

**Fig. S2. SHAPE analysis of JFH1-CEtrans in the presence of 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>.** SHAPE reactivities are shown for JFH1-CEtrans plus miR122 when folded in a reaction buffer containing 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, with predicted (P) and observed (O) conformations given top right below template name. Black bars show normalised SHAPE reactivities of nucleotides 427-447 and 487-507, encompassing the 5' and 3' basal stems of SLVI respectively. Nucleotides with a reactivity of <0.4 are considered unreactive and therefore base-paired. Shaded regions highlight nucleotides of importance in determining 'open' or 'closed' conformations: specifically the 5' G<sub>434</sub>G<sub>435</sub> motif and 3' nucleotides 494-507. The superimposed red line indicates the exposure of JFH1-CEtrans plus miR122 in 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> folding buffer, and is included for comparison of reactivities to a demonstrated 'open' conformation. A maximum negative reactivity was set at -0.1. Data was derived from one replicate folding reaction.

