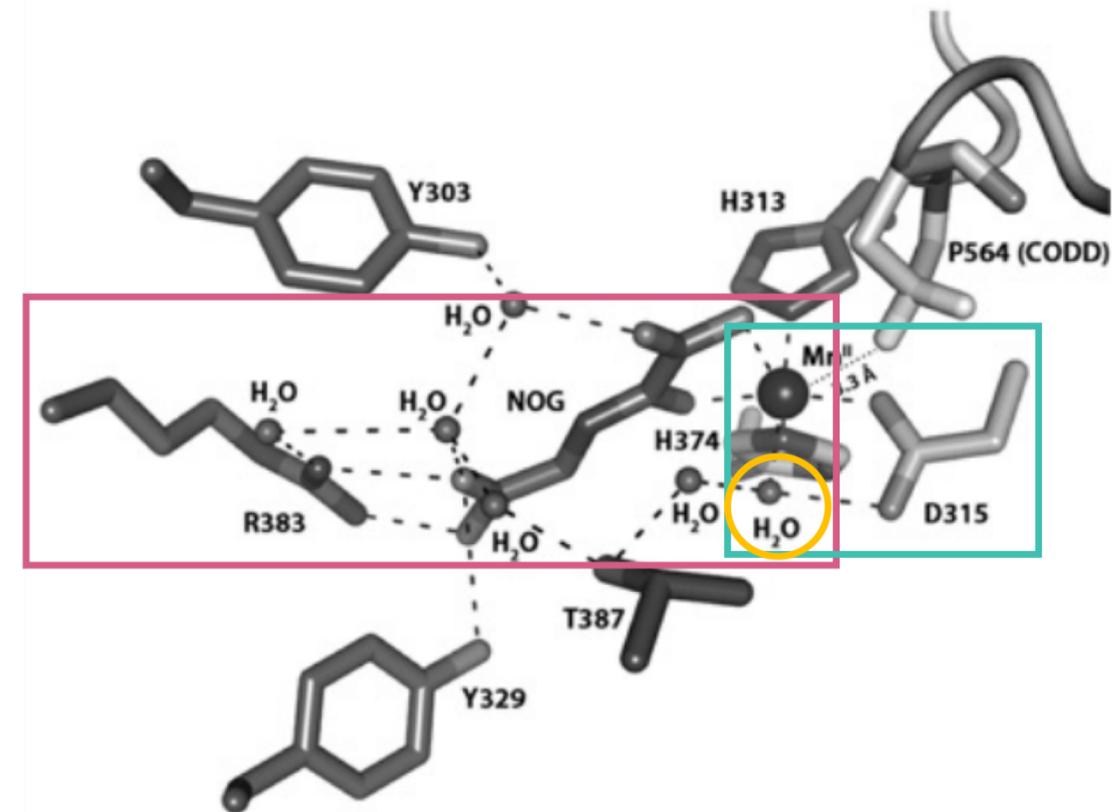
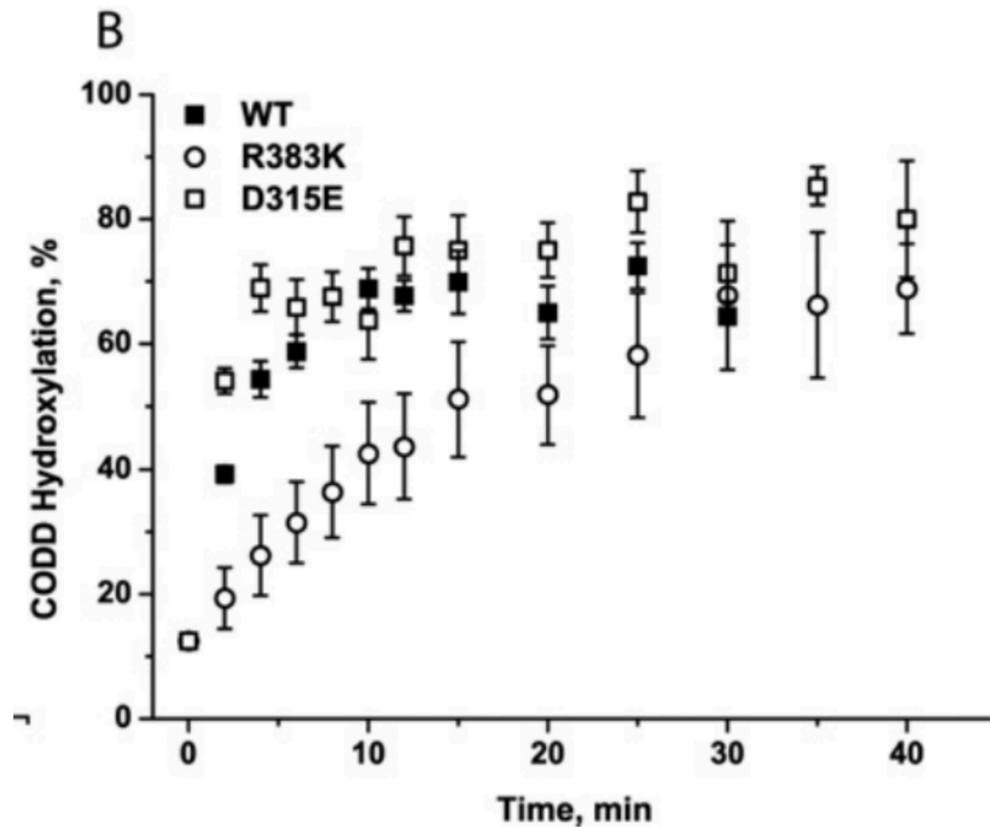
Hydrogen bond between D315 and metal ligated water stabilize the water-metal coordination, which inhibits O<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O exchange.

# Question II



How do these residue contribute to the O<sub>2</sub> dependent reactivity?

# CODD hydroxylation of PHD2 variants



Y303F and Y329F (2OG):

H313D, D315H, H374E and H374R (Fe(II)):

R383K (2OG):

D315E (Fe(II)):

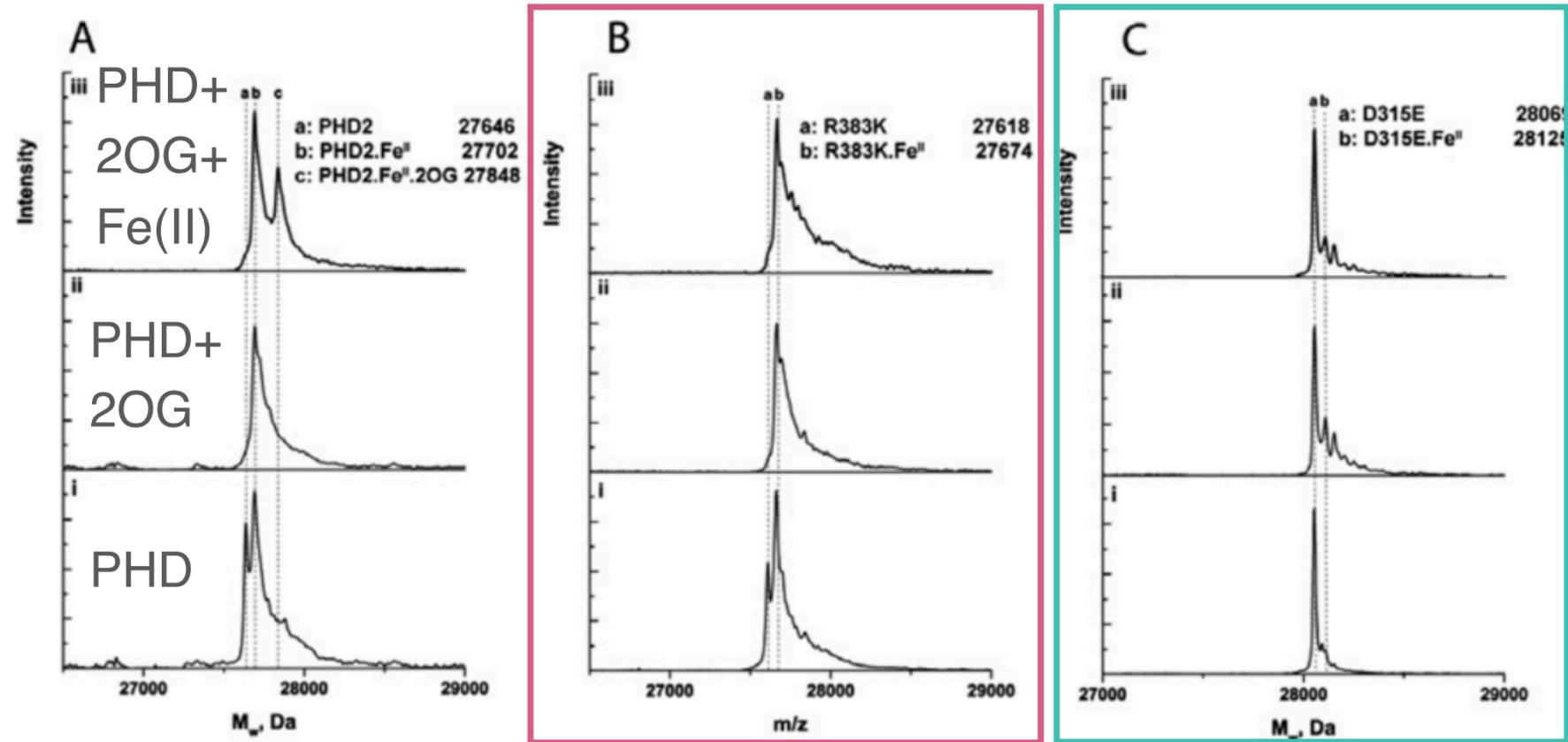
No significant change

Loss of catalytic activity

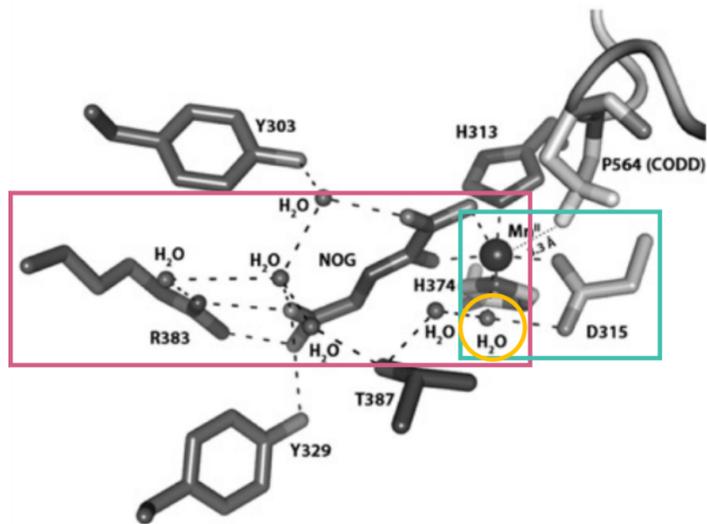
Moderately decrease

Moderately increase

# Binding Fe(II) and 2OG to the PHD2 variants



Complex	Ligand	$K_d$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Method
WT.Fe(II).2OG	2OG	$5 \pm 3$	UV-visible
R383K.Fe(II).2OG	2OG	$550 \pm 150$	UV-visible
R383K.Fe(II).2OG.CODD	2OG	$105 \pm 5$	UV-visible
WT.Mn(II).2OG	2OG	$0.9 \pm 0.1$	NMR [29]
R383K.Mn(II).2OG	2OG	$>10,000$	NMR
R383K.Mn(II).2OG.CODD	2OG	$430 \pm 30$	NMR
R383K.Zn(II).2OG	2OG	$110 \pm 20$	NMR
R383K.Zn(II).2OG.CODD	2OG	$< 10$	NMR
WT.Mn(II)	Mn(II)	$0.6 \pm 0.4$	NMR
R383K.Mn(II)	Mn(II)	$0.6 \pm 0.2$	NMR
D315E.Mn(II)	Mn(II)	$240 \pm 30$	NMR

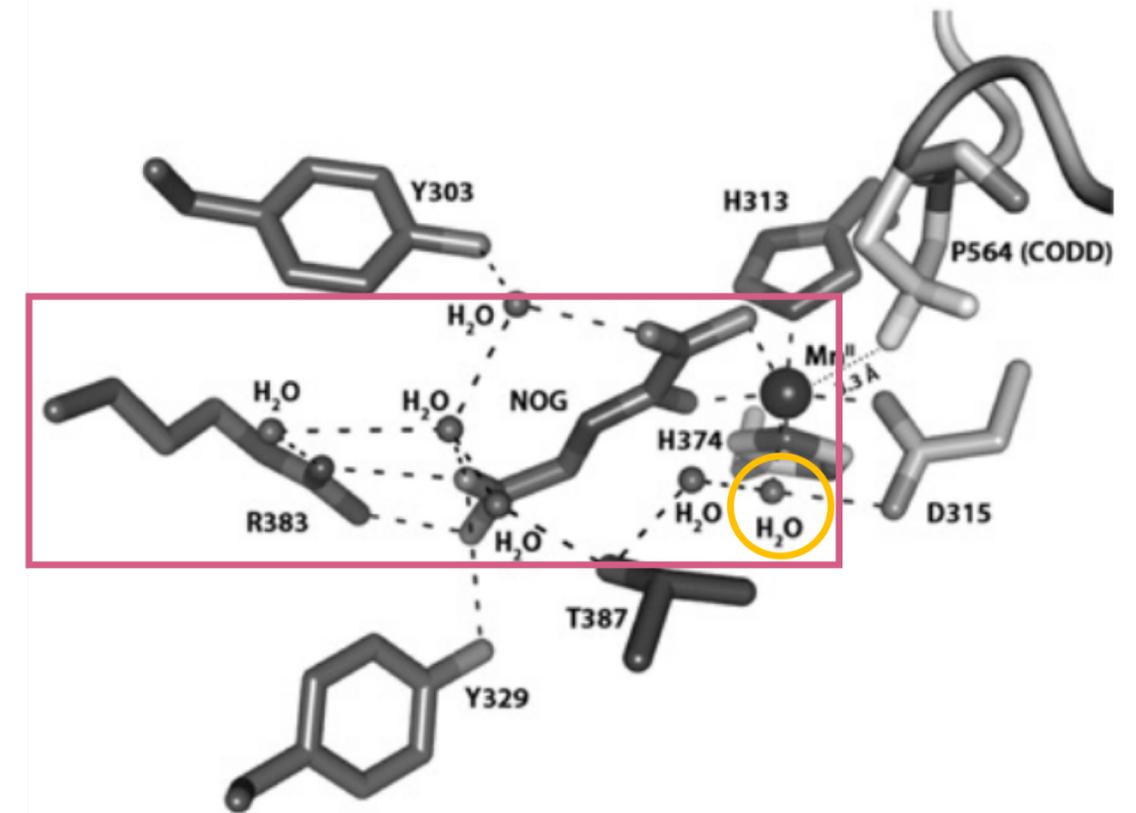


**R383K**: Reduced affinity for 2OG and no change in the affinity for Fe(II)  
 $K_d$  for 2OG with CODD is lower than without CODD.

