Regulation of Gene Expression in Hepatic Cells by the Mammalian Target of Rapamycin (mTOR)

Rosa H. Jimenez¹, Ju-Seog Lee², Mirko Francesconi³, Gastone Castellani³, Nicola Neretti⁴, Jennifer A. Sanders¹, John Sedivy⁵, Philip A. Gruppuso¹*

¹ Department of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Hospital and Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America, 2 Molecular Therapeutics, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, United States of America, 3 Interdepartmental Center “L. Galvani”, Bologna University, Bologna, Italy, 4 Institute for Brain and Neural Systems, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America, 5 Department of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry and Center for Genomics and Proteomics, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America

Abstract

Background: We investigated mTOR regulation of gene expression by studying rapamycin effect in two hepatic cell lines, the non-tumorigenic WB-F344 cells and the tumorigenic WB311 cells. The latter are resistant to the growth inhibitory effects of rapamycin, thus providing us with an opportunity to study the gene expression effects of rapamycin without confounding effects on cell proliferation.

Methodology/Principal Findings: The hepatic cells were exposed to rapamycin for 24 hr. Microarray analysis on total RNA preparations identified genes that were affected by rapamycin in both cell lines and, therefore, modulated independent of growth arrest. Further studies showed that the promoter regions of these genes included E-box-containing transcription factor binding sites at higher than expected rates. Based on this, we tested the hypothesis that c-Myc is involved in regulation of gene expression by mTOR by comparing genes altered by rapamycin in the hepatic cells and by c-Myc induction in fibroblasts engineered to express c-myc in an inducible manner. Results showed enrichment for c-Myc targets among rapamycin sensitive genes in both hepatic cell lines. However, microarray analyses on wild type and c-myc null fibroblasts showed similar rapamycin effect, with the set of rapamycin-sensitive genes being enriched for c-Myc targets in both cases.

Conclusions/Significance: There is considerable overlap in the regulation of gene expression by mTOR and c-Myc. However, regulation of gene expression through mTOR is c-Myc-independent and cannot be attributed to the involvement of specific transcription factors regulated by the rapamycin-sensitive mTOR Complex 1.

Introduction

The mammalian Target of Rapamycin (mTOR) is a central regulator of many biological processes that are essential for cell growth, including cell cycle progression, protein translation, ribosomal biogenesis, autophagy and metabolism [1,2]. In addition, alterations in mTOR signaling have been associated with the pathophysiology of cancer [3,4] and aging [5]. Among the effects of mTOR signaling, regulation of gene expression and transcription is well characterized for several specific genes, including DNA polymerase I (Pol I), Insulin Growth Factor II (IGF II), ribosomal DNA [6–8] and regulators of mitochondrial oxidative function [9]. However, general effects on gene expression have not been well characterized, and the mechanisms by which mTOR signaling affects the expression of a broad array of genes are less well defined than is the case for its other biological effects.

mTOR interacts with a number of protein partners, including raptor (regulatory associated protein of TOR) and rictor (rapamycin-insensitive companion of TOR), which form complexes with mTOR termed mTORC1 and mTORC2, respectively [10]. mTORC1-mediated signaling events are sensitive to the macrolytic lactone, rapamycin, while events downstream from mTORC2 are, in general, rapamycin insensitive [11].

The role of TOR in the regulation of transcription has been best characterized in yeast [12] where the nuclear localization and the activity of several nutrient and stress-responsive transcription factors are regulated by TORC1-dependent phosphorylation [13]. Yeast TOR signals to a number of specific effectors including Tap42, Mks1p, Ure2p, Gln3p, Npr1, Tip41, and Gat1p, all of which can elicit changes in the expression levels of enzymes involved in metabolic pathways [14,15]. As a nutrient-sensing kinase, TOR signaling regulates the subcellular localization of the...
so-called unconventional prefoldin RPB5 interactor (URI), which is involved in the regulation of nutrient-sensitive, TORC1-controlled transcription pathways in yeast and mammals [16].

Examples of rapamycin-sensitive mTORC1 signaling to transcriptional regulators have been identified in eukaryotes. mTOR phosphorylates the signal transducers and activators of transcription 1 and 3 (STAT1 and STAT3) and, as a result, induces the transcription of the nuclear receptor peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors-gamma (PPARγ) [13]. In addition, mTOR signaling occupies a central role in the global regulation of ribosomal RNA synthesis through the TIF-IA transcription factor [17]. Finally, mTOR-mediated regulation of mitochondrial oxidative function occurs through regulation of a transcription factor termed YY1 [9].

We have characterized the effects of rapamycin on gene expression in two related rat liver epithelial cell lines [18]. The slow growing, non-tumorigenic WB-F344 [19] cell line is sensitive to the anti-proliferative effects of rapamycin while the faster growing, tumorigenic WB311 cell line, spontaneously derived from the WB-F344 cell line [20], is not. We used microarray analysis to characterize the effects of rapamycin on gene expression in these two cell lines. The results identified 106 genes whose expression was altered in response to rapamycin in both cell lines and, therefore, affected independent of rapamycin-induced growth arrest. We hypothesized that this set of genes would be regulated through effects on specific transcription factors and, therefore, be suitable for further study aimed at identifying transcriptional control mechanisms downstream from mTORC1.

Methods

Cell Culture

Culture conditions for the WB-F344 [19] and WB311 [20] cell lines have been previously described. Conditions for maintaining the TGR-1 (c-myc/−/−) and HO15.19 (c-myc/−/−) cells have been published as well [21]. All cell lines were grown at 37°C with 5.0% CO2 and plated at densities providing for approximately 60 to 80 percent confluence at the time of each experiment. After plating, cells were allowed to recover for at least 18 hr before exposure to rapamycin.

