

Supplementary Information

Mechanism of small molecule inhibition of *Plasmodium falciparum* myosin A informs antimalarial drug design

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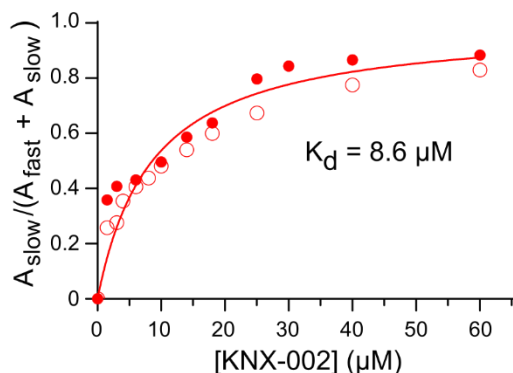
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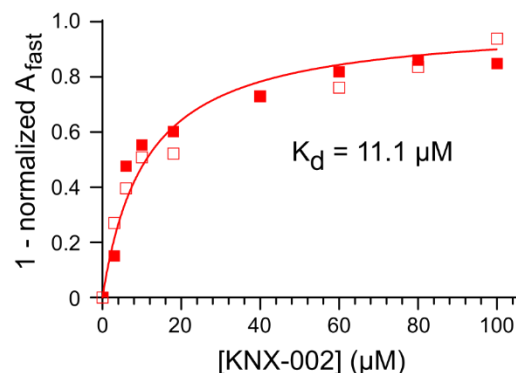
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§ These authors contributed equally

(a) Affinity of KNX-002 for nucleotide-free M



(b) Affinity of KNX-002 for M.ADP



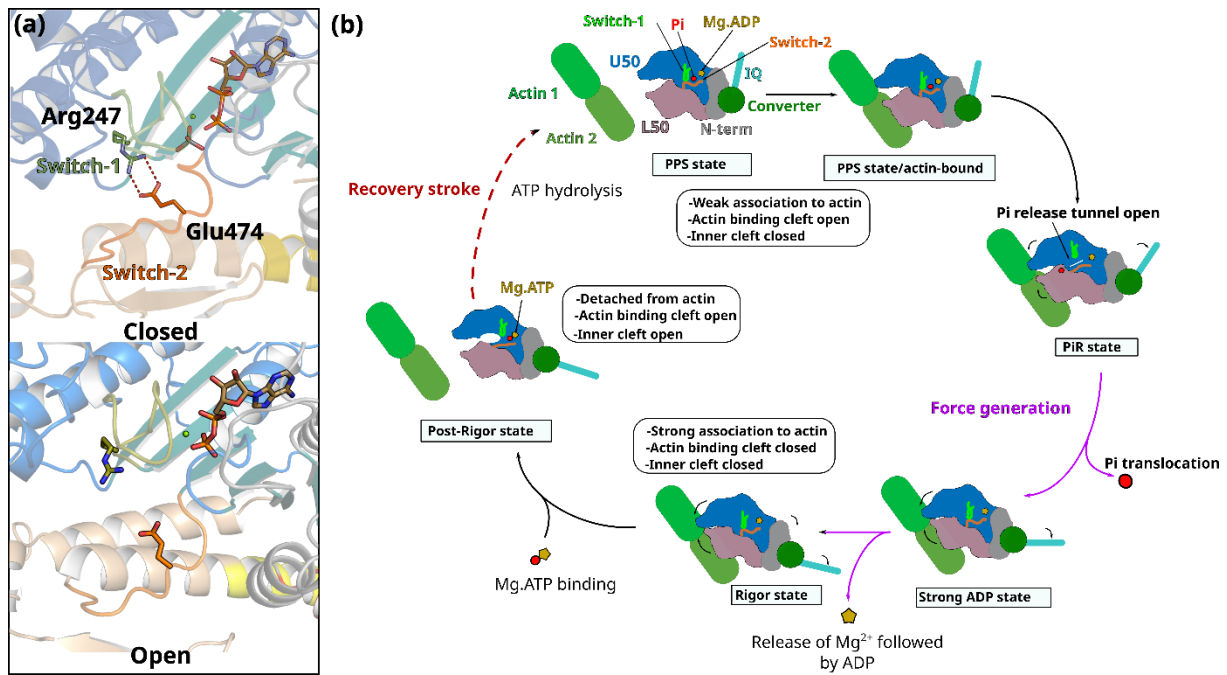
Supplementary Figure 1 – Affinity of KNX-002 for nucleotide-free PfMyoA and PfMyoA.ADP

(a) Affinity of KNX-002 for nucleotide-free PfMyoA (M). Fractional amplitude of the slow phase ($A_{\text{slow}}/(A_{\text{fast}} + A_{\text{slow}})$) as a function of KNX-002 concentration. 0.3 μM PfMyoA was pre-incubated with varying concentrations of KNX-002 and then rapidly mixed with either 3 μM mant-ATP (filled circles) or 6 μM mant-ADP (open circles) also containing KNX-002 (pre-mixing concentrations stated). Observed rate constants for the time courses were $6.5 \pm 0.4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (no KNX-002) and $1.03 \pm 0.01 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (100 μM KNX-002) for mant-ATP and $12.7 \pm 0.2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (no KNX-002) and $1.80 \pm 0.02 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (100 μM KNX-002) for mant-ATP. For intermediate KNX-002 concentrations, the fractional amplitude of the slow phase ($A_{\text{slow}}/(A_{\text{fast}} + A_{\text{slow}})$) of the biphasic transients is plotted against KNX-002 concentration. The K_d of KNX-002 for nucleotide-free PfMyoA is 8.6 μM (hyperbolic fit). The two resolvable kinetic phases suggest that the off rate of KNX-002 is very slow.

(b) Affinity of KNX-002 for PfMyoA in the presence of ADP (M.ADP). The disappearance of the fast phase ($1 - (A_{\text{fast}} \text{ at measured } [\text{KNX-002}] / A_{\text{fast}} \text{ in the absence of KNX-002})$) as a function of KNX-002 concentration. 0.3 μM PfMyoA was pre-incubated with 100 μM ADP and the indicated amount of KNX-002 and then rapidly mixed with 3 μM mant-ATP also containing the indicated amount of KNX-002. The K_d of KNX-002 for PfMyoA.ADP is 11.1 μM (hyperbolic fit). All time courses were biphasic with a fast phase rate of $1.44 \pm 0.03 \text{ s}^{-1}$ of varying amplitude and a slow phase having a constant rate ($0.08 \pm 0.01 \text{ s}^{-1}$) and constant amplitude.

