

Changes in Protein Abundance are Essential for Proper
Cell Cycle Regulation

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Abstract

KAREN REIDY LANE: Changes in Protein Abundance are Essential for Proper
Cell Cycle Regulation
(Under the direction of Jeanette Gowen Cook)

In order for a cell to successfully complete the cell cycle, the cell must accurately duplicate its DNA in a timely and precise manner. One way the cell controls this process is by regulating the formation of the pre-replication complex (pre-RC) and S phase entry through fluctuations in protein abundance. Two proteins essential for pre-RC formation, Cdc6 and Cdt1, peak at different phases of the cell cycle; this results in two small windows when pre-RC formation can occur. While this regulation of the cell cycle has been very well studied, how other processes are regulated during the cell cycle are not well known. We used SILAC mass spectrometry to identify biological processes whose regulation may have a cell cycle component. We showed that RNA processing, in particular alternative splicing, is regulated during S phase. Additionally, we looked for genes whose transcription is altered when cells undergo re-replication, as regulation of these proteins may play a role in transformation, genome stability, or tumorigenesis. By identifying a re-replication gene expression signature, we can identify tumor types that are undergoing re-replication. Identification of this signature in human tumors may enhance diagnostics and prognosis, as these tumor types may benefit from a particular type of chemotherapeutic. Because a

successful division involves the cooperation of many biological processes, the identification of proteins that are regulated in a cell cycle manner or in response to a particular form of DNA damage, re-replication, could result in novel targets for chemotherapeutics and biomarkers.

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List of Abbreviations

AAA+ – ATPase-associated with various cellular activities

AACT – Amino Acid-Coded mass Tagging

ABC – Ammonium bicarbonate

ACN – Acetonitrile

AEBSF – 4-(2-Aminoethyl) benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride

APC/C – Anaphase Promoting Complex/Cyclosome

ATM – Ataxia Telangiectasia Mutated

ATR – Ataxia Telangiectasia and Rad3 related

BrdU – Bromodeoxyuridine

BSA – Bovine serum albumin

CBP – Calmodulin binding peptide

Cdc6 – Cell division cycle 6

Cdc20 – Cell division cycle 20

Cdk – Cyclin dependent kinase

Cdt1 – Cdc10 dependent transcript 1

Cdt2 – Cdc10 dependent transcript 2

Chk2 – Checkpoint kinase 2

CHO – Chinese hamster ovary

CID – Collision-Induced Dissociation

CKI – Cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor

CRL4 – Cullin 4

DAPI – 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole

DAVID – Database for Annotation, Visualization, and Integrated Discovery

Dec – Decrease

Dec MG – Decreases with MG132

dFBS – Dialyzed Fetal Bovine Serum

DMEM – Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium

DNA – Deoxyribonucleic acid

DNMT – DNA methyltransferase

DP – Dimerization partner

DT – Double thymidine block

DTT – Dithiothreitol

ECI – Enhanced chemoluminescence

EDTA – Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid

EGTA – Ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid

Emi1 – Early mitotic inhibitor 1

FBS – Fetal bovine serum

GAPDH – Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase

GFP – Green fluorescent protein

GO – Gene ontology

GST – Glutathione S-transferase

HAT – Histone acetyltransferase

Hbo1 – Histone acetyltransferase binding to Orc1

HDAC – Histone deacetylase

HMEC – Human mammary epithelial cell

hnRNP – Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein

HPLC – High performance liquid chromatography

HRP – Horseradish peroxidase

IF – Immunofluorescence

Inc – Increase

Inc MG – Increases with MG132

IP – Immunoprecipitation

LC-MS/MS – Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

Mad2 – Mitotic arrest deficient 2-like protein 1

MARCKSL1 – Marcks-related protein 1

Max – Myc associated factor X

MCM – Minichromosome Maintenance complex

MDM2 – Double minute 2 protein

MG132 – Z-Leu-Leu-Leu-al

miRNA – MicroRNA

Miz1 – Myc-interacting zing finger protein 1

MOI – Multiplicity of infection

mRNA – Messenger ribonucleic acid

NC – No Change

NC MG – No Change with MG132

NEDD8 – Neural precursor cell expressed developmentally down-regulated
protein 8

NEM – *N*-Ethylmaleimide

NHF – Normal human fibroblast

NRS – Normal rabbit serum

NSB – Non-specific band

ORC – Origin recognition complex

PAGE – Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

Palmd – Palmdelphin

PBS – Phosphate buffered saline

PCNA – Proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen

PCR – Polymerase chain reaction

PFA – paraformaldehyde

PIP motif – PCNA interacting protein motif

Plk1 – Polo-like kinase 1

pre-RC – Pre-replication complex

PTM – Post-translational modification

PVDF – Polyvinylidene fluoride

Rb – Retinoblastoma protein

RNA – Ribonucleic acid

RRM2 – Ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase subunit M2

SBP – Streptavidin binding peptide

SCF – Skp, Cullin, F-box containing complex

SDS – Sodium dodecyl sulfate

SILAC – Stable Isotope Labeling of Amino acids in Cell culture

siRNA – Small interfering RNA

Set8 – SET domain-containing protein 8

Skp2 – S-phase kinase-associated protein 2

SLBP – Stem loop binding protein

SRSF – Serine rich splicing factor

Tmod3 – Tropomodulin 3

TRRAP – Transformation/transcription domain associated protein

UV – Ultraviolet radiation

Chapter 1

Introduction¹

Introduction

{DNA replication is a fundamental biological process that serves to create two copies of the genetic material during each cell division. Complete and precise replication enables identical sets of genes to be faithfully delivered to daughter cells during each cell division. To achieve rapid duplication of the entire genome, eukaryotic cells initiate DNA replication at multiple locations on each chromosome termed origins of DNA replication. Origin DNA is unwound and complementary DNA is then synthesized from bi-directionally moving replication forks. The replication forks eventually merge to form two identical chromosomes.

The cell expends tremendous energy ensuring that a single origin of replication does not initiate replication twice within the same cell cycle. One of the most highly regulated steps in DNA replication is assembly of pre-replication complexes (pre-RCs). Pre-RC assembly begins as cells exit mitosis and continues through G1 phase, culminating in chromosomes poised for replication by the end of G1. At the onset of S phase, origins fire and replication begins.

¹{Portions of the following appear in: **Regulation of DNA Replication Origin Licensing** Chandrasekaran, S., Reidy, K.T., and Cook, J.G. (2011) *in* Fundamental Aspects of DNA Replication, J. Kusic-Tisma, ed. (Rijeka, Croatia; Intech Open Access Publisher).}

During this time, several overlapping mechanisms prevent pre-RC assembly on origins that have already fired to avoid utilizing any origins twice.

An abnormal situation in which replication is triggered multiple times from the same origin during a single cell cycle is termed re-replication (Figure 1.1). Re-replication is detrimental to genome stability in part, because it generates multiple replication forks on the same DNA strand. Ultimately such structures result in double strand breaks, genome instability, and in some cases, tumorigenesis [2-5].}

Pre-RC formation is limited to G1 phase of the cell cycle

{To faithfully replicate its genomic information in a timely manner, a cell must initiate replication at thousands of sites across the genome. These origins of replication are prepared for replication through assembly of pre-RCs beginning in late mitosis and continuing through G1 phase of the cell cycle. Origins with a fully assembled pre-RC are said to be “licensed” for replication. It is essential that origins assemble pre-RCs only in G1 because assembly of pre-RCs in S or G2 can lead to re-replication.

Pre-RC assembly begins when the six-subunit origin recognition complex (ORC) binds to an origin of replication (Figure 1.2). ORC is composed of the constitutively expressed subunits Orc2-6, as well as the cell cycle-regulated Orc1 protein, and acts as an ATPase [6-9]. Once bound to origins, ORC recruits the remaining licensing factors Cdc6 and Cdt1 to origins [10,11].

Cdc6 was discovered in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and is essential for

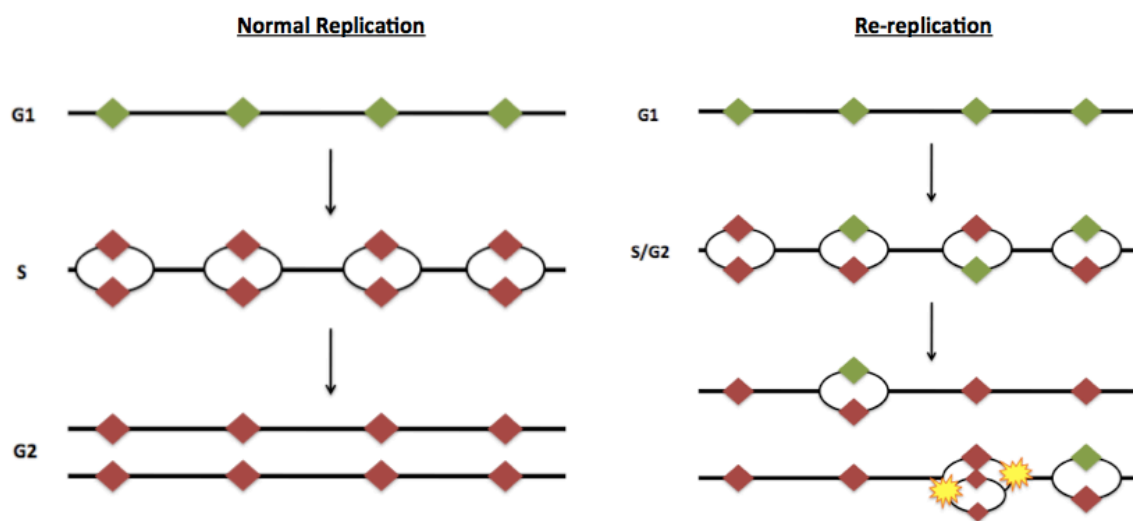


Figure 1.1. Re-replication leads to double strand breaks. In a normal replicating cell (left), origins are licensed only in G1 phase (indicated by the green diamonds). Replication begins in S phase, and origins are inhibited from firing again (indicated by the red diamonds); replication is completed by G2 phase. In re-replicating cells [1], origins are licensed again in either S or G2 phase, leading to origin re-firing and re-replicated stretches of DNA. The consequences of re-replication include DNA damage, genome instability, and tumorigenesis.

DNA replication; if Cdc6 is absent, yeast cells not only fail to replicate but also undergo reductional anaphase in which mitosis initiates without genome replication [12-14]. Cdc6 is a member of the AAA+ ATPase family, and is closely related to Orc1 [15,16]. ATP hydrolysis by Cdc6 and ORC is needed to load the helicase complex onto DNA [8,17-21]. Due to its tight association with ORC and its partially conserved DNA binding domain, it has been suggested that Cdc6 may also play a role in defining ORC binding sites [22].

Cdt1 was first discovered in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* and, while possessing no enzymatic activity, is essential for the licensing reaction [11,23]. Cdt1 binds the core replicative helicase Mini-Chromosome Maintenance (MCM) complex and recruits MCM to origins through direct interactions with ORC and Cdc6 [24-27]. While both Cdc6 and Cdt1 are needed to load the MCM complex, they bind in a sequential manner; Cdt1 can only bind to chromatin-bound Cdc6 and ORC [28]. Both Cdc6 and ORC hydrolyze ATP to load MCM complexes onto DNA [17]. ATP hydrolysis by Cdc6 also releases Cdt1 to recruit additional MCM complexes [17]. Once MCM complexes are loaded, the origin is licensed and can initiate replication once the MCM helicase is activated in S phase. After MCM complexes have been loaded, ORC, Cdc6, and Cdt1 are no longer needed, and replication can continue in their absence [20,29,30]. This property of the loaded MCM complex is key to preventing re-replication because, as will be discussed below, ORC, Cdc6, and Cdt1 are inactivated beginning in S phase.

At each origin, at least two MCM hexamer complexes are loaded at a time, with multiple rounds of loading at each origin [31-34]. The exact mechanism of

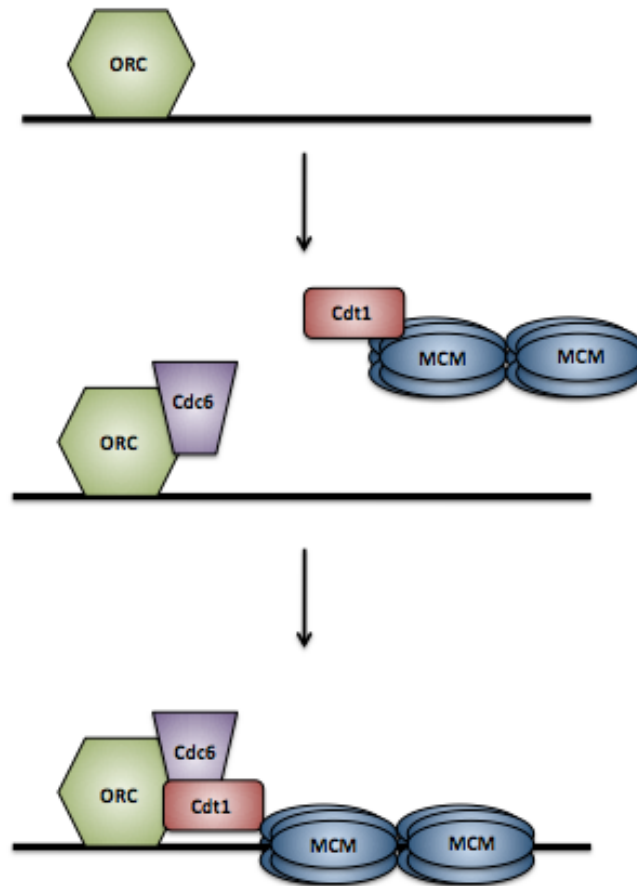


Figure 1.2. Pre-RC assembly in G1 phase. Pre-RC assembly begins when the Origin Recognition Complex (ORC) binds to origin DNA. ORC recruits Cdc6, which in turn recruits Cdt1 bound to the Mini-chromosome Maintenance (MCM) core helicase complex. Through the ATPase activity of ORC and Cdc6, the MCM complex is loaded onto DNA and the origin is licensed for replication.

MCM loading is not currently understood, but electron microscopy images suggest ORC and Cdc6 form a structure similar to known clamp loaders such as RFC [35,36]. While multiple MCM complexes can be loaded at each origin, perhaps as many ten copies per origin, the majority of the MCM complexes that associate with chromatin do not travel with the replication fork suggesting that they are not normally activated [33,37,38]. These additional MCM complexes may be loaded as a backup mechanism to ensure that a sufficient number of origins fire in S phase [39].

MCM loading is highly regulated by multiple overlapping mechanisms. Cdc6 and Cdt1 protein levels peak at different stages of the cell cycle; Cdt1 levels peak in G1 phase whereas Cdc6 peaks in S/G2 phase in mammalian cells [11,40]. Additionally, a member of the ORC complex, Orc1, is degraded or inactivated at the onset of S phase [9,41,42].

Due in part to these alternating protein levels, there are only two short windows in the cell cycle when pre-RC formation can occur. Pre-RC assembly begins at the end of mitosis, before the Anaphase Promoting Complex/Cyclosome (APC/C) becomes active in G1, and targets Cdc6 for degradation. The second round of pre-RC assembly occurs in late G1 phase when activated Cdk2 stabilizes Cdc6 but before Cdt1 is degraded at the onset of S phase [43]. Furthermore, the MCM subunits undergo post-translational modifications that facilitate MCM complex formation as well as their ability to be loaded onto DNA [44,45]. These mechanisms will be discussed in depth in the

subsequent sections with specific emphasis on the regulation of metazoan pre-RC assembly.}

Pre-RC assembly is regulated by the Cyclin dependent kinases

{Cyclin-dependent kinases (Cdks) are a family of serine-threonine protein kinases essential for timely and appropriate progression through different stages of the cell cycle. Cdks are activated by association with cyclins whose expression and stability are cell cycle-regulated. In budding and fission yeast, a single Cdk controls the G1/S and G2/M transitions, while in metazoans different Cdks are active in different phases of the cell cycle (Figure 1.3, reviewed in [46]). In metazoans, passage through G1 phase is governed by cyclin D/Cdk4 (or cyclin D/Cdk6) and cyclin E/Cdk2 [47,48]. S phase, and therefore DNA replication, is regulated by cyclin A/Cdk2 complexes [49]. Finally, mitotic entry is triggered by Cdk1 first binding to cyclin A and then cyclin B.

DNA replication is both positively and negatively governed by Cdk activity. High Cdk2 and Cdk1 activities, which are found from early S phase through mid-mitosis, block pre-RC assembly; thus pre-RC assembly begins as cells exit from mitosis when these kinases are not active. Cyclin E protein peaks in early S phase, triggering Cdk2 activity and replication initiation from licensed origins; replication begins also with the help of a dedicated replication kinase, Cdc7/Dbf4 [32,50]. Simultaneously, S phase Cdk activity inhibits pre-RC formation at origins that have already fired. Premature expression of cyclins E or A during G1 phase blocks normal pre-RC assembly [49,51]. Thus S phase Cdks promote replication

initiation but block pre-RC assembly after G1 resulting in one genome duplication per cell cycle.}

As previously mentioned, the control of pre-RC formation is tightly regulated by the abundance of the licensing factors Cdc6 and Cdt1, as well as the activity of cyclin/Cdk complexes. While this is only a single step in the long process of cell division, it is crucial to maintain the genomic stability of the cell. In order for this process to happen at the appropriate time, the correct proteins must be available and active at precisely the correct time and in the correct quantity. To ensure that this happens, these proteins are regulated at every stage of expression, from gene transcription to protein modification and degradation.

Regulation of Cell Cycle Genes by Transcription

Many of the gene products involved in cell cycle control and pre-RC formation are themselves transcribed in a cell cycle manner. The transcription of these genes are regulated by two major families of transcription factors, the E2F family and the myc family. E2F transcriptional targets are crucial for S phase entry and mitosis, whereas myc transcriptional targets are essential for general cell proliferation. Because pre-RC formation must be tightly regulated, this section focuses primarily on how these transcription factor families promote the G1/S transition.

The Rb/E2F pathway controls the expression of cell cycle genes

As one of the major regulators of the cell cycle, the Rb/E2F pathway is

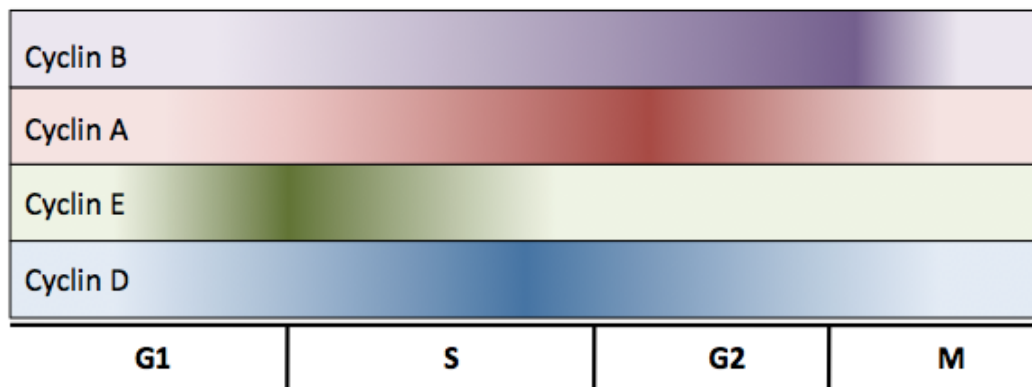


Figure 1.3. Cyclin levels fluctuate throughout the cell cycle. Cell cycle progression is regulated through the action of cyclin/Cdk complexes. In G1 phase, the cyclin D/Cdk4 and cyclin D/Cdk6 complexes are nuclear and active and regulate the transcription of genes for pre-RC components. Cyclin E/Cdk2 activity stimulates replication in S phase while simultaneously inhibiting relicensing of origins. Cyclin A/Cdk controls S phase progression and also inhibits relicensing. Entry into mitosis is triggered by cyclin B/Cdk1 complexes. Darker shading indicates peak protein expression or activity.

responsible for the transcription of genes needed to complete a successful S phase. There are 8 members of the E2F family of transcription factors (reviewed in [52] and [53]). This family contains both transcriptional activators (E2Fs 1, 2, and 3a) and transcriptional repressors (E2Fs 3b, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8). In order to bind DNA, E2F family members bind to a dimerization partner (DP) protein [54]. E2F1 was first characterized through its association with its inhibitor protein, the Retinoblastoma (Rb) protein [55,56]. Three different proteins belong to the Rb family: pRb/p105 (hereafter referred to as pRb), which is primarily bound to the activator E2Fs, and pRb2/p130 and p107, which are primarily bound to the repressor E2Fs [53,57-59].

To keep E2F1 inactive, pRb binds the transactivation domain of the transcription factor; this interaction can occur at the target gene promoter [60-65]. The pRb/E2F complex can then recruit several additional complexes to either repress or activate transcription of its target genes (discussed below). The release of E2F constitutes a “restriction point”; once the cell has released E2F and transcription of S phase genes has begun, the cell has committed to completing the cell cycle [66,67].

During the cell cycle, pRb is expressed at steady levels, however its ability to bind E2F is regulated by the actions of the cyclin-dependent kinases [68-72]. pRb2/p130, on the other hand, is highly expressed in quiescent cells, but these levels decrease as cells are restimulated into the cell cycle; this decrease corresponds with an increase in activator E2F transcription [73]. Early in G1 phase, both pRb and pRb2/p130 are phosphorylated when cyclin D/Cdk4/6

complexes become active (Figure 1.4) [74,75]. At this time, the repressor E2F complexes, pRb2/E2F4, are found at the promoters of E2F target genes, resulting in the silencing of these genes [76,77]. As cells progress into late G1, cyclin/Cdk2 complexes further phosphorylate the Rb proteins, resulting in the release of the E2F transcription factors [78]. Due to a positive feedback loop (discussed later), E2F mRNA levels begin to rise, and pRb2/p130 levels begin decrease; at this point, the third Rb protein, p107, replaces pRb2/p130 at the promoters of genes that need to be silenced, typically at the promoters of genes needed for apoptosis [77,79]. As cells transition into S phase, cyclin E/Cdk2 complexes become fully active, resulting in the dissociation of E2F activators from the pRb, thereby allowing the transcription of genes needed for S phase [54,80-82]. Following S phase entry, E2F proteins are downregulated; this is essential for cell survival as prolonged expression of E2F proteins can result in apoptosis [83-87].

The Rb proteins can become highly phosphorylated; pRb alone contains 16 consensus Cdk phosphorylation sites [88-90]. However, no single phosphorylation event can disrupt the interaction between pRb and E2F [89,90]. Instead, multiple sections of the Rb proteins, particularly the spacer and the C-terminal domains, must be phosphorylated in order to release the E2F proteins [89]. The activity of cyclin D/Cdk4/6 or cyclin/Cdk2 alone cannot result in hyper-phosphorylated Rb. For complete activation of the E2F proteins, Rb must be phosphorylated by cyclin D/Cdk4/6 complexes and cyclin/Cdk2 complexes;

indeed, cyclin/Cdk2 complexes can only phosphorylate Rb proteins that have previously been acted on by the cyclin D/Cdk4/6 complexes [91].

As SCF^{Skp2} levels rise, hyper-phosphorylated pRb2/p130 proteins can be ubiquitinated and targeted for proteasomal degradation [92-94]. Additionally, high levels of Cdk activity can result in the phosphorylation of serine 567 on pRb; this modification can target the protein for cleavage by a protease [95]. In addition to destruction, the Rb proteins can be dephosphorylated at the end of mitosis; this process is performed by protein phosphatases 1 and 2 [96-99].

The control of the Rb/E2F pathway is essential for proper replication. The misregulated expression of E2F is sufficient to stimulate quiescent cells to reenter the cell cycle [83]. Additionally, overexpression of any of the three Rb proteins can result in a G1 arrest [54,80-82,100-102]. Taken together, this indicates that these proteins must be tightly regulated in order for a cell to properly divide.

