Inhibition of Janus Kinase 1 synergizes docetaxel sensitivity in prostate cancer cells

Geetha Nalairndran1 | Ivy Chung1,2 | Azad Hassan Abdul Razack3 | Felicia Fei-Lei Chung4 | Ling-Wei Hii5,6,7 | Wei-Meng Lim5,6 | Chin King Looi5,7 | Chun-Wai Mai5,8 | Chee-Onn Leong5,6

1Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2University of Malaya Cancer Research Institute, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis Section (MCA), Epigenetics Group (EGE), International Agency for Research on Cancer World Health Organization, Lyon CEDEX 08, France
5Center for Cancer and Stem Cell Research, Institute for Research, Development and Innovation (IRDI), International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
6School of Pharmacy, International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7School of Postgraduate Studies, International Medical University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
8State Key Laboratory of Oncogenes and Related Genes, Renji-Med X Clinical Stem Cell Research Center, Department of Urology, Ren Ji Hospital, School of Medicine, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China

Abstract
Prostate cancer (PCa) is the second most common malignancy and is the fifth leading cause of cancer mortality among men globally. Docetaxel-based therapy remains the first-line treatment for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. However, dose-limiting toxicity including neutropenia, myelosuppression and neurotoxicity is the major reason for docetaxel dose reductions and fewer cycles administered, despite a recent study showing a clear survival benefit with increased total number of docetaxel cycles in PCa patients. Although previous studies have attempted to improve the efficacy and reduce docetaxel toxicity through drug combination, no drug has yet demonstrated improved overall survival in clinical trial, highlighting the challenges of improving the activity of docetaxel monotherapy in PCa. Herein, we identified 15 lethality hits for which inhibition could enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells via a high-throughput kinome-wide loss-of-function screen. Further drug–gene interactions analyses identified Janus kinase 1 (JAK1) as a viable druggable target with existing experimental inhibitors and FDA-approved drugs. We demonstrated that depletion of endogenous JAK1 enhanced docetaxel-induced apoptosis in PCa cells via a high-throughput kinome-wide loss-of-function screen. Further drug–gene interactions analyses identified Janus kinase 1 (JAK1) as a viable druggable target with existing experimental inhibitors and FDA-approved drugs. We demonstrated that depletion of endogenous JAK1 enhanced docetaxel-induced apoptosis in PCa cells. Furthermore, inhibition of JAK1/2 by baricitinib and ruxolitinib synergizes docetaxel sensitivity in both androgen receptor (AR)–negative DU145 and PC3 cells, but not in the AR-positive LNCaP cells. In contrast, no synergistic effects were observed
in cells treated with JAK2-specific inhibitor, fedratinib, suggesting that the synergistic effects are mainly mediated through JAK1 inhibition. In conclusion, the combination therapy with JAK1 inhibitors and docetaxel could be a useful therapeutic strategy in the treatment of prostate cancers.

**KEYWORDS**

baricitinib, JAK1, prostate cancer, RNAi screen, ruxolitinib

---

1 | INTRODUCTION

Prostate cancer (PCa) is the second most common cancer in men with an estimated worldwide incidence and mortality of 1.3 million new cases and 359,000 associated deaths in 2018, respectively. Despite aggressive screening and public health promotion, the global burden of PCa is anticipated to rise by 2030. Furthermore, despite dramatic shifts in treatment options over the last 15 years and recent advancements in targeted therapeutics, survival remains low in men presenting with metastatic disease, for whom median overall survival is reported to be 42.1 months (IQR: 22.7-90.7 months).

Docetaxel-based therapy is the current first-line chemotherapy for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) with a response rate ranging from 17% to 33%. Dose-limiting toxicity, including neutropenia, myelosuppression and neurotoxicity, is the major challenge that cause docetaxel dose reductions and eventually fewer cycles administered, despite recent study showing a clear association of survival benefit with docetaxel in PCa and total number of cycles administered. Several studies have attempted to improve the efficacy and reduce the toxicity of docetaxel through combination therapies, but have failed to improve the overall survival of PCa in clinical trials. Thus, the discovery of new druggable targets that could enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa is imperative.

Recent studies have demonstrated that ‘druggable’ pathways that regulate the survival of PCa cells can be identified through comprehensive loss-of-function RNA interference (RNAi) screens. Herein, we describe a systematic and comprehensive approach in employing a high-throughput kinome-wide shRNA screen coupled with in silico drug-gene interaction analyses to uncover druggable targets that could enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells. We identified Janus kinase 1 (JAK1) as a druggable target that regulates docetaxel sensitivity. Depletion of endogenous JAK1 by shRNA or inhibition of JAK1 activities by JAK1 inhibitors synergized docetaxel sensitivity in AR-negative DU145 and PC3 cells, but not in the AR-positive LNCaP cells. Furthermore, we showed that JAK1 acts through activation of STAT3 in AR-negative PCa cells. These results suggest that combination therapy with JAK1 inhibitor and docetaxel may be a useful therapeutic strategy in the treatment of PCa and warrants further investigation.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 | Cell lines and cell cultures

DU145, PC3 and LNCaP human prostate cancer cell lines were acquired from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) (Manassas, VA, USA) and maintained in RPMI 1640 (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MI, USA) with supplementation of 10% foetal bovine serum (FBS) (DNA Biotechnology, Science Park Road, Singapore), 100 IU/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin (Biowest, Nuaille, France). The RWPE-1 normal prostate cell line was acquired from ATCC and grown in keratinocyte serum-free medium consisting of 5 ng/mL of recombinant epidermal growth factor and 0.05 mg/mL of bovine pituitary extract (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). All cells were maintained in their logarithmic growth and kept in a humidified 37°C, 5% CO₂ incubator.

2.2 | Human kinome shRNA library screen

Briefly, screening was conducted using the MISSION LentiExpress™ Human Kinases shRNA Library (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) which consists of approximately 3200 lentiviral shRNA constructs targeting different regions of 501 human kinase genes. Firstly, the androgen receptor (AR)-negative DU145 cells were seeded at 2500 cells/well overnight in a white flat-bottomed 384 well plate. Cells were transduced with 2500 lentivirus particles (multiplicity of infection, MOI = 1) in the presence of 7.5µg/ml polybrene (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) for 16 hours in 37°C, 5% CO₂. After 18 hours of incubation, the medium containing the lentivirus particles was replaced with complete medium with the addition of a sublethal concentration of docetaxel (0.1 nM), and the cell viability was evaluated using the CellTiter-Glo® Luminescent Cell Viability Assay (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) at 72 hours post-transduction. Controls include lentiviral particles carrying an empty vector (pLKO.1-puro) and a non-target shRNA (NS) to monitor transduction efficiency. All data were normalized against NS controls. The sensitivity index (SI) for each shRNA was calculated as described previously: \[ SI = \frac{R_c}{C_c}/(R_d/C_c) \] where Rc is the viability of cells following shRNA transduction (shRNA only), Rd is the viability of cells in following shRNA transduction and docetaxel treatment (shRNA + docetaxel), Cc is the...
average viability in cells transduced with NS (NS control), and Cd is the average viability in cells transduced with NS and docetaxel treatment (NS + docetaxel). Positive SI values indicate sensitizing effects, and negative value indicate antagonizing effects. Target genes were identified as hits when shRNA targeting a specific gene achieved a SI of more than 0.2.