In a separate experiment, 200 μM KNX-002 was mixed with PfMyoA.mant-ADP. A small increase in bound mant-ADP fluorescence (excited via a Trp residue in PfMyoA) was observed at a rate of $\sim 1 \text{ s}^{-1}$. This observation is consistent with the ability of KNX-002 to bind to PfMyoA that has mant-ADP bound at the active site.

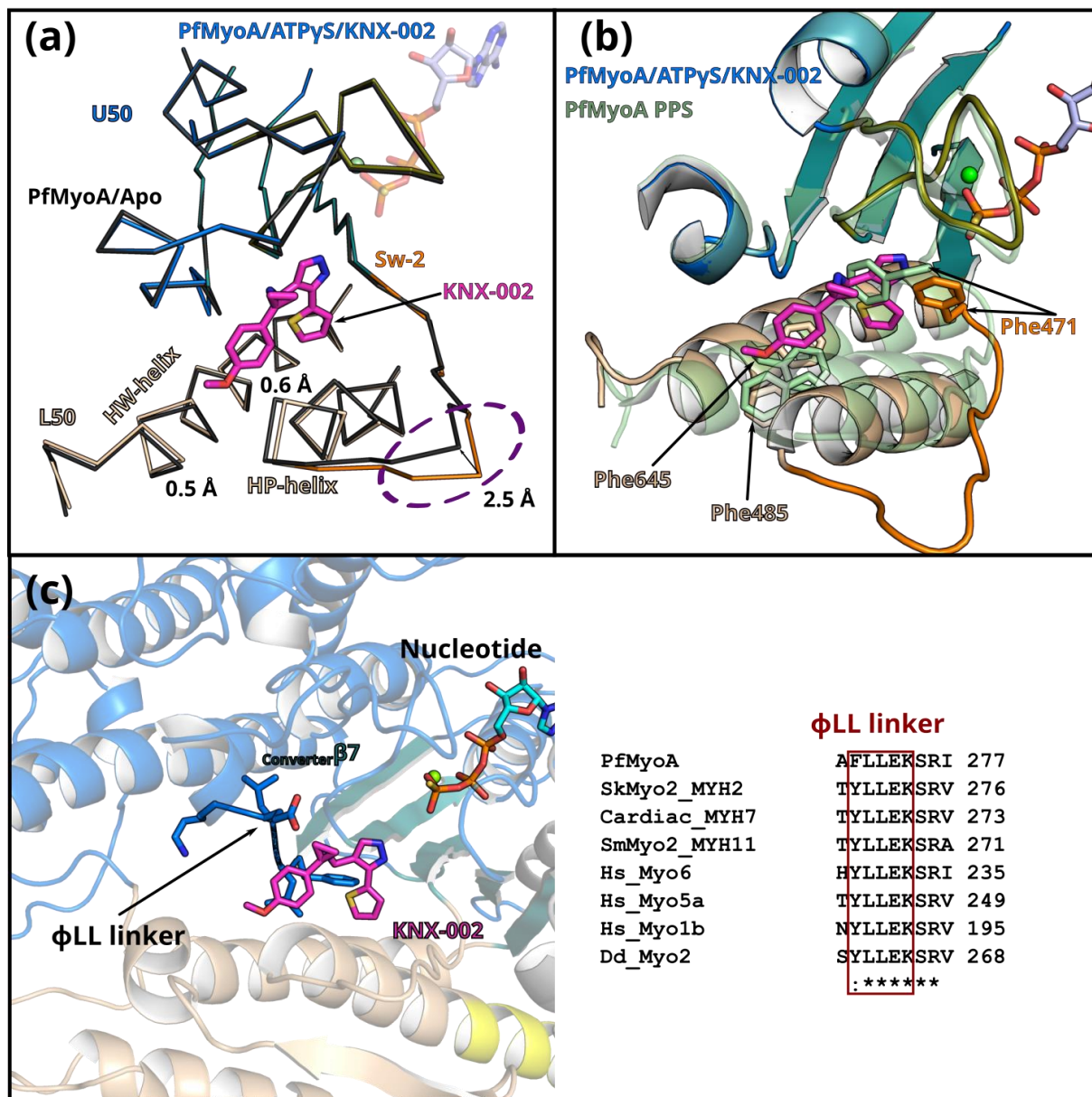
Conditions: 10 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM DTT, 1% DMSO, 30°C. Two independent experiments were performed. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



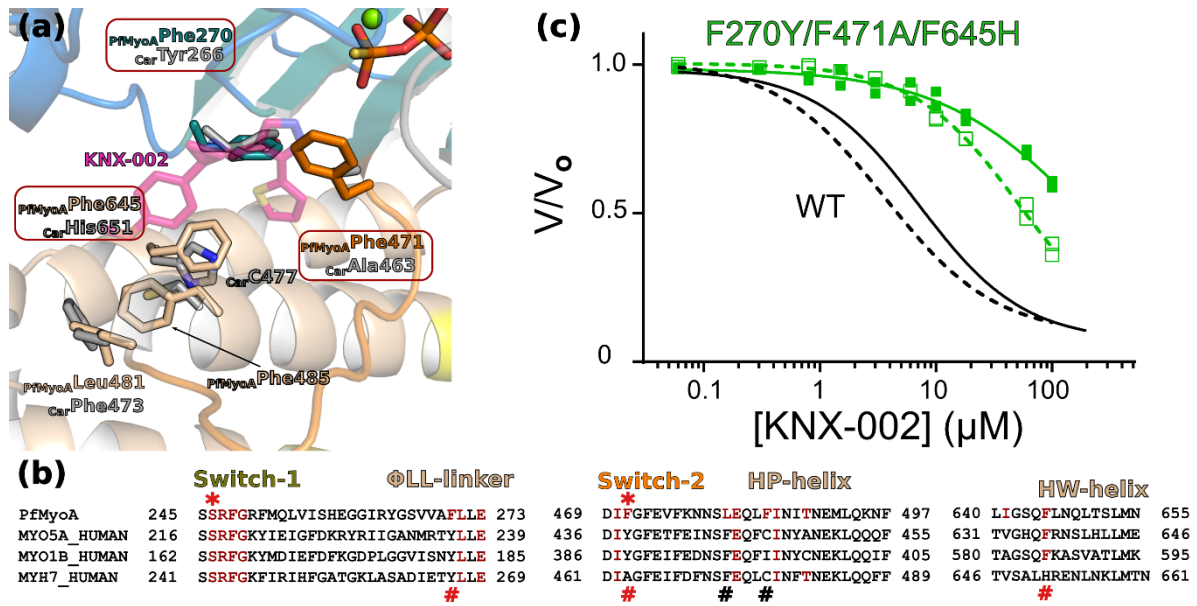
Supplementary Figure 2 – Backdoor and Schematic motor cycle of a myosin.