Rb/E2F represses target genes during G1 and S phase

In the E2F family of transcription factors, there are two types of repressors, the canonical E2F proteins 3b, 4, and 5, and the atypical repressors, E2Fs 7 and 8. The canonical E2F family members are bound by pRb2/p130 and p107. During quiescence and G1, pRb2/p130 binds to E2F4 and E2F5 to help repress target genes; during G1, p107 has also been found bound to E2F4 [61-64,103-105]. Interestingly, E2F4 and E2F5 do not have a nuclear localization signal and cannot be imported into the nucleus unless they are bound to either pRB2/p130

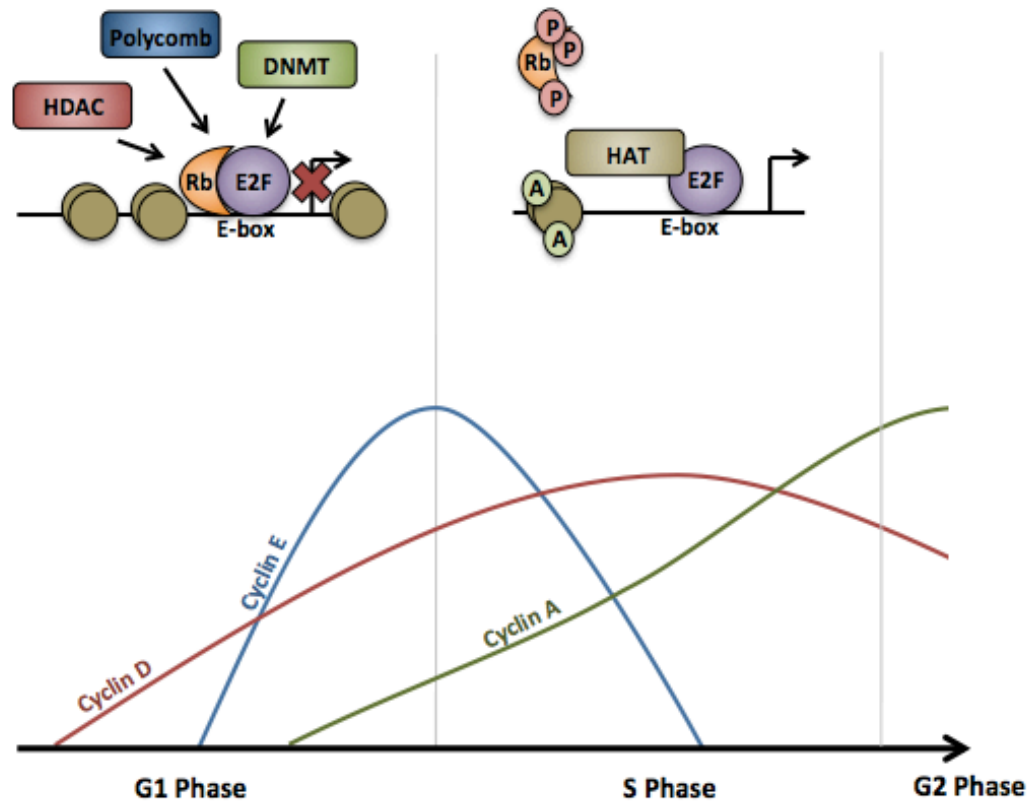


Figure 1.4. The Rb/E2F pathway regulates the transcription of genes needed for S phase progression. During G1 phase of the cell cycle, Rb is hypo-phosphorylated and can bind to E2F. The binding of these repressive E2F complexes recruits histone deacetylases (HDAC), DNA methyltransferases (DNMT), and chromatin modifying enzymes to change the chromatin environment surrounding the promoter of target genes. Once cyclin D/Cdk complexes and cyclin E/Cdk2 complexes become active, Rb is phosphorylated and releases E2F proteins, which then recruit histone acetyltransferases (HAT) to promoters to open the chromatin environment, facilitating transcription.

or p107 [106-110].

In order to repress transcription of target genes, the pRb2/E2F4 complexes recruit chromatin remodeling factors, histone deacetylases, Polycomb proteins, or DNA methyltransferases to physically change the chromatin environment surrounding the promoter [78,111-117]. In some instances, inhibiting the activity of histone acetyltransferases can modulate the repression of E2F target genes, suggesting that the modification of the surrounding chromatin is essential for proper silencing [118]. Important targets of E2F repression include the Cdt1 inhibitor, geminin, whose expression blocks pre-RC assembly, and ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase subunit M2 (RRM2), which is needed for nucleotide synthesis during S phase [119,120].

The atypical E2Fs are highly conserved, with homologous proteins found in *Arabidopsis thaliana* [121-129]. These E2F proteins cannot be regulated in an Rb-dependent fashion, and do not need to bind to DP in order to bind to DNA [126]. This heterodimerization with DP is not necessary due to the duplication of the DNA binding domain found in canonical E2F family members [122-124,126,127]. Instead, E2F7 and E2F8 can homodimerize or heterodimerize with each other [122,126,130]. These E2F proteins are induced at the G1/S transition, and their protein levels peak in late S/G2 phase [121-124,126]. The regulation of these atypical E2Fs is controlled, both positively and negatively, by other E2F proteins; E2Fs 1, 3, 4 and 7 have been found at the promoters of both E2F7 and E2F8 [122,125]. Additionally, E2F7 and E2F8 are unstable proteins that are regulated by ubiquitin-mediated degradation [125,131-133].

Importantly, when these proteins were overexpressed, there was a marked effect on cell proliferation [121-124,126]. On the other hand, when these genes were deleted in mice, the mice exhibited widespread apoptosis [130]. These phenotypes can be explained by examining the targets of E2F7/8 repression. Perhaps the most important target of E2F7/8 repression is E2F1 itself; deletion of both of these proteins leads to a drastic change in the E2F1 transcription profile [130,134]. E2F7/8 repression is necessary for the normal downregulation of E2F1, even when the ubiquitin-mediated degradation pathway, dependent on SCF^{Skp2}, is still intact [135].

Rb/E2F activates transcription of cell cycle genes at the G1/S transition

Once the cell has passed the restriction point and committed to completing the cell cycle, E2F proteins are released from their Rb binding partners and are able to activate transcription of their downstream target genes; this activation is partially due to the recruitment of histone acetyltransferases, such as p300, which leads to a more favorable chromatin environment [136]. These targets include genes that are essential for cell cycle progression, such as *cyclins E* and *A*, *PCNA*, *DNA Polymerase α* , and genes needed for nucleotide biosynthesis [76,77,137]. In the case of the *cyclin E* promoter, the activator E2Fs (1, 2, and 3a), in conjunction with pRb, act as repressors and work to recruit histone deacetylase complexes to silence transcription [138-140]. While these E2F family members are typically thought of in an activating role, the role that

they play at the *cyclin E* promoter shows that activity of these complexes is most likely context dependent [141-144].

Importantly, E2F activators also control the levels of the E2F and Rb proteins in a positive feedback loop [76,77,137]. The promoter of the E2F1 gene has been shown to be regulated by all activator E2Fs [77,137,145]. E2F1 also controls the transcription of the atypical E2Fs, E2F7 and E2F8; because these repressor proteins can target the promoter of E2F1, this is one way that the cell limits the amount of E2F present [130]. Additionally, E2F can induce the transcription of the F-box protein Skp2, which is a subunit of the SCF^{Skp2} ubiquitin ligase; the activity of this ubiquitin ligase leads to the proteasomal degradation of E2F [146].

While E2F has many well-known targets, the list of genes affected by E2F activation is ever expanding. Recent evidence has shown that some E2F target genes may affect mRNA stability or even the splicing of certain transcripts by altering the levels of alternative splicing factors present [147-150]. These alternative splicing factors have been shown to be important for the proper transcription of certain apoptotic genes, which are also E2F targets [150]. E2F1 plays a unique role with respect to pro-apoptotic genes. An alternative pRb/E2F1 complex has been found bound to the promoters of pro-apoptotic genes, resulting in the silencing of these transcripts and continued cell proliferation [151]. These pRb/E2F1 complexes are Cdk resistant; even though pRb is hyperphosphorylated, E2F1 remains bound, albeit with an altered DNA binding [151-155].

The Rb/E2F pathway is essential for a successful mitosis

While the Rb/E2F pathway plays a crucial role in the G1/S transition, E2F proteins target a wide range of genes. When cells are depleted of all three activator E2Fs, the cells arrest in all phases of the cell cycle, suggesting that E2F target genes are needed for more than just the transition from G1 to S phase [139]. While most E2F target genes are necessary to successfully complete S phase, there are several E2F target genes that are needed for a successful division. When E2F activity is misregulated, or when Rb is depleted from cells, both Mad2, a protein involved in the spindle checkpoint, and Emi1, an inhibitor of a critical ubiquitin ligase, are overexpressed; alterations in the levels of these proteins leads to mitotic defects and aneuploidy [156,157]. These defects are partially due to the inability of condensin II to load onto the chromatin, resulting in chromatin condensation defects [158-160].

Mutations in the Rb/E2f pathway are prevalent in cancer

Mutations in the Rb/E2F pathway are prevalent in a variety of tumor types, including small cell lung cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, retinoblastomas, and prostate cancer (reviewed in [161] and [162]) [163,164]. The Rb portion of the pathway is inactivated or deleted in retinoblastomas [165,166]. The mutations in Rb that occur in human tumors result in an inability of Rb to bind and regulate the E2F transcription factors [167]. Rb has also been shown to be inactivated by the E7 oncoprotein in cervical cancers [168]. Additionally, changes in E2F proteins have also been linked to cancer development. For example, E2F3 is amplified and overexpressed in bladder cancers [169,170]. Also, while E2F7 is an atypical

member and not subject to Rb-mediated regulation, low levels of E2F7 have been found in ovarian tumors and gliomas; low expression levels also correlate with a poor prognosis and decreased survival rates [171]. Misregulation of this pathway can result in double strand breaks and genome instability [172].

The Myc Family of Transcription Factors

The c-Myc protein was first identified through its homology to the viral oncogene encoded by the avian myelocytomatosis retrovirus, v-Myc [173]. The c-Myc protein contains an N-terminal transactivation domain but cannot bind DNA by itself; in order to regulate its downstream target genes, Myc has to be bound to the basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH) protein, Max (reviewed in [174] and [175]). When bound together, Myc/Max heterodimers bind to a specific DNA sequence (CACGTG) known as an E-box [176]. Myc's ability to bind DNA and affect transcription is necessary for the oncogenic activity that has been associated with Myc deregulation; mutations in either the transactivation domain or the DNA binding domain can abolish cell proliferation and affect the cell's ability to undergo apoptosis [177,178].

It has been estimated that more than 15% of human genes can be controlled by the c-Myc protein [179,180]. However, a small fraction of the identified target genes are consistently regulated; most of the identified target genes appear to be regulated in a cell type or species-specific manner [181]. Myc protein levels are low in quiescent cells, but are rapidly induced following a mitogenic stimulus, such as serum addition [182-185]. Once induced, Myc can

affect the transcription of proteins involved in many biological processes, such as glucose and iron metabolism, cell adhesion, and protein synthesis [186-196].

Myc can act as both a transcriptional activator by associating with histone acetyltransferases and chromatin modifiers, as well as a transcriptional repressor through its interactions with DNA methyltransferases [197-202]. When bound to target E-box sequences, the Myc/Max heterodimer can recruit TRRAP, a member of a histone acetylase complex, that can lead to acetylation of the local nucleosomes and activation of target genes [203,204]. In addition to the recruitment of TRRAP, Myc/Max heterodimers have also been shown to recruit the acetyltransferase Gcn5 [205].

While Myc can induce the transcription of a multitude of genes, it plays an important role in the induction of genes needed for cell proliferation and cell cycle progression. C-Myc has been found at the promoters of *cyclins D1, D2, and B1* in humans and *cyclins A and B* in *Drosophila melanogaster* [186,203,206]. Myc has also been found at the promoter of *Cdk4* [207]. Therefore, mitogenic stimuli can lead to the induction of cyclin D2/Cdk4 activity, which in turn sequesters the CKI p27; this allows cyclin E/Cdk2 complexes to be free of CKIs and become active, leading to S phase entry [208-210]. While Myc can influence cyclin and Cdk levels, perhaps the most important Myc target gene is *E2F1* [211]. As described previously, this family of transcription factors controls the transcription of a variety of cell cycle genes.

Perhaps even more important than its role as a transcriptional activator is its role as a transcriptional repressor. The repression of some Myc target genes,

particularly following terminal differentiation, is through its competition with the protein Mad [212]. Mad binds to Max, and these Mad/Max heterodimers compete with Myc/Max heterodimers for E-box binding. Once bound, Mad/Max can recruit chromatin-modifying complexes that include histone deacetylases, thereby shutting down transcription of some Myc target genes [213,214]. However, this mode of repression is not responsible for the downregulation of all Myc target genes. Myc/Max heterodimers have been found at the promoters of both active and repressed genes, suggesting that the Myc/Max interaction is needed to repress a certain subset of target genes [193]. Additionally, it has also been shown that the portion of Myc needed to bind TRRAP and other histone acetylase complexes is needed for the repression of certain target genes [215,216].

Myc can also repress transcription by antagonizing the transcriptional activator Miz1. Myc can bind to Miz1 and disrupt the interaction between Miz1 and the histone acetyltransferase p300; this method of transcriptional repression has been found at the promoters of the Cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor (CKI) genes *p16*, *p15*, and *p21* [217-222]. At the *p21* promoter, Myc binds to Miz1 and recruits the DNA methyltransferase DNMT3a, resulting in downregulation of *p21* transcription [202].

Myc and cancer

The importance of the Myc family of transcription factors in cell proliferation is evident by the fact that deletion of the Myc genes results in

embryonic lethality in mice at days e9.5-e10.5 [223]. Interestingly, overexpression of the protein does not induce DNA replication or division, suggesting that the oncogenic effects of Myc are due, at least in part, to its effects on other pathways [194,224]. Indeed, the c-Myc transcription factor is one of the most frequently mutated oncogenes; it is estimated to be mutated and/or deregulated in about 20% of all cancers (reviewed in [225] and [185]). Changes in its expression patterns correlate with aggressive, poorly differentiated tumors and a poor patient prognosis. Currently, evidence of c-Myc deregulation can be found in many tumor types, including colon, breast, glioblastomas, melanomas, and lung cancers [185,225-227]. C-Myc has also been implicated in Burkitt's lymphoma; in this case, a chromosomal translocation leads to the fusion of c-Myc with one of three antibody loci, IGH@, IGK@, and IGL@ [228].

Interestingly, the entire Myc family of transcription factors (c-Myc, n-Myc, and l-Myc) has been implicated in lung cancer progression; these factors have been shown to be amplified and/or overexpressed in both small cell and non-small cell lung cancers [229-231]. This overexpression leads to increased activation of the E2F family of transcription factors [224,232,233]. It is important to note that E2F1 levels will only increase when Myc is expressed at levels similar to the level of Myc present after mitogenic stimuli; therefore, overexpression of Myc does not directly lead to overexpression of E2F1 [234]. However, recent evidence has shown that cells expressing c-Myc at high levels contain two or three times more total RNA than cells expressing low levels of c-

Myc; this suggests that previous gene expression studies may actually be misleading [235-237].

Regulation of Translation by miRNAs

After genes are transcribed, the rate at which the mRNA is transcribed can be controlled by the action of microRNAs (miRNAs), which were first described in *Caenorhabditis elegans* [238,239]. miRNAs are short, non-coding RNAs, typically between 18 and 25 nucleotides, that can affect the stability and translation of mRNAs (reviewed in [240]). These RNAs are transcribed by RNA polymerases II or III, processed into small hairpins, and exported to the cytoplasm; there, these hairpins are processed further and loaded into an RNA induce silencing complex (RISC) [241-243]. These complexes can bind to the 3' untranslated region of an mRNA, resulting in either cleavage and destruction of the message or blockage of translation [244].

miRNAs control cyclin/Cdk complexes directly and indirectly

The importance of miRNAs in controlling translation is becoming more apparent. Mice depleted of Dicer, the enzyme responsible for the final processing step of the miRNA synthesis, are embryonically lethal, suggesting that this process is essential for cell proliferation [245]. According to the miRBase Sequence Database (release 19), there have been over 2,000 mature miRNA sequences identified in humans [246,247]. It is estimated that between 30 and 60% of the human genome is regulated through miRNAs [248-250].

Because the cyclin/Cdk complexes are the master regulators of the cell cycle, it is not surprising that these proteins are heavily regulated at the post-transcriptional level as well (Figure 1.5). The translation of these proteins can be directly affected by the transcription of certain miRNAs or the activity of these proteins can be indirectly affected through downregulation of a secondary target. Cyclin D can be targeted by a multitude of miRNAs, including members of the let-7 and the miR-15 families, as well as miR-17, miR-19a, miR-20a, and miR-34 [251-258]. Several of these miRNAs target additional cyclins or Cdks. For example, miR-34a also targets cyclin E and Cdk4/6; overexpression of this miRNA results in the downregulation of cyclin D/Cdk4/6 complexes and a G1 arrest [252,259,260]. Members of the let-7 family can also downregulate cyclins E, A, and B [254]. Cyclins A and B can also be regulated by miR125b and miR-24, whereas cyclin E can be regulated by miR-16 [261-263].

Both Cdk4 and Cdk6 are heavily regulated by miRNAs. The translation of these proteins can be altered by miR-24, miR-34a, miR-124, miR-125b, miR-129, miR-137, miR-195, miR-449, and let-7 family members [252-254,259,264-269]. Interestingly, both miR-124 and miR-137 are silenced by hypermethylation in certain tumor types, resulting in Cdk6 activation and subsequent E2F activation [264,265,270]. Additionally, miR-372, which is frequently downregulated in cervical cancer, can target Cdk2 [271].

In addition to the direct downregulation of cyclin/Cdk complexes, the activity of these complexes can be modulated by the downregulation of associated proteins. The activity of cyclin/Cdk complexes is directly tied to the

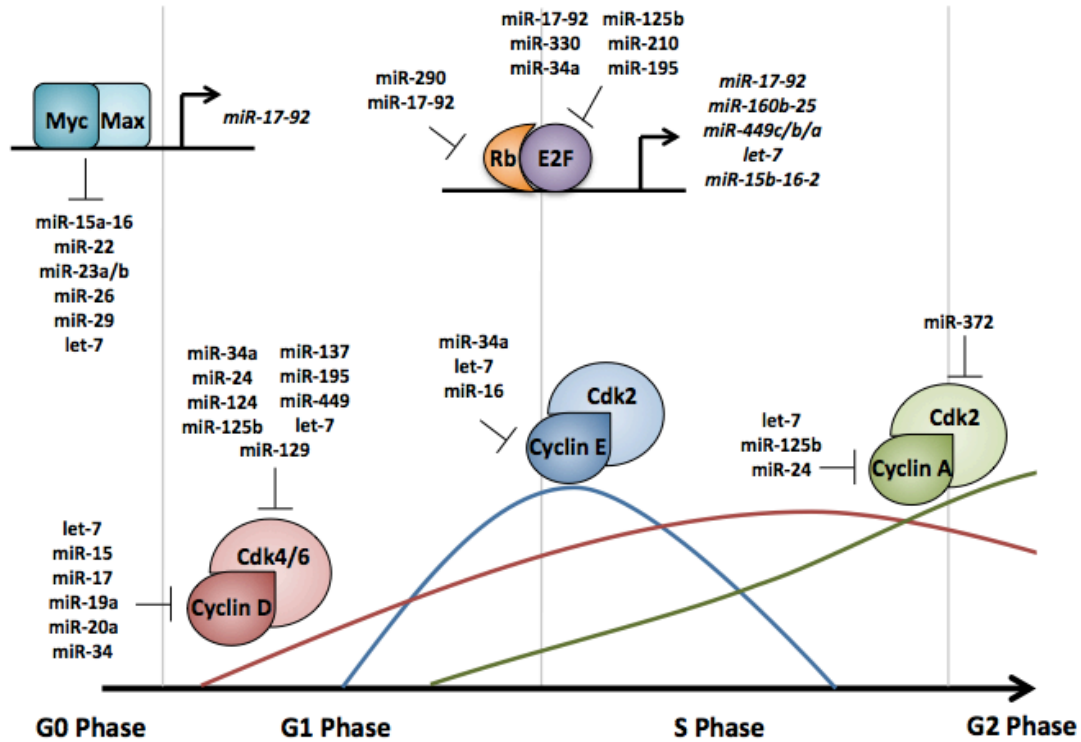


Figure 1.5. miRNAs regulate translation of proteins needed for S phase entry. Overall, the Myc/Max transcription factors repress miRNA transcription, whereas E2F transcription factors promote miRNA transcription. The cyclin/Cdk complexes are also heavily regulated by miRNAs.

amount of CKIs present. These inhibitor proteins are also highly regulated. A member of the CIP/KIP family, p21, is downregulated by the miR-17-92 miRNA cluster and by miR-106b [272,273]. Of note, miR-106b is overexpressed in many cancers [272]. Another family member, p27, is targeted by miR-221 and miR-222, leading to the activation of cyclin/Cdk complexes in a multitude of cancers [273] [274-282]. A second class of CKI, the INK4A family, can target only cyclin D containing complexes; one of the members of this family, p16, is targeted for downregulation by both miR-24 and miR-31 [266,283]. Additionally, Wee1, a negative regulator of cyclin B/Cdk1 is downregulated by several miRNAs [284,285]. Similarly, Plk1, which functions to activate cyclin B/Cdk1 through Cdc25c, is targeted by miR-100 [286].

miRNAs target the Rb/E2F pathway

Both E2F and Rb family members are targets of miRNAs. Of note, E2F1 can be targeted by several miRNAs of the miR-17-92 cluster, as well several other miRNAs, including miR-330 and miR34a [287-292]. Other members of the E2F family are also targeted. E2F3, another activator E2F, is targeted by miR-125b, miR-210, and miR-195 [253,261,293]. Additionally, the repressor E2F6 can be downregulated by miR-193a [265].

Two distinct clusters of miRNAs, miR-290 and miR-17-92, target the Rb proteins themselves, particularly pRb2/p130 and p107 [273,294-299]. Interestingly, downregulation of the miR-290 cluster results in more pRb2/p130,

which in turn represses the DNMT genes, leading to decreased methylation throughout the genome [294].

In addition to being targeted by many miRNAs, the Rb/E2F pathways can induce the transcription of some miRNA clusters [299,300]. E2F activators can bind directly to the promoter of the miR-17-92 cluster, inducing its transcription; miRNAs in this cluster are then able to downregulate E2F expression [287,300,301]. This autoregulatory loop also occurs through the induction of the miR-160b-25 cluster [299,302]. E2F1 and E2F3 can induce the transcription of the miR-449c-b-a, the let-7a-d, the let-7i, and the miR-15b-16-2 clusters as well [303,304]. The miR-449c-b-a cluster can in turn inhibit Cdk6 and Cdc25a expression, leading to a decrease in Rb phosphorylation [303].

Myc downregulates the expression of several miRNA clusters

While myc expression has been shown to induce the miR-17-92 cluster, myc has been shown to globally repress the transcription of miRNAs [262,287,304,305]. Several miRNA, including the miR-15a-16 cluster, miR-22, miR-23a/b, miR-26, miR-29, and members of the let-7 family, are direct targets of c-myc repression [305]. To repress the let-7 family, c-myc induces the RNA binding proteins Lin 28 and Lin28b, which are negative regulators of let-7 maturation [306,307]. The let-7 miRNAs, in turn, can downregulate myc expression [308]. It was observed that miRNA expression is reduced in tumor samples, and it has been suggested that the oncogenic properties of myc

overexpression is due, in part, to its repression of the let-7 miRNA family [305,309].

miRNA expression is frequently altered in cancer

In recent years, it has been found that the expression patterns of miRNAs are frequently altered in cancer [310,311]. These alterations range from deletion of specific miRNA clusters to amplification of certain miRNAs [312,313]. In particular, chronic lymphocyte leukemia (CLL) was the first cancer type to be linked with changes in miRNA expression [312]. Chromosomal aberrations lead to the deletion or downregulation of the miR-15a-16-1 cluster in ~70% of the CLL cases; recently, this cluster has also been linked to other forms of cancer, including pituitary adenomas, prostate cancer, and gastric cancer [251,312,314-316].

