

Accepted Manuscript

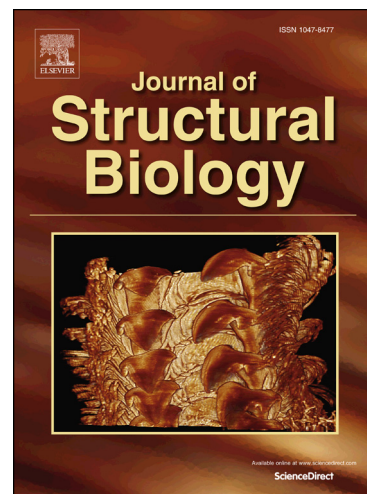
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PII: S1047-8477(17)30132-6
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsb.2017.08.001>
Reference: YJSBI 7087

To appear in: *Journal of Structural Biology*

Received Date: 1 May 2017
Revised Date: 1 August 2017
Accepted Date: 11 August 2017



Please cite this article as: Wang, B., Yin, Q., AIM2 inflammasome activation and regulation: A structural perspective, *Journal of Structural Biology* (2017), doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jsb.2017.08.001>

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AIM2 inflammasome activation and regulation: A structural perspective

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Abstract

Absent in melanoma 2 (AIM2) inflammasome is a multi-protein platform that recognizes aberrant cytoplasmic dsDNA and induces cytokine maturation, release and pyroptosis. It is composed of AIM2, apoptosis-associated speck-like protein containing a CARD (ASC), and caspase-1. Recent X-ray crystallographic and high resolution cryo-electron microscopic (cryo-EM) studies have revealed a series of structures in AIM2 inflammasome activation and regulation. One prominent feature common in multiple steps is the assembly of high-order structures, especially helical filaments nucleated by upstream molecules, rather than stoichiometric complexes. In this review, we track the AIM2 inflammasome activation process step by step, using high-resolution structures to illustrate the overall architecture of AIM2 inflammasome and its assembly and regulatory mechanisms.

Keyword: AIM2; inflammasome; helical filament; high-order assembly; polymerization; ASC; caspase-1; PYD; CARD; p202; INCA

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