

The PRC2.1 Subcomplex Opposes G1 Progression through Regulation of CCND1 and CCND2

Reviewed Preprint

v2 • December 5, 2024

Revised by authors

Reviewed Preprint

v1 • May 2, 2024

Adam D Longhurst, Kyle Wang, Harsha Garadi Suresh, Mythili Ketavarapu, Henry N Ward, Ian R Jones, Vivek Narayan, Frances V Hundley, Arshia Zernab Hassan, Charles Boone, Chad L Myers, Yin Shen, Vijay Ramani, Brenda J Andrews, David P Toczyski 

University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA • Tetrad Graduate Program, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA • Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada • The Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada • Gladstone Institute for Data Science and Biotechnology, J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, USA • Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, USA • Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Graduate Program, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA • Institute for Human Genetics, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA • Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics Graduate Program, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA • Department of Cell Biology, Blavatnik Institute of Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA • Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA • Department of Neurology, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA • Weill Institute for Neurosciences, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access

 Copyright information

eLife Assessment

This **valuable** study reports a chemogenetic screen for resistance and sensitivity to three cell cycle inhibitors used in the clinic: camptothecin, colchicine, and palbociclib. The screen provides a wealth of information that will be of interest to cell cycle and cancer biologists. **Convincing** evidence is provided that resistance to palbociclib can result from loss of PRC2.1 activity, which raises cyclin D levels. The effect of PRC2.1 on cyclin D is not universal across tested cell lines with the causal differences not yet understood.

<https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.97577.2.sa4>

Abstract

Progression through the G1 phase of the cell cycle is the most highly regulated step in cellular division. We employed a chemogenetic approach to discover novel cellular networks that regulate cell cycle progression. This approach uncovered functional clusters of genes that altered sensitivity of cells to inhibitors of the G1/S transition. Mutation of components of the Polycomb Repressor Complex 2 rescued proliferation inhibition caused by the CDK4/6 inhibitor palbociclib, but not to inhibitors of S phase or mitosis. In addition to its core

catalytic subunits, mutation of the PRC2.1 accessory protein MTF2, but not the PRC2.2 protein JARID2, rendered cells resistant to palbociclib treatment. We found that PRC2.1 (MTF2), but not PRC2.2 (JARID2), was critical for promoting H3K27me3 deposition at CpG islands genome-wide and in promoters. This included the CpG islands in the promoter of the CDK4/6 cyclins CCND1 and CCND2, and loss of MTF2 lead to upregulation of both CCND1 and CCND2. Our results demonstrate a role for PRC2.1, but not PRC2.2, in antagonizing G1 progression in a diversity of cell lineages, including CML, breast cancer and immortalized cell lines.

Introduction

Cellular decisions to grow and divide are made by assessing the balance of activating and inhibitory inputs that govern the transition between cell cycle phases. Regulated progression through the cell cycle is crucial for normal cellular growth and organismal development.^{1–3} Progression from G1 into S phase is the most highly regulated step of the cell cycle, as initiating DNA replication commits a cell to divide and is frequently mutationally activated in tumors. Cyclin Dependent Kinase 4 (CDK4) and the related CDK6 (henceforth referred to collectively as CDK4/6) play critical roles in promoting G1 progression through phosphorylation of the retinoblastoma protein (RB1). Phosphorylation relieves RB1-mediated transcriptional repression of E2F transcription factors, which are then competent to drive transcription of genes necessary for progression into S phase.^{3–6} Because of their crucial role in regulating G1 progression, specific inhibitors targeting CDK4/6 have proven to be effective therapeutics. Palbociclib was the first FDA approved CDK4/6 inhibitor and highly efficacious in the treatment of HR+/HER2-breast cancers, followed by the structurally related molecules ribociclib and abemaciclib.^{7–11} However, this classical model of G1 regulation has recently given way to a more complex model,^{12–14} underscored by the complexity of genetic alterations that lead to resistance to treatment with CDK4/6 inhibitors.^{4,12,13,15} Thus, while G1 progression has been the focus of intense study, our understanding of its regulation remains incomplete.

The Polycomb Repressive Complex 2 (PRC2) was initially identified in *Drosophila* as a developmental regulator that represses the expression of Hox genes.¹⁶ The PRC2 complex is conserved in throughout eukaryotes^{17–21} and catalyzes the mono-, di- and tri-methylation of Histone 3 Lysine 27 (referred to collectively as H3K27me3, the fully methylated form of H3K27) and thereby acts as a transcriptional repressor.²⁰ The core PRC2 complex is composed of a H3K27me3 “reader” EED, a scaffold protein SUZ12, and the catalytic subunit EZH2 (or the more poorly-expressed and less catalytically active paralog EZH1²²). This core complex is capable of catalyzing H3K27me3 deposition and chromatin association, but how PRC2 achieves full spatiotemporal regulation of chromatin localization and catalytic activity has been an area of active investigation. Recent studies have identified additional accessory factors that modify the localization and enzymatic activity of these core components.²³ The associated auxiliary factors define different PRC2 subcomplexes, which are called PRC2.1 and PRC2.2, based on the composition of the subunits associated with the core PRC2 complex (reviewed in^{24,25}). In addition to the core PRC2 subunits, PRC2.1 consists of two modules, one module containing a Polycomb-like (PCL) protein PHF1, MTF2 or PHF19 and a second module of either PALI1/2 or EPOP. The more homogenous PRC2.2 always consists of the core PRC2 subunits in complex with both JARID2 and AEBP2. The role of these complexes in different cellular processes and contexts is debated. Despite the lack of an a clear analogous sequence to the Polycomb Response Elements which promotes PRC2 chromatin association in *Drosophila*,^{26,27} the presence of a DNA-binding extended homology domain in each PCL protein has been proposed to recruit PRC2.1 to unmethylated CpG islands and establish H3K27me3.^{28,29} In contrast, PRC2.2 localizes to sites utilizing pre-existing mono-ubiquitinated H2AK119 (H2AK119ub1), which is deposited by the PRC1 complex^{30–33} through a ubiquitin interaction motif contained within JARID2.^{31,32,34,35} Regardless of their specific roles in the propagation of H3K27me3 histone marks, members of both PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 have been implicated as both positive and

negative regulators of stem cell maintenance, differentiation and cancer, depending on the cellular context^{25,36–42}. All of the PRC2 core subunits (EZH2, SUZ12 and EED) have been shown to inhibit that transcription of both positive and negative regulators of G1/S progression, including the CDK4/6 protein inhibitor p16^{43–47}. However, the net result of these opposing effects on cell cycle progression, and the contribution of the individual subcomplexes to this regulation, remains unclear.

To identify novel regulators of cellular proliferation, we utilized a whole-genome chemogenetic approach to identify genes that sensitized or lent resistance to inhibitors of different cell cycle stages. We uncovered novel resistance mechanisms to three known inhibitors of cell cycle progression in the human haploid cell line HAP1. This approach revealed that mutations in mitochondrial function or the Polycomb complexes rescued slow proliferation in palbociclib. We could recapitulate these positive genetic interactions pharmacologically using small molecule inhibitors of either PRC2 activity or mitochondrial respiration. Loss of core PRC2 members or PCL subunits of the PRC2.1 subcomplex, particularly MTF2, resulted in resistance to palbociclib, while loss of PRC2.2-specific subunits resulted in sensitivity. Data from CUT&RUN and RNA sequencing experiments performed on clonal MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ knockout mutant cell lines suggest that PRC2.1 plays a more critical role in repressing gene expression when compared with PRC2.2 in HAP1 cells, particularly at promoters containing CpG islands. D-type cyclins are among the genes that are repressed by PRC2.1 and loss of MTF2 results in increased expression of both CCND1 and CCND2 through loss of H3K27me3 in their promoters. This increased expression resulted in an apparent increase in CDK4/6 kinase activity and S-phase entry of cells, driving resistance to CDK4/6 inhibition. Our results suggest that MTF2-containing PRC2.1 plays a strong role in G1 progression in a number of cellular contexts.

Results

Chemogenetic CRISPR-Cas9 Screen Utilizing Cell Cycle Inhibitors Identified Novel Players in the Cell Cycle

Recently, CRISPR-Cas9 knockout genetic screens have emerged as a powerful way in which to probe genetic interactions^{48–50}, with the haploid human cell line HAP1 serving a popular model for these studies^{51–56}. To identify novel genes involved in cell cycle regulation, we carried out genome-wide CRISPR-Cas9 chemogenomic screens in HAP1 cells treated with each of three well-characterized inhibitors of cell cycle progression: palbociclib (a CDK4/6 and G1 progression inhibitor), colchicine (a microtubule polymerization and mitosis inhibitor) and camptothecin (a Topoisomerase I and S/G2 inhibitor). We used a concentration for each inhibitor that reduced cellular proliferation by 30–50% (**Fig. S1A**) (see also ⁵¹) and confirmed their effects on cell cycle progression (**Fig. S1B**). We then performed a CRISPR-Cas9 whole-genome screen for each of the three inhibitors (**Fig. 1A**) by introducing the Toronto Knockout Library⁵⁷ via lentiviral transduction into a HAP1 cell line constitutively expressing Cas9. Following puromycin selection for two days, cells were propagated in either DMSO (Mock) or in the presence of drug (Treated) for eighteen days. Following propagation, genomic DNA was extracted from the initial and final pools and subjected to deep sequencing, and gene-compound interactions were determined using the Orobas pipeline (source code - Supplemental File 1, Table S1 and S2). A gene was considered as being significantly enriched or de-enriched in a given condition if both the Loess-adjusted differential gene effect between mean Treated and Mock control was ± 0.5 and the FDR < 0.4.

This approach resulted in the recovery of predicted compound-gene interactions demonstrating the robustness of both the screen and our analysis approach. For example, targeting of genes known to play roles in DNA Damage Repair (DDR)^{58,59}, including RAD54L, MUS81 and sixteen proteins in the Fanconi Anemia pathway, strongly sensitized cells to camptothecin, which

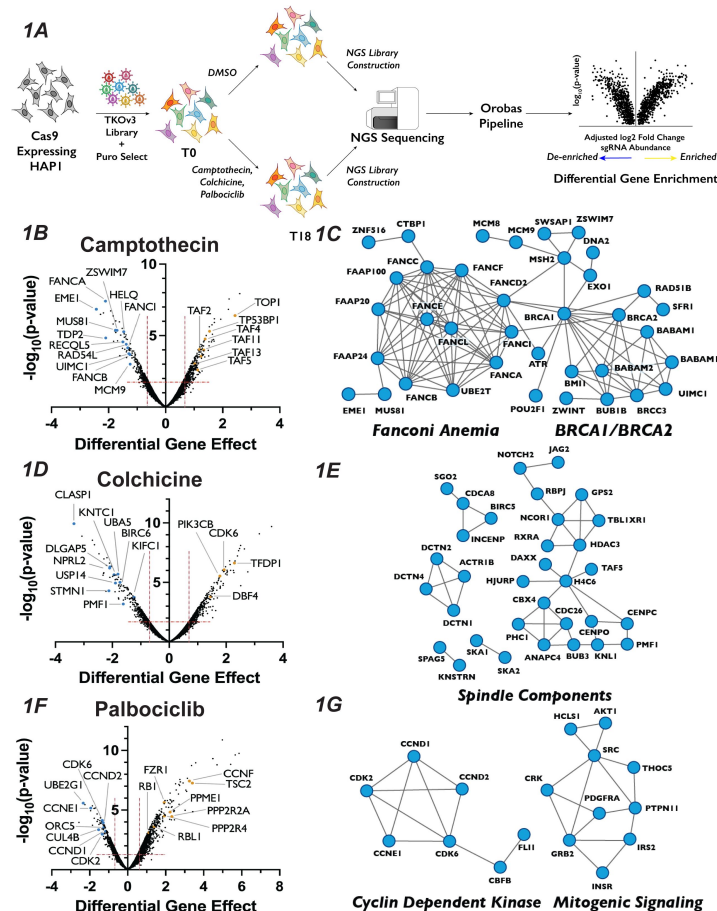


Figure 1

Chemogenetic CRISPR-Cas9 Screen to Study Cell Cycle Progression

(A) : Schematic of chemogenetic CRISPR-Cas9 screen.

(B) : Volcano plots of camptothecin chemogenetic screen results. The "Differential Gene Effect" was plotted against the $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$ for this effect for each gene targeted in the screen, as calculated by the Orobias pipeline. Red dotted line indicates the established cut-off. Highlighted dots are genes with known roles in response to each treatment, with blue or yellow dots indicate genes that when inactivated resulted in sensitivity or resistance, respectively, to camptothecin.

(C) : Representative STRING analysis networks for protein complexes with known roles in pathways that we identified as sensitive in the camptothecin chemogenetic screen. Blue dots in the STRING network indicate genes that when inactivated resulted in sensitivity to camptothecin.

(D) : Same as in (B) but for colchicine chemogenetic screen results.

(E) : Same as in (C) but for colchicine screen results.

(F) : Same as in (B) but for palbociclib chemogenetic screen results. (G) : Same as in (C) but for palbociclib screen results.

generates protein-DNA adducts (**Fig. 1B** and **1C**). The molecular target of camptothecin, TOP1⁶⁰, is the most resistant gene in the camptothecin screen, as are proteins involved in p53 transcriptional regulation, such as TP53BP1 and STAGA members TAF2, TAF4, TAF5, TAF11 and TAF13 (**Fig. 1B**). Similarly, colchicine sensitized cells to the mutation of genes encoding proteins involved in mitotic spindle assembly, nuclear division and cytoskeletal assembly, such as CLASP1, DLGAP5 and KNTC1 (**Fig. 1D** and **1E**). Interestingly, inactivation of genes involved in the adaptive immune system, such as BIRC6, UBA5 and USP14, also resulted in sensitivity to colchicine. This observation is intriguing, as colchicine is used clinically as an immunomodulator in the treatment of gout⁶¹, CCNE1, CDK6, CDK2, CCND2 and CCND1, all of which are integral to promoting the G1/S phase transition, ranked as the 2nd, 24th, 27th, 29th and 46th most important genes for palbociclib sensitivity, respectively (**Fig. 1F** and **1G**). CCND1 and CCND2 bind either CDK4 or CDK6, the molecular targets of palbociclib, whereas CDK2 and CCNE1 form a related CDK kinase that promotes the G1/S transition. Similarly, cells with sgRNAs targeting RB1, whose phosphorylation by CDK4/6 is a critical step in G1 progression, displayed substantial resistance to palbociclib. The recovery of genes known to function in the relevant biological processes supports the strength of this dataset and bolstered our confidence to use the results obtained to identify novel chemical-genetic interactions.

Chemogenetic Screen Uncovered Novel Genetic Interactions Involved in Response to Inhibitors of Cell Cycle Progression

To identify genes whose inactivation rendered cells sensitive or resistant to a specific cell cycle perturbation, we compared how the Orobas-calculated differential gene effect for a given targeted gene varied in each compound across our CRISPR-Cas9 screen. The majority of genes that conferred either sensitivity or resistance were specific to only one cell cycle inhibitor, with little overlap between the multiple conditions, suggesting that we identified genes that play roles in distinct biological processes (**Fig. 2A** and **Fig. S1C**). For example, genes encoding DNA repair proteins, mitotic spindle components, and CDK2/4/6 holoenzyme components were only required for proliferation in camptothecin, colchicine, and palbociclib, respectively. We found that only thirteen and twenty genes resulted in sensitivity or resistance, respectively, in all the compounds tested and were deemed non-specific to a given condition, and excluded from any further analysis (see Table S2).

We next turned our attention to unexpected and novel compound-gene interactions. To probe these interactions, we analyzed genes that significantly altered response to our three compounds using the gene annotation and analysis portal Metascape and the protein-protein interaction network analysis STRING. In addition to DDR genes, Metascape and STRING analysis of the results of our camptothecin treatment revealed de-enrichment for sgRNAs targeting genes encoding members of the KICSTOR complex (KPTN, SZT2, ITFG2 and KICS2), which negatively regulates mTOR. In contrast, sgRNAs targeting of genes involved in RNA metabolism and chromatin organization increased resistance to this drug (**Fig. 2B**–**2D**). It has been suggested that mTOR is involved in attenuating the DDR response through phosphorylation of RNF168, leading to its degradation⁶², which could provide one explanation of the observed sensitivity. The loss of genes involved in chromatin structure and the metabolism of RNA conferred resistance to camptothecin is unexpected, given that both these processes have been implicated in DNA repair after damage^{63,64}. Genes whose inactivation enhanced sensitivity to colchicine included those involved in the amino acid starvation response (DEPDC5, TSC1, SZT2 and NPRL2) and mRNA splicing (SNRBP2, SF3B2, PPIL1, RBM22 and DHX35), while mutation of genes that control vesicle trafficking (VPS16, VPS18, VPS29, VPS41, VPS51 and VPS52) or encode members of the Mediator complex (CCNC, CDK8 and MED26, MED1, MED7, MED12, MED18 and MED11) attenuated the cellular response to the drug. Unexpectedly, inactivation of genes encoding members of the TP53 signaling pathway (TFDP1 and HIPK2), SAGA H3 acetylation complex components (KAT2A, TRRAP, TADA3, TAF5L, TADA2B, SGF29 and TADA1), and the Fanconi Anemia complex (FANCA, FANCC, FANCE, FANCF, FANCG, FANCL and FAAP100), all implicated in DNA damage repair, resulted in

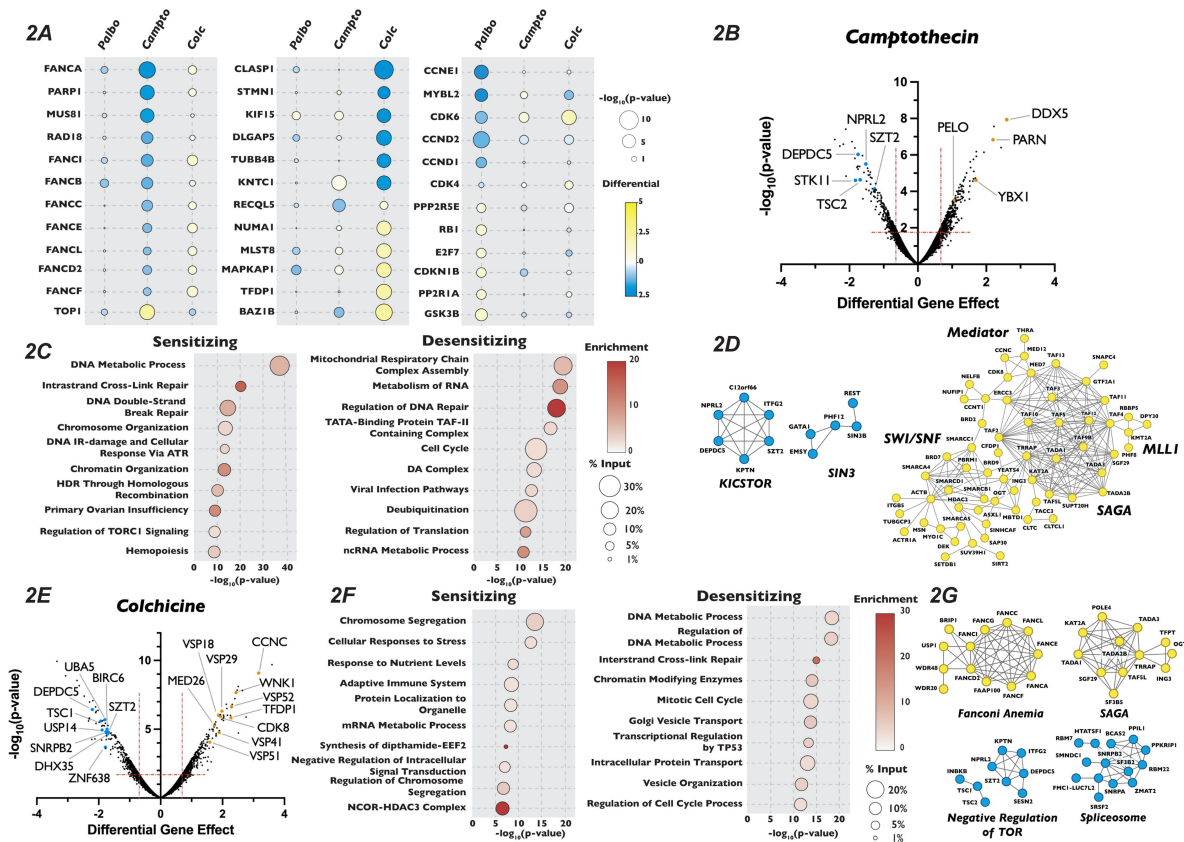


Figure 2

Analysis of Camptothecin and Colchicine Chemogenetic Screen Reveals Novel Players in Cell Cycle Regulation

(A) : Dot plot comparison of the effect of gene mutation across three different screen conditions. Circle color indicates the strength of the positive or negative differential gene effect, circle size indicates the $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$ of the sgRNA enrichment.

