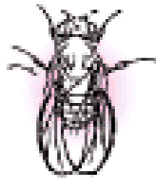


## L6 – Engineering Transcriptional Responses with a Chemical Probe

November 19, 2019



*D. melanogaster*

**13,600**



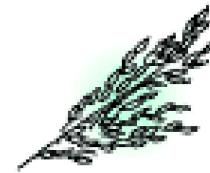
*C. elegans*

**19,500**



*Homo sapiens*

**21,000**



*Oryza sativa*

**45,000**

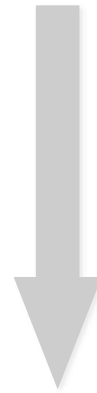


*Zea mays*

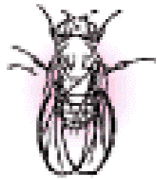
**50,000**

alternative  
splicing

post-translational  
processing



>100,000 proteins of unknown structure or function  
How do these parts give rise to organismal complexity?



*D. melanogaster*

**13,600**

450



*C. elegans*

**19,500**

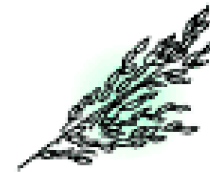
750



*Homo sapiens*

**21,000**

2,600



*Oryza sativa*

**45,000**

2,000



*Zea mays*

**50,000**

760

alternative  
splicing

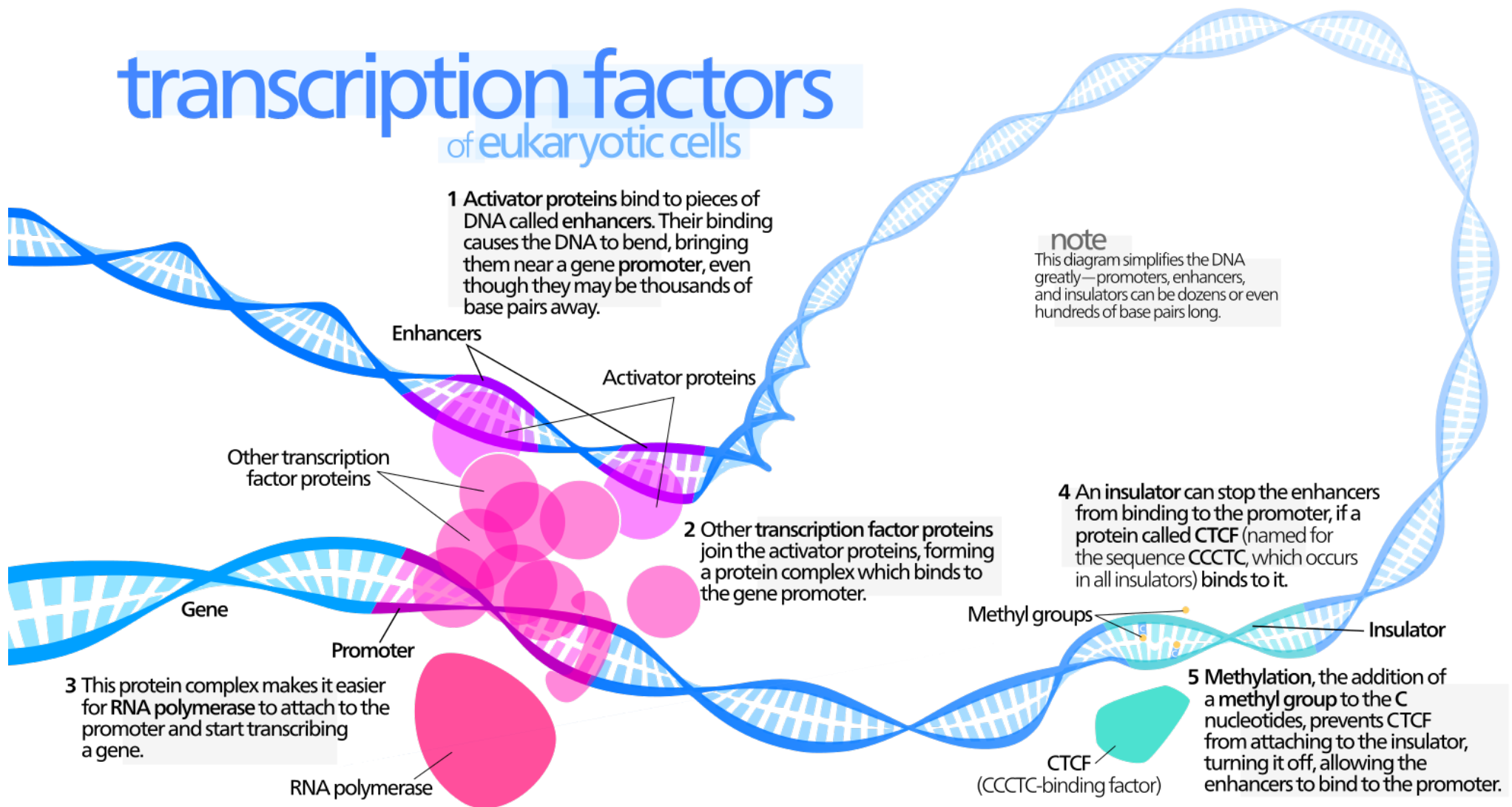
post-translational  
processing



>100,000 proteins of unknown structure or function  
How do these parts give rise to organismal complexity?

# transcription factors

of eukaryotic cells





Transcriptional  
protein complex 1



Individual factors



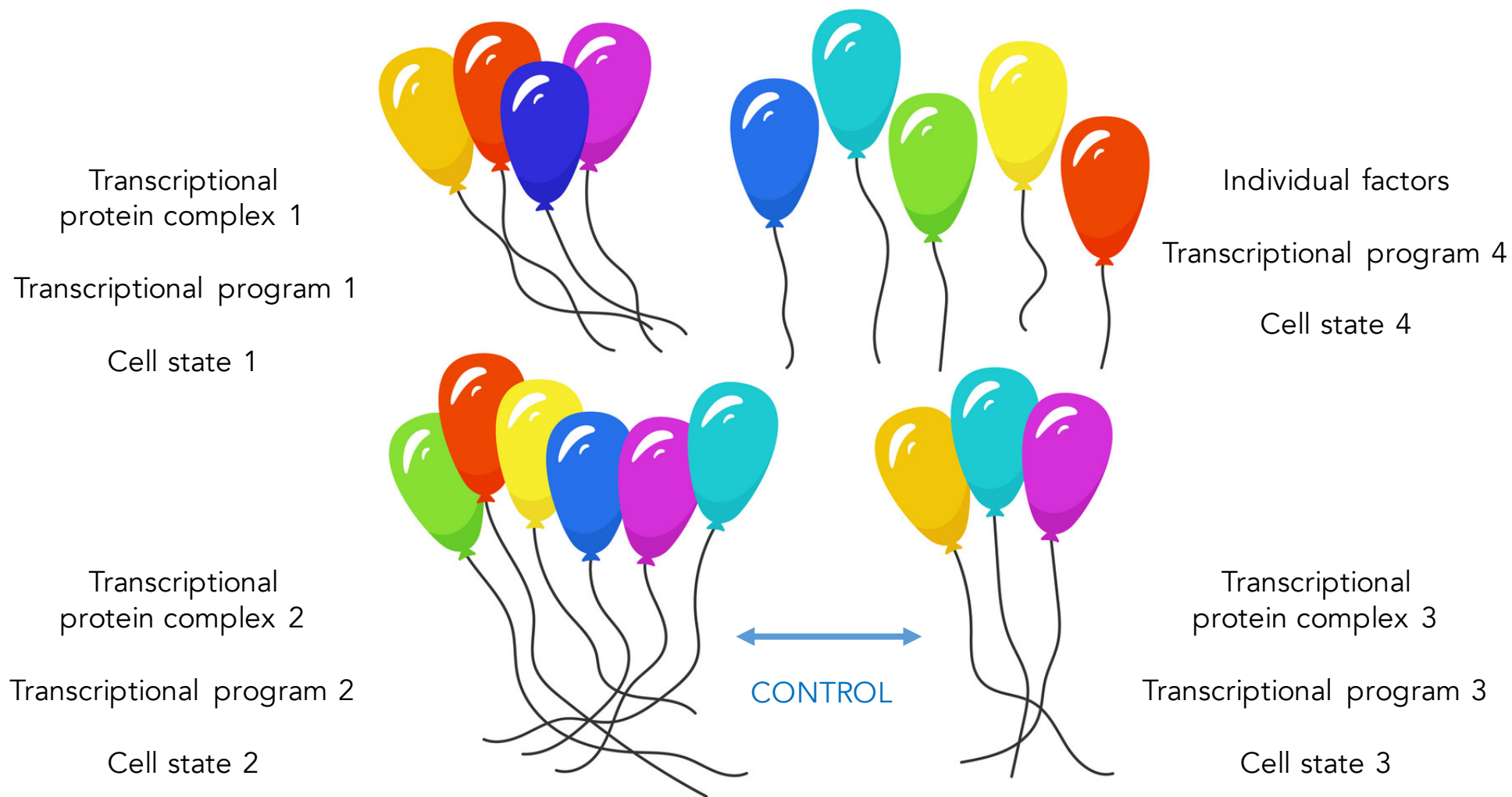
Transcriptional  
protein complex 2



Transcriptional  
protein complex 3

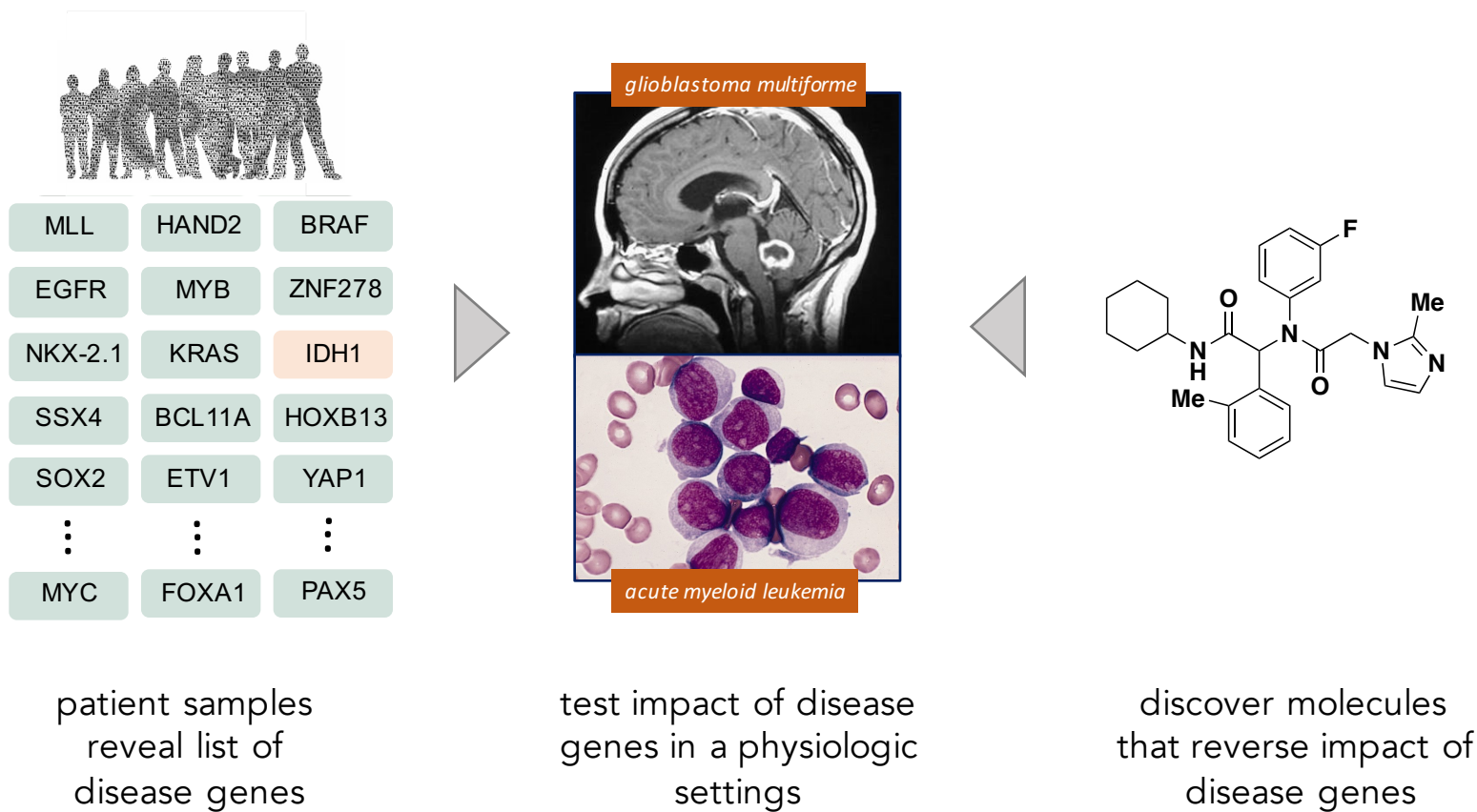






# Therapeutically-driven probe discovery

target cause of disease revealed by human genetics



# Transcription factors

implicated in a broad spectrum of disease

*AVGR8*  
*BCL11A*  
*CAMTA1*  
*ELF1*  
*ETS1*  
*GATA3*  
*GTF2H1*  
*HHEX-IDE*  
*HIF2A*  
*HNF1B*  
*HPB1*  
*IRF5*  
*IRF8*  
*LBXCOR1*  
*MAF*  
*MECP2*