**D315E**: The stability of PHD2.Fe(II) complex was decreased.

# The $K_m$ for 2OG and CODD and $k_{cat}$ values of PHD2 variants

PHD2	$K_m(2OG)$ ( $\mu M$ )	$K_m(CODD)$ ( $\mu M$ )	$k_{cat}$ ( $s^{-1}$ )
WT	$13 \pm 2$	$9 \pm 3$	$0.060 \pm 0.007$
R383K	$45 \pm 10$	$18 \pm 4$	$0.017 \pm 0.001$
Y303F	$37 \pm 4$	$8 \pm 2$	$0.027 \pm 0.001$
Y329F	$21 \pm 4$	$8 \pm 2$	$0.072 \pm 0.002$
D315E	$20 \pm 7$	$11 \pm 3$	$0.099 \pm 0.007$



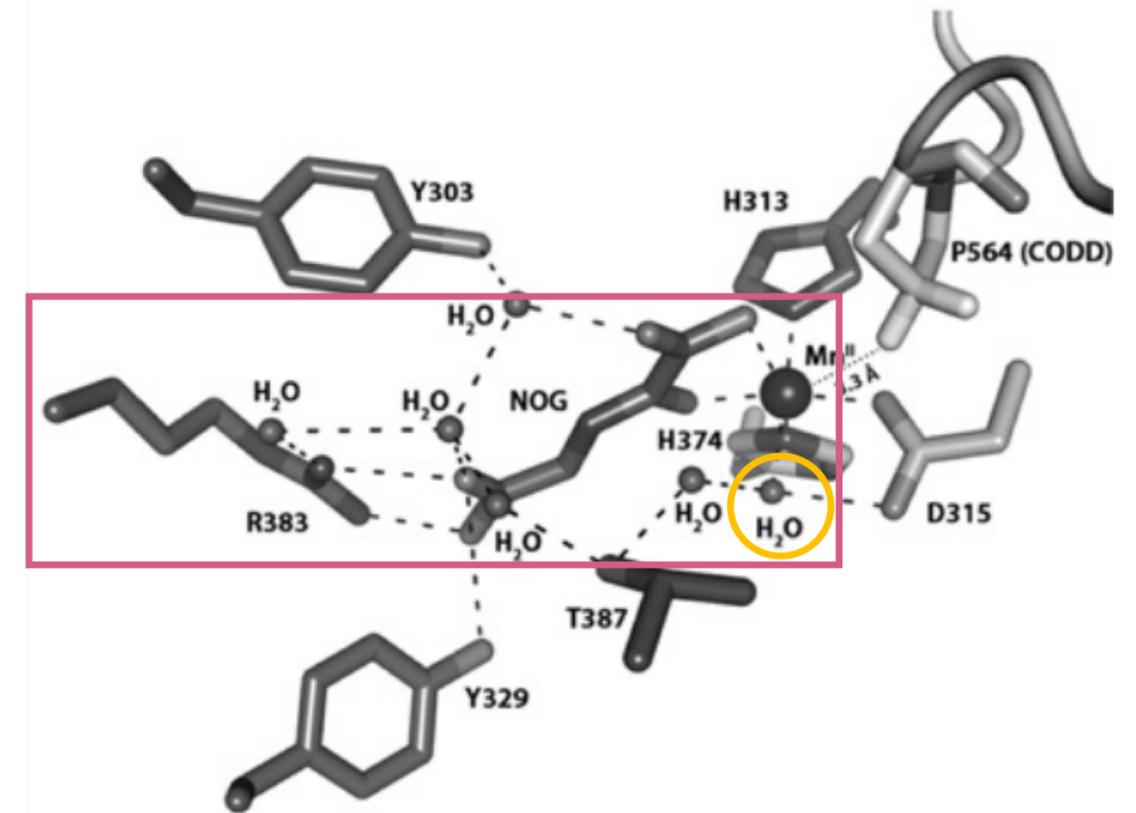
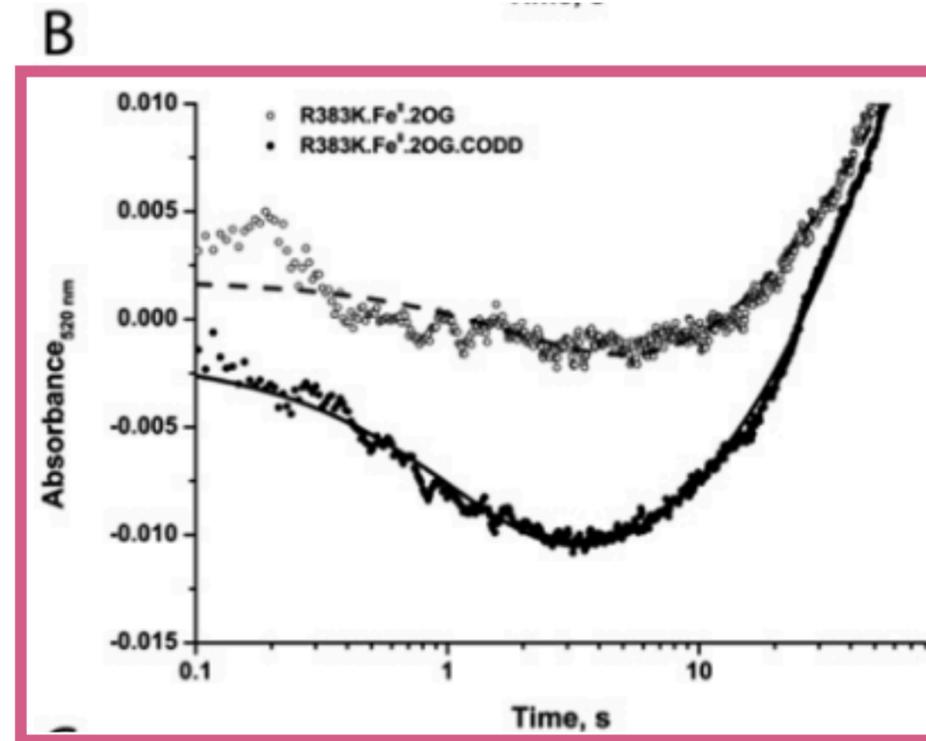
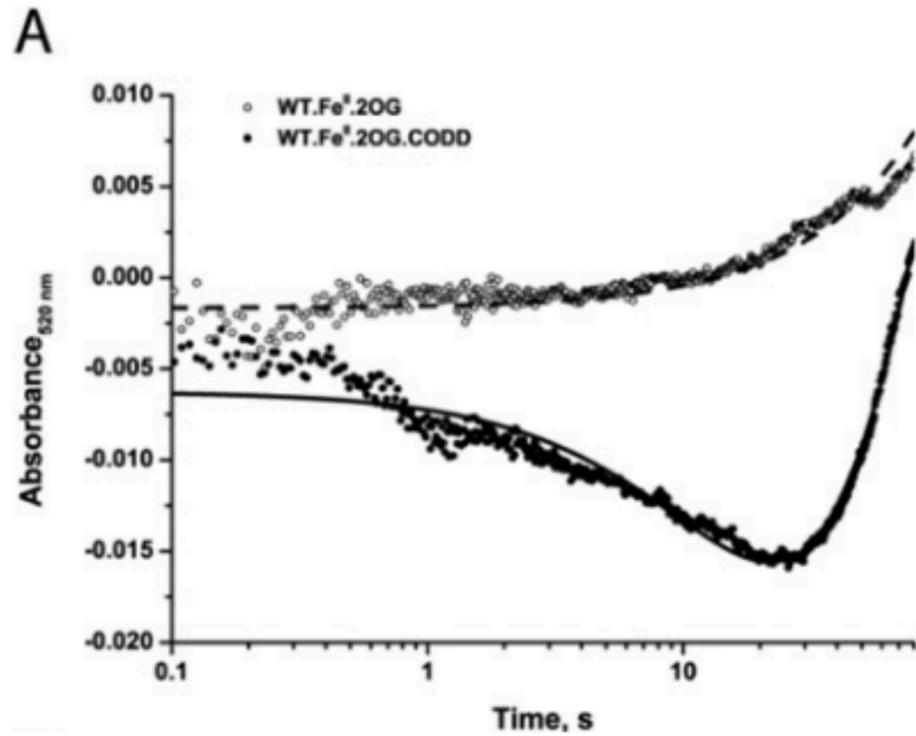
**R383K**  $K_m(2OG)$ : ~3-fold higher,  $K_m(CODD)$ : ~2-fold higher,  $k_{cat}$ : lower

R383 contribute much to the stability of 2OG/Fe(II) complex and some to substrate dependent reactivity.

**D315E**  $K_m(2OG)$ : slightly higher,  $K_m(CODD)$ : No change,  $k_{cat}$ : slightly higher

D315 does not contribute to both of them.