(B) : Volcano plot of genes identified in the camptothecin chemogenetic screen, plotted as in Figure 1B with highlighted dots representing novel genes identified in the camptothecin screen.

(C) : Dot plot of Metascape analysis of significant genes that sensitized or de-sensitized cells to camptothecin. The $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$ of each term was plotted the enrichment was indicated by color of circle and the percentage of the input of genes associated with a given term is indicated by the size of the circle.

(D) : STRING analysis of genes identified from the analysis of the camptothecin screen. (E), (F) and (G) Same as in (B), (C) and (D) except for the colchicine screen.

resistance to colchicine (**Fig. 2E** and **2G**). Sensitivity to palbociclib was enhanced in cells expressing sgRNAs targeting H4 acetylation, positive regulators of Pol II transcription and regulators of DDR (**Fig. 3A** and **3B**), although this sensitivity was much weaker than that seen with DNA damaging agents. This observation is consistent with long-term treatment with palbociclib inducing DNA damage, as has been suggested by a number of recent publications^{65–67}. Unexpectedly, Metascope analysis of our palbociclib chemogenetic screen revealed that sensitivity to palbociclib was enhanced when genes involved in chromatin organization were targeted (**Fig. 3A**). Inactivation of members of the SIN3 histone deacetylase (SIN3B, SINHCAF and ARID4B), the NuA4 histone acetyltransferase (ING3, DMAP1, MORF4L2, YEATS4 and VPS73), the STAGA histone acetyltransferase (KAT2A, TADA1, TADA2B, TAF5L, and SUPT20H) and the Mediator (MED13, MED25, MED10, MED15, TAF7, TAG13 and CCNC) complexes all resulted in palbociclib sensitivity. (**Fig. 3B** and **3C**). Each of these protein complexes promotes gene expression, suggesting that palbociclib sensitivity might be a result of a reduction in the transcription of genes important for the G1/S transition.

Because mechanisms of clinical resistance to palbociclib is an area of active investigation, we turned our attention to focus on these pathways. Metascope analysis of genes whose loss conferred palbociclib resistance were highly enriched for splicing factors, oxidative phosphorylation and mitochondrial translation, in addition to chromatin modification (**Fig. 3A**). STRING analysis of the high-confidence, physical interactions of proteins important for palbociclib sensitivity revealed multiple highly-connected interaction networks (**Fig. 3C**). Strikingly, almost 25% (170 out of the 689) of the genes whose mutation conferred unique resistance to palbociclib have terms associated with mitochondrial respiratory chain complex assembly, ATP synthesis or mitochondrial gene expression. Specifically, we see many components implicated in assembly of Mitochondrial Respiratory Chain Complex I and IV, as well as core mitochondrial ribosome and mitochondrial translation initiation and termination (**Fig. 3A**–**3C**). To confirm this positive genetic interaction between mitochondrial homeostasis and resistance to palbociclib, and to dissect whether specific electron transport chain steps might be implicated in this resistance, we asked whether chemical inhibition of oxidative phosphorylation could rescue sensitivity to palbociclib. To target different stages of the oxidative phosphorylation, we employed rotenone, TTFA and oligomycin, which inhibit Complex I, Complex II and ATP synthase, respectively. Cells were grown in the presence of palbociclib alone or in combination with each drug for 48 hours and viability was determined by PrestoBlue assay. Cells exposed to rotenone, TTFA and oligomycin displayed dose-dependent, positive proliferation interactions when treated in combination with palbociclib (**Fig. 3D** and **Fig. S1D–S1F**), indicating that combined inhibition of oxidative phosphorylation and CDK4/6 activity mutually rescue the proliferation defect imposed by agents targeting the other process. While alternative explanations could explain the observed novel chemical-genetic interactions we uncovered here, such as either changes in phenotypic lag rates due to alterations in protein stability or more general screen variability⁶⁸, these results suggest a connection between mitochondrial gene function and CDK4/6 inhibitors.

Polycomb Repressive Complex Components Display Differing Responses to Palbociclib Treatment

Intriguingly, inactivation of EZH2, SUZ12 and EED, the three core members of the PRC2 complex, resulted in profound resistance to palbociclib, being the 8th, 4th and 3rd strongest resistance hits out of the 18,053 genes examined when ranked by the score of differential effect (**Fig. 4A**, Table S1). Mutation of RBBP7, which associates with the core PRC2 complex²⁰ along with a number of histone deacetylases⁶⁹, also desensitized cells to palbociclib, but to a more modest extent. Satisfyingly, inactivation of RING1, RNF2, and PCGF6, which are members of PRC1, also displayed resistance to palbociclib. The PRC1 complex contains a ubiquitin ligase that works in concert with PRC2 through H2AK119ub1 deposition, a histone mark that influences both PRC2 chromatin localization and catalytic activity^{30,32}. As expected, PRC1 and PRC2 components identified in our palbociclib chemogenetic screen formed a highly interconnected STRING physical interaction

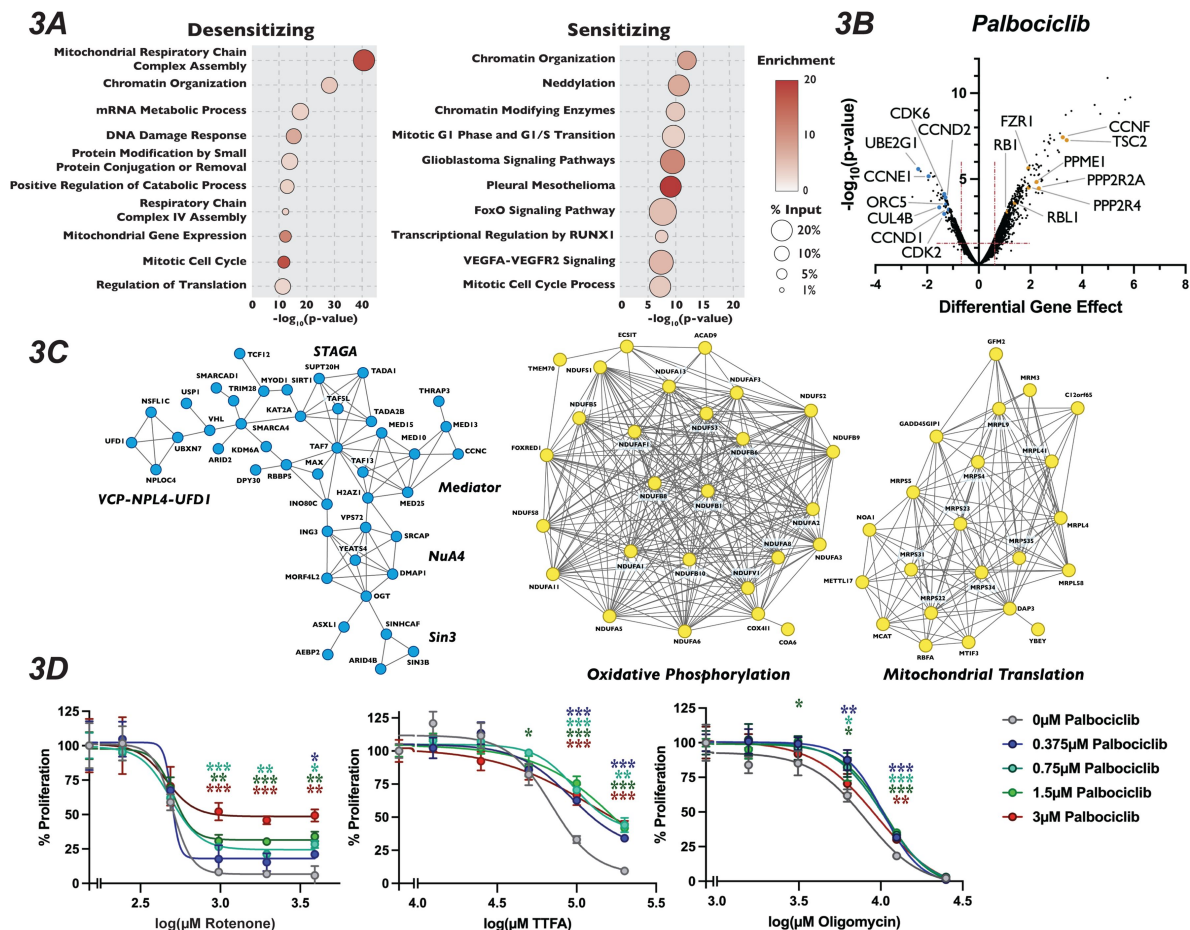


Figure 3

Mutation of Mitochondria Genes Attenuates the Sensitivity to Palbociclib

(A) : Dot plot of the $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$ Metascape analysis of significant genes in the palbociclib chemogenetic screen. The enrichment of a given term is indicated by color of circle and the percentage of the input is indicated by the size of the circle.

(B) : Volcano plot of genes identified from our analysis of the palbociclib screen, plotted as in [Figure 1D](#), with highlighted dots representing novel genes.

(C) : STRING networks of novel protein complexes identified in palbociclib screen. Dots in the STRING network indicate genes that when inactivated resulted in sensitivity (blue) or resistance (yellow) to palbociclib. (D): Dose-response curve of palbociclib-induced proliferation rescue in combination with oxidative phosphorylation inhibitors by PrestoBlue assay. Cells were grown in palbociclib with or without increasing concentrations of rotenone, TTFA or oligomycin. Data represents mean of three technical replicates, normalized to the initial dose of each inhibitor in indicated concentration of palbociclib, $\pm$ StdDev.

*: $\text{p-value} < 0.05$, **: $\text{p-value} < 0.005$, ***: $\text{p-value} < 0.0005$, n.s.: not significant, two tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

network (**Fig. 4B**), indicating that loss of either H3K27me3 or H2AK119ub1 reduced sensitivity to this drug. In contrast, inactivation of genes encoding OGT, ASXL1 and HAT1, which are members of the H2AK119ub1 deubiquitinase complex that opposes PRC2-mediated gene repression⁷⁰, resulted in sensitivity to palbociclib (**Fig. 4A**). Importantly, no component of any PRC1 or PRC2 core complex displayed significant resistance or sensitivity to camptothecin and colchicine in our chemogenetic screens (**Fig. 4C**), implicating PRC2 in the regulation of G1 specifically, and not to other phases of the cell cycle or the DNA damage response pathway. PR-DUB components ASXL1 and OGT did show resistance to camptothecin, consistent with their role in repressing the homologous recombination DNA repair pathway⁷¹. We sought to confirm the role of the core PRC2 complex in palbociclib resistance by treating cells with combinations of palbociclib and the EZH2 inhibitor GSK126 using a quantitative Crystal Violet assay. After nine days of drug combination treatments, we found that cells treated with increasing doses of GSK126 withstood palbociclib-induced proliferation suppression (**Fig. 4D**), though even the highest dose utilized of 5μM GSK126 had some synergistic effects with low doses of palbociclib. These results confirmed that inactivation of the PRC2 core complex, either through genetic inactivation or chemical inhibition, resulted in resistance to palbociclib.

The PRC2 core binds to auxiliary proteins to create biochemically distinct subcomplexes, termed PRC2.1 and PRC2.2^{23,24}. These alternative complexes are thought to modify the chromatin localization and enzymatic activity of PRC2, reinforcing existing H3K27me3 in certain contexts^{72–74}, while initiating H3K27me3 deposition at new loci in others^{33,39}. Mutation of the PRC2.1 complex members PHF1, MTF2, PHF19 and EPOP/C17orf96 all display significant resistance to palbociclib, with MTF2 being the strongest of these (**Fig. 4A**, **4C**). Conversely, targeting the genes encoding the PRC2.2-specific accessory proteins AEBP2 or JARID2 resulted in enhanced or neutral palbociclib sensitivity, respectively. These data suggest that PRC2.1 plays a previously uncharacterized role in promoting G1 progression, while PRC2.2 antagonizes it. To confirm the results from our palbociclib chemogenetic screen, we generated polyclonal knockout mutant pools of the individual core and accessory proteins of PRC2. We generated these populations by independently infecting three distinct sgRNAs targeting genes for each PRC2 complex member, or positive and negative control genes, in GFP-positive and doxycycline-inducible Cas9 cells and induced DNA cleavage for three days (henceforth referred to as pooled knockouts). We performed western blots to confirm reduction in protein levels for the genes targeted by the sgRNAs used to generate our pooled knockouts (**Fig. S2B**). After confirming reduction in the targeted proteins, we carried out a competitive proliferation assay using these pooled knockouts (schematic in **Fig. S2A** or see⁵¹). Briefly, GFP-positive pooled knockouts were mixed with GFP-negative wild-type cells and propagated in the presence or absence of palbociclib. The ratio of GFP-positive to GFP-negative cells was recorded every three days by flow cytometry for eighteen days. Pools containing sgRNAs against EZH2, SUZ12, EED and MTF2 all displayed resistance to palbociclib, similar to the level observed with sgRNAs targeting RB1, our positive control for palbociclib-induced proliferation defects (**Fig. 4E**). Conversely, compared with the dramatic reduction seen in pools transduced with CCNE1 sgRNAs, our positive control for enhanced palbociclib sensitivity CCNE1, sgRNAs targeting PRC2.2 components showed a slight, but statistically significant reduction in proliferation in palbociclib over the eighteen day assay (AEBP2: p-value = 0.002 and JARID2: p-value = 0.0148, unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test). Thus, we confirmed the results of our chemogenetic screen that MTF2-containing PRC2.1 inhibits G1 progression, while PRC2.2 could promote it.

To further interrogate the role of PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 in the regulation of G1 progression, we generated SUZ12, MTF2 and JARID2-null monoclonal cell lines (which we will refer to as SUZ12Δ, MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ). We chose to mutate MTF2 to probe the function of PRC2.1, as it has been shown to be the most highly expressed and predominant PCL subunit associated with the PRC2 core complex in a variety of contexts^{75,76}. Furthermore, we selected SUZ12 for inactivation out of the core PRC2 complex members, and not the catalytic subunit EZH2, because the presence of the EZH2 paralogue EZH1 might compensate for loss of EZH2⁷⁷. Additionally, SUZ12 has a

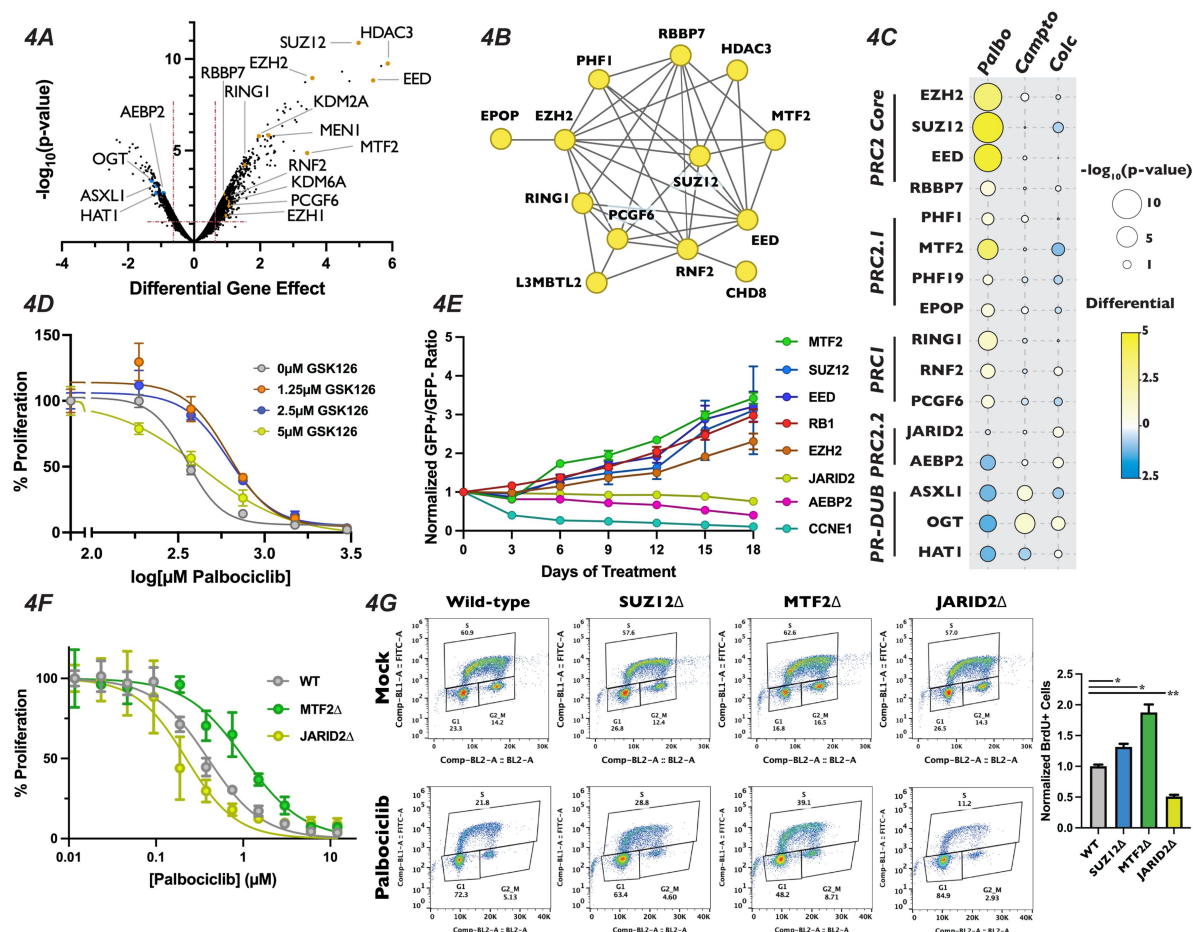


Figure 4

Loss of Polycomb Repressive Complex Components Display Specific Resistance to Palbociclib

(A) : Volcano plot as in [Figure 3B](#) except with members of PR-DUB, PRC1 and PRC2 highlighted.