Amplification of the miR-17-92 cluster has been found in B-cell lymphomas, and has been implicated in the angiogenesis of some solid tumors [310,317-319]. The let-7 family is downregulated in many cancer types, including breast, colon, and lung cancers [320-323]. Levels of let-7 miRNAs have also been used as a prognostic tool for lung cancer [311,324]. Additional miRNAs have been implicated in neuroblastomas, pancreatic, colon and gastric cancers [299,310,325-329].

Post-Translational Control of Cell Cycle Proteins

While protein abundance can be controlled at both the transcriptional and the translational stage, by far the most regulation occurs post-translationally. This

can be due to post-translational modifications (PTMs) of the protein itself that affect the stability or localization of the protein, the binding of an inhibitor or enhancer protein, and most importantly in the case of cell cycle control, the timed degradation of the protein. Because nearly every protein in the cell undergoes some form of post-translational control, this section focuses on the proteins that are essential for proper origin licensing.

PTMs affect the stability and activity of pre-RC components

{Re-licensing of origins during S phase is prevented, in part, by Cdk2 in association with cyclin A [49]. Cdt1 interacts with the S phase cyclin A/Cdk2 complex, which results in Cdt1 phosphorylation at threonine 29 [42,330]. Phosphorylated Cdt1 binds to the F-box protein, Skp2, the substrate receptor for the ubiquitin ligase SCF^{Skp2}. Cdt1 is polyubiquitinated by SCF^{Skp2} and targeted for degradation by the 26S proteasome, thus reducing the pool of Cdt1 protein available to participate in origin licensing [331-333].}

{Cdc6 protein levels are very low in both quiescent cells and in early/mid-G1 phase cells due to ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis, but Cdc6 protein accumulates in late G1 just prior to a burst of MCM loading. In late G1, cyclin E/Cdk2 phosphorylates human Cdc6 on serine 54, which protects Cdc6 from the ubiquitin E3 ligase, APC/C^{Cdh1} [334].} Additionally, {Cdc6 is acetylated by Gcn5 on lysines 92, 105, and 109 which promotes cyclin A/Cdk2 phosphorylation on Cdc6 at serine 106 [334,335]. Serine 106 phosphorylation results in exclusion of Cdc6 protein from the nucleus, preventing re-replication [335-341]. The small

amount of Cdc6 that remains nuclear throughout S phase is chromatin-bound and likely participates in the ATR-dependent intra-S phase checkpoint by mechanisms that are not yet understood [342,343].}

{Additionally, the Orc1 subunit of ORC is phosphorylated by cyclin A/Cdk1 during S phase, and this phosphorylation promotes Orc1 degradation in HeLa cells [9]. The same phosphorylation on Orc1 in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells (CHO) does not affect Orc1 stability, but lowers the affinity of Orc1 for chromatin [42]. In both HeLa and CHO cells, Orc1 phosphorylation allows the export of Orc1 to the cytoplasm [344]. Over-expression of cyclin A from Kaposi's Sarcoma-associated herpes virus also facilitates re-localization of Orc1 to the cytoplasm. These results show that Orc1 is subject to phosphorylation by cyclin A/Cdk1, and this event modulates the stability and/or localization of Orc1, thereby contributing to the prevention of re-replication.

Recent evidence from *S. cerevisiae* suggests that Orc2 and Orc6 may also be targets of cyclin/Cdk inhibition. Phosphorylation of these subunits leads to a marked decrease in MCM loading [345-347]. Interaction between Orc6 and the S phase Cdk, Clb5, is needed to prevent MCM loading outside of G1 phase; this interaction occludes the Cdt1 binding site on the ORC complex [27,346,348]. In addition to steric hindrance, Clb5 phosphorylates Orc6; this modification also partially blocks the Cdt1 binding site and prevents MCM loading [27]. It remains to be determined if similar mechanisms also apply to Cdk regulation of mammalian ORC [349].}

{In addition to regulating Cdc6, Cdk complexes also facilitate the formation and loading of the MCM helicase complex. Mcm3 is phosphorylated on serine 112 by Cdk1, which triggers MCM complex assembly [44]. Cdk activity affects MCM loading in an indirect fashion as well. The activity of cyclin E/Cdk2 is required for the accumulation of Cdc7 mRNA, which in turn functions in origin firing [45,340,350-352]. In quiescent cells, phosphorylation of Mcm2 at serine 5 is necessary to promote MCM loading [45,353].}

Cdt1 is regulated by the accumulation of geminin

{As another layer of regulation, metazoan S phase cells accumulate the protein geminin, which binds to Cdt1 and blocks the Cdt1-MCM interaction [354-356]. Geminin is expressed throughout the S, G2 and M phases of the cell cycle when origin licensing is inhibited [355,357]. Geminin is targeted for degradation in G1, but begins to accumulate at the end of G1 when the ubiquitin ligase responsible for its degradation (APC/C^{Cdh1}) is inactivated [357,358]. In S phase, geminin binds to the residual Cdt1 that escaped degradation and renders it unavailable to relicense origins.

Recent biochemical evidence has suggested that geminin-Cdt1 complexes exist in several forms [359]. These forms include a licensing-inhibitory heterohexamer that consists of two Cdt1 molecules and four geminin molecules, and a licensing-permissive heterotrimer, comprised of one Cdt1 molecule and two geminin molecules [360]. Binding of geminin to Cdt1 in a heterohexamer can tether several Cdt1 molecules together, creating chromatin-bound foci that may

cooperatively inhibit licensing [361]. Depending on the amount of geminin in the cell, geminin may switch from being an inhibitor of origin licensing to a heterotrimeric activator when levels of geminin are low.}

APC/C regulates pre-RC components as well as mitosis

{The cell spends a significant amount of energy to ensure that the correct proteins are expressed at the appropriate time. Before one cell cycle phase begins, cells ensure that the previous step has been properly completed and in many cases inactivated by controlling protein activity abundance. One mechanism for enforcing the proper order of events is through regulated protein degradation. The Anaphase Promoting Complex/Cyclosome (APC/C) is uniquely tied to cell cycle progression and control of DNA replication as evidenced by the fact its regulation and activity are modulated in every phase of the cell cycle. APC/C is a RING-type E3 ubiquitin ligase originally discovered through its association with its substrates, the mitotic cyclins [362,363]. Two activator subunits, Cdc20 and Cdh1, interact dynamically with the APC/C holoenzyme to influence substrate recognition} (Figure 1.6).

APC/C^{Cdh1} targets in G1 include Skp2, a member of the SCF ubiquitin ligase complex, the licensing factor Cdc6, and the inhibitor protein geminin [40,357,364]. Degradation of Skp2 results in accumulation of the Cdk2 inhibitors p21 and p27, and delay prior to S phase entry due to low Cdk2 activity [364]. APC/C^{Cdh1} also acts to limit the amount of Cdc6 that is available in the cell.

As cells progress through S phase, Cdh1 is phosphorylated by cyclin A/Cdk2 complexes; since hyper-phosphorylated Cdh1 cannot interact with APC/C, the ubiquitin ligase complex is inactive [365]. This inactivation allows geminin to accumulate and bind any remaining Cdt1 [357]. During S phase, APC/C^{Cdh1} is also bound by its inhibitor protein, Emi1 [366]. Interestingly, Emi1 accumulation is not needed to begin S phase but is needed to signal the stop of replication and mitotic entry, even though APC/C^{Cdc20} can still ubiquitinate its targets if Emi1 is present in mitosis [367]. Emi1 remains bound until prophase, when it is phosphorylated by Plk1 [368]. While Emi1 accumulation is not needed for S phase entry, it is essential to inhibit re-replication. Depletion of Emi1 leads to re-replication in human cells, due to the untimely activation of APC/C^{Cdh1} [369,370]. This stabilization allows geminin levels to drop when Cdt1 levels are high; at the same time, increased activity of cyclin A/Cdk2 allows Cdc6 to become stabilized. With both licensing factors present, origins are licensed outside of G1 and re-replication occurs.}

CRL4^{Cdt2} controls the degradation of many cell cycle proteins

{Cdk-independent mechanisms also prevent re-replication by targeting Cdt1. Non-phosphorylatable (Cdk-resistant) Cdt1 mutants are degraded during S phase despite being unable to bind to Skp2 [331,371,372]. An alternate, DNA-dependent, mechanism for Cdt1 degradation was subsequently uncovered [371-377]. Proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen (PCNA) is a cofactor required to increase the processivity of DNA polδ during leading strand synthesis [378]. Thus,

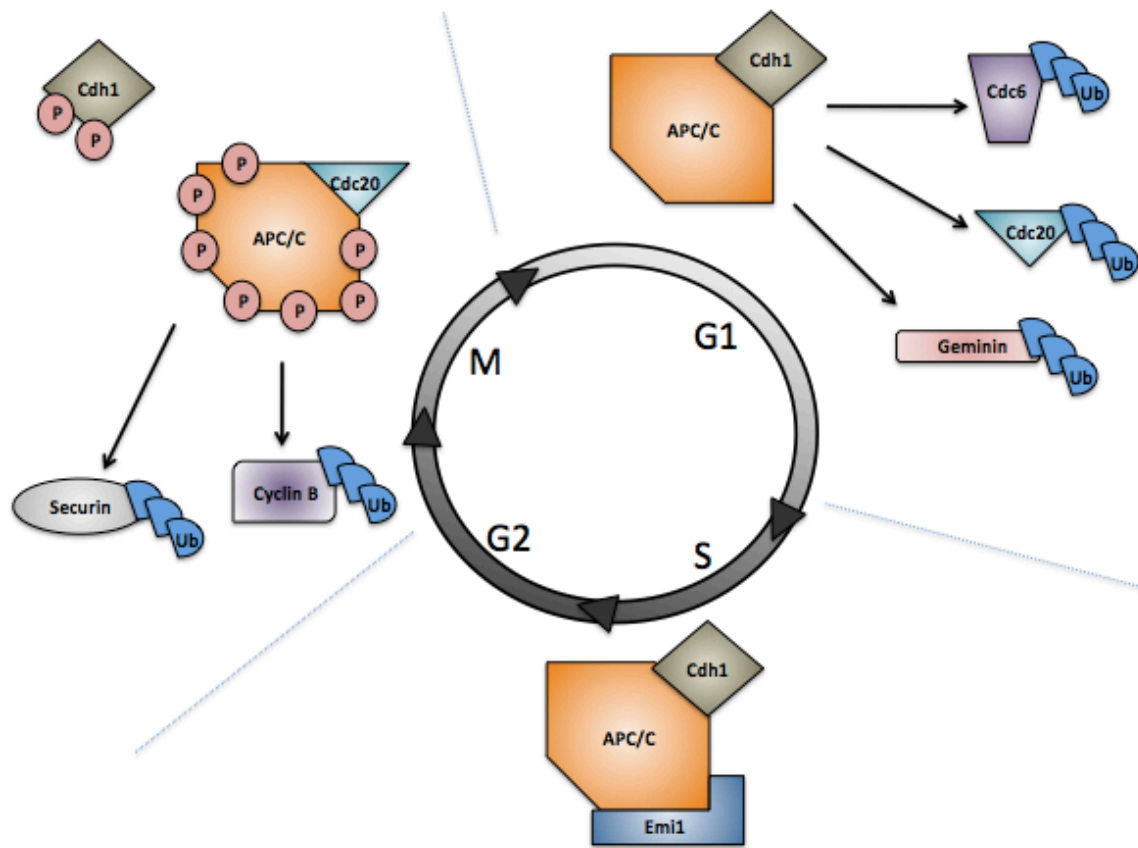


Figure 1.6. APC/C is cell cycle regulated and controls several important pre-RC proteins. In G1 phase, APC/C is bound to the adaptor protein Cdh1 and APC/C^{Cdh1} ubiquitinates the licensing factor Cdc6 and the Cdt1 inhibitor geminin. During this time, it also targets another APC/C adaptor protein, Cdc20, for degradation. As cells progress into S phase, APC/C^{Cdh1} is bound by its inhibitor protein, Emi1. At the beginning of mitosis, APC/C and Cdh1 become hyperphosphorylated leading to dissociation of Cdh1 from APC/C. Phosphorylated APC/C can then bind the adaptor protein, Cdc20. The APC/C^{Cdc20} complex is responsible for degrading cyclin B and securin, thereby promoting sister chromatid separation and mitotic exit.

PCNA travels with active replication forks. Cdt1 interacts with PCNA through a highly conserved region called the PIP box during S phase (Figure 1.7). Cdt1 binding to DNA-loaded PCNA is essential for Cdt1 recognition by the CRL4^{Cdt2} ubiquitin E3 ligase. CRL4 associates with Cdt1 via direct binding to the Cdt2 substrate adapter which links to the Cul4 scaffold. Since Cdt1 only binds PCNA on chromatin, it is only ubiquitinated by chromatin-associated CRL4^{Cdt2}. In this manner, Cdt1 degradation is directly coupled to DNA synthesis. A Cdt1 mutant that cannot bind either PCNA or cyclin/Cdk is stable during S phase and causes re-replication [371]. Likewise, Cdt2 depletion stabilizes Cdt1 in S phase, causing re-licensing of fired origins, and extensive re-replication [373,375,377].

In addition to ubiquitinating Cdt1 at the onset of S phase, CRL4^{Cdt2} also targets the histone methyltransferase Set8/PR-Set7 for degradation during S phase [379-382]. Set8/PR-Set7 monomethylates histone H4 on lysine 20, a chromatin mark that promotes origin licensing [383]. Stabilization of Set8/PR-Set7 during S phase results in re-replication and a lack of chromatin condensation during mitosis [379,383,384].

Pre-RC components are frequently overexpressed in cancer

{Each of the genes encoding pre-RC components is transcriptionally regulated by the Rb/E2F pathway. Given that tumor cells frequently exhibit high-level expression of E2F target genes, (*Rb* or *p16* loss, cyclin overproduction, etc.) it is not surprising that Cdt1 and Cdc6 are overproduced in many cancers [3,385-387].} {Many cancer cells have both high cyclin E/Cdk2 activity and high

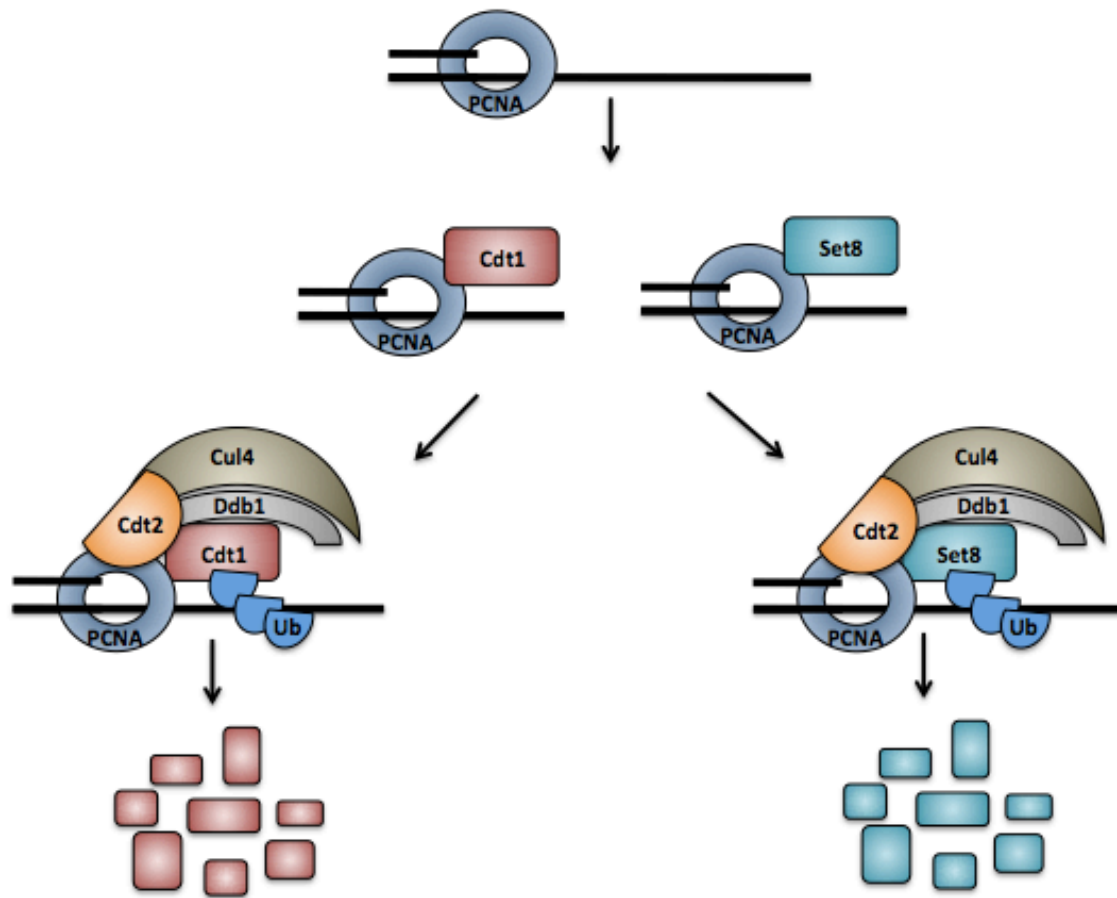


Figure 1.7. Cdt1 and Set8 are degraded during S phase. During replication, PCNA is loaded onto the chromatin. Cdt1 and Set8 are recruited to chromatin bound PCNA through their PIP motifs. Once bound, the CRL4Cdt2 ubiquitin ligase can then polyubiquitinate the substrate, leading to degradation by the 26S proteasome.

Cdc6 protein levels which may reflect not only the transcriptional up-regulation of *cyclin E* and *Cdc6* genes in tumors but also the stabilizing effect of cyclin E/Cdk2 on Cdc6 protein [388].}

{Overproduction of Cdt1 or Cdc6 in cultured human cells induces re-replication, raising the possibility that tumor cells also re-replicate *in vivo*. Recently it has been suggested that cancer cells “hyper-replicate” and that this form of replication stress is a driving force in oncogenesis. It has also been suggested that excessive pre-RC assembly may even downregulate expression of the INK4/ARF tumor suppressor locus due to interference between a nearby origin and the INK4 promoter [389]. Recently, mutations in genes for several components of the pre-RC, including *Orc1*, *Orc4*, *Orc6*, *Cdt1*, and *Cdc6* have been linked to the autosomal recessive primordial dwarfism syndrome, Meier Gorlin syndrome [1,390]. This report is the first implicating impaired licensing in a developmental disorder. Taken together there are now clear links between pre-RC formation, normal human development, and tumorigenesis.}

Conclusions

As shown above, the cell is able to transition from G1 to S phase of the cell cycle by modulating the abundance of certain key proteins. This regulation occurs transcriptionally, translationally, and most importantly, post-translationally. As shown, every stage of regulation is crucial because mutation in any number of proteins involved in this process can lead to re-replication, genome instability, or

tumorigenesis. This chapter has focused primarily on the control needed to properly regulate one step during the process of cell division, origin licensing.

Recent high-throughout analyses have shown that many proteins are in fact cell cycle regulated, either at the mRNA level or the protein level [391,392]. Many of these proteins are not involved in canonical cell cycle regulated processes, such as DNA replication and mitosis (Chapter 2) [392]. With the advent of mass spectrometry analysis, we are able to take a more global view of how proteins are regulated, and how this regulation is affected as the cell moves through the cell cycle.

Chapter 2

Global Proteomics Reveal Unexpected Cell Cycle Regulated Processes²

Introduction

The cell cycle is highly regulated to ensure accurate duplication and segregation of chromosomes. Perturbations in cell cycle control can result in genome instability, cell death, and oncogenesis [2-5]. Critical transition points in the cell cycle reflect “points of no return” that are difficult or impossible to reverse. For example, the G1 to S phase transition, marked by the onset of DNA replication, is an essentially irreversible step, as is mitosis. For this reason, the major cell cycle transitions into and out of S phase and mitosis are under particularly complex and robust control. The mechanisms that govern such cell cycle transitions include changes in protein abundance that are driven by combinations of regulated gene expression and protein stability control (reviewed in ref. [393]). Though decades of genetic and biochemical studies have given great insight into such mechanisms, much remains to be learned about the overall impact of cell cycle transitions on intracellular physiology.

To date, cell cycle studies have focused primarily on the regulation of DNA

² **Modified from: Cell cycle-regulated protein abundance changes in synchronously proliferating HeLa cells include regulation of pre-mRNA splicing proteins**

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replication (S phase), chromosome segregation (M phase), and cytokinesis. A few recent unbiased analyses of cell cycle-associated changes in human mRNA abundance suggest that other biological processes are also cell cycle-regulated [391,394]. Nevertheless, the full spectrum of cellular changes at the major cell cycle transitions is still unknown. In particular, the mRNA changes during the cell cycle in continuously growing cells are unlikely to reflect the rapid changes in concentrations of critical proteins. A 2010 study by Olsen *et al.* analyzed both changes in protein abundance and phosphorylation events in the human cell cycle, focusing primarily on changes in mitosis [392]. In this current study, we investigated protein abundance changes associated with S phase relative to both G1 and G2 in highly synchronous HeLa cells (human cervical epithelial carcinoma). In parallel, we have catalogued changes in the proteome in response to inhibition of ubiquitin-mediated degradation in synchronous cells. In addition to finding some of the previously-described changes related to DNA metabolism and mitosis, we also uncovered changes in many proteins involved in alternative pre-mRNA splicing.

Materials and Methods

Cell Culture and Synchronization

HeLa cells were originally obtained from ATCC and were cultured in three different media. “Light” cells were grown in depleted Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM; UCSF Cell Culture Facility) reconstituted with 145 mg/L L-lysine (UCSF Cell Culture Facility) and 84 mg/L L-arginine (UCSF Cell Culture Facility).

“Medium” cells were grown in depleted DMEM reconstituted with 798 mM L-lysine ($^{4,4,5,5}\text{D}_4$) and 398 mM L-arginine ($^{13}\text{C}_6$). “Heavy” cells were grown in depleted DMEM reconstituted with 798 mM L-lysine ($^{13}\text{C}_6$; $^{15}\text{N}_2$) and 398 mM L-arginine ($^{13}\text{C}_6$; $^{15}\text{N}_4$). All three media were supplemented to 10% dialyzed fetal bovine serum (dFBS; Gibco) and 2 mM L-glutamine (UCSF Cell Culture Facility). All modified isotopes were purchased from Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc. (Andover, MA). All HeLa cell cultures were grown in the SILAC media for a minimum of 5 passages to ensure that the amino acids had been fully incorporated. Labeling efficiency was checked by examination of the tubulin and actin proteins using LC-MS/MS (details of sample preparation and analysis follow). T98G cells were originally obtained from ATCC and were cultured in DMEM (Sigma Aldrich) supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma Aldrich) and 2mM L-glutamine (Gibco). Cells were synchronized by serum starvation for 72 hr and stimulated with a final concentration of 10% FBS [77].

To determine the protein changes between G1 and S phase, simultaneously cultured biological replicates of HeLa cells were subjected to double-thymidine synchronization as previously described in ref. [391] with minor modifications. Ten hours after release from the second thymidine block, the medium was removed, and a mitotic shake-off was performed. Mitotic cells were replated and collected at 3 hr (G1 sample) and 10 hr (S sample). To capture proteins degraded after S phase onset, one separately-labeled culture was treated with 20 μM MG132 (Sigma Aldrich) for 2 hr prior to harvest (8 hrs after shakeoff). To determine the protein changes between S and G2 phase,

simultaneously cultured biological replicates were harvested 3 hr following release from the second thymidine treatment (S sample) and 8 hr after release (G2 sample); one separately-labeled culture received 20 μ M MG132 2 hr prior to harvesting in G2. Cells were harvested by trypsinization, collected by centrifugation, and cell pellets were stored at -80°C prior to the preparation of cell lysates. A small fraction of cells was fixed with ethanol, stained with propidium iodide, and analyzed by flow cytometry to confirm cell cycle phase.