# Accumulation of Fe intermediate rearranged in chelation

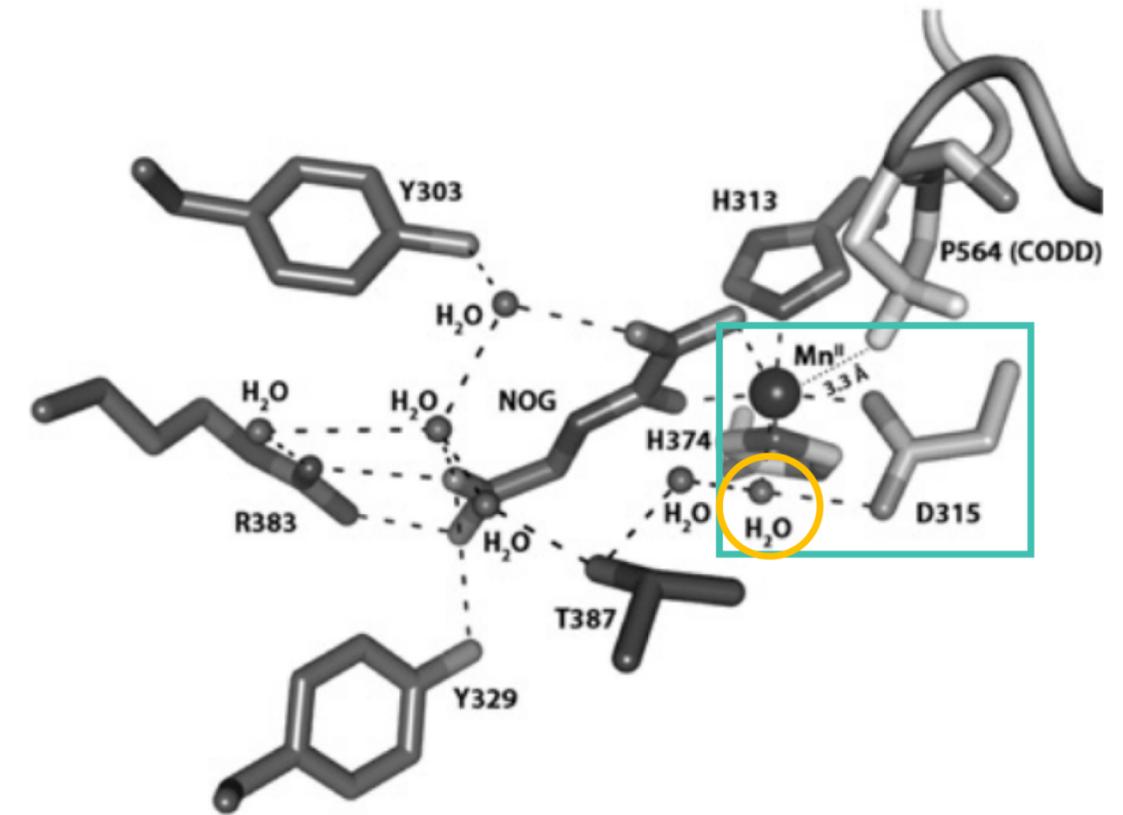
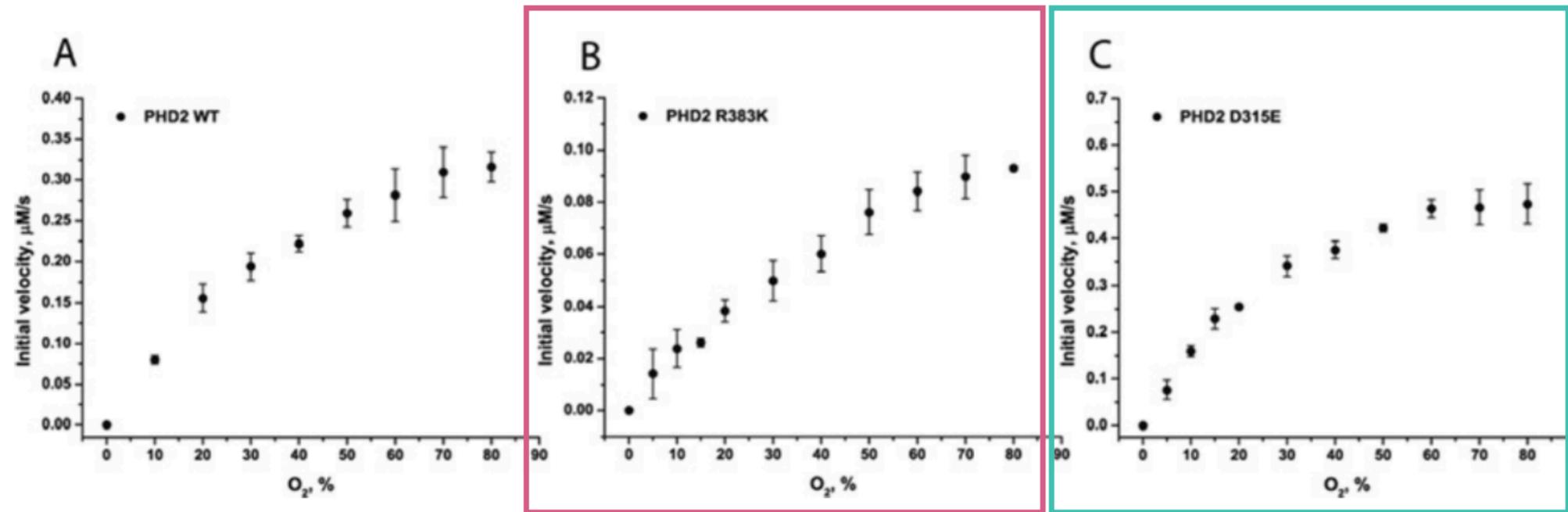


**R383K**: faster than WT with CODD

No rearrangement without CODD

→ **R383** contributes to the stability of the 2OG/Fe(II) complex

# O<sub>2</sub>-dependency of PHD2 WT and variants

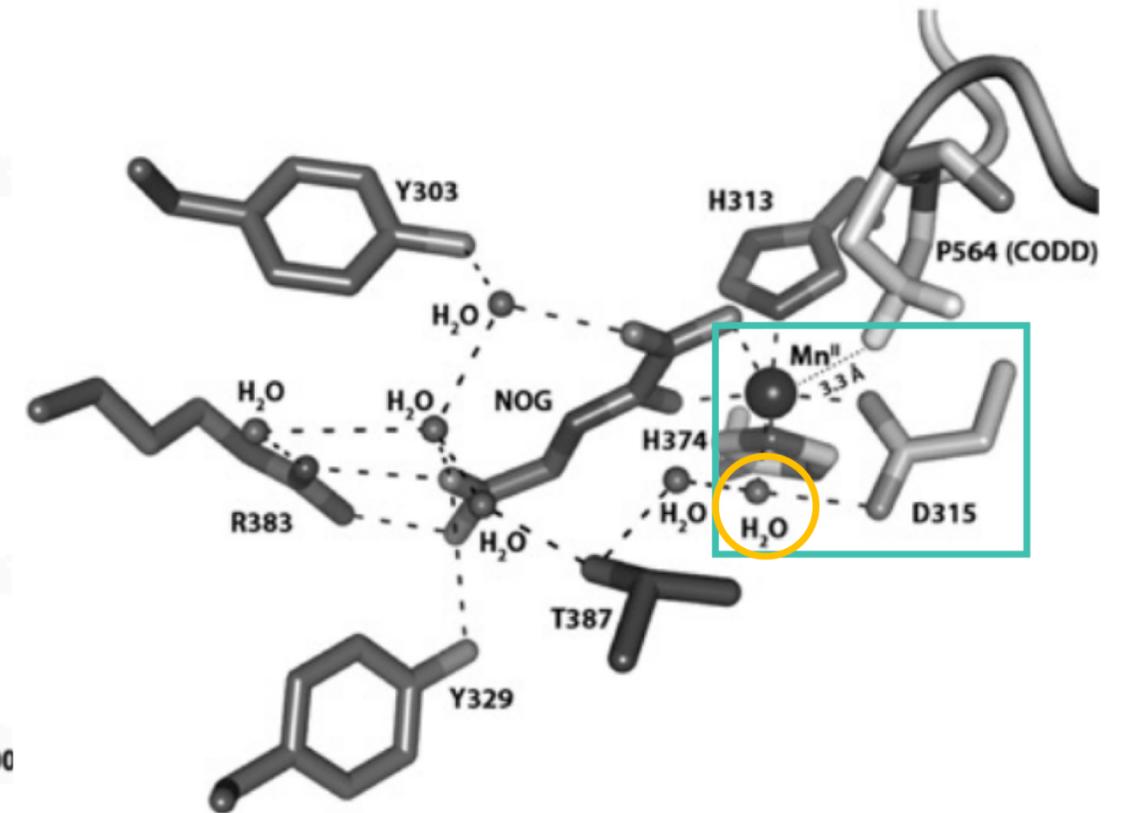
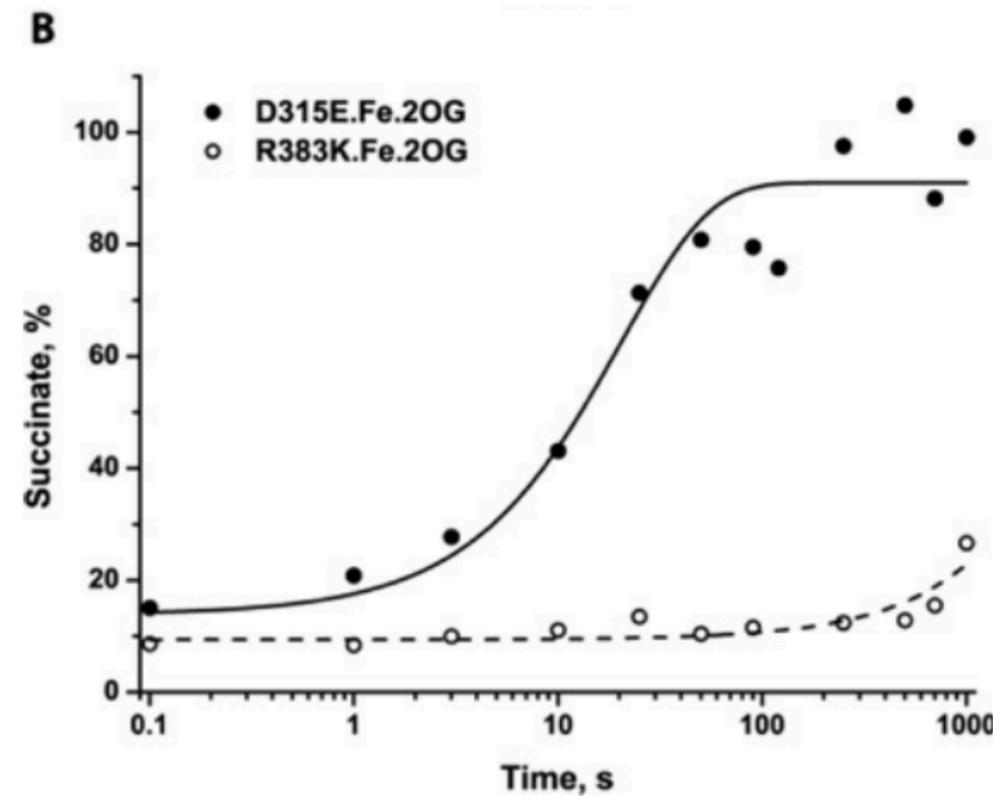
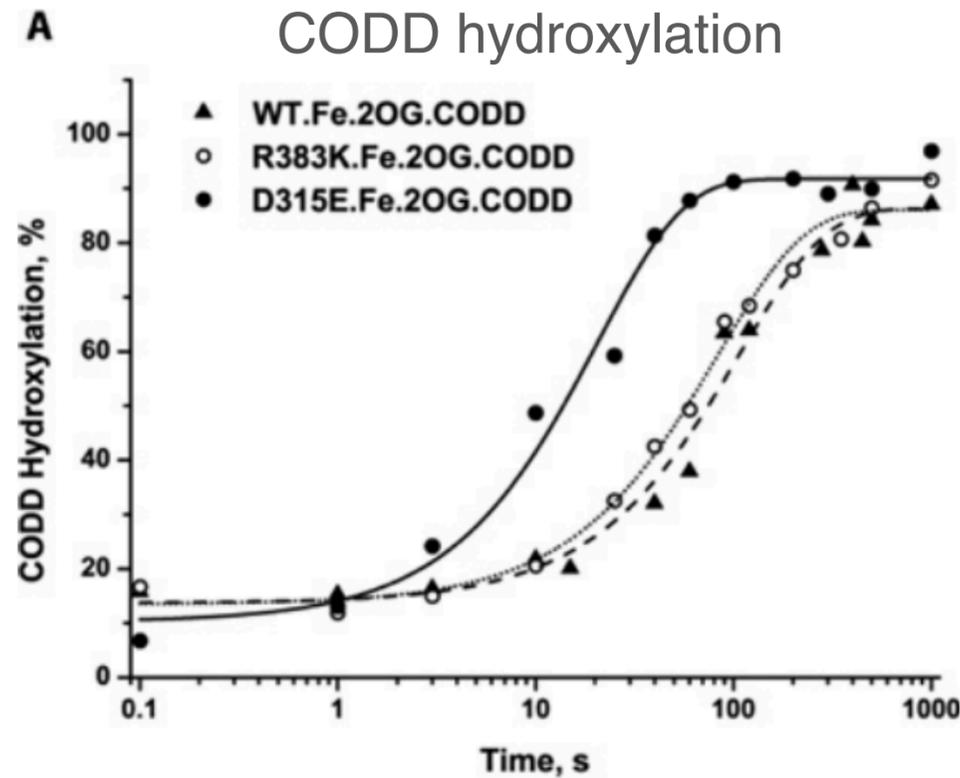


**R383K**  $K_m(\text{O}_2)$ : Couldn't be determined (estimated >450 μM, WT estimated >450 μM)

**D315E**  $K_m(\text{O}_2)$ : 200±30 μM lower than WT and R383K

→ D315 contributes much to the high  $K_m$  for O<sub>2</sub>

# CODD hydroxylation and uncoupled 2OG decarboxylation

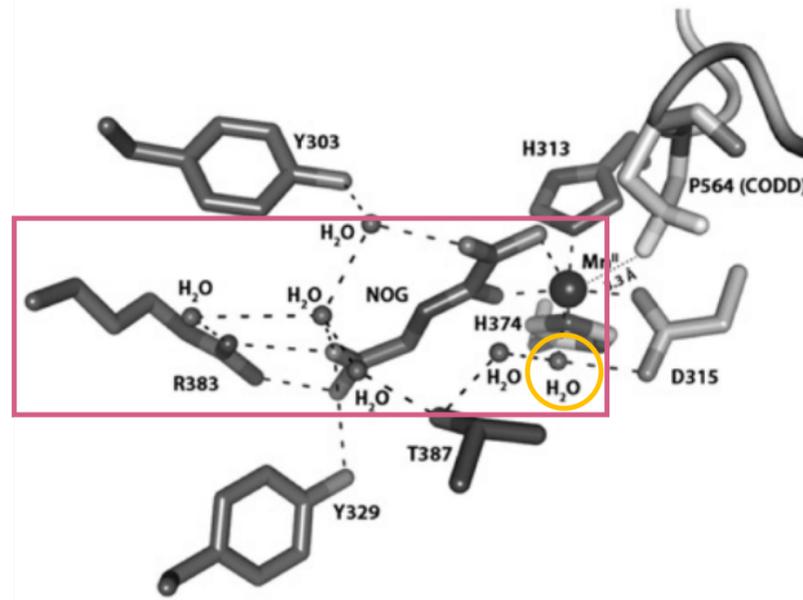


**R383K**: CODD hydroxylation and production of succinate is similar to WT  
→ The 2OG/Fe(II) complex in R383K without CODD is as stable as WT.