Identification of Predicted Transcription Factor Binding Sites

The TOUCAN 2 web based program [22,23], which integrates several data and algorithmic resources including TRANSFAC, JASPAR, Ensembl, MotifScanner and MotifSearcher, was used to identify overrepresented transcription factor binding sites in the proximal promoters or the distal non-coding sequence in defined sets of co-regulated or co-expressed genes. For the retrieval of promoter sequences from the Ensemble database, the following settings were used: Get_Seq from Ensembl/Biomart, comma separated, rat species, AFFY_Rat230_2 chip, 5'Upstream Exon 1, 1,000 base pairs (bp) upstream, 200 bp downstream, add to current list, Rev Compl automatically. To search for transcription factor binding sites, MotifScanner was used with the following settings: motif Position Weight Matrix (PWM) scoring, Motif Scanner, P2: TRANSFAC 7.0, P3: Prior 0.1, P4: background model (mouse DBTSS promoters [3]), stand integer 1. Note that the background model for the rat was not available in the TOUCAN2 program. Therefore, we used mouse as the background model.

The TOUCAN2 analysis was followed by statistical analysis to identify overrepresented transcription factor binding sites. The following parameters were used: Expected Frequencies file: epd_mus_musculus_prior 0.1.freq. Note that the expected frequencies file was not available for the rat, so the file for mouse was used. The prior that was used was the same as for the MotifScanner run. The expected frequencies file, located on the TOUCAN FTP-site, is based on the Eukaryotic Promoter Database (http://www.eupd.isb.ch/seq_download.html).

Analysis of Myc Family Gene Expression

WB-F344 cells were plated in 100 mm plates and allowed to attach overnight. Vehicle (DMSO) or 30 nM rapamycin was added for 6 or 24 hr. Total RNA was prepared from triplicate plates using TRIzol reagent. RNA integrity was determined using an Agilent Bioanalyzer. RNase protection assays were performed using the RPA III kit (Ambion; Austin, TX) and 32P-labeled probes generated from the RiboQuant mMyc multiprobe template (BD Biosciences; San Jose, CA) using the T7 MAXIscript kit (Ambion).

RNA Isolation and Microarray Hybridization for the HOMyc-ER12 Fibroblasts

The experimental conditions for expression profiling of c-Myc target genes induced by 4-hydroxytamoxifen (OHT) in HOMyc-ER12 fibroblasts have been described previously [24]. Genes were clustered according to their expression pattern over time. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis with correlation-based metrics resulted in 9 clusters. Cluster 1 (1,712 probesets) consists of rapidly downregulated c-Myc target genes that remain downregulated for 24 hr. Cluster 2 (1,643 probesets) represents rapidly upregulated genes that remain upregulated. Cluster 3 (616 probesets) contains genes that are quickly downregulated after exposure to OHT then return towards the baseline but remain downregulated at 24 hr. Cluster 4 (178 probesets) represents genes that are quickly upregulated from 1 to 6 hr then fall to baseline. Cluster 5 genes (30 probesets) are rapidly downregulated by OHT from 1 to 6 hr then return towards the baseline by 24 hr. Clusters 6 through 9 had fewer than 5 genes each, so they were not included in the present analyses.

Identification of c-Myc Targets among Rapamycin Responsive Genes

The dataset of genes that were differentially expressed in response to rapamycin in the WB-F344 and WB311 hepatic cells and the c-Myc target gene dataset in HOMyc-ER12 fibroblasts were compared to search for c-Myc targets in hepatic cells and the fibroblast cell lines. To accomplish this, the ID Converter Database (http://idconverter.bioinfo.cnr.it/) was used to obtain the Ensembl Gene ID and Entrez ID for the list of rapamycin-sensitive genes in the WB-F344 and WB311 hepatic cells and the c-Myc target genes in HOMyc-ER12 fibroblasts. Genes that contained more than one probe ID in the list of differentially expressed genes induced by 4-hydroxytamoxifen (OHT) in HOMyc-ER12 fibroblasts have been described previously [24]. Genes were clustered according to their expression pattern over time. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis with correlation-based metrics resulted in 9 clusters. Cluster 1 (1,712 probesets) consists of rapidly downregulated c-Myc target genes that remain downregulated for 24 hr. Cluster 2 (1,643 probesets) represents rapidly upregulated genes that remain upregulated. Cluster 3 (616 probesets) contains genes that are quickly downregulated after exposure to OHT then return towards the baseline but remain downregulated at 24 hr. Cluster 4 (178 probesets) represents genes that are quickly upregulated from 1 to 6 hr then fall to baseline. Cluster 5 genes (30 probesets) are rapidly downregulated by OHT from 1 to 6 hr then return towards the baseline by 24 hr. Clusters 6 through 9 had fewer than 5 genes each, so they were not included in the present analyses.

In addition to the above analysis, the dataset of rapamycin-sensitive genes in the WB-F344 and WB311 cells was aligned with 341 confirmed NFκB target genes previously identified in multiple human cell lines (http://people.bu.edu/gilmore/nf-kb/target/).
Hochberg false discovery rate) was applied for each gene to a value cutoff of 0.05 with multiple test correction (Benjamini and Hochberg). Genes were excluded from further analyses. A two-sample t-test using a P-value threshold of 0.05 was employed to determine whether observed frequencies differed from the expected frequencies in the various comparison analyses of expression patterns in these two cell lines.

Results

Clustering Analysis

We previously characterized the gene expression response to rapamycin for the WB-F344 and WB311 hepatic cell lines [18]. Cells were exposed to DMSO vehicle or rapamycin (50 nM) for 24 hr prior to preparation of RNA for microarray analysis. A total of 2,346 gene features showed significant differences across the four experimental groups (2 cell lines, each with or without rapamycin). Hierarchical clustering (Figure 1A) showed that the vehicle control and rapamycin groups segregated for the rapamycin-sensitive WB-F344 cells but not for the rapamycin-resistant WB311 cells. We proceeded to perform a cross-comparison analysis of expression patterns in these two cell lines.

Gene expression ratios were median-centered across the 6 analyses of each cell line. A cross comparison of expression patterns (Figure 1A) showed that 791 gene features were exclusively altered in WB-F344 cells after rapamycin treatment while 484 gene features were exclusively altered in the WB311 cells. Of particular interest were 106 gene features that were affected by rapamycin in both cell lines. Examination of the 106 gene features (Figure 1B) showed that the expression of 26 of the genes was affected in opposite directions in the WB-F344 and WB311 cells. The 80 gene features that were co-regulated in response to rapamycin in the two cell lines (Table S1) were selected for further study. Thirty-three of these genes were upregulated in both cell lines while 47 were downregulated.

