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**Intrinsic structural versatility of the highly conserved 412-423 epitope of the Hepatitis C  
Virus E2 protein**

Nicole Balasco<sup>1,§,\*</sup>, Daniela Barone<sup>1,2,§</sup>, Emanuela Iaccarino<sup>1,2,§</sup>, Annamaria Sandomenico<sup>1</sup>, Alfonso De Simone<sup>3</sup>, Menotti Ruvo<sup>1</sup> and Luigi Vitagliano<sup>1,\*</sup>.

1- Institute of Biostructures and Bioimaging, C.N.R., Naples I-80134, Italy

2- Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Ambientali Biologiche e Farmaceutiche, Università della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Caserta 81100, Italy

3- Department of Life Sciences, Imperial College London, South Kensington, London, SW7 2AZ, UK

\*Address correspondence to Luigi Vitagliano or Nicole Balasco at the Institute of Biostructures and Bioimaging, CNR, Napoli, Italy; E-mails: luigi.vitagliano@unicampania.it, nicole.balasco@unicampania.it.

§ These authors equally contributed.

**Abbreviations:** HCV, Hepatitis C Virus; E2, envelope glycoprotein 2; CD81, Cluster of Differentiation 81; ThT, Thioflavin T, PDB, Protein Data Bank; mAb, monoclonal Antibodies; Fab, antigen-binding fragment; MD, molecular dynamics; RMSD, root mean square deviation; RMSIP, root mean square inner product; E2<sup>412-423</sup>, E2 residues 412-423.

**Keywords:** Replica Exchange Molecular Dynamics, amyloid-like aggregates, protein flexibility, pathogen-host recognition.

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