**D315E**: CODD hydroxylation is faster than WT and production of succinate without CODD increase.

→ The uncoupled reaction proceeds, which means the stability of 2OG/Fe(II) complex is lost.

# Summary of kinetic analysis of PHD2 variants R383K



Tarhonskaya, H., *et al.* (2014)

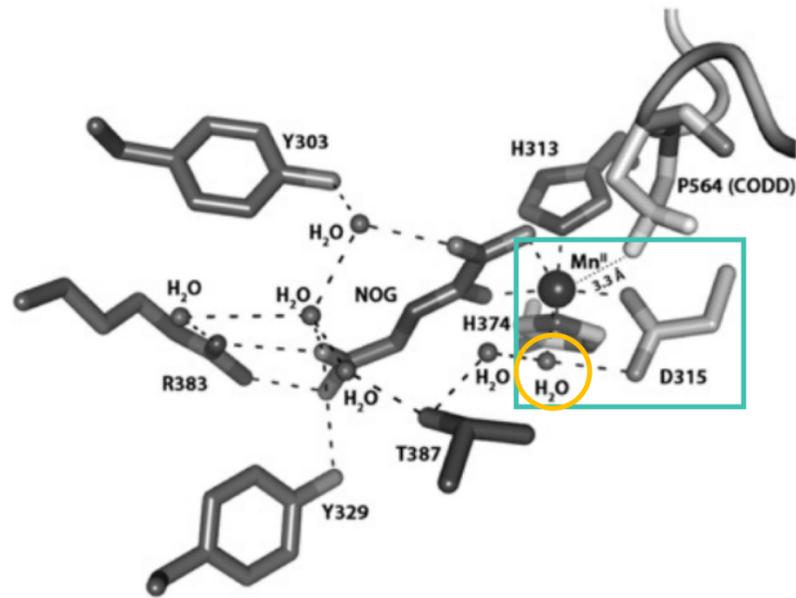
Compare to WT	R383K	D315E
CODD hydroxylation	Decrease	Increase
Binding Fe(II)	Same	Decrease (flexibility increase)
Binding 2OG	Decrease (higher w/ than w/o CODD)	Decrease
$K_m$ (2OG)	~3-fold higher	Slightly higher
$K_m$ (CODD)	No major change	No major change
$K_m$ (O <sub>2</sub> )	—	Lower
Fe(IV)=O accumulation	Faster	—
Oxidation of 2OG without CODD	Little increase	Much increase

**R383** contributes to stabilize 2OG at the active site.

The rearrange of chelation in **R383K** is faster than for WT, but no changes in the kinetics of product accumulation (hydroxylated CODD and succinate) was observed.

→ The rearrangement of the 2OG-binding mode may **not be a rate-determining step** in PHD2-catalysed hydroxylation. However, R383 contributes much to the stability of 2OG/Fe(II) complex.

# Summary of kinetic analysis of PHD2 variants D315E



Tarhonskaya, H., *et al.* (2014)

Compare to WT	R383K	D315E
CODD hydroxylation	Decrease	Increase
Binding Fe(II)	Same	Decrease (flexibility increase)
Binding 2OG	Decrease (higher w/ than w/o CODD)	Decrease
$K_m$ (2OG)	~3-fold higher	Slightly higher
$K_m$ (CODD)	No major change	No major change
$K_m$ (O <sub>2</sub> )	—	Lower
Fe(IV)=O accumulation	Faster	—
Oxidation of 2OG without CODD	Little increase	Much increase

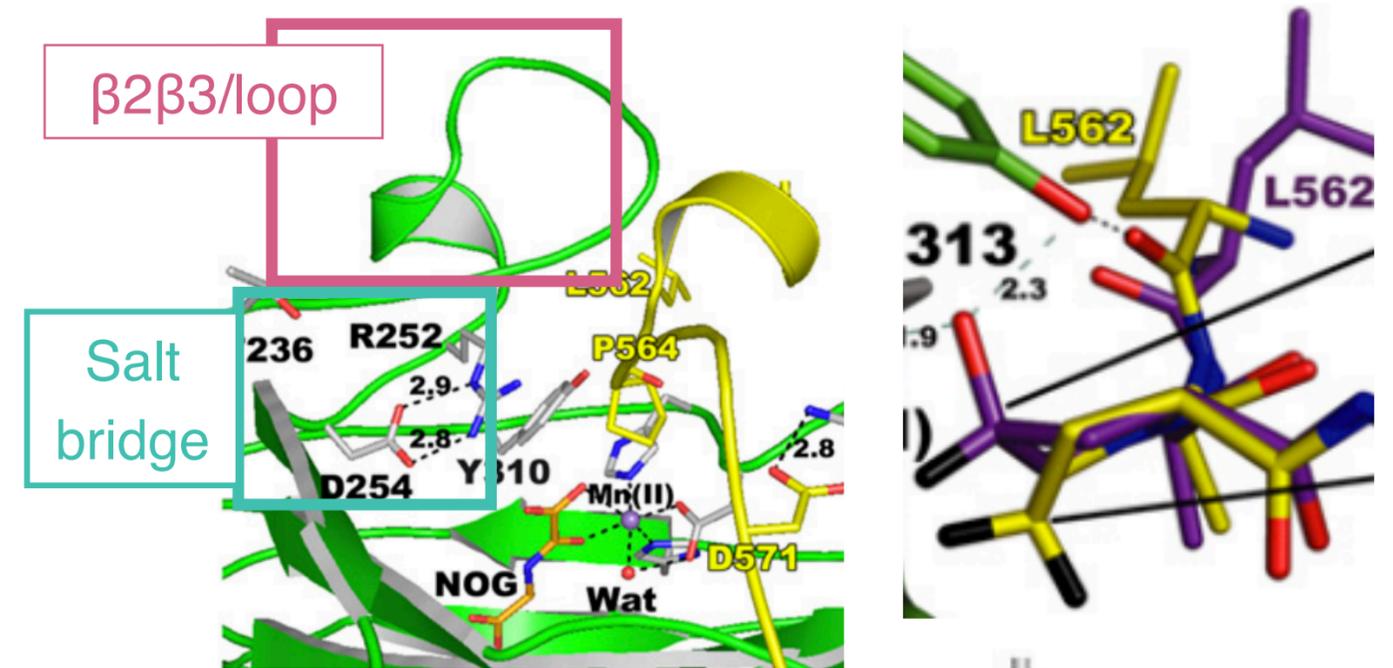
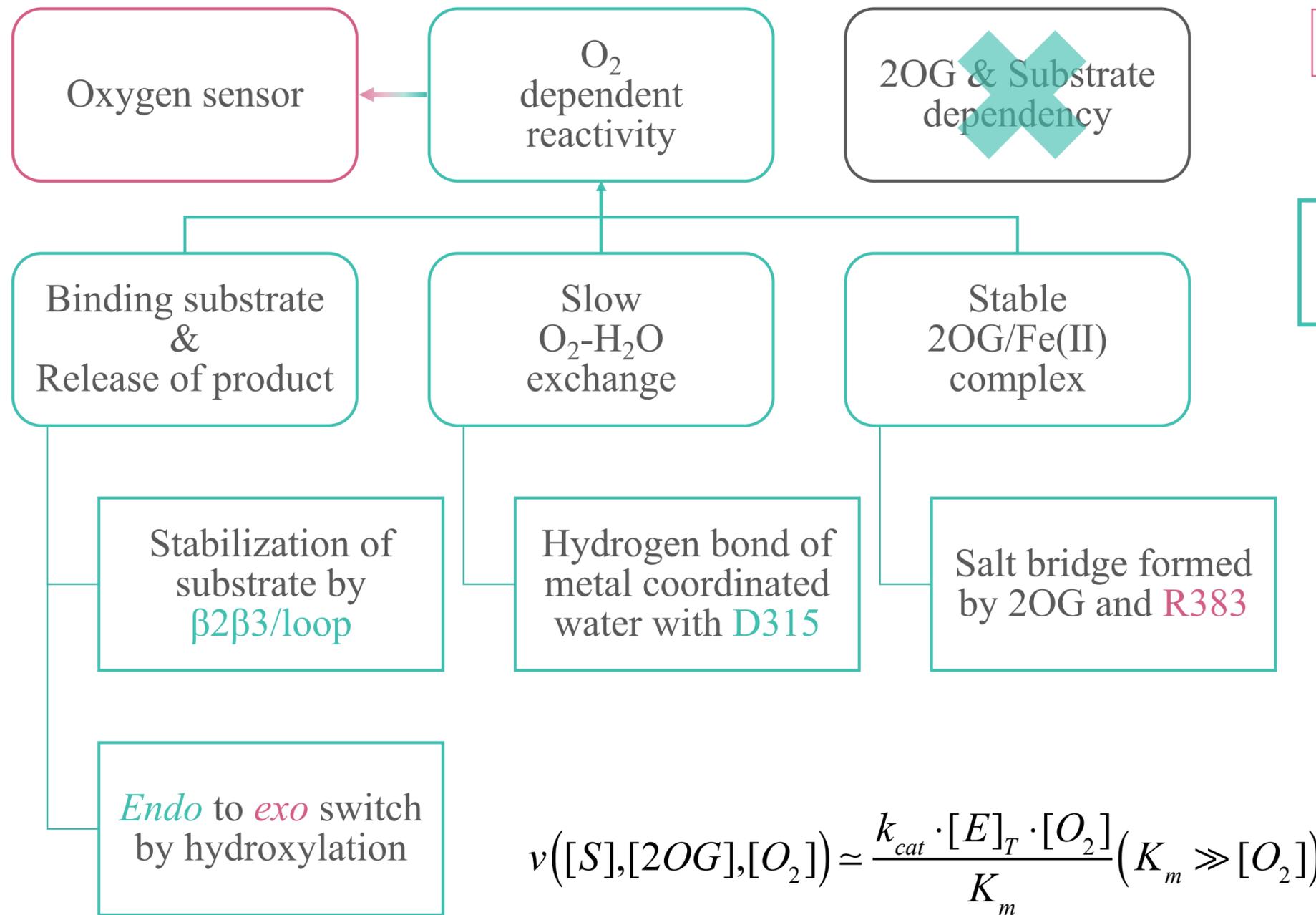
**D315** stabilizes the Fe(II) at the active site and the iron-ligated water by a hydrogen bond. CODD hydroxylation by **D315E** is faster than WT.

Oxidation of 2OG uncoupled to CODD hydroxylation by **D315E** was observed unlike WT.

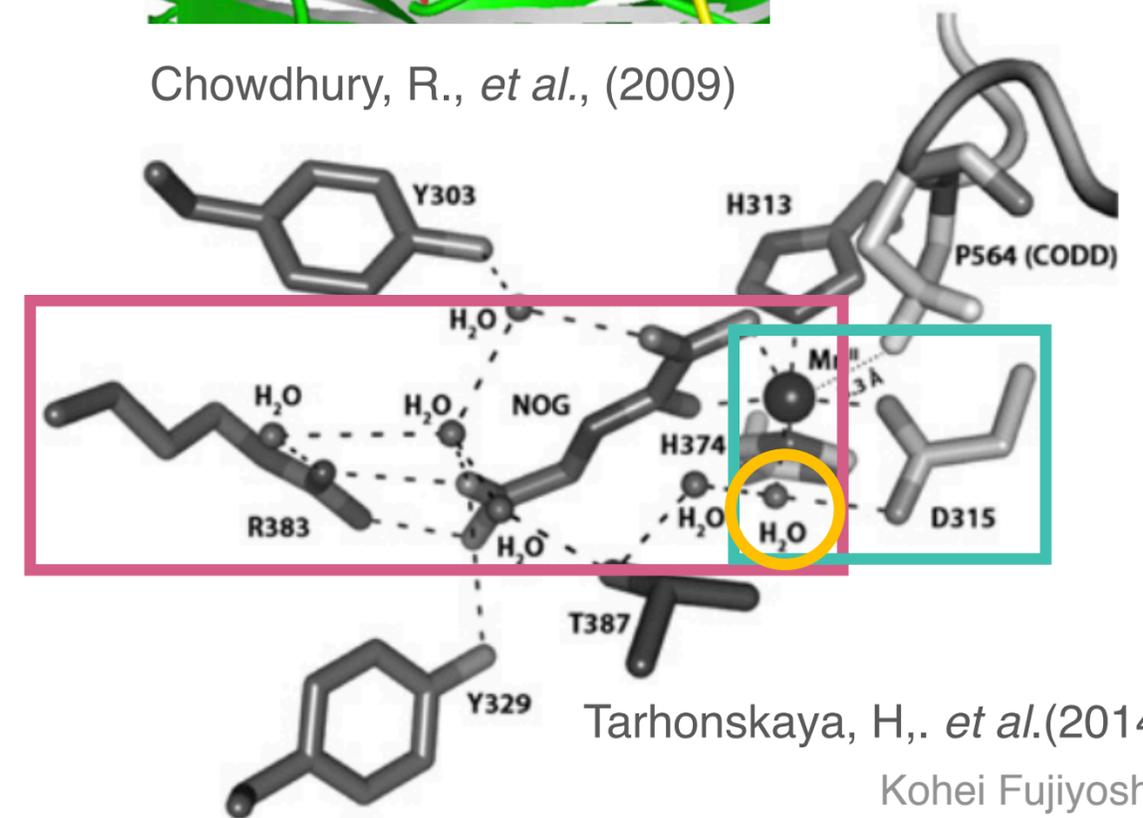
→ The bond of the metal-co-ordinated water to metal is weakened, facilitating water release and accelerating O<sub>2</sub> activation.