2.3 | Protein isolation and Western blot analysis

Protein lysates from the cells were extracted in an ice-cold lysis buffer (1% NP-40, 1 mM DTT, protease inhibitors and phosphatase inhibitor I and II cocktails in PBS as described previously). A total protein of 50 μg was loaded for immunoblotting. Primary antibodies against JAK1 and JAK2 were obtained from Cell Signaling Technology, MA, USA, and β-actin was purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology, CA, USA.

2.4 | Drug combination studies and analyses

Docetaxel and JAK inhibitors (baricitinib, ruxolitinib and fedratinib) were purchased from Selleckchem, Houston, TX, USA. For drug combination studies, cells were seeded overnight in 96-well plates at a density of 5000 cells/well. Cells were treated with docetaxel and/or JAK inhibitors (baricitinib, ruxolitinib and fedratinib) alone or in combinations at dose-response matrix format. Plates were then incubated at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator for 72 hours. The plates were terminated by MTT cell proliferation assay at 72 hours after treatment. CalcuSyn 2.1 software (Biosoft, Cambridge, UK) was used to generate combination index (CI) based on Chou-Talalay method, in which CI <1 = 1 and >1 indicates synergism, additive and antagonism effect, respectively (Table S1). The dose-response surface curves with levels of highest single agent (HSA) synergy were plotted by Combenefit software (Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute).

2.5 | Lentiviral production and transduction

Lentiviral shRNA constructs targeting JAK1 were purchased from GE Healthcare Dharmacon Inc with target sequences shown in Table S2. High-titre lentiviral stocks were generated by co-transfecting the HEK-293T cells with the psPAX packaging plasmid (Addgene plasmid 12260) and the pMD2.G envelope plasmid (Addgene plasmid 12259) using CalPhos Transfection Kits (Clontech, Mountain View, CA, USA) as described previously. Supernatants containing lentiviral stocks were supplemented with 7.5 μg/mL polybrene (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) for transduction. The stable pools of cells were generated through puromycin (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA) selection.

2.6 | Detection of apoptosis by Annexin V flow cytometry

All floating and attached cells were stained for cell apoptosis assay using a PE Annexin V Apoptosis Detection Kit (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) as described previously. The samples were quantitlated using a FACSCalibur flow cytometer and analysed by CellQuest Pro software (version 5.1.1; BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA).

2.7 | Transfection

Constitutively active EF.STAT3C. Ubc.GFP was a gift from Linzhao Cheng (Addgene plasmid # 24983; http://n2t.net/addgene:24983; RRID:Addgene_24983), and pcDNA3 Myr HA Akt1 was a gift from William Sellers (Addgene plasmid # 9008; http://n2t.net/ addgene:9008; RRID:Addgene_9008). Plasmids were transfected into target cells using X-tremeGENE HP DNA transfection reagent (Roche Diagnostic, Indianapolis, IN, USA), according to the manufacturer’s protocol.

2.8 | Statistical analysis

All results were presented as mean ± standard deviation (s.d.) from at least three independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by Student’s independent t test through SPSS (version 19.0 INC, Chicago, IL). A P-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | DU145 and PC3 AR-negative PCa cells are inherently resistant to docetaxel

We first determined the sensitivity of a panel of PCa cells and normal prostate epithelial cancer cells against docetaxel. As shown in Figure 1A and Table S3, the AR-positive LNCaP PCa cells and RWPE-1 normal prostate epithelial cells were significantly more sensitive to docetaxel with an IC₅₀ of <0.16 nM and 0.88 ± 0.12 nM, respectively, while the AR-negative DU145 and PC3 cells were inherently resistant to docetaxel with IC₅₀ of >10 nM.

3.2 | Identification of synthetic lethality genes with docetaxel in PCa cells

Next, to identify kinases of which knock-down enhanced the docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells, we conducted a high-throughput kinome-wide shRNA screen in the AR-negative DU145 prostate...
cancer cells in the presence or absence of a sublethal concentration of docetaxel. A sensitivity index (SI) was calculated for each shRNA to define the sensitizing (lethality hit; SI > 0.2) or antagonistic (rescue hit; SI < −0.2) effects on docetaxel. A total of 15 lethality hits and 16 rescue hits were identified in the primary screen (Figure 1B; Tables 1 and 2).

Cluster analysis was performed on the 15 lethality hits using K-means clustering method in STRING (Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes/Proteins) (http://string-db.org/) to identify groups within them so as to prioritize genes for experimental validation. The analysis resulted in 3 clusters (referred to as clusters 1, 2 and 3) (Figure 1C). Cluster 1 has five members and was found to be enriched in genes involved in cell proliferation and chemoresistance through JAK1-IGF1R signalling. Genes in clusters 2 and 3 were found to be related to epithelial tumorigenesis and metastasis mediated by ALK and p38 MAPK signalling.

Consistent with our screening results, inhibition of IGF1R, JAK1,37,38 and ACVR1 (also known as ALK2)39-41 have been shown to inhibit PCa cell growth and progression, particularly in hormone-refractory PCa; while MAPK2 and IRAK4 have been implicated in tumorigenesis in other cancers including colorectal cancer,42,43 breast cancer,44 pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma,45 chronic lymphocytic leukaemia cells,46,47 mutant MYD88 L265P diffuse large B cell lymphoma48-51 and melanoma.52 Together, these candidates represent promising lethality targets to enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells.
3.3 | JAK1 as a potential druggable and repurposing candidate to enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells

To identify novel druggable targets that could enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa, we queried the lethality hits against the Drug Gene Interaction Database (DGIdb) and identified JAK1 and IGF1R as druggable targets with existing FDA-approved or experimental inhibitors (Figure 1D). We note that monoclonal antibodies against IGF1R have already shown poor efficacy and increased docetaxel toxicity in PCa clinical trials.\textsuperscript{53,54} In contrast, JAK inhibitors were shown to possess good safety profiles in randomized controlled trials and their long-term extension studies have been demonstrated in various immune-mediated diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis.\textsuperscript{55,56} In addition, recent studies in PCa model also demonstrated that JAK1/2 inhibitors suppress the immune escape of castration-resistant prostate cancer CRPC) to natural killer (NK) cells,\textsuperscript{57} inhibit PCa metastasis\textsuperscript{37} and inhibit progression of CRPC.\textsuperscript{38} Hence, JAK1 represents a promising druggable target for repurposing existing drugs to enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa.

