



Supplementary Materials



Supplementary Figure 1. Superimposition of SARS-CoV-2 NTD with MERS-CoV NTD (**a**) and HCoV-OC43 NTD (**b**) showing the relative arrangement of divergent loop regions (β 4- β 5, red; β 14- β 15, blue) and other key components (single-turn helix, black; MERS-CoV β -hairpin motif, teal) that participate in sialoside binding. The rest of the MERS-CoV NTD and HCoV-OC43 NTD is not displayed for clarity. Loop regions with increased transparency belong to either MERS-CoV (**a**) or HCoV-OC43 (**b**).



Supplementary Figure 2. Comparative binding analysis of sialosides with the NTD of SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV spike glycoproteins. All tested sialosides bind specifically to SARS-CoV-2 (**a**) and MERS-CoV (**b**) sialoside-binding pocket. (**c**) Diverse sialosides occupy different regions within the NTD of SARS-CoV suggesting non-specific interactions. (**d**) Computational binding affinities of the SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV spike glycoproteins with sialosides.



Supplementary Figure 3. Comparative binding analysis of Neu5Ac with the NTD of SARS-CoV-2 (a), MERS-CoV (b) and SARS-CoV (c) spike glycoproteins. (d) Overlay of the cryo-EM structure of MERS-CoV bound with Neu5Ac (grey) with the modelled MERS-CoV NTD (blue ribbon) docked with Neu5Ac (orange).

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|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | SARS-CoV-2 | MERS-CoV | SARS-CoV |
| Structure evaluation | | | |
| Clashscore | 4.10 | 5.48 | 2.66 |
| Ramachandran favored (%) | 90.69 | 86.28 | 92.58 |
| Ramachandran outliers (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cβ deviations >0.25Å (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bad bonds (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bad angles (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cis Prolines (%) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Percentile | 96 th | 97 nd | 98 th |

Supplementary Table 1. Stereochemical validation statistics for the full-length model of SARS-CoV-2, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV spike glycoproteins.

Stereochemical qualities of all the protein models were assessed with the Molprobity server.