This is **an important factor in the slow O<sub>2</sub> activation of PHD2 catalysis.**

# Summary



Chowdhury, R., *et al.*, (2009)

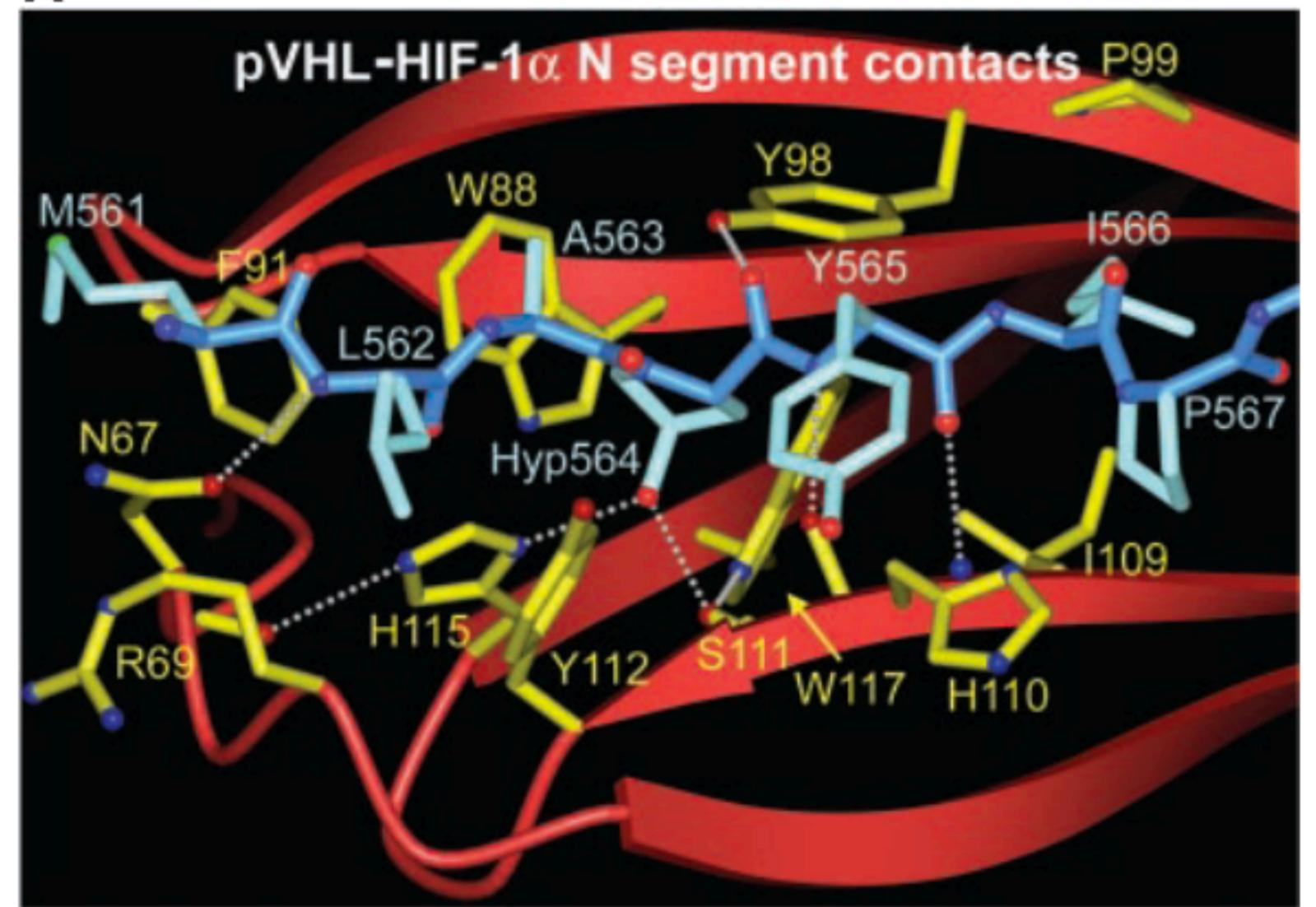
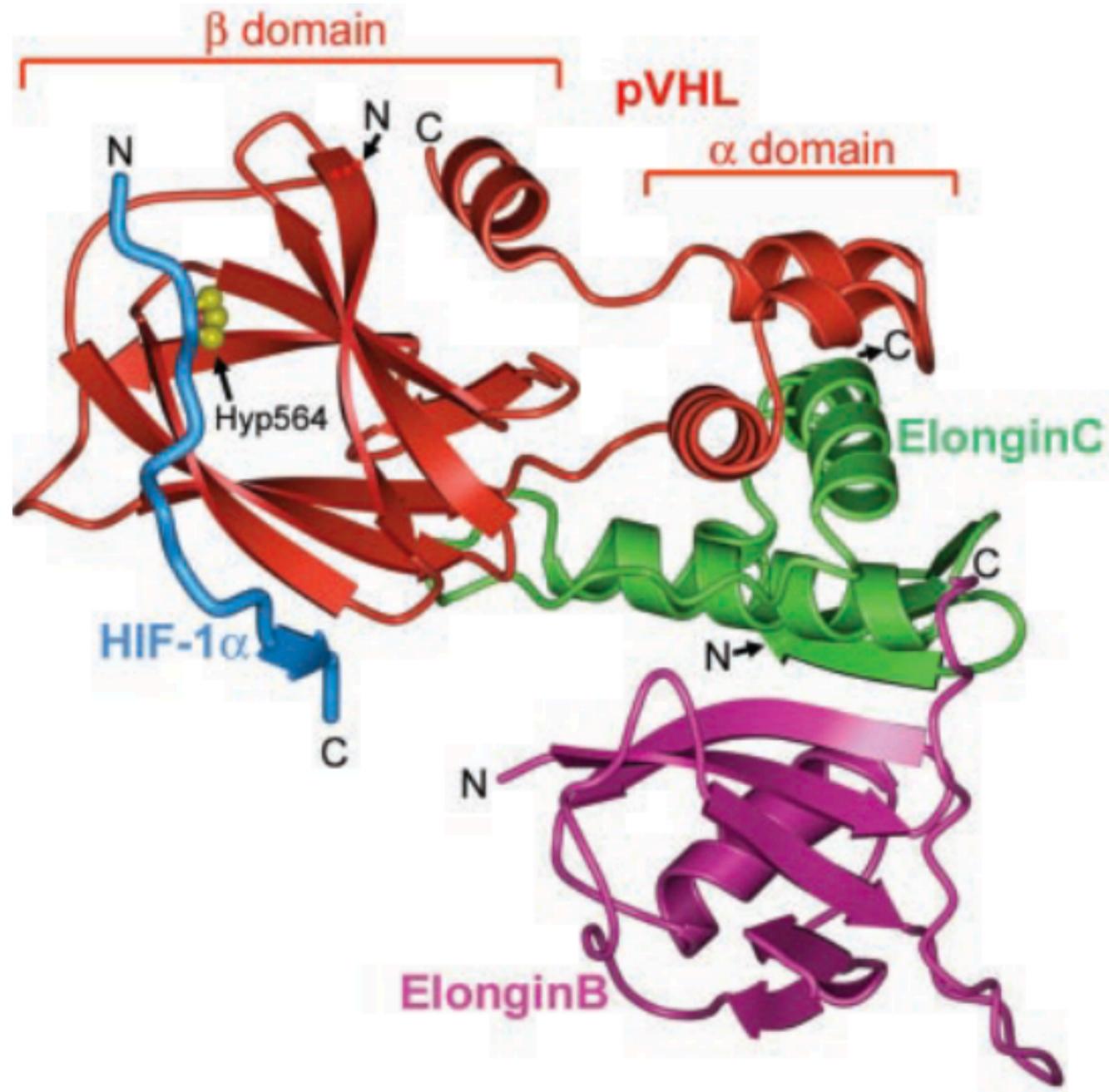


Tarhonskaya, H., *et al.* (2014)

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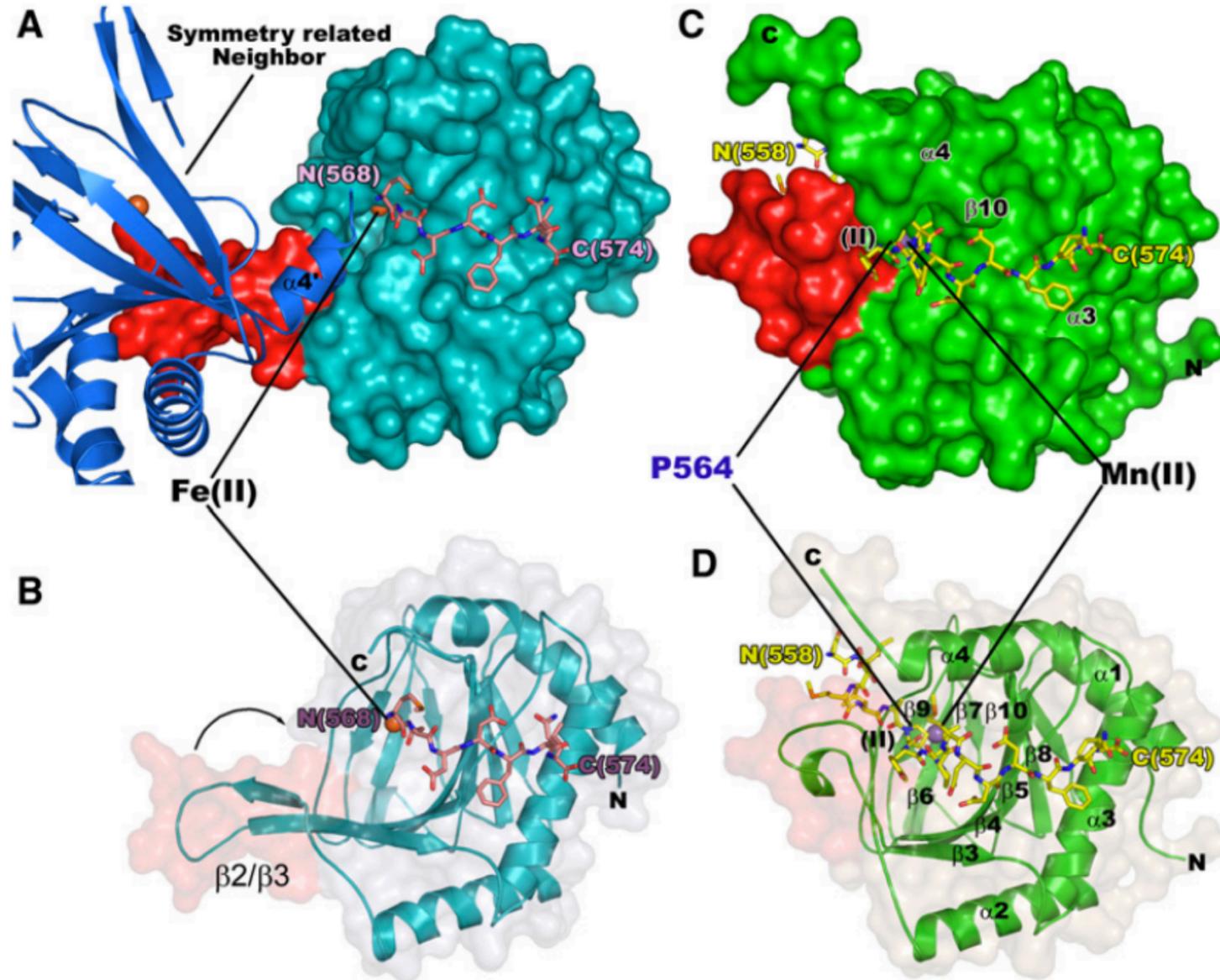
# Appendix

# Structure of an HIF $\alpha$ and pVHL complex



Min, J.H., Yang, H., Ivan, M., Gertler, F., Kaelin, W.G., and Pavietich, N.P. (2002). Structure of an HIF-1 $\alpha$ -pVHL complex: Hydroxyproline recognition in signaling. *Science* (80-. ). 296, 1886–1889.