(B) : STRING analysis network of PRC components. Yellow dots indicate that inactivation of these genes conferred resistance to palbociclib.

(C) : Dot plot of comparison of the effect of PRC2 complex member gene mutation across three different screen conditions, as in [Figure 2B](#).

(D) : Dose-response curve of palbociclib-induced proliferation inhibition rescue with GSK126 by Crystal Violet assay. Data was normalized to untreated cells and represents the mean of three technical replicates, ±StdDev.

(E) : Results of competitive proliferation assay for each indicated time point, normalized to the initial GFP⁺/GFP⁻ ratio of the pool. The performance of each sgRNA in 1.5 μM palbociclib vs Mock is shown, after normalizing to control sgRNAs, ±SEM of the GFP⁺/GFP⁻ ratios of three independent sgRNAs.

(F) : Dose-response curve of palbociclib-induced proliferation inhibition in MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells by Crystal Violet assay. Data represents mean staining of three monoclonal knockout cell lines, ±StdDev. (G) : BrdU incorporation assay for wild-type, SUZ12Δ, MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cell lines. *Left* – Representative BrdU incorporation vs propidium iodide flow cytometry traces. *Right* – Quantification of BrdU incorporation assay, mean of S-phase cells in three knockout lines ±StdDev. *: p-value < 0.05, n.s.: not significant, two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

critical role in bridging accessory proteins with the catalytic core in all known PRC2 complexes³⁹. MTF2Δ cells displayed resistance to palbociclib when compared with wild-type cells in a nine-day quantitative Crystal Violet assay (MTF2Δ IC₅₀ = 1.033μM, wild-type IC₅₀ = 0.3936μM) while JARID2Δ cells were slightly more sensitive than wild-type (JARID2Δ IC₅₀ = 0.2216μM) (**Fig. 4F**). In addition to showing sensitivity to palbociclib, MTF2Δ cells also displayed resistance to, ribociclib and abemaciclib, two CDK4/6 inhibitors that are structurally related to palbociclib, in a competitive proliferation assay (**Fig. S2C**). These results confirmed our screen results that mutation of MTF2 leads in CDK4/6 inhibitor resistance with verified clonal mutants.

Palbociclib exerts its chemotherapeutic effects by inducing a G1 arrest and senescence in tumor cells with a functional RB-E2F pathway^{78–80}. However, a recent report demonstrates that palbociclib treatment induces both G1 arrest and apoptosis through the increase in DNA damage in cultured cells⁸¹, introducing the possibility that PRC2.1 could be altering regulators of the DDR pathway, resulting in the observed palbociclib resistance. To determine if inactivation of PRC2.1 or PRC2.2 altered cell cycle progression, we examined how wild-type, SUZ12Δ, MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells responded to palbociclib-induced G1 arrest. To assess this directly, we performed a BrdU incorporation assay by growing each mutant for 24 hours in palbociclib, pulsed the cells with BrdU for one hour prior to harvest and then measured BrdU incorporation by flow cytometry. Each of the four cell lines had similar levels of BrdU incorporation in the absence of drug (**Fig. 4G**). However, MTF2Δ and SUZ12Δ mutants displayed significantly more cells entering S-phase in the presence of palbociclib, while palbociclib treatment resulted in significantly fewer JARID2Δ mutants cells in S phase (**Fig. 4G**). To rule out the possibility that cellular viability was not compromised in our monoclonal knockout cell lines, we used western blotting to monitor changes in PARP cleavage or increased BCL2L1/BIM expression, which both serve as apoptosis indicators⁸². There was no detectible basal increase in markers of apoptosis in the monoclonal knockout mutant cell lines or when cells were treated with palbociclib for 48 hours, (**Fig. S2D**), supporting the conclusion that the resistance to palbociclib observed in the MTF2Δ and SUZ12Δ cells was due to the repressive and promoting role the MTF2-containing PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 complexes play, respectively, in the canonical CDK4/6-RB1-E2F pathway.

PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 Mutants Display Altered H3K27me3 and Transcriptional Landscapes

To determine why the mutation of PRC2 subcomplex components altered the cellular response to palbociclib, we sought to see how H3K27me3 levels and gene expression changed in MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells. western blotting of total H3K27me3 levels in three independently-generated clones indicated that there was no change in the bulk levels of H3K27me3 (**Fig. 5A**), suggesting that any change of phenotype observed in the mutants was due to a change in the localization of this mark and not due to an overall reduction in its abundance. This is in contrast to SUZ12Δ cells, which displayed a significant reduction in the H3K27me3 mark (unpaired Student's t-test, p-value = 0.0104). To probe the changes in transcription and H3K27me3 distribution genome-wide, we generated CUT&RUN libraries with an anti-H3K27me3 antibody and RNA-Seq libraries from total RNA isolated from our MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cell lines, grown either in the presence or absence of palbociclib for 24 hours. Changes in H3K27me3 levels and mRNA expression were determined by comparing the enrichment of reads in the MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ libraries to the wild-type cell line (Tables S3 and S4). Because cancer cells have been known to adapt to palbociclib treatment partially through changes to histone marks, chromatin structure and gene expression^{83–86}, we also investigated how both transcript levels and H3K27me3 distribution responded to treatment with palbociclib in our clonal knockout cell lines. Primary component analysis (PCA) of our called, reproducible H3K27me3 peaks and transcript abundance from our CUT&RUN and RNA-seq data, respectively, showed a high percentage of variance between each of the genotypes tested, along with good clustering of repeats of the same genotype and treatments (**Fig. S3C**), suggesting a shift in the epigenetic and transcriptional landscapes when either MTF2 or JARID2 are absent. PCA analysis of our RNA-Seq experiment revealed substantial shifts in variance between palbociclib-

treated and Mock-treated samples for each genotype (**Fig. S3C** [↗](#), bottom), suggesting that exposure to palbociclib resulted in changes in gene expression, consistent with previous reports⁸⁷ [↗](#),⁸⁸ [↗](#). However, the PCA of our CUT&RUN experiment did not reveal large differences in H3K27me3 distribution between palbociclib-treated and untreated samples (**Fig. S3C** [↗](#) - top). In line with this observation, when we analyzed the change in distribution of H3K27me3 peaks between palbociclib and Mock treated cells using DESeq2, we found no significant changes in the location of H3K27me3 reproducible peaks in the presence or absence of palbociclib (data not shown). This suggests that MTF2Δ mutants are not resistant to palbociclib because MTF2 is required for a transcriptional adaptation to the drug, but instead because MTF2 alters expression of genes important for G1/S progression, even in unperturbed cells.

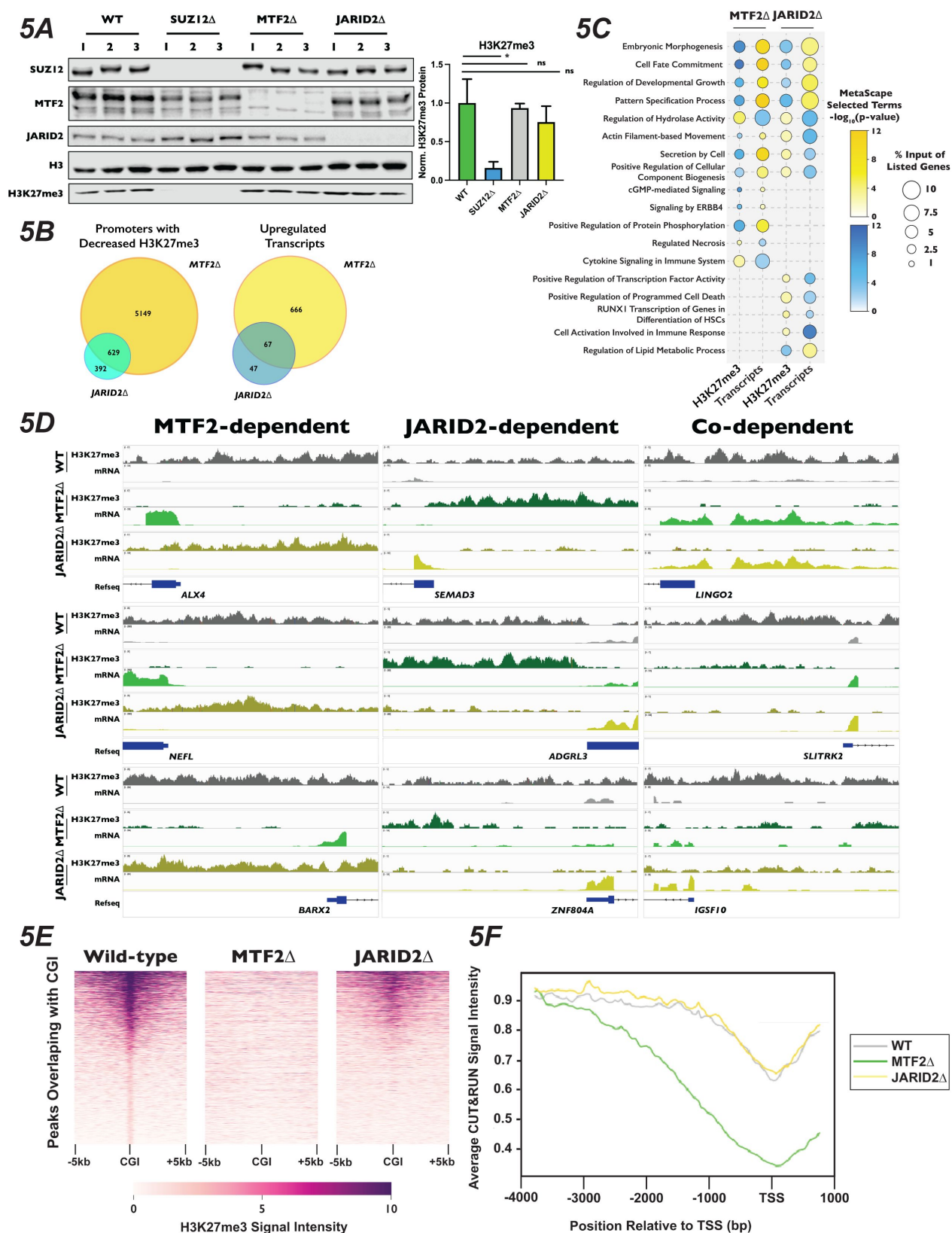


Figure 5

Polycomb 2.1 and PRC2.2 are Differentially Recruited to Promoters with CpG Island in HAP1

(A): *Left* - Western blots of wild-type, SUZ12Δ, MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cell extracts probed with the indicated antibodies. *Right* - Quantification of H3K27me3 signal intensity, normalized to H3, ±StDev. *: p-value<0.05, n.s.: not significant, two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

(B): Venn diagrams of MTF2Δ or JARID2Δ compared to wild-type cells of *left* - promoters with decreased H3K27me3 signal in CUT&RUN experiment or *right* - increased transcript levels in RNA-Seq

(C): Dot-plot of selected Metascape terms of protein coding genes displaying significantly increased or decreased levels of H3K27me3 or transcripts. Color of the circle indicates the $-\log_{10}(p\text{-value})$ of the term and the size of circle indicates the percentage of the genes from the input list were represented in that term.

(D): Genome browser traces of promoters with decreased H3K27me3 and increased mRNAs that were dependent on MTF2 (*left*), JARID2 (*center*) or on the presence either MTF2 or JARID2 (*right*). Tracks represent combined BED files from two clonal biological replicates.

(E): Representative heat map of H3K27me3 signal for 1,877 peaks overlapping with CGI. Genomic regions are ordered by the H3K27me3 read density intensity in wild-type cells then plotted for the same loci in MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells. Plots are of one of two biological replicate.

(F): H3K27me3 signal averaged for all CGI-containing promoters for wild-type, MTF2Δ, and JARID2Δ cells.

Due to the known role of PRC2 in repressing gene expression, we next asked how H3K27me3 distribution changed in promoters of genes. We defined promoters as 4kb upstream and 1kb downstream of all annotated transcription start sites, and calculated the total number of reads within each of these regions. Our parameters led to ~61,000 genomic regions being designated as promoters. In addition to annotated protein coding genes, this included the promoters of non-coding transcribable units such as rRNA, miRNAs, lncRNAs, and pseudogenes. We observed a greater number of promoters with significantly decreased H3K27me3 ($\log_2$ fold-change ± 1 , adjusted p-value < 0.1) in the MTF2Δ compared to JARID2Δ cell lines (5,808 vs 1,034 promoters, respectively). Of these, 5,149 promoters displayed MTF2-dependent H3K27me3, 392 were JARID2-dependent and 629 were co-dependent on MTF2 and JARID2 for wild-type levels of H3K27me3 (Fig. 5B and 5D). Consistent with the greater change in H3K27me3 signal at promoters in MTF2Δ cells, 733 vs 114 transcripts were significantly upregulated upon MTF2 vs JARID2 inactivation, respectively, with 666 transcripts that were exclusively MTF2-dependent, 47 transcripts that were exclusively JARID2-dependent, and 67 transcripts displaying co-dependence on both MTF2 and JARID2. These results indicate that the MTF2-containing PRC2.1 complexes affect the deposition of H3K27me3 in the promoter regions of more genes than the JARID2-containing PRC2.2, and therefore, are more important for transcriptional repression in HAP1 cells.

Given the diverse regulatory roles of PRC2 in different biological contexts, and the limited information on PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 outside of stem cells, we were curious to see what classes of genes were being differentially regulated in the MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cell lines. Only ~30-40% of the promoters with significantly changed levels of H3K27me3 were upstream of protein coding genes (Fig. 5A), while ~80-90% of the significantly differentially expressed transcripts encoded proteins (Fig. 5B). Therefore, we focused a Metascape analysis on the promoters and mRNAs of protein coding genes with differential H3K27me3 and transcript levels, respectively (Fig. 5C). Analysis of the promoters of genes with decreased H3K27me3 and increased transcript levels in

both MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ lines were terms associated with embryonic morphogenesis, cell fate commitment and developmental growth, all processes previously been shown to be regulated, at least in part, by PRC2⁸⁹. Intriguingly, terms for genes that specifically displayed decreased promoters H3K27me3 and upregulated mRNA in MTF2Δ cells included the pro-growth pathways cGMP and ERBB4 signaling. Conversely, terms for genes which displayed increased promoter H3K27me3 signal and decreased transcript levels in JARID2Δ cells contained pathways that could reduce cellular proliferation and viability, such as positive transcriptional regulation of RUNX1 and positive regulators of program cell death. We also saw terms that had opposite effects on H3K27me3 and transcript levels in MTF2Δ compared to JARID2Δ cells, such as secretion by the cell and regulation of cellular component biogenesis, which could potentially exacerbate palbociclib-induced proliferation defects^{90,91}. Together, these data support the notion that MTF2 antagonizes cell proliferation in normal cellular conditions, while JARID2 promotes it.

PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 Mutants Display Differential H3K27me3 Modification in Promoters in Cell Cycle Related Genes with CpG Islands

MTF2-containing PRC2.1 have been previously shown to localize to chromatin using a winged helix in its extended homology domain that has affinity for CG-rich sequences^{28,29}, whereas PRC2.2 localization is dependent on chromatin context, specifically H2AK119ub1 deposited by PRC1^{31–33}. To determine whether CpG island targeting by PRC2.1 could help explain the palbociclib resistance we observed in the absence of MTF2, we identified and plotted 1,877 peaks that overlapped with CpG islands in wild-type cells and had the greatest H3K27me3 signal in a 10kb window surrounding the CpG islands. We then plotted the H3K27me3 signal observed in the MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells for these same loci. We observed a complete loss of H3K27me3 signal intensity at CpG islands in the MTF2Δ mutants, but only a partial loss at these loci in JARID2Δ cells (**Fig. 5E** and **Fig. S3D**). When we expanded our findings genome-wide, we found a significant loss of H3K27me3 peaks at CpG islands in MTF2Δ cells (Fisher's exact test, odds ratio = 20.4, p-value 2.2×10^{-308}), compared with JARID2Δ, where this loss was much more modest (fisher's exact test, odds ratio = 9.8, p-value = 6.5×10^{-7}). This result is consistent with the interpretation that the MTF2-containing PRC2.1 is required for all H3K27me3 deposition at CpG islands, whereas JARID2-containing PRC2.2 is only required to achieve full wild-type H3K27me3 levels at these sites.

CpG islands are a very common feature of mammalian promoters, with 50-70% human promoters estimated to contain at least one CpG island⁹². Since promoters are highly associated with CpG islands, we examined 2,000 promoters with the highest level of H3K27me3 signal intensity that overlapped with CpG islands in wild-type cells, then plotted the H3K27me3 signal intensity at those same loci in our mutant cell lines (**Fig. 5F**). Consistent with the result seen at CpG islands genome-wide, we observed a complete loss of high signal intensity in the MTF2Δ cells, but only a slight loss in JARID2Δ cells. When we averaged the H3K27me3 signal intensity over all 25,124 promoters that contain CpG islands, we observed a pattern of MTF2Δ cells having greatly decreased H3K27me3 levels in these regions, particularly surrounding the transcription start site while JARID2Δ cells were widely similar to wild-type cells. (**Fig. 5F**) in line with what was seen at CpG islands genome-wide. Reactome and MSigDB analysis of the promoters of protein coding genes that overlapped with CpG islands showed strong enrichment for terms associated with cell cycle and E2F target genes (**Fig. S3E**) as well as enrichment binding E2F6 (**Fig. S3F**), which both regulates transcription of G1 progression genes⁹³ and is a well characterize component of Polycomb complexes^{23,94}. These results suggest that MTF2 is required for H3K27me3 deposition at promoters containing CpG islands involved in cell cycle regulation and can explain why MTF2Δ cells display a greater change in gene expression than do JARID2Δ cell lines.