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
Gene symbol & Gene name & SI \\
\hline
CASK & Calcium/calmodulin dependent serine protein kinase & 0.393 \\
ACVR1 & Activin A receptor type 1 & 0.383 \\
TLK1 & Tousled like kinase 1 & 0.298 \\
LRRK1 & Leucine-rich repeat kinase 1 & 0.274 \\
IRAK4 & Interleukin 1 receptor associated kinase 4 & 0.261 \\
PRKAR1A & Protein kinase camp-dependent type 1 regulatory subunit alpha & 0.252 \\
MAPK12 & Mitogen-activated protein kinase 12 & 0.244 \\
JAK1 & Janus kinase 1 & 0.242 \\
IGF1R & Insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor & 0.234 \\
RPS6KB2 & Ribosomal protein S6 kinase B2 & 0.224 \\
PASK & PAS domain containing serine/threonine kinase & 0.223 \\
WNK1 & WNK lysine-deficient protein kinase 1 & 0.220 \\
SCYL2 & SCY1-like pseudokinase 2 & 0.218 \\
DAPK1 & Death-associated protein kinase 1 & 0.207 \\
MAP3K2 & Mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase & 0.203 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Lethality hits}
\end{table}

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
Gene symbol & Gene name & SI \\
\hline
YES1 & YES proto-oncogene 1, Src family tyrosine kinase & −1.248 \\
EPHA1 & EPH receptor A1 & −1.026 \\
PHKA1 & Phosphorylase kinase regulatory subunit alpha 1 & −0.652 \\
CAMKV & Cam kinase-like vesicle associated & −0.572 \\
MAPK4 & Mitogen-activated protein kinase 4 & −0.243 \\
PHKA2 & Phosphorylase kinase regulatory subunit alpha 2 & −0.237 \\
ABL1 & ABL proto-oncogene 1, non-receptor tyrosine kinase & −0.231 \\
ATR & ATR serine/threonine kinase & −0.225 \\
TGFBR2 & Transforming growth factor beta receptor 2 & −0.223 \\
TWF2 & Twinfilin actin binding protein 2 & −0.219 \\
IKBKBN & Inhibitor of kappa light polypeptide gene enhancer in B cells, kinase beta & −0.218 \\
ALK & Anaplastic lymphoma receptor tyrosine kinase & −0.216 \\
EPHA10 & EPH receptor A10 & −0.215 \\
NPR1 & Natriuretic peptide receptor 1 & −0.214 \\
NEK11 & NIMA-related kinase 11 & −0.213 \\
ROCK2 & Rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase 2 & −0.209 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Rescue hits}
\end{table}
Depletion of endogenous JAK1 enhances docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells

To directly validate the effects of JAK1 inhibition in enhancing docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells, we generated stable pools of JAK1-depleted isogenic cell lines in DU145 and PC3 cells. Efficient knock-down of endogenous JAK1 by two independent lentiviral shRNA constructs in DU145 and PC3 cells. Vector (Vec) and non-target (NS) controls were included for accurate assessments of knock-down efficiency; β-actin was used as a loading control. (B) Morphological changes at 72 hours following 10 nM docetaxel treatment in DU145 and PC3 cells. Original magnification, x100. (C) Increased apoptosis induced by docetaxel in JAK1-depleted DU145 and PC3 cells. Cells were treated with 10 nM of docetaxel for 72 hours followed by quantitation of apoptosis using Annexin V/7-AAD flow cytometry. Bars represent the means ± SD of three independent experiments. Asterisks (*) indicate statistical significance compared with docetaxel-treated NS control cells (P < .01, Student’s t test)

JAK1/2 inhibitors synergize docetaxel sensitivity in AR-negative PCa cells.

(B) Synergistic effects of ruxolitinib and baricitinib, in combination with docetaxel in AR-negative DU145 and PC3, but not the AR-positive LNCaP cells. Fedratinib exhibited mainly additive effects with docetaxel in DU145 and antagonistic effects in PC3. The efficacy of drug combinations was assessed by treating cells with serial dilutions of the inhibitors in an 8 × 8 combination matrix. Cell proliferation was evaluated in 96-well plates, using MTT cell viability assay at 72 hours after treatment. Dose response surface curves and synergy for each combination was assessed using the HSA model (effect-based approach), as implemented in Combenefit software. Level of synergism (blue) or antagonism (red) at each concentration is represented by colour scale bar. All experiments were conducted in at least three independent experiments.
3.5 | JAK1/2 inhibitors synergize docetaxel sensitivity in AR-negative DU145 and PC3 PCA cells

Next, we investigated the antitumor effects of selected JAK inhibitors (ruxolitinib, baricitinib and fedratinib). Of note, ruxolitinib and baricitinib are JAK1/2 inhibitors while fedratinib is a specific JAK2 inhibitor. Baricitinib, ruxolitinib and fedratinib induced selective antitumor effects against the AR-negative DU145 and PC3 cells, while the AR-positive LNCaP cells and the RWPE-1 normal prostate epithelial cells were relatively less sensitive to the JAK1/2 inhibitors (Figure 3 and Table S3).

To test whether the JAK inhibitors could synergize docetaxel sensitivity in the PCA cells, we investigated the anti-proliferative effects of baricitinib, ruxolitinib and fedratinib in combination with docetaxel in the DU145, PC3 and LNCaP cells. The anti-proliferative effect of the combination treatment was evaluated via MTT assays. Analyses of drug interactions using the highest single agent model (HSA) and combination index indicated that the JAK1/2 inhibitors, ruxolitinib and baricitinib, synergized docetaxel sensitivity selectively in the AR-negative DU145 and PC3 cells, but not in the AR-positive LNCaP cells (Figure 3B; Tables 3-5). In contrast, the JAK2 inhibitor, fedratinib, exhibited mainly additive effects with docetaxel in DU145 and antagonistic effects in PC3 cells (Tables 3 and 4). Taken together, our findings demonstrate that inhibition of JAK1 synergized docetaxel sensitivity in AR-negative PCA cells.

