## Supplementary Material

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Fig. S1. Alignment of GFP, sfGFP, eGFP, eYFP, mCherry and mRuby2. Sequence-based alignment of GFP, sfGFP, eGFP, eYFP, mCherry and mRuby2. Identical residues to the GFP sequence (top line) are represented by a dot (.), gaps are shown by hyphens (-). Differences to GFP are written in one letter amino acid code and are highlighted in green, red and yellow for sfGFP, eGFP and eYFP, respectively. Differences between mCherry and mRuby2 are highlighted in gray. Compared to GFP (which was used in the RD selection) sfGFP differs in 10 residues ( $96 \%$ sequence identity), eGFP in 3 residues ( $99 \%$ ) and eYFP in 6 residues ( $97 \%$ ). mCherry (which was the target used in a different RD selection) and mRuby2 have sequence identities of 27 and $30 \%$ to GFP, respectively, and $54 \%$ to each other.


Fig. S2. Analysis of IMAC-purified DARPins. IMAC-purified DARPins were run on a $15 \%$ acrylamide gel. Note that some DARPins run as double bands; this however, is a known phenomenon: since DARPins are very stable they tend to not fully unfold despite an incubation in SDS loading buffer at $96^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ (Binz et al., 2003).


Fig. S3. $\mathbf{2 m 2 2}$ binding to mCherry analyzed by SEC. 2 m 22 and mCherry were run on SEC either alone or as an equimolar mixture. Elution of mCherry was followed by absorption at 280 nm and at its absorption maximum at 587 nm . Elution of 2 m 22 was followed by absorption at 230 nm (due to very low extinction coefficient at 280 nm ). Upon co-incubation of 2 m 22 and mCherry a clear and complete shift towards higher molecular weights can be seen, indicating that also the dimeric fraction of 2 m 22 converts into a 1:1 complex with mCherry.


Fig. S4. Kinetic titration SPR experiments of DARPins binding to GFP. Five increasing DARPin concentrations ( $0.11,0.331,3$, and 9 nM ) were injected over a GFP-coated surface and binding was monitored by SPR. Black curves represent duplicates of binding signals, red curves indicate a global fit to a $1: 1$ kinetic titration binding model (Karlsson et al., 2006). Extracted kinetic data can be found in Table 1.


Fig. S5. Influence of buffer conditions on the affinity of anti-GFP DARPin 3G61 binding to GFP (A) and sfGFP (B). Fluorescence anisotropy assays with anti-GFP DARPin 3G61 were carried out in different buffer conditions. (A) Binding to GFP: addition of BSA does not alter the $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{D}}$ as assays performed in PBS, PBS with $0.03 \%$ BSA and PBS with $0.2 \%$ BSA all give $K_{D} S$ of about 60 nM (Table 1). In contrast, addition of Tween-20, decyl-maltoside (DM) and Triton X-100 increases the affinity, although to different extents; note that the dashed lines do not represent a fitted curve, as these assay conditions are not suitable to obtain a quantitative result (as [GFP] is higher than $K_{D}$ ). Nonetheless, it is obvious that the addition of Tween-20 increases the affinity to around the same $\mathrm{K}_{\mathrm{D}}$ value determined by SPR (supplementary material Fig. S4 and Table 1), measured under the same conditions. (B) Also binding to sfGFP is much tighter in PBS with Tween-20; also here the dashed line does not represent a fit. For the affinity in PBS with $0.03 \%$ BSA, see Table 1.


Fig. S6. SPR does not show simultaneous binding of any two DARPins to GFP. A GFP-coated SPR surface was saturated by injection of one DARPin, dissociation was allowed to occur for 300 sec , followed by a second injection with another DARPin. No combination of two anti-GFP DARPins showed an increased binding above the plateau reached by the injection of the first anti-GFP DARPin alone, indicating that these DARPins cannot bind simultaneously.


First DARPin
Fig. S7. Epitope binning using FA. GFP was incubated either alone, with an excess of one or with a combination of two DARPins in excess and anisotropy was measured. No combination of any two DARPins showed an increase of anisotropy above the level reached by a single DARPin, indicating that no larger complexes are formed. Bars represent mean values of two replicates, error bars represent standard deviations.


Fig. S8. Membrane-tethered anti-GFP-DARPin 3G86.32 can recruit GFP in HeLa cells. Shown are HeLa cells transiently overexpressing different DARPin-mRuby2 versions tethered to the plasma membrane (DARPin-mRuby-CVIM, A-D) together with GFP ( $A^{\prime}-D^{\prime}$ ) to indicate whether or not GFP is recruited to the plasma membrane ( $\left.A^{\prime \prime}-D^{\prime \prime}\right)$. ( $A, A^{\prime \prime}$ ) mRuby2-CVIM does not recruit unfused GFP to the membrane. (B, $\mathrm{B}^{\prime \prime}$ ) High-affinity 3G86.32-mRuby2-CVIM recruits GFP to the membrane, as can be seen in the overlap of GFP and mRuby2 signal. (C,C") Low-affinity 3G61-mRuby2-CVIM and (D,D") low-affinity 3G146-mRuby2-CVIM cannot re-localize GFP. Unprimed letters, mRuby2 channel; primed letters, GFP channel; double primed letters, overlay. Scale bars are $20 \mu \mathrm{~m}$.




