T. thermophila PDB code: 6ZDQ PDB code: 7LMA

Supplementary information, Fig. S11 Conservation of zipper-head mechanism in eukaryotes. a Multiple sequence alignment of the thumb-helix-flanking sequence of TERT proteins from various eukaryotes. Positions equivalent to human TERT^{Leu980} are highlighted with respective colors. **b** Structural comparison analysis of the active sites in human, *Tetrahymena thermophila* and *Candida albicans* TERT proteins. The three essential aspartate residues in the catalytic centers and the zipper head residues (Leu980 in human TERT, Asn926 in *T. thermophila* TERT and Leu766 in *C. albicans* TERT) are denoted.