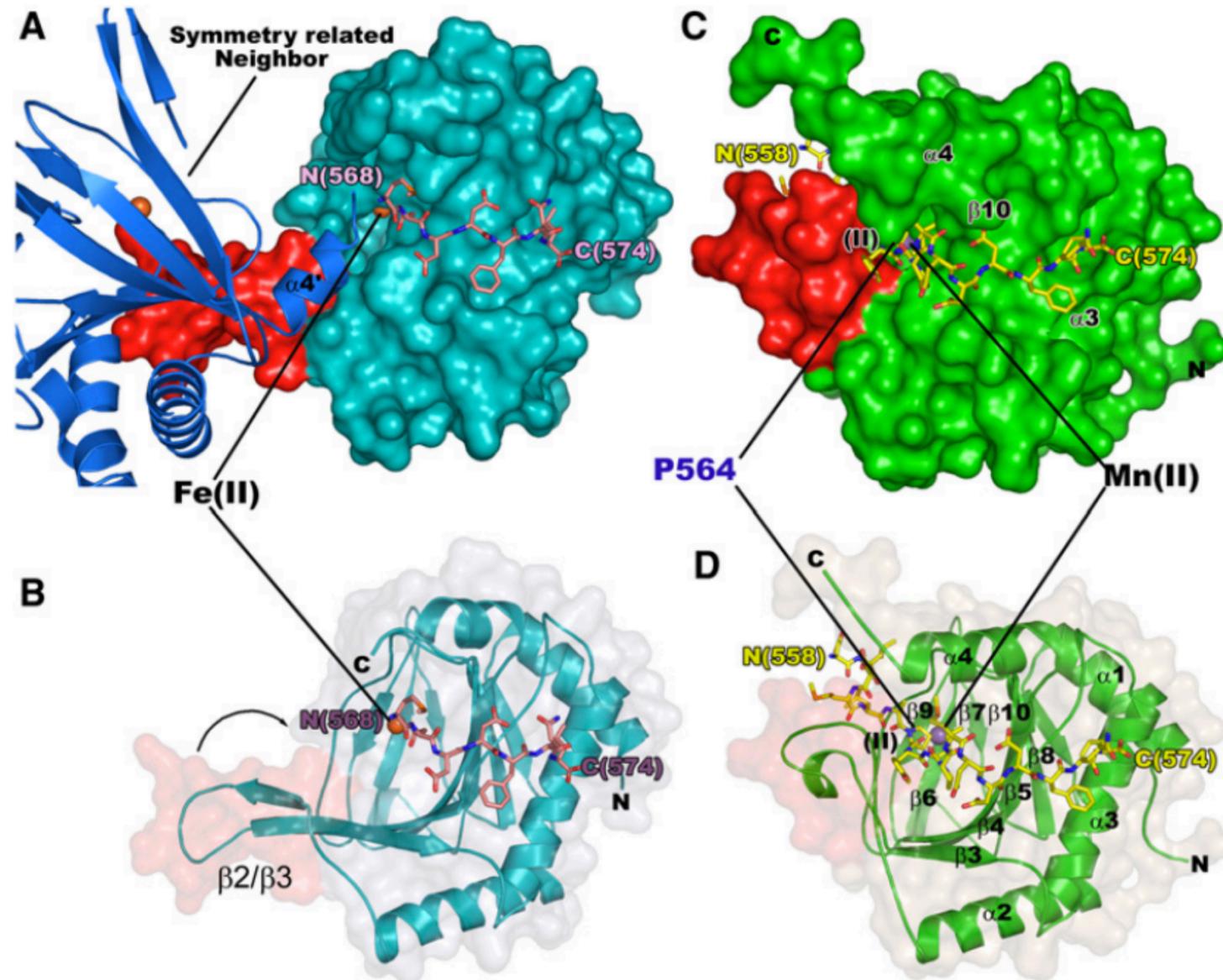
# Crystallization of tPHD2.HIF $\alpha$ Complex



A and B:  
tPHD2.Fe(II).inhibitor.CODD<sub>Hyp564</sub> complex  
(tPHD.Fe(II).A/B)

- It crystallizes in a homotrimeric form.
- The electron density was not observed for hydroxylated Pro-564.
- The reason is that the C-terminal helix ( $\alpha 4$ ) for a symmetry molecule blocks the active site.

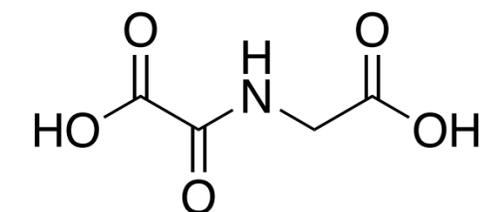
# Crystallization of tPHD2.HIF $\alpha$ Complex



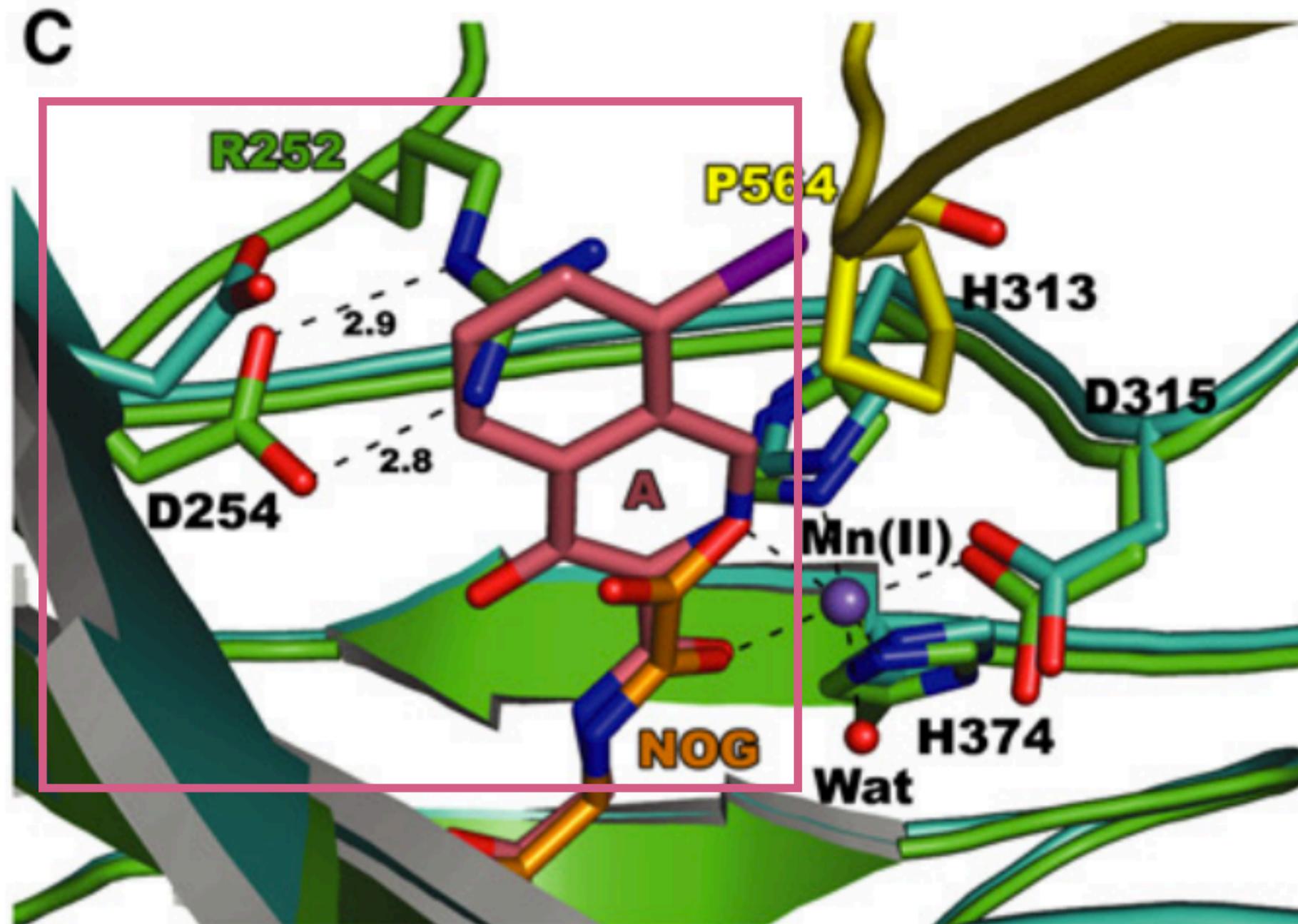
C and D:  
R398A tPHD2.Mn(II).NOG.HIF-1 $\alpha$ CODD<sub>556-574</sub>  
complex (tPHD2.CODD)

- R398A variant destabilize the homotrimer formation.
- NOG and Mn(II) were substituted for 2OG and Fe(II), respectively.
- The apparent movement of residues 237-254 ( $\beta$ 2 $\beta$ 3/loop) is proposed to enclose the substrate.

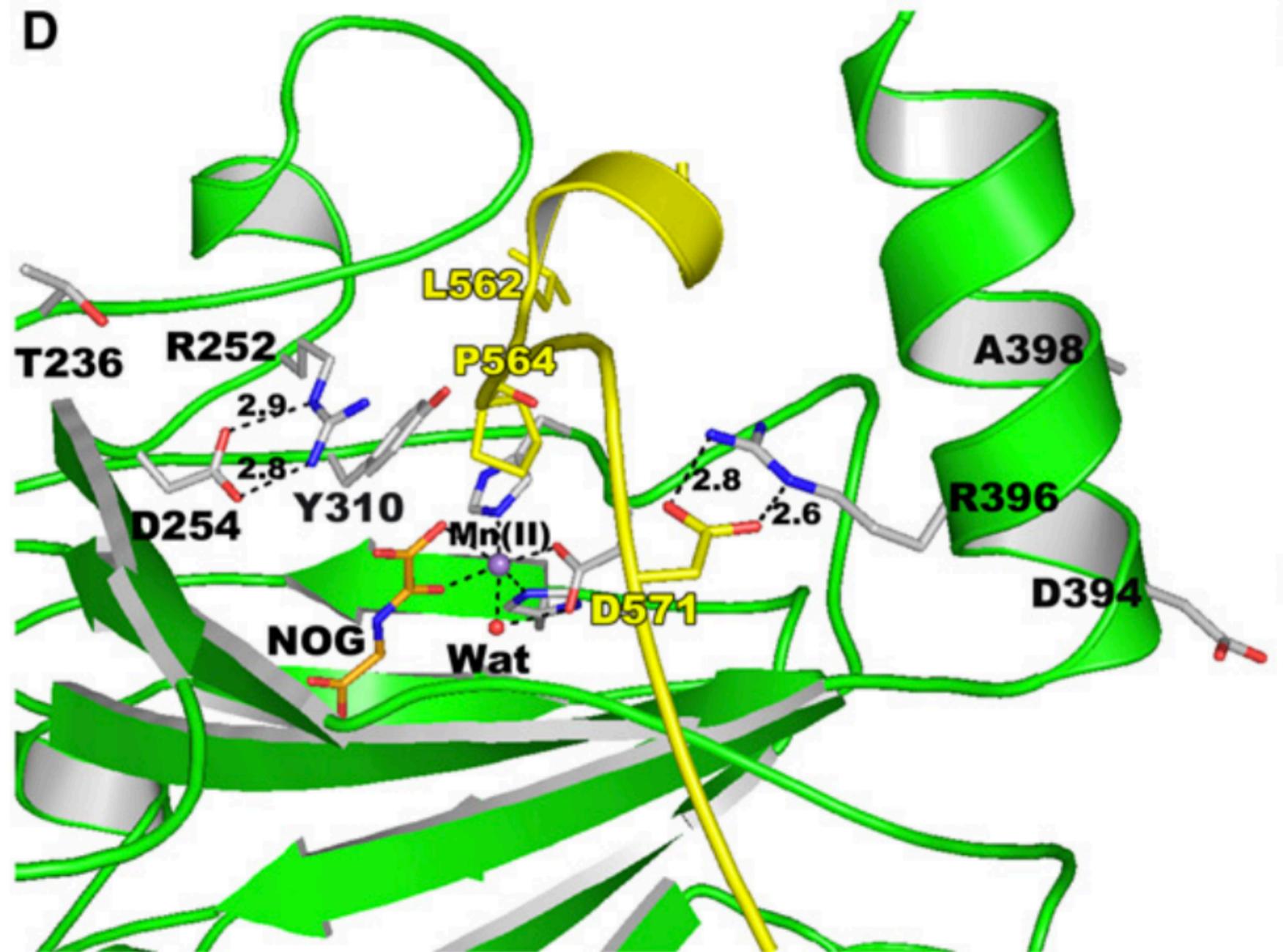
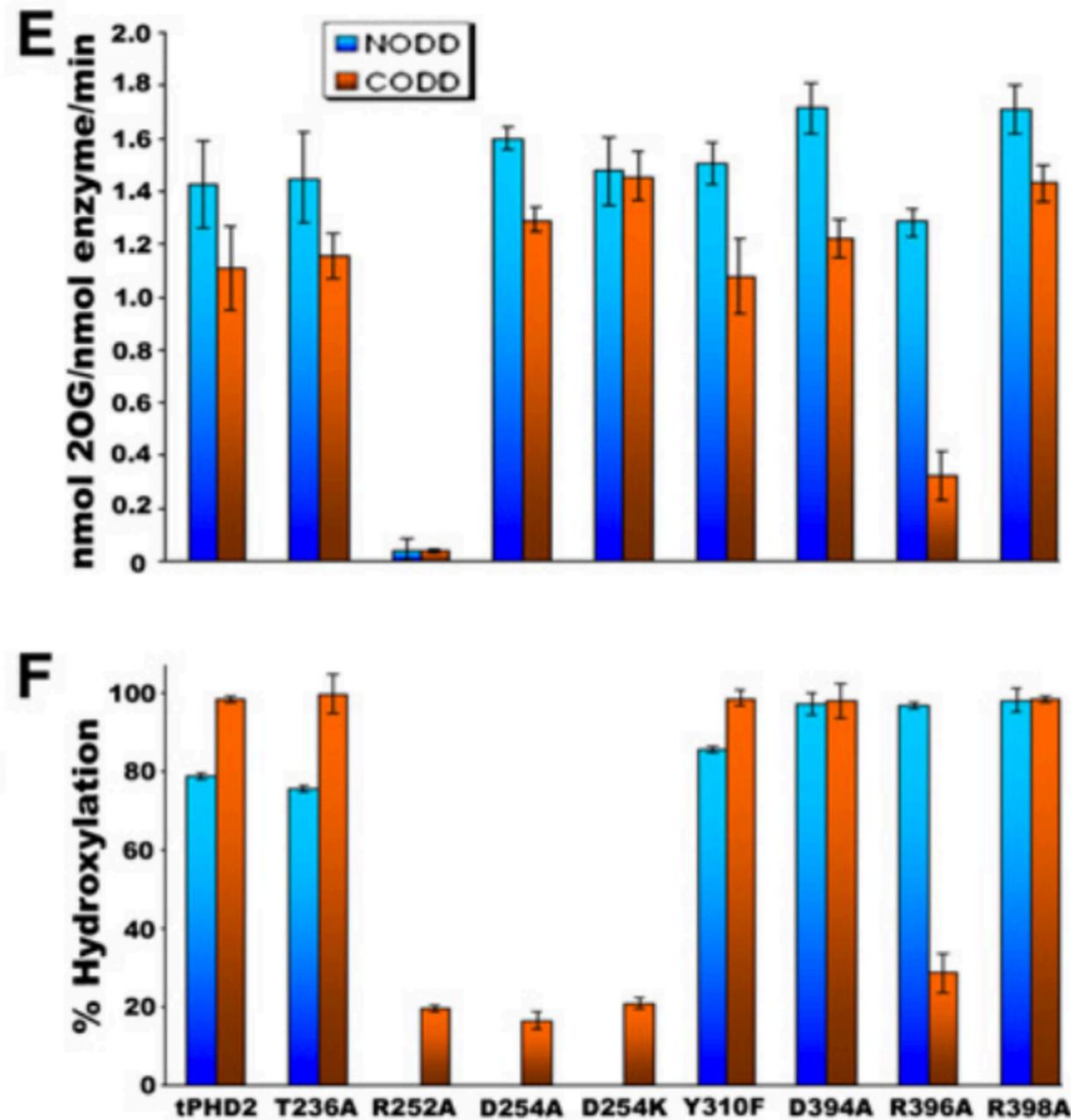
N-oxalylglysine (NOG)