X: Randomized position to all amino acids except $C$ and $P$
Z: Randomized position to only $N$, $H$ or $Y$

Fig. S9. Alignment of DARPins. Sequence-based alignment of selected DARPins. The top row indicates the consensus sequence used in the library with randomized positions indicated as $X$ (randomization to all amino acids but Cys and Pro) and $Z$ (randomization to Asn, His or Tyr) highlighted in black frames. Identical residues are shown as dots (.), gaps are shown as hyphens (-), selected randomized positions along with framework mutations are shown as one-letter amino acid code.

## Table S1. Full-length nt sequences of DARPins used in this study

3G61:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCTTGACGAGGTTGGTTGGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTGGGGTCACCTGGA AATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACATTGATGGTTATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTTTTCTGGT CACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGATGACCAGGCTGGTTTTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCT ATTTTTGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTCGAC ATCTCCATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

3G86.1:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAG TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCTTGACCGTTTTGGTCTTACTCCGCTGCACCTTGCTGCTCAGCGTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTGTGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACCTTTGGGGTCAGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTACTGCT GGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCGTGACAATATTGGTCATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCT GCTTGGGCTGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGCACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTC GACATCTCCATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

3G86.32:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCTTGACCGTTTTGGTCTTACTCCGCTGCACCTTGCTGCTCAGCGTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTGTGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACCTTTGGGGTCAGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTACTGCT GGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCTTGACCTTATTGGTAAGACTCCACTGCACCTGACT GCTATTGATGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGCACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTC GACATCTCCATCGACAATGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

3G124:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCAGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAG TTCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACGATGTTGGTGTTACTCCTCTGCACCTGGCTGCTCAGCGTGGTCACCT GGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTGCGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACCTTTGGGGTCAGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTACTGC TGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCGTGACAATATTGGTCATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGC TGCTTGGGCTGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTT CGACATCTCCATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

## 3G146:

ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTATTGACCAGTTTGGTGATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTCTTTTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGTTGACGTTAACGCTCGTGACGTTGCTGGTCTTACTCCGCTGCACTTGGCTGCTAAGTGG GGTCACTTTGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGCACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTTCTGACGTTTGGGGTTGGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCT GCTGCTATGGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTC GACATCTCCATCAACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

3m160:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTACTGACGATCGTGGTAAGACTCTGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTTTCTTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTAATGACCGTCATGGTCGTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTCTCTT GGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGITCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTTGGGACAAGGAGGGTTTTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGC TGCTAATAATGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGCACGGTGTTGATGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTT CGACATCTCAATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAATGA

3G168:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAG TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCTTGACCGTTTTGGTCTTACTCCGCTGCACCTTGCTGCTCAGCGTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTGTGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGCTGACCTTTGGGGTCAGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTACTGCT GGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTACTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCGTGACAATATTGGTCATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCT GCTTGGGCTGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTC GACATCTCCATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAA

## 2m22:

ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGTTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTTATGACACTATTGGTTCTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTATCATGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTAATGACCTTTTTGGTGATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTATTCTG GTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTCGACATCTCCA TCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAAT

## 2 m 74

ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAG TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGGTGACATTACTGGTATTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGTTGCTTATACTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGCACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACTATAATGGTTTTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTATGCGT GGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTCGACATCTCC ATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAATGA

2m151:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGTATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTAATGACATTACTGGTATTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTTTACTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTAATGACTATAATGGTTATACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTATGCAG GGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGTACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTCGACATCTC ATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAATGA

2m172:
ATGAGAGGATCGCATCACCATCACCATCACGGATCCGACCTGGGTAAGAAACTGCTGGAAGCTGCTCGTGCTGGTCAGGACGACGAAGT TCGCATCCTGATGGCTAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTGATGACATTACTGGTATTACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTTTTACTGGTCACCTG GAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACTATGAGGGTTGGACTCCGCTGCACCTGGCTGCTACTAA TGGTCACCTGGAAATCGTTGAAGTTCTGCTGAAGAACGGTGCTGACGTTAACGCTCAGGACAAATTCGGTAAGACCGCTTTCGACATCTC CATCGACAACGGTAACGAGGACCTGGCTGAAATCCTGCAAAAGCTTAATTAATGA

