

PublisherInfo		
PublisherName	:	BioMed Central
PublisherLocation	:	London
PublisherImprintName	:	BioMed Central

## Sticky switches

ArticleInfo		
ArticleID	:	3705
ArticleDOI	:	10.1186/gb-spotlight-20000621-02
ArticleCitationID	:	spotlight-20000621-02
ArticleSequenceNumber	:	142
ArticleCategory	:	Research news
ArticleFirstPage	:	1
ArticleLastPage	:	2
ArticleHistory	:	RegistrationDate : 2000-06-21 OnlineDate : 2000-06-21
ArticleCopyright	:	BioMed Central Ltd2000
ArticleGrants	:	
ArticleContext	:	130591111

William Wells

Email: wells@biotext.com

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The [binding interface](#) between human growth hormone (hGH) and the hGH receptor has a well-defined hydrophobic core. In the 16 June [Science](#), Guo *et al.* replace two residues from this region (a threonine from hGH and a tryptophan from the hGH receptor) with glycines to create a cavity. They then screen a library of around 200 indole-based compounds and find one that can restore the binding of the two mutated proteins (*Science* 2000, **288**:2042-2045). The 1000-fold increase in binding affinity in the presence of the chemical constitutes a switch that may ultimately find applications *in vivo*.

## References

1. A hot spot of binding energy in a hormone-receptor interface.
2. Science magazine, [<http://www.sciencemag.org/>]