



# Allosteric modulation of transcription factor complexes

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## **Everyday Machines**







# Transcription machine reads the DNA

Building blocks of the machine that reads DNA



Activator finds the gene *and* assembles the machine



>50 different individual building blocks

DNA

#### Activator Coactivator Complexes an opportunity for intervention



- Molecules that target the coactivator proteins offer the opportunity to <u>inhibit</u> or <u>enhance</u> activator function.
- Dynamic composition of activator-coactivator complexes offers a unique specificity opportunity.



Pattabiraman, McGirr, Shakhbazov, Barbier, Krishnan, Mukhopadhyay, Hawthorne, Trezise, Ding, Grimmond, Papathanasiou, Alexander, Perkins, Levesque, Winkler, Gonda *Blood* **2014** *123*, 2682.

#### Small Molecule Modulators of KIX in CBP/p300



K<sub>D</sub> 2 mM ACS Chem Biol. **2012**, *7*, 1345

#### Small molecule KIX modulators:

mimic natural activators, modest affinity & specificity limited utility as tools , therapeutic agents

#### Acid Blobs and Negative Noodles



THE more that is known about the aminoacid sequences of proteins that participate in transcriptional activation, the clearer it becomes that many of the critical events cannot depend upon the precise geometrical complementarity that we associate with the interactions of globular proteins during molecular assembly, and the binding of substrates, cofactors and haptens.

*Quote from* P. Sigler *Nature* **1988** *333*, 210-212

#### Activator •Coactivator PPIs are in the 'Untargetable' Space



Cesa, Mapp, Gestwicki Front Bioeng Biotechnol. 2015, 3,119

#### CBP/p300 KIX Conformational Plasticity



- Conformational plasticity enables binding to many partners
- Cooperative binding enforces specificity

Sturlis, Pricer, Mapp Nat Chem Biol 2015 11 891-4

#### Covalent Co-Chaperone Discovery via Tethering



Tethering: Erlanson, D.A.; Wells, J.A.; Braisted, A.C. Annu Rev Biophys Biomol Struct.
2004, 33, 199-223.
Wilson, C. G.; Arkin M.R. Drug Disc Today 2013, 10, e501-e508.
Sadowsky J D et al. PNAS 2011, 108, 6056-6061.

#### **Tethered Ligands Capture Unique Conformations**



Tethering screen details: Wang et al. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 3363

#### Tethered Fragments Stabilize Distinct KIX Conformations



#### Positive and Negative Cooperativity



Wang N, Lodge, J.M., Fierke, C.A., Mapp A.K. PNAS 2014,111. 12061-12066

#### Flexible Loop Communicates Allostery



Wang et al J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135, 3363.

*Experimental & computational dissection of positive and negative allostery:* Wang N, Lodge, J.M., Fierke, C.A., Mapp A.K. *PNAS* **2014**,*111*, 12061-12066 Law, Gagnon, Mapp, Brooks *PNAS* **2014**, *111*, 12067-72

#### A Screening Strategy for Allosteric Modulators



Filter out compounds that recapitulate MLL binding behavior

#### Sekikaic Acid Inhibits KIX PPIs



C.Y. Majmudar, J.W. Hojfeldt, C.J. Arevang, W. C. Pomerantz, J.K. Gagnon, P.J. Schultz, L.C. Cesa, C.H. Doss, S.P. Rowe, V. Vasquez, G. Tamayo, T. Cierpicki, C.L. Brooks, D.H. Sherman, A.K. Mapp. *Angew Chem Int Ed Engl* **2012**, *51*, 11258-62.

#### Orthosteric and Allosteric Inhibition



Combined orthosteric and allosteric inhibition

Dr. Will Pomerantz Prof. Tomek Cierpicki Dr. Chinmay Majmudar

#### Lobaric Acid Inhibits KIX PPIs



#### **Uniquely Specific Inhibitors**



 VP16 activation domains: interact with the KIX domain, the B-Box activator binding motif, AcID motif of Med25

• Sekikaic acid does not competitively inhibit binding to B-Box or to Med25

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#### Cellular Activity Parallels Binding Ability



Dr. Conor Doss

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# Lessons from CBP/p300 KIX

• Covalent co-chaperones can capture distinct conformations

NF-kB

-valuable mechanistic probes (highly specific, confer stability)

Metabolic Regulation Neuronal Plasticity

Viral

- support computational modeling (C. Brooks III)
- HTS for allosteric modulators provides modulators with enhanced specificity & efficacy profile
  - current secondary screen against cMyb
- Tools to connect allostery in KIX with CBP/p300 PPI network

Wang N, Lodge, J.M., Fierke, C.A., Mapp A.K. *PNAS* **2014**,*111*, 12061-12066 Law, Gagnon, Mapp, Brooks *PNAS* **2014**, *111*, 12067-72 Sturlis, Pricer, Mapp *Nat Chem Biol* **2015** *11* 891-4

### **Activator-Binding Motifs Across Coactivators**





#### Predicted Allosteric Network Connecting Binding Sites



- Transcriptional activator is solid red
- red  $\rightarrow$  lowest chemical shift perturbation
- white  $\rightarrow$  medium chemical shift perturbation
- blue  $\rightarrow$  highest chemical shift perturbation

Nick Foster Prof. Charles Brooks III



#### **Depsidones Do Not Inhibit KIX Interactions**





#### Depsidones Block Med25-Dependent Transcription



Assay from: Conaway and coworkers J. Biol. Chem. 2013, 288, 16789

Dr. Steve Sturlis Dr. Paul Bruno

#### Filling the 'Untargetable' Space





- transcription complex(es)
- protein folding
- signaling complexes



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