3.6 | JAK1 inhibitors synergize docetaxel activity in PCA cells via inhibition of STAT3 signalling

JAK1 has been shown to play an important role in activating signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) and phosphatidyl inositol-3-kinase (PI3K/AKT) signalling.58-60 To test whether the synergistic effects of JAK1 inhibitors and docetaxel in PCA cells could be mediated through inhibition of STAT3 and/or PI3K/AKT signalling, we treated the DU145 and PC3 cells with an IC_{50} concentration of docetaxel (10nM) in the presence or absence of the JAK1 inhibitors (ruxolitinib and baricitinib) followed by evaluating the effects of the combinations on STAT3 and AKT phosphorylation.

As shown in Figure 4A-D, both ruxolitinib and baricitinib JAK1 inhibitors significantly reduced STAT3 phosphorylation in both DU145 and PC3 cells. In contrast, down-regulation of phospho-AKT was only observed in cells treated with ruxolitinib (Figure 4A and C), but not baricitinib (Figure 4B and D).

Finally, to test whether the synergistic effects of JAK1 inhibitors and docetaxel in PCA cells is dependent on STAT3 or PI3K/AKT signalling, we ectopically expressed a constitutively active STAT3 or a myristoylated AKT in DU145 and PC3 cells followed by docetaxel treatment in the presence or absence of baricitinib. Ectopic expression of constitutively active STAT3 completely abrogated the synergistic effects of baricitinib in combination with docetaxel (Figure 5A,B). In contrast, no such effects were observed in cells transfected with the constitutively active myristoylated AKT (myrAKT) (Figure 5C,D). Together, these results suggest that the combinations of JAK1 inhibitors with docetaxel possess synergistic effects in PCA cells via inactivation of STAT3.

4 | DISCUSSION

Recent clinical studies have demonstrated the clear advantage of docetaxel over other chemotherapeutic agents in the treatment of...
### Table 4: Effects of JAK inhibitors combined with docetaxel in PC3 cells

| Inhibitor                | Inh:Doc ratio | Combination Index (CI) | Mean CI | Interactions |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|
|                          |               | ED50       | ED75       | ED90       |              |
| Ruxolitinib (JAK1/2)     | 2500:1        | 0.231      | 0.274      | 0.399      | 0.301 ± 0.087| Synergism    |
|                          | 5000:1        | 0.252      | 0.334      | 0.506      | 0.364 ± 0.130| Synergism    |
|                          | 10 000:1      | 0.201      | 0.307      | 0.509      | 0.339 ± 0.157| Synergism    |
|                          | 20 000:1      | 0.278      | 0.437      | 0.720      | 0.478 ± 0.224| Synergism    |
|                          | 40 000:1      | 0.374      | 0.601      | 0.990      | 0.655 ± 0.311| Synergism    |
| Baricitinib (JAK1/2)     | 2500:1        | 0.321      | 0.341      | 0.380      | 0.347 ± 0.030| Synergism    |
|                          | 5000:1        | 0.366      | 0.427      | 0.521      | 0.438 ± 0.078| Synergism    |
|                          | 10 000:1      | 0.300      | 0.494      | 0.842      | 0.545 ± 0.274| Synergism    |
|                          | 20 000:1      | 0.331      | 0.533      | 0.876      | 0.580 ± 0.275| Synergism    |
|                          | 40 000:1      | 0.408      | 0.667      | 1.102      | 0.726 ± 0.351| Moderate synergism |
| Fedratinib (JAK2)        | 2500:1        | 8.780      | > 10       | > 10       | > 10         | Very strong antagonism |
|                          | 5000:1        | 1.487      | 1.332      | 1.204      | 1.341 ± 0.142| Moderate antagonism |
|                          | 10 000:1      | 1.379      | 1.128      | 0.928      | 1.145 ± 0.226| Slight antagonism |
|                          | 20 000:1      | 1.433      | 1.479      | 1.531      | 1.481 ± 0.049| Antagonism    |
|                          | 40 000:1      | 1.144      | 0.992      | 0.861      | 0.999 ± 0.142| Nearly additive |

### Table 5: Effects of JAK inhibitors combined with docetaxel in LNCaP cells

| Inhibitor                | Inh:Doc ratio | Combination Index (CI) | Mean CI | Interactions |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|
|                          |               | ED50       | ED75       | ED90       |              |
| Ruxolitinib (JAK1/2)     | 2500:1        | 1.209      | 1.058      | 0.928      | 1.065 ± 0.141| Nearly additive |
|                          | 5000:1        | 1.039      | 0.980      | 0.925      | 0.981 ± 0.057| Nearly additive |
|                          | 10 000:1      | 1.081      | 0.958      | 0.851      | 0.963 ± 0.115| Nearly additive |
|                          | 20 000:1      | 1.041      | 0.919      | 0.813      | 0.925 ± 0.114| Nearly additive |
|                          | 40 000:1      | 1.156      | 1.175      | 1.197      | 1.176 ± 0.021| Slight antagonism |
| Baricitinib (JAK1/2)     | 2500:1        | 1.104      | 1.030      | 0.961      | 1.032 ± 0.072| Nearly additive |
|                          | 5000:1        | 1.039      | 0.974      | 0.914      | 0.976 ± 0.063| Nearly additive |
|                          | 10 000:1      | 1.217      | 0.882      | 0.648      | 0.916 ± 0.286| Nearly additive |
|                          | 20 000:1      | 1.172      | 0.865      | 0.646      | 0.894 ± 0.265| Slight synergism |
|                          | 40 000:1      | 1.026      | 0.724      | 0.521      | 0.757 ± 0.254| Moderate synergism |
| Fedratinib (JAK2)        | 2500:1        | 1.121      | 0.993      | 0.861      | 0.992 ± 0.130| Nearly additive |
|                          | 5000:1        | 1.124      | 0.987      | 0.957      | 1.022 ± 0.089| Nearly additive |
|                          | 10 000:1      | 0.961      | 0.949      | 0.889      | 0.933 ± 0.038| Nearly additive |
|                          | 20 000:1      | 0.989      | 0.929      | 0.845      | 0.921 ± 0.073| Nearly additive |
|                          | 40 000:1      | 0.991      | 0.979      | 0.864      | 0.945 ± 0.071| Nearly additive |
prostate cancer. However, dose-limiting adverse effects, including neutropenia, myelosuppression and neurotoxicity, are the main reasons that docetaxel treatment is halted at a lower cumulative dose, despite evidence showing that patients receiving 10 or more cycles of docetaxel had the greatest median overall survival compared to patients receiving 8 to 10 or 5-7 cycles.