(a) Backdoor of myosins has a fully closed configuration in the Pre-powerstroke state, but not in the post-Rigor state.

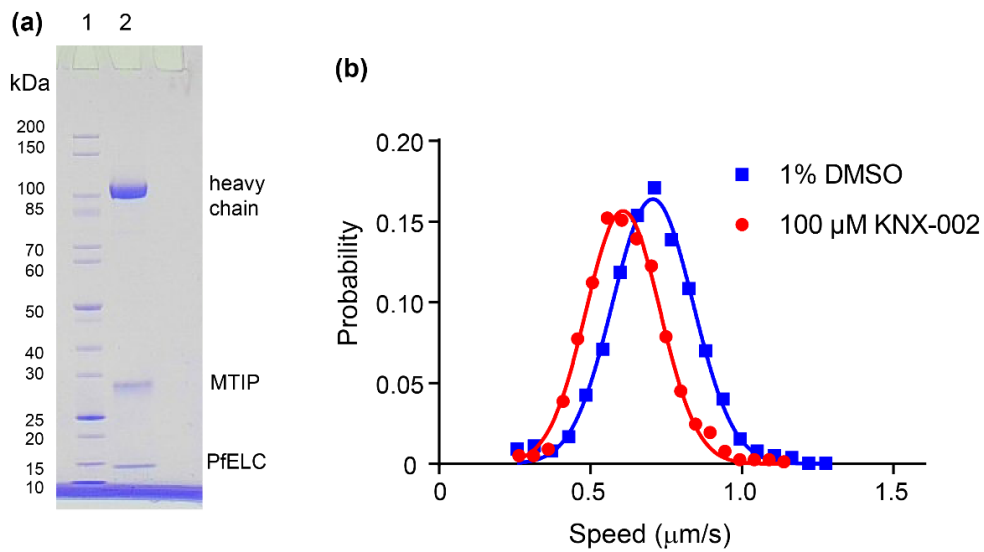
(b) Motor cycle - In the post-rigor (PR) state, the myosin is bound to ATP, with the lever arm down and the actin binding cleft open, including the inner cleft. The PR is detached from actin. Priming of the lever arm occurs during the recovery stroke, resulting in the pre-power stroke state (PPS) in which ATP hydrolysis is facilitated thanks to the specific positioning of Switch-2 in this state (inner cleft or backdoor closed). The PPS state can associate weakly to the actin track. This association triggers the transition towards the P_i release state (P_iR) that allows P_i release. It is presumed that a small movement of the lever arm is sufficient to rearrange the actin-binding site in the P_iR state so that an opening of the P_i release tunnel would then allow the P_i to escape the active site¹. The P_iR state initiates force production. A large lever arm swing and cleft closure drive the transition to the Strong ADP state during the powerstroke. Finally, the release of the Mg²⁺ ion followed by ADP occurs after the transition to the Rigor state. The Rigor state differs from the Strong ADP state by a further small lever arm swing. In the Rigor state, myosin is ready to bind a new ATP molecule. This leads to fast detachment from actin while myosin adopts a post-rigor state and starts a new cycle. The structural features underlying myosin force production are reviewed in².



Supplementary Figure 3 – Analysis of the binding pocket of KNX-002. (a) Superimposition on the U50 subdomain of PfMyoA bound to KNX-002 (colored by subdomains, PfMyoA/ATP γ S/KNX-002) and PfMyoA in the apo condition (black, PfMyoA/ATP γ S/Apo). Small local accommodations are induced in the pocket by the binding of the drug, the most remarkable being a shift in Switch-2 (Sw-2) position (indicated with a dashed purple circle). (b) Superimposition of PfMyoA/ATP γ S/KNX-002 and PfMyoA in the pre-powerstroke (PPS) state (PDB code 6YCX,³) on the U50 subdomain. The superimposition shows that KNX-002 cannot bind in PPS. In particular, a clash would occur if Switch-2 rearranges to close the backdoor as found in PPS. Note in particular the position F471 adopts in the PPS state. (c) Cartoon representation showing the Φ LL linker, a conserved element located in the U50 after the $\text{Transducer}\beta 7$ strand. Alignment of myosin sequences show the conservation of the Φ LL linker: PfMyoA; human fast skeletal muscle myosin 2 (SkMyo2_MYH2); human β -cardiac muscle myosin 2 (Cardiac_MYH7); human smooth muscle myosin 2 (SmMyo2_MYH11); human myosin 6 (Hs_Myo6); human myosin 5a (Hs_Myo5a); human myosin-1b (Hs_Myo1b); *Dictyostelium discoideum* myosin 2 (DdMyo2).