PRC2.1 Represses Expression of CCND1 and CCND2

Our CUT&RUN results suggest that MTF2-containing PRC2.1 impacts gene expression, at least in part, through deposition of H3K27me3 at promoters with CpG islands. Therefore, we hypothesized this PRC2 complex must be antagonizing G1 progression through repression of cell cycle-promoting genes. When inspecting the results of our CUT&RUN and RNA-Seq experiments, we found that the promoters of both CCND1 and CCND2 had lost H3K27me3 signal and displayed strong transcriptional induction in MTF2Δ cells (**Fig. 6A** [↗](#) and S4A-S4B), suggesting that the increase in these transcripts was due directly to a change in H3K27me3 in their promoters. In fact, while CCND1 and CCND2 were both among the most up-regulated statistically-significant transcripts within the MTF2Δ cell line, their transcription and promoter H3K27 methylation were unaltered in JARID2Δ cells (**Fig. S4C-S4D** [↗](#)). Given that increased CCND1 levels is sufficient to drive increased CDK4/6 kinase activity, upregulation of these D-type cyclins is likely to be a significant contributor to the palbociclib resistance in MTF2Δ cells. DESeq2 analysis of H3K27me3 density in MTF2Δ cells displayed a statistically significant 4.3 and 2.7 log₂ fold-decrease in H3K27me3 signal in the promoter region of CCND1 and CCND2, respectively, when compared to wild-type H3K27me3 levels (**Fig. S4A** [↗](#), Table S3), whereas changes in H3K27me3 levels in the CCND3 promoter were not statistically significant (Fig S4F, Table S3). Given our observation that H3K27me3 signal is lost at CpG islands in MTF2Δ cells, we inspected the D-type cyclin promoters for CpG islands. Indeed, the regions upstream of all three D-type cyclins contained CpG islands, but CCND1 and CCND2 had regions of GC density about seven times larger (7,460bp and 6,003bp, respectively) than CCND3 (996bp) (**Fig. 6B** [↗](#) and Fig S4F). Furthermore, the promoter of CCND1 contained about twice as many CpG repeats than did CCND2 (575 vs 379) and about six times as many CpG repeats as CCND3 (575 vs 95) (**Fig. S4D** [↗](#)). These results suggest that the levels of CCND1 and CCND2 mRNA transcripts, but not CCND3, were regulated by MTF2 in a CpG island-dependent manner.

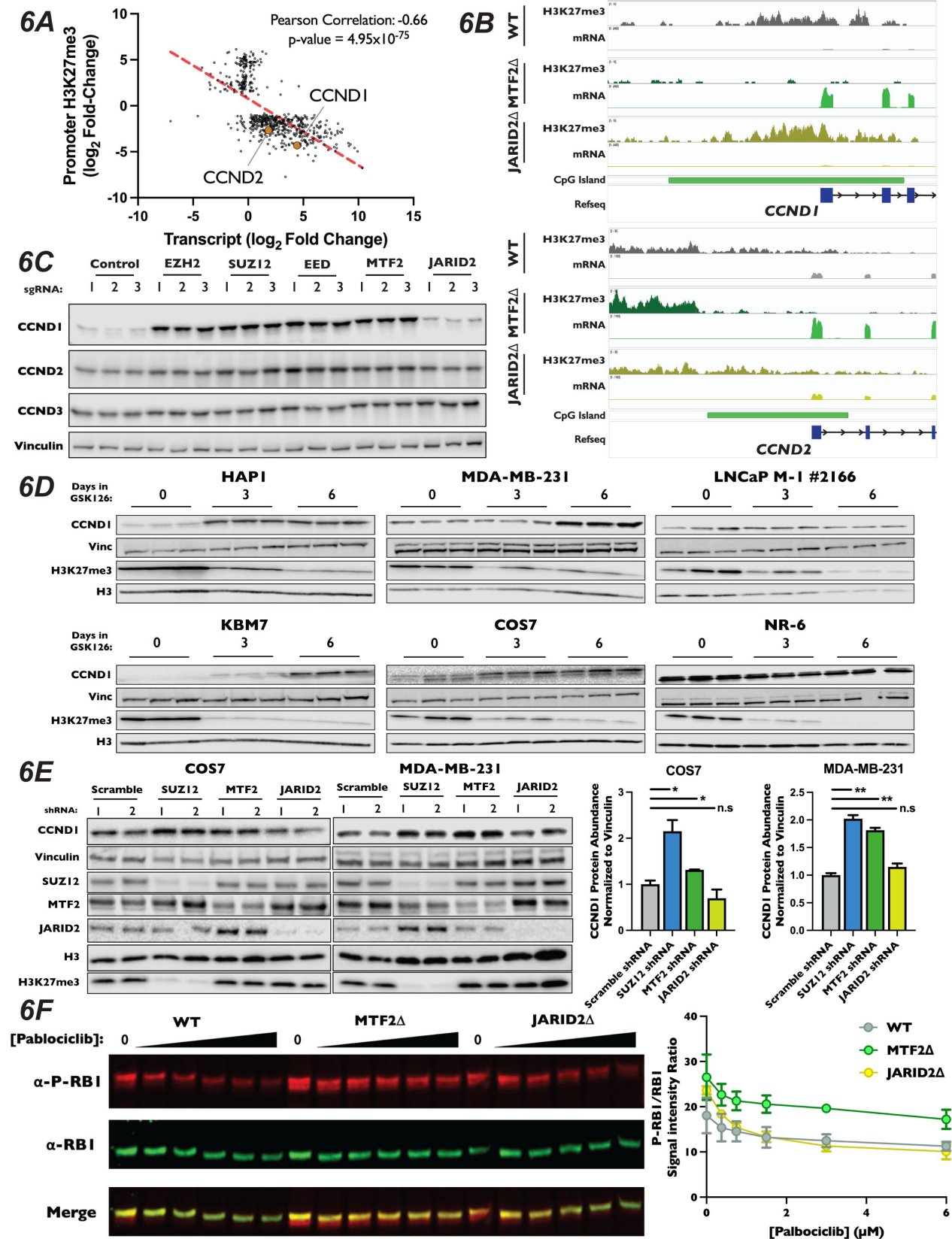


Figure 6

CCND1 and CCND2 Expression is Increased in MTF2Δ Mutants

(A) : Scatterplot of genes whose $\log_2$ fold-changes for MTF2Δ/wild-type ratio of mRNA expression (x-axis) versus promoter H3K27me3 signal (y-axis) had an adjusted p-value of <0.05 and an adjusted p-value <0.1 where plotted.

(B) : Genome browser traces of H3K27me3 signal, transcript abundance and CGIs in the CCND1 and CCND2 promoters. Annotated CGIs indicated by green bar.

(C) : *Top* – Western blots of Cas9-expressing pools of cells transduced three independent sgRNAs targeting the indicated genes, probed with the indicated antibodies.

(D) : Western blots of whole-cell lysates from a panel of cell lines treated with 10μM GSK126 for the indicated time points, with listed antibodies.

(E) : *Left* – Western blots of whole-cell lysates from MDA-MB-231 and COS7 cells transduced with shRNA constructs shRNAs targeting SUZ12, MTF2, JARID2 or a scrambled control. Probed with indicated antibodies. *Right* – Quantification of western blots, CCND1 signal normalized to Vinculin. Each bar is the mean for two different shRNA expressing pools, error bars ±range. *: p-value<0.05, **: p-value<0.005, n.s.: not significant, two tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

(F) : *Left* – Representative western blot of total RB1 and P-S807/8111-RB1 with increasing [palbociclib] in WT, MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells, probed with indicated antibodies. *Right* – Quantification of the ratio of P-S807/8111-RB1 to total RB1 signal plotted against [palbociclib], two biological replicates, error bars ±range.

We sought to confirm our observation that ablation of MTF2 resulted in increased levels of CCND1 and CCND2 protein. We generated pooled knockouts of MTF2, JARID2 and the core PRC2 components SUZ12, EZH2 and EED using three independent sgRNAs. In pooled knockouts of MTF2, EZH2, EED and SUZ12, we observed an increase in both CCND1 and CCND2 protein levels by western blot, but not for CCND3 (**Fig. 6C** and **Fig. S5A**). Consistent with the results from our CUT&RUN and RNA-Seq datasets, we did not observe a significant change in either CCND1 or CCND2 levels in JARID2 pooled knockouts. We next examined mRNA and protein levels of the D-type cyclins in MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ clones by qRT-PCR and western blotting, respectively. Again clonal knockouts of SUZ12Δ and MTF2Δ, but not JARID2Δ lines, had increased mRNA (**Fig. S5C**) and protein levels (**Fig. S5B**) for both CCND1 and CCND2, but not CCND3. To determine whether other genes involved in the canonical CDK4/6-RB-E2F pathway were also altered, we examined mRNA and protein levels of known cell cycle regulators in our knockout cell lines. In contrast to CCND1 and CCND2, none of the E-type cyclins, CIP/KIP CDK inhibitors, RB1 or E2F proteins displayed significantly altered mRNA transcript abundance in our RNA-seq experiment in either MTF2Δ or JARID2Δ lines (**Fig. S5D**). To confirm that protein stability of these factors was not altered in our knockout lines, we also examined protein levels of a panel of known G1 regulators by western blot (**Fig. S5E**). Similarly, we did not observe an increase in levels of any of the tested proteins, confirming that CCND1 and CCND2 were the only up-regulated canonical CDK4/6-RB-E2F pathway regulators in MTF2Δ cells.

Proper regulation of D-type cyclin expression is necessary to promote G1 progression, cellular fate specification and organismal development, while dysregulation is seen in many cancers. Given the clear role of MTF2-dependent regulation of CCND1 and CCND2 in HAP1 cells, we sought to determine whether MTF2-containing PRC2.1 regulates the expression of D-type cyclins in other cell types in addition to HAP1. To probe this question, we determined levels of CCND1 by western blot in a panel of cell lines from a diversity of cell lineages treated with the EZH2 inhibitor GSK126 for

six days. As expected, treatment of cells for six days with GSK126 resulted in a profound reduction in H3K27me3 levels in all cell lines tested and increased CCND1 expression in HAP1 cells (**Fig. 6D**). Interestingly, in the non-adherent, haploid CML cell line KBM7, from which HAP1 was derived⁹⁵, we also observed a dramatic increase in CCND1 levels. This suggests that the regulation of D-type cyclin by PRC2 observed in HAP1 was not the results of artifacts introduced during the initial isolation of this cell line. Additionally, we observed that GSK126 treatment resulted in increased levels of CCND1 in the breast cancer line MDA-MB-231 and the SV40-immortalized monkey kidney fibroblast cell line COS7 (**Fig. 6D**), suggesting that PRC2 activity can repress CCND1 expression in multiple mammalian cell lineages and species. In agreement with the context-dependent nature of PRC2 regulation of developmentally important loci, increased levels of CCND1 was not observed in the prostate adenocarcinoma cell line LNCaP and the immortalized mouse embryonic cell line NR-6, illustrating that regulation of CCND1 expression by PRC2 is not observed in all cellular lineages. To specifically probe the roles of PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 in the cell lines that displayed upregulation of CCND1 when all PRC2 activity was inhibited, we transduced COS7 and MDA-MB-231 cells with shRNAs targeting SUZ12, MTF2 and JARID2 and propagated cells for two weeks post selection. Consistent with results from propagation of these cell lines in GSK126, depletion of either SUZ12 and MTF2 in both COS7 and MDA-MB-231 resulted in significantly increased CCND1 expression (**Fig. 6E**), suggesting that MTF2-containing PRC2.1 represses this loci in diverse cell types in addition to HAP1.

While D-type cyclins are necessary to promote the kinase activity of CDK4/6, they have also been shown to play roles outside of the RB1-E2F pathway^{96–98}. Therefore, we sought to test if the increases in D-type cyclins seen in MTF2Δ cells lead to increased CDK4/6 activity, driving resistance to palbociclib treatment. First, we introduced alleles of CCND1 or CCND2 under the control of a doxycycline-inducible promoter into wild-type HAP1 cells. We then performed a competitive proliferation assay in the presence of palbociclib and monitored the advantage conferred by overexpression of D-type cyclins. Consistent with the interpretation that the increased levels of D-type cyclins resulted in palbociclib resistance observed in MTF2Δ cells, overexpression of either CCND1 or CCND2 was sufficient to induce resistance to palbociclib (**Fig. 55F**). Critically, as elevated cellular levels of D-type cyclins alone would be insufficient to drive palbociclib resistance, we tested to see if the increased expression of D-type cyclins in PRC2.1 mutant cell lines drove CDK4/6 association. To test this, we introduced a FLAG epitope-tagged copy of CDK6 into our knockout mutant cell lines, immunoprecipitated CDK6 and blotted for CCND1. We observed increased association of CCND1 with FLAG-tagged CDK6 in both SUZ12Δ and MTF2Δ, but not JARID2Δ, knockout cells (**Fig. 55G**), suggesting that elevated levels of D-type cyclins indeed drive the formation of active CDK4/6 complexes. Finally, if the increased cellular levels of CCND1 and CCND2 seen in the MTF2Δ cell lines enhanced CDK4/6 kinase activity. To probe this question, we determined the extent of RB1 phosphorylation at S807 and S811, two well-characterized CDK4/6 targeted residues that are common markers of proliferation and which are recognized by a single antibody. To do this, we titrated wild-type, MTF2Δ, and JARID2Δ cells with increasing amounts of palbociclib and determined the levels of total RB1 and phosphorylated RB1 levels to calculate the ratio at each concentration. In each of our cell lines, higher concentrations of palbociclib resulted in decreased levels of phosphorylated RB1, as expected. However, compared to WT or JARID2Δ cells, MTF2Δ mutant cells maintained a higher ratio of phosphorylated to unphosphorylated RB1 at each concentration of palbociclib tested (**Fig. 6F**). This result suggests that the increased levels of CCND1 and CCND2 in MTF2Δ cells increases CDK4/6 kinase activity, driving cells into S-phase (**Fig. 4G**). In total, our results suggest that MTF2-containing PRC2.1 antagonizes G1 progression by repressing expression of the D-type cyclins CCND1 and CCND2 in certain cellular contexts.

Discussion

Regulated progression through cell cycle phases is critical to normal cellular function and viability, while disordered progression is the hallmark of many disease states. Although the cell cycle has been an area of active research for decades, our understanding of its regulation remains incomplete. Using a chemogenetic approach, we found that inactivation of members of PRC2.1, but not factors specific to PRC2.2, resulted in profound resistance to the CDK4/6 inhibitor palbociclib. Loss of PRC2.1 complex members led to upregulation of the D-type cyclins CCND1 and CCND2, resulting in increased RB1 phosphorylation and S-phase entry in palbociclib-treated cells. We propose that PRC2.1, but not PRC2.2, mediates H3K27me3 deposition in the promoters CCND1 and CCND2 through the recognition of the CpG islands. These results tie PRC2.1 directly to the regulation of G1 progression.

In the chemogenomic screens reported here, we recovered genes in a diverse array of biological pathways that resulted in sensitivity or resistance to well-characterized cell cycle inhibitors. In addition, we observed that inactivation of genes involved in mitochondrial homeostasis resulted in resistance to palbociclib. Small molecule inhibitors of EZH2 or the electron transport chain co-administered with palbociclib resulted in enhanced cell proliferation (**Fig. 3D** [↗](#) and **4D** [↗](#)), supporting the observed chemical-genetic interaction seen in our screen. However, genes identified in genetic screens should be interpreted with caution. Reproducible, and sometimes robust interactions can sometimes result from complicated changes in doubling time or alterations to the physiologic state of the cell⁶⁸ [↗](#). It was recently demonstrated that genes encoding members of the electron transport chain are over-represented in DepMap co-dependency data, due to the remarkable stability of these protein complexes, which results in phenotypic lag that can vary in different backgrounds⁶⁸ [↗](#). While mitochondrial complex assembly factors as enriched in Metascape analysis of our camptothecin screen as well as in palbociclib (**Fig. 2C** [↗](#)), the enrichment was greater than 1600-fold more significant in palbociclib (**Fig. 3A** [↗](#)). Moreover, a number of reports have found increased oxygen consumption and ROS production due to greater number and size of mitochondria in cells treated palbociclib⁹⁰ [↗](#),⁹¹ [↗](#),⁹⁹ [↗](#). This is consistent with a direct effect of CDK4/6 activity on mitochondrial function. Thus, in the case of both the PRC2 and the mitochondrial gene cluster, our data and that of others suggest that these results represent a direct link between these pathways and CDK4/6 biology.

Recently, PRC2 subcomplex accessory proteins have been implicated in an increasing number of processes that define cellular identity, including stem cell maintenance, differentiation and cancer⁴¹ [↗](#),⁴² [↗](#),¹⁰⁰ [↗](#),¹⁰¹ [↗](#). Despite the importance of controlled cellular division to each one of these processes, few reports have interrogated the roles of the different subcomplexes outside of stem cell model systems or specifically on their role in cell cycle regulation. Here, we show that in cells that lose either MTF2 or SUZ12 continue to proliferate despite palbociclib blockade (**Fig. 4E** [↗](#) and **4G** [↗](#)). These mutants show no apparent change in the proportion of cells undergoing apoptosis and display a greater proportion of cells entering S-phase in the presence of palbociclib, compared to wild-type or JARID2Δ cells. This increase is consistent with our findings that in MTF2Δ cell lines treated with palbociclib, a higher percentage of RB1 remains phosphorylated, while a similar increase is not seen in JARID2Δ cells. Consistently, the increased expression of CCND1 observed in PRC2.1 mutant cell results in increased the amounts of CCND1 associated with FLAG-tagged CDK6 (**Fig. S5G** [↗](#)) and overexpression of either CCND1 or CCND2 was sufficient to drive palbociclib resistance in wild-type cells (**Fig. S5F** [↗](#)). We surmise that the upregulation of CCND1 and CCND2 expression observed in cells lacking MTF2 results in increased CDK4/6 kinase activity that is sufficient to overcome palbociclib-mediated inhibition. Critically, we did not observe any significant changes in expression of other classic regulators of the CDK4/6-RB1-E2F pathway in either our CUT&RUN or RNA-Seq datasets (**Fig. S5D** [↗](#) and **S5E** [↗](#)). While we cannot exclude the

possibility that MTF2 inactivation alters the expression of other factors that influence G1 progression, we propose CCND1 and CCND2 represent major targets of PRC2.1 repression restraining G1 progression in HAP1 cells. Our results that MTF2 represses CCND1 expression in MDA-MB-231 (**Fig. 6E**) may help explain the recent reports that low MTF2 expression leads to increased chemotherapeutic resistance in leukemia¹⁰² and down regulation of MTF2 was correlated with poorer clinical outcomes in breast cancer¹⁰³. However, more work is needed to determine whether D type cyclins are critical PRC2.1 targets in tumors.