Cell Lysis and Sample Processing

Frozen cell pellets were lysed in 50 μ L high salt lysis buffer (10 mM HEPES-KOH, pH 7.5, 350 mM KCl, 3 mM MgCl₂, 1% Triton-X100, 1 mM EDTA (Fisher Scientific), pH 8.0) and incubated on ice for 10 min. Lysis buffers were supplemented with 1 mM DTT, 0.1 mM AEBSF (Roche), 0.5 mM NaO₄V, 2 mM β -glycerolphosphate, 2 mM NaF, 200 nM trichostatin A, 2.5 mM sodium butyrate, and 1 μ g/mL each of aprotinin, leupeptin, and pepstatin A. Unless otherwise indicated, all chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Lysates were cleared by centrifugation for 2 min at 4°C; the supernatant was transferred to a new tube and cleared by centrifugation at full speed for 15 min at 4°C. Protein concentrations were determined according to Bradford assay instructions (Biorad). Samples were mixed 1:1:1 (70 μ g each) and subjected to SDS-PAGE on a 15% polyacrylamide gel. The gel was stained with Coomassie blue (Amresco), and sample lanes were continuously excised into 25 slices.

The following steps, including destaining, dehydration, reduction and

alkylation, and overnight in-gel trypsin digestion, were performed following a standard protocol [395]. Briefly, gel slices were dissected into ~1 mM cubes and transferred to Axygen tubes (Axygen). HPLC-grade water [206] was added to each slice and shaken at room temperature for 5 min. The water was removed, and the slices incubated overnight at 4°C with Destain Solution (1:1 acetonitrile/ 100 mM ammonium bicarbonate (ABC)) (Sigma Aldrich). Once the gel slices were completely destained, the pieces were covered with acetonitrile and shaken at room temperature until they were white and hard; the pieces were then incubated at 50°C until all the acetonitrile had evaporated. The slices were rehydrated in 10 mM DTT and incubated at 37°C for 30 min in an Eppendorf Thermomixer R. The DTT was removed and replaced with 55 mM iodoacetamide (Sigma Aldrich) and shaken at room temperature for 45 min. Following this incubation, the gel slices were washed with 100 mM ABC for 10 min. After washing, the slices were again dehydrated with acetonitrile and chilled on ice for 10 min. Porcine trypsin (Promega) was diluted to 10 ng/μL in 50 mM ABC and added to the dehydrated gel slices; the slices were incubated at 37°C until the slices were completely rehydrated. Any excess trypsin solution was removed, and the slices were covered with Peptide Extraction Buffer (50% acetonitrile, 50% HPLC-grade water, 0.1% formic acid) [206] and incubated overnight in the thermomixer at 37°C. Acetonitrile was added and incubated at 37°C for 10 min to inactivate the enzyme. Peptides were extracted with 4 treatments of Peptide Extraction buffer at 37°C for 10 min. and lyophilized in a Savant Speed-Vac Plus at medium heat.

Desalting and LC-MS/MS

After digestion, the peptides were extracted using C18 ziptips (Millipore), lyophilized, and resuspended in buffer A (0.1% formic acid in H₂O) prior to LC separation. MS analyses were performed on an LTQ Orbitrap Velos (Thermo Scientific, Bremen, Germany) coupled with a nanoLC-Ultra system (Eksigent, Dublin, CA). Samples (5 mL) were loaded onto an IntegraFrit column (C18, 75 mm × 15 cm, 300Å, 5 µm, New Objective, MA). The peptides were eluted at a flow rate of 200 nL/min with a linear gradient from 2% to 40% buffer B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile) over the course of 110 min, followed by 80% buffer B for another 10 min. At the end of the gradient, the column was equilibrated for 10 min with 2% buffer B before starting another LC/MS run. The mass spectrometer was programmed to acquire spectra in a data-dependent and positive ion mode at a spray voltage of 2.1 kV using the XCalibur software (version 2.1, Thermo Scientific). Survey scans were performed in the Orbitrap analyzer at a resolution of 15,000 over a mass range between m/z 300-2,000. For each cycle, the top five most intense ions were subjected to CID fragmentation in the LTQ with normalized collision energy at 35% and activation Q 0.25; dynamic exclusion was enabled. Selected ions were repeated once and then excluded from further analysis for 45 sec. Unassigned ions or those with a charge of 1+ were rejected. Maximum ion accumulation times were 200 ms for each full MS scan and 100 ms for MS/MS scans. One microscan was acquired for each MS and MS/MS scan. The mass spectrometry data from this publication have been submitted to the Proteome Commons Tranche (www.proteomecommons.org). The data from the

G1 to S dataset can be found using the following hash code: yUg3dJ7npt665b/ZRSADaIKbwhAbVLfVjOiV1qw0zUjr1f7rr+cJk6txiV+2CDE3cQEnKErNJ/mV6edECVH1yf4r70AAAAAAAAM5Q==. The data from the S to G2 dataset can be found using the following hash code: Pfr5X84wSDM2MuckUXaXkFAqfoq2r94aKYgVm7NCTmz4L/pd5OpHEfoz3CxrMJfnZe86hl8j2lJMDVZjSUkc1Du8hcQAAAAAAAAAOuQ==.

Database Search

The raw files were processed using the MaxQuant software suite (version 1.2.0.34) [396]. The MS/MS spectra were used to interrogate the UniProt human database (release date of November 30, 2010. 20248 entries) using the Andromeda search engine [397] with the precursor and fragment mass tolerances set to 6 ppm and 0.5 Da, respectively. Up to two missed cleavage sites were allowed per peptide. Methionine oxidation and protein N-terminal acetylation were chosen as variable modifications, and cysteine carbamidomethylation was set as a fixed modification for database searching. Only peptides with a minimum length of 6 amino acids were considered for identification. Both peptide and protein identifications were filtered to a maximum 1% false discovery rate. Proteins identified from only a single peptide were manually checked by direct visualization of the spectra and quantified using the XCalibur software. Finally, the lists of identified proteins were filtered to eliminate reverse hits and known contaminants.

As a complement to MaxQuant the Proteome Discoverer software (version

1.3, Thermo Scientific), configured with an in-house Mascot server (v2.3, Matrix Science), was also used to search the same set of MS/MS data. A built-in workflow and a “Quantification” module were used for protein identification and quantitation. All the search parameters were the same as the MaxQuant search, but were filtered at a false discovery rate of 5% to quantify a similar number of proteins as had been identified with MaxQuant. Both search strategies generated overlapping protein lists (77%). Once results were gathered from both programs, the results were combined. When proteins were identified by both programs, the quantification calculated by the MaxQuant software was reported. If the ratios were such that one program defined a protein as changed whereas the second program did not, the ratios were manually calculated through integration of the peak areas using the XCalibur software.

Proteins were divided into subsets based on their SILAC ratios using a 1.5-fold change as the cutoff threshold. That is, a ratio of 1.5 or higher was scored as an increase whereas a ratio of 0.666 or less was scored as a decrease; ratios that fell between these values were reported as no change. These ratios, as well as the $\log_2$ transformations, are reported in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2.

Dataset Comparison and GO Term Analysis

The $\log_2$ transformed data from Whitfield et al. (2002) was downloaded from www.cyclebase.org. Based on the calculated p-value of periodicity, mRNA data were separated according to mRNA peak time [398,399]. These lists were compared to our lists of increased and decreased proteins, and p-values were

calculated using Fisher's exact test; a p-value less than 0.01 was considered significant. The same strategy was applied to comparisons to the ubiquitome [400], a published ATM/ATR substrate list [401], a published phosphoproteome [392], a Cyclin A/Cdk2 substrate list [402], and a dataset that determined the subcellular localization of proteins [403]. GO term analysis was performed using the DAVID search engine [404,405]. Analysis was performed on the individual lists, and the reported p-value was calculated using a modified Fisher's exact test. When GO terms overlapped, terms were collapsed to the highest level (i.e., RNA splicing was collapsed into RNA processing).

Immunoblot Validation

Samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE on a 12% polyacrylamide gel and transferred to PVDF (Thermo Scientific). Blots were probed with the following antibodies: anti-Cyclin B1 (V152, Thermo Scientific), anti-Cyclin A (C-19, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-Cdc6 (D-1, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-Cdt1 [25], anti-Geminin (FL-209, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-SLBP [406], anti- α -tubulin (DM1A, Sigma Aldrich), anti-RRM2 (Aviva Systems Biology), anti-MARCKSL1 (Aviva Systems Biology), anti-Palmdephin (Aviva Systems Biology), anti-Prelamin A/C (N-18, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-Tropomodulin-3 [407], anti-MCM2 (46/BM28, BD Pharmingen), anti-Rbmx/hnRNPG (Aviva Systems Biology), anti-hnRNPA1 (K350, Cell Signaling), anti-hnRNPA3 (Y25, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-hnRNPD0 (T10, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), anti-hnRNPL (Sigma Aldrich), and anti- β -actin (N-21, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). All HRP-

conjugated secondary antibodies were purchased from Jackson ImmunoResearch. Proteins were visualized following incubation with ECL prime reagent (Amersham).

Results

Synchronous HeLa cells progress through the G1/S and S/G2 transitions.

We sought to investigate the proteome changes between G1 and S phase and between S and G2 phase. Our goal was to achieve very tight cell cycle synchrony while simultaneously avoiding strong checkpoint effects that could be induced in chemically-arrested cells. To facilitate accurate quantification of peptides by mass spectrometry, we labeled cultures for more than 5 cell divisions with three different stable isotope mixtures of lysine and arginine (i.e. amino acid-coded mass tagging/AACT or stable isotope labeling with amino acids in culture/SILAC) prior to synchronization [408-410].

To obtain populations of isotope-labeled tightly-synchronous cells progressing from G1 to S phase, we modified the Whitfield *et al.* (2002) double-thymidine block and release protocol (Materials and Methods) [391]. We released HeLa cells from the second thymidine block ("DT Block" = early S phase) to allow checkpoint recovery and normal passage through the subsequent transitions and allowed them to progress into mitosis without further chemical perturbation. We collected mitotic cells using a "shake-off" method, a procedure that takes advantage of the tenuous attachment of HeLa cells as they round up during mitosis. We replated mitotic cells in fresh dishes, and 3 hrs after mitosis, the

cells were a relatively pure population of G1 cells; by 10 hrs after mitosis they were in early-S phase (Figure 2.1A and 2.1B show a full time course from cells grown in normal isotope medium). Note that these cell cycle times reflect a moderate delay compared to cells grown under standard conditions due to the requirement for dialyzed fetal bovine serum for efficient metabolic labeling.

To facilitate the detection of proteins that may be rapidly degraded in S phase we treated another culture of cells with the proteasome inhibitor MG132 8 hrs after the mitotic shake-off (just prior to the G1/S transition) and harvested the cells 2 hrs later in early S phase. To quantify proteins that change between S phase and G2 phase, we released cells into S phase from the double-thymidine block rather than from a mitotic shake-off. These cells progressed through S phase and entered G2 phase synchronously; we harvested 3 hrs (S phase) and 8 hrs (G2 phase) after release from the second thymidine block (Figure 2.1D and 2.1E show a full time course from cells grown in normal isotope medium). We also treated cells with MG132 6 hrs after release (just prior to the S/G2 transition) and harvested them 2 hrs later (G2 phase).

For the G1/S comparison, the G1 culture contained normal isotopes (light), the early-S phase culture was metabolically labeled with intermediate isotopes (medium), and the early-S phase culture treated with MG132 at the G1/S transition had been cultured in the heaviest isotopes (heavy). For the S/G2 comparison, mid-S phase cells were cultured in the normal isotope medium (light), the G2 cells were cultured in the intermediate isotope medium, and the G2 cells that had been treated with MG132 at the S/G2 transition were labeled in

heavy isotope medium. In this manner, we generated synchronous metabolically-labeled cell populations naturally passing from one phase to the next without the potentially confounding issue of harvesting cells from a strong checkpoint arrest.

We confirmed cell cycle position by immunoblotting whole cell lysates for established cell cycle-regulated proteins. For example, we confirmed that both the Cdc6 and geminin proteins, two targets of the Anaphase Promoting Complex/Cyclosome (APC/C) E3 ubiquitin ligase which is active from anaphase through late G1, were substantially more abundant in the S phase lysates than in the G1 lysates (Figure 2.1C, compare lanes 2 and 3 to lane 1) [40,357,362,363,371]. In contrast to Cdc6 and geminin, the Cdt1 protein is targeted for degradation at the onset of S phase by the CRL4^{Cdt2} E3 ubiquitin ligase [373,374]. As expected, we detected very little Cdt1 in the early-S phase cells compared to the G1 cells (Figure 2.1C, compare lanes 1 and 2), but Cdt1 protein levels were high in the S phase cells treated with MG132 (Figure 2.1C, compare lanes 2 and 3). Moreover, we observed higher levels of Cdt1 in the G2 samples compared to the mid-S phase samples as expected because CRL4^{Cdt2} can only target Cdt1 during active DNA replication (Figure 2.1F, compare lanes 1 and 2) [372,374,376].

Previously, we identified two proteins (SLBP and E2F1) that are degraded at the end of S phase as a result of Cyclin A/Cdk1 activation. Their degradation is blocked by MG132 treatment [411-413]. We detected not only the down-regulation of SLBP in G2 phase but also its stabilization in cells treated with MG132 (Figure 2.1F). Finally we confirmed that MG132 did not prevent S phase entry or exit as determined by flow cytometry and immunoblot analysis of marker

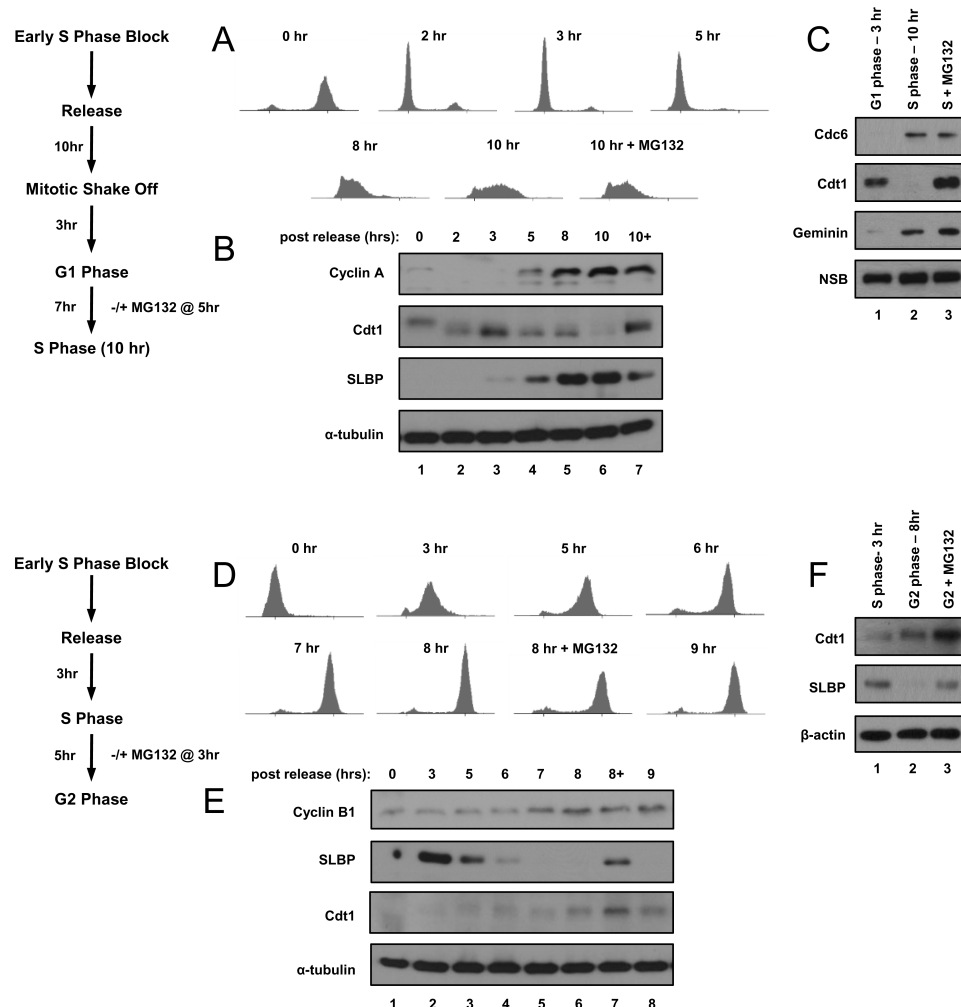


Figure 2.1. HeLa cell synchronization. A) Cells were synchronized by a modified double-thymidine block then released by re-plating and harvested at the indicated time points. Synchrony was determined by flow cytometric analysis of DNA content. B) Immunoblot analysis of endogenous Cyclin A, Cdt1, SLBP, and tubulin proteins in whole cell lysates from portions of the same cells used in A. C) Cells were metabolically labeled with stable isotopes and then synchronized as in A and B. Immunoblot analysis of endogenous Cdc6, Cdt1, and geminin in whole cell lysates used for subsequent mass spectrometric tests. A non-specific band (NSB) serves as a loading control. D) Cells were synchronized by double-thymidine block, released into S phase, and harvested at the indicated timepoints. Synchrony was determined by flow cytometric analysis of DNA content. E) Immunoblot analysis of endogenous Cyclin B, SLBP and Cdt1 in whole cell lysates from portions of the same cells used in D. F) Cells were metabolically labeled and as in D and E. Immunoblot analysis of endogenous Cdt1 and SLBP in whole cell lysates used for subsequent mass spectrometric analysis; β -actin serves as a loading control.

proteins Figures 2.1A and 2.1D). We conclude therefore that these protocols generated synchronous populations that display the expected differences in protein abundance of known cell-cycle regulated proteins at the G1/S and S/G2 transitions.

Protein abundance changes at the G1/S and S/G2 transitions.

Using these validated samples from synchronous cells, we prepared whole cell lysates, combined the three lysates representing the G1/S comparison and the three lysates representing the S/G2 comparison, and subjected them to SDS-PAGE. We divided the gel into slices from which we generated tryptic peptides for liquid chromatography separation and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), as described in Materials and Methods. Using both MaxQuant and Proteome Discoverer software, we analyzed peptide spectra from a total of 50 gel slices. We identified 28,684 unique peptides corresponding to 2,842 unique proteins (allowable false discovery rate of 5%). Spectra were of sufficient quality to accurately quantify 2,410 of these proteins. A recent very comprehensive analysis of the HeLa proteome detected a total 10,237 proteins from lysates of asynchronous cells indicating that our analysis covers approximately 28% of the currently detectable HeLa proteome [414]. Note that quantitation requires detection of at least two isotopically labeled forms of the peptide, so any protein that was clearly detectable in only one of the three cultures was excluded from our analysis. Our dataset is also approximately 43% as extensive as another recent proteome analysis of HeLa cells that focused on changes during mitosis

[392]. Interestingly, we detected 324 proteins not found in either previous report; these could reflect proteins that are only abundant enough for detection at specific cell cycle stages or could reflect random sampling differences among the three studies (Figure 2.2A). Therefore, our proteome analysis of the G1/S and S/G2 transitions complements and extends other investigations of the HeLa cell proteome.

To focus specifically on proteins that change in abundance from G1 to S phase, we compared the 1,611 quantifiable proteins (of 1,843 identified) from cells harvested in G1 to those from the subsequent early-S phase time point. We chose a 1.5-fold change in protein abundance as the threshold to score a protein as increased or decreased; these changes were calculated using the mean of all peptides from the same protein. Between these two cell cycle phases, two-thirds (67.3%) of the proteins neither increased nor decreased in abundance, whereas 32.7% either accumulated or decreased between G1 and S phase (Figure 2.2B and C). We quantified 1,640 proteins from the S/G2 comparison (of 1,913 identified). In contrast to the G1/S comparison, a higher proportion (84.7%) of these proteins did not change by more than 1.5-fold from S to G2 phase. Of the total quantifiable proteins, 15.3% either increased or decreased in their abundance (Figure 2.2B and 2.2D). These protein lists are provided in Supplementary Tables 1 and 2, and the individual peptide lists are provided in Supplementary Table 6 (found online at <http://www.plosone.org>).

The pharmacological inhibitor MG132 blocks the activity of the 26S proteasome, leading to the accumulation of proteins targeted for

polyubiquitination [415,416]. Since many cell cycle transitions are driven by ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation, we reasoned that we could identify some of these proteins based on altered abundance in the presence of MG132. It is important to note that MG132 was added close to the cell cycle transition under investigation. Overall, ~1% of S phase proteins and 8% of G2 proteins were induced by MG132 treatment for 2 hrs compared to untreated early-S phase and G2 cells, respectively (Figure 2.2B, 2.2E and 2.2F, and Supplementary Tables 3.1 and 4.1). We also detected proteins that were induced by treatment with MG132 that had not shown changes between cell cycle phases. These proteins could have short half-lives and be subject to continuous ubiquitin-mediated degradation at many or all cell cycle phases. Interestingly, more proteins were down-regulated after MG132 treatment than were induced - 13% of S phase and 10% of G2 proteins (Figure 2.2B, and Supplementary Tables 3.2 and 4.2). A similar phenomenon has been reported previously; one study reported that 15% of proteins were down-regulated at least 2-fold after treating asynchronous cells with MG132 for 4 hrs [417]. The complete list of protein changes in response to MG132 treatment for both datasets is provided as Supplementary Tables 3 and 4.