Identification of Overrepresented Transcription Factor Binding Sites in Rapamycin-Regulated Genes in Hepatic Cells

Genes co-regulated by rapamycin in the two cell lines are necessarily regulated independent of growth arrest since the WB311 cells are rapamycin resistant. Our initial hypothesis was that these genes share a common transcriptional control mechanism and, therefore, specific transcription factor binding sites. Of the 80 co-regulated gene features, only 61 had Ensemble IDs and could therefore be recognized by TOUCAN 2. Analysis of the promoter regions of these genes revealed five high-scoring transcription factor matrices that were overrepresented in the designated set of promoters. All five represented binding sites with E-boxes (CACGTG) that corresponded to the consensus sites for the transcription factors Max, MycMax_01, MycMax_02, MycMax_03, and Arnt (Table 1). Nineteen of the 61 genes contained binding sites for these transcription factors (Table 2). Some of these genes contained more than one E-box-containing transcription factor binding site in their promoter region. In addition, the binding site that correlated with a specific transcription factor differed in some cases. For example, the transcription factor M00119-V$Max_01 was predicted to bind the motifs TAATCACGTG and CAATCACGTGATTGA in the promoter of the Eif4b gene while it was predicted to bind the motifs GCAA-CACGTGACCT and GAGTCACGTGTTGC in the promoter of the Ecm1 gene.

Enrichment of c-Myc Targets in Rapamycin-Modulated Genes in the WB-F344 and WB311 Hepatic Cell Lines

Based on the overrepresentation of E-box-containing transcription factor binding sites among rapamycin-regulated genes, we hypothesized that c-Myc plays a role in the regulation of gene expression by mTOR. Using the WB-F344 cells, we examined the effect of mTOR on members of the Myc signaling network using a multiplex RNase protection assay [29]. Results (Figure 2) showed...
that rapamycin exposure for 6 hr induced a decrease in the steady state expression of Max and Mad 4. However, the effect was not as marked as the effect on the two genes intended for use as internal standards, ribosomal protein L32 and GAPDH. Of note, members of the Myc family were not affected. At 24 hr, there were no persistent effects on any of the components of the Myc signaling network, L32 or GAPDH. The upregulation of c-myc at the longer time point did not reach statistical significance.

We next tested the hypothesis that c-Myc targets would be enriched among the set of mTORC1 targets in both the WB-F344 and WB311 cells. We compared the set of rapamycin-responsive genes in the two hepatic cell lines with a set of c-Myc targets identified in HOMycER12 fibroblasts during c-myc induction for up to 24 hr. Results (Figure 3, upper panel) showed that 699 of the 1,927 rapamycin-responsive genes identified in the WB-F344 cells were c-Myc targets. This was significantly greater than the expected number of 377 (P<0.000001). Examination of the distribution of genes among the clusters representing various temporal responses to c-myc induction revealed a higher than expected proportion of genes contained in clusters 1 (P<0.000001), 2 (P<0.000001) and 3 (P<0.01).

![Figure 1. Microarray analysis of the effect of rapamycin on gene expression in hepatic cells. WB-F344 and WB311 cells were exposed to DMSO vehicle or rapamycin (50 nM) for 24 hr. Total RNA was prepared and processed for microarray analysis. Panel A shows a clustering analysis and heat map for the expression of all gene features that showed a significant change in response to rapamycin across the four experimental conditions (two cell lines, each plus and minus rapamycin). The accompanying Venn diagram shows the gene features affected in one cell line, the other or in both. Panel B shows a magnification of the gene expression pattern of the 106 gene features in the middle box of Panel A, representing those that were affected by rapamycin in both cell lines. The blue boxes at the top and in the middle of the heat map represent gene features that were regulated in opposite directions in the WB-F344 and WB311 cells after treatment with rapamycin. The gene features that are not included in the blue boxes represent genes that were co-regulated in the two cell lines. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009084.g001](#)

### Table 1. Overrepresented transcription factor binding sites identified among rapamycin sensitive genes in the WB-F344 and the WB311 hepatic cell lines.

| Feature Name          | n * | Probability † | Significance ‡ |
|-----------------------|-----|---------------|----------------|
| M00119-VSMAX_01       | 20  | 1.64E-07      | 4.363          |
| M00118-VSMYCMAX_01    | 13  | 2.66E-04      | 1.154          |
| M00615-VSMYCMAX_03    | 20  | 4.86E-04      | 0.892          |
| M00236-VSARNT_01      | 17  | 0.001         | 0.562          |
| M00123-VSMYCMAX_02    | 18  | 0.003         | 0.108          |