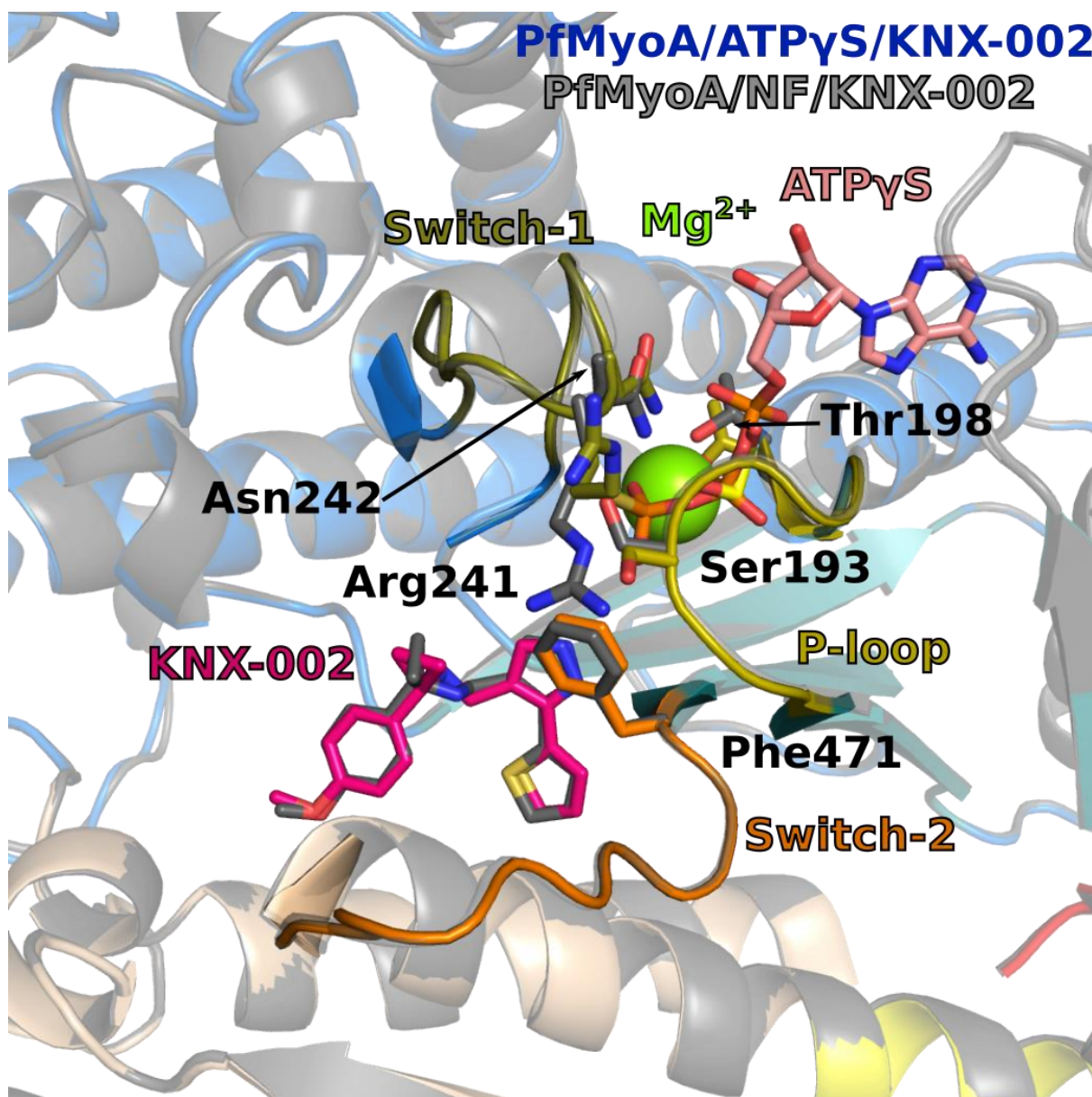


Supplementary Figure 4 – Validation of the KNX-002 binding pocket. **(a)** Representation of the differences existing in the KNX-002 binding pocket in PfMyoA and in β -cardiac myosin in the PR state (PDB code 6FSA,⁴). The two structures are aligned on the U50 subdomain of PfMyoA. The sequence differences in cardiac are represented as stick in grey (for detail see Fig. 3f). Residues mutated in PfMyoA to alter the pocket and prevent inhibition are represented in a red box. **(b)** Sequence alignment of the different structural elements of KNX-002 binding pocket in several myosins: *Plasmodium falciparum* myosin A (PfMyoA); *Homo sapiens* myosin 5a (MYO5A_HUMAN); *Homo sapiens* myosin 1b (MYO1B_HUMAN); *Homo sapiens* β -cardiac myosin (MYH7_HUMAN). Residues involved in polar contacts are labelled with a red star; positions of important differences are labelled with a hash, the three mutations in the triple mutant F270Y/F471A/F645H are labelled with a red hash. **(c)** KNX-002 poorly inhibits the actin-activated (filled green squares, $IC_{50} > 100 \mu M$) and the basal ATPase activity (open green squares, $52 \mu M$ of the triple mutant F270Y/F471A/F645H compared to its effect on WT PfMyoA (WT fits reproduced from Fig. 1a, actin-activated (solid line) and basal (dashed black line) ATPase activity). $n=2$ for each assay. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

