

Unraveling the unfolded state

Kevin Plaxco, University of California, Santa Barbara

For more than 60 years the random coil model has been the benchmark description of denatured proteins. Here I discuss the validity of this model in light of recent spectroscopic evidence suggesting the significant structure persists in even the most highly denatured proteins. I also discuss recent discoveries regarding the nature of the unfolded state populated in the absence of denaturant.