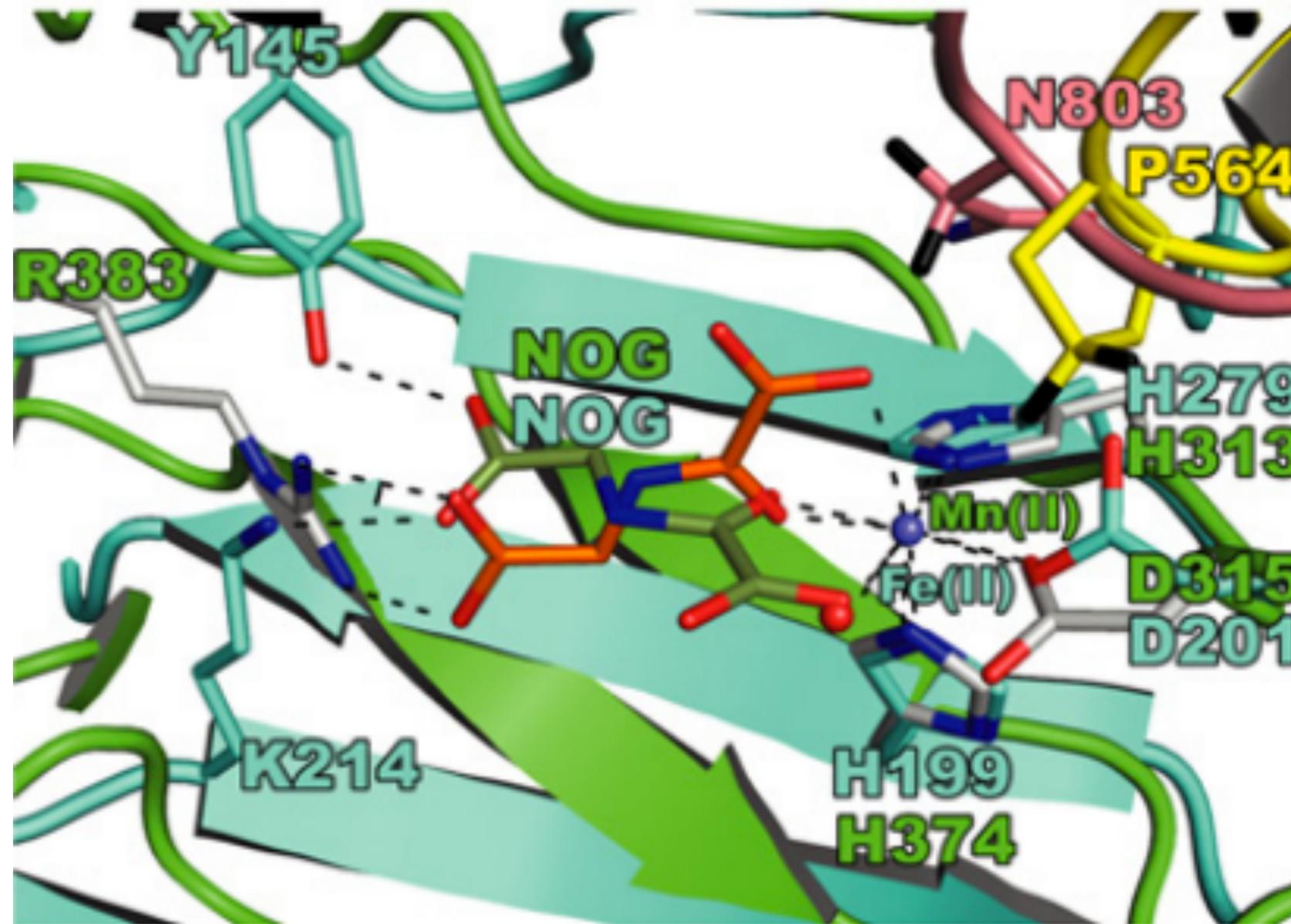
# Salt bridge environment



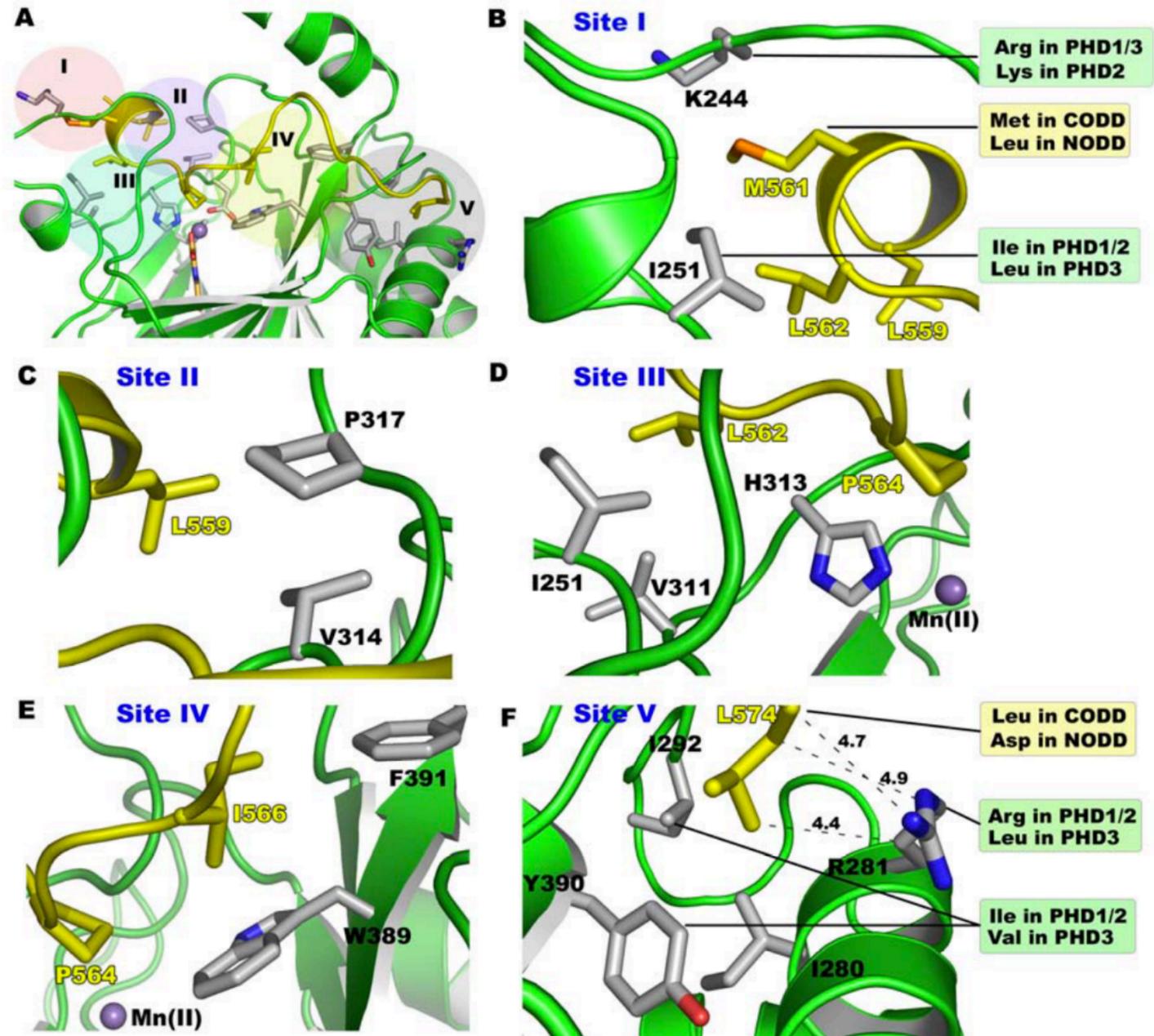
# PHD variants forming salt bridge R252 and D254



# PHD and FIH

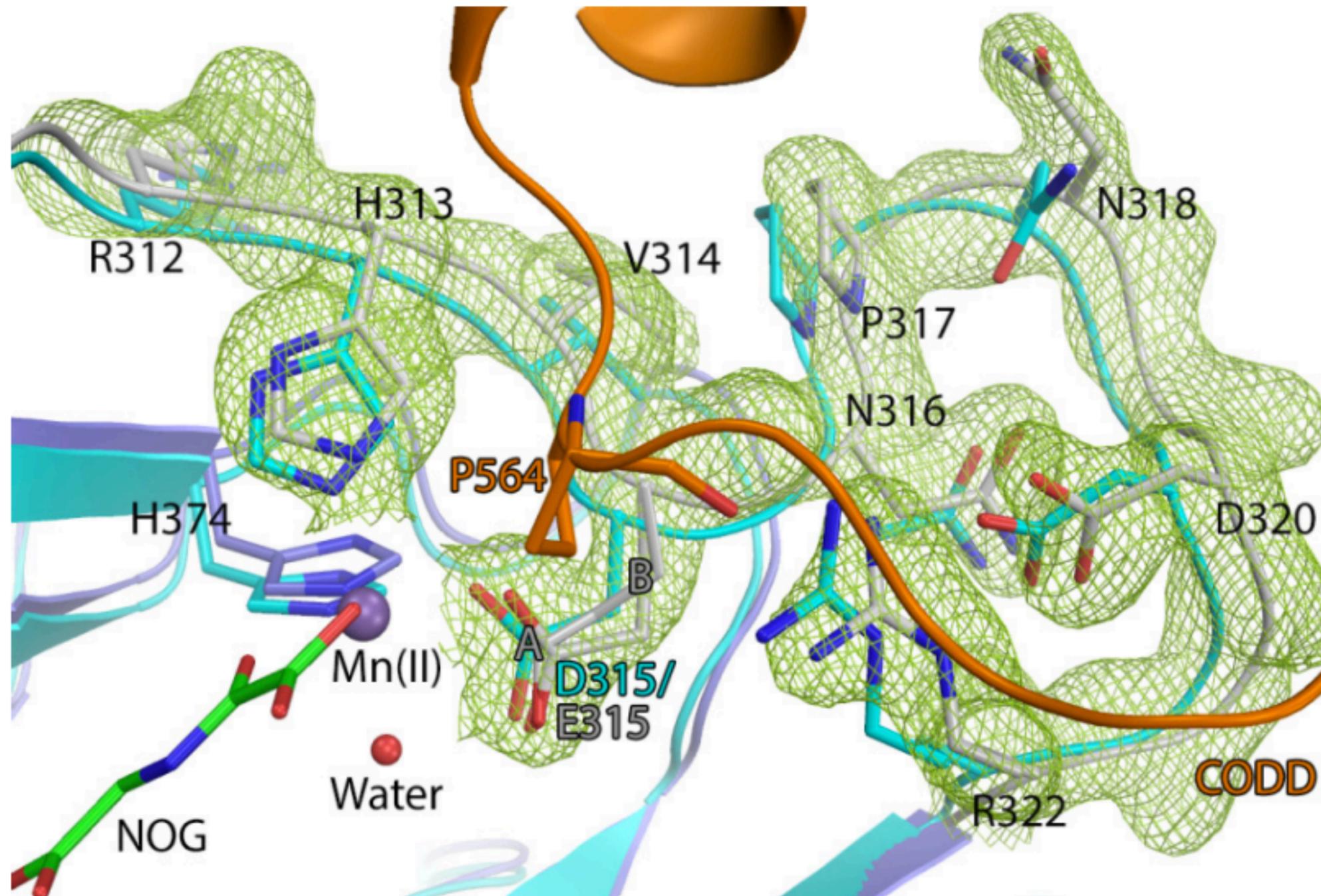


# LXXLAP motif



LXXLAP motif of CODD is positioned in hydrophobic site of PHD

# Binding Fe(II) and 2OG to the PHD2 variants



**D315E:** The stability of PHD2.Fe(II) complex decreased.

- It is inconsistent with the high rate of hydroxylation.
- Structural analysis of D315E PHD2.Mn(II).Inhibitor complex,
- The flexibility of  $\beta 2\beta 3$  increased
  - Two conformation of Glu<sup>315</sup> side chain were observed
  - The bond of metal-water is weaker.