Work over the past decade has implicated accessory proteins as critical for proper genomic localization of the PRC2 enzymatic core. However, reports differ on in what chromatin and cellular contexts these subcomplexes act. Data from both mouse and human ES cells has suggested that PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 have overlapping genomic occupancy^{72,74}, and that either subcomplex alone is capable of maintaining pluripotency^{72,74,104}. However, recent reports have found differing dependencies on these subcomplexes for proper distribution of H3K27me3 in cellular models of differentiation^{33,39,105–107}. For example, a recent study in a model of induced differentiation suggested that MTF2 is involved in the maintenance of repression of PRC2 genes, whereas JARID2 is important for de novo deposition of H3K27me3 critical for gene silencing through genes “pre-marked” with H2AK119ub1³⁹. Conversely, PRC2.1 was shown to be required for the majority of H3K27me3 deposition during induced cell-fate transitions in mESCs, whereas PRC2.2 was not³³. This study generated a triple knockout of all three PCL proteins (PHF1, MTF2 and PHF19), resulting in complete ablation of all PRC2.1 activity and did not probe the contribution of each accessory protein individually. Furthermore, MTF2 transcript levels are down regulated upon differentiation, whereas PHF1 and PHF19 levels increase¹⁰⁸. These data suggest that the subunit composition of PRC2.1 changes during this process. In our experiments, MTF2 is the only PCL subunit important for D-type cyclin repression. These data, along with our results using the EZH2 inhibitor GSK126 (**Fig. 6D**), are consistent with cell type-specific contributions of this class of proteins.

Using mutants of genes encoding subunits specific to either PRC2.1 or PRC2.2, we investigated the role of each subcomplex in cell cycle progression in HAP1 cells. In contrast to what has been demonstrated for ES cell lines where the two subcomplexes work synergically at the majority of sites^{72,74}, we show that MTF2 is required for the majority of H3K27me3 deposition at CpG islands genome-wide and JARID2 was only partially required for H3K27me3 at these loci (**Fig. 5E**). Importantly, the presence of MTF2 is more critical than JARID2 for the accumulation of H3K27me3 directly upstream of annotated transcription start sites in CpG islands-containing promoters in HAP1 cells (**Fig. 5F**). Concordant with the patterns in H3K27me3 in promoters, we found that MTF2 loss resulted in a greater number of upregulated transcripts than JARID2 loss (**Fig. 5B** and **Fig. S4D**). Finally, MTF2Δ cells displayed a stronger correlation between genes with decreased promoter H3K27me3 levels and increased transcription than did JARID2Δ lines (**Fig. 6A** and **Fig. S4E**). However, we cannot exclude the possibility that AEBP2 plays a larger role in the activity of PRC2.2 than does JARID2 in these cells, as we identified AEBP2 as significantly, albeit modestly, increasing sensitivity to palbociclib in pooled knockout cells (**Fig. 4A** and **4E**). As H3K27me3 peak distribution was altered in the JARID2Δ cell lines (**Fig. S3C**), loss of JARID2 could alter H3K27me3 sites distal to promoters to change chromosome architecture or enhancer-promoter interactions. Alternatively, genes upregulated by loss of either MTF2 or JARID2 which did not have a significant alteration in promoter H3K27 methylation could be indirect effects. A recent report found that while PRC2.2 activity was not required for establishment of H3K27me3 during differentiation, but was instead required for recruitment of a PRC1 complex required for higher level chromatin interactions³³. Future studies will be necessary to fully understand the coordination between these complexes.

The efficacy of CDK4/6 inhibitors in the treatment of HR+/HER2-breast cancer demonstrates the success of applying basic knowledge of cell cycle regulation to the generation of clinically-relevant drugs. However, despite this success in the treatment of breast cancer, the efficacy of CDK4/6

inhibition is variable, with 10-20% of tumors primarily resistant and an additional 40% becoming resistant to these drugs within the first two years^{109,110}. Moreover, CDK4/6 inhibitors are currently being explored for other tumor types, and these are each likely to have novel resistance mechanisms^{101,111,112}. Thus, understanding perturbations in molecular pathways that can result in resistance to CDK4/6 inhibition could lead to improved patient responses and outcomes. In this study, we found that mutation of the PRC2.1 accessory protein MTF2 results in the development of resistance to palbociclib-induced proliferation reduction. Previously, EZH2, SUZ12, EED, MTF2 and JARID2 have all been suggested to not only act as oncogenes^{113–120}, but also to have tumor suppressor activities^{36,77,100,102,103,121,122}, depending on the type of cancer. Additionally, other chemogenetic screens utilizing palbociclib and have not identified that inactivation of PRC2 components as either enhancing or reducing palbociclib-induced proliferation defects^{123,124}, suggesting that PRC2 mutation is neutral in the cell lines studied. These observations not only underscore the context-dependent ramifications of mutation of these PRC2 complex members, but also may help inform the context in which CDK4/6 inhibitors are most efficacious. Clinical trials using CDK4/6 inhibitors in combination with other therapeutics are underway and the mutational status and expression levels of PRC2 subunits might serve as predictors of efficacy.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the members of the Toczyski, Jura, Ramani and Shen lab for their experimental and intellectual feedback on the preparation of this manuscript. I would specifically like to thank Hiten Madhani and Natalia Jura for their thoughtful discussions on this project and for mediating collaborations critical in completion of this work. Additionally, I would like to thank Nerea Sanvisens Delgado for initial compound dosing used in this study and Sarah Elmes for support in developing our flow cytometry experiments. This work was supported by an NIH grant R35 GM118104, a grant from the UCSF Breast Oncology Program (BOP) and the Sandler Program for Breakthroughs in Biomedical Research (PBBR) to David Toczyski and R01AG057497, R01EY027789, UM1HG009402 and U01DA052713 to Yin Shen. DNA sequencing was performed at the UCSF Center for Advanced Technology, and flow cytometry and qRT-PCT at UCSF Laboratory of Cell Analysis.

Lead Contact and Materials Availability

Requests for further information and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, David Toczyski (dpt4darwin@gmail.com).

Methods

Cell Lines

Cas9 expressing HAP1 and KBM7 cells were cultured in IMDM (Gibco) supplemented with 4mM glutamine (Gibco), 10% Tetracycline-free FBS (Sigma-Aldrich) and either 1x Antibiotic, Antimycotic (Invitrogen) or 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich). HAP1 cells stably expressed Cas9 were employed for the whole-genome screen, while for subsequent experiments, a HAP1 line harboring a doxycycline-inducible Cas9 was utilized. COS7, MDA-MB-231, NR-6 and HEK293T cells used for the production of virus were cultured in DMEM (Gibco) supplemented with 2mM glutamine (Gibco), 10% Tetracycline-free FBS (Sigma-Aldrich) in 1x Antibiotic, Antimycotic (Invitrogen). LNCaP M-1 #2166 cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 (Gibco) supplemented with 2mM glutamine (Gibco), 10% Tetracycline-free FBS (Sigma-Aldrich) in 1x Antibiotic, Antimycotic (Invitrogen). Cells

were detached from tissue culture dishes using 0.25% Trypsin (Gibco) and maintained at 37°C, 5% CO₂. Our laboratory conducts regular mycoplasma testing of cultured cells with the MycoAlert Mycoplasma Detection kit (Lonza), and no mycoplasma contamination of any cell line was detected during this study.

Genome-wide chemical screening

The lentiviral TKOv3 sgRNA library (Addgene #90294) was used to perform pooled genome-wide CRISPR knockout screens. The library contains 70,948 guides, targeting 18,053 protein-coding genes (4 guides/gene). Ninety million HAP1 cells stably expressing Cas9 were seeded into 15cm dishes and infected with TKOv3 lentivirus at a multiplicity of infection of roughly 0.3, such that every sgRNA is represented in approximately 200-300 cells after selection (>200-fold coverage). After 24 hours of infection, cells with successful viral integration were selected in 25mL IMDM medium containing 1µg/mL puromycin (Sigma-Aldrich). Selection took place for 48 hours. Following selection, cells were harvested, pooled, and split into 3 replicates of 15 million cells each to maintain >200-fold coverage of the sgRNA library (day 0). At day 3, each replicate was split such that every drug screen had a at least 15 million cells per replicate to maintain >200-fold coverage. The drug concentrations (IC₃₀-IC₅₀ determined as described below) used in the genome-wide chemical screens were as follows: Palbociclib - 0.7µM, Colchicine - 9.2nM, Camptothecin - 1nM. An increase in potency was observed for most drugs when used in the pooled screens, thus screening concentrations were adjusted to preserve IC₃₀-IC₅₀ throughout each passage. Cells were subject to treatment with drug in 0.1% DMSO, or 0.1% DMSO alone. Drug-containing media was refreshed every 3 days, along with the passaging of cells and the collection of cell pellets. To preserve >200-fold coverage, 20 million cells were pelleted with every passage, from day 0 to day 18.

Genomic DNA extraction and sequencing library preparation were performed as described previously⁵³. Briefly, genomic DNA from cell pellets were extracted using the Wizard Genomics DNA Purification Kit (Promega) and quantified using the Qubit dsDNA Broad Range Assay kit (Invitrogen). Sequencing libraries were prepared as described previously¹²⁵. Briefly, two PCR amplification steps were performed to first enrich for the sgRNA-regions in the genome and second, attach Illumina sequencing indices to the amplified regions. Sequencing libraries were prepared from 50µg of genomic DNA (200-fold library coverage) using the NEBNext Ultra II Q5 Polymerase (NEB). Primers used included Illumina TruSeq adapters with i5 and i7 indices. Barcoded libraries were gel-purified using the PureLink Quick Gel Extract kit (ThermoFisher) and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq2500.

Drug concentrations for chemical screening

Drug dosing experiments were performed to determine screening concentrations. HAP1 cells stably expressing Cas9 were seeded at a density of 2.5 million cells per 15-cm dish. Cells were treated with 0.1% DMSO, or drug in 0.1% DMSO, 2 hours after seeding. Viable adherent cells were counted 2 days post-treatment on a Coulter counter, and inhibitory concentrations were determined. The following are ranges of drug concentrations used in the dosing experiments: Palbociclib: 1.5-10µM, Colchicine: 1.5-150nM, Camptothecin: 1-5nM.

Orobas Pipeline for Scoring Chemical Genetic interactions

The Orobas pipeline (version 0.5.0) was used to score chemical genetic interactions from the genome-wide CRISPR/Cas9 screen data. The process is summarized here, and the complete R code is provided as a supplemental file. sgRNAs were normalized to sequencing depth for each sample and the log₂ fold change (LFC) in sgRNA abundance was calculated for each condition relative to the corresponding T0 sample. Guides with fewer than 30 read counts in the T0 sample were filtered out from further analysis, and genes with fewer than 3 remaining guides post-filtering were also filtered out from scoring. Residual effects were computed for each gene by calculating the residual LFC between sgRNAs in treated vs. DMSO samples after averaging technical replicate

LFCs. Residual effects were then M-A transformed and loess-normalized to account for potential skew and non-linearity present in the data, and per-gene effect sizes and FDRs were computed by applying the moderated t-test to normalized residual effects. Hits were called as genes with FDRs less than 0.4 and per-gene effect sizes greater than 0.5 or less than -0.5 (a complete list of effect sizes and FDRs is included as Table S1).

STRING Interaction Network Generation

STRING networks were set to only display physical interactions scores that were returned with high confidence (0.7) and taken from text-mining, experiments and databases.

sgRNA Lentiviral Vector Cloning

Oligos for sgRNA targets were designed to contain the 5' overhang CACCG- for the sense oligo 5' and for that antisense 3' over hang AAAC- and -C, respectively. 10 μ M each of sense and antisense oligos (Integrated DNA Technologies) were mixed in 1x T4 DNA Ligase buffer and water to a total volume of 10 μ L. This mixture was heated to 95°C for 5 mins, then oligos were annealed by decreasing the temperature at a rate of - 0.1°C/second till the mix reached 25°C. Annealing reactions were diluted 1:10 with water and then 1 μ L was used to ligate into 100ng of BsmBI digested pLentiGuidePuro vector (Addgene #52963) in 1x T4 DNA Ligase Buffer. 600 units of T4 DNA Ligase (NEB) and water to a total volume of 25 μ L. After incubating for 1hr at 37°C, 2 μ L of the ligation reaction was transformed into β -ME pre-treated XL10-Gold cells (Agilent) per the manufacturer's instructions and plated on LB + 100 μ g/mL carbenicillin plates for selection. Plasmids recovered from single colonies were confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

Polyclonal and Monoclonal Knockout Generation

Cas9 expressing HAP1 cells were transduced with pLentiGuidePuro vectors (Addgene #52963) expressing a single sgRNA (see Table S5 for sgRNA sequence). Lentiviral transduction was conducted at low MOI (~30%) following standard protocols. Integration of the sgRNA was selected with 1 μ g/mL puromycin for up to two days, followed by combined puromycin selection and Cas9 induction for three days with 1 μ g/mL doxycycline. This polyclonal pool of pLentiGuidePuro transduced cells was then used for "pooled" knockout experiments or used to generate monoclonal cell lines. Trypsinized, single cells were then sorted into individual wells in a 96-well plate using the Sony SH800 sorter (UCSF, LCA). Isolated single cell-derived colonies were screened for mutation by PCR, followed by Sanger sequencing of the purified PCR product and ICE analysis (Synthego) of the resulting chromatographs. Candidate clonal knockouts were then confirmed by Western blot. Only monoclonal lines that clearly displayed knockout alleles and had no protein product by western blot were utilized further.

Competitive growth assays (GFP/BFP pooled knockouts and GFP+/monoclonal knockout pools)

For pooled knockout competitive growth assays, HAP1 cells harboring an inducible Cas9 and expressing GFP and HAP1 cells expressing BFP (Hundley et al.) were mixed at a ratio of 1:4 GFP:BFP HAP1 cells into a single well, with three GFP/BFP cell mixtures for each gene targeted for inactivation. Mixtures were transduced at a low MOI with a pLentiGuidePuro vector expressing one sgRNA (three biological replicates per gene, sgRNAs in Table S5). After 24 hours of lentiviral transduction, pools of cells were selected with 1 μ g/mL puromycin for one day, followed by 1 μ g/mL puromycin and doxycycline for three days to select for sgRNA integration and to induce Cas9 expression. After three days of Cas9 induction, pools were split into media with or without palbociclib every three days, for eighteen days. The GFP/BFP ratio was monitored on the Attune NxT (Invitrogen) flow cytometer every three days. FlowJo v10 was used to determine the GFP/BFP ratio at each time point. The ratio of GFP to BFP was normalized to the day zero ratio (prior to splitting into palbociclib), and subsequently to the matched untreated ratio at each time point.

For HAP1 GFP⁺/GFP⁻ competitive growth assays, wild-type, doxycycline-inducible CCND1, doxycycline-inducible CCND2, clonal MTF2Δ or JARID2Δ GFP⁻ cells were mixed with HAP1 wild-type GFP⁺ clones at 1:5 GFP⁺:GFP⁻ ratio, split into media with or without drug, and analyzed by flow cytometry as described above.

Western blotting

Harvested cell pellets were lysed in 1x RIPA buffer supplemented with 1x EDTA-free cOmplete protease inhibitor (Roche) and 1x PhosphoSTOP phosphatase inhibitor (Roche) for 30 minutes on ice with two rounds of 15 second vortexing. Lysates were cleared at 21,000 x g for 10mins at 4°C. Protein concentration was determined by BCA assay and BSA standard curve (Pierce), and samples were adjusted to 1μg/μL total protein with 1xRIPA and SDS-PAGE sample loading buffer was added (62.5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 2.5% SDS, 0.1% bromophenol blue, 10% glycerol, 5% β-mercaptoethanol (v/v)). 10μg of total protein was loaded per lane onto a 4-20% Criterion Tris-HCl Protein gel (Bio-Rad) and separated by electrophoresis at 150 V for 1hr. Proteins were transferred and immobilized onto a nitrocellulose membrane (GE Healthcare) by electrophoresis for 1h at 100V in standard transfer buffer containing 20% methanol. Membranes were blocked for an hour at room temperature and then probed overnight in a 1:1000 dilution of 1° antibody (unless otherwise indicated) at 4°C and in a 1:10,000 2° antibody at room temperature for 1hr in the appropriate blocking buffer. Chemiluminescent and fluorescent signals were visualized with an Odyssey FC imager (LICOR).

Cell Cycle Analysis by Propidium Iodide

200,000 cells/well were plated in 6 well dishes at, as to be 10-20% confluent at the time of treatment. Cells were treated with inhibitors 24h after plating, then harvested 48h later by trypsinization, washed twice with cold 1x PBS, fixed by dropwise addition of ice-cold 70% ethanol, and incubated at 4°C overnight. Fixed samples were washed twice with 1x PBS + 1% BSA prior to resuspension in a solution of 1x PBS, 1mg/mL RNase A and 50 μg/mL propidium iodide for 1 hour at 37°C. DNA content of at least 20,000 single cells was determined by Attune NxT flow cytometer (Invitrogen), and data were analyzed using FlowJo v10.

BrdU Incorporation Assay

250,000 cells/well were plated in 6-well dishes and grown for 24hrs prior to treatment. Cells were then treated with either DMSO (mock) or 1.5μM palbociclib for a total of 24hrs, with 10μM BrdU being added to the culture medium 1hr prior to harvesting. Cells were counted using the Countess automatic hemocytometer (Invitrogen) to ensure that only 1 million cells were stained. Cells were prepared for analysis using BD Pharmagen BrdU Flow Kits (BD Biosciences) according to the manufacturer's instructions. BrdU incorporation was determined for at least 20,000 single cells by Attune NxT flow cytometer (Invitrogen), and data were analyzed using FlowJo v10.