Some of the protein changes observed from one cell cycle phase to the next, such as cyclin B induction in G2, are well known. All the known cell cycle-regulated proteins that we detected changed as expected, although several relatively low abundance proteins were not detected. For example, the average abundance of peptides derived from ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase subunit M2 (RRM2) increased 4.8-fold in S phase. This protein is regulated both

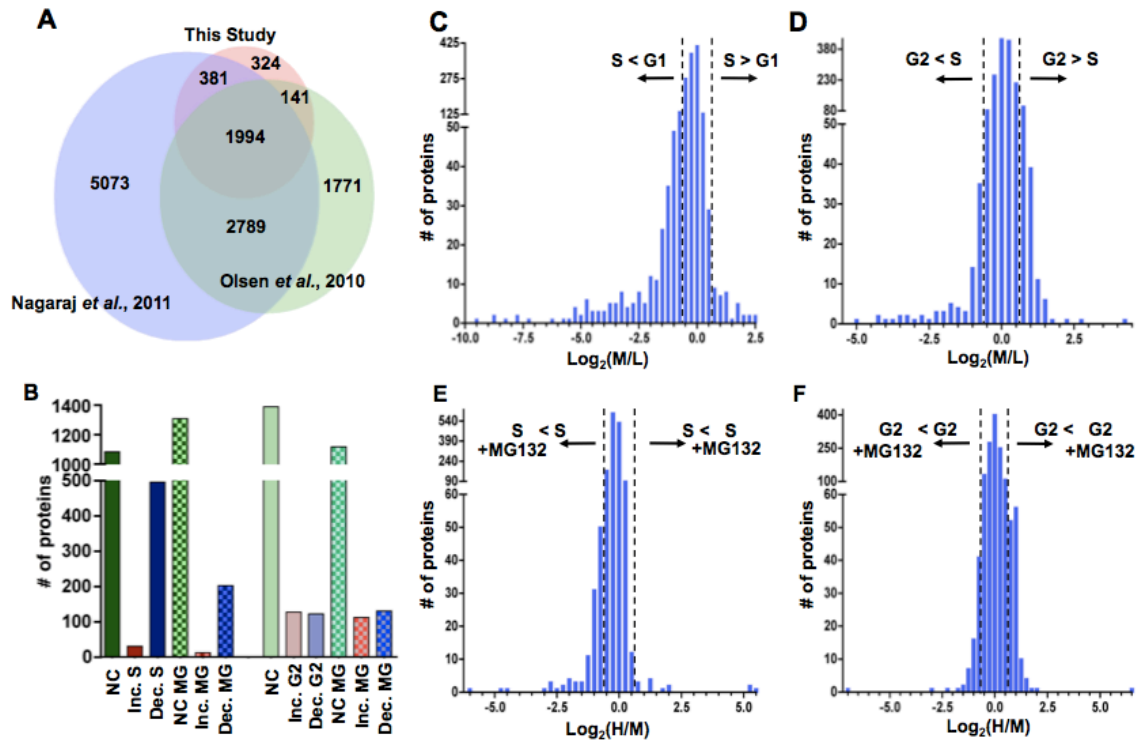


Figure 2.2. Cell cycle-regulated proteins from G1 to S and S to G2 detected by mass spectrometry. A) Comparison of the total number of proteins detected in this study (2,842 proteins) to two other studies of the HeLa cell proteome: Nagaraj et al., 2011 (10,237 proteins) [414] and Olsen et al., 2010 (6,695 proteins) [392]. B) Quantified proteins from this study were divided into lists based on their fold and direction of change; the total protein count for each list is plotted. “NC” denotes proteins that did not change. “NC MG,” “Inc MG,” and “Dec MG” denote proteins that either did not change, increased, or decreased in response to MG132 treatment, respectively. C) All quantifiable proteins in the G1 to S dataset plotted by their $\log_2$ transformed isotope ratios (medium S phase/light G1 phase). Dotted lines denote the 1.5-fold change threshold. D) All quantifiable proteins identified in the S to G2 dataset plotted by their $\log_2$ transformed isotope ratios (medium G2 phase/light S phase); dotted lines denote the 1.5-fold change threshold. E) Proteins identified in early-S phase cells compared to early-S phase cells treated with MG132 plotted by their $\log_2$ transformed isotope ratios (heavy S phase plus MG132/medium S phase minus MG132). Dotted lines denote the 1.5-fold change threshold. F) Proteins identified in G2 phase cells compared to G2 phase cells treated with MG132 plotted by their $\log_2$ transformed isotope ratios (heavy G2 plus MG132/medium G2 phase minus MG132). Dotted lines denote the 1.5-fold change threshold.

at the transcriptional level, as a target of E2F4 repression, and at the protein level, as a target of the APC/C ubiquitin ligase [120,418,419].

Our data also predicted changes in protein abundance that have not been previously identified. We selected several of these proteins for immunoblot validation on the original lysates of synchronized HeLa cells. Most of the proteins (17 out of 28) we selected for this validation showed changes in abundance that were consistent with the mass spectrometry quantification. For example, MARCKS-related protein (MARCKSL1) and palmdelphin (Palmd) increased in S phase compared to G1 phase by 2.9-fold and 2.0-fold, respectively, and we observed increases in band intensities for these proteins by immunoblotting (Figure 2.3A, compare lanes 1 and 2). Furthermore, mass spectrometry indicated that prelamin A/C protein levels decreased 4.7-fold in S phase compared to G1, and immunoblot analysis supported this finding (Figure 2.3A). As an example of a protein that does not change between G1 and S phase, we found that tropomodulin-3 (Tmod3) protein levels did not change significantly, in agreement with the mass spectrometry analysis. The total number of proteins that changed (increased or decreased) between S and G2 was smaller than the number of proteins that changed between G1 and S phase. We selected several proteins for validation by immunoblot analysis as above. For example, the average peptide abundance derived from prelamin A/C and cyclin B1 increased in G2 phase compared to mid-S phase by 1.7-fold and 2.1-fold, respectively; we observed changes in band intensities consistent with these mass spectrometry results (Figure 2.3B, compare lanes 1 and 2).

Frequent discordance of mRNA and protein abundance.

Changes in protein abundance can often be explained by corresponding fluctuations in mRNA abundance. A landmark study by Whitfield et al. (2002) catalogued changes in mRNA expression through multiple synchronous cell cycles in HeLa cells [391]. The primary data from this extensive analysis is readily available for interrogation (cyclebase.org), and we sought to determine the relationship between mRNA expression in the Whitfield study with the protein changes we detected in this study. We divided the mRNA data into groups based on peak cell cycle phase of abundance [398,399]. We then determined which of the proteins that changed from one cell cycle phase to the next in our study were also the products mRNAs whose abundance changed in the same way. Somewhat surprisingly, there was no significant overlap between the mRNAs that peak in S phase and the detected proteins that increased in S phase; likewise, proteins that decreased in S phase were unlikely to be the products of mRNAs that decreased in S phase (Figure 2.4A, first two bars). This poor correlation also existed when we compared proteins that increased in S phase to mRNAs that peaked in G1. As pointed out by Whitfield et al., there were fewer changes in mRNA levels between G1 and S phase than there were between S and M phase; only 19.5% of transcripts peak in S phase whereas 45% peak in G2/M [391].

In contrast, proteins that increased in G2 were somewhat more likely to be the products of mRNAs that also increased in G2 (Figure 2.4A, third bar). For example, the prelamin A/C mRNA peaks in G2/M, and the protein also modestly

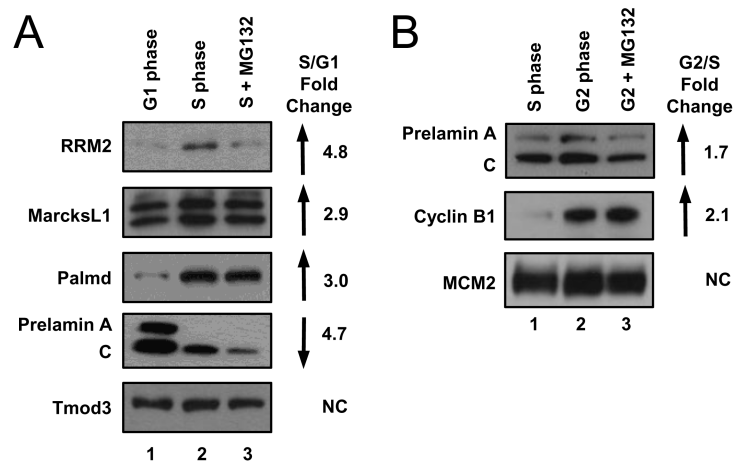


Figure 3. Validation of selected cell cycle-regulated protein predicted by mass spectrometry. The same cell lysates analyzed by mass spectrometry were subjected to immunoblot analysis for the indicated endogenous proteins in the A) G1 to S lysates or B) S to G2 lysates. Reported fold change ratios from mass spectrometry are listed to the right.

increased in our G2 samples compared to S phase (Figure 2.3B, compare lanes 1 and 2). In contrast, proteins that decreased in G2 were not well-predicted by mRNAs that also decreased in G2 (Figure 2.4A, fourth bar). Furthermore, when we compared the proteins that did *not* change in either of our datasets to the mRNAs that are constitutively expressed throughout the cell cycle, more than 60% of the genes/proteins were in agreement (Figure 2.4B, first two bars). When some of the proteins whose abundance did not change by mass spectrometry are the products of mRNAs that do change; these proteins may be long-lived and thus not fully reflective of corresponding mRNA changes.

Since mRNA abundance could not fully account for the protein changes we observed, we considered the possibility that the changes in protein abundance were correlated with ubiquitination and thus, regulated protein degradation. We compared our lists of proteins that change from G1 to S or from S to G2 to a recently-published list of ubiquitinated proteins identified in asynchronously growing HCT116 (human colon carcinoma) cells [400]. Strikingly, a high proportion of the proteins that either increased (56.7%) or decreased (62.6%) between G1 and S also appeared in the list of 4,462 ubiquitinated proteins (Figure 2.5A, first two bars). Moreover, proteins whose abundance was affected by MG132 treatment in S phase (either increased or decreased) were also highly represented in the reported list of total ubiquitinated proteins. In contrast, proteins that changed from S to G2 were not as enriched in the “ubiquitome,” regardless of MG132 treatment with the exception of proteins that increased from S phase to G2 (Figure 2.5A). Both nuclear and cytoplasmic proteins were

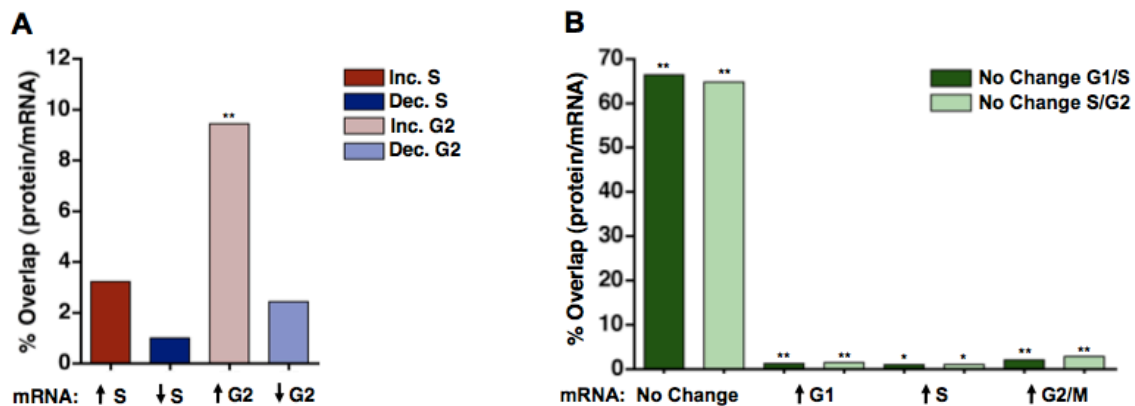


Figure 2.4. Discordance between mRNA and protein abundance. A) Individual lists of proteins that changed by at least 1.5-fold were compared to the mRNA data for those same proteins in synchronized HeLa cells from Whitfield et al. 2002 [391]. The percentage of proteins whose corresponding mRNA also changed is graphed for both S phase and G2 phase. ** $p < 0.001$. B) Proteins that did not change in either the G1 to S or the S to G2 dataset were compared to mRNAs that were ubiquitously expressed or peaked at the indicated cell cycle phases [391]. * $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.001$.

present in all of our datasets, and we detected no differences in nuclear-cytoplasmic localization among proteins that changed from one cell cycle phase to the next (Figure 2.5B and 2.5C).

A strikingly large proportion of proteins whose abundance changed from G1 to S or from S to G2 have been detected as phosphoproteins, consistent with the notion that many protein abundance changes are controlled by phosphorylation (Figure 2.6A). This enrichment was true both for proteins that changed from G1 to S and for those that changed from S to G2.

Since the cyclin-dependent kinases (Cdks) govern many cell cycle transitions, we compared our sets of regulated proteins with a list of candidate Cdk substrates [402]. Many proteins that increased (6 of 31) or decreased (28 of 496) in S phase appear on this list of Cdk substrates (Figure 2.6B, first two bars). Moreover, a statistically significant number of proteins that increased in G2 phase are also putative Cdk substrates (Figure 2.6B, fifth bar). A significant number of proteins that changed with MG132 treatment at the S/G2 transition are also putative Cdk substrates (Figure 2.6B, last two bars). In contrast, proteins that changed in response to MG132 treatment at the G1/S transition were not enriched for putative Cdk substrates (Figure 2.6B, third and fourth bars).

Like Cdks, the ATR kinase is active during S phase [420]. ATR activity is also stimulated by DNA damage, and this property was used to identify candidate ATR substrates. Putative ATR kinase substrate lists were developed by Stokes et al. (2007) from phosphopeptides detected following UV irradiation, an activator of ATR [401]. A subset of our regulated proteins also appeared in these lists of

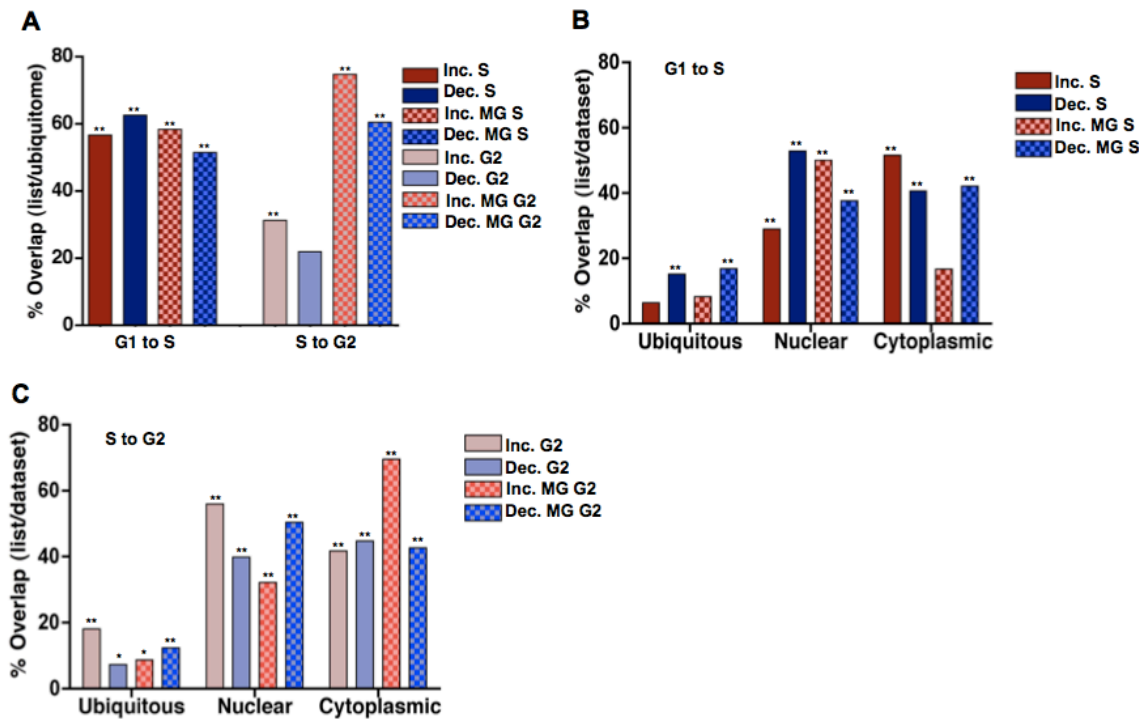


Figure 2.5. Proteins at both the G1/S and S/G2 transitions are ubiquitinated.

A) Individual lists of proteins that changed by at least 1.5-fold were compared to proteins predicted to be ubiquitinated in asynchronous HCT116 cells [400]. * $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.001$. Individual list of proteins that changed by at least 1.5-fold in either the B) G1/S dataset or the C) S/G2 dataset were compared to proteins with established subcellular localizations [403]. “Ubiquitous” denotes proteins that were found in both the nuclear and cytoplasmic fractions, whereas “Nuclear” or “Cytoplasmic” proteins were found only in that compartment. Data are represented as the percentage of the individual list that overlaps with the published dataset. * $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.001$.

potential ATR substrates (Figure 2.6C). The majority of proteins that change with MG132 treatment, (both lists), were not ATR substrates, but proteins that decreased with MG132 treatment at the S/G2 transition were significantly enriched in ATR substrates (Figure 2.6C). Taken together, these comparisons are consistent with the prevailing model that many changes in protein abundance between G1 and S phase and between S and G2 phase are associated with both protein ubiquitination and protein phosphorylation, but this analysis also underscores the idea that only some changes, particularly as cells progress from G1 to S phase in continuously growing cells, are due solely to mRNA fluctuations.

Unanticipated cell cycle-regulated proteins include alternative splicing factors.

To determine which biological processes might be cell cycle-regulated, we analyzed the Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment of each of our lists. As expected, “cell cycle” was enriched in our sets of cell cycle-regulated proteins (increase in G2). The three most highly-enriched terms for each list are shown in Table 1, and the full list is provided in Supplementary Table 5. Proteins involved in cell morphogenesis increased from G1 to S phase, whereas proteins assigned to the GO term “protein folding” decreased (Table 1) from S to G2 phase. Surprisingly, proteins involved in RNA processing and ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis were significantly represented in the set of proteins that decreased from G1 to S phase and the set that increased from S to G2 phase. (The proteins that decreased from G1 to S phase are not necessarily the same proteins that were increased in the S to G2 dataset.) Both sets of MG132-sensitive proteins were

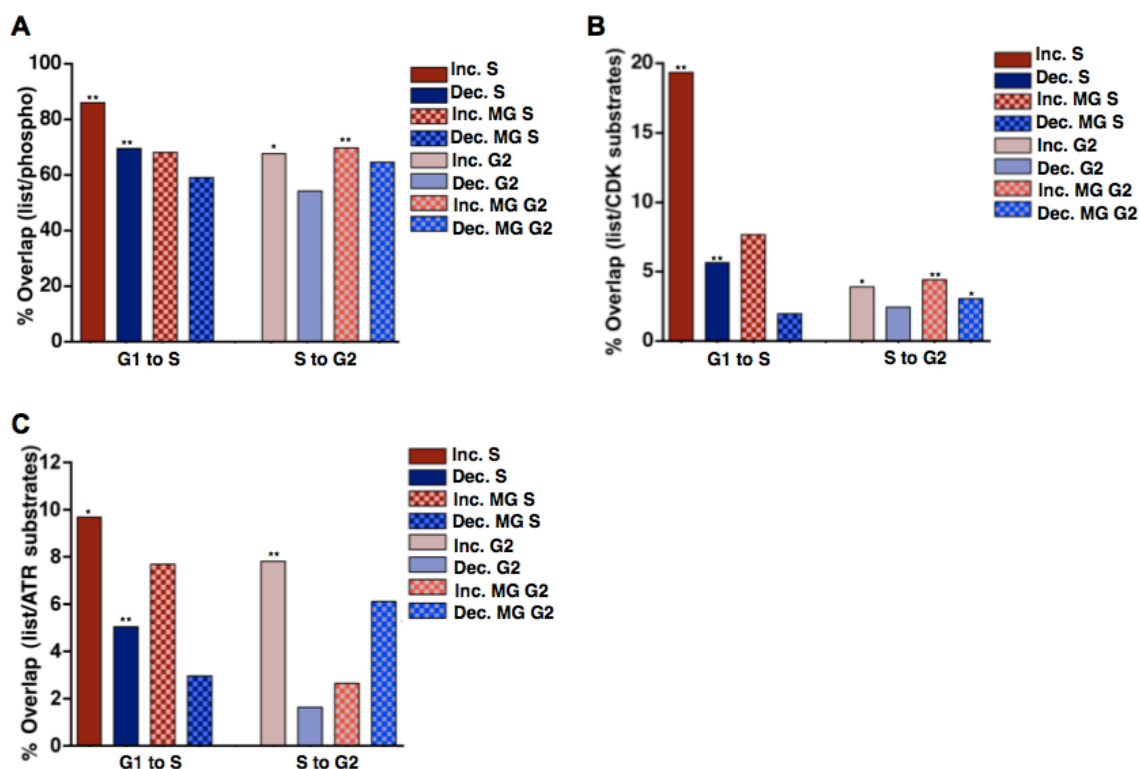


Figure 2.6. Proteins at transitions are phosphorylated. Individual lists of proteins that changed by at least 1.5-fold were compared to proteins predicted to be proteins A) phosphorylated in HeLa cells [392], B) substrates of Cyclin A/Cdk2 [402], and C) substrates of the ATR kinase [401]. The percentage of each list that overlaps with the published dataset is plotted. . * $p < 0.01$; ** $p < 0.001$.

also enriched for RNA processing and ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis proteins (Table 2).

The striking enrichment of pre-mRNA processing proteins in the collection of proteins that were down-regulated in S phase prompted us to analyze those proteins more directly. In particular, the enriched GO terms included nuclear pre-mRNA splicing, and more specifically, alternative splicing (Figure 2.7A). Of the 244 known splicing factors, we detected 72 core proteins and 65 non-core proteins (Supplementary Table 7) [421]. Overall, we detected 31.9% of the core spliceosome proteins, of which 46.7% decreased in S phase (Figure 2.7B, first bar). Of note, proteins in the U2 complex decreased, suggesting that a specific part of the core machinery may be regulated during S phase. Additionally, we detected 58.7% of the non-core spliceosome machinery, and 62.3% of these subunits decreased in S phase (Figure 2.7B, second bar). Strikingly, we quantified almost all (95.7%) of the known heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins (hnRNPs), and 72.7% of these proteins decrease in S phase (Figure 2.7B, third bar). These proteins are important in determining exon inclusion, suggesting that alternative splicing is particularly affected during S phase [422-425].

We probed several of the alternative splicing factors by immunoblotting to determine if the changes observed by mass spectrometry were valid. As shown in Figure 2.7C, several hnRNPs decreased between G1 and S phase, such as hnRNPG, hnRNPA1, and hnRNPL (compare lanes 1 and 2). For two other proteins, hnRNPA3 and hnRNPD0, we detected multiple isoforms that clearly

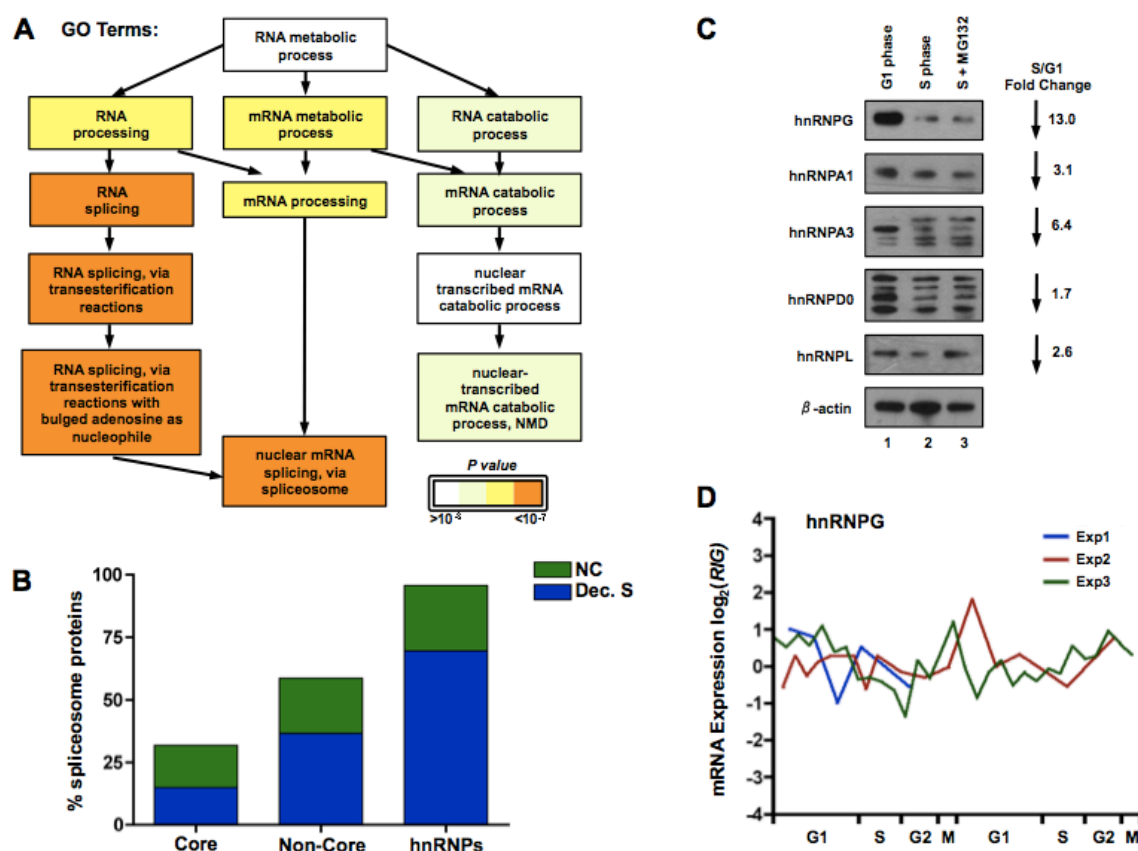


Figure 2.7. pre-mRNA alternative splicing factors are enriched among proteins that decrease from G1 to S phase. A) The GO term analysis tree of a branch of RNA metabolism is shaded to indicate decreasing p-values for the enrichment in the protein datasets of this study. B) Spliceosome proteins were designated as either core or non-core proteins; hnRNPs represent a subset of the non-core spliceosome proteins [421]. The total percentage of the category of splicing proteins is plotted. The portion of the bars shaded blue represents the percentage that decreased between G1 phase and S phase, and the portion shaded green represents the fraction that did not change between G1 and S phase. The full list of splicing proteins quantified is provided in Supplementary Table 7. C) Whole cell lysates from synchronized cultures (Figure 1C) were analyzed for the indicated endogenous hnRNP proteins; the fold change ratios from mass spectrometry are listed to the right. β -actin serves as a loading control. D) mRNA abundance for the hnRNPG gene was extracted from the Whitfield *et al.* (2002) dataset [391]; expression data from 3 double-thymidine block and release experiments are shown as a function of cell cycle phase.

changed between G1 and S phase. Some isoforms decreased in abundance but new isoforms accumulated in the S phase samples (Figure 2.7C, compare lane 1 with lanes 2 and 3). Of note, the hnRNPA3 protein has been reported to be heavily phosphorylated, raising the possibility that the decrease observed by mass spectrometry was due to cell cycle regulated post-translational modifications [426-433]. Indeed, a number of hnRNPs, including hnRNPD0, were identified as Cyclin A/Cdk2 substrates [402]. Moreover, we confirmed S phase downregulation of hnRNPG in biological replicates of synchronized HeLa cells (Figure 2.8A) and S phase downregulation of hnRNPA3 in another line, T98G (Figure 2.8B). Additionally, none of the splicing proteins that decreased in S phase were the products of mRNAs that also decreased in S phase (for example, hnRNPG is shown in Figure 2.7D), suggesting that their regulation must be posttranscriptional.