Previous studies have attempted to improve docetaxel’s efficacy and to reduce its toxicity by combining with various therapeutic agents with distinct mechanisms of action, including tyrosine kinase inhibitors (eg dasatinib), endothelin receptor antagonist (eg atrasentan and zibotentan), angiogenic inhibitors (eg bevacizumab and aflibercept), BCL2 inhibitors and immunologic agents (eg GVAX and lenalidomide). However, no drug has yet demonstrated improved overall survival when added to docetaxel in a phase III trial, and in some cases, the addition proved detrimental to outcomes.

We hypothesized that synthetic lethality could be achieved by combining docetaxel with selective kinase inhibitors since such agents can be amenable to drug development in the event of specific vulnerabilities being identified. Thus, we designed a high-throughput kinome-wide loss-of-function shRNA screening combined with pathway analysis to identify combinatorial synthetic lethal and resistant interactions, specifically druggable targets that could enhance docetaxel sensitivity in PCa cells. We observed that cells deficient in 15 kinases become hypersensitive to docetaxel and identified JAK1 and IGF1R as potential druggable PCa targets. We have also identified experimental inhibitors and FDA-approved drugs targeting JAK1, providing opportunities for drug repurposing.

Although the oncogenic functions of IGF1R have been previously demonstrated in PCa and inhibition of IGF1R reduced PCa cell growth in vitro and in vivo models, targeting IGF1R with cixutumumab failed to improve the survival outcome of metastatic PCa. Similarly, addition of figitumumab to the standard regimen of docetaxel/prednisone seemed to have detrimental impact on clinical outcomes due to increased treatment-related toxicity (eg hyperglycaemia, diarrhoea and asthenia), highlighting the challenges of improving the activity of docetaxel by targeting IGF1R.

Recently, JAKs have emerged as an attractive therapeutic target in various human cancers as JAKs are key player in signalling networks driving cancer cell proliferation, survival, invasiveness and metastasis and suppressing the antitumor immune response. JAKs comprise of four family members (JAK1, JAK2, JAK3 and TYK2) and interact with a variety of cytokine and growth factor receptors (eg GP130, IFNγR, IFNαR, IL-10/20R, and CXCR4). Upon ligand binding to their cognate receptors, JAKs are activated via reciprocal trans-phosphorylation and mediate intracellular signalling cascades through phosphorylation of STATs (STAT1, STAT2, STAT3, STAT4, STAT6, and STAT5) and PI3K/AKT pathway activation. We therefore investigated the effects of JAK1 inhibitors and/or docetaxel on STAT3 and PI3K/AKT signalling. (A and B) DU145 and (C and D) PC3 cells were treated with docetaxel in the presence or absence of JAK1 inhibitors (baricitinib and ruxolitinib) for 72 hours, and protein expression was analysed by immunoblotting.
STAT5A, STAT5B and STAT6. In turn, tyrosine-phosphorylated STATs form homo- or heterodimers translocate into the nucleus and elicit specific transcriptional programme.

Inhibition of JAKs has been shown to reduce tumour growth in various in vitro and in vivo models, including brain, breast, colorectal, gastric, head-and-neck, liver, lung, pancreatic, ovarian and prostate cancers.37,38,72-77 Interestingly, combined inhibition of JAK1/2, STAT3 and PD-L1 was shown to suppress the immune evasion of CRPC to NK cells in hypoxia.57 Suppression of JAK1/2 by AZD1480 also inhibited progression of CRPC and reduced IL6-induced metastases,38 suggesting that JAK signalling is activated in prostate cancer.

Indeed, our results demonstrated that JAK1/2 inhibitors, ruxolitinib and baricitinib, selectively inhibited the AR-negative DU145 and PC3 cell proliferation as compared to the AR-positive LNCaP or RWPE-1 normal prostate epithelial cells. Notably, ruxolitinib and baricitinib also synergized docetaxel sensitivity in the AR-negative DU145 and PC3 cells, while only additive effects were observed in the AR-positive LNCaP cells. In contrast, the JAK2-specific inhibitor, fedratinib, elicited mainly additive and antagonistic effects with docetaxel in all the PCA cell lines being tested. Of note, ruxolitinib, baricitinib and fedratinib are FDA-approved drugs for treatment of myelofibrosis, active rheumatoid arthritis and myeloproliferative neoplasm-associated myelofibrosis, respectively, suggesting a potential drug repurposing of these agents for the treatment of prostate cancers.78-80

Several studies have shown that IL6/JAK/STAT3 signalling plays a central role in regulating docetaxel sensitivity.81-83 Indeed, both the AR-negative DU145 and PC3 (but not in LNCaP cells) have been shown to have elevated IL6 production leading to activated JAK-STAT signalling and constitutive NFκB activity, rendering these cells resistant to docetaxel.81,82,84-88 These observations may explain the lack of synergism between JAK1/2 inhibitors with docetaxel in LNCaP cells as compared to the JAK-STAT ‘addicted’ DU145 and PC3 cells. Indeed, inhibition of JAK1 by ruxolitinib and baricitinib reduced STAT3 phosphorylation, while ectopic expression of a constitutively active STAT3C significantly abrogated the synergistic effects of the baricitinib/docetaxel combination in both DU145 and PC3 cells. In contrast, no such effect was observed in cells overexpressing a myristoylated AKT, suggesting that the synergistic effects of docetaxel and JAK1 inhibitors mediated mainly through inhibition of STAT3 signalling.
CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we showed that inhibition of JAK1 synergizes with docetaxel sensitivity in AR-negative PCa cells via inhibition of STAT3 signalling. Overall, our findings suggest that combination therapy with JAK1/2 inhibitors and docetaxel may be a useful approach for treating patients with advanced PCa and warrant further investigation in the future in vivo models.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by research grant from HIGH IMPACT RESEARCH (HIR) – UNIVERSITI MALAYA (UM) (UM.C/625/1/HIR/ MOHE/EDUCATION, MALAYSIA (ERGS/1/2013/504601/IMU/01/1 to KKC and WM), and the MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MalAISIA (FRGS/1/2016/504601/IMU/01/1 to COL, and LWH).

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author(s) declare no competing interests. Where authors are identified as personnel of the International Agency for Research on Cancer/World Health Organization, the authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this article and they do not necessarily represent the decisions, policy or views of the International Agency for Research on Cancer/World Health Organization.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Geetha Nalairndran: Investigation (lead); Methodology (lead); Writing-original draft (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal). Ivy Chung: Conceptualization (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Project administration (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal). Azad Hassan Abdul Razack: Conceptualization (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Project administration (equal); Supervision (equal). Felicia Fei-Lei Chung: Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal). Ling-Wei Hii: Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal). Wei-Meng Lim: Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal). Chin King Looi: Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal). Chun-Wai Mai: Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal). Chee-Onn Leong: Conceptualization (equal); Funding acquisition (equal); Project administration (equal); Supervision (equal); Writing-original draft (equal); Writing-review & editing (equal).