Quantitative Crystal Violet Proliferation Assay

1mL of a 1,000 cells/mL suspension were seeded into a per well in a 6-well plate containing 1mL IMDM supplemented with double the indicated concentration of palbociclib and GSK126 in technical triplicate. Cells were allowed to proliferate for nine days, with the media supplemented with the drug at the concentration indicated replaced every three days. After nine days, cells were washed once with 1x PBS, followed by staining and fixation in a 0.25% Crystal Violet, 20% methanol solution for 10mins at room temperature. Following staining, cells were washed six times with 1x PBS and lysed in a 100mM sodium citrate and 50% ethanol solution for 30mins at room temperature on an orbital shaker. Lysates were recovered and absorbance at 590nm was detected using a Synergy Neo2 Microplate Reader (BioTek). Proliferation at each concentration was determined relative to untreated wells.

PrestoBlue Proliferation Assay

45µL of a 50,000 cells/mL cell suspension was seeded into a 96-well plate containing 45µL of IMDM supplemented with the indicated concentration of palbociclib, antimycin A, TTFA or oligomycin in triplicate. After proliferation for 48hrs, 10µL of PrestoBlue (Invitrogen) was added to each well and incubated for 30mins at 37°C. Conversion of PrestoBlue was determined by recording the fluorescence excitation at 560nm and emission at 590nm using a Synergy Neo2 Microplate Reader (BioTek). Proliferation at each concentration was determined relative to untreated wells.

RNA Extraction

150,000 cells were seeded into 6-well plates and allowed to grow overnight. Cells were treated with DMSO (Mock) or 1.5µM palbociclib for 24hrs prior to harvesting directly in TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen). After chloroform extraction, the aqueous phase was transferred to a fresh tube and 1 volume of 100% ethanol was added and mixed thoroughly before binding to an RNA Clean & Concentrator (Zymo). RNA was DNase I digested on-column (Zymo), purified according to the manufacturer's instructions and eluted in nuclease-free water. To prepare RNA-Seq libraries, 2µg of total RNA was polyA, followed by Illumina adaptor ligation and paired-end sequencing on an Illumina HiSeq at a depth of at least 22 million reads per sample by Azenta.

First Strand cDNA Synthesis and qRT-PCR

2µg of total RNA was first heat denatured in the presence of dNTPs and oligo-dT at 65°C for 5mins. RNase inhibitor and Tetro reverse transcriptase (Bioline) was then added to heat denatured total RNA and cDNA was synthesized at 45°C for 1hr, followed by heat inactivation at 85°C for 5mins. cDNA synthesis reactions were then diluted 1:5 and 2µL was added into qRT-PCR reaction mix, utilizing SensiFast Lo-ROX qRT-PCR Mastermix (Bioline) in both biological and technical triplicate. Reactions were carried out and analyzed using a QuantStudio5 machine (Applied Biosystems). See Table S5 for qRT-PCR primer sequences.

FLAG Immunoprecipitation

2xFLAG-2xStrep-CDK6 expressing PRC2 component monoclonal knockout mutant HAP1 cells were harvested and lysed on ice in a 10mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 1mM MgCl₂, 1mM EDTA, 1% NP-40 lysis buffer supplemented with cOmplete Protease Inhibitor (Roche) and PhosphoSTOP (Roche) tablets by passage through a 21-gauge syringe and rotation at 4°C for 30 minutes. Lysates were clarified by centrifugation at 21,000 rcf for 15 minutes at 4°C and the protein content was quantified and the input was normalized to 5µg/immunoprecipitation. 150µL of FLAG-conjugated Dynabeads slurry (Invitrogen) was added to each normalized lysate and immunoprecipitated overnight at 4°C under constant rotation. The following immunoprecipitation, Dynabeads were washed five times with a 1xPBS, 0.1% NP-40 buffer and bound protein was eluted from the beads in 1xPBS, 0.1% NP-40 buffer supplemented with 5µg of 3x-FLAG peptide (Sigma). Resulting eluates were then analyzed by SDS-PAGE and western blots.

CUT&RUN Library Preparation

CUT&RUN libraries were generated by first lysing 300,000-500,000 cells in 500µL of Nuclei Extraction Buffer (20mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.9, 10mM KCl, 1mM MgCl₂, 0.1% Triton X-100, 20% glycerol, and 1x protease inhibitor) for 10 minutes on ice. Next, samples were spun down and washed twice with Nuclei Extraction Buffer before being resuspended in 500µL nuclei extraction buffer. 10µL of Concanavalin A-coated beads (EpiCypher) previously washed in Wash Buffer (20mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 150mM NaCl, 2mM EDTA, 0.5mM spermidine, and 1x protease inhibitor) and resuspended in Binding Buffer (20mM HEPES-KOH pH 7.5, 1mM CaCl₂, and 1mM MnCl₂) were then added to the samples and incubated with rotation for 15 min at 4°C. Next, samples were washed once with Binding Buffer before being resuspended in 50 µL of Buffer 2

containing 0.1% BSA, 2μM EDTA and 0.5μL H3K27me3 1° antibody, followed by overnight incubation with rotation at 4°C. Following the incubation, samples were washed twice with Buffer 2 before being incubated in 50μL of Buffer 2 containing ~700ng/mL Protein A-MNase fusion protein (Batch #6 from the Henikoff Lab) for 1 hour with rotation at 4°C. Samples were washed two more times and resuspended in 100 μL of Buffer 2 before starting the MNase digestion by adding CaCl₂ to a concentration of 2mM on ice for 30 minutes, after which the reaction was quenched with the addition of 100 μL 2X Stop Buffer (200mM NaCl, 20mM EDTA, 4mM EGTA, 50μg/mL RNase A, 40μg/mL GlycoBlue (Ambion), and 2pg/mL spike-in DNA) to inactivate the MNase. Samples were incubated for 30 min at 37°C and spun down for 5 minutes at 4°C to release DNA fragments. DNA was phenol:chloroform extracted and 200μL of the recovered aqueous phase was ethanol precipitated with 500μL ethanol, 20μL 3M NaOAc, 2μL GlycoBlue at -80°C. Libraries were prepared using 2S Plus DNA Library Kit adapters (Swift Biosciences) and size-selected using SPRIselect beads (Beckman Coulter) before being amplified and sent for paired-end sequencing on the NovaSeq 6000 (150 bp reads).

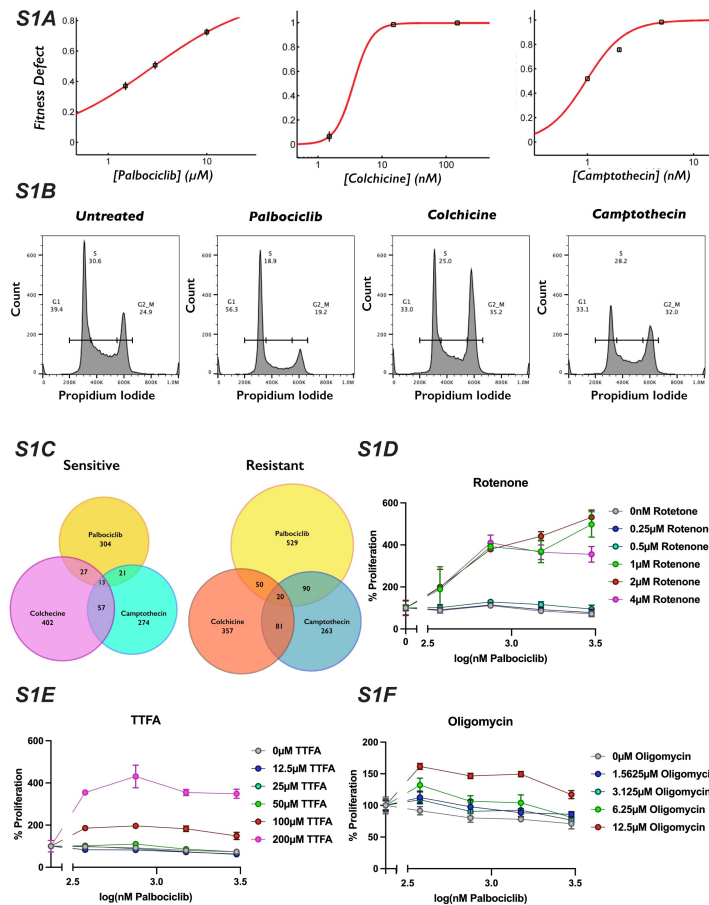
CUT&RUN Processing and Analysis

CUT&RUN paired reads were aligned to a reference human genome (hg38) by the bwa-mem algorithm. PCR duplicate reads were removed by Picard and peaks were called using macs2 with the broad flag and an FDR of 0.05. Bedtools intersect was used to identify reproducible peaks between biological replicates of each condition, and reproducible peaks from each condition were compiled into a list. Bedtools multicov was used to build a matrix with the number of reads from each dataset falling in each region in this list. This matrix was used for all ‘genome wide’ analyses. Bedtools multicov was also used to build a matrix with the number of reads from each dataset in a 5,000bp window around the transcription start site (4kb upstream, 1kb downstream) of all hg38 genes defined by gencode v41. The gencode v41 annotation for CCND2 was originally incorrectly assigned to chr12:4,265,771-4,270,771 and reassigned using the Refseq coordinates chr12:4,269,762-4,274,762. Count matrices were analyzed with DESeq2 to compare changes in H3K27me3 deposition globally, and changes in H3K27me3 deposition in promoters. For heatmaps, deduplicated BAM files were converted to bigwigs and BED files and normalized reads per kilobase per million mapped read using deepTools bamCoverage. For genome wide analyses, H3K27me3 CUT&RUN signal in normalized bigwigs was measured using deepTools computeMatrix in 10kb regions centered around WT peaks overlapping with CpG islands. For promoter analyses, H3K27me3 CUT&RUN signal in normalized bigwigs was measured using deepTools computeMatrix in 5kb regions (4kb upstream, 1kb downstream) around transcription start sites for promoters overlapping with CpG islands. Promoters with the highest average H3K27me3 signal intensity in wild-type replicate 1 and sorted in descending order.

RNA-seq Processing and Analysis

RNA-seq paired reads were quantified using Salmon. Transcript-level abundance estimates from Salmon and gene-level count matrices were created using Tximport and analyzed using DESeq2. Paired reads were aligned using STAR to generate BAM files. BAM files were converted to BED files using bamCoverage and normalized using RPKMs and to effective genome size of hg38 (2,913,022,398) with a bin size of 10.

Supplemental Figures



Supplementary Figure 1

Dosing to Determine Inhibitor Concentration for Chemogenetic Screen

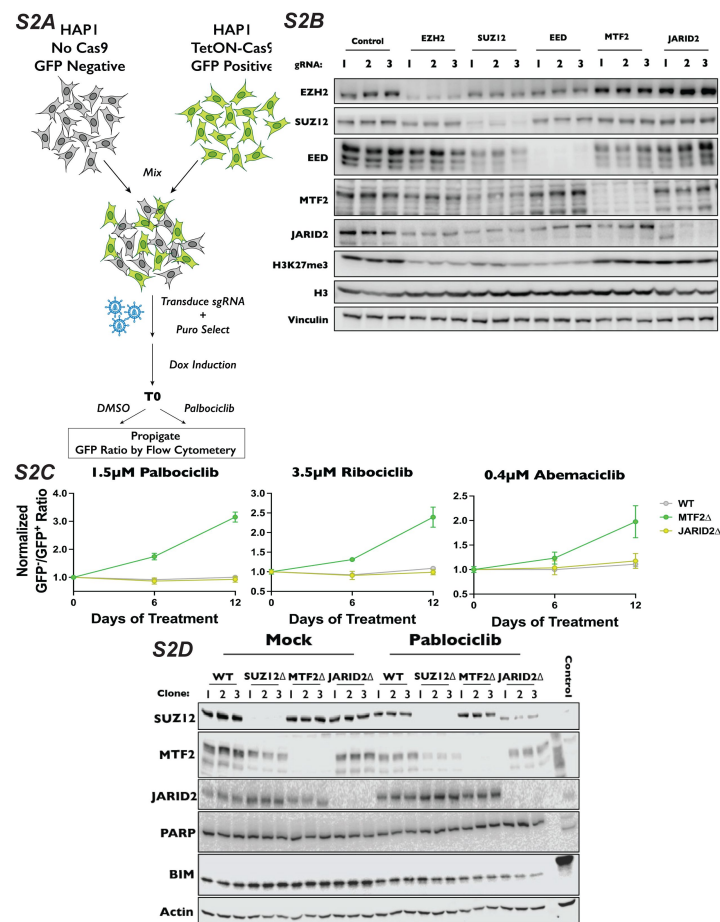
(S1A): Drug dosing experiments were performed to determine screening concentrations. Cells were counted during passage in increasing doses of camptothecin (*left*), palbociclib (*center*) and colchicine (*right*).

(S1B): Representative images of flow cytometry traces from untreated cells or cells treated with 0.7 μM palbociclib, 9.2nM colchicine or 1nM camptothecin treated cells for three days, then stained propidium iodide. Plots represent the number of stained cells with a given propidium iodide intensity.

(S1C): Venn diagrams showing overlap for significant genes that sensitized (*left*) or de-sensitized cells (*right*) to each condition tested. Genes that were determined as significant in all three screens were omitted in further analyses.

(S1D): Dose-response curve of palbociclib-induced proliferation rescue in combination with oxidative phosphorylation inhibitors by PrestoBlue assay. Data represents mean of three technical replicates, normalized to the initial dose of each inhibitor in indicated concentration of rotenone, $\pm\text{StdDev}$. (S1E): Same as in (S1D) but for TTFA.

(S1F): Same as in (S1D) but for Oligomycin.



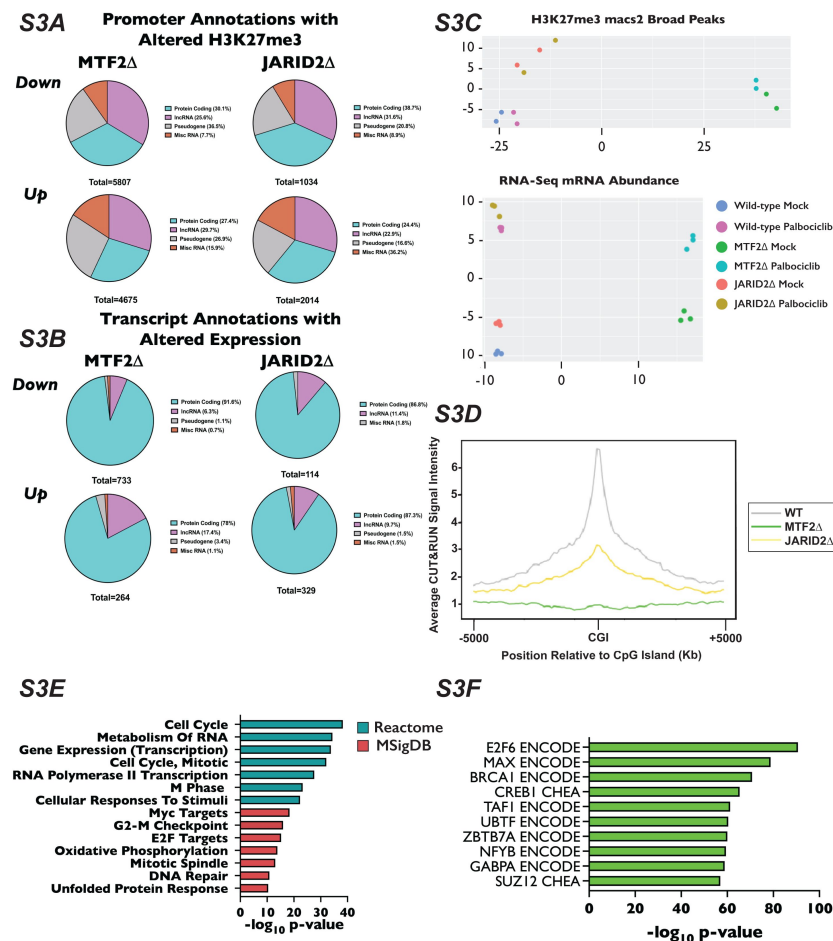
Supplementary Figure 2

Assays to Determine Resistance of PRC2 Component Mutants to CDK4/6 Inhibitors

(S2A): Schematic of internally controlled competitive proliferation assay used to validate chemogenetic results or knockout cell line proliferation when treated with palbociclib. In experiments where we generated pooled knockouts, GFP⁺ cells expressing Cas9 were mixed with GFP⁻ cells without Cas9 (as in [Figure 4E](#)). For competitive proliferation experiments with monoclonal knockout cell lines, GFP⁺, Cas9 expressing cells were mixed with GFP⁻ monoclonal knockout lines (as in Supplemental Figure 2C).

(S2B): Western blots demonstrating the efficacy of indicated sgRNA used in the competitive proliferation assay.

(S2C): Competitive proliferation assay for or monoclonal knockout cell lines. wild-type, MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cell lines (GFP⁻) were mixed with wild-type cells expressing Cas9 and GFP (GFP⁺) and treated with either DMSO (mock) or 1.5μM palbociclib (*left*), 3.5μM ribociclib (*center*) or 0.4μM abemaciclib (*right*). Cells were split every three days and the GFP⁻/GFP⁺ ratio was assessed every six days by flow cytometry. (S2D): Western blot of protein extracts from cells treated with DMSO (mock) or 1.5μM palbociclib for 48 hours, probed with indicated antibody. PARP cleavage and BIM from protein extracts from RPE1 cells over-expressing a doxycycline-inducible HA-tagged BIM to induce apoptosis as a control.



Supplementary Figure 3

Analysis of Changes in H3K27me3 Distribution in CUT&RUN and Differentially Expressed Genes in RNA-Seq Experiments

(S3A): Venn diagrams of the Gencode Annotations of promoters that had significantly up regulated (top row) and down regulated H3K27me3 (bottom row) for MTF2Δ (left) and JARID2Δ cells (right). Significant promoters were determined as having a log₂ fold change ±1 and an adjusted p-value of <0.1.