central corneal thickness  
 $\beta$ -hemoglobin disorders  
episodic memory deficit  
systemic lupus erythematosus  
systemic lupus erythematosus  
periodontitis  
amyloidosis  
T2D  
RCC  
T2D  
osteoarthritis  
various AI disorders  
MS  
restless leg syndrome  
early-onset obesity  
autism

*MEIS1*  
*MLXIPL*  
*NFATC2*  
*NOTCH2*  
*PBX4*  
*PPARG*  
*RELA*  
*RFX4*  
*SP7*  
*STAT3*  
*STAT4*  
*TCF4*  
*TCF7L2*  
*THAP1*  
*ZNF469*  
*ZNF804A*

restless leg syndrome  
coronary artery disease  
T1D  
T2D  
coronary artery disease  
T2D  
rheumatoid arthritis  
Parkinson's disease  
BMD  
various AI disorders and cancers  
systemic lupus erythematosus  
schizophrenia, corneal dystrophy  
T2D  
early-onset torsion dystonia  
central corneal thickness  
schizophrenia

...

# Transcription factors

misregulation in cancer

## *amplified TF cancer genes*

<i>JUN</i>	sarcoma
<i>LMO1</i>	T-ALL, neuroblastoma
<i>MITF</i>	melanoma
<i>MYC</i>	various cancers
<i>MYCL1</i>	small cell lung
<i>MYCN</i>	neuroblastoma
<i>NKX2-1</i>	follicular lymphoma
<i>REL</i>	Hodgkin lymphoma
<i>SOX2</i>	NSCLC, esophageal SCC

## *germline mutated TF cancer genes*

<i>HNF1</i>	HCC, hepatic adenoma
<i>LMO1</i>	neuroblastoma
<i>PHOX2B</i>	neuroblastoma
<i>RB1</i>	various cancers
<i>SMAD4</i>	gastrointestinal polyps
<i>SMARCB1</i>	malignant rhabdoid
<i>SUFU</i>	medulloblastoma
<i>TP53</i>	various cancers
<i>WT1</i>	Wilms tumor

## *TF cancer genes with frameshift mutations*

<i>ARID1A</i>	clear cell ovarian carcinoma, RCC
<i>ASXL1</i>	MDS, CMML
<i>ATRX</i>	pancreatic neuroendocrine
<i>CEBPA</i>	AML, MDS
<i>CREBBP</i>	ALL, AML, DLBCL, B-NHL
<i>DAXX</i>	pancreatic neuroendocrine
<i>EP300</i>	various cancers
<i>GATA1</i>	megakaryoblastic leukemia
<i>GATA3</i>	breast
<i>HNF1</i>	HCC, hepatic adenoma
<i>HRPT2</i>	parathyroid adenoma
<i>NOTCH2</i>	marginal zone lymphoma, DLBCL
<i>PBRM1</i>	breast, clear cell renal carcinoma
<i>PHOX2B</i>	neuroblastoma
<i>PRDM1</i>	DLBCL
<i>RB1</i>	various cancers
<i>SMAD4</i>	gastrointestinal polyps
<i>SMARCA4</i>	NSCLC
<i>SMARCB1</i>	malignant rhabdoid
<i>SUFU</i>	medulloblastoma
<i>TP53</i>	various cancers
<i>WT1</i>	Wilms tumor

...

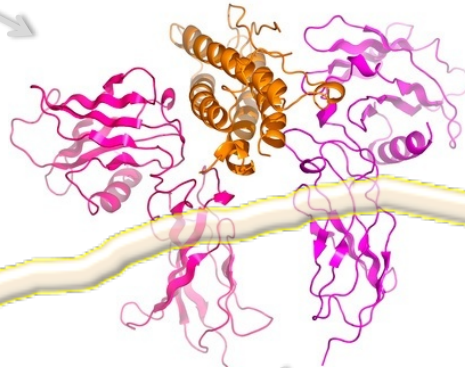
## somatically mutated TF cancer genes

<i>AFF4</i>	ALL	<i>IRF4</i>	MM	<i>POU2AF1</i>	NHL
<i>ARNT</i>	AML	<i>JAZF1</i>	endometrial stromal tumors	<i>POU5F1</i>	sarcoma
<i>ATF1</i>	melanoma, AFH	<i>JUN</i>	sarcoma	<i>PPARG</i>	follicular thyroid
<i>BTG1</i>	BCLL	<i>KLF6</i>	prostate, glioma	<i>PRDM1</i>	DLBCL
<i>CBFB</i>	AML	<i>LAF4</i>	ALL	<i>PRDM16</i>	MDS, AML
<i>CDX2</i>	AML	<i>LMO1</i>	T-ALL, neuroblastoma	<i>RARA</i>	APL
<i>CEBPA</i>	AML, MDS	<i>LMO2</i>	T-ALL	<i>RB1</i>	various cancers
<i>CIC</i>	soft tissue sarcoma	<i>LPP</i>	lipoma, leukemia	<i>REL</i>	Hodgkin lymphoma
<i>CITTA</i>	PMBL, Hodgkin lymphoma	<i>LYL1</i>	T-ALL	<i>RUNX1</i>	AML, pre B-ALL
<i>CREB1</i>	clear cell sarcoma	<i>MAFB</i>	MM	<i>RUNXBP2</i>	AML
<i>CREBBP</i>	ALL, AML, DLBCL, B-NHL	<i>MAML2</i>	salivary gland	<i>SMAD4</i>	colorectal, pancreatic
<i>CRTC3</i>	salivary gland mucoepidermoid	<i>MDS1</i>	MDS, AML	<i>SMARCA4</i>	NSCLC
<i>DUX4</i>	soft tissue sarcoma	<i>MDS2</i>	MDS	<i>SMARCB1</i>	malignant rhabdoid
<i>EBF1</i>	lipoma	<i>MECT1</i>	salivary gland	<i>SOX2</i>	NSCLC, esophageal SCC
<i>ELF4</i>	AML	<i>MHC2TA</i>	head-neck squamous cell, renal	<i>SS18</i>	synovial sarcoma
<i>ELK4</i>	prostate	<i>MITF</i>	melanoma	<i>SS18L1</i>	synovial sarcoma
<i>ELKS</i>	papillary thyroid	<i>MKL1</i>	AML	<i>SSX1</i>	synovial sarcoma
<i>EP300</i>	various cancers	<i>MLF1</i>	AML	<i>SSX2</i>	synovial sarcoma
<i>ERG</i>	AML, Ewing sarcoma, prostate	<i>MLLT1</i>	ALL	<i>SSX4</i>	synovial sarcoma
<i>ETV1</i>	Ewing sarcoma, prostate	<i>MLLT10</i>	ALL, colorectal	<i>SUFU</i>	medulloblastoma
<i>ETV4</i>	Ewing sarcoma, prostate	<i>MLLT2</i>	ALL, breast cancers	<i>SUZ2</i>	endometrial stromal tumors
<i>ETV5</i>	prostate	<i>MLLT3</i>	AML	<i>TAF15</i>	ALL, EMC
<i>ETV6</i>	various cancers	<i>MLLT4</i>	AML	<i>TAL1</i>	lymphoblastic leukemia
<i>EV11</i>	AML, CML	<i>MLLT6</i>	ALL	<i>TAL2</i>	T-ALL
<i>EWSR1</i>	Ewing sarcoma, ALL	<i>MLLT7</i>	ALL	<i>TCEA1</i>	salivary adenoma
<i>FEV</i>	Ewing sarcoma	<i>MYB</i>	adenoid cystic sarcoma	<i>TCF12</i>	EMC
<i>FLI1</i>	Ewing sarcoma	<i>MYC</i>	various cancers	<i>TCF3</i>	pre B-ALL
<i>FOXL2</i>	ovarian	<i>MYCL1</i>	small cell lung	<i>TFE3</i>	renal, alveolar soft sarcoma
<i>FO XO1A</i>	alveolar rhabdomyosarcomas	<i>MYCN</i>	neuroblastoma	<i>TFEB</i>	renal (child epitheloid)
<i>FO XO3A</i>	AL	<i>NCOA1</i>	alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma	<i>TFPT</i>	pre B-ALL
<i>FOXP1</i>	ALL	<i>NCOA2</i>	AML	<i>THRAP3</i>	aneurysmal bone cysts
<i>GATA1</i>	megakaryoblastic leukemia	<i>NCOA4</i>	papillary thyroid	<i>TIF1</i>	APL
<i>GATA2</i>	AML	<i>NFIB</i>	lipoma, ACC	<i>TLX1</i>	T-ALL
<i>GATA3</i>	breast	<i>NFKB2</i>	B-NHL	<i>TLX3</i>	T-ALL
<i>HLF</i>	ALL	<i>NKX2-1</i>	NSCLC	<i>TP53</i>	various cancers
<i>HLXB9</i>	AML	<i>NOTCH1</i>	T-ALL	<i>TRIM27</i>	papillary thyroid
<i>HMGA1</i>	various cancers	<i>NOTCH2</i>	DLBCL, marginal zone lymphoma	<i>TRIM33</i>	papillary thyroid
<i>HMGA2</i>	various cancers	<i>NR4F3</i>	EMC	<i>TSHR</i>	toxic thyroid adenoma
<i>HOXA11</i>	CML	<i>NRF2</i>	NSCLC, HNSCC	<i>WT1</i>	Wilm tumor
<i>HOXA13</i>	AML	<i>OLIG2</i>	T-ALL	<i>ZNF145</i>	APL
<i>HOXA9</i>	AML	<i>PAX3</i>	alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma	<i>ZNF198</i>	MPD, NHL
<i>HOXC11</i>	AML	<i>PAX5</i>	NHL	<i>ZNF278</i>	Ewing sarcoma
<i>HOXC13</i>	AML	<i>PAX7</i>	alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma	<i>ZNF331</i>	follicular thyroid adenoma
<i>HOXD11</i>	AML	<i>PAX8</i>	follicular thyroid	<i>ZNF384</i>	ALL
<i>HOXD13</i>	AML	<i>PBX1</i>	pre B-ALL	<i>ZNF521</i>	ALL
<i>HNF1</i>	HCC	<i>PHOX2B</i>	neuroblastoma	<i>ZNF9</i>	aneurysmal bone cysts
<i>HRPT2</i>	parathyroid adenoma	<i>PLAG1</i>	salivary adenoma	<i>ZNFN1A1</i>	ALL, DLBCL
<i>IKZF1</i>	ALL	<i>PMX1</i>	AML1		

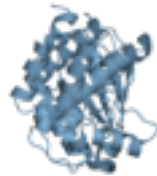
extracellular  
factors



membrane  
receptors

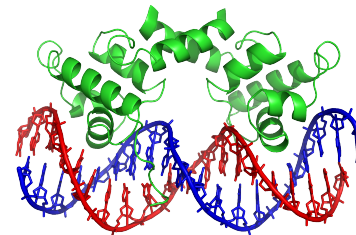


intracellular  
signaling  
proteins



transcriptional regulators

more cogent target?