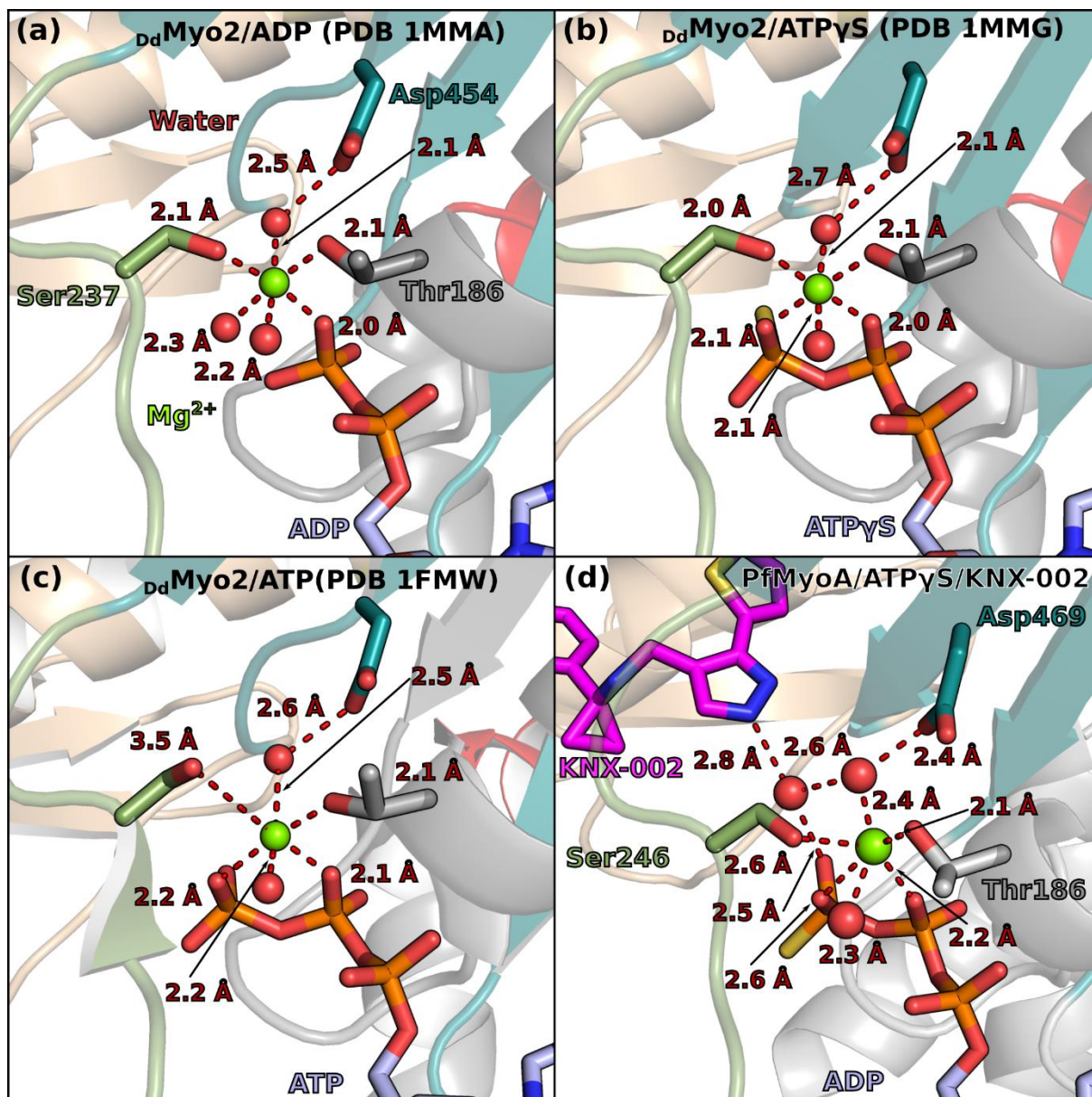


Supplementary Figure 5 – Characterization of the triple mutant F270Y/F471A/F645H.

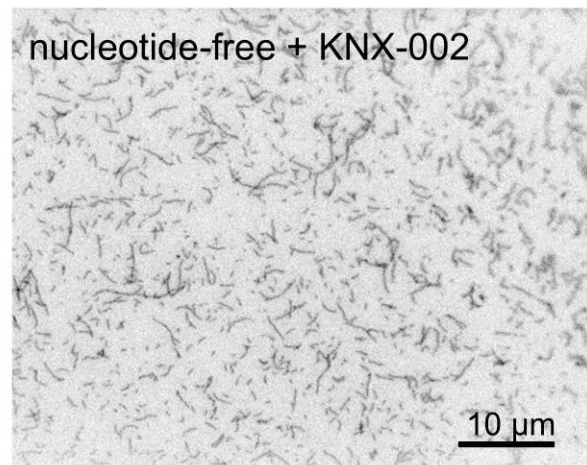
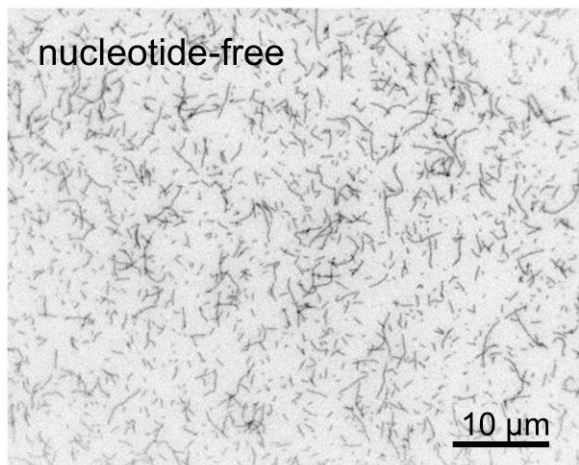
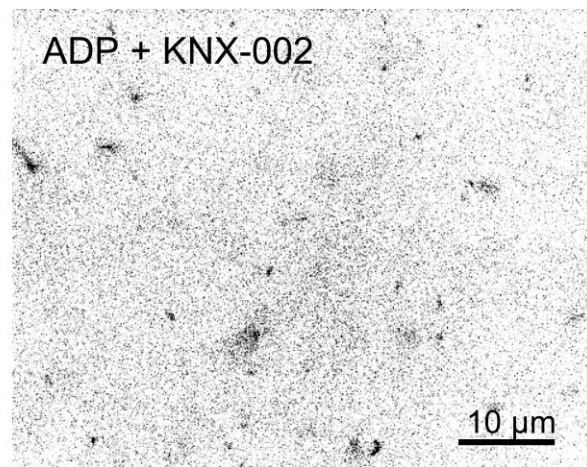
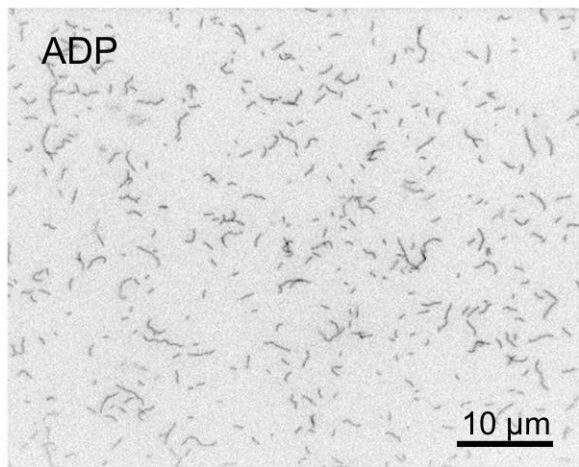
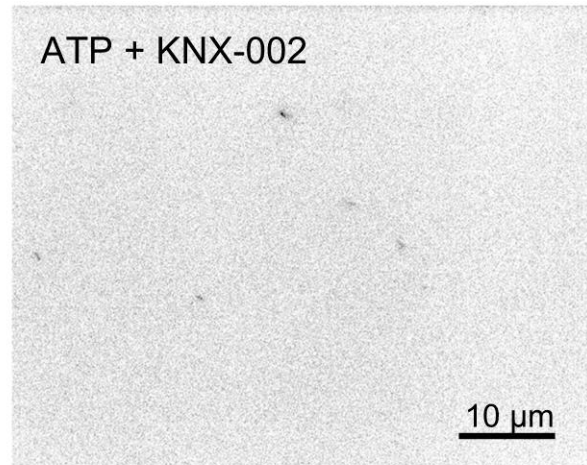
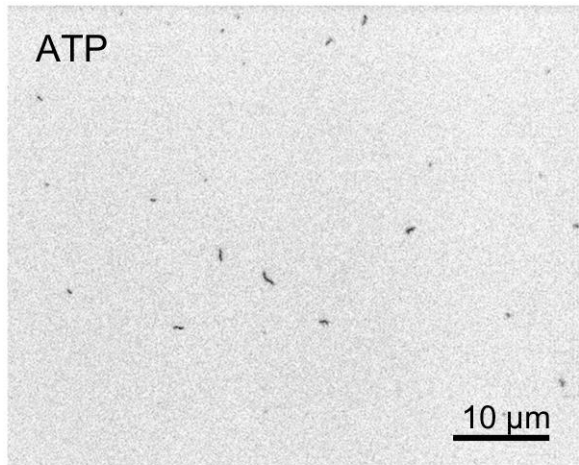
(a) Coomassie stained 4-12% SDS-PAGE gel of (lane 1) molecular mass markers and (lane 2) the F270Y/F471A/F645H triple mutant. The uncropped gel image is shown in Supplementary Figure 11. **(b)** Speed distributions from a representative *in vitro* motility assay of the F270Y/F471A/F645H triple mutant. 1% DMSO, $0.71 \pm 0.13 \mu\text{m/s}$; 100 μM KNX-002, $0.61 \pm 0.12 \mu\text{m/s}$. Values reported are mean \pm SD. 799 filaments counted ($n=8$ movies) for 1% DMSO and 775 filaments ($n=6$ movies) counted for 100 μM KNX-002. Conditions: 25 mM imidazole pH 7.5, 150 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl_2 , 1 mM EGTA, 10 mM DTT, 2 mM MgATP, 0.5% methylcellulose, 1% DMSO, 30°C. The speeds in the presence or absence of KNX-002 are statistically insignificant using a two-sided z-test ($p = 0.572$). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