# 2OG turnover and hydroxylation

**Table S2. Summary of Results for 2OG Turnover and Hydroxylation of HIF-1 $\alpha$  ODDs (NODD and CODD) using tPHD2 and tPHD2 Variants at a 1:25 Enzyme-Substrate Ratio**

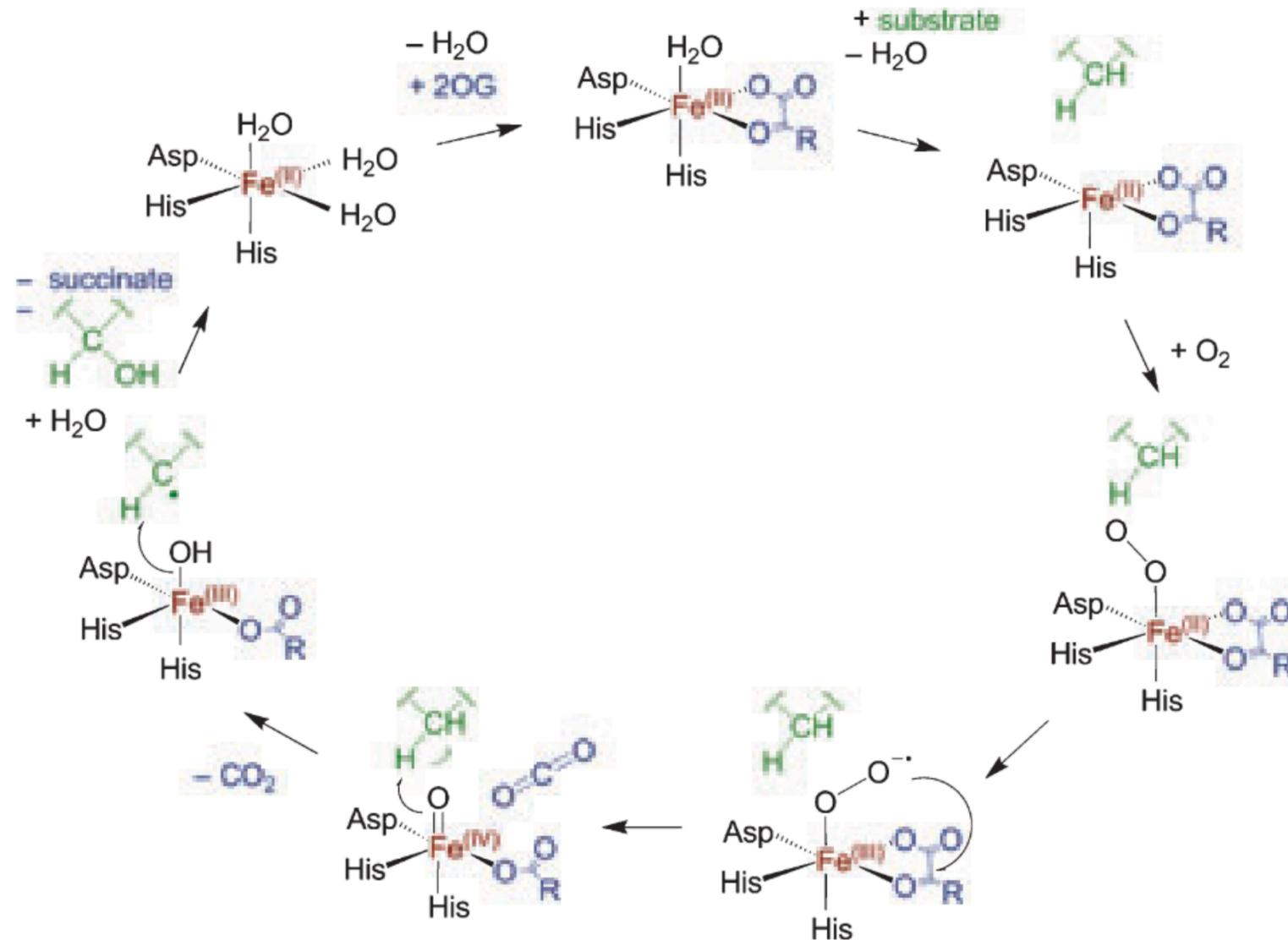
Classes	Wildtype (wt)/ Variant tPHD2	Equivalent residues in PHD1-3 isoforms			% 2OG turned over relative to tPHD2*		% Hydroxylation	
		PHD1	PHD2	PHD3	CODD	NODD	CODD	NODD
	tPHD2				100.0	100.0	98.5 $\pm$ 0.7	78.5 $\pm$ 0.7
1. Variants relating to homotrimeric crystal packing								
	Thr236Ala	Arg-220	Thr-236	Arg-57	104.4	101.7	99.5 $\pm$ 5.0	75.5 $\pm$ 0.7
	Asp394Ala	Lys-378	Asp-394	Glu-216	110.5	120.3	98.0 $\pm$ 4.2	97.0 $\pm$ 2.8
	Arg398Ala	Ala-224	Arg-398	Glu-220	128.8	119.8	98.5 $\pm$ 0.7	98.0 $\pm$ 2.8
2. Variants relating to $\beta$ 2/ $\beta$ 3 loop								
	Arg252Ala	Arg-236	Arg-252	Arg-74	3.8	3.1	19.5 $\pm$ 0.7	n.d.
	Asp254Ala	Arg-238	Arg-254	Arg-76	116.6	112.3	16.5 $\pm$ 2.1	n.d.
	Asp254Lys	Asp-238	Asp-254	Asp-76	131.4	103.5	21.0 $\pm$ 1.4	n.d.
3. Variants of other residues involved in CODD binding								
	Tyr310Phe	Tyr-294	Tyr-310	Tyr-132	97.5	105.5	98.5 $\pm$ 2.1	85.5 $\pm$ 0.7
	Arg396Ala	Arg-380	Arg-396	Arg-218	29.3	90.1	28.5 $\pm$ 5.0	96.5 $\pm$ 0.7

\* Activities measured in nmoles of 2OG turned-over/nmoles of enzyme/min (mean  $\pm$  S.D.) were converted into percentages relative to wt tPHD2 and hence standard deviations are not given.

n.d. = not detected under the experimental conditions.

NODD = HIF-1 $\alpha$ <sub>395-413</sub>; CODD = HIF-1 $\alpha$ <sub>556-574</sub>

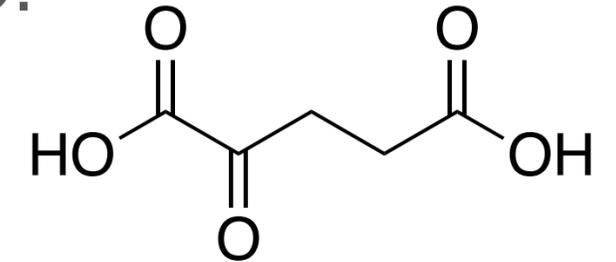
# Catalyst of Fe(II)/2OG-dependent oxygenase



**Fig. 1.** Proposed general catalytic mechanism for the Fe(II)/2OG oxygenases.

2-oxoglutarate (2OG)

Oxidative decarboxylation of 2OG produces CO<sub>2</sub>, succinate and Fe(IV)=O.

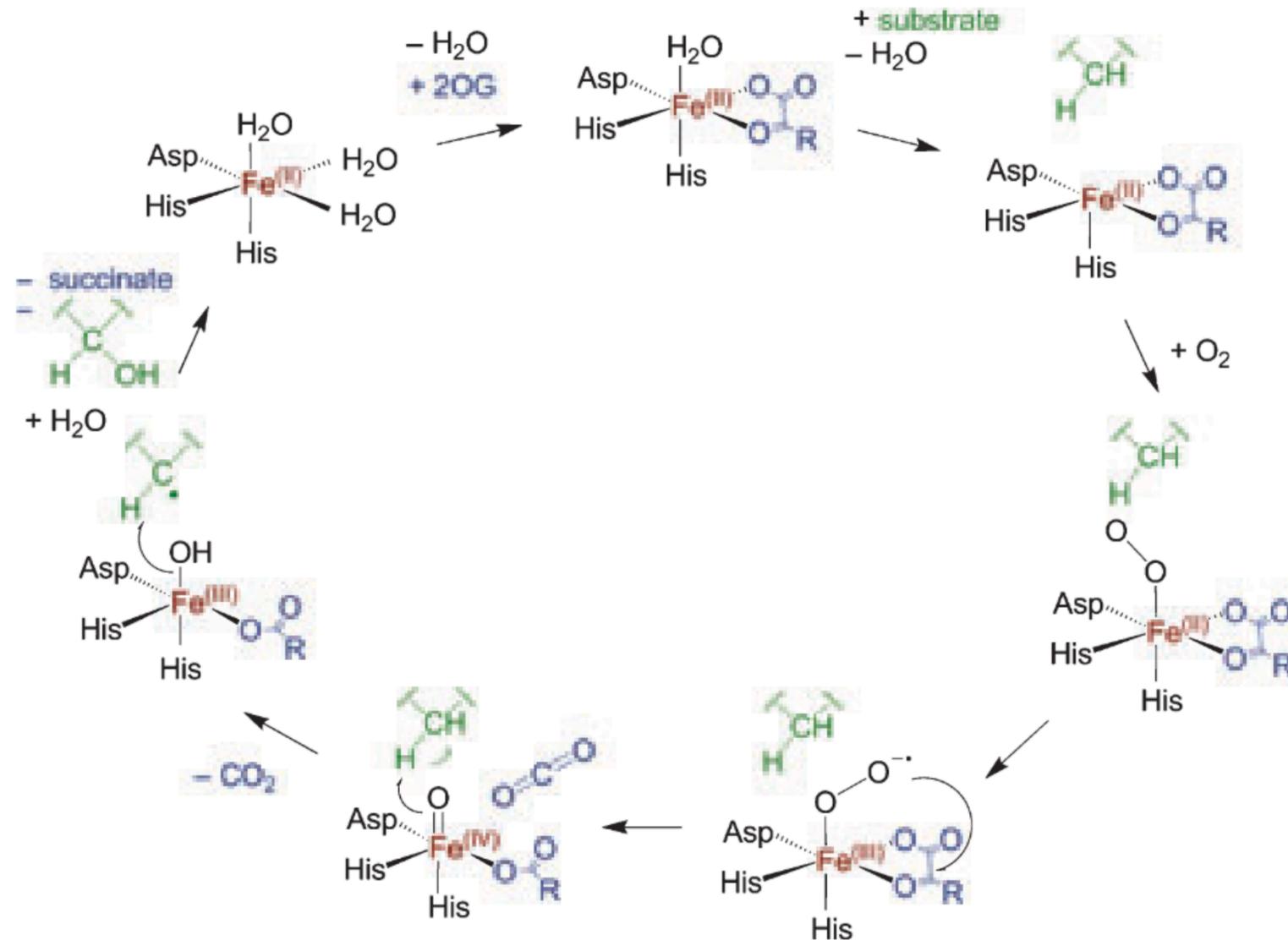


Fe(II)

Fe(IV)=O, a reactive intermediate, cleave the substrate C-H bond by hydrogen abstraction to produce Fe(III)-OH and C• radical.

The C• radical reacts with a hydroxyl radical derived from Fe(III)-OH and produces C-OH bond.

# The coordination of Fe(II) center



**Fig. 1.** Proposed general catalytic mechanism for the Fe(II)/2OG oxygenases.

The Fe(II) center of 2OG-dependent oxygenases is normally coordinated by three protein derived ligands two His and one Glu or Asp.

2OG binds to the Fe(II) in a bidentate manner.

The exchange from coordinated water to oxygen occurs when substrate binds to adjacent to the Fe(II) and weaken binding of the water.