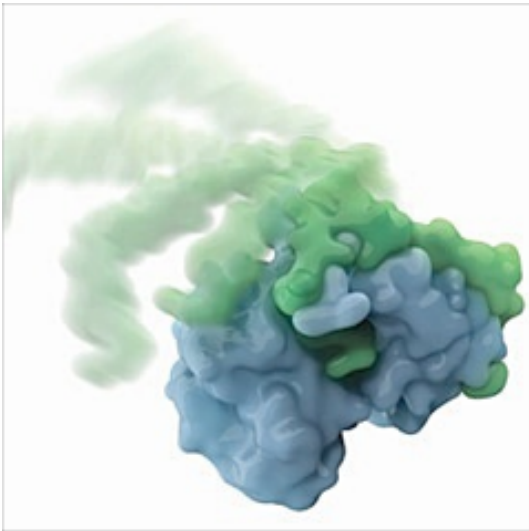
cellular  
response





# A complex task?

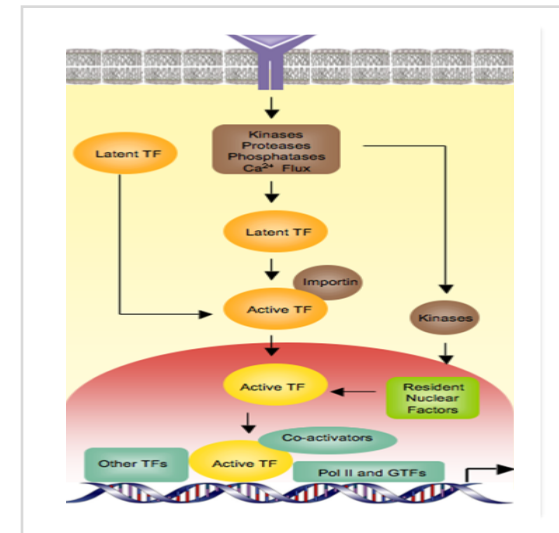
transcription factors are the prototype of an '*undruggable*' target



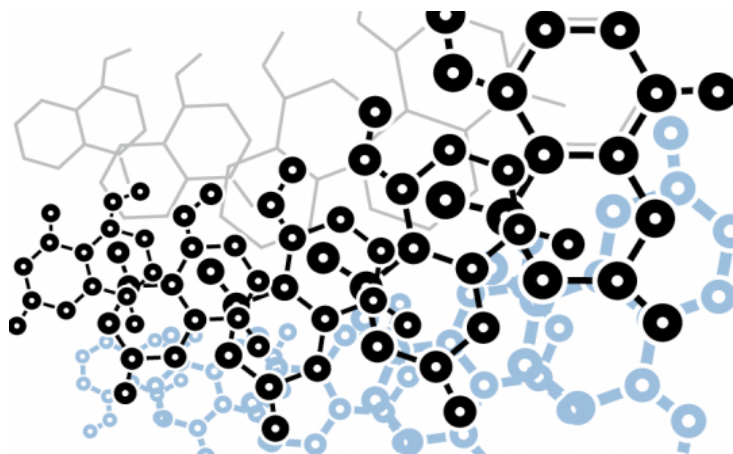
disordered when isolated  
from binding partners



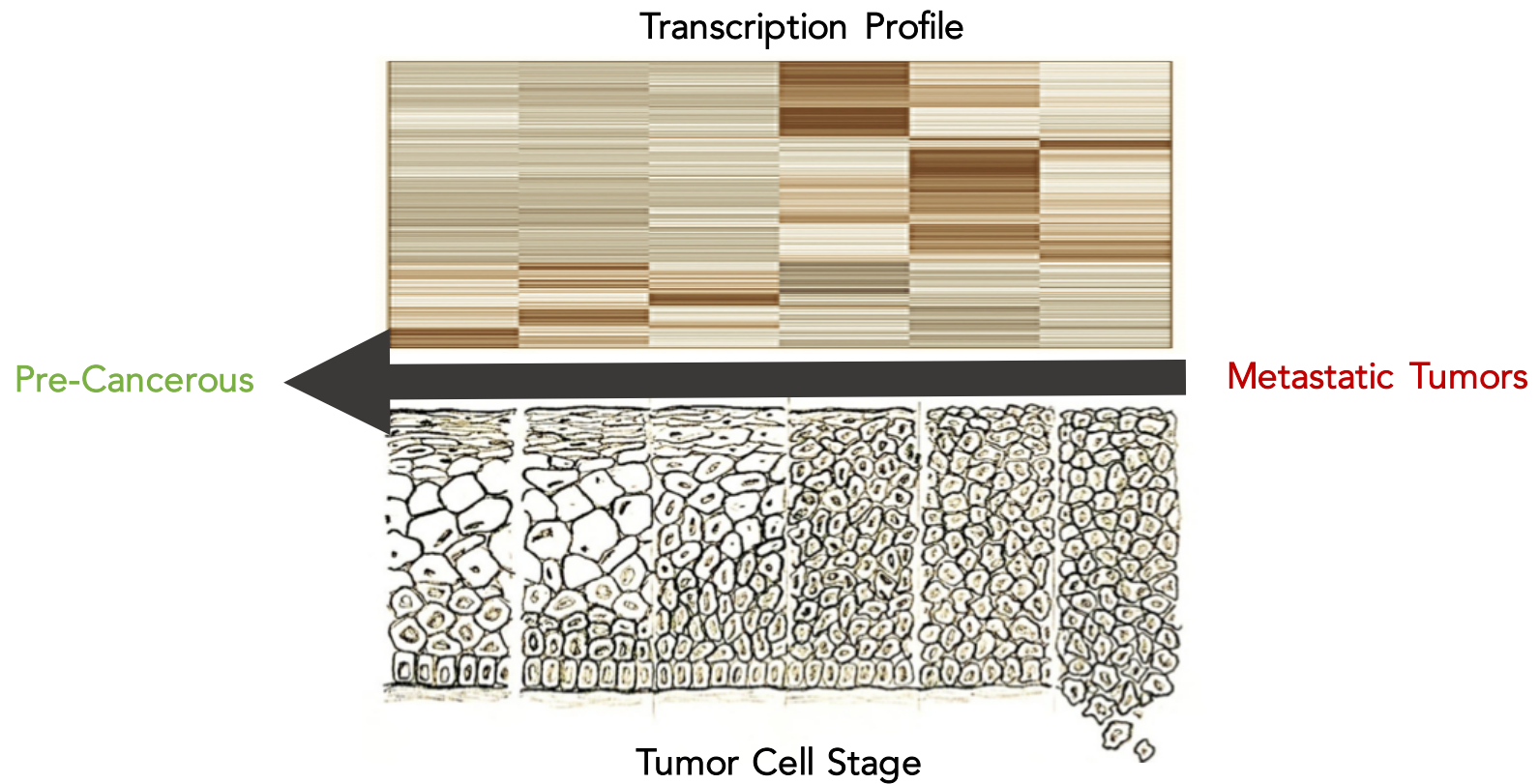
DNA-binding domains  
lack obvious pockets



transit to reach resident  
nuclear factors



Can we build general and systematic platforms for developing **chemical probes** for transcriptional regulators?

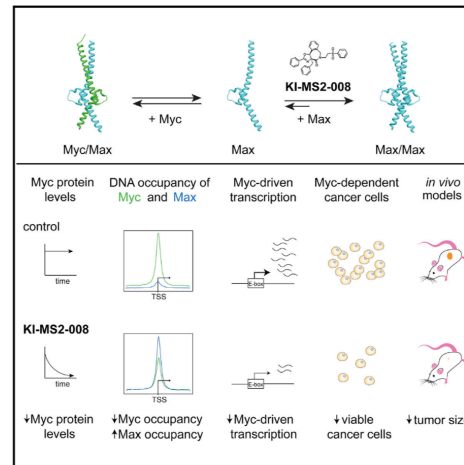


Can we tune dysregulated gene expression programs  
and impact cell state?

# Cell Chemical Biology

## Stabilization of the Max Homodimer with a Small Molecule Attenuates Myc-Driven Transcription

### Graphical Abstract



### Authors

Nicholas B. Struntz, Andrew Chen, Anja Deutzmann, ..., Charles Y. Lin, Dean W. Felsher, Angela N. Koehler

### Correspondence

koehler@mit.edu

### In Brief

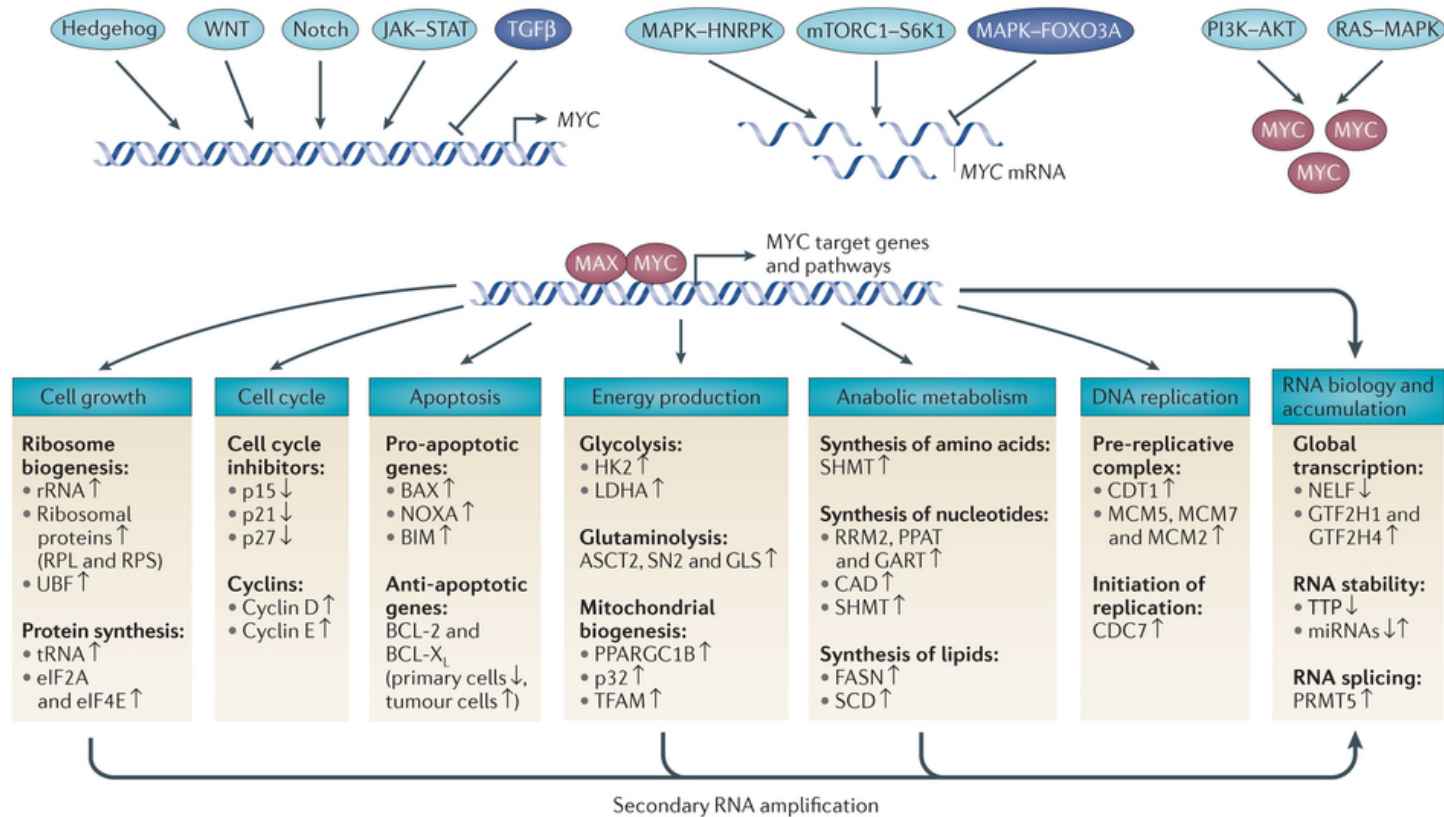
Myc/Max-mediated transcription is deregulated in most of human cancers. Struntz et al. discovered a small molecule that stabilizes the Max homodimer and attenuates Myc-driven transcription with efficacy in cellular and murine cancer models. This discovery reinforces an alternative Myc-targeting strategy and could inform development of compounds to treat Myc-dependent cancers.