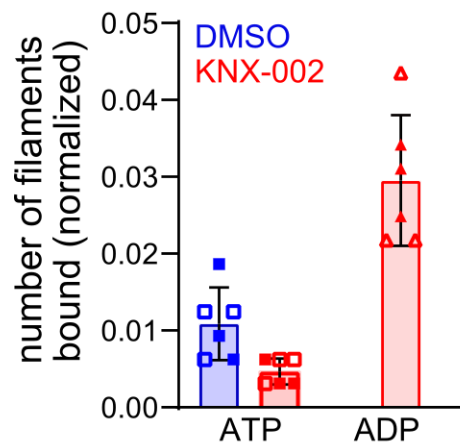
Supplementary Figure 6 – Comparison of the structures *PfMyoA/ATP γ S/KNX-002* and *PfMyoA/NF/KNX-002*. The structures of *PfMyoA* complexed to ATP γ S and KNX-002 (*PfMyoA/ATP γ S/KNX-002*, colored by subdomain) and *PfMyoA* complexed to KNX-002 in the nucleotide free state (*PfMyoA/NF/KNX-002*, dark grey). In the presence of KNX-002, the structures of *PfMyoA* are highly similar independent of the presence of the nucleotide. The only differences are in the local conformation of residues located in the P-loop (dark yellow) and Switch-1 (olive green); the side chains of these residues are represented as sticks. The two structures are superimposed on the U50 and L50 (residues 182-667).



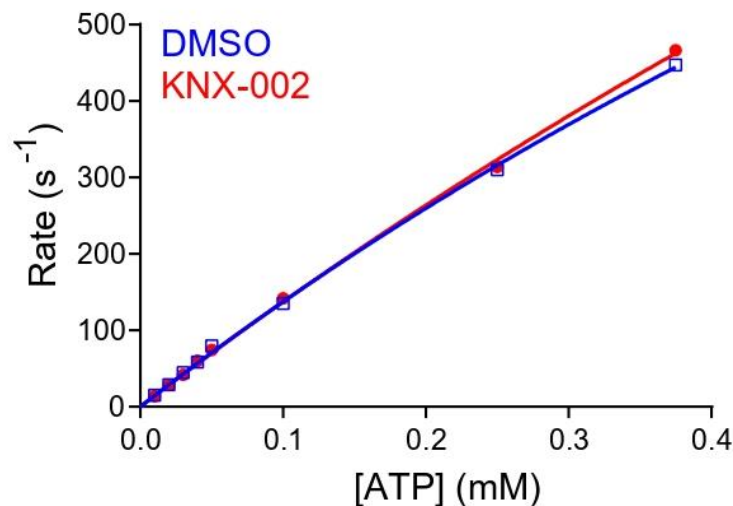
Supplementary Figure 7 – *The presence of γ -phosphate does not alter the coordination of Mg^{2+} ion.* Comparison of Mg^{2+} coordination in *Dd*Myo2 structure complexed to **(a)** ADP (PDB code 1MMA)⁵, **(b)** *Dd*Myo2 complexed to ATP_γS (PDB code 1MMG)⁵, **(c)** *Dd*Myo2 structure complexed to ATP (PDB code 1FMW)⁶. **(d)** For comparison, the coordination of PfMyoA complexed to ATP_γS and KNX-002 (PfMyoA/ATP_γS/KNX-002).



Supplementary Figure 8 – Raw data showing examples of fields of actin bound to surface immobilized PfMyoA. Direct comparison of the amount of actin bound in various nucleotides in the absence or presence of 100 μM KNX-002. Quantitation of the number of bound filaments is shown in **Fig. 5a** and **Supplementary Fig. 9**. Scale bar is 10 μm.