* n represents the number of times a feature (transcription factor) appeared among the set of gene promoters loaded into the TOUCAN2 program.
† Probability represents the P-value associated with the analysis; p-values less than 0.05 were considered significant and these binding sites were considered to be overrepresented.
‡ Significance is shown here because multiple features (more than one promoter) were interrogated. Positive significance values indicate statistically significant results.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009084.t001
| Affimetrix Identifier | Gene Symbol | WB-F344 Rapa Effect | WB311 Rapa Effect | Binding Site Identifier | Transcription Factor Binding Site Sequence |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1372124_at            | Eif4b_predicted | 1.42                | 1.52              | M00118-V$\$MYCMAX_01  | TATAATCACGTGATTTG                        |
|                       | eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4B   |                     |                   | M00119-V$\$MAX_01    | TAATACGCTAGTATG and CAATACGCTAGTATT     |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | ATAATACGCTAGT and AATACGCTAGTATT and AATACGCTAGTTT |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | TAATACGCTAGTATTG                          |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | CTATAATACGCTATTGCTTGCCT and AGGCAATACGCTAGTATTGATAG |
| 1385027_at            | Transcribed locus | 1.60                | --                | M00118-V$\$MYCMAX_01  | CATCCACGTGCTTG                         |
| 1379904_at            | No Designation | 1.39                | 1.40              | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | CAGCACGTGCTTC                               |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | CGACTACGCTGAC                           |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | CGGCAACACGTGACTCTAG and CTAGTACGCTGTTTGGCCG |
| 1388698_at            | Ecm1 || extracellular matrix protein 1      | 2.25                | 1.44              | M00119-V$\$MAX_01    | GCACACGTGACTAG and GAGTCACGTTTGGC         |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | CCGACGTGCTCT and CAACACGCTAG            |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | AGAGTCACGTTTGC                            |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | CCGGGAACACGTGACTCTAG and CTAGTACGCTGTTTGGCCG |
| 1387294_at            | Sh3bp5 || SH3-domain binding protein 5 (BTK-associated) | 1.75                | 1.28              | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | GGGGACACGTGAGT                          |
| 1368453_at            | Fads2 || fatty acid desaturase 2          | -1.64               | -1.36             | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | CACCACTGAGG                               |
| 1385426_at            | RGD1305326,predicted || similar to hypothetical protein FLJ20647 | -1.45               | -1.30             | M00118-V$\$MYCMAX_01  | AAACACGTGTCAGTTGA and TGACCACGTGTTTGGT and CGACCACCCTGGC |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | CAGCACGTGCTTCT and CAACACGCTAG             |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | AGAGTCACGTTTGC                            |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | CCGGGAACACGTGACTCTAG and CTAGTACGCTGTTTGGCCG |
| 1386907_at            | Eno3 || enolase 3, beta               | -2.54               | -1.33             | M00118-V$\$MYCMAX_01  | TGTACACGTGCTCG and CGAGACGTGATCGA         |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | TGTACACGTGCTCG                               |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | AGAGTCACGTTTGC                            |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | CCGGGAACACGTGACTCTAG and CTAGTACGCTGTTTGGCCG |
| 1389228_at            | Similar to RIKEN cDNA               | -1.53               | -1.26             | M00118-V$\$MYCMAX_01  | AAACACGTGCTGGTCG and CGACCACGTGTTTGGT     |
|                       | 2010309E21 (predicted)               |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | AAACACGTGCTGGTCG and CGACCACGTGTTTGGT     |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | AGAGTCACGTTTGC                            |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | CCGGGAACACGTGACTCTAG and CTAGTACGCTGTTTGGCCG |
| 1371332_at            | Histone 1, H4a (predicted)        | -1.41               | -1.29             | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | AAACACGTGATAG                              |
| 1367857_at            | Fads1 || fatty acid desaturase 1    | -1.55               | -1.52             | M00119-V$\$MAX_01    | TGTACACGTGTTTCC and GAAACACGTGACAA        |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | AAACACGTGAC                                |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | TGTACACGTGTTTCC                           |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00615-V$\$MYCMAX_03  | AAACACGTGAC and AAACACGTGACAAATTT and AATTGTCACGCTGTTTCCCTT |
| 1383434_at            | Transcribed locus                  | -1.81               | -1.38             | M00236-V$\$ARNNT_01   | TGATACACGTGCTGCG                          |
| 1368079_at            | Pdk1 || pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase 1 | -1.52               | -1.41             | M00118-V$\$MYCMAX_01  | CTACACGTGCTGGT and ACACACGTGTTAG          |
|                       |                                        |                     |                   | M00123-V$\$MYCMAX_02  | CTACACGTGCTGGT and ACACACGTGTTAG          |

* Genes that are co-regulated in the WB-F344 and WB311 cell lines in response to rapamycin that contain transcription factor binding sites with integral E-boxes.
| Affimetrax | Gene Symbol | WB-F344 | WB311 | Binding Site Identifier | Transcription Factor Binding Site Sequence |
|-----------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1372132_at | Cndp2_preacted || CNDP dipeptidase 2 (metallopeptidase M20 family) | −1.90 | −1.47 | M00119-V$\text{MAX}_01$ | GCACACGCTGTCCT and GAGACACGTGTTGC |
| 1375964_at | Psph_preacted || phosphoserine phosphatase (predicted) | −1.89 | −1.50 | M00123-V$\text{MAX}_02$ | CACACGCTGTCCT |
| 1371445_at | RGC1305092_preacted || similar to ribosome-binding protein p34 - rat | −1.57 | −1.29 | M00119-V$\text{MAX}_01$ | GTGACACGTCCTT |
| 1377016_at | RGC1310614_preacted || similar to RIKEN cDNA 5730592L21 | −1.46 | −1.43 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | AGTGACCGTGCCCTT |
| 1375696_at | LOC293702 || similar to binding protein | −1.40 | −1.30 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | CAGAAGGCAGTGTCACCTA and TGAGTGACACGTGCGCTG |
| 1367493_at | Pfk | phosphofructokinase, liver, B-type | −1.39 | −1.36 | M00118-V$\text{MAX}_01$ | ATGCCACGTTGCT and GAAACCGTGCACAT |
| 1370701_at | RGC1310614_preacted || similar to RIKEN cDNA 5730592L21 | −1.46 | −1.43 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | GAGAGGCGGTAGG |
| 1375696_at | LOC293702 || similar to binding protein | −1.40 | −1.30 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | CAGAAGGCAGTGTCACCTA and TGAGTGACACGTGCGCTG |
| 1367493_at | Pfk | phosphofructokinase, liver, B-type | −1.39 | −1.36 | M00118-V$\text{MAX}_01$ | ATGCCACGTTGCT and GAAACCGTGCACAT |
| 1370701_at | RGC1310614_preacted || similar to RIKEN cDNA 5730592L21 | −1.46 | −1.43 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | GAGAGGCGGTAGG |
| 1375696_at | LOC293702 || similar to binding protein | −1.40 | −1.30 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | CAGAAGGCAGTGTCACCTA and TGAGTGACACGTGCGCTG |
| 1367493_at | Pfk | phosphofructokinase, liver, B-type | −1.39 | −1.36 | M00118-V$\text{MAX}_01$ | ATGCCACGTTGCT and GAAACCGTGCACAT |
| 1370701_at | RGC1310614_preacted || similar to RIKEN cDNA 5730592L21 | −1.46 | −1.43 | M00236-V$\text{ARN}_01$ | GAGAGGCGGTAGG |

*Of the 61 co-regulated gene features, 19 were found to have one or more than one E-box-containing transcription factor binding site. For each of these gene features, the fold-change in response to rapamycin, the transcription factor binding site identification and the sequence within the specific gene feature containing that site is shown. “Rapa Effect” denotes the fold-change in response to rapamycin for each individual gene. Note that the fold change in response to rapamycin for 1385027_at could not be determined because two distinct normalization procedures were employed for the clustering versus the differential expression analyses.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009084.t002

We performed an analysis to determine if mTORC1 signaling and c-Myc might induce parallel changes in gene expression and that rapamycin effect would reflect this (Figure 3, upper panel). For cluster 1, c-Myc targets that were rapidly and persistently downregulated following c-myc induction in the HOMycER12 fibroblasts, there was no difference between the number of c-Myc targets that were upregulated and downregulated in response to rapamycin in the WB-F344 cells. For cluster 2, which represents targets that were upregulated and downregulated.