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available in the supplementary material of this article.

ORCID

Ivy Chung https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2840-8123
Chee-Onn Leong https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6353-9703

REFERENCES

1. Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Siegel RL, Torre LA, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J Clin. 2018;68:394-424.
2. Bray F, Jemal A, Grey N, Ferlay J, Forman D. Global cancer transitions according to the Human Development Index (2008–2030): a population-based study. Lancet Glob Health. 2012;10:790-801.
3. James ND, Spears MR, Clarke NW, et al. Survival with newly diagnosed metastatic prostate cancer in the "Docetaxel Era": data from 917 patients in the control arm of the STAMPEDE Trial (MRC PR08, CRUK/06/019); Eur Urol. 2015;67:1028-1038.
4. Summers N, Vanderpuye-Oglo J, Reinhart M, Gallagher M, Sartor O. Efficacy and safety of post-docetaxel therapies in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer: a systematic review of the literature. Curr Med Res Opin. 2017;33:1995-2008.
5. Petylak DP. Docetaxel for the treatment of hormone-refractory prostate cancer. Rev Urol. 2003;5(Suppl 2):S14-21.
6. de Morree ES, Vogelzang NJ, Petylak DP, et al. Association of survival benefit with docetaxel in prostate cancer and total number of cycles administered: a post hoc analysis of the Mainsail Study. JAMA Oncol. 2017;3:68-75.
7. Kelly WK, Halabi S, Carducci M, et al. Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III trial comparing docetaxel and prednisone with or without bevacizumab in men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer: CALGB 90401. J Clin Oncol. 2012;30:1534-1540.
8. Tannock I, Fizazi K, Ivanov S, et al. Aflibercept versus placebo in combination with docetaxel/prednisone for first-line treatment of men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC): Results from the multinational phase III trial (VENICE). American Society of Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol). 2013.
9. Quinn Di, Tangen CM, Hussain M, et al. SWOG S0421: Phase III study of docetaxel (D) and atrasentan (A) versus docetaxel and placebo (P) for men with advanced castrate resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). American Society of Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol). 2012;30(Suppl 15):4511.
10. Fizazi K, Higano CS, Nelson J, et al. Phase III, randomized, placebo-controlled study of docetaxel in combination with zibotentan in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. J Clin Oncol. 2013;31:1740-1747.
11. Araujo JC, Trudel GC, Saad F, et al. Overall survival (OS) and safety of dasatinib/docetaxel versus docetaxel in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC): Results from the randomized phase III READY trial. American Society of Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol). 2013;31(Suppl 15):LBA8.
12. Small E. A phase III trial of GVAX immunotherapy for prostate cancer in combination with docetaxel versus docetaxel plus prednisone in symptomatic, castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). Proceedings of the 2009 Genitourinary Cancer Symposium, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), Orlando, FL, USA 26-28 Feb, 2009.
13. Scher HI, Jia X, Chi K, et al. Randomized, open-label phase III trial of docetaxel plus high-dose calcitriol versus docetaxel plus prednisone for patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer. J Clin Oncol. 2011;29:2191-2198.
14. Nalairndran G, Hassan Abdul Razack A, Mai CW, et al. Phosphoinositide-dependent Kinase-1 (PDPK1) regulates serum/glucocorticoid-regulated Kinase 3 (SGK3) for prostate cancer cell survival. J Cell Mol Med. 2020;24:12188-12198.
15. Hii L-W, Chung FF-L, Mai CW, et al. Sphingosine kinase 1 regulates glucocorticoid-regulated Kinase 3 (SGK3) for prostate cancer cell survival. J Cell Mol Med. 2015;19:2191-2198.
16. Tong KH, Tan BS, Choo HL, et al. Fibroblast growth factor receptor 4 (FGFR4) and fibroblast growth factor 19 (FGF19) autocrine enhance breast cancer cells survival. Oncotarget. 2016;7:57633-57650.
17. Swanton C, Marani M, Pardo O, et al. Regulators of mitotic arrest and ceramide metabolism are determinants of sensitivity...
to paclitaxel and other chemotherapeutic drugs. Cancer Cell. 2007;11:498-512.
18. Li GM, Wang YG, Pan Q, Wang J, Fan JG, Sun C. RNAi screening with shRNAs against histone methylation-related genes reveals determinants of sorafenib sensitivity in hepatoocarcinoma cells. Int J Clin Exp Pathol. 2014;7:1085-1092.
19. Potratz JC, Saunders DN, Wai DH, et al. Synthetic lethality screens reveal RPS6 and MST1R as modifiers of insulin-like growth factor-1 receptor inhibitor activity in childhood sarcomas. Can Res. 2010;70:8770-8781.
20. Swanton C, Nicke B, Marani M, Kelly G. Downward J. Initiation of high frequency multi-drug resistance following kinase targeting by siRNAs. Cell Cycle. 2007;6:2001-2004.
21. Hii LW, Chung FF, Soo JS, Tan BS, Mai CW, Leong CO. Histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors and doxorubicin combinations target both breast cancer stem cells and non-stem breast cancer cells simultaneously. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2020;179:615-629.
22. Er JL, Goh PN, Lee CY, et al. Identification of inhibitors synergizing gemcitabine sensitivity in the squamous subtype of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC). Apoptosis. 2018;23:343-355.
23. Soo HC, Chung FF, Lim KH, et al. Cudraflavone C induces tumor-specific apoptosis in colorectal cancer cells through inhibition of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K)-AKT pathway. PLoS One. 2017;12:e0170551.
24. Li YY, Chung GT, Lui VW, et al. Exome and genome sequencing of nasopharynx cancer identifies NF-kappaB pathway activating mutations. Nat Commun. 2017;8:14121.
25. Voon YL, Ahmad M, Wong PF, et al. Nutlin-3 sensitizes nasopharyngeal carcinoma cells to cisplatin-induced cytotoxicity. Oncol Rep. 2015;34:1692-1700.