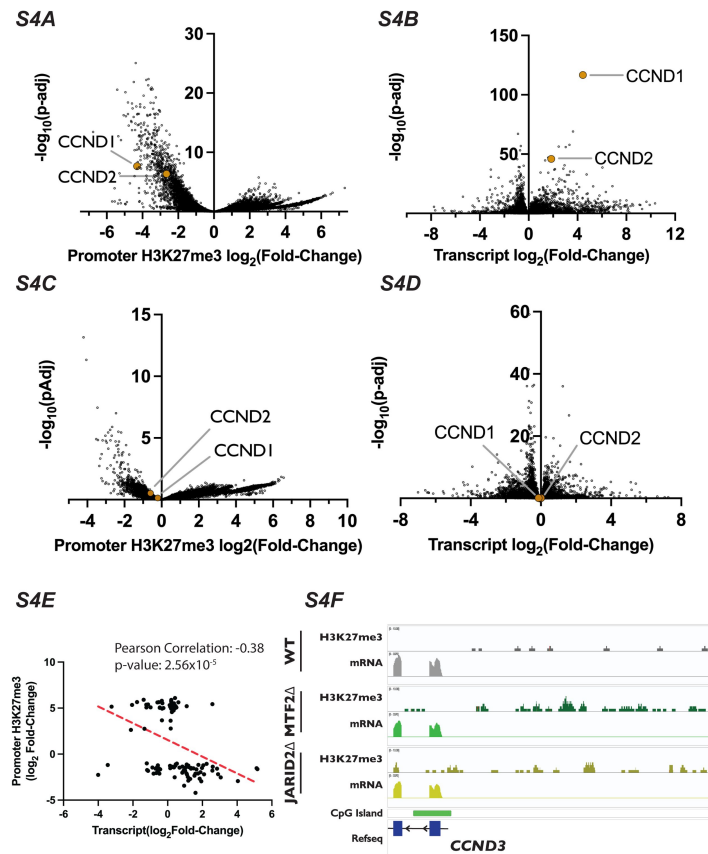
(S3B): Same as in (S3B) only for our RNA-Seq experiments and significant promoters were determined as having a log₂ fold change ±1 and an adjusted p-value < 0.05.

(S3C): *Top* - PCA plot of H3K27me3 peaks called by macs2 from CUT&RUN experiment done in biological duplicate. *Bottom* - PCA plot of RNA-seq reads for experiment in biological triplicate.

(S3D): Average H3K27me3 distribution over a 10kb window for 1,877 peaks overlapping with CGIs. Genomic regions are ordered by the H3K27me3 read density intensity in wild-type cells then plotted for the same loci in MTF2Δ and JARID2Δ cells. Plots are of one of two biological replicate.

(S3E): Bar plot of log₁₀(p-value) of Reactome (teal bars) and MSigDB (red bars) terms associated with promoters of protein coding genes that contain at least one CGI.

(S3F): Bar plot of -log₁₀(p-value) for the enrichment of a given transcription factors from ENCODE and ChEA databases binding to the list of promoters with overlapping GGIs and H3K27me3 peaks.



Supplementary Figure 4

Analysis of Differential H3K27me3 Distribution and Transcript Expression of D-type Cyclins in CUT&RUN and RNA-Seq Data Sets

(S4A): Volcano plot of DESeq2 calculated changes in $\log_2$ fold-change in H3K27me3 signal in promoters versus the $\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$ in enrichment in MTF2 Δ cells determined by CUT&RUN. CCND1 and CCND2 location within the dataset are indicated by yellow dots.

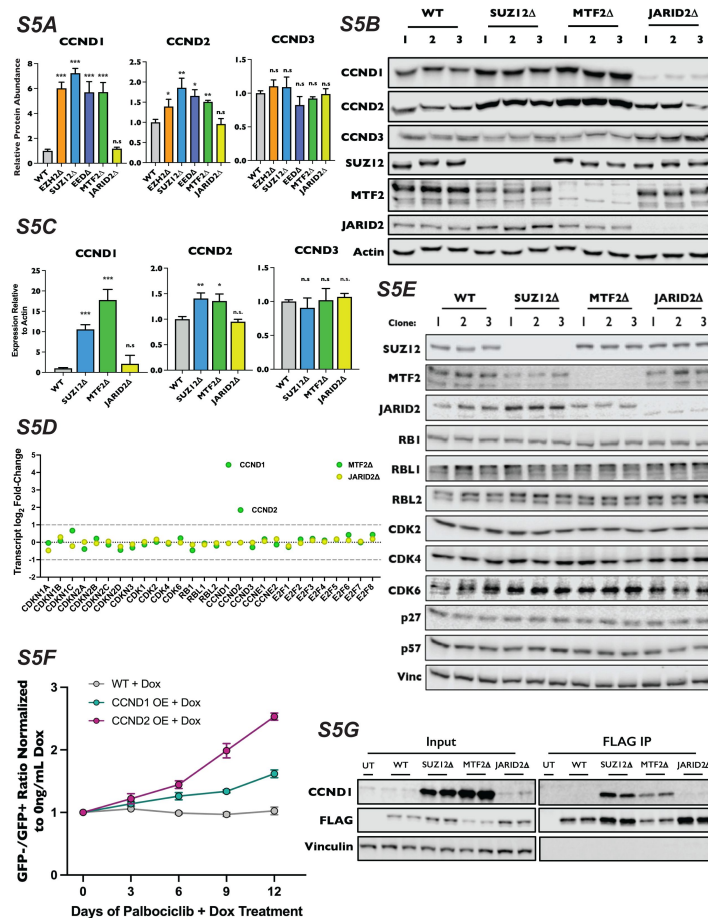
(S4B): Same as in (S4A) but for transcript abundance determined by RNA-seq of MTF2 Δ cells.

(S4C): Volcano plot of DESeq2 calculated changes in $\log_2$ fold-change in H3K27me3 signal in promoters versus the $\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$ in enrichment in JARID2 Δ cells determined by CUT&RUN. CCND1 and CCND2 location within the dataset are indicated by yellow dots.

(S4D): Same as in (S4C) but for transcript abundance determined by RNA-seq of JARID2 Δ cells.

(S4E): Scatter plot of $\log_2$ fold-change in transcript abundance vs H3K27me3 promoter signal for genes with an adjusted p-value <0.1 in our CUT&RUN and adjusted p-value <0.05 in our RNA-Seq from JARID2 Δ cell lines.

(S4F): Genome browser traces of H3K27me3, transcript coverage and CGI location within the CCND3 promoter region.



Supplementary Figure 5

Regulation of D-type Cyclin Expression by PRC2.1 and PRC2.2

(S5A): Quantification of protein signal from western blot in **Fig. 6C** for CCND1 (left), CCND2 (center), and CCND3 (right) normalized to Actin. Each bar is the mean for three biological replicates, error bars $\pm$ StDev.

*: p-value<0.05, **: p-value<0.005, ***: p-value<0.0005, n.s.: not significant, two tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

(S5B): Western blots of whole-cell lysates of three-independently isolated monoclonal SUZ12 Δ , MTF2 Δ and JARID2 Δ knockout cell lines probed with the indicated antibodies.

(S5C): qRT-PCR relative quantification of CCND1, CCND2 and CCND3 mRNA levels in wild-type, SUZ12 Δ , MTF2 Δ and JARID2 Δ cells, three biological replicates, performed in technical triplicate, $\pm$ StDev.

*: p-value<0.05, **: p-value<0.005, ***: p-value<0.0005, n.s.: not significant, two tailed unpaired Student's t-test.

(S5D): Dot plot of log₂ fold-change for indicated mRNAs in MTF2 Δ and JARID2 Δ cells. Established cut-off for significant log₂-fold change indicated by dashed grey line.

(S5E): Western blot for a panel of G1 regulators from lysates of wild-type, SUZ12 Δ , MTF2 Δ and JARID2 Δ cell lines from three knockout cell lines probed with indicated antibodies.

(S5F): Competitive proliferation assay of CCND1 and CCND2 overexpression cell lines resistance to palbociclib. Wild-type, dox-inducible CCND1 and dox-inducible CCND2 polyclonal HAP1 cell lines (GFP⁺) were mixed with wild-type cells expressing GFP (GFP⁺) and treated with either DMSO (mock) or 1.5 μ M palbociclib, in the presence or absence of 500ng/mL doxycycline. Mock and palbociclib-containing media, with or without doxycycline was replaced daily. Cells were split and GFP⁺/GFP⁺ ratio was assessed by flow cytometry every three days. Fitness of each overexpression of each pool was determined by first normalizing the GFP⁺/GFP⁺ ratio to the minus doxycycline control and then the ratio of GFP⁺/GFP⁺ between the mock and palbociclib conditions.

(S5G): Co-immunoprecipitation of 2xFLAG-2xStrep-CDK6 expressed in wild-type, SUZ12 Δ , MTF2 Δ and JARID2 Δ knockout cell lines, probed with the indicated antibodies.

References

1. Ginzberg MB, Kafri R, Kirschner M (2015) **On being the right (cell) size** *Science* (80-) **348** <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1245075>
2. Massagué J (2004) **G1 cell-cycle control and cancer** *Nature* **432**:298–306 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature03094>
3. Bertoli C, Skotheim JM, De Bruin RAM (2013) **Control of cell cycle transcription during G1 and S phases** *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* **14**:518–528 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrm3629>
4. Rubin SM, Sage J, Skotheim JM (2020) **Integrating Old and New Paradigms of G1/S Control** *Mol Cell* **80**:183–192 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2020.08.020>
5. Malumbres M, Barbacid M (2005) **Mammalian cyclin-dependent kinases** *Trends Biochem Sci*. **30**:630–641 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tibs.2005.09.005>
6. Bracken AP, Ciro M, Cocito A, Helin K (2004) **E2F target genes: Unraveling the biology** *Trends Biochem Sci* **29**:409–417 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tibs.2004.06.006>
7. Dickler MN, Tolaney SM, Rugo HS, et al. (2017) **MONARCH 1, a phase II study of abemaciclib, a CDK4 and CDK6 inhibitor, as a single agent, in patients with refractory HR+/HER2-metastatic breast cancer** *Clin Cancer Res* **23**:5218–5224 <https://doi.org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-17-0754>
8. Morrison L, Loibl S, Turner NC (2023) **The CDK4/6 inhibitor revolution — a game-changing era for breast cancer treatment** *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41571-023-00840-4>
9. Turner NC, Slamon DJ, Ro J, et al. (2018) **Overall Survival with Palbociclib and Fulvestrant in Advanced Breast Cancer** *N Engl J Med* **379**:1926–1936 <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa1810527>
10. Im S-A, Lu Y-S, Bardia A, et al. (2019) **Overall Survival with Ribociclib plus Endocrine Therapy in Breast Cancer** *N Engl J Med* **381**:307–316 <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa1903765>
11. Goel S, Bergholz JS, Zhao JJ (2022) **Targeting CDK4 and CDK6 in cancer** *Nat Rev Cancer* **22**:356–372 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41568-022-00456-3>
12. Cappell SD, Mark KG, Garbett D, Pack LR, Rape M, Meyer T (2018) **EMI1 switches from being a substrate to an inhibitor of APC/CCDH1 to start the cell cycle** *Nature* **558**:313–317 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0199-7>
13. Cappell SD, Chung M, Jaimovich A, Spencer SL, Meyer T (2016) **Irreversible APC^{Cdh1} Inactivation Underlies the Point of No Return for Cell-Cycle Entry** *Cell* **166**:167–180 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2016.05.077>
14. Chung M, Liu C, Yang HW, Köberlin MS, Cappell SD, Meyer T (2019) **Transient Hysteresis in CDK4/6 Activity Underlies Passage of the Restriction Point in G1** *Mol Cell* **76**:562–573 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2019.08.020>

15. Zatulovskiy E, Zhang S, Berenson DF, Topacio BR, Skotheim JM (2020) **Cell growth dilutes the cell cycle inhibitor Rb to trigger cell division** *Science (80-)* **369**:466–471 <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaz6213>
16. Lewis EB (1978) **A gene complex controlling segmentation in *Drosophila*** *Nature* **276**:565–570 <https://doi.org/10.1038/276565a0>
17. Dumesic PA, Homer CM, Moresco JJ, et al. (2015) **Product binding enforces the genomic specificity of a yeast Polycomb repressive complex** *Cell* **160**:204–218 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2014.11.039>
18. Grimaud C, Bantignies F, Pal-Bhadra M, Ghana P, Bhadra U, Cavalli G (2006) **RNAi components are required for nuclear clustering of polycomb group response elements** *Cell* **124**:957–971 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2006.01.036>
19. Jamieson K, Rountree MR, Lewis ZA, Stajich JE, Selker EU (2013) **Regional control of histone H3 lysine 27 methylation in *Neurospora*** *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **110**:6027–6032 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1303750110>
20. Schuettengruber B, Bourbon HM, Di Croce L, Cavalli G (2017) **Genome Regulation by Polycomb and Trithorax: 70 Years and Counting** *Cell* **171**:34–57 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2017.08.002>
21. Kuroda MI, Kang H, De S, Kassis JA (2020) **Dynamic Competition of Polycomb and Trithorax in Transcriptional Programming** *Annu Rev Biochem* **89**:235–253 <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-biochem-120219-103641>
22. Son J, Shen SS, Margueron R, Reinberg D (2013) **Nucleosome-binding activities within JARID2 and EZH1 regulate the function of PRC2 on chromatin** *Genes Dev* **27**:2663–2677 <https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.225888.113>
23. Hauri S, Comoglio F, Seimiya M, et al. (2016) **A High-Density Map for Navigating the Human Polycomb Complexome** *Cell Rep* **17**:583–595 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2016.08.096>
24. van Mierlo G, Veenstra GJC, Vermeulen M, Marks H (2019) **The Complexity of PRC2 Subcomplexes** *Trends Cell Biol* **29**:660–671 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tcb.2019.05.004>
25. Piunti A, Shilatifard A (2021) **The roles of Polycomb repressive complexes in mammalian development and cancer** *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* **22**:326–345 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41580-021-00341-1>
26. Brown J Lesley, Sun M an, Kassis JA (2018) **Global changes of H3K27me3 domains and Polycomb group protein distribution in the absence of recruiters Spps or Pho** *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **115**:E1839–E1848 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1716299115>
27. De S, Gehred ND, Fujioka M, Chan FW, Jaynes JB, Kassis JA (2020) **Defining the boundaries of polycomb domains in *drosophila*** *Genetics* **216**:689–700 <https://doi.org/10.1534/genetics.120.303642>
28. Perino M, Van Mierlo G, Karemaker ID, et al. (2018) **MTF2 recruits Polycomb Repressive Complex 2 by helical-shape-selective DNA binding** *Nat Genet* **50**:1002–1010 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-018-0134-8>

29. Li H, Liefke R, Jiang J, et al. (2017) **Polycomb-like proteins link the PRC2 complex to CpG islands** *Nature* **549**:287–291 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature23881>
30. Barbour H, Daou S, Hendzel M, Affar EB (2020) **Polycomb group-mediated histone H2A monoubiquitination in epigenome regulation and nuclear processes** *Nat Commun* **11**:1–16 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-19722-9>
31. Cooper S, Grijzenhout A, Underwood E, et al. (2016) **Jarid2 binds mono-ubiquitylated H2A lysine 119 to mediate crosstalk between Polycomb complexes PRC1 and PRC2** *Nat Commun* **7**:1–8 <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms13661>
32. Kalb R, Latwiel S, Baymaz HI, et al. (2014) **Histone H2A monoubiquitination promotes histone H3 methylation in Polycomb repression** *Nat Struct Mol Biol* **21**:569–571 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nsmb.2833>
33. Glancy E, Wang C, Tuck E, et al. (2023) **PRC2.1- and PRC2.2-specific accessory proteins drive recruitment of different forms of canonical PRC1** *Mol Cell* **83**:1393–1411 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2023.03.018>
34. Chen S, Jiao L, Shubbar M, Yang X, Liu X (2018) **Unique Structural Platforms of Suz12 Dictate Distinct Classes of PRC2 for Chromatin Binding** *Mol Cell* **69**:840–852 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2018.01.039>
35. Kasinath V, Beck C, Sauer P, et al. (2021) **JARID2 and AEBP2 regulate PRC2 in the presence of H2AK119ub1 and other histone modifications** *Science (80-)* **371** <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abc3393>
36. Su CL, Deng TR, Shang Z, Xiao Y (2015) **JARID2 inhibits leukemia cell proliferation by regulating CCND1 expression** *Int J Hematol* **102**:76–85 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12185-015-1797-x>
37. Shirato H, Ogawa S, Nakajima K, et al. (2009) **A jumonji (Jarid2) protein complex represses cyclin D1 expression by methylation of histone H3-K9** *J Biol Chem* **284**:733–739 <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.M804994200>
38. Adhikari A, Davie J (2018) **JARID2 and the PRC2 complex regulate skeletal muscle differentiation through regulation of canonical Wnt signaling** *Epigenetics and Chromatin* **11**:1–20 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13072-018-0217-x>
39. Petracovici A, Bonasio R (2021) **Distinct PRC2 subunits regulate maintenance and establishment of Polycomb repression during differentiation** *Mol Cell* **81**:2625–2639 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2021.03.038>
40. Loh CH, van Genesen S, Perino M, Bark MR, Veenstra GJC (2021) **Loss of PRC2 subunits primes lineage choice during exit of pluripotency** *Nat Commun* **12**:1–14 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-27314-4>
41. Rothberg JLM, Maganti HB, Jrade H, et al. (2018) **Mtf2-PRC2 control of canonical Wnt signaling is required for definitive erythropoiesis** *Cell Discov* **4** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41421-018-0022-5>
42. Ngubo M, Moradi F, Ito Caryn Y, Stanford WL (2023) **Tissue-Specific Tumour Suppressor and Oncogenic Activities of the Polycomb-like Protein MTF2** *Genes (Basel)* **14** <https://doi.org/10.3390/genes14101879>