In the WB311 cell line (Figure 3, lower panel), 342 of 1130 rapamycin-modulated genes were present in the c-Myc target dataset. This number surpassed the expected number of 221, a difference that was significant (P<0.000001). A significant association between rapamycin effect and the effect of c-myc induction was confined to clusters 1 and 3. For cluster 1, of the 178 probesets that responded to rapamycin (versus the expected number of 111 probesets), the expression of 111 c-Myc targets was increased while 67 were repressed (P<0.000001). For cluster 3, the observed number of c-Myc targets (44 probesets) exceeded the expected number (37 probesets) (P<0.05). Approximately equal numbers were upregulated and downregulated.

To assess the specificity of the relationship between c-Myc and mTORC1 signaling, we performed a similar analysis using the set of 341 genes that are targets of NFκB. We chose NFκB because, like c-Myc, it is involved in the regulation of a large, diverse set of genes involved in a spectrum of cellular processes [30]. The results of this comparison disclosed that only 27 of the 1,927 rapamycin-responsive genes in the WB-F344 cells were included among the NFκB targets. This number was not significantly greater than the expected number. A similar result was obtained for the WB311 cell line in which only 26 of the 1,130 rapamycin-responsive genes were included in the NFκB dataset.
We hypothesized that the distribution of E-boxes would differ in the promoter regions of genes that were up-regulated versus down-regulated in response to rapamycin. For the population of rapamycin-responsive genes in the two hepatic cell lines, E-boxes showed a positional bias in that most were located within a region 100 nucleotides upstream of the transcriptional start site (Figures 4A and 4B). There was no apparent difference in the distribution of E-boxes in the two cell lines. In addition, the number of E-box-containing sites among promoters for rapamycin-responsive genes showed similar results for the two cell lines (Figures 4C and 4D). However, the number of promoters with two E-boxes was higher for genes that were downregulated by rapamycin in the WB-F344 cells compared to the genes that were upregulated. This was not the case for the WB311 cells.

Dependence of Rapamycin Effect on c-Myc in Fibroblasts

To assess the dependence of rapamycin-induced changes in gene expression on c-Myc, we performed studies on two rat fibroblast cell lines, TGR-1 (c-myc+/+) and HO15.19 (c-myc−/−). Preliminary studies (data not shown) confirmed that the phosphorylation of ribosomal protein S6 (Ser235/236) was highly sensitive to inhibition by rapamycin in both cell lines. Studies using 3H-thymidine showed that both cell lines were resistant to the growth inhibitory effects of rapamycin (data not shown) based on the criteria that we had established using hepatic cells [18].

We hypothesized that the effect of rapamycin on gene expression would be c-Myc-dependent and that this would be reflected in there being fewer rapamycin-sensitive genes in the HO15.19 fibroblasts (c-myc−/−) than in TGR-1 cells (c-myc+/+). Both cell lines were exposed to DMSO vehicle or rapamycin (50 nM) for 24 hr. Total RNA was prepared and processed for microarray analysis. Results for the TGR-1 cells showed that 989 gene features (4.5% of the total number on the array) were affected by rapamycin with 521 sequence tags upregulated and 463 downregulated. In the HO15.19 fibroblasts 1,140 probes (5.2% of the total number of gene features on the array) were affected by rapamycin (553 upregulated and 590 downregulated).
number of modulated genes in the HO15.19 fibroblasts was greater than the number in the TGR-1 cells, thus refuting our hypothesis. This conclusion was further supported by the observation that the number of genes showing a 1.5-fold or greater change in expression was higher in the HO15.19 cells than in the TGR-1 cells (data not shown).

Based on the results in hepatic cell lines, we hypothesized that the genes affected by rapamycin in the TGR-1 and HO15.19 cells would show enrichment of c-Myc targets. Results (Figure 5) confirmed this hypothesis in both cell lines. In the TGR-1 cells, 430 of 989 rapamycin modulated genes were in the set of c-Myc targets, far exceeding the expected 192 genes ($P < 0.000001$). As in the hepatic cell lines, the number of rapamycin-sensitive c-Myc targets identified in the two fibroblast lines in clusters 1, 2 and 3 exceeded the number expected.

The direction of regulation in response to rapamycin was examined. For TGR-1 cells (Figure 5, upper panel) cluster 1 genes (downregulated in response to c-myc induction), rapamycin induced upregulation of the expression of 167 c-Myc targets while only 29 were downregulated. Among cluster 2 genes (upregulated in response to c-myc induction), rapamycin upregulated the expression of 23 c-Myc targets while 159 were downregulated. Similar results were obtained for the HO15.19 cell line (Figure 5, lower panel).

Pathway analysis revealed that rapamycin modulated the expression of genes involved in a number of biochemical and metabolic pathways in both the TGR-1 and HO15.19 fibroblasts (Table 3). These pathways included those involved in steroid, carbohydrate and amino acid metabolism. As was the case for the WB-F344 and WB311 hepatic cells [18], rapamycin affected the glycolysis/gluconeogenesis pathway with phosphoglycerol kinase 1 (Pgtk1) being downregulated in both cell lines. This was the only case of a gene being regulated in a manner that determined activity of a pathway in all four cell lines.