Discussion

Previous unbiased analyses of the human transcriptome and proteome have generated an appreciation for the interconnectedness of different biochemical pathways. Inspired by such findings, we considered it likely that the human cell cycle includes changes not only in the well-studied processes of chromosome replication, mitosis, and cell division, but also changes in other cellular processes. This hypothesis was supported by our discovery that proteins involved in alternative pre-mRNA splicing are down-regulated in S phase. The reason for this apparent systemic regulation of pre-mRNA splicing has yet to be

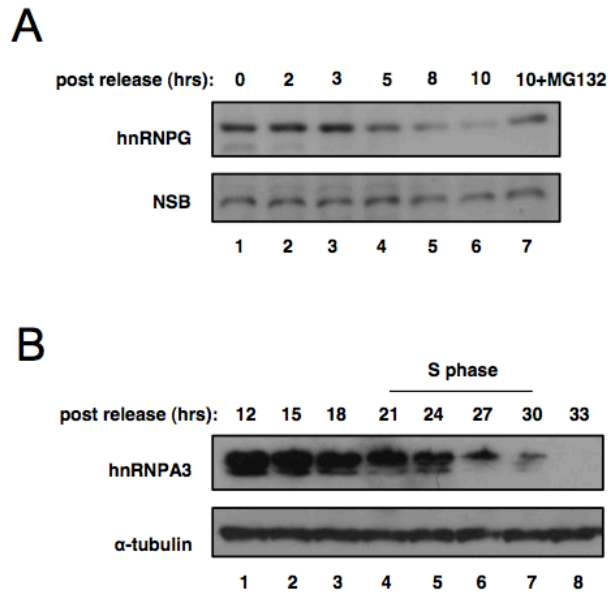


Figure 2.8. Cell cycle changes in pre-mRNA splicing factors are found in different cell lines. A) HeLa cells were synchronized as in Figure 1A and the endogenous levels of hnRNPG were examined. B) T98G cells were synchronized in quiescence by serum starvation and stimulated to re-enter the cell cycle with 10% FBS; S phase entry begins at 20 hr. post-serum addition [77]. Lysates were analyzed for levels of endogenous hnRNPA3.

elucidated, but could reflect a need to rapidly alter the isoforms of a cohort of proteins from one cell cycle phase to the next. The depth of our proteome coverage likely reflects changes in the most abundant and readily detectable proteins; thus these fluctuations indicate novel biological pathways and processes that are cell cycle-regulated even when the rarest proteins were not quantified.

Alternative splicing, particularly the production of different isoforms of specific mRNAs at different times in the same cell, is determined by *cis* elements (splicing enhancers and splicing silencers) and the relative concentrations of the *trans* factors, splicing activators and repressors (reviewed in ref. [434]). Changes in the relative concentrations of these regulatory proteins are responsible for most of the changes observed in alternative splicing. Thus, relatively small changes in the concentrations of these common splicing regulatory proteins, particularly the hnRNPs and SRSF proteins, can result in changes in a number of coordinately regulated alternative splicing events [435-438].

This study extends and complements the cell cycle proteome analysis by Olsen et al. [392]. Our cells were not only very tightly synchronized in early S phase by the double-thymidine and mitotic shakeoff protocol, but importantly, we collected cells as they progressed synchronously through the cell cycle *after* release from the block. This protocol is distinct from other popular synchronization methods in which cells were harvested while chemically arrested with replication or mitotic inhibitors or were harvested very shortly after release from such inhibitors. Likely due to these differences, a comparison of proteins

that change from G1 to S or from S to G2 in our dataset to those reported by Olsen et al. (using a single block and release or nocodazole block and release) showed little overlap. Nevertheless, the alternative splicing factors we detected were also reported in the Olsen dataset, although the amplitudes of those changes were less than those we measured. These differences may be due to technical variations in culture conditions (for example, adherent vs. suspension cultures) or to differences in the degree of cell cycle synchrony. One area of close agreement between the two studies, however, is the conclusion that only a subset of cell cycle-regulated changes in protein abundance can be accounted for by changes in mRNA abundance.

Although many protein changes detected in this study did not match corresponding changes in mRNA levels, we noted a clear difference between the degree of concordance of the mRNA changes and protein changes between the two G1-to-S and S-to-G2 datasets. Proteins that increased from S to G2 were more likely to be the products of mRNAs that showed similar cell cycle-dependent changes, though these mRNA changes were only able to predict ~10% of these G2-inducible proteins (Figure 2.4A). This relationship is consistent with the finding that 45% of the cell cycle regulated mRNAs peak in G2/M [391]. Strikingly, more than half of the proteins that changed – either increased or decreased – from G1 to S phase are among those reported to be polyubiquitinated, but this enrichment was much less or non-significant for proteins that changed from S to G2 (Figure 2.5A). Taken together, our analysis is consistent with the notion that protein changes from S to G2 are somewhat

reflective of changes in mRNA levels, but proteins that change from G1 to S are reflective of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation and phosphorylation.

Given the importance of ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation in cell cycle transitions, and that a number of cell cycle regulators change concentrations rapidly without concomitant changes in mRNA concentrations, we included analysis of cells treated with the proteasome inhibitor MG132. A relatively small number of proteins that increase after MG132 treatment at the G1/S transition were detected, whereas a larger number of MG132-inducible proteins were detected in cells treated at the S/G2 transition (Figure 2.2B and Supplementary Tables 3.1 and 4.1). Interestingly, at least as many proteins were MG132-*repressible* as were MG132-inducible in both experiments (Figure 2.2B and Supplementary Tables 3.2 and 4.2). Given the mechanism of action of MG132 as a competitive inhibitor of the 26S proteasome, we interpret these changes as a reflection of indirect cellular responses to the accumulation of polyubiquitinated proteins or the prevention of degradation of specific proteins. Some of the MG132-repressible proteins may themselves be targets for negative regulation by MG132-inducible repressors. Those targets of negative regulation would therefore be indirectly repressed by MG132. In addition, the loss of proteasome function may trigger a cellular stress response that is reflected in the proteome as down-regulation of a cohort of proteins. Of note, proteasome inhibitors are a chemotherapeutic strategy for anti-cancer treatment [439,440], and prolonged treatment of HeLa cells with MG132 (e.g. 24 hrs) results in apoptosis [441]. Our report here of proteins whose levels change in response to MG132 at two

specific cell cycle phases sheds additional light on the biological responses to such strategies.

A major challenge in this type of study is the detection of relatively low abundance proteins, many of which are critical regulators of cellular processes. Many of the previously defined cell cycle regulated proteins, often regulated by proteolysis, were not detected. These include SLBP, a critical regulator of histone mRNA metabolism, the E2F1-3 transcription factors, which are essential for the transcription of S phase genes, and many proteins needed for the formation of the pre-replication complex (Orc subunits, Cdc6, Cdt1, etc.). Detection of these low abundance proteins will require further advances in proteomics technology, perhaps through some method that removes the most abundant proteins, similar to how “ribo-minus” technology removes the most abundant RNAs to allow the detection of very low abundance RNAs by high-throughput sequencing.

Studies such as the one presented here add to our general knowledge of the global changes that can occur during the cell cycle. We expect that the combination of this analysis with other studies focused on mitosis, the phosphoproteome, the transcriptome, the ubiquitome, cell cycle changes in model organisms, etc. will facilitate a complete systems-level understanding of the cell cycle.

Table 1. Top three significant GO terms enriched in individual lists of cell cycle-regulated proteins.

<i>Increase in S phase</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
Regulation of cell morphogenesis	0.001	4
Negative regulation of cellular component organization	0.024	3
Negative regulation of cell projection organization	0.047	2
<i>Decrease in S phase</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
RNA processing	3.96e-34	83
Ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis	1.98e-20	38
Translational elongation	2.46e-18	28
<i>Increase in G2 phase</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
RNA processing	2.25e-05	16
Cell cycle	0.001	16
Cellular protein localization	0.002	11
<i>Decrease in G2 phase</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
Protein folding	0.007	6
Macromolecular complex assembly	0.015	11
Positive regulation of anti-apoptosis	0.018	3

Table 2. Top three significant GO terms enriched in the individual lists of MG132-sensitive proteins.

<i>Increase in S phase following MG132 treatment</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
Signal complex assembly	0.009	2
Cell migration	0.011	3
Cellular macromolecular complex assembly	0.014	3
<i>Decrease in S phase following MG132 treatment</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
Ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis	2.59e-10	17
Ribosome biogenesis	1.57e-07	12
RNA processing	3.09e-07	23
<i>Increase in G2 phase following MG132 treatment</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
Translational elongation	5.44e-130	68
Ribosome biogenesis	1.01e-14	16
Ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis	2.13e-13	17
<i>Decrease in G2 phase following MG132 treatment</i>		
GO Term	p-value	Protein Count
Protein transport	1.45e-05	20
Protein localization	3.30e-05	21
mRNA processing	7.03e-05	12

Chapter 3

Identification of a Re-replication Induced Gene Expression Signature

Introduction

For a cell to successfully complete a division, it must replicate its genomic material in a timely and accurate manner. In order for this to happen, replication must initiate at thousands of sites across the genome known as origins of replication. To exactly duplicate the genome, it is essential that replication initiates only once at every origin; if re-replication, or replication of a previously replicated region of the genome, occurs, this can lead to DNA damage and subsequent genome instability (reviewed in [43]). One mechanism by which the cell prevents re-replication is through coordinating the inhibition of the replication protein Cdt1 with the onset of S phase, thereby ensuring that origins cannot become re-licensed. Once S phase begins, Cdt1 binds to the PCNA that has been loaded onto the DNA, allowing Cdt1 to associate with the CRL4^{Cdt2} ubiquitin ligase; this association results in the polyubiquitination and subsequent degradation of the bulk of Cdt1 protein [371-376,442]. The remaining Cdt1 protein is bound by the inhibitor protein geminin, thereby preventing Cdt1 from performing its origin licensing function [354-356].

Deregulation of origin licensing has been shown to promote genome instability; in fact, many studies have shown that aberrant Cdt1 expression alone can result in re-replication [2,5,443-445]. Re-replication can lead to replication fork collision and collapse, resulting in DNA double strand breaks [443,446-448]. In yeast, re-replication has been shown to induce gene amplification, suggesting that prevention of re-replication contributes to overall genomic stability [449]. DNA damage has long been linked to tumor formation and genomic instability. Therefore, DNA damage, and perhaps re-replication specifically, may contribute to the process of tumorigenesis. Indeed, it has been shown that HeLa cells constitutively undergo re-replication, whereas normal fibroblasts do not experience this stress [450]. Tumors that are driven by oncogenic stressors, such as Ras activation, are prone to both DNA damage and genomic instability [387,451,452]. Furthermore, proteins involved in origin licensing are controlled by pathways, such as the Rb/E2F pathway, that are frequently deregulated in a multitude of cancers [163-166,168-170,172].

These observations led us to hypothesize that re-replication contributes to the genomic instability observed in multiple tumor types and may thereby contribute to cancer development. On a molecular level, we hypothesize that the presence of re-replication results in altered patterns of gene expression. To determine if re-replication results in a gene expression signature, we set out to induce re-replication in normal mammary epithelial cells by modulating Cdt1 activity.

Materials and Methods

Cell Culture and siRNA transfection

Normal human fibroblasts immortalized with human telomerase (NHF-hTERT) were obtained from the Kaufmann lab (University of North Carolina) and were cultured in DMEM (Sigma Aldrich) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Sigma Aldrich). Human mammary epithelial cells immortalized with human telomerase (HMEC-hTERT) were acquired from the Perou lab (University of North Carolina) and the MCF10 series of breast cancer cell lines (MCF10a, MCF10AT1, and MCF10DCIS) was acquired from the Troester lab (University of North Carolina); all four cell lines were grown in supplemented HuMEC media (Gibco). As a positive control, the colorectal carcinoma HCT116 cell line was obtained from ATCC and was grown in McCoy's media (Sigma Aldrich) supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma Aldrich).

Cells were seeded in 6-cm dishes and allowed to attach overnight. siRNA oligonucleotides were synthesized by Invitrogen. The following oligonucleotides were used: GFP control, 5'-GGC UAC GUC CAG GAG CGC AC CTT; geminin siRNA, 5'-CUU CCA GCC CUG GGG UUA UTT; Cdt2 siRNA, 5'-GAA UUA UAC UGC UUA UCG ATT; and p53 siRNA, AAG GAA GAC UCC AGU GGU AAU TT. Unless otherwise noted, transfections were performed with a total of 100 nM siRNA using the Dharmafect 1 reagent (Dharmacon), according to the manufacturer's guidelines. In the case of dual knockdowns, 50 nM of each siRNA was used. Twenty-four hours after transfection, cells were washed with PBS and trypsinized. Cells were then divided and replated either in a 6-cm dish or on glass

slides for immunofluorescence (IF) analysis (see below). For longer experiments (72 hr and 96 hr), cells were redosed with siRNA after 48 hr.

Immunoblot Analysis

Cells were washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and harvested by trypsinization. Cells were collected by centrifugation, and a portion was removed for flow cytometric analysis (see below). The remaining cells were resuspended in CSK buffer (10 mM PIPES, pH 7.0, 300 mM sucrose, 100 mM NaCl, 3 mM MgCl₂) supplemented with 0.5% Triton X-100, 0.1 mM 4-(2-aminoethyl) benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride (AEBSF), 1 µg/mL pepstatin A, 1 µg/mL aprotinin, 1 µg/mL leupeptin, 5 µg/mL phosphatidylserine, 1 mM β-glycerol phosphate, and 1 mM orthovanadate, and were incubated on ice for 30 min. Protein concentration was determined using the Bradford assay (Biorad). Samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE and transferred to PVDF (Thermo Scientific). Blots were probed with the following antibodies: anti-Cdt2 [453], anti-phospho p53 (serine 15, Cell Signaling), anti-phospho γ-H2Ax (serine 139, Millipore), anti-α-tubulin (T9026, Sigma Aldrich), anti-Geminin (FL-209, Santa Cruz Biotechnology), and anti-phospho Chk2 (threonine 68, Cell Signaling). All HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies were purchased from Jackson ImmunoResearch. Proteins were visualized following incubation with ECL Prime reagent (Amersham).

Flow Cytometry Analysis and Immunofluorescence

Cells were fixed in ethanol and stained with propidium iodide. Cells were analyzed using either a Dako CyAn flow cytometer (Beckman-Coulter) or an Accuri C6 flow cytometer (BD Biosciences). Cell cycle distribution was determined using Summit v4.3 software (DakoCytomation) or FCS Express v4 software (De Novo Software), respectively.

Slides were removed from the dish, washed twice with PBS, and treated with CSK buffer supplemented with 0.5% Triton X-100 for 2 min at room temperature. Slides were then washed three times with PBS and fixed in 3% paraformaldehyde [454] at room temperature for 10 min. Slides were washed three times with PBS and then blocked with 10% FBS at room temperature for 1 hr. Slides were washed three times, for 5 min each, at room temperature with PBS. Slides were then incubated with anti-phospho γ -H2Ax (serine 139, Millipore) in a 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) solution at room temperature for 3 hr. After three washes, for 5 min each, with PBS, slides were incubated with an anti-mouse secondary antibody conjugated to the DyLight-594 fluorophore (Jackson ImmunoResearch) at 37°C for 1 hr. Slides were washed twice with PBS for 5 min each, and counterstained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). To quantify γ -H2Ax staining, at least 200 cells were counted per slide.

RNA preparation and microarray analysis

Total RNA was prepped using the RNeasy kit (QIAgen), according to the manufacturer's instructions. RNA quality was checked by the UNC Genomics

and Bioinformatics Core Facility prior to labeling and hybridization to the microarray. Two experimental samples (one 5 nM set and one 10 nM set) were submitted to the Genomics and Bioinformatics Core Facility. The siCdt2 sample was labeled with Cy3 and compared to its matching siGFP sample labeled with Cy5. Samples were also dye swapped to control for labeling errors. Samples were hybridized to a Human GE 4x44K V2 Microarray with SurePrint Technology (Agilent Technologies), and data were analyzed using SAM 4.0 software (Stanford University).

cDNA preparation and qPCR analysis

Total RNA was prepped using the RNeasy kit (QIAgen), according to the manufacturer's instructions. One microgram total RNA was converted to cDNA using an Oligo dT primer and the SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen) according to manufacturer's instructions. Quantitative PCR was performed using the following primers: *Cdt2 F*, 5'-TGG TCT TCA CAA TAC CCT CTT CA; *Cdt2 R*, 5'-CTT CAT TGG CAA CTG CTA GTA CA; *p21 F*, 5'-GCA GAC CAG CAT GAC AGA TTT; *p21 R*, 5'-GGA TTA GGG CTT CCT CTT GGA; *MDM2 F*, 5'-CAG TAG CAG TGA ATC TAC AGG GA; *MDM2 R*, 5'-CTG ATC CAA CCA ATC ACC TGA AT; *Geminin F*, 5'-GAG ATC CAG ATG CAG AAG GC; *Geminin R*, 5'-TGA ATC CCA GTA TGA AGC AGA A; *p53 F*, 5'-GCT CGA CGC TAG GAT CTG AC; *p53 R*, 5'-GCT TTC CAC GAC GGT GAC; *GAPDH F*, 5'-AAG GTG AAG GTC GGA GTC AAC; *GAPDH R*, 5'-GGG GTC ATT GAT GGC AAC AAT A. Reactions were performed with 150 nM each primer, 20 ng

template, and the Maxima SYBR Green/Rox qPCR Master Mix (Fermentas), according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Results

Depletion of Cdt2 results in a G2/M arrest

Cdt1 is targeted for degradation at the onset of S phase through the action of the CRL4^{Cdt2} ubiquitin ligase [371-376]. In order to induce re-replication, we depleted cells of the adapter protein Cdt2, which confers substrate specificity to the CRL4 ligase [373,375,455]. In addition to regulating Cdt1 degradation, CRL4^{Cdt2} is also responsible for the S phase degradation of the Cdk inhibitor p21 and the histone methyltransferase Set8 (PR-Set7) [380,382,383,453,456,457]. Set8/PR-Set7 is also essential for proper origin function; monomethylation of lysine 20 on histone H4 promotes the loading of the pre-RC components, and degradation of Set8/PR-Set7 during S phase helps prevent re-replication [380,383]. Therefore, by depleting cells of Cdt2, both Cdt1 and Set8/PR-Set7 are stabilized and robust re-replication should occur.

We sought to induce re-replication in two normal immortalized cell lines: human mammary epithelial (HMEC-hTERT) cells and normal human fibroblast (NHF-hTERT) cells. HMEC cells were chosen for this project because of the wide breadth of microarray data that is available for different breast cancer subtypes [458-462]. NHF cells were chosen because they have been used extensively to study the DNA damage checkpoint [463-466]. The HCT116 colorectal carcinoma cell line was used as a positive control for induced re-replication; previous work

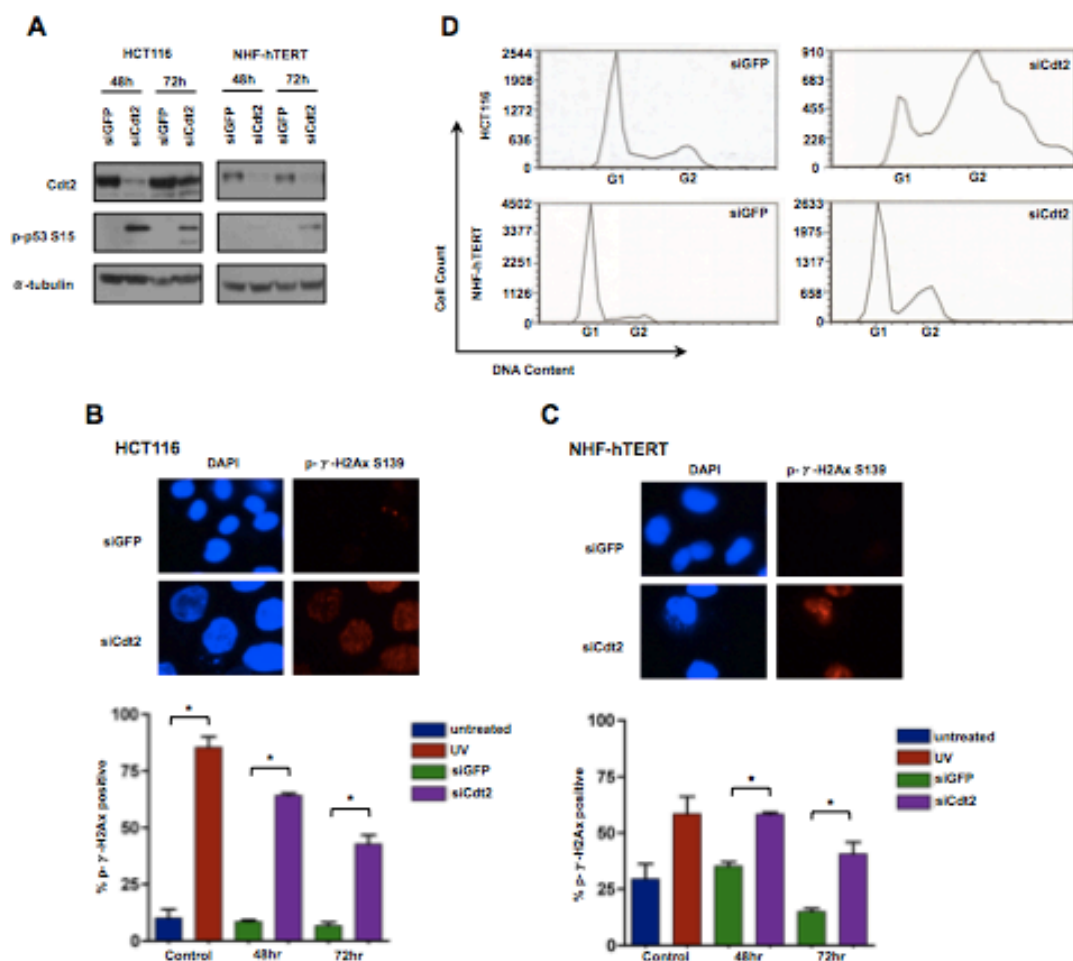


Figure 3.1. Depletion of Cdt2 results in DNA damage and a G2/M arrest. A) HCT116 and NHF-hTERT cells were transfected with 100 nM siGFP or siCdt2 and incubated for either 48 hr or 72 hr. A) Whole cell extracts were analyzed for the presence of Cdt2 and activated p53 (phosphorylated serine 15). α -tubulin was used as a loading control. B) HCT116 and C) NHF-hTERT cells treated with 100nM siRNA were stained for phosphorylated γ -H2Ax (serine 139). Results from multiple experiments are quantified below. * $p < 0.05$. D) The DNA content of HCT116 (top) and NHF-hTERT cells (bottom) treated with 100 nM siRNA were analyzed by flow cytometry.

had shown that Cdt1 misregulation, either through overexpression or due to geminin depletion, can induce re-replication in these cells [467]. As shown in Figure 3.1A, Cdt2 could successfully be depleted in HCT116 and NHF-hTERT cells. When depleted, the DNA damage response was activated as evident by the activating phosphorylation on p53 (serine 15). Since p53 could become activated for a number of reasons, cells were stained for the presence of the DNA damage marker, phosphorylated γ -H2Ax (serine 139, Figure 3.1B and 3.1C). Upon DNA damage, γ -H2Ax is rapidly phosphorylated and deposited at the sites of double strand breaks and is therefore an early marker for the DNA damage response [468]. Interestingly, cells depleted of Cdt2 result in a G2/M arrest with no apparent accumulation of greater than 4C DNA content (Figure 3.1D).