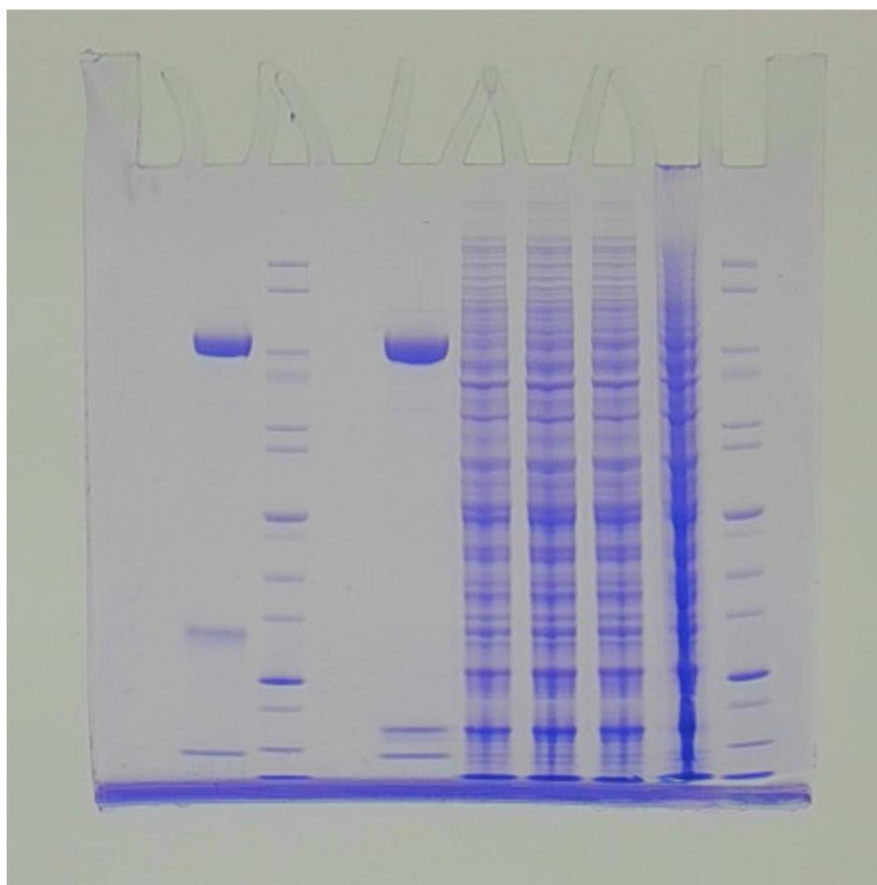


Supplementary Figure 9 – Expanded y-axis for data in **Fig. 5a**. Number of actin filaments bound \pm SD to surface immobilized PfMyoA (see Methods): ATP, 0.011 ± 0.004 ; ATP + KNX-002, 0.008 ± 0.030 ; ADP, 0.59 ± 0.05 (see **Fig. 5a**); ADP + KNX-002, 0.030 ± 0.008 . Data represent two experiments each performed in triplicate with independent protein preparations (open and filled circles). No significant differences were observed between any pairs of the illustrated data: ATP \pm KNX-002 ($p > 0.999$), ADP+KNX-002 and ATP+KNX-002 ($p = 0.971$), ADP+KNX-002 and ATP ($p = 0.992$) (one-sided ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-hoc test). Conditions: 25 mM imidazole pH 7.5, 150 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EGTA, 10 mM DTT, 0% methylcellulose, 1% DMSO, 30°C. 2 mM MgATP or MgADP were added for +ATP or +ADP condition, respectively. Data bars are mean \pm SD.



Supplementary Figure 10 – KNX-002 does not affect the rate of ATP induced actomyosin dissociation. 0.3 μ M PfMyoA and 0.4 μ M skeletal actin were rapidly mixed with ATP in either 1% DMSO (blue open squares) or 100 μ M KNX-002 (red filled circles). The apparent second order binding constant \pm SD: 1% DMSO, $1.46 \pm 0.14 \mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$; KNX-002, $1.53 \pm 0.33 \mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$. Conditions: 10 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 50 mM KCl, 4 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EGTA, 1% DMSO, 15°C. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 11 – *Uncropped gel image from Supplementary Figure 5a.* Lanes 2-4 are shown in Supplementary Figure 5a.



Supplementary Table 1 – Data collection and refinement statistics (molecular replacement)

	PfMyoA/ATPγS/Apo (8A12)	PfMyoA/ATPγS/KNX-002 (8CDQ)	PfMyoA/NF/KNX-002 (8CDM)
Data collection			
Space group	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁	P2 ₁ 2 ₁ 2 ₁
Cell dimensions			
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	90.13, 115.14, 190.22	114.42, 170.92, 90.40	89.93, 114.41, 170.33
α, β, γ (°)	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 90	90, 90, 90
Resolution (Å)	85.11-2.03 (2.22-2.03)	95.08-2.21 (2.43-2.21)	94.97-2.36 (2.53-2.36)
<i>R</i> _{merge} (all I+ & I-)	0.078 (1.136)	0.199 (1.476)	0.144 (1.672)
<i>R</i> _{merge} (within I+ & I-)	0.073 (1.037)	0.189 (1.384)	0.140 (1.605)
Number of observations (total)	606008 (30283)	397437 (21446)	528650 (25814)
Number of observations (unique)	87835 (4371)	57115 (2857)	55344 (2767)
<I / σI>	13.1 (1.6)	8.1 (1.5)	11.3 (1.5)
Completeness (Spherical) (%)	85.8 (15.9)	64.0 (13.2)	75.4 (19.9)
Completeness (Ellipsoidal) (%)	94.4 (63.0)	93.9 (59.2)	93.9 (69.2)
Redundancy	6.9 (6.9)	7.0 (7.5)	9.6 (9.7)
CC _{1/2}	0.999 (0.632)	0.992 (0.546)	0.997 (0.578)
Refinement			
Resolution (Å)	42.56-2.03 (2.10-2.03)	95.08-2.21 (2.29-2.21)	46.44-2.355 (2.44-2.36)
No. reflections	87338 (693)	57104 (274)	55334 (821)
<i>R</i> _{work} / <i>R</i> _{free}	0.1886/0.2324	0.1882/0.2353	0.1964/0.2482
No. atoms	9182	8998	8946
Protein	8641	8583	8546
Ligand/ion	46	110	44
Water	495	305	356
<i>B</i> -factors	58.18	50.08	58.72
Protein	58.38	40.37	58.84
Ligand/ion	49.71	43.14	48.64
Water	55.48	44.31	57.05
R.m.s. deviations			
Bond length (Å)	0.014	0.009	0.008
Bond angle (°)	1.21	0.98	0.92
PDB code	8A12		

*Number of xtals for each structure should be noted in footnote. *Values in parentheses are for highest-resolution shell.