Pathway network reconstruction analysis was also performed in order to identify critical genes affected by rapamycin among the interphase of connected pathways. This analysis has already been reported for the WB-F344 and WB311 cells [18]. It showed that
The present studies were undertaken for the purpose of identifying new mechanisms by which signaling via the mTOR pathway regulates gene expression. To test this hypothesis, we characterized rapamycin-induced changes in gene expression in the HO15.19 cell line. These cells were originally derived from TGR-1 cells, which were in turn derived from the Rat-1 fibroblast cell line [35]. HO15.19, made null for c-myc by homologous recombination [21], are an appropriate model system for studying the role of c-myc in a variety of cell processes. In addition, the TGR-1 and HO15.19 cells represented a second model system in which we were able to confirm the intersection in the regulation of gene expression by mTORC1 and c-Myc.

To further assess the relationship between c-Myc and mTORC1 in the regulation of transcription, we examined the distribution of E-boxes among rapamycin responsive genes in the WB-F344 and WB311 hepatic cells. The significance of E-boxes lies in their role in c-Myc function in that c-Myc regulation of target genes appears to involve direct binding to E-boxes. Mutations in E-boxes are also associated with the removal of the repression of gene activation induced by the c-Myc binding partner Mad [36]. Further, recent studies have shown that upregulated c-Myc targets in the HOMycER12 fibroblasts induced by OHT were enriched for E-boxes (manuscript in preparation, Sedivy et al.). We found that the E-box distribution along the promoter region of rapamycin-regulated genes in the WB-F344 and WB311 cells was similar and that they resembled the distribution observed in drosophila [37] and humans [25]. The expected (unfilled), observed (black), upregulated (red) and downregulated (green) c-Myc targets regulated in response to rapamycin are shown for the temporal response clusters 1, 2 and 3 in the HOMycER12 fibroblasts and for the total population of genes affected in these cells. * P<0.05 versus corresponding control were determined by chi square analysis.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009084.g005
### Table 3. Rapamycin-modulated pathways in TGR-1 and HO15.19 fibroblasts.

| TGR-1 Pathway * | P Value | Genes (Total) | Genes (Significant) |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------------------|
| Adipocytokine signaling pathway | ▼ | 0.001 | 58 | 9 |
| Alanine and aspartate metabolism | ▼ | 0.003 | 22 | 5 |
| Aminoacyl-tRNA biosynthesis | ▼ | 3.52E-06 | 28 | 9 |
| B cell receptor signaling pathway | ▼ | 0.037 | 52 | 6 |
| Bile acid biosynthesis | ▼ | 0.027 | 14 | 3 |
| Biosynthesis of steroids | ▼ | 2.27E-07 | 16 | 8 |
| Biosynthesis of unsaturated fatty acids | ▼ | 0.039 | 16 | 3 |
| Carbon fixation | ▼ | 0.006 | 16 | 4 |
| Chronic myeloid leukemia | ▼ | 0.004 | 66 | 9 |
| Colorectal cancer | ▼ | 0.026 | 61 | 7 |
| Complement and coagulation cascades | ▼ | 0.043 | 54 | 6 |
| Fructose and mannose metabolism | ▼ | 0.006 | 23 | 6 |
| Glioma | ▼ | 0.026 | 48 | 6 |
| Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism | ▼ | 9.53E-05 | 32 | 8 |
| Glycolysis/Gluconeogenesis | ▼ | 0.0009 | 34 | 7 |
| Neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction | ▲ | 0.004 | 211 | 2 |
| Non-small cell lung cancer | ▼ | 0.014 | 42 | 6 |
| Olfactory transduction | ▲ | 2.87E-15 | 687 | 1 |
| Pancreatic cancer | ▼ | 0.028 | 62 | 7 |
| Pentose phosphate pathway | ▼ | 0.033 | 15 | 3 |
| Phenylyalanine metabolism | ▼ | 0.022 | 13 | 3 |
| Phenylnalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan biosynthesis | ▼ | 0.00016 | 7 | 4 |
| Prostate cancer | ▼ | 0.019 | 71 | 8 |
| Proteasome | ▼ | 0.00025 | 20 | 6 |
| Small cell lung cancer | ▼ | 0.012 | 65 | 8 |
| Terpenoid biosynthesis | ▼ | 0.013 | 4 | 2 |
| TGF-beta signaling pathway | ▼ | 0.04 | 67 | 7 |
| Thyroid cancer | ▼ | 0.004 | 23 | 5 |
| Urea cycle and metabolism of amino groups | ▼ | 0.0076 | 17 | 4 |
| Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation | ▼ | 0.0009 | 25 | 6 |

| HO15.19 Pathway | P Value | Genes (Total) | Genes (Significant) |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------------------|
| Alanine and aspartate metabolism | ▼ | 0.0044 | 22 | 5 |
| Alzheimer's disease | ▼ | 0.037 | 25 | 4 |
| Aminoacyl-tRNA biosynthesis | ▼ | 4.98E-08 | 28 | 11 |
| Bile acid biosynthesis | ▼ | 0.032 | 14 | 3 |
| Biosynthesis of steroids | ▼ | 0.0076 | 16 | 4 |
| Bisphenol A degradation | ▼ | 0.015 | 4 | 2 |
| Carbon fixation | ▼ | 0.046 | 16 | 3 |
| Cell cycle | ▼ | 0.0017 | 89 | 12 |
| DNA replication | ▼ | 9.31E-05 | 30 | 8 |
| ECM-receptor interaction | ▼ | 0.0098 | 59 | 8 |
| Focal adhesion | ▼ | 0.018 | 142 | 14 |
| Fructose and mannose metabolism | ▼ | 0.0054 | 23 | 5 |
| Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism | ▼ | 0.001 | 32 | 7 |
| Glycolysis/Gluconeogenesis | ▼ | 0.028 | 34 | 5 |
| MAPK signaling pathway | ▼ | 0.0044 | 201 | 20 |
| Mismatch repair | ▼ | 0.0095 | 17 | 4 |
E-box distribution in all of these cases tends to show location near the transcription start site. We found that the majority of promoters in rapamycin-regulated genes in the WB-F344 and WB311 cells contained one E-box. We did not find a difference in the number or distribution of E-boxes among genes that were upregulated versus downregulated in response to rapamycin. In summary, our data indicate that c-Myc and mTORC1 may overlap in their regulation of transcription via E-boxes, but that this overlap is independent of c-Myc itself.