26. Di Veroli GY, Fornari C, Wang D, et al. Combenefit: an interactive platform for the analysis and visualization of drug combinations. Bioinformatics. 2016;32:2866-2868.
27. Chung FFL, Tan PFTM, Raja VJ, et al. Jerantine A induces tumor-specific cell death through modulation of splicing factor 3b subunit 1 (SF3B1). Sci Rep. 2017;7:1-13.
28. Hillion J, Dhara S, Sumter TF, et al. The high-mobility group A1a/signal transducer and activator of transcription-3 axis: an achilles heel for hematopoietic malignancies? Can Res. 2008;68:10121-10127.
29. Ramaswamy S, Nakamura N, Vazquez F, et al. Regulation of G1 progression by the PTEN tumor suppressor protein is linked to inhibition of the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase/Akt pathway. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA. 1999;96:2110-2115.
30. Alekstis T, Gray N, Wu X, et al. Nuclear IGF1R interacts with regulatory regions of chromatin to promote RNA polymerase II recruitment and gene expression associated with advanced tumor stage. Can Res. 2018;78:3497-3509.
31. Xiong W, Huang C, Deng H, et al. Oncogenic non-coding RNA NEAT1 promotes the prostate cancer cell growth through the SRC3/IGF1R/AKT pathway. Int J Biochem Cell Biol. 2018;94:125-132.
32. Nordstrand A, Bergstrom SH, Thysell E, et al. Inhibition of the IGF1R/AKT pathway. Int J Biochem Cell Biol. 2018;94:125-132.
33. Heidegger I, Eder IE, et al. Both IGF1R and INSR knockdown exert antitumorigenic effects in prostate cancer in vitro and in vivo. Mol Endocrinol. 2015;29:1694-1707.
34. Tian B, Huo N, Li M, Li Y, He Z. Let-7a and its target, insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor, are differentially expressed in recurrent prostate cancer. Int J Mol Med. 2015;36:1409-1416.
35. Zhou F, Chen X, Fan S, et al. GS1838705A, an insulin-like growth factor-1 receptor/insulin receptor inhibitor, induces apoptosis and reduces viability of docetaxel-resistant prostate cancer cells both in vitro and in vivo. OncoTargets Therapy. 2015;8:753-760.
36. Malaguarnera R, Sacco A, Morcavollo A, et al. Metformin inhibits androgen-induced IGF-IR up-regulation in prostate cancer cells by disrupting membrane-initiated androgen signaling. Endocrinology. 2014;155:1207-1221.
37. Gu L, Talati P, Vogiatzi P, et al. Pharmacologic suppression of JAK1/2 by JAK1/2 inhibitor AZD1480 potently inhibits IL-6-induced experimental prostate metastases formation. Mol Cancer Ther. 2014;13:1246-1258.
38. Tam L, McGlynn LM, Traynor P, Mukherjee R, Bartlett JM, Edwards J. Expression levels of the JAK/STAT pathway in the transition from hormone-sensitive to hormone-refractory prostate cancer. Br J Cancer. 2007;97:378-383.
39. Romero D, Terzic A, Conley BA, et al. Endoglin phosphorylation by ALK2 contributes to the regulation of prostate cancer cell migration. Carcinogenesis. 2010;31:359-366.
40. Craft CS, Romero D, Vary CP, Bergan RC. Endoglin inhibits prostate cancer motility via activation of the ALK2-Smad1 pathway. Oncogene. 2007;26:7240-7250.
41. Astrologo L, Zoni E, Karkampouna S, et al. ALK1Fc suppresses the human prostate cancer growth in vitro and in vivo preclinical models. Front Cell Develop Biol. 2017;5:104.
42. Del Reino P, Alsina-Beauchamp D, Escos A, et al. Pro-oncogenic role of alternative p38 mitogen-activated protein kinases p38gamma and p38delta, linking inflammation and cancer in colitis-associated colon cancer. Cancer Res. 2014;74:6150-6160.
43. Li Q, Chen Y, Zhang D, et al. IRAK4 mediates colitis-induced tumorigenesis and chemoresistance in colorectal cancer. JCI insight. 2019;4:1-18.
44. Ou O, Huppi K, Chakka S, et al. Loss-of-function RNAi screens in breast cancer cells identify AURKB, PLK1, PIK3R1, MAPK12, PRKD2, and PTK6 as sensitizing targets of rapamycin activity. Cancer Lett. 2014;354:336-347.
45. Zhang D, Li L, Jiang H, et al. Constitutive IRAK4 activation underlies poor prognosis and chemoresistance in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. Clin Cancer Res. 2017;23:1748-1759.
46. Delvecchio VS, Sana I, Mantione ME, et al. Interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase 4 inhibitor interrupts toll-like receptor signalling and sensitizes chronic lymphocytic leukaemia cells to apoptosis. Br J Haematol. 2020;189:475-488.
47. Gimenez N, Schulz R, Higashi M, et al. Targeting IRAK4 disrupts inflammatory pathways and delays tumor development in chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Leukemia. 2020;34:100-114.
48. Chen Y, Bai G, Ning Y, et al. Design and synthesis of Imidazo[1,2-b]pyridine IRAK4 inhibitors for the treatment of mutant MYD88 L265P diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Eur J Med Chem. 2020;190:112092.
49. Scott JS, Degorce SL, Anjum R, et al. Discovery and optimization of pyrrolpyrimidine inhibitors of interleukin-1 receptor associated kinase 4 (IRAK4) for the treatment of mutant MYD88(L265P) diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. J Med Chem. 2017;60:10071-10091.
50. Kuppers R. IRAK4 inhibition to shut down TLR signaling in autoimmune and MyD88-dependent lymphomas. J Exp Med. 2015;212:2184.
51. Degorce SL, Anjum R, Bloecher A, et al. Discovery of a series of 5-Azaquinazolines as orally efficacious IRAK4 inhibitors targeting MyD88(L265P) mutant diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. J Med Chem. 2019;62:9918-9930.
52. Srivastava R, Geng D, Liu Y, et al. Augmentation of therapeutic responses in melanoma by inhibition of IRAK-1,-4. Can Res. 2012;72:6209-6216.
53. Wong RL, Duong MT, Tangen CM, et al. Survival outcomes and risk group validation from SWOG S0925: a randomized phase II study of cixutumumab in new metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer. Prostate Cancer Prost Dis. 2020;23:486-493.
54. de Bonj S, Piulats JM, Pandha HS, et al. Phase II randomized study of figitumumab plus docetaxel and docetaxel alone with crossover...
for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. Clin Cancer Res. 2014;20:1925-1934.