### Highlights

- KI-MS2-008 is a Max-binding small molecule that attenuates Myc-driven transcription
- The compound stabilizes the Max homodimer
- Effects on DNA occupancy and the transcriptome resemble loss of Myc
- Treatment with KI-MS2-008 exhibits efficacy in cellular and murine cancer models

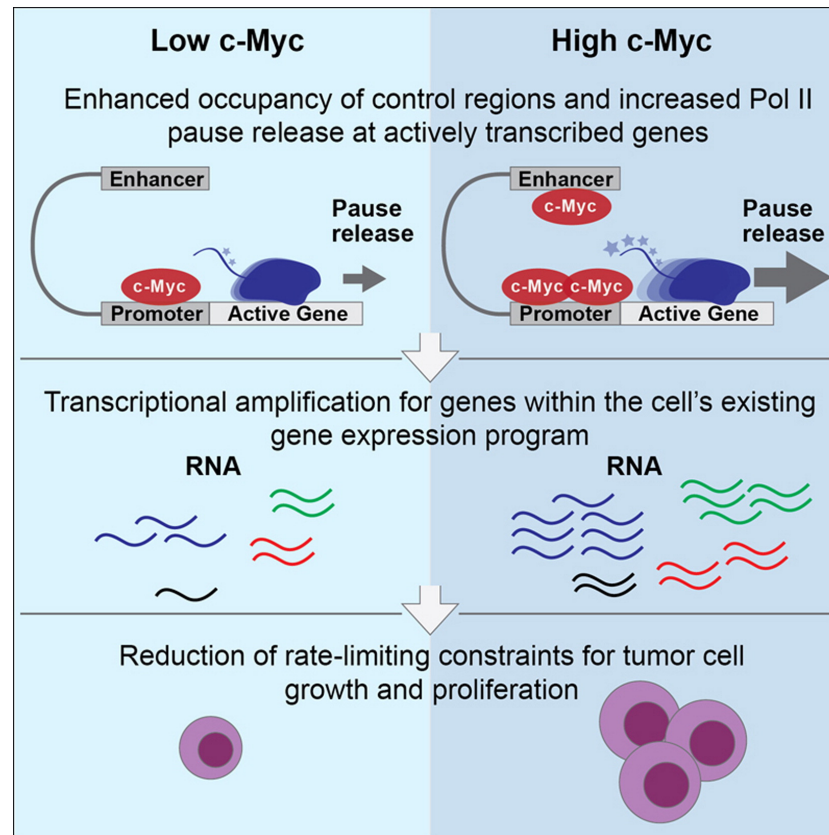
# MYC family of transcription factors

master regulators of broad cellular processes



# c-Myc

accumulates in promoter regions and amplifies transcription when overexpressed in cancer



Lin et al., Cell, 151, 56-67 (2012); Nie et al, Cell 151, 68-79 (2012)



# MYC expression in haploinsufficient mice

## amelioration of age-associated phenotypes

### Article

Hofmann et al., Cell, 160, 477-488 (2015)

Cell

### Reduced Expression of MYC Increases Longevity and Enhances Healthspan

Jeffrey W. Hofmann,<sup>1,7</sup> Xiaoli Zhao,<sup>1,7</sup> Marco De Cecco,<sup>1</sup> Abigail L. Peterson,<sup>1</sup> Luca Pagliaroli,<sup>1</sup> Jayameenakshi Manivannan,<sup>1</sup> Gene B. Hubbard,<sup>2</sup> Yuji Ikeno,<sup>2</sup> Yongqing Zhang,<sup>3</sup> Bin Feng,<sup>4</sup> Xiaoli Li,<sup>5</sup> Thomas Serre,<sup>5</sup> Wenbo Qi,<sup>2</sup> Holly Van Remmen,<sup>2</sup> Richard A. Miller,<sup>6</sup> Kevin G. Bath,<sup>5</sup> Rafael de Cabo,<sup>3</sup> Haiyan Xu,<sup>4</sup> Nicola Neretti,<sup>1</sup> and John M. Sedivy<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, Barshop Institute for Longevity and Aging Studies, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78229, USA

<sup>3</sup>Translational Gerontology Branch, National Institute on Aging, 251 Bayview Boulevard, Suite 100, Baltimore, MD 21224, USA

<sup>4</sup>Hallett Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology, Rhode Island Hospital, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI 02903, USA

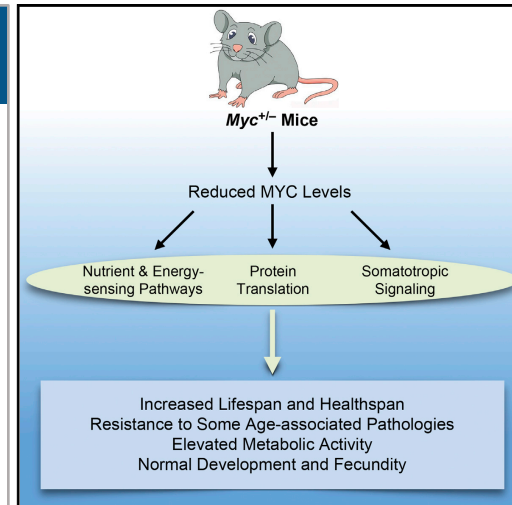
<sup>5</sup>Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912, USA

<sup>6</sup>Department of Pathology and Geriatrics Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA

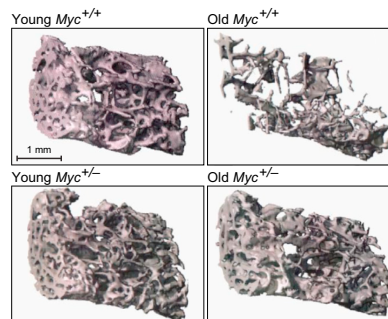
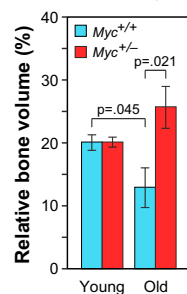
<sup>7</sup>Co-first author

\*Correspondence: [john\\_sedivy@brown.edu](mailto:john_sedivy@brown.edu)

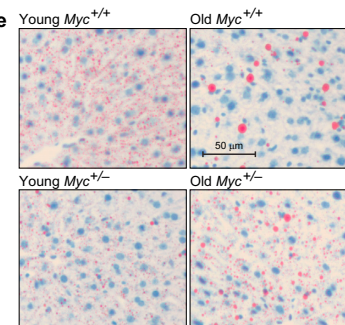
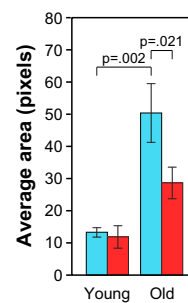
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2014.12.016>



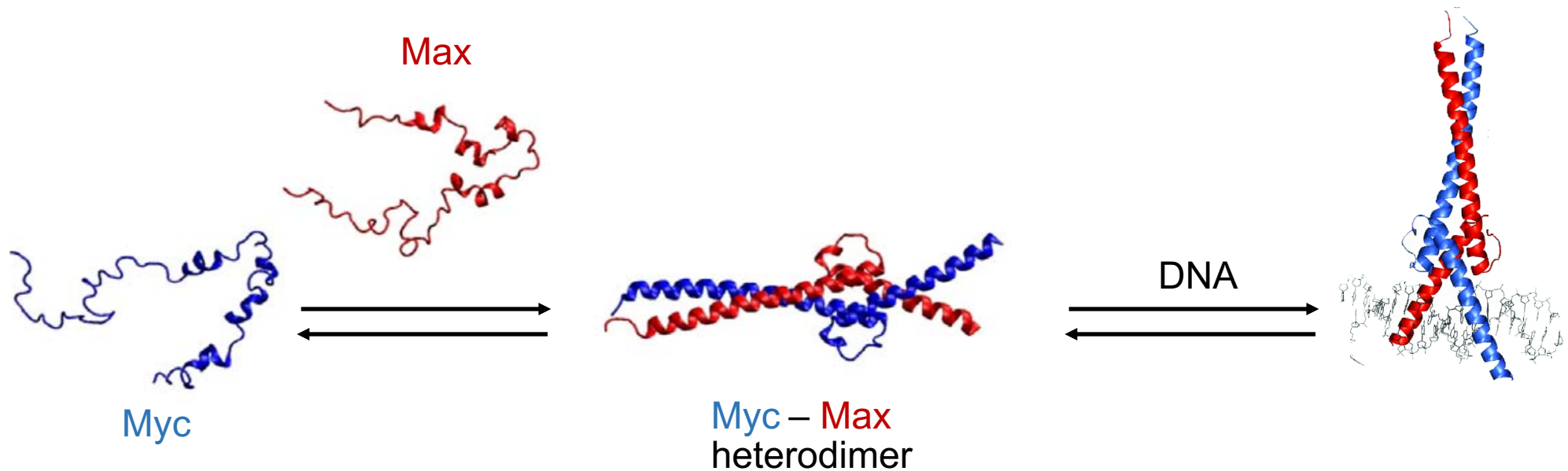
### B Bone density



### D Lipid droplet size

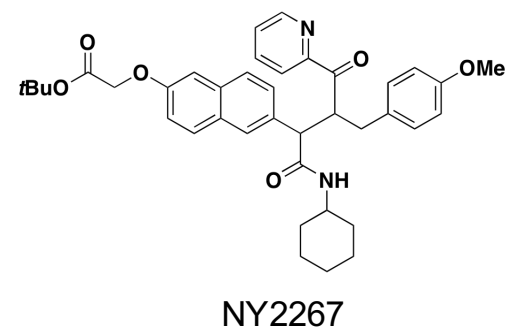
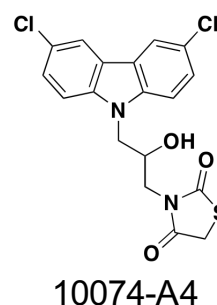
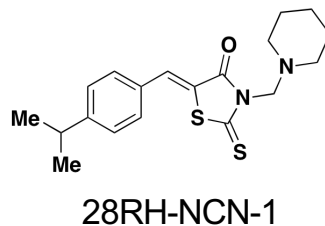
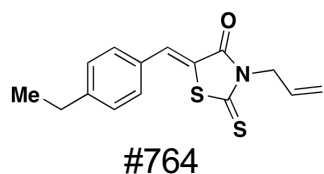
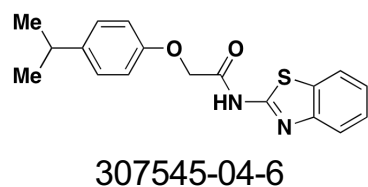
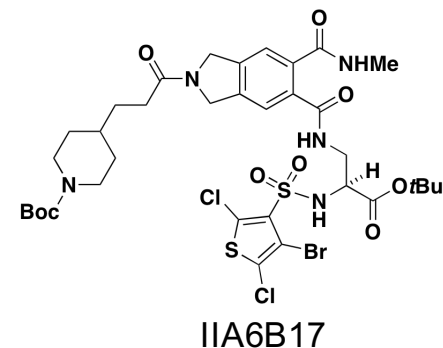
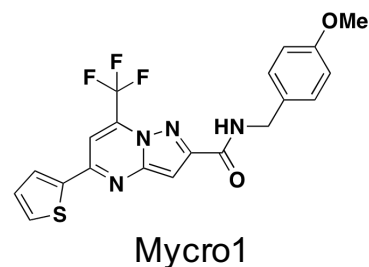
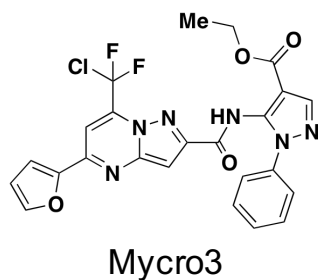
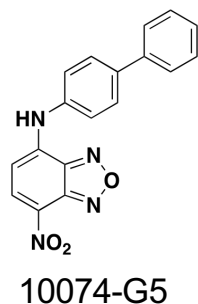
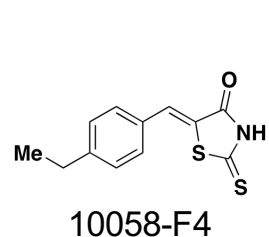