Supplementary Table 2 – Contacts between ligand and protein residues

PfMyoA	KNX-002 (8CDQ– this study)	Dd Myo2 (1YV3)	Blebbistatin
Hw-h I641	(D) Methoxyphenyl	Hw-h V630	(D)
Hp-h E482	(D)	Hp-h E467	Phenyl (D)
Hp-h F485	(D)	Hp-h C470	
Hp-h L481		Hp-h F466	(D)
ϕ LL-linker L272 mc	(D) few interactions	ϕ LL-linker L263 mc	(D) few interactions
Hp-h I486	(A,B,C,D)	Hp-h I471	(C)
ϕ LL-linker L271	(A, C, D) (electrostatic)	ϕ LL-linker L262	(B,C,D) (electrostatic)
ϕ LL-linker F270	(A) Thiophene	ϕ LL-linker Y261	(A,B) (pi-stacking)
Hp-h T489	(A)	Hp-h T474	(A)
Hw-h F645	(A)	Hw-h V634	(A,B,D)
Hw-h Q648 Hw-h L649 Hw-h L652		Hw-h Q637 Hw-h L638 Hw-h L641	(A)
Sw2 I470	(A,B)	Sw2 I455	(A,B)
Sw2 F471	(B) (pi-stacking), (electrostatic) few A,C	Sw2 S456	(B,C) (electrostatic)
Sw1 S246 Carbonyl	(B) Pyrazole Water-ATP-Mg ²⁺ (electrostatic)	Sw1 S237 Carbonyl	
Transd F248-G249 mc	(B,C)	Transd F239-G240 mc	(B,C) (electrostatic)
Sw1 R247	(C), few cyclopropamine	Sw1 R238	(C) few interactions
ϕ LL-linker E273	(C), few D	ϕ LL-linker E264	(D)

Blue background – sequences differ between PfMyoA and DdMyo2

Orange background – no interaction

Supplementary Table 3 – Comparison of the binding modes of KNX-002 versus Blebbistatin

Blebbistatin	KNX-002
Differences	
^a Does not prevent ATP hydrolysis Binds preferentially to ADP.Pi	Diminishes ATP hydrolysis (P _i burst experiment, Fig. 2d)
^a Does not compete with nucleotide binding	Inhibits ATP binding 5-fold (Fig. 4c)
^a Does not alter affinity for ADP at mM MgCl ₂	KNX-002 decreases ADP affinity at 4 mM MgCl ₂ (Fig. 4c)
^b Does not weaken binding of M.ADP to A	Inhibits binding of M.ADP to A (Fig. 5a)
^a Binds weakly to apoM (25 μM) compared to IC ₅₀ for ATPase activity (1.6 μM for basal/0.4 μM for actin activated)	Binds to nucleotide-free M (8.6 μM) and M.ADP (11.1 μM) with same order of magnitude as the IC ₅₀ ATPase activity (3.6 μM for basal/7.2 μM for actin- activated) (Supplementary Fig. 1 and Fig. 1a)
Similarities	
^a Does not interfere with binding of M to A	Does not interfere with binding of M to A (Fig. 5a)
^a Does not interfere with ATP induced dissociation of AM	Does not interfere with ATP induced dissociation of AM (Supplementary Fig. 10)
^a Blocks myosin heads in a state that binds with low affinity to actin	Blocks myosin heads in a state that binds with low affinity to actin (Fig. 5a)

^aKovacs, M. *et al.* J. Biol Chem 279:25557-63 (2004) ⁷

^bTakacs, B. *et al.* PNAS 107:6799-6804 (2010) ⁸

Supplementary Table 5 – Key Resources

REAGENT or RESOURCE	Symbol/name used in publication	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Chemicals			
Adenosine 5'-triphosphate disodium salt (Grade I)	ATP	Sigma	A2383
Adenosine 5'-diphosphate sodium salt	ADP	Sigma	A2754
Anti-FLAG M2 Affinity Gel	FLAG resin	Sigma	A2220
Biotinylated bovine serum albumin	B-BSA	Thermo Scientific	29130
Pyruvate Kinase from rabbit muscle	pyruvate kinase	Sigma	P9136
Phospho(enol)pyruvic acid monosodium salt hydrate	phosphoenolpyruvate	Sigma	P0564
L-lactic dehydrogenase from rabbit muscle	L-lactate dehydrogenase	Sigma	L1254
β -Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, reduced disodium salt	NADH	Sigma	N9410
NeutrAvidin	neutravidin	Thermo Scientific	31000
Catalase from bovine liver	catalase	Sigma	C40
Glucose oxidase nfrom <i>Aspergillus niger</i>	glucose oxidase	Sigma	G6125
Malachite green	malachite green	Fisher	M-290
Recombinant DNA			
<i>Plasmodium</i> myosin A	PfMyoA	(Bookwalter <i>et al.</i> , 2017) ¹⁰	NCBI:XM_001350111.1
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> microtubule interacting protein	PfMTIP	(Bookwalter <i>et al.</i> , 2017) ¹⁰	NCBI:XM_001350813.1
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> essential light chain	PfELC	(Bookwalter <i>et al.</i> , 2017) ¹⁰	NCBI:XM_001347419.1
<i>Plasmodium</i> UCS family chaperone	PUNC	(Bookwalter <i>et al.</i> , 2017) ¹⁰	chimeric clone of NCBI:XM_001348333.1 and NCBI:XM_002260772
Proteins			
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> myosin A (wild-type)	WT	(Robert-Paganin <i>et al.</i> , 2019) ¹¹	
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> myosin A (F270Y/F471A/F645H)	F/YAH	this paper	
actin	actin	chicken breast	
Rhodamine-phalloidin	labelled actin	Invitrogen	R415
FLAG peptide	FLAG peptide	APExBIO	A6002

Imaging and Data Analysis

Lambda 25 UV/VIS
spectrophotometer

Perkin Elmer

Zeiss Axiovert 10
microscope

Zeiss

Rolera Mgi Plus digital
camera

Qimaging

Nikon NIS Elements
software

Nikon v3.22.15

KinTec SF-2001 stopped-
flow apparatus

KinTec
GraphPad

v9.3.1;
RRID:SCR_002798

Prism

available for free
download at
spudlab.stanford.edu,
also see ¹² v1.1

Fast Automated Spud
Trekker

FAST

Supplementary references

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