An overlay diagram of the active site catalytic triads of the serine proteases trypsin (solid blue) and subtilisin (solid pink) with multiple lithium ions inside and out. The catalytic residues of each protein converge to similar distances and geometries, whereas the polypeptide backbone structures (mottled tubes) are completely different. The inset figures at the bottom are the three-dimensional structures of trypsin (blue), subtilisin (pink), and catalytic antibody 17E8 (yellow). See page 1059. [Figure: Mike Pique, The Scripps Research Institute]

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