Because the goal of the project was determine a gene expression signature that was specific to cells undergoing re-replication and not a general DNA damage response, we focused on inducing re-replication in the NHF cell line so we could compare directly to the DNA damage gene signatures. Initial experiments were performed using 100 nM siRNA. As seen in Figure 3.2A, both 5 nM and 10 nM siRNA was sufficient to partially deplete cells of Cdt2. This partial depletion was enough to stabilize the CRL4^{Cdt2} target p21, as well as activate p53 (Figure 3.2A) and form γ -H2Ax foci (Figure 3.2B). Importantly, when treated with either 5 nM or 10 nM siRNA, the cells did not arrest at the G2/M border (Figure 3.2C).

Total RNA was extracted from NHF cells treated with either 5 nM or 10 nM siRNA for 72 hr and hybridized to a 4x44K V2 Microarray to examine the

changes in gene expression when Cdt2 was depleted. Unfortunately, the microarray results were inconclusive. Even though Cdt2 depletion was confirmed by immunoblot analysis, microarray analysis showed no changes in Cdt2 mRNA levels. We therefore concluded that the level of re-replication that was being induced was not sufficient enough to lead to changes in gene expression.

When treated with the full dose (100 nM) siCdt2, cells arrested at the G2/M border (Figure 3.1D). This arrest could be the result of a full activation of the DNA damage checkpoint due to extensive re-replication. In order to bypass the checkpoint, cells were depleted with both Cdt2 and p53. Co-depletion of p53 was able to alleviate the G2/M arrest in both HCT116 (Figure 3.3A and HMEC-hTERT cells (Figure 3.3B), however cells did not accumulate greater than 4C DNA content. Additionally, arresting depleted cells with nocodazole did not lead to accumulation of re-replicated DNA (data not shown). These experiments were also performed in the pre-cancerous MCF10a series of breast cancer cell lines; we hypothesized that these cells may be predisposed to accumulating DNA damage. However, siRNA knockdown could not be achieved in these cell lines (data not shown).

These observations suggest that cells depleted of Cdt2 undergo enough stress to activate p53 but are not, in fact, re-replicating. This could be due to the combined stabilization and induction of the Cdk inhibitor p21. As mentioned previously, p21 is targeted for degradation at the onset of S phase by the CRL4^{Cdt2} ubiquitin ligase [453,456,457]. p21 has also been shown to be induced by p53 during a cell cycle arrest [469-472]. Additionally, p21 has been shown to inhibit DNA

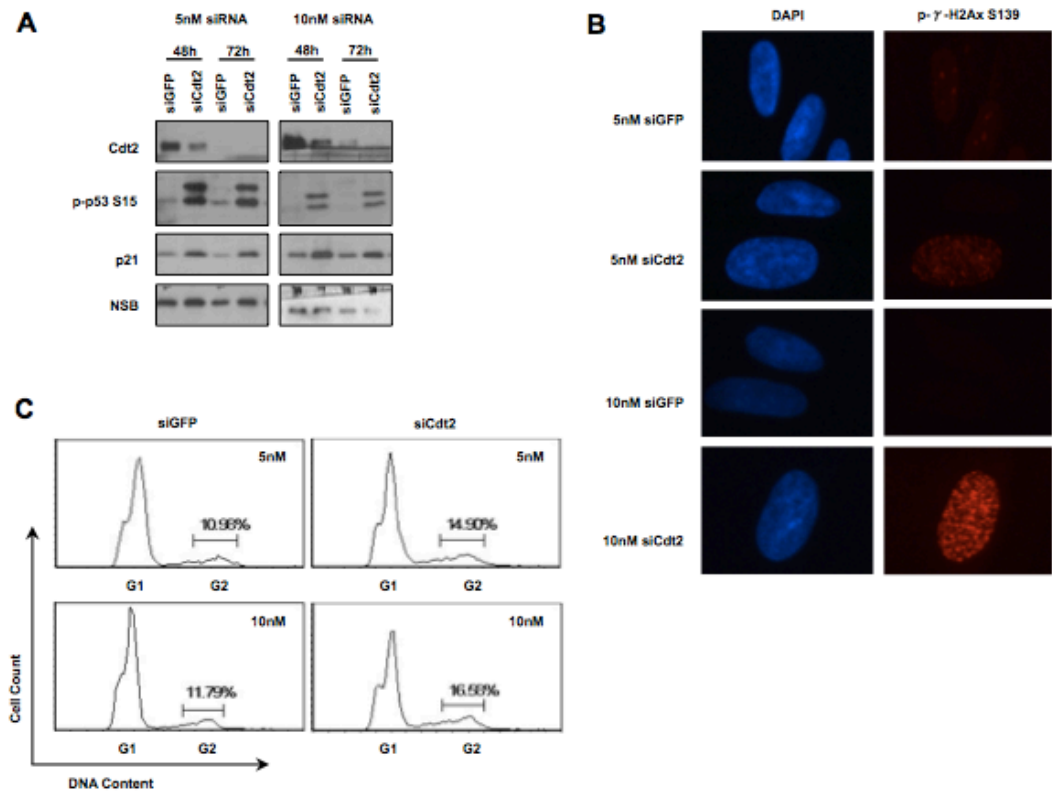


Figure 3.2. Treatment with 10 nM siCdt2 causes DNA damage but does not induce a G2/M arrest. NHF-hTERT cells were treated with 5 nM or 10 nM siGFP or siCdt2 and were incubated for 48 hr or 72 hr. A) Whole cell extracts were analyzed for the presence of Cdt2, activated p53 (phosphorylated serine 15), and p21. A non-specific band (NSB) was used as a loading control. B) Cells treated with 5 nM or 10 nM siRNA were stained for phosphophorylated γ -H2Ax (serine 139). C) The DNA content of NHF-hTERT cells treated with 5 nM (top) or 10 nM (bottom) siRNA were analyzed by flow cytometry.

replication through its binding to PCNA; this inhibition is achieved through by blocking the loading of PCNA onto DNA or by disrupting the loading of polymerase δ onto PCNA *in vitro* [473-475]. We examined the levels of p21 mRNA and found them to be induced in the Cdt2 depleted cells (data not shown), perhaps contributing to the G2/M arrest in these cells.

Depletion of geminin leads to re-replication in HMEC cells

To bypass the arrest, we attempted to induce re-replication by targeting Cdt1 function specifically by depleting cells of the inhibitor protein geminin. Depleting HCT116 cells of geminin induces significant amounts of re-replication [467]. We confirmed that geminin could be depleted through RNAi in HMEC cells (Figure 3.4A). This depletion also leads to an increase in the activation of the checkpoint kinase Chk2, suggesting that these cells are undergoing DNA damage. Indeed, DNA damage was confirmed through the formation of γ -H2Ax foci (Figure 3.4B). It has also been shown in *S. pombe* that DNA damage can induce the levels of Cdt2 [476,477]. Indeed, when we deplete HMEC cells of geminin, we see a 3-fold induction of Cdt2 mRNA, suggesting that the DNA damage checkpoint has been activated (data not shown). Most importantly, however, HMEC cells that are depleted of geminin do not arrest, but instead accumulate greater than 4C DNA content (Figure 3.4C).

Discussion

Cells depleted of Cdt2 accumulated multiple markers of DNA damage, but

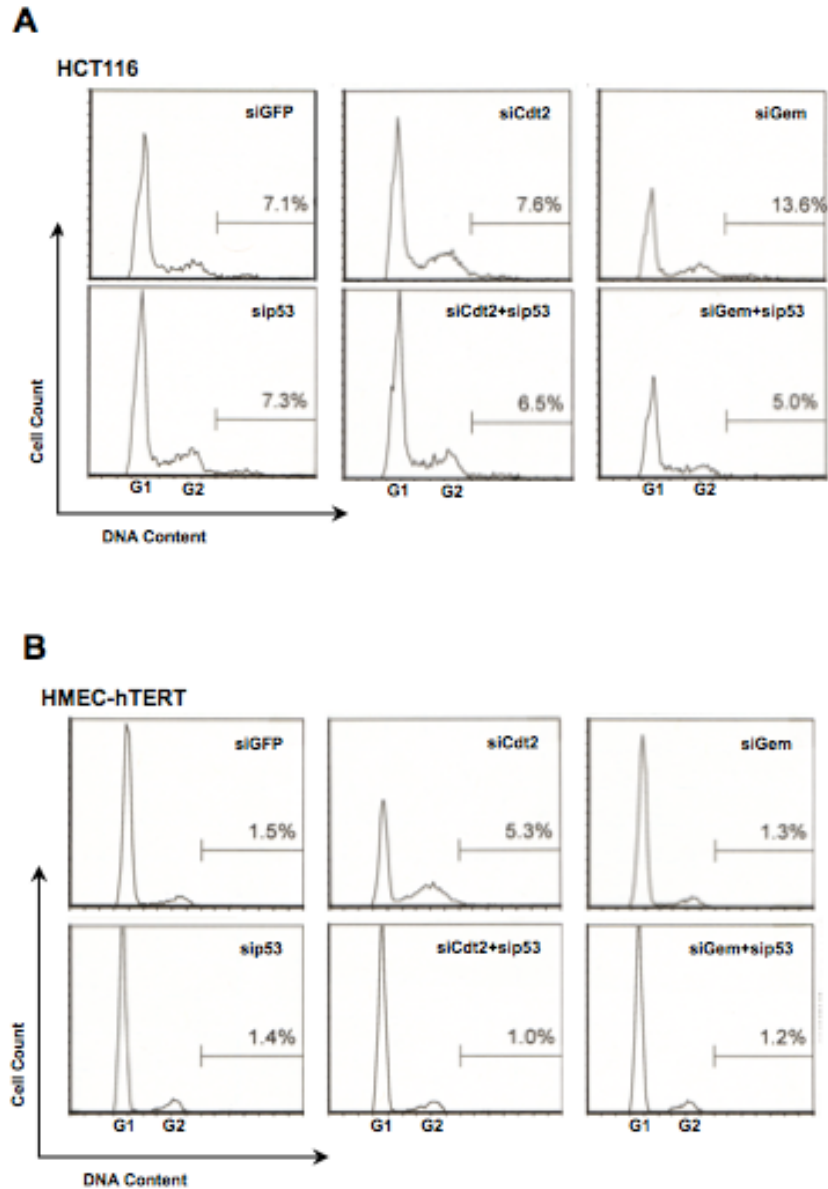


Figure 3.3. Co-depletion of Cdt2 and p53 abrogates the G2/M arrest. A) HCT116 or B) HMEC-hTERT cells were transfected with a total 100 nM of the indicated siRNA. The DNA content of the cells was analyzed 72 hr later by flow cytometry.

evidence of re-replication was not observed by flow cytometry; instead, cells arrested in G2/M phase (Figure 3.1). We hypothesized that depletion of Cdt2 was actually causing re-replication during S phase, leading to what appeared to be 4C content. To exclude this possibility, we treated Cdt2 depleted cells with nocodazole to arrest cells in mitosis, thereby allowing the extra re-replicated DNA to appear as greater than 4C content by flow cytometry. However, treatment with nocodazole did not result in accumulation of re-replicated DNA, suggesting that while these cells are damaged, the G2/M checkpoint prevents re-replication from occurring. This checkpoint could be overcome by concurrently depleting cells of Cdt2 and p53, but re-replication was still not observed (Figure 3.3). Recent studies have stabilized CRL4^{Cdt2} substrates by treating cells with MLN4924, a neddylation inhibitor that blocks the activation of the cullin ubiquitin ligases through the inhibition of NEDD8 [478,479]. When HCT116 cells were treated with MLN4924, re-replication was observed, as well as an increase in apoptosis [478]. Interestingly, when HCT116^{p21^{-/-}} cells were treated with this inhibitor, they saw an increased sensitivity to MLN4924, suggesting that co-depletion of p21 and Cdt2 may increase the chances of inducing re-replication in normal cells.

Because Cdt2 depletion leads to large perturbations of the cell by affecting multiple CRL4^{Cdt2} substrates, we decided to make a targeted approach and affect Cdt1 function only. We therefore depleted HCT116 and HMEC cells of the Cdt1 inhibitor, geminin. Previously, depletion of geminin in NHF-hTERT cells resulted in a normal flow cytometry profile; however, by using DNA fiber spreading, re-replication was evident at low levels [450]. When HMEC cells were depleted of

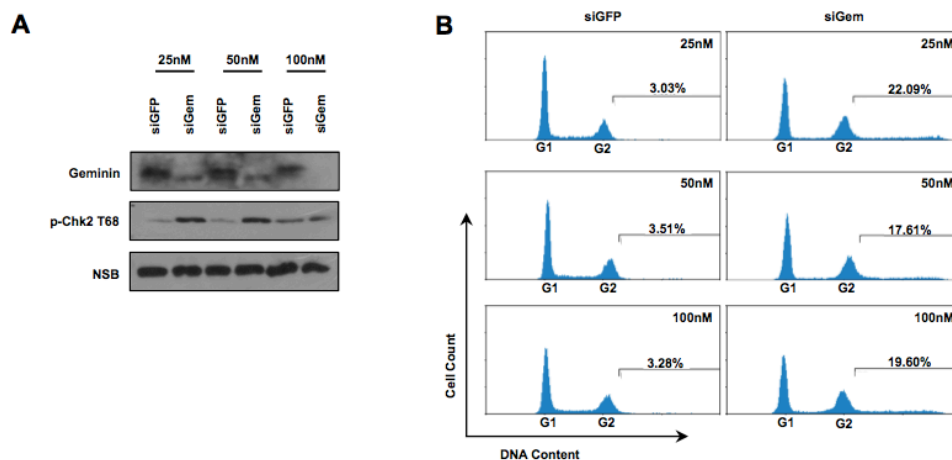


Figure 3.4. Depletion of geminin results in re-replication. HMEC-hTERT cells were treated with either 25 nM, 50 nM, or 100 nM siGFP or siGem for 72 hr. A) Whole cell extracts were analyzed for geminin and activated Chk2 (phosphorylated threonine 68) levels. B) DNA content was analyzed by flow cytometry.

geminin, markers of DNA damage accumulated, as well enough re-replication to be observed by flow cytometry (Figure 3.4). However, these results varied from experiment to experiment. Phosphorylation of Chk2 was consistently observed, suggesting that even though re-replication could not be observed by flow cytometry, it may still be occurring. In order to see changes in gene expression, however, the phenotype may have to be robust enough to be observed by flow cytometry. This could be achieved by combining geminin depletion with transient overexpression of Cdt1, either through adenoviral infection or lentiviral transduction.

Once re-replication is confirmed, a re-replication gene expression signature can be generated. This signature can then be compared to the gene expression profiles of various cancer types, particularly the established subtypes of breast cancer and oncogene driven tumors. This comparison will allow us to correlate cancer subtype, degrees of genomic instability, or potentially patient prognosis with re-replication.

Chapter 4

Conclusions and Future Directions

Conclusions

The work in this dissertation provides evidence that a successful cell cycle is driven by changes in protein abundance. Prior to the work presented here, the majority of the known cell cycle abundance changes were detected through mutagenic, single gene studies. These studies have led to the discovery of many proteins essential for cell cycle progression, such as Cdc6, Cdt1, etc. However, single gene studies limit the scope of what can be observed. By taking a mass spectrometry approach, we have shown that other biological processes, such as mRNA alternative splicing, are regulated in a cell cycle dependent manner.

Future Directions

Repeat mass spectrometry to detect low abundance proteins

While we were able to detect about a third of the known proteome, surprisingly, we could not detect many of the known cell cycle regulated proteins. These proteins included origin licensing proteins, such as Cdc6 and Cdt1, and the E2F transcription factors. Since our screen only identified the most abundant proteins in the cell, it is possible that we were unable to detect critical mediators

of other signaling pathways are indeed cell cycle regulated but are expressed at a low level. This could be circumvented by performing mass spectrometric analysis on a larger amount of protein. Also, the cells could first be fractionated into nuclear and cytoplasmic lysates in order to decrease the complexity of the mixture. Alternatively, the whole cell extract could be separated further, either through SDS-PAGE or a longer elution from the LC separation procedure.

Due to our experimental approach, it is possible that post-translational modifications may have been mistaken as a decrease in protein abundance. In order to elucidate these proteins, we could perform a phosphopeptide enrichment to enhance our detection of phosphorylation events that may occur in a cell cycle dependent manner. However, detection of other modifications, such as acetylation or methylation, typically involved immunoprecipitating proteins from a complex mixture with a modification specific antibody. While this would be possible, we may also be able to detect these modifications through modified database searches. The protocols mentioned previously (i.e., fractionation, longer elution times, etc.) would also boost the possibility of identifying these modifications.

Determine the effects of hnRNP protein changes on alternative splicing

Several alternative splicing factors, both hnRNPs and SR proteins, were found to be differentially regulated during S phase. This suggests that splicing of certain mRNA targets changes during S phase. This has major implications for how protein abundance and function can be regulated throughout the cell cycle.

Recently, changes in alternative splicing have been confirmed for some cell cycle proteins, such as Chk2 (Z. Wang, personal communication), though the cell cycle regulation of alternative splicing has not yet been examined on a large scale. This question can be answered using high-throughput RNA-seq. By sequencing the mRNAs that are present during different stages of the cell cycle, we can determine whether certain isoforms are more abundant during particular cell cycle phases.

Splicing factors are notoriously promiscuous; for example, some target mRNAs, particularly the hnRNP mRNAs themselves, can be regulated by several different splicing factors [438]. In our datasets, we see the majority of the hnRNP proteins decrease during S phase and recover during G2. With such a large scale change in splicing factor abundance and the promiscuity of these factors, overall splicing efficiency may be affected during S phase. In this scenario, the splicing sites that are closest to the consensus site will be bound, and splicing will occur as normal. However, binding to these consensus sites will sequester the limited amount of protein away from the weaker binding sites. To test this, the Garcia-Blanco lab (Duke University) has developed a series of reporter plasmids that vary in their splice site efficiencies. As controls, the 5' consensus site is constitutively spliced, whereas the 15d site is rarely spliced (~10%). Another construct, designated as C, is spliced about ~50% and is therefore contingent on the availability of splicing factors [480]. These constructs could provide insight into whether overall splicing efficiency is affected by cell cycle position.

Determine the gene expression profile of re-replicating HMEC cells

In order to induce re-replication, HMEC cells may need to be depleted of geminin and overexpress Cdt1. This overexpression can be achieved through either adenoviral expression or lentiviral transduction. Due to the possible off-target consequences of adenoviral infection, we are currently testing if transient lentiviral transduction can result in re-replication. Additionally, because normal cells are efficient at repairing re-replication, this damage should be confirmed through both flow cytometry and DNA fiber spreading, as well as the appearance of DNA damage markers, such as γ -H2Ax staining and Chk2 phosphorylation. Gene expression profiling of these cells will reveal an expression pattern that is induced by re-replication, but is, at least partially, different from a DNA damage signature. This re-replication signature can then be compared to the multitude of tumor gene expression profiles that are available.

Because genome instability is a hallmark of cancer, re-replication may be more prevalent in the most aggressive tumors. Therefore, there may be a correlation between re-replication and poor patient prognosis. Cancers that are prone to re-replication may also benefit from treatment with certain types of chemotherapeutics that target DNA replication.

Appendix A: Protocols optimized for Cdc6 isolation

Project Rationale

To further understand the mechanisms by which pre-RC assembly is controlled, we sought to further elucidate the mechanisms by which Cdc6 is regulated. As mentioned in Chapter 1, Cdc6 is phosphorylated in late G1 phase by cyclin/Cdk2 complexes; this phosphorylation blocks the association of Cdc6 with APC/C, resulting in increased protein levels [334]. Recently, it was discovered that Cdc6 is also acetylated on three lysine residues [335]. Acetylation of these residues promotes the phosphorylation of serine 106, which in turn promotes the export of Cdc6 from the nucleus during S phase [335,336,338-341]. While the bulk of Cdc6 is exported, a small fraction of the protein remains chromatin-bound throughout S phase; it is thought that this population of Cdc6 protein participates in the intra-S phase checkpoint [337,342,343]. In addition to this regulation, upon DNA damage, Cdc6 is released from chromatin and targeted for degradation by the ubiquitin ligase Huwe1 [481]. However, under conditions of cellular stress, Cdc6 is not degraded, but pre-RC formation is still blocked [482].

The mechanism by which some Cdc6 is exported while a fraction remains chromatin-bound is still unknown. Additionally, it is unknown why Cdc6 is degraded following DNA damage but is stabilized when cells are stressed. We hypothesized that additional post-translational modifications of Cdc6 may modulate its activity during these conditions. This hypothesis was supported by

the finding that the acetyltransferase Hbo1 associates with many members of the pre-RC complex and is essential for MCM loading [483]. Mass spectrometric data also suggested that Cdc6 was acetylated on lysines 57 and 531 (Y. Xiong, personal communication). Given the proximity of one of these sites, lysine 57, to a known Cdk phosphorylation site, we hypothesized that this modification may regulate the accessibility of Cdc6 to the cyclin/Cdk complexes.

In order to confirm these acetylation sites, as well as identify other modifications that may be present on Cdc6, we sought to immunoprecipitate (IP) endogenous Cdc6 from asynchronously growing HeLa cells to analyze by mass spectrometry.