# Myc and Max form a heterodimer to bind DNA and drive transcription

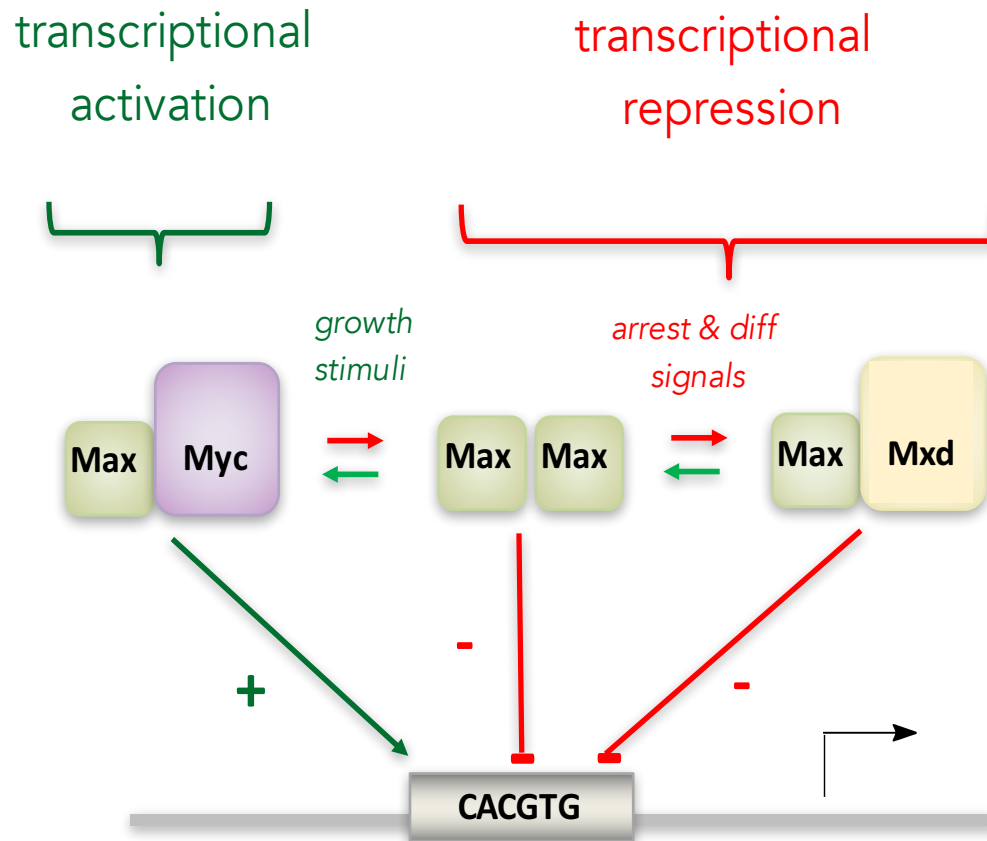




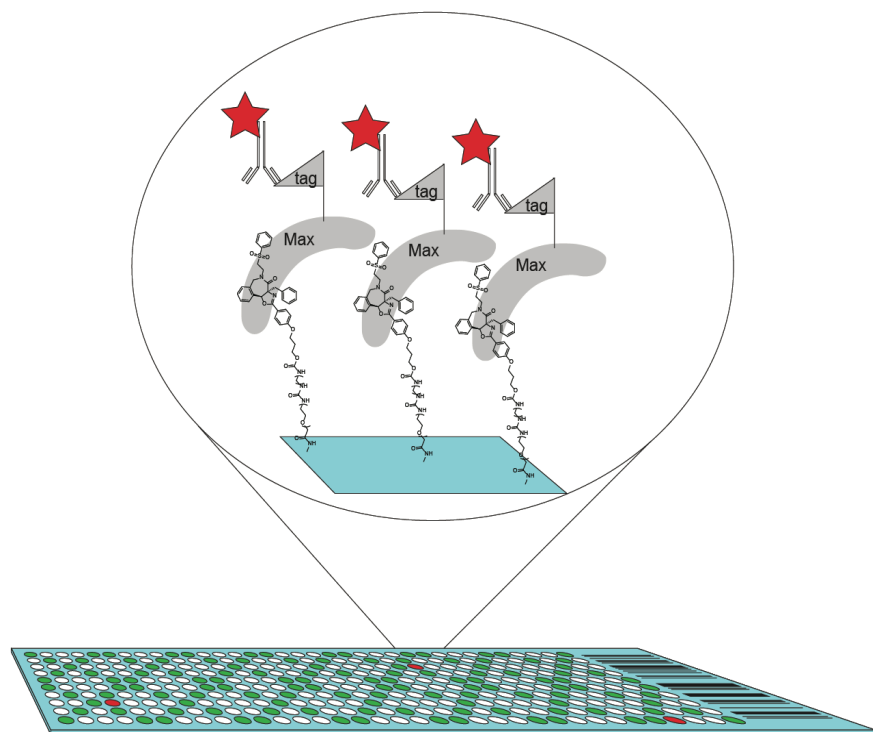
# Current Myc modulators lack potency and selectivity



# Max as a target: heterodimer/homodimer dynamics

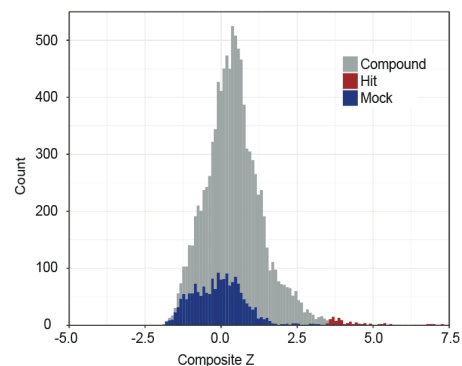


# SMM screens: purified Max transcription factor

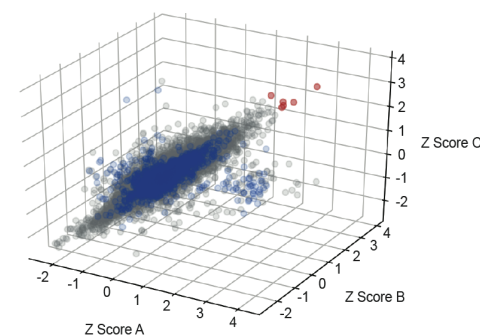
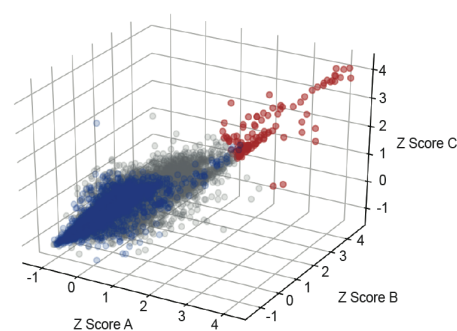
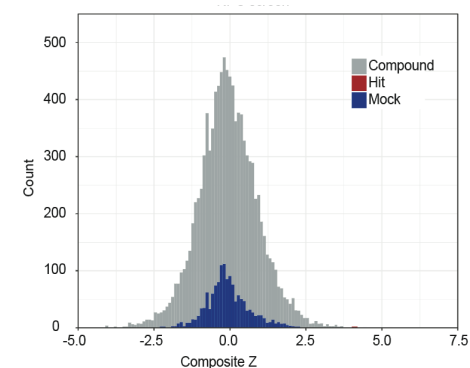


>21k compounds screened

synthetic compound collection

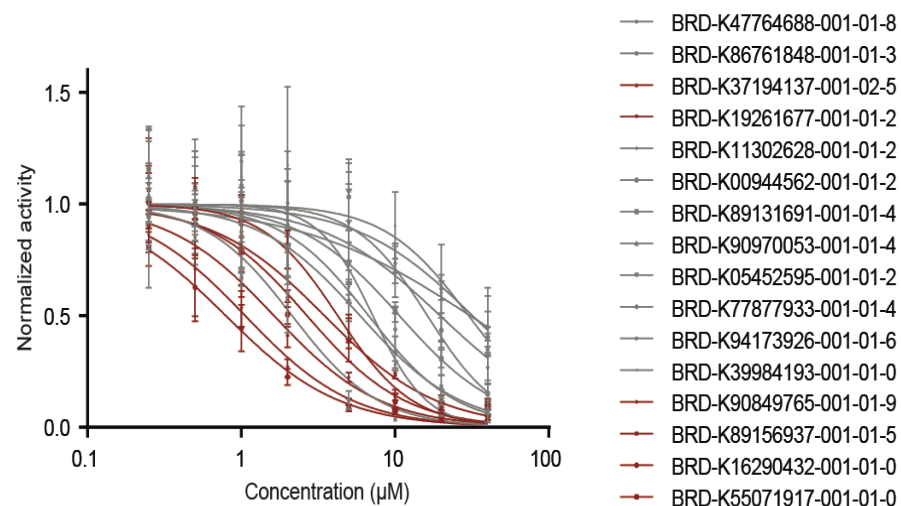
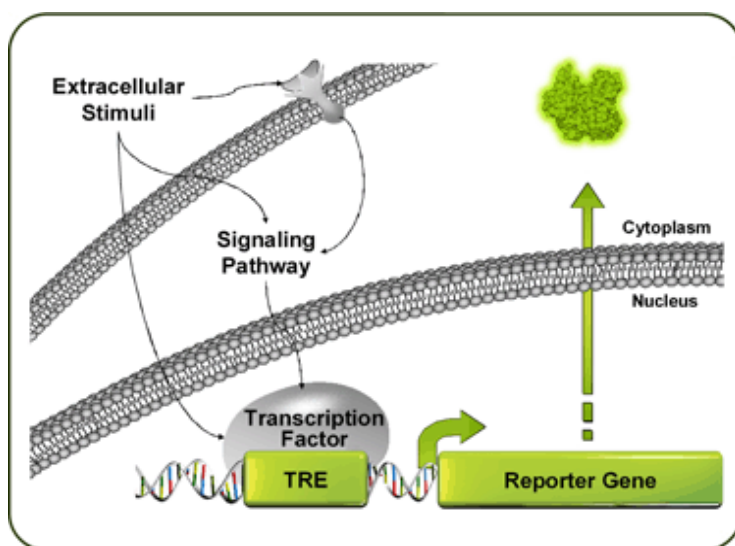


natural products

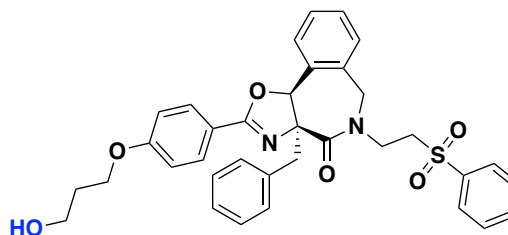


117 assay positives

# Reporter gene assays: putative Max binders modulate Myc-driven transcription



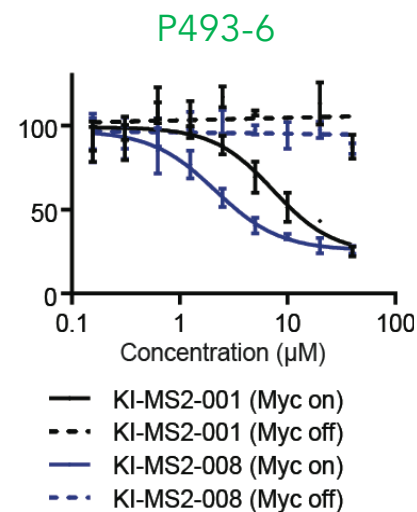
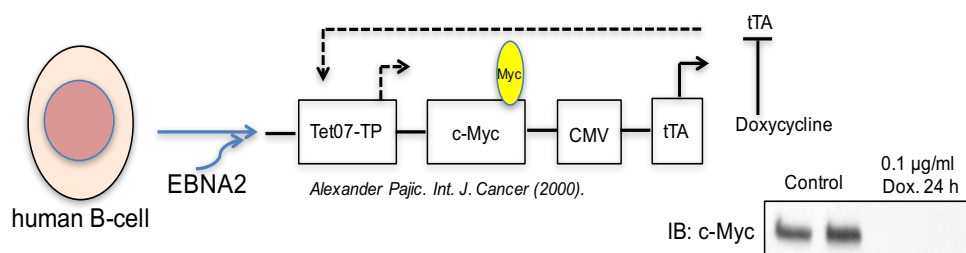
'KI-MS2'



