## Supporting Information

## Interfacial water molecules at biological membranes: structural features and role for lateral proton diffusion Trung Hai Nguyen<sup>1,#a</sup>, Chao Zhang<sup>1\*,#b</sup>, Ewald Weichselbaum<sup>2</sup>, Denis G. Knyazev<sup>2</sup>,

Peter Pohl<sup>2</sup>, Paolo Carloni<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Computational Biomedicine (IAS-5 / INM-9) Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich, Germany, RWTH Aachen University, 52056, Aachen, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Biophysics, Johannes Kepler University Linz, 4040, Linz, Austria

<sup>#a</sup>Current Address: Department of Chemistry, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL 60616, USA

<sup>#b</sup>Current Address: Department of Chemistry, Ångström Laboratory, Lägerhyddsvägen 1, BOX 538, 75121 Uppsala, Sweden

\* Corresponding author

E-mail: chao.zhang@kemi.uu.se (CZ), p.carloni@fz-juelich.de (PC)

## MD simulations of systems containing 72 lipids

The simulation boxes contained 72 lipid molecules and 4209 and 4203 water molecules for DOPC and DPhPC respectively. The initial box edges were 51 Å x 51 Å x 70 Å for DOPC system and 53 Å x 53 Å x 70 Å for DPhPC system. The systems underwent 5 ns long NPT equilibration and subsequently 20 ns long NVT production runs using the protocol described in the main text.



**Fig A1.** 2D histograms of the angle between water dipole moment and interface normal, and the distance from the instantaneous water/membrane interface for DOPC-1, DPhPC-1 and DPhPC-2 system.



Fig A2. Water density as a function of distance from the instantaneous interface.

Atom names	GAFF Atom types	REST charges
C24	c3	-0.304792
H43, H44, H45	hc	0.061803
C23	c3	0.385375
C28	c3	-0.304792
H55, H56, H57	hc	0.061803
H42	hc	-0.064478
C22	c3	-0.178588
H40, H41	hc	0.032934
C21	c3	0.057404
H38, H39	hc	-0.008206
C20	c3	-0.078449
H36, H37	hc	0.009786
C19	c3	0.246699
C27	c3	-0.265526
H52, H53, H54	hc	0.055100
H35	hc	-0.038141
C18	c3	-0.187307
H33.H34	c3	0.024728
C17	c3	0.203433
H31, H32	hc	-0.031490
C16	c3	-0.151684
H29 H30	hc	0.022385
C15	c3	0.239158
C26	c3	-0.257038
H49 H50 H51	hc	0.050504
H28	hc	-0.041279
C14	63	-0.089245
H26 H27	hc	0.017833
C13	63	0.019435
H24 H25	hc	-0.000535
C12	c3	-0.125538
H22 H23	hc	0.017471
C11		0.017471
C25	c3	0.363647
U46 U47 U48	bo	-0.505047
1140,1147,1140	he	0.072002
H21		-0.078205
	1	-0.307870
H19, H20	nc	0.077043
05	С	0.923101
05	0	-0.639492
06	OS	-0.484254
C6	c3	0.049027
H15, H16	hl	0.073431
C/	c3	0.319067
C8	c3	0.143494
04	os	-0.532524

Table A1. AMBER force field parameters for DPhPC.

P1	p5	1.456447
01	0	-0.855013
02	OS	-0.579664
C1	c3	0.350553
C2	c3	-0.015061
N1	n4	0.192988
C3	c3	-0.238559
H6, H7, H8	hx	0.130876
C4	c3	-0.238559
H9, H10, H11	hx	0.130876
C5	c3	-0.238559
H12, H13, H14	hx	0.130876
H4, H5	hx	0.073389
H2, H3	h1	0.005753
03	0	-0.855013
H17, H18	h1	0.056468
H1	h1	0.046723
08	OS	-0.539589
C29	с	0.958201
07	0	-0.663825
C30	c3	-0.287227
H58, H59	hc	0.049996
C31	c3	0.356739
C45	c3	-0.373219
H85, H86, H87	hc	0.082002
H60	hc	-0.037018
C32	c3	-0.155705
H61, H62	hc	0.031669
C33	c3	0.003572
H63, H64	hc	-0.005336
C34	c3	-0.040275
H65, H66	hc	0.001334
C35	c3	0.244224
C46	c3	-0.290624
H88, H89, H90	hc	0.058846
H67	hc	-0.045075
C36	c3	-0.125198
H68, H69	hc	0.012073
C37	c3	0.177683
H70, H71	hc	-0.023401
C38	c3	-0.236317
H72, H73	hc	0.047095
C39	c3	0.282269
C47	c3	-0.295880
H91, H92, H93	hc	0.060597
H74	hc	-0.045560
C40	c3	-0.076044
H75, H76	hc	0.007880
C41	c3	0.055186
H77, H78	hc	-0.012015
C42	c3	-0.188069
H79, H80	hc	0.037842

C43	c3	0.433539
C48	c3	-0.340052
H94, H95, H96	hc	0.068223
H81	hc	-0.078181
C44	c3	-0.340052
H82, H83, H84	hc	0.068223

Table A2. Comparison of area per lipid  $(Å^2)$  between MD simulations and experiment for DOPC (1) and DPhPC (2).

Systems	Experiment	MD Simulation
DOPC	72	73
DPhPC	80	77

## References

1. Poger D, Mark AE. On the Validation of Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Saturated and cis-Monounsaturated Phosphatidylcholine Lipid Bilayers: A Comparison with Experiment. J Chem Theory Comput. 2009;6(1):325-36.

2. Tristram-Nagle S, Kim DJ, Akhunzada N, Kucerka N, Mathai JC, Katsaras J, et al. Structure and water permeability of fully hydrated diphytanoylPC. Chem Phys Lipids. 2010;163(6):630-7.