Cdc6 Isolation Protocols

Isolation of Endogenous Cdc6 with UNC274 or UNC275 sera

HeLa cells were grown asynchronously in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS. Cells were washed with PBS and harvested by trypsinization. Cells were collected by centrifugation and snap frozen. Pellets were resuspended in Co-IP3 buffer (50 mM HEPES, pH 7.2, 33 mM KAc, 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.1% NP-40, 10% glycerol) supplemented with 0.1 mM 4-(2-aminoethyl) benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride (AEBSF), 1 µg/mL pepstatin A, 1 µg/mL aprotinin, 1 µg/mL leupeptin, 5 µg/mL phosphatidyl, 1 mM β-glycerol phosphate, 1 mM orthovanadate, 200 nM trichostatin A, and 2.5 mM sodium butyrate. Lysates were sonicated for 10 pulses on the lowest setting, at 20% duty cycle. Following sonication, 5 mM CaCl₂ and S7 nuclease was added to release chromatin bound

proteins, and the lysates were incubated on ice for 20 min. Lysates were cleared by centrifugation, and protein concentration was determined using the Bradford assay (Biorad). Samples were divided and incubated with either normal rabbit serum (NRS) or the anti-Cdc6 sera, UNC274 or UNC275 overnight at 4°C. Protein A beads were washed with Co-IP3 buffer, added to the IPs, and rotated at 4°C for 1 hr. Following incubation, the protein A beads were washed three times with Co-IP3 buffer and resuspended in SDS loading buffer supplemented with DTT. Samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE on an 8% polyacrylamide gel and transferred to PVDF (Thermo Scientific). Blots were probed with anti-Cdc6 (180.2, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). As shown in Figure A.1A and A.1B, both UNC274 and UNC275 sera were able to immunoprecipitate Cdc6, whereas NRS was not.

Isolation of Endogenous Cdc6 with H304 antibody

In addition to the rabbit serum raised against Cdc6, we were able to immunoprecipitate Cdc6 using a commercial antibody, H304 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology). Asynchronous HeLa cells were washed with PBS and harvested by trypsinization. Cells were pelleted and resuspended in HNNG buffer (15 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 250 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 5% glycerol) supplemented with 0.1 mM AEBSF, 1 µg/mL pepstatin A, 1 µg/mL aprotinin, 1 µg/mL leupeptin, 5 µg/mL phosphatidylserine, 1 mM β-glycerol phosphate, 1 mM orthovanadate, 200 nM trichostatin A, and 2.5 mM sodium butyrate. Lysates were incubated on ice for 20 min and were cleared by centrifugation. Protein concentration was determined using the

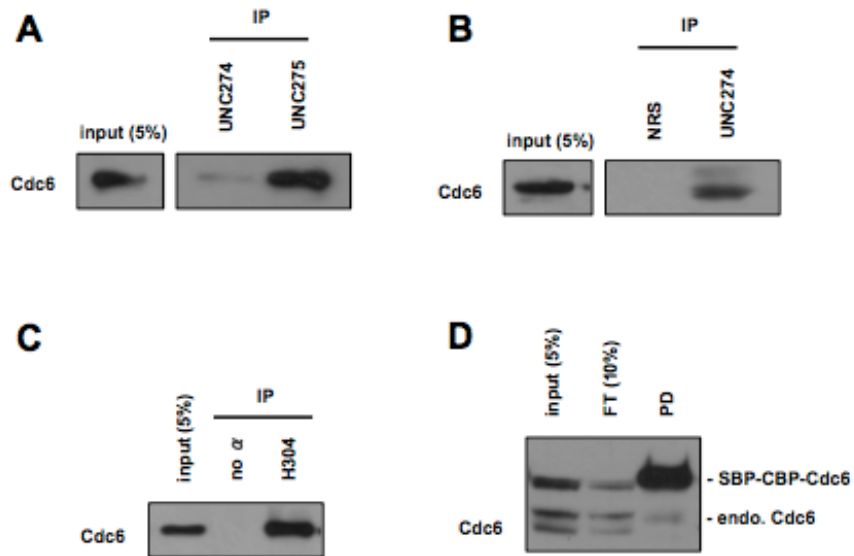


Figure A.1. Cdc6 isolation from HeLa cell extracts. Asynchronous HeLa cell extracts were subjected to immunoprecipitation with either A) UNC 274 serum and UNC275 serum, B) normal rabbit serum (NRS) and UNC275 serum, or C) the commercial H304 antibody. D) Asynchronous HeLa cells were treated with adenovirus encoding SBP-CBP-Cdc6 and were harvested 48 hr after infection. SBP-CBP-Cdc6 was precipitated (PD) using streptavidin beads.

Bradford assay (Biorad). Samples were divided and incubated with either no antibody or H304 overnight at 4°C. Protein A beads were washed with HNNG, added to the IPs, and rotated at 4°C for 1 hr. Following incubation, the beads were washed three times with HNNG buffer and resuspended in SDS loading buffer supplemented with DTT. Samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE on an 8% polyacrylamide gel and transferred to PVDF (Thermo Scientific). Blots were probed with anti-Cdc6 (180.2, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). As shown in Figure A.1C, H304 was able to efficiently pull down endogenous Cdc6, whereas Cdc6 was not detected in the control reaction.

Isolation of SBP-CBP-Cdc6

Asynchronous HeLa cells were infected with an adenovirus expressing GFP or SBP-CBP-Cdc6 at an MOI of 500. Twenty-four hours later, cells were washed with PBS and harvested by trypsinization. Cells were collected by centrifugation and resuspended in SBB-L buffer (40 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.4, 100 mM KCl, 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 2 mM EDTA, 0.1% Triton X-100). All buffers were supplemented with 0.1 mM AEBSF, 1 μ g/mL pepstatin A, 1 μ g/mL aprotinin, 1 μ g/mL leupeptin, 5 μ g/mL phosphatidylserine, 1 mM β -glycerol phosphate, 1 mM orthovanadate, 200 nM trichostatin A, and 2.5 mM sodium butyrate. Cells were sonicated for 10 pulses at the lowest setting, at 20% duty cycle. Lysates were supplemented with 5 mM CaCl_2 and S7 nuclease to release the chromatin-bound proteins and were incubated on ice for 30 min. An equal volume of SBB-H buffer (40 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.4, 500 mM KCl, 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 2 mM EDTA

0.1% Triton X-100) was added, and the lysates were incubated for an additional 10 min on ice. Lysates were cleared by centrifugation, and protein concentration was determined using the Bradford assay (Biorad). Streptavidin resin (Stratagene) was washed in SBB buffer (40 mM Tris HCl, pH 7.4, 250 mM KCl, 5 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 2 mM EDTA, 0.1% Triton X-100) and added to the cell lysates. The beads were incubated with the lysates at 4°C for 2 hr and then washed three times with SBB buffer. The beads were resuspended in SDS loading buffer and subjected to SDS-PAGE on an 8% polyacrylamide gel. Proteins were transferred to PVDF (Thermo Scientific) and probed with anti-Cdc6 (180.2, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). As shown in Figure A.1D, SBP-CBP tagged Cdc6 can be efficiently pulled down used streptavidin resin.

Project Status and Future Directions

Unfortunately, even though endogenous or tagged Cdc6 was successfully immunoprecipitated from asynchronous HeLa cell extracts, we were unable to isolate enough Cdc6 to perform mass spectrometry analysis. Endogenous Cdc6 was immunoprecipitated using the UNC274 sera, the UNC275 sera, or the H304 commercial antibody; unfortunately, given the size of Cdc6 (~63kD), it was nearly impossible to isolate Cdc6 from IgG heavy chain peptides following SDS-PAGE separation. To circumvent this problem, we treated extracts with *N*-ethylmaleimide [484] to prevent the breakdown of the IgG complex or attempted to conjugate the antibody to a resin column. In both cases, however, separation of the antibody and Cdc6 was not successful. Following NEM treatment and

SDS-PAGE, both Cdc6 and the antibody shifted in the gel. To completely eliminate IgG from the SDS-PAGE separation entirely, we attempted to conjugate all three antibodies to agarose resin using the CarboLink Immobilization kit [206]. While the antibodies were successfully cross-linked to the resin, Cdc6 could not be eluted from the column in quantities sufficient for mass spectrometry analysis.

Because endogenous immunoprecipitations would not work, we attempted to tag Cdc6 with several different epitopes (see Appendix B for a full list). The best results were achieved using an N-terminal combination streptavidin binding peptide (SBP)-calmodulin binding peptide (CBP) epitope tag. The addition of this epitope allowed us to pull down Cdc6 under a variety of salt and detergent conditions (Figure A1.D). Unfortunately, while we could express this tagged protein using an adenovirus expression system, we were unable to stably express this protein in a variety of cell types. While we would be able to purify sufficient Cdc6 to perform mass spectrometry analysis using this system, it is possible that overexpression of a tagged protein could result in skewed results.

These issues could perhaps be overcome by the use of a smaller epitope tag or tagging the protein on its C-terminus. Our lab has observed that at least one epitope tag, the 5x myc tag, partially stabilizes Cdc6 when the protein is tagged on the N-terminus. The SBP-CBP tag is of a similar size and could result in a more stable protein, thereby adding additional replication stress to cells that are constantly expressing this protein. Use of a smaller epitope, such as an *in vivo* biotinylation system, may alleviate that stress, allowing for stable expression

of the tagged protein. The stabilization effect of the 5x myc tag may also be due to its placement at the N-terminus, close to where the Cdk phosphorylation site and APC/C binding site are located; relocating the SBP-CBP tag to the C-terminus may help promote stable expression of the protein.

Appendix B: List of plasmids generated

Cdc6 mutants:

pENTR vectors:

1. pENTR1A HsCdc6-stopless

Description: Entry vector encoding an untagged human Cdc6 gene with a mutated stop codon.

Strategy: Stopless codon was amplified from pENTR1A (primers: cdc6.stopless, K531R 5'). PCR was digested (BglII) and ligated into pENTR1A HsCdc6 (BglII & EcoRV).

Note: A consensus kozak sequence was added to this plasmid.

2. pENTR1A HsCdc6-GST

Description: Entry vector encoding a C-terminal Glutathione-S-transferase (GST) tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: HsCdc6-GST was cut from pDEST24 HsCdc6-GST (Sall & EcoRV) and ligated into pENTR1A (Sall & EcoRV).

3. pENTR1A HsCdc6-strep

Description: Entry vector encoding a C-terminal StrepTagII tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: The StrepTagII tag was added to HsCdc6 via PCR (primers: cdc6.strep, K531R 5') using pENTR1A HsCdc6 as a template. Tagged Cdc6 PCR was cut (BglII) and ligated into pENTR1A HsCdc6 (BglII & EcoRV).

Note: A consensus kozak sequence was added to this plasmid.

4. pENTR2B sbp-HsCdc6#

Description: Entry vector encoding an N-terminal streptavidin binding protein (SBP)-calmodulin binding protein (CBP) tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: SBP-CBP tagged Cdc6 was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (NotI & PvuI, blunted) and ligated between EcoRI sites (blunted) in pENTR2B.

Note: In order to successfully create adenovirus, this plasmid was digested with PacI and blunted with T4 polymerase to destroy the site.

5. pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K57R

Description: Entry vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57R mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: K57R muta, K57R 5' #2, K57R 3' Rev). PCR was cut (KpnI & NdeI) and ligated into pENTR3C myc-cdc6 (KpnI & NdeI).

6. pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K57Q

Description: Entry vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57Q mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: K57Q muta, K57R 5' #2, K57R 3' Rev). PCR was cut (KpnI & NdeI) and ligated into pENTR3C myc-cdc6 (KpnI & NdeI).

7. pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K531R

Description: Entry vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531R mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: K531R muta, K531 3' Rev, K531R 5'). PCR was cut (BglII & NotI) and ligated into pENTR3C myc-cdc6 (BglII & NotI).

8. pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K531Q

Description: Entry vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531Q mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: K531Q muta #2, K531 3' Rev, K531R 5'). PCR was cut (BglII & NotI) and ligated into pENTR3C myc-cdc6 (BglII & NotI).

pDEST/expression vectors:

9. pcDNA3 HsCdc6-strep

Description: Expression vector encoding a C-terminal StrepTagII tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: HsCdc6-strep was cut from pDEST40 HsCdc6-strep (SmaI & EagI) and ligated into pcDNA3 (KpnI-blunted & NotI).

10. pcDNA3 myc-cdc6-strep

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged and a C-terminal StrepTagII tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: C-terminal tag was cut from pDEST40 HsCdc6-strep (EagI & EcoRI) and ligated into pcDNA3 myc-cdc6 (NotI & EcoRI).

11. pDEST24 HsCdc6-GST⁺

Description: Bacterial expression vector encoding a C-terminal GST tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST24 from pENTR1A HsCdc6-stopless via LR Gateway reaction.

Note: This plasmid contains a frame shift. The pENTR1A HsCdc6-stopless plasmid has been corrected, however this plasmid was not remade.

12. pDEST40 HsCdc6-GST

Description: Expression vector encoding a C-terminal GST tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR1A HsCdc6-GST via LR Gateway reaction.

13. pDEST40 HsCdc6-His

Description: Expression vector encoding a C-terminal 6x His tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR1A HsCdc6-GST via LR Gateway reaction.

Note: A consensus kozak sequence was added to this plasmid. A frame shift mutation was corrected by digesting with XhoI and blunted with T4 polymerase.

14. pDEST40 HsCdc6-strep

Description: Expression vector encoding a C-terminal StrepTagII tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR1A HsCdc6-strep via LR Gateway reaction.

15. pDEST40 myc-cdc6

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR3C myc-cdc6 via LR Gateway reaction.

16. pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K57R

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57R mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K57R via LR Gateway reaction.

17. pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K57Q

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57Q mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K57Q via LR Gateway reaction.

18. pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K531R

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531R mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K531R via LR Gateway reaction.

19. pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K531Q

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531Q mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was moved into pDEST40 from pENTR3C myc-cdc6 K531Q via LR Gateway reaction.

20. pNTAP3C HsCdc6

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: HsCdc6 was cut from pENTR1A HsCdc6 (BamHI & XhoI) and ligated into pNTAP3C (BamHI & XhoI).

21. pNTAP3C HsCdc6#

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: Resistant Cdc6 was created using the QuikChange mutagenesis kit (primers: D5 muta #2, D5 muta 3').

22. pNTAP3C cdc6 K57R

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57R mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K57R was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K57R (BamHI & EcoRI) and ligated into pNTAP3C (BamHI & EcoRI).

23. pNTAP3C cdc6 K57R#

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K57R mutation.

Strategy: Resistant Cdc6 was created using the QuikChange mutagenesis kit (primers: D5 muta #2, D5 muta 3').

24. pNTAP3C cdc6 K57Q

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57Q mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K57Q was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K57Q (BamHI & EcoRI) and ligated into pNTAP3C (BamHI & EcoRI).

25. pNTAP3C cdc6 K57Q#

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K57Q mutation.

Strategy: Resistant Cdc6 was created using the QuikChange mutagenesis kit (primers: D5 muta #2, D5 muta 3').

26. pNTAP3C cdc6 K531R

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531R mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K531R was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K531R (EcoRI & HindIII) and ligated into pNTAP3C (EcoRI & HindIII).

27. pNTAP3C cdc6 K531R#

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K531R mutation.

Strategy: Resistant portion of Cdc6 was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (BamHI & EcoRI) and ligated into pNTAP3C cdc6 K531R (BamHI & EcoRI).

28. pNTAP3C cdc6 K531Q

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531Q mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K531Q was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K531Q (EcoRI & HindIII) and ligated into pNTAP3C (EcoRI & HindIII).

29. pNTAP3C cdc6 K531Q#

Description: Expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin containing the K531Q mutation.

Strategy: Resistant portion of Cdc6 was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (BamHI & EcoRI) and ligated into pNTAP3C cdc6 K531Q (BamHI & EcoRI).

Viral vectors:

30. pAD-DEST sbp-cdc6#

Description: Adenoviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6# was moved into pAD-DEST/CMV/V5 from pENTR2B sbp-cdc6# via LR Gateway reaction.

31. pBABEhy MmCdc6-GFP

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding a C-terminal Green Fluorescence Protein (GFP) tagged mouse Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: MmCdc6 was cut from pLL5.0x MmCdc6 (ClaI) and ligated into pBABEhy [452].

32. pBABEhy MmCdc6 GFP IRES

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding a mouse Cdc6 gene and GFP, separated by an internal ribosomal entry site [117].

Strategy: MmCdc6 GFP IRES was cut from pLL5.0x MmCdc6 GFP IRES (ClaI) and ligated into pBABEhy [452].

33. pBABEpu myc-cdc6-strep

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc and a C-terminal StrepTagII tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was cut from pcDNA3 myc-cdc6-strep (KpnI & XhoI, blunted) and ligated into pBABEpu (EcoRI, blunted).

34. pBABEpu sbp-cdc6#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6# was cut from pNTAP3C sbp-cdc6# (NotI & PvuI, blunted) and ligated into pBABEpu (EcoRI, blunted).

35. pCLXSN myc-cdc6 K57R

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57R mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 K57R was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K57R (KpnI & NotI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

36. pCLXSN myc-cdc6 K57Q

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K57Q mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 K57Q was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K57Q (KpnI & NotI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

37. pCLXSN myc-cdc6 K531R

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531R mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 K531R was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K531R (KpnI & NotI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

38. pCLXSN myc-cdc6 K531Q

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal 5x myc tagged human Cdc6 gene containing the K531Q mutation.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 K531Q was cut from pDEST40 myc-cdc6 K531Q (KpnI & NotI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

39. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6 was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6 (SacII & XhoI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

40. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: Tagged Cdc6# was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (PmlI & AclI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 K57Q# (PmlI & AclI).

41. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S45A#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S45A mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S45A muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (DraIII) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (DraIII).

42. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S45D#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S45D mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S45D muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (DraIII) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (DraIII).

43. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S54A#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S54A mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S54A muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (EcoRI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (EcoRI).

44. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S54D#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S54D mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S54D muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (EcoRI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (EcoRI).

45. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 K57R#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K57R mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K57R# was cut from pNTAP3C cdc6 K57R# (PmlI & AclI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 K57Q# (PmlI & AclI).

46. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 K57Q#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K57Q mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K57Q# was cut from pNTAP3C cdc6 K57Q# (NotI & PvuI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

47. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S74A#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S74A mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S74A muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (EcoRI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (EcoRI).

48. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S74D#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S74D mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S74D muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (EcoRI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (EcoRI).

49. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S106A#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S106A mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S106A muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (EcoRI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (EcoRI).

50. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 S106D#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the S106D mutation.

Strategy: Mutation was created by megaprimer PCR (primers: cdc6 S45 F, S106D muta R, S45 3'R #2). PCR was cut (EcoRI) and ligated into pCLXSN sbp-cdc6# (EcoRI).

51. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 K531R#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K531R mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K531R# was cut from pNTAP3C cdc6 K531R# (NotI & PvuI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

52. pCLXSN sbp-cdc6 K531Q#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin, containing the K531Q mutation.

Strategy: Cdc6 K531Q# was cut from pNTAP3C cdc6 K531Q# (NotI & PvuI, blunted) and ligated into pCLXSN (XhoI, blunted).

53. pCLXSN PIP-sbp-cdc6#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal PIP motif (from Cdt1), SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: HsCdc6# was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (PvuI-blunted & SacII) and ligated into pCLXSN PIP (XhoI-blunted & SacII).

54. pCLXSN PIPm-sbp-cdc6#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal mutated PIP motif, SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin.

Strategy: HsCdc6# was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (PvuI-blunted & SacII) and ligated into pCLXSN PIPm (XhoI-blunted & SacII).

Note: Sequencing confirmed that the PIP motif is not actually mutated.

55. pLL5.0x MmCdc6-GFP

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding a C-terminal GFP tagged mouse Cdc6 gene.

Strategy: MmCdc6 was amplified from pcDNA3 MmCdc6 (primers: SacII MmCdc6, BamHI MmCdc6). PCR was cut (BamHI & SacII) and ligated into pLL5.0x (BamHI & SacII).

56. pLL5.0x MmCdc6 IRES

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the mouse Cdc6 gene and GFP, separated by an IRES.

Strategy: IRES was amplified from pLL5.5x (primers: BamHI IRES R, SphI stop IRES F). PCR was cut (SphI & BamHI) and ligated into pLL5.0x MmCdc6-GFP (SphI & BamHI).

57. pLXIN sbp-cdc6#

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal SBP-CBP tagged human Cdc6 gene, resistant to the D5 hairpin and the neomycin gene separated by an IRES.

Strategy: Sbp-cdc6# was cut from pNTAP3C HsCdc6# (NotI & PvuI, blunted) and ligated into pLXIN (XhoI, blunted).

Cdt1 Plasmids:

58. pLL5.0x HA-Cdt1*

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding an N-terminal 2x HA tagged human Cdt1 gene, resistant to siCdt1.

Strategy: HA-Cdt1* was amplified from pENTR3C HA2 HsCdt1* (primers: 5' HA Cdt1, 3' HA Cdt1). PCR was cut (EcoRV) and ligated into pLL5.0x (SacII, blunted).

59. pLL5.0x PIPm-Cdt1*-V5

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the human Cdt1 gene with a mutated PIP motif, resistant to siCdt1.

Strategy: PIPm-Cdt1*-V5 was amplified from pDEST40 PIPm-Cdt1*-V5 (primers: 5' PIPm-Cdt1, 3' PIPm-Cdt1). PCR was cut (HpaI) and ligated into pLL5.0x (SacII, blunted).

Note: Sequencing confirmed that the PIP motif is not actually mutated.

Splicing Reporter Plasmids:

60. pENTR2B C

Description: Entry vector encoding the splicing reporter construct C (50% inclusion).

Strategy: C construct was amplified from pl-12 C (primers: Sall C5'F, Sall C3'R).

61. pENTR2B 15d

Description: Entry vector encoding the splicing reporter construct 15d (10% inclusion).

Strategy: 15d construct was amplified from pl-12 15d (primers: Sall C5'F, Sall C3'R).

62. pENTR2B 5' consensus

Description: Entry vector encoding the splicing reporter 5' consensus (100% inclusion).

Strategy: 5' consensus was amplified from pl-12 5' consensus (primers: Sall C5'F, Sall C3'R).

63. pENTR2B ISS-KK5

Description: Entry vector encoding the GFP splicing reporter sensitive to SF2.

Strategy: ISS-KK5 was cut from pZW2C KK5 (BamHI-blunted & NheI) and ligated into pENTR2B (XbaI & EcoRV).

64. pENTR2B ISS-KK6

Description: Entry vector encoding the GFP splicing reporter sensitive to hnRNPA3.

Strategy: ISS-KK6 was cut from pZW2C KK6 (BamHI-blunted & NheI) and ligated into pENTR2B (XbaI & EcoRV).

65. pLX302 C

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the splicing reporter construct C (50% inclusion).

Strategy: C was moved into pLX302 from pENTR2B C via LR Gateway reaction.

66. pLX302 15d

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the splicing reporter construct 15d (10% inclusion).

Strategy: 15d was moved into pLX302 from pENTR2B 15d via LR Gateway reaction.

67. pLX302 5' consensus

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the splicing reporter construct 5' consensus (100% inclusion).

Strategy: 5' consensus was moved into pLX302 from pENTR2B 5' consensus via LR Gateway reaction.

68. pLX302 ISS-KK5

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the GFP splicing reporter sensitive to SF2.

Strategy: ISS-KK5 was moved into pLX302 from pENTR2B ISS-KK5 via LR Gateway reaction.

69. pLX302 ISS-KK6

Description: Lentiviral expression vector encoding the GFP splicing reporter sensitive to hnRNPA3.

Strategy: ISS-KK6 was moved into pLX302 from pENTR2B ISS-KK6 via LR Gateway reaction.

Other plasmids:

70. pCLXSN PIP

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding the PIP motif from the human Cdt1 gene.

Strategy: PIP motif was amplified from pENTR3C Cdt1 5SA (primers: Cdt1 PIP 5', Cdt1 PIP linker 3'). PCR was cut (EcoRI & XhoI) and ligated into pCLXSN (EcoRI & XhoI).

71. pCLXSN PIPm

Description: Retroviral expression vector encoding a mutated PIP motif from the human Cdt1 gene.

Strategy: PIPm was amplified from pENTR3C Cdt1 PIPm (primers: Cdt1 PIP 5', Cdt1 PIP linker 3'). PCR was cut (EcoRI & XhoI) and ligated into pCLXSN (EcoRI & XhoI).

Note: Sequencing confirmed that the PIP motif is not actually mutated.

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