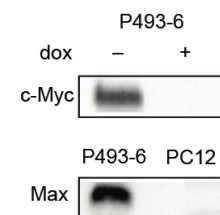
IC<sub>50</sub> = 1.06 μM  
MW = 610.73  
cLogP = 5.15

# Cell viability assays: Are Myc or Max required?

## P493-6 Dox-repressible cells for MYC 'on/off' studies

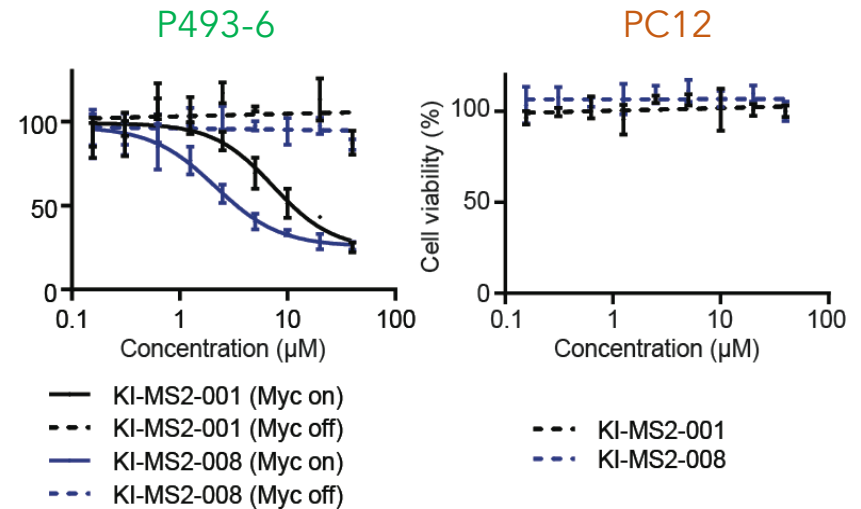
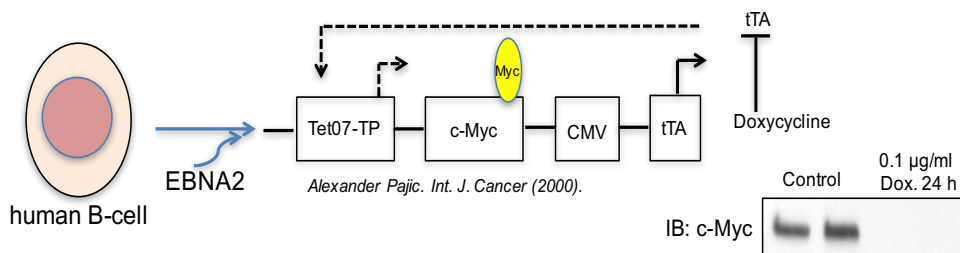


	KI-MS2-001	KI-MS2-008
Myc reporter	1.98 µM	1.28 µM
P493-6 Myc on	7.36 µM	2.15 µM
P493-6 Myc off	>50 µM	>50 µM



# Cell viability assays: Are Myc or Max required?

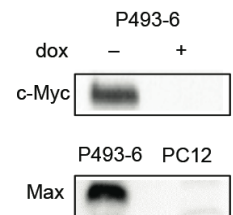
## P493-6 Dox-repressible cells for MYC 'on/off' studies



## Max-deficient PC12 pheochromocytoma cells



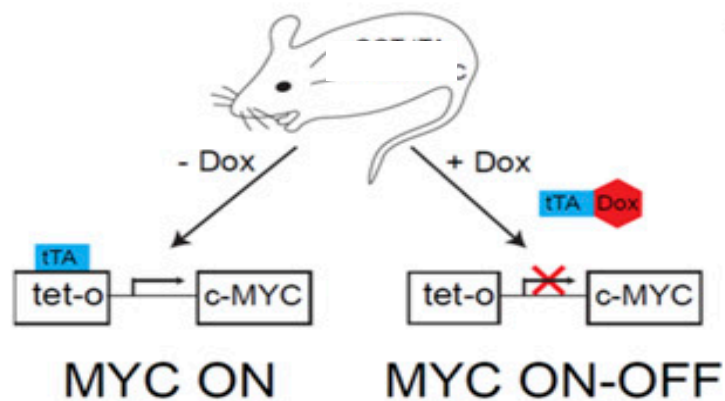
	KI-MS2-001	KI-MS2-008
Myc reporter	1.98 µM	1.28 µM
P493-6 Myc on	7.36 µM	2.15 µM
P493-6 Myc off	>50 µM	>50 µM
PC12	>50 µM	>50 µM



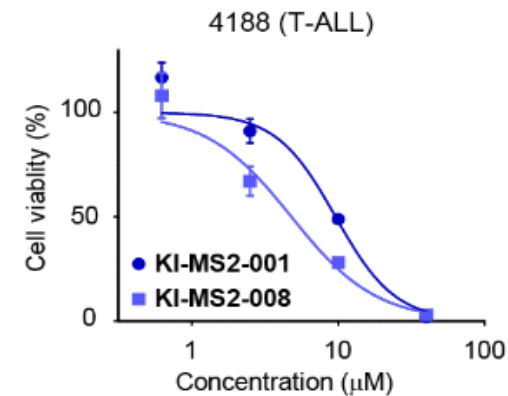
# Conditional cellular models of *MYC* expression

Myc 'on/off' mouse models:

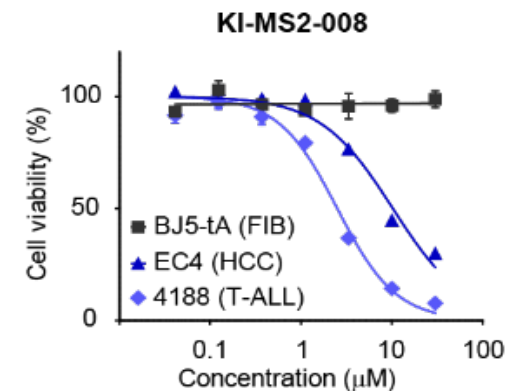
lymphoma  
HCC  
RCC  
osteosarcoma



a

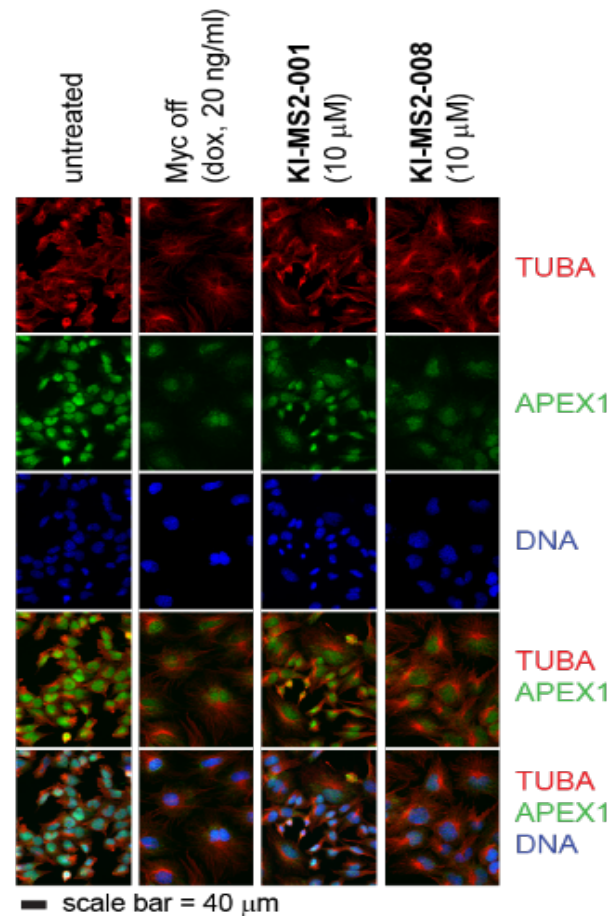


b



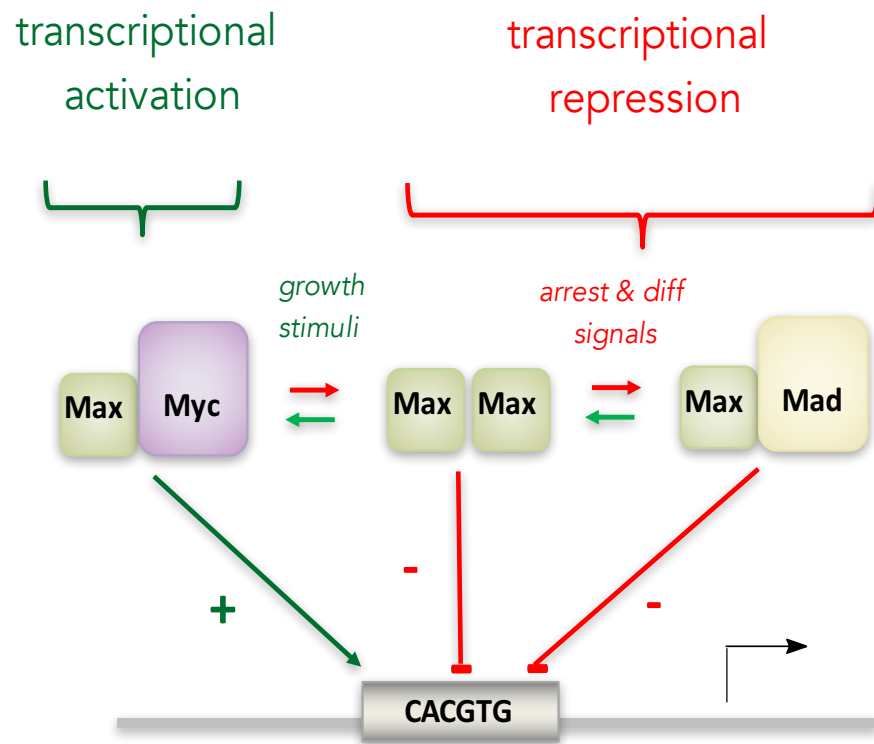
# Imaging of biomarkers: conditional vs. chemical modulation