Although c-Myc and mTOR are known to be central regulators of comparable biological processes, this is the first study, to our knowledge, that has identified a set of genes that are targets of both c-Myc and mTORC1. mTOR [13,38] and c-Myc [38] are known to regulate cellular metabolism and, more specifically, glucose metabolism [38,39]. We found that rapamycin affected various metabolic and biosynthetic pathways in the TGR-1 and HO15.19 cells, similar to our observations in the WB-F344 and WB311 cells. The glycolysis/gluconeogenesis pathway was affected by rapamycin in all four cell lines with the gene for phosphoglycerate kinase-1 (Pgk1) being downregulated in every case. Further study would be warranted to determine the significance of this observation.

With regard to the intersection between c-Myc and mTOR signaling, our pathway network reconstruction analyses indicated a role for c-myc in mTORC1 action in the WB-F344, WB311 and TGR-1 cell lines. Prior studies have shown that rapamycin can downregulate both the transcription [40] and translation [40–42] of c-myc in several cell types. It may be that the effect of rapamycin on the expression of c-myc and cyclin D is not uniform and is cell type specific. Other studies examining the intersection between c-Myc and mTOR have demonstrated an ability of c-Myc to modulate signaling through the mTOR pathway via transcriptional downregulation of the tuberous sclerosis complex genes [43,44], which are negative regulators of mTOR-mediated translation activation. Finally, c-Myc has been shown to abrogate the regulation of translation by mTOR by controlling the expression and activity of the key translation regulator, 4EBP-1 [45].

In summary, we have demonstrated an intersection between mTORC1 and c-Myc regulation of gene expression. This was observed in both hepatic cells and fibroblasts. However, control of gene expression by mTORC1 was independent of c-Myc, indicating that the intersection between these two systems is likely a reflection of their biological function, not their mechanism of gene expression control. Furthermore, our inability to detect the involvement of specific transcription factor binding domains in the regulation of gene expression by mTORC1 may indicate the involvement of epigenetic mechanisms, microRNAs or both in mTORC1 signaling.

### Supporting Information

Table S1 Identification of genes that are regulated in both the WB-F344 and WB311 cells in response to rapamycin. The X to the left of a row indicates that the gene is one that was co-regulated in the two cell lines and one for which an Ensembl ID allowed further analysis in Toucan2. Arrowheads indicate the direction of the effect of rapamycin (increase or decrease in expression following exposure to rapamycin). The magnitude of rapamycin effect is given as log-base 2 of the fold-change.

Found at: doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009084.s001 (0.25 MB DOC)

### Acknowledgments

We thank Ms. Joan Boylan for her contribution to several experiments, her expert advice and her insight into these studies.

### Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: RHJ JMS PAG. Performed the experiments: RHJ JAS. Analyzed the data: RHJ JSL MF GC NN JAS JMS. Wrote the paper: RHJ PAG. Mentored the first author, a graduate student: PAG.
Figure 6. Bipartite network of pathways and genes identified as rapamycin responsive in rat fibroblasts. The microarray analyses described for Figure 5 were analyzed for networks of pathways that were significantly affected by rapamycin. Pathways are represented by circles and genes by squares. Gray circles indicate non significant pathways. Red and blue circles indicate significant pathways that are overrepresented and underrepresented, respectively. The green tone on the squares indicates the degree of pathways membership (from light green representing genes connected to few pathways to dark green for hubs). Panel A shows the pathways and related critical genes affected by rapamycin in TGR-1 cells. Panel B shows the pathways affected by rapamycin in HO15.19 cells. The Mapk1 gene appeared as critical but was not connected to any significant pathways. No significant gene was associated with the overrepresented pathways. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0009084.g006

References

1. Hall MN (2008) mTOR-what does it do? Transplant Proc 40: S5–S8.
2. Polak P, Hall MN (2009) mTOR and the control of whole body metabolism. Curr Opin Cell Biol 21: 209–218.
3. Sabatini DM (2006) mTOR and cancer: insights into a complex relationship. Nat Rev Cancer 6: 729–734.
4. Guertin DA, Sabatini DM (2007) Defining the role of mTOR in cancer. Cancer Cell 12: 9–22.
5. Harrison DE, Strong R, Sharp ZD, Nelson JF, Aule CM, et al. (2009) Rapamycin fed late in life extends lifespan in genetically heterogeneous mice. Nature 460: 392–395.
6. James MJ, Zomerdijk JC (2004) Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase and mTOR signaling pathways regulate RNA polymerase I transcription in response to IGF-I and nutrients. J Biol Chem 279: 8911–8918.
7. Erbay E, Park BH, Nuzzi PD, Schoenherr CJ, Chen J (2003) IGF-II transcription in skeletal myogenesis is controlled by mTOR and nutrients. J Cell Biol 163: 931–936.
8. Mayer C, Zhao J, Yuan X, Grummt I (2004) mTOR-dependent activation of the transcription factor TIF-IA links rRNA synthesis to nutrient availability. Genes Dev 18: 432–434.
9. Cunningham JT, Rodgers JT, Aclow DH, Vazquez F, Moohaa VK, et al. (2007) mTOR controls mitochondrial oxidative function through a YY1-PGC-1alpha transcriptional complex. Nature 456: 736–740.
10. Abraham RT (2002) Identification of TOR signaling complexes: More TORC for the cell growth engine. Cell 111: 9–12.
11. Loewith R, Jacinto E, Wullschleger S, Lazarb A, Crepo JL, et al. (2002) Two TOR complexes, only one of which is rapamycin sensitive, have distinct roles in cell growth control. Mol Cell 10: 457–468.
12. Dever TE (2002) Gene-specific regulation by general translation factors. Cell 100: 545–556.
13. Wullschleger S, Loewith R, Hall MN (2006) TOR signaling in growth and metabolism. Cell 124: 471–484.
14. Raught B, Gingras AC, Sonenberg N (2001) The target of rapamycin (TOR) proteins. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 98: 7037–7044.
15. Xie MW, Jin F, Hwang H, Hwang S, Anand V, et al. (2005) Insights into TOR function and rapamycin response: chemical genomic profiling by using a high-density cell array method. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 102: 7215–7220.
16. Güttler M, Luke B, Hess D, Okazaki Y, Wielandt C, et al. (2003) Control of nutrient-sensitive transcription programs by the unconventional prefoldin URI. Science 302: 1208–1212.
17. Grewal SS, Evans JR, Edgar BA (2007) Drosophila TIF-IA is required for ribosome synthesis and cell growth and is regulated by the TOR pathway. J Cell Biol 179: 1105–1113.
18. Jimenez RH, Boylan JM, Lee JS, Francesconi MI, Castellani G, et al. (2009) Rapamycin response in tumorigenic and non-tumorigenic hepatic cell lines. PLoS ONE 4: e7373.
19. Tsao MS, Smith JD, Nelson KG, Graham JW (1984) A diploid epithelial cell line from normal adult rat liver with phenotypic properties of ‘oval’ cells. Exp Cell Res 154: 38–32.
20. Lee JW, Tsao MS, Grisham JW, Smith GJ (1989) Emergence of neoplastic transformants spontaneously or after exposure to N-methyl-N’-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine in populations of rat liver epithelial cells cultured under selective and nonselective conditions. Am J Pathol 135: 63–71.