55. Fragioules GE, McNees IB, Siebert S. JAK-inhibitors. New players in the field of immune-mediated diseases, beyond rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2019;58:43-54.

56. Harigai M. Growing evidence of the safety of JAK inhibitors in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2019;58:134-142.

57. Xu LJ, Ma Q, Zhu J, et al. Combined inhibition of JAK1,2/Stat3PDL1 signaling pathway suppresses the immune escape of castration-resistant prostate cancer to NK cells in hypoxia. Mol Med Rep. 2018;17:8111-8120.

58. Jin W. Role of JAK/STAT3 Signaling in the regulation of metastasis, the transition of cancer stem cells, and chemoresistance of cancer by epithelial-mesenchymal transition. Cells. 2020;9:1-23.

59. Wang J, Lv X, Guo X, et al. Feedback activation of STAT3 limits the response to PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitors in PTEN-deficient cancer cells. Oncogenesis. 2021:10:8.

60. Liu D, Huang Y, Zeng J, et al. Down-regulation of JAK1 by RNA interference inhibits growth of the lung cancer cell line A549 and interferes with the PI3K/mTOR pathway. J Cancer Res Clin Oncol. 2011;137:1629-1640.

61. Sidaway P. Prostate cancer: Localized docetaxel delivery is feasible. Nat Rev Urol. 2017;14:584.

62. Tannock IF. Improving treatment for advanced prostate cancer. New Engl J Med. 2019;381:176-177.

63. Petrylak DP. Current clinical trials in castrate-resistant prostate cancer. Curr Urol Rep. 2011;12:173-179.

64. Stone L. Prostate cancer: more cycles of docetaxel improve survival. Nat Rev Urol. 2016;13:566.

65. Anido-Herranz U, Fernandez-Nunez N, Afonso-Afonso J, et al. Chemotherapy management for unfit patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. Clin Trans Oncol. 2019;21:249-258.

66. Antonarakis ES, Eisenberger MA. Phase III trials with docetaxel-based combinations for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer: time to learn from past experiences. J Clin Oncol. 2013;31:1709-1712.

67. Petrylak D, Fizzi K, Sternberg C, et al. A phase 3 study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of docetaxel and prednisone (DP) with or without lenalidomide (LEN) in patients with castrate-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC): the MAINSAIL trial. Ann Oncol. 2012;23:xe15.

68. Tannock IF, Fizzi K, Ivanov S, et al. Aflibercept versus placebo in combination with docetaxel and prednisone for treatment of men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (VENICE): a phase 3, double-blind randomised trial. Lancet Oncol. 2013;14:760-768.

69. Ahearn TU, Peisch S, Pettersson A, et al. Expression of IGF/insulin receptor in prostate cancer tissue and progression to lethal disease. Carcinogenesis. 2018;39:1431-1437.

70. Johnson DE, O’Keefe RA, Grandis JR. Targeting the IL-6/JAK/STAT3 signalling axis in cancer. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2018;15:234-248.

71. Buchert M, Burns CJ, Ernst M. Targeting JAK kinase in solid tumors: emerging opportunities and challenges. Oncogene. 2016;35:939-951.

72. Bournazou E, Bromberg J. Targeting the tumor microenvironment: JAK-STAT3 signaling. Jak-Stat. 2013;2:e23828.

73. Xin H, Herrmann A, Reckamp K, et al. Antiangiogenic and antimitastatic activity of JAK inhibitor AZD1480. Can Res. 2011;71:6601-6610.

74. Sen M, Pollock NJ, Black J, et al. JAK kinase inhibition abrogates STAT3 activation and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma tumor growth. Neoplasia. 2015;17:256-264.

75. Hedvat M, Huszar D, Herrmann A, et al. The JAK2 inhibitor AZD1480 potently blocks Stat3 signaling and oncogenesis in solid tumors. Cancer Cell. 2009;16:487-497.

76. Lee JH, Park KS, Alberobello AT, et al. The Janus kinases inhibitor AZD1480 attenuates growth of small cell lung cancers in vitro and in vivo. Clin Cancer Res. 2013;19:6777-6786.

77. Tavallai M, Booth L, Roberts JL, Poklepovic A, Dent P. Rationally repurposing ruxolitinib (Jakafi ([R])) as a solid tumor therapeutic. Front Oncol. 2016;6:142.

78. Mascarenhas J, Hoffman R. Ruxolitinib: the first FDA approved therapy for the treatment of myelofibrosis. Clin Cancer Res. 2012;18:3008-3014.

79. Mogul A, Corsi K, McAuliffe L, Baricitinib: The second FDA-approved JAK inhibitor for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. Annals Pharmacotherapy. 2019;53:947-953.

80. Talpaz M, Kiladjian JJ. Fedratinib, a newly approved treatment for patients with myeloproliferative neoplasm-associated myelofibrosis. Leukemia. 2021:35:1-17.

81. Magadoux L, Isambert N, Plenchette S, Jeannin JF, Laurens V. Emerging targets to monitor and overcome docetaxel resistance in castration resistant prostate cancer (review). Int J Oncol. 2014;45:919-928.

82. Patterson SG, Wei S, Chen X, et al. Novel role of Stat1 in the development of docetaxel resistance in prostate tumor cells. Oncogene. 2006;25:6113-6122.

83. Zemskova M, Sahakian E, Bashkirova S, Lilly M. The PIM1 kinase is a critical component of a survival pathway activated by docetaxel and promotes survival of docetaxel-treated prostate cancer cells. J Biol Chem. 2008;283:20635-20644.

84. Zerbini LF, Wang Y, Cho JY, Libermann TA. Constitutive activation of nuclear factor kappaB p50/p65 and Fra-1 and JunD is essential for deregulated interleukin 6 expression in prostate cancer. Can Res. 2003:63:2206-2215.

85. Singh RK, Lokeshwar BL. Depletion of intrinsic expression of Interleukin-8 in prostate cancer cells causes cell cycle arrest, spontaneous apoptosis and increases the efficacy of chemotherapeutic drugs. Mol Cancer. 2009;8:57.

86. Shimada K, Nakamura M, Ishida E, Kishi M, Yonehara S, Konishi N. Contributions of mitogen-activated protein kinase and nuclear factor kappa B to N-(4-hydroxyphenyl)retinamide-induced apoptosis in prostate cancer cells. Mol Carcinog. 2002;35:127-137.

87. Palayooy ST, Youmell MY, Calderwood SK, Coleman CN, Price BD. Constitutive activation of IkappaB kinase alpha and NF-kappaB in prostate cancer cells is inhibited by ibuprofen. Oncogene. 1999:18:7389-7394.

88. Domingo-Domenech J, Oliva C, Rovira A, et al. Interleukin 6, a nuclear factor-kappaB target, predicts resistance to docetaxel in hormone-independent prostate cancer and nuclear factor-kappaB inhibition by PS-1145 enhances docetaxel antitumor activity. Clin Cancer Res. 2006;12:5578-5586.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION
Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

How to cite this article: Nalairndran G, Chung I, Abdul Razack AH, et al. Inhibition of Janus Kinase 1 synergizes docetaxel sensitivity in prostate cancer cells. J Cell Mol Med. 2021;25:8187-8200. https://doi.org/10.1111/jcmm.16684