modulating Myc in an engineered osteosarcoma model

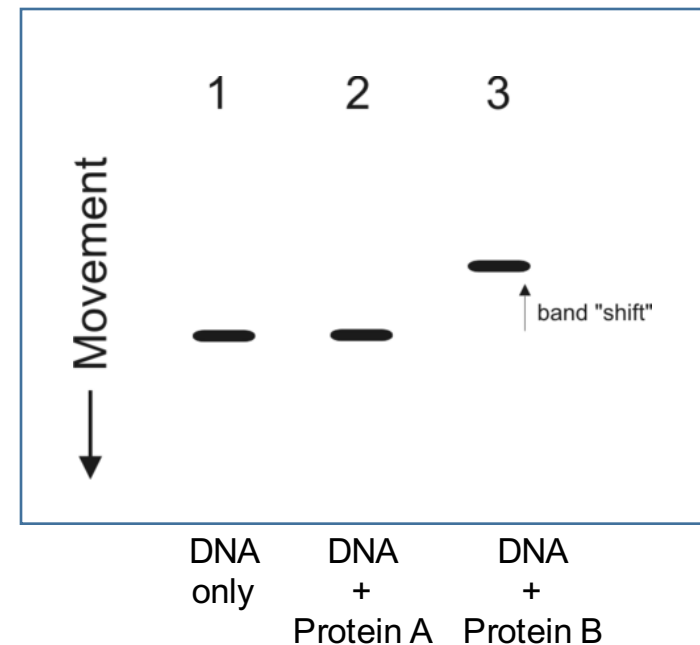




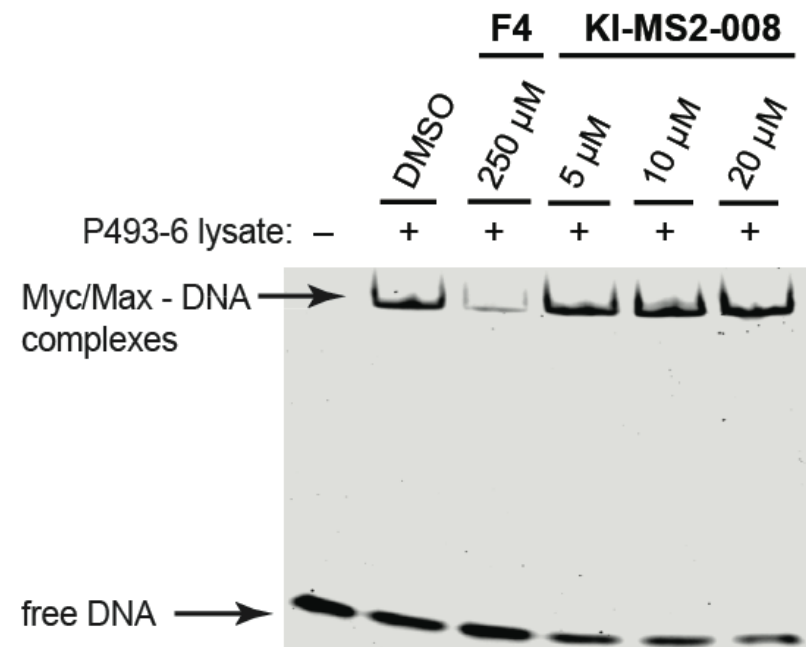
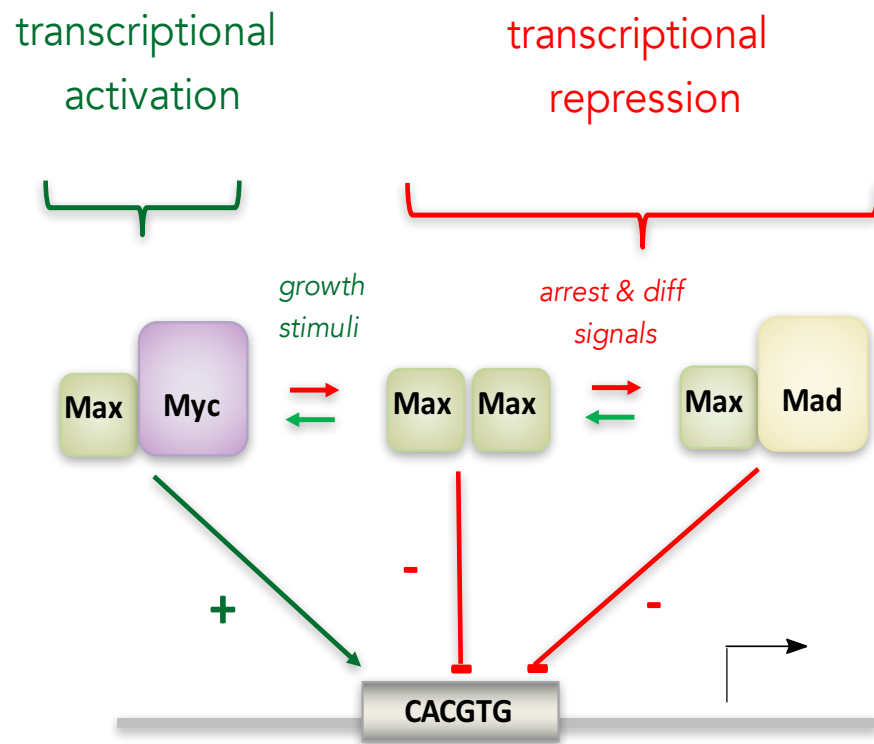
# Does the probe antagonize the Myc/Max heterodimer?



Electrophoretic **M**obility **S**hift **A**ssay (**EMSA**)  
aka Gel Shift Assay

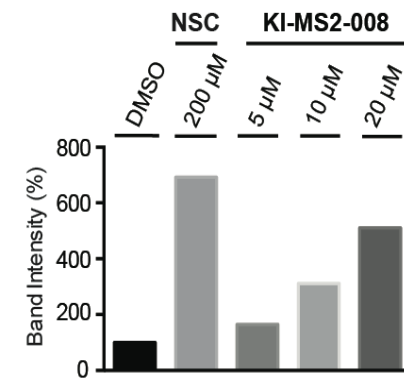
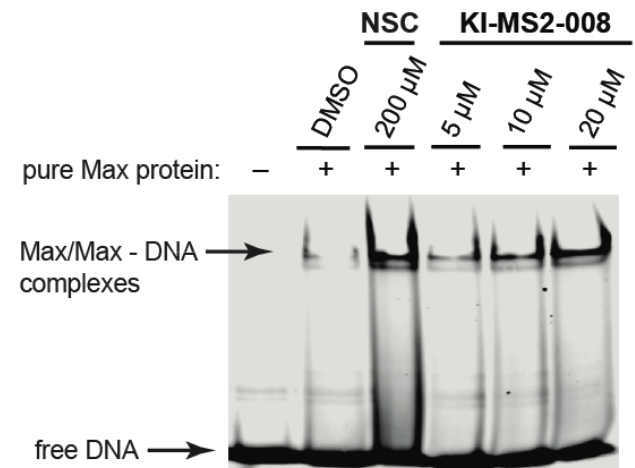
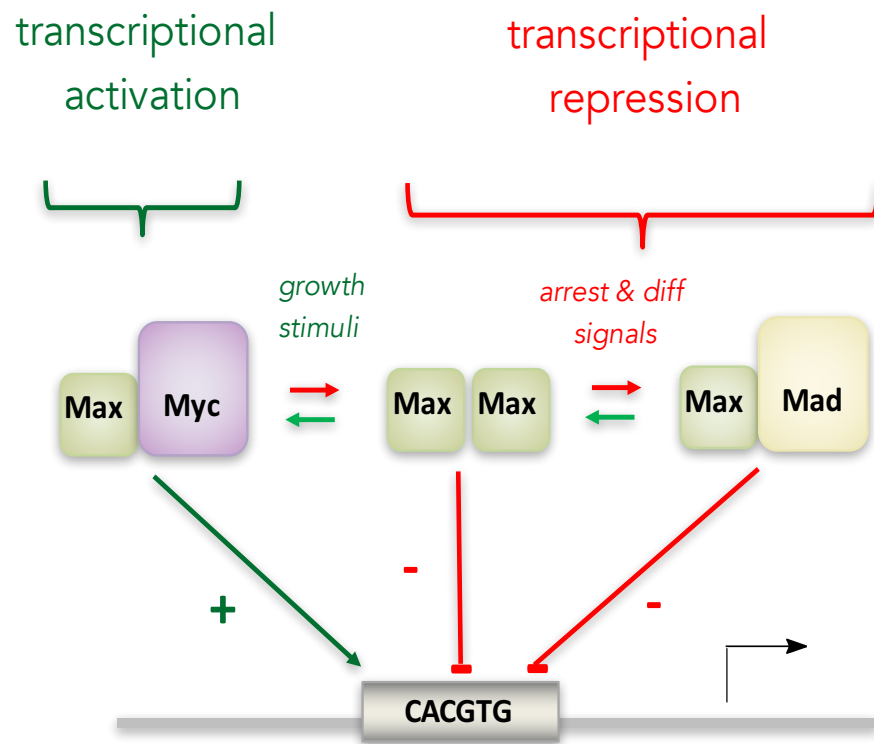


# Does the probe antagonize the Myc/Max heterodimer?

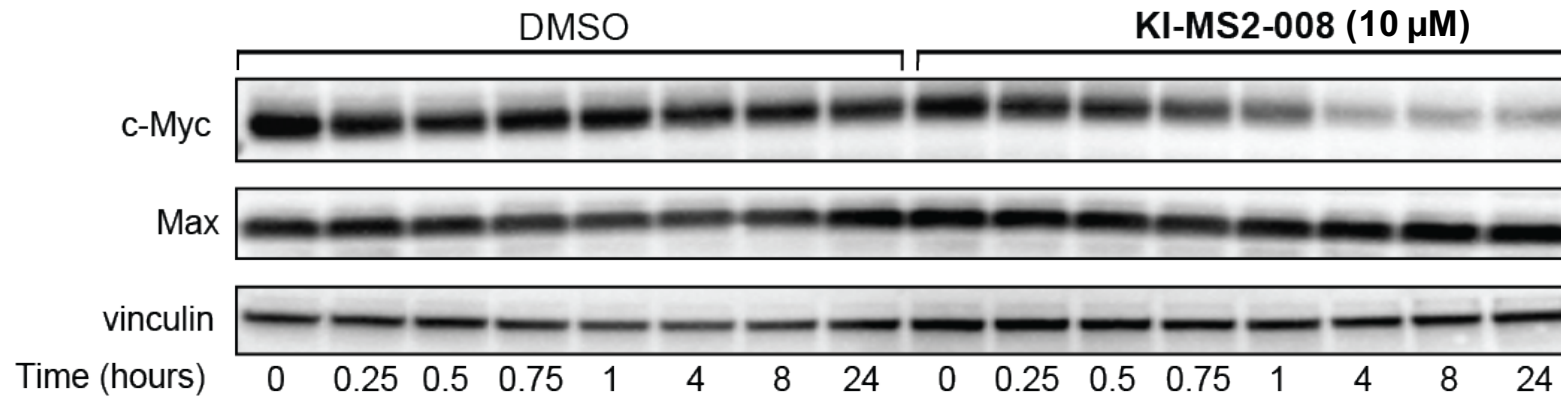


EMSA

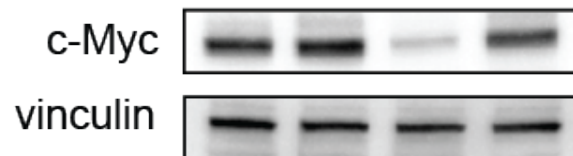
# Does the probe stabilize the Max/Max homodimer?



## Western blots: KI-MS2-008 alters Myc protein levels



KI-MS2-008	MG132
-	-
-	+
+	-
+	+



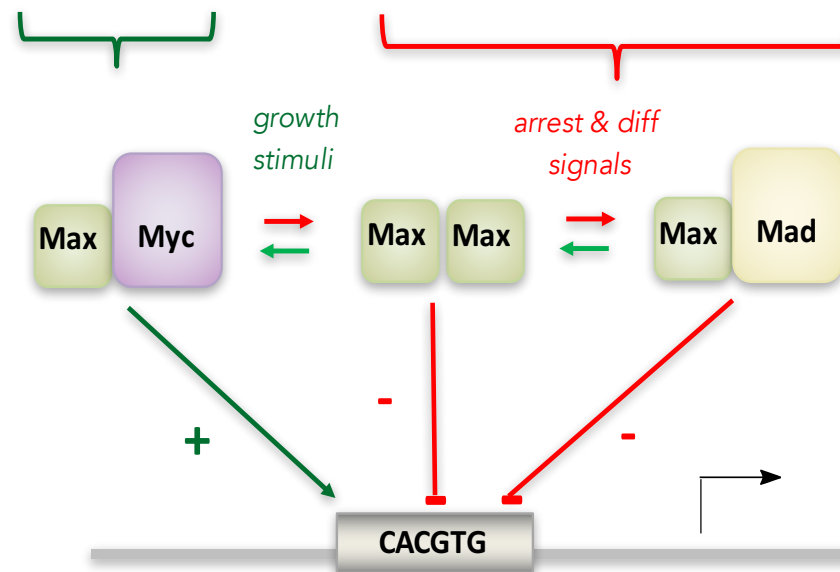
rescue experiment with  
10  $\mu$ M proteasome inhibitor  
MG132

# KI-MS2-008

mixed mechanism inhibitor?