21. Mateyak MK, Obaya AJ, Adachi S, Sedivy JM (1997) Phenotypes of c-Myc-deficient rat fibroblasts isolated by targeted homologous recombination. Cell Growth Differ 8: 1039–1048.

22. Aerts S, Van Loo P, Thijs G, de Martin R, et al. (2003) TOUCAN 2: the all-inclusive open source workbench for regulatory sequence analysis. Nucleic Acids Res 33: W393–W396.

23. Veerla S, Hoglund M (2006) Analysis of promoter regions of co-expressed genes identified by microarray analysis. BMC Bioinformatics 7: 384.

24. Morrish F, Neri et al. (2008) The oncogene c-Myc coordinates regulation of metabolic networks to enable rapid cell cycle entry. Cell Cycle 7: 1054–1066.

25. Kim J, Lee JH, Iyer VR (2008) Global identification of Myc target genes reveals its direct role in mitochondrial biogenesis and its E-box usage in vivo. PLoS ONE 3: e1798.

26. Hochberg Y, Benjamini Y (1990) More powerful procedures for multiple significance testing. Stat Med 9: 811–818.

27. Francesconi M, Remondini D, Neri et al. (2008) Reconstructing networks of pathways via significance analysis of their intersections. BMC Bioinformatics 9 Suppl 4: S9.

28. Edgar R, Domrachev M, Lash AE (2002) Gene Expression Omnibus. NCBI gene expression and hybridization array data repository. Nucleic Acids Res 30: 207–210.

29. Sanders JA, Gruppuso PA (2005) Coordinated Regulation of c-Myc and Max in Rat Liver Development. Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol 290: G145–G153.

30. Cortes SM, Rodriguez JV, Sanchez PI, Perona R (2008) The role of the NFkappaB signalling pathway in cancer. Clin Transl Oncol 10: 143–147.

31. Ephrussi A, Church GM, Tonegawa S, Gilbert W (1985) B lineage-specific interactions of an immunoglobulin enhancer with cellular factors in vivo. Science 227: 134–140.

32. Sen R, Baltimore D (1986) Multiple nuclear factors interact with the immunoglobulin enhancer sequences. Cell 46: 705–716.

33. Hay N, Sonenberg N (2004) Upstream and downstream of mTOR. Genes Dev 18: 1926–1945.

34. Eders M, Eisenman RN (2008) Myc’s broad reach. Genes Dev 22: 2755–2766.

35. Prouty SM, Hanson KD, Boyle AL, Brown JR, Shichiri M, et al. (1995) A cell culture model system for genetic analyses of the cell cycle by targeted homologous recombination. Oncogene 8: 899–907.

36. Greasley PJ, Bonnard C, Amati B (2000) Myc induces the nucleolin and BDN genes: possible implications in ribosome biogenesis. Nucleic Acids Res 28: 446–453.

37. Tall T, Bellota P, Furrer M, Steiger D, Svensson D, et al. (2005) Whole-genome analysis reveals a strong positional bias of conserved dMyc-dependent E-boxes. Mol Cell Biol 25: 3401–3410.

38. Shaw RJ, Camley LC (2006) Ras, PI3K and mTOR signalling controls tumour cell growth. Nature 441: 424–430.

39. Buller CL, Lobberg RD, Fan MH, Zhu Q, Park JL, et al. (2008) A GSK-3/ TSC2/mTOR pathway regulates glucose uptake and GLUT1 glucose transporter expression. Am J Physiol Cell Physiol 295: C836–C843.

40. Fingar DC, Bennis J (2004) Target of rapamycin (TOR): an integrator of nutrient and growth factor signals and coordinator of cell growth and cell cycle progression. Oncogene 23: 3151–3171.

41. Ikezoe T, Nishioka C, Bandobashi K, Yang Y, Kuwayama Y, et al. (2007) Longitudinal inhibition of PI3K/Akt/mTOR signaling by LY294002 and rapamycin induces growth arrest of adult T-cell leukemia cells. Leuk Res 31: 673–682.

42. Murooka TT, Rahbar R, Fish EN (2009) CCL5 promotes proliferation of MCF-7 cells through mTOR-dependent mRNA translation. Biochem Biophys Res Commun 387: 381–386.

43. Ravitz MJ, Chen L, Lynch M, Schmidt EV (2007) c-myc Repression of TSC2 contributes to control of translation initiation and Myc-induced transformation. Cancer Res 67: 11209–11217.

44. Schmidt EV, Ravitz MJ, Chen L, Lynch M (2009) Growth controls connect: interactions between c-myc and the tuberous sclerosis complex-mTOR pathway. Cell Cycle 8: 1344–1351.

45. Balakumaran BS, Porrello A, Hsu DS, Glover W, Foye A, et al. (2009) MYC activity mitigates response to rapamycin in prostate cancer through eukaryotic initiation factor 4E-binding protein 1-mediated inhibition of autophagy. Cancer Res 69: 7803–7810.