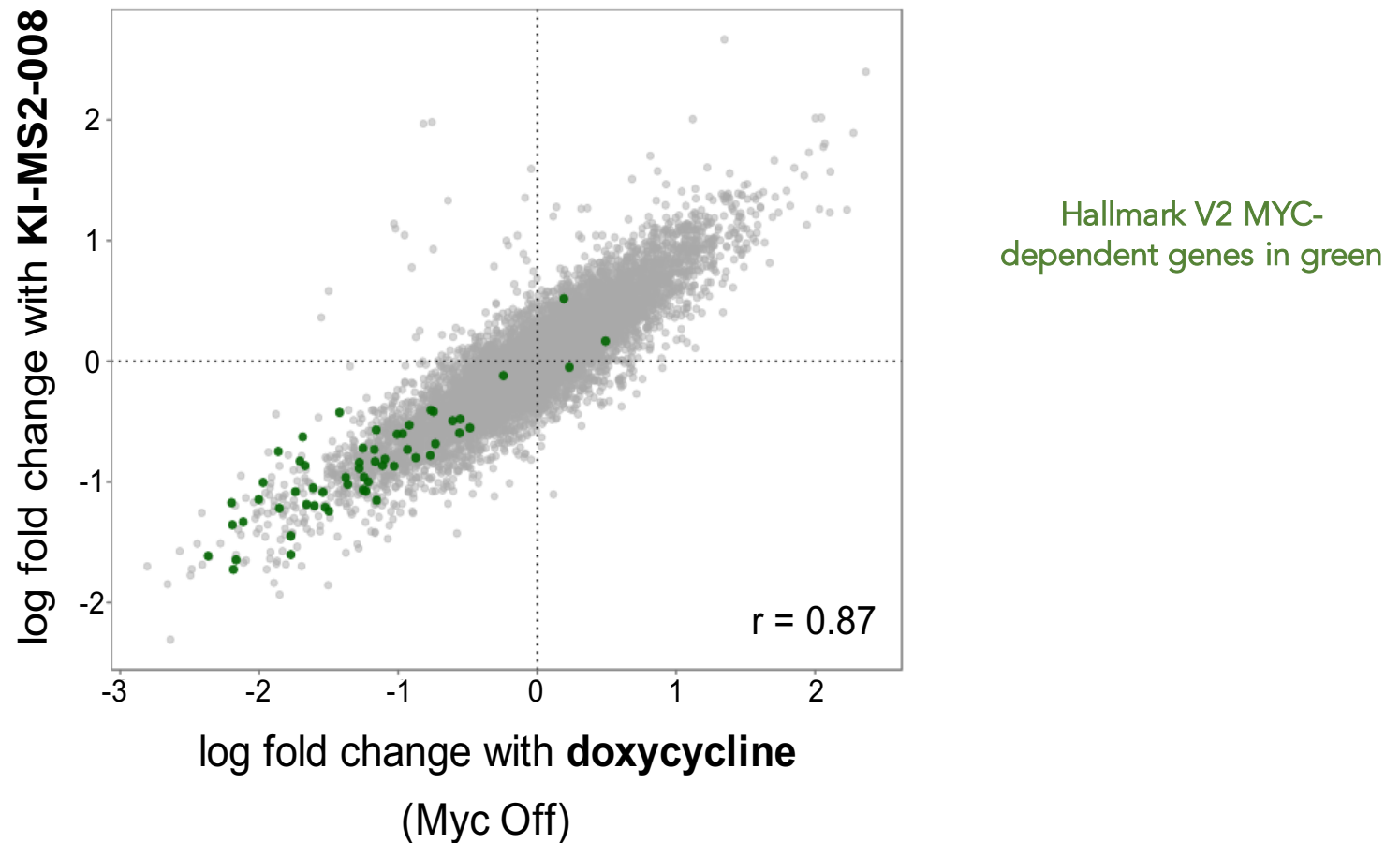
transcriptional  
activation

transcriptional  
repression



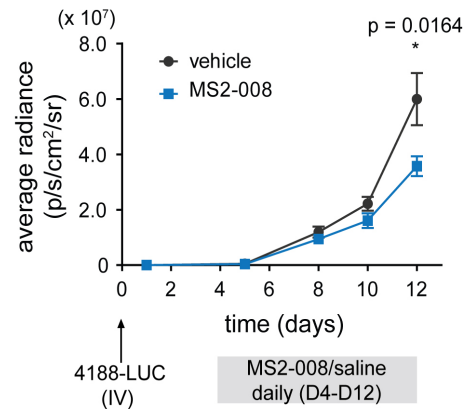
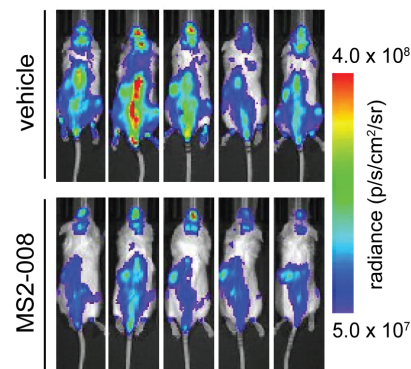
# Gene expression profiling: KI-MS2-008 mimics *MYC* inactivation

Gene Set Enrichment Analysis reveals an enrichment of Myc target genes



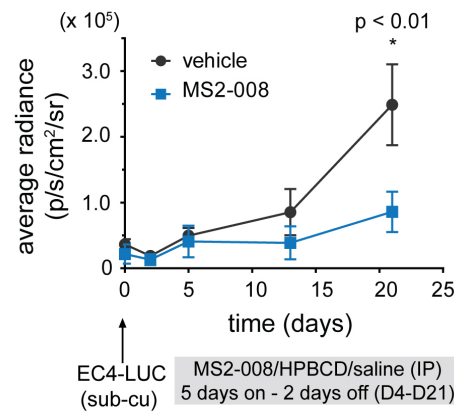
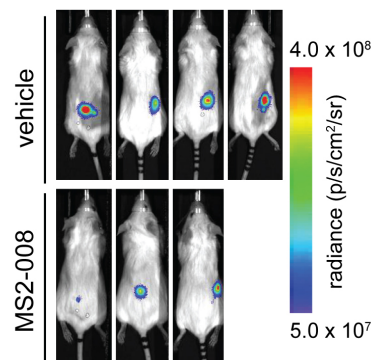
# In vivo studies: KI-MS2-008 modulates tumor volume in Myc-dependent mouse models of cancer

T-cell acute  
lymphoblastic  
leukemia  
blood cancer



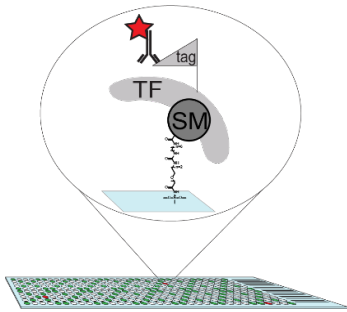
0.06 mg/kg  
daily IV administration

hepatocellular  
carcinoma  
solid tumor

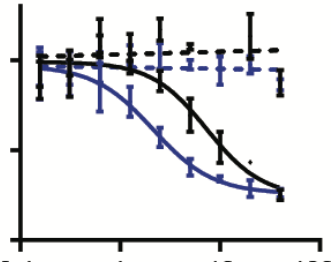


0.24 mg/kg  
subcutaneous administration  
5d on/2d off cycles

# Summary



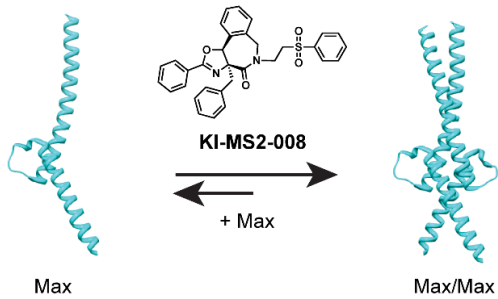
- Identified KI-MS2-001 as a putative Max binder that modulates Myc transcriptional activity.



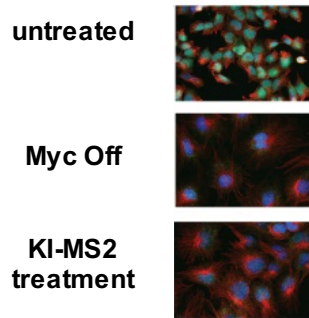
- KI-MS2-001 and KI-MS2-008 inhibited viable cell levels of P493-6 in a Myc-dependent manner.



# Summary



- KI-MS2-008 stabilizes Max homodimers.



- KI-MS2-008 decreased Myc protein levels and mimicked Myc inactivation in cell morphology and the transcriptome.



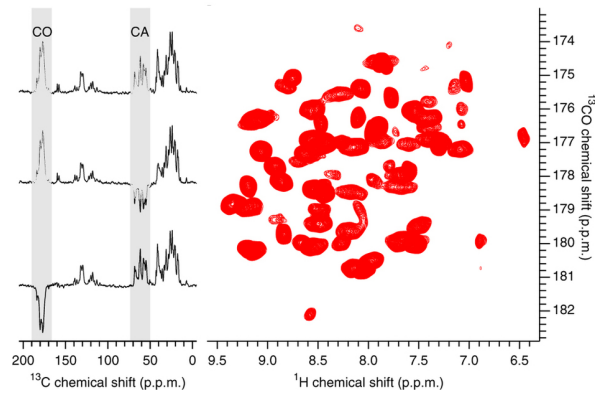
- KI-MS2-008 treatment suppressed the growth of T-ALL and HCC *in vivo*.

# Current directions

optimize potency and solubility, PK/PD-guided medicinal chemistry



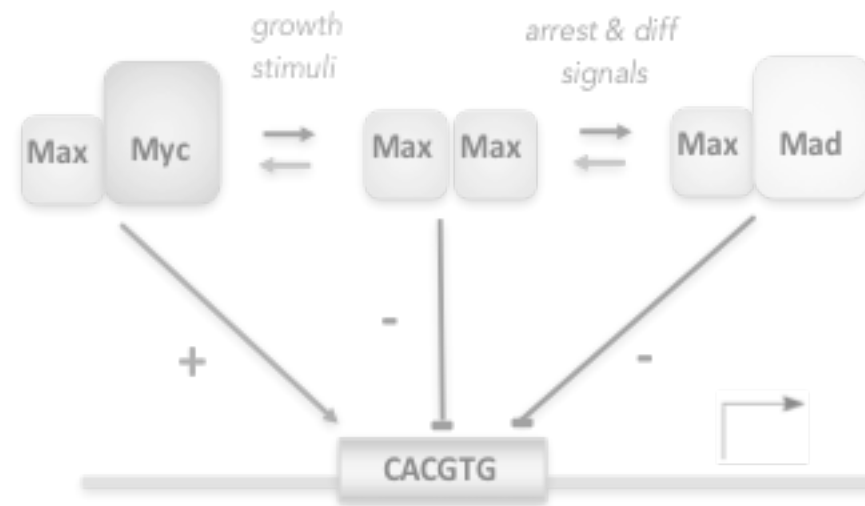
structural biology



additional tumor models  
same tumor models + new readouts



*stabilizing repressive states vs. inhibiting activating states?*



*stabilizing vs. inhibiting PPIs?*

# Our path to evaluate ligands - lectures

11/7/19 screens	Lecture 1	Intro to chemical biology: small molecules, probes, and
11/12/19		No lecture, Monday schedule
11/14/19	Lecture 2	Low-tech ligand discovery using microarrays
11/19/19 with a small molecule	Lecture 3	Guest Lecture – Nick Struntz, Ph.D. Engineering transcriptional responses
11/21/19	Lecture 4	Quantitative evaluation of protein-ligand interactions
11/26/19		Student Pitches
12/3/19	Lecture 5	The story of FKBP12 – our protein target