43. Bracken AP, Kleine-Kohlbrecher D, Dietrich N, et al. (2007) **The Polycomb group proteins bind throughout the INK4A-ARF locus and are disassociated in senescent cells** *Genes Dev* **37** <https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.351178.123>
44. Bracken AP, Pasini D, Capra M, Prosperini E, Colli E, Helin K (2003) **EZH2 is downstream of the pRB-E2F pathway, essential for proliferation and amplified in cancer** *EMBO J* **22**:5323–5335 <https://doi.org/10.1093/emboj/cdg542>
45. Bracken AP, Dietrich N, Pasini D, Hansen KH, Helin K (2006) **Genome-wide mapping of polycomb target genes unravels their roles in cell fate transitions** *Genes Dev* **20**:1123–1136 <https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.381706>
46. Adhikari A, Mainali P, Davie JK (2019) **JARID2 and the PRC2 complex regulate the cell cycle in skeletal muscle** *J Biol Chem* **294**:19451–19464 <https://doi.org/10.1074/jbc.RA119.010060>
47. Adhikari A, Davie JK (2020) **The PRC2 complex directly regulates the cell cycle and controls proliferation in skeletal muscle** *Cell Cycle* **19**:2373–2394 <https://doi.org/10.1080/15384101.2020.1806448>
48. Horlbeck MA, Xu A, Wang M, et al. (2018) **Mapping the Genetic Landscape of Human Cells** *Cell* **174**:953–967 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2018.06.010>
49. Przybyla L, Gilbert LA (2022) **A new era in functional genomics screens** *Nat Rev Genet* **23**:89–103 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41576-021-00409-w>
50. Bock C, Datlinger P, Chardon F, et al. (2022) **High-content CRISPR screening** *Nat Rev Methods Prim* **2** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43586-021-00093-4>
51. Hundley F V., Sanvisens Delgado N, Marin HC, Carr KL, Tian R, Toczyski DP (2021) **A comprehensive phenotypic CRISPR-Cas9 screen of the ubiquitin pathway uncovers roles of ubiquitin ligases in mitosis** *Mol Cell* **81**:1319–1336 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2021.01.014>
52. Stok C, Tsaridou S, van den Tempel N, et al. (2023) **FIRRM/C1orf112 is synthetic lethal with PICH and mediates RAD51 dynamics** *Cell Rep* **42** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2023.112668>
53. Aregger M, Lawson KA, Billmann M, et al. (2020) **Systematic mapping of genetic interactions for de novo fatty acid synthesis identifies C12orf49 as a regulator of lipid metabolism** *Nat Metab* **2**:499–513 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42255-020-0211-z>
54. Hundley F V., Toczyski DP (2021) **Chemical-genetic CRISPR-Cas9 screens in human cells using a pathway-specific library** *STAR Protoc* **2** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xpro.2021.100685>
55. Olbrich T, Vega-Sendino M, Murga M, et al. (2019) **A Chemical Screen Identifies Compounds Capable of Selecting for Haploidy in Mammalian Cells** *Cell Rep* **28**:597–604 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2019.06.060>
56. Llargués-Sistac G, Bonjoch L, Castellvi-Bel S (2023) **HAP1, a new revolutionary cell model for gene editing using CRISPR-Cas9** *Front Cell Dev Biol* **11**:1–10 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcell.2023.1111488>
57. Hart T, Tong AHY, Chan K, et al. (2017) **Evaluation and design of genome-wide CRISPR/SpCas9 knockout screens** *G3 Genes, Genomes, Genet* **7**:2719–2727 <https://doi.org/10.1534/g3.117.041277>

58. Groelly FJ, Fawkes M, Dagg RA, Blackford AN, Tarsounas M (2023) **Targeting DNA damage response pathways in cancer** *Nat Rev Cancer* **23**:78–94 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41568-022-00535-5>
59. Su D, Feng X, Colic M, et al. (2020) **CRISPR/CAS9-based DNA damage response screens reveal gene-drug interactions** *DNA Repair (Amst)* **87** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dnarep.2020.102803>
60. Hsiang YH, Hertzberg R, Hecht S, Liu LF (1985) **Camptothecin induces protein-linked DNA breaks via mammalian DNA topoisomerase I** *J Biol Chem* **260**:14873–14878 [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0021-9258\(17\)38654-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0021-9258(17)38654-4)
61. Dalbeth N, Lauterio TJ, Wolfe HR (2014) **Mechanism of action of colchicine in the treatment of gout** *Clin Ther* **36**:1465–1479 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinthera.2014.07.017>
62. Xie X, Hu H, Tong X, et al. (2018) **The mTOR-S6K Pathway Links Growth Signaling to DNA Damage Response by Targeting RNF168** *Nat Cell Biol* **20**:320–331 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41556-017-0033-8>
63. Bader AS, Hawley BR, Wilczynska A, Bushell M (2020) **The roles of RNA in DNA double-strand break repair** *Br J Cancer* **122**:613–623 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41416-019-0624-1>
64. Stadler J, Richly H (2017) **Regulation of DNA repair mechanisms: How the chromatin environment regulates the DNA damage response** *Int J Mol Sci* **18** <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms18081715>
65. Crozier L, Foy R, Adib R, et al. (2023) **CDK4/6 inhibitor-mediated cell overgrowth triggers osmotic and replication stress to promote senescence** *Mol Cell* **83**:4062–4077 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2023.10.016>
66. Crozier L, Foy R, Mouery BL, et al. (2022) **CDK4/6 inhibitors induce replication stress to cause long-term cell cycle withdrawal** *EMBO J* **41**:1–20 <https://doi.org/10.15252/embj.2021108599>
67. Wilson GA, Vuina K, Sava G, et al. (2023) **Active growth signaling promotes senescence and cancer cell sensitivity to CDK7 inhibition** *Mol Cell* **83**:4078–4092 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2023.10.017>
68. Rahman M, Billmann M, Costanzo M, et al. (2021) **A method for benchmarking genetic screens reveals a predominant mitochondrial bias** *Mol Syst Biol* **17**:1–12 <https://doi.org/10.15252/msb.202010013>
69. De La Fuente R (2014) **Histone deacetylation: Establishing a meiotic histone code** *Cell Cycle* **13**:879–880 <https://doi.org/10.4161/cc.28214>
70. Chittock EC, Latwiel S, Miller TCR, Müller CW (2017) **Molecular architecture of polycomb repressive complexes** *Biochem Soc Trans* **45**:193–205 <https://doi.org/10.1042/BST20160173>
71. Ismail IH, Davidson R, Gagné JP, Xu ZZ, Poirier GG, Hendzel MJ (2014) **Germline mutations in BAP1 impair its function in DNA double-strand break repair** *Cancer Res* **74**:4282–4294 <https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-3109>
72. Healy E, Mucha M, Glancy E, et al. (2019) **PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 Synergize to Coordinate H3K27 Trimethylation** *Mol Cell* **76**:437–452 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2019.08.012>

73. Zhu Y, Dong L, Wang C, et al. (2022) **Functional redundancy among Polycomb complexes in maintaining the pluripotent state of embryonic stem cells** *Stem Cell Reports* **17**:1198–1214 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stemcr.2022.02.020>
74. Youmans DT, Gooding AR, Dowell RD, Cech TR (2021) **Competition between PRC2.1 and 2.2 subcomplexes regulates PRC2 chromatin occupancy in human stem cells** *Mol Cell* **81**:488–501 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2020.11.044>
75. Oliviero G, Brien GL, Waston A, et al. (2016) **Dynamic protein interactions of the polycomb repressive complex 2 during differentiation of pluripotent cells** *Mol Cell Proteomics* **15**:3450–3460 <https://doi.org/10.1074/mcp.M116.062240>
76. Smits AH, Jansen PWTC, Poser I, Hyman AA, Vermeulen M (2013) **Stoichiometry of chromatin-associated protein complexes revealed by label-free quantitative mass spectrometry-based proteomics** *Nucleic Acids Res* **41**:1–8 <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gks941>
77. Jadhav U, Manieri E, Nalapareddy K, et al. (2020) **Replicational Dilution of H3K27me3 in Mammalian Cells and the Role of Poised Promoters** *Mol Cell* **78**:141–151 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2020.01.017>
78. Zhu Z, Turner NC, Loi S, et al. (2022) **Comparative biomarker analysis of PALOMA-2/3 trials for palbociclib** *npj Precis Oncol*. **6** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41698-022-00297-1>
79. Schoninger SF, Blain SW (2020) **The ongoing search for biomarkers of CDK4/6 inhibitor responsiveness in breast cancer** *Mol Cancer Ther* **19**:3–12 <https://doi.org/10.1158/1535-7163.MCT-19-0253>
80. Dean JL, Thangavel C, McClendon AK, Reed CA, Knudsen ES (2010) **Therapeutic CDK4/6 inhibition in breast cancer: Key mechanisms of response and failure** *Oncogene* **29**:4018–4032 <https://doi.org/10.1038/onc.2010.154>
81. Wang TH, Chen CC, Leu YL, et al. (2021) **Palbociclib induces DNA damage and inhibits DNA repair to induce cellular senescence and apoptosis in oral squamous cell carcinoma** *J Formos Med Assoc* **120**:1695–1705 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jfma.2020.12.009>
82. Sionov RV, Vlahopoulos SA, Granot Z (2015) **Regulation of Bim in health and disease** *Oncotarget* **6**:23058–23134 <https://doi.org/10.18632/oncotarget.5492>
83. Watt AC, Cejas P, Decristo MJ, et al. (2021) **CDK4/6 inhibition reprograms the breast cancer enhancer landscape by stimulating AP-1 transcriptional activity** *Nat Cancer* **2**:34–48 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43018-020-00135-y>
84. Pancholi S, Ribas R, Simigdala N, et al. (2020) **Tumour kinome re-wiring governs resistance to palbociclib in oestrogen receptor positive breast cancers, highlighting new therapeutic modalities** *Oncogene* **39**:4781–4797 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41388-020-1284-6>
85. Guarducci C, Bonechi M, Benelli M, et al. (2018) **Cyclin E1 and Rb modulation as common events at time of resistance to palbociclib in hormone receptor-positive breast cancer** *npj Breast Cancer* **4**:1–10 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41523-018-0092-4>
86. Turner NC, Liu Y, Zhu Z, et al. (2019) **Cyclin E1 expression and palbociclib efficacy in previously treated hormone receptor-positive metastatic breast cancer** *J Clin Oncol* **37**:1169–1178 <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.18.00925>

87. Ferguson KM, Gillen SL, Chaytor L, et al. (2023) **Palbociclib releases the latent differentiation capacity of neuroblastoma cells** *Dev Cell* **58**:1967–1982 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.devcel.2023.08.028>
88. Lanceta L, Lypova N, O'Neill C, et al. (2021) **Differential gene expression analysis of palbociclib-resistant TNBC via RNA-seq** *Breast Cancer Res Treat* **186**:677–686 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10549-021-06127-5>
89. German B, Ellis L (2022) **Polycomb Directed Cell Fate Decisions in Development and Cancer Epigenomes** **6**:1–30 <https://doi.org/10.3390/epigenomes6030028>
90. Uzhachenko R V., Bharti V, Ouyang Z, et al. (2021) **Metabolic modulation by CDK4/6 inhibitor promotes chemokine-mediated recruitment of T cells into mammary tumors** *Cell Rep* **35** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2021.108944>
91. Franco J, Balaji U, Freinkman E, Witkiewicz AK, Knudsen ES (2016) **Metabolic Reprogramming of Pancreatic Cancer Mediated by CDK4/6 Inhibition Elicits Unique Vulnerabilities** *Cell Rep* **14**:979–990 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2015.12.094>
92. Zheng Y, Huang G, Silva TC, et al. (2021) **A pan-cancer analysis of CpG Island gene regulation reveals extensive plasticity within Polycomb target genes** *Nat Commun* **12**:1–16 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-22720-0>
93. Giangrande PH, Zhu W, Schlisio S, et al. (2004) **A role for E2F6 in distinguishing G1/S-and G2/M-specific transcription** *Genes Dev* **18**:2941–2951 <https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.1239304>
94. Shirahama Y, Yamamoto K (2020) **The e2f6 transcription factor is associated with the mammalian suz12-containing polycomb complex** *Kurume Med J* **67**:171–183 <https://doi.org/10.2739/kurumemedj.MS674006>
95. Carette JE, Raaben M, Wong AC, et al. (2011) **Ebola virus entry requires the cholesterol transporter Niemann-Pick C1** *Nature* **477**:340–343 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature10348>
96. Jirawatnotai S, Hu Y, Livingston DM, Sicinski P (2012) **Proteomic identification of a direct role for cyclin D1 in DNA damage repair** *Cancer Res* **72**:4289–4293 <https://doi.org/10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-11-3549>
97. Shimura T, Ochiai Y, Noma N, Oikawa T, Sano Y, Fukumoto M (2013) **Cyclin D1 overexpression perturbs DNA replication and induces replication-associated DNA double-strand breaks in acquired radioresistant cells** *Cell Cycle* **12**:773–782 <https://doi.org/10.4161/cc.23719>
98. Aggarwal P, Lessie MD, Lin DI, et al. (2007) **Nuclear accumulation of cyclin D1 during S phase inhibits Cul4-dependent Cdt1 proteolysis and triggers p53-dependent DNA rereplication** *Genes Dev* **21**:2908–2922 <https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.1586007>
99. Santiappillai NT, Abuhammad S, Slater A, et al. (2021) **CDK4/6 Inhibition Reprograms Mitochondrial Metabolism in BRAFV600 Melanoma via a p53 Dependent Pathway** *Cancers (Basel)* **13**:1–18
100. Deng Q, Hou J, Feng L, et al. (2018) **PHF19 promotes the proliferation, migration, and chemosensitivity of glioblastoma to doxorubicin through modulation of the SIAH1/β-catenin axis** *Cell Death Dis* **9** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41419-018-1082-z>

101. Parreno V, Martinez AM, Cavalli G (2022) **Mechanisms of Polycomb group protein function in cancer** *Cell Res* **32**:231–253 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41422-021-00606-6>
102. Maganti HB, Jrade H, Cafariello C, et al. (2018) **Targeting the MTF2–MDM2 axis sensitizes refractory acute myeloid leukemia to chemotherapy** *Cancer Discov* **8**:1376–1389 <https://doi.org/10.1158/2159-8290.CD-17-0841>
103. Liang Y, Yang Y, Guo R, et al. (2018) **PCL2 regulates p53 stability and functions as a tumor suppressor in breast cancer** *Sci Bull* **63**:629–639 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scib.2018.03.012>
104. Højfeldt JW, Hedehus L, Laugesen A, Tatar T, Wiehle L, Helin K (2019) **Non-core Subunits of the PRC2 Complex Are Collectively Required for Its Target-Site Specificity** *Mol Cell* **76**:423–436 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molcel.2019.07.031>
105. Walker E, Chang WY, Hunkapiller J, et al. (2010) **Polycomb-like 2 Associates with PRC2 and Regulates Transcriptional Networks during Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Self-Renewal and Differentiation** *Cell Stem Cell* **6**:153–166 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stem.2009.12.014>
106. Landeira D, Sauer S, Poot R, et al. (2010) **Jarid2 is a PRC2 component in embryonic stem cells required for multi-lineage differentiation and recruitment of PRC1 and RNA Polymerase II to developmental regulators** *Nat Cell Biol* **12**:618–624 <https://doi.org/10.1038/ncb2065>
107. Pasini D, Cloos PAC, Walfridsson J, et al. (2010) **JARID2 regulates binding of the Polycomb repressive complex 2 to target genes in ES cells** *Nature* **464**:306–310 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature08788>
108. Kloet SL, Makowski MM, Baymaz HI, et al. (2016) **The dynamic interactome and genomic targets of Polycomb complexes during stem-cell differentiation** *Nat Struct Mol Biol* **23**:682–690 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nsmb.3248>
109. Johnston S, Martin M, Di Leo A, et al. (2019) **MONARCH 3 final PFS: a randomized study of abemaciclib as initial therapy for advanced breast cancer** *npj Breast Cancer* **5**:1–8 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41523-018-0097-z>
110. Hortobagyi GN, Stemmer SM, Burris HA, et al. (2016) **Ribociclib as First-Line Therapy for HR-Positive, Advanced Breast Cancer** *N Engl J Med* **375**:1738–1748 <https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa1609709>
111. Klein ME, Kovatcheva M, Davis LE, Tap WD, Koff A (2018) **CDK4/6 Inhibitors: The Mechanism of Action May Not Be as Simple as Once Thought** *Cancer Cell* **34**:9–20 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccell.2018.03.023>
112. Knudsen ES, Witkiewicz AK (2017) **The Strange Case of CDK4/6 Inhibitors: Mechanisms, Resistance, and Combination Strategies** *Trends in Cancer* **3**:39–55 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trecan.2016.11.006>
113. Béguelin W, Popovic R, Teater M, et al. (2013) **EZH2 Is Required for Germinal Center Formation and Somatic EZH2 Mutations Promote Lymphoid Transformation** *Cancer Cell* **23**:677–692 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ccr.2013.04.011>
114. Zhao Y, Hu Z, Li J, Hu T (2021) **EZH2 exacerbates breast cancer by methylating and activating STAT3 directly** *J Cancer* **12**:5220–5230 <https://doi.org/10.7150/jca.50675>

115. McCabe MT, Graves AP, Ganji G, et al. (2012) **Mutation of A677 in histone methyltransferase EZH2 in human B-cell lymphoma promotes hypertrimethylation of histone H3 on lysine 27 (H3K27)** *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **109**:2989–2994 <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1116418109>
116. Li H, Cai Q, Wu H, et al. (2012) **SUZ12 promotes human epithelial ovarian cancer by suppressing apoptosis via silencing HRK** *Mol Cancer Res* **23**:1–7 <https://doi.org/10.1158/1541-7786.MCR-12-0335.SUZ12>
117. Wu Y, Hu H, Zhang W, et al. (2018) **SUZ12 is a novel putative oncogene promoting tumorigenesis in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma** *J Cell Mol Med* **22**:3582–3594 <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcmm.13638>
118. Liu YL, Gao X, Jiang Y, et al. (2015) **Expression and clinicopathological significance of EED, SUZ12 and EZH2 mRNA in colorectal cancer** *J Cancer Res Clin Oncol* **141**:661–669 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00432-014-1854-5>
119. Wang F, Gao Y, Lv Y, et al. (2020) **Polycomb-like 2 regulates PRC2 components to affect proliferation in glioma cells** *J Neurooncol* **148**:259–271 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11060-020-03538-0>
120. Wu TT, Cai J, Tian YH, et al. (2019) **MTF2 induces epithelial-mesenchymal transition and progression of hepatocellular carcinoma by transcriptionally activating snail** *Onco Targets Ther* **12**:11207–11220 <https://doi.org/10.2147/OTT.S226119>
121. Ntziachristos P, Tsiganos A, Van Vlierberghe P, et al. (2012) **Genetic inactivation of the polycomb repressive complex 2 in T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia** *Nat Med* **18**:296–301 <https://doi.org/10.1038/nm.2651>
122. Mieczkowska IK, Pantelaiou-Prokaki G, Prokakis E, et al. (2021) **Decreased PRC2 activity supports the survival of basal-like breast cancer cells to cytotoxic treatments** *Cell Death Dis* **12** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41419-021-04407-y>
123. Chaikovsky AC, Li C, Jeng EE, et al. (2021) **The AMBRA1 E3 ligase adaptor regulates the stability of cyclin D** *Nature* **592**:794–798 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-03474-7>
124. Poulet S, Dai M, Wang N, et al. (2024) **Genome-wide in vivo CRISPR screen identifies TGFβ3 as actionable biomarker of palbociclib resistance in triple negative breast cancer** *Mol Cancer* **23**:1–21 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12943-024-02029-4>
125. Aregger M, Chandrashekhar M, Tong AHY, Chan K, Moffat J (2019) **Pooled Lentiviral CRISPR-Cas9 Screens for Functional Genomics in Mammalian Cells** *Methods Mol Biol* **1869**:169–188 https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-8805-1_15

Author information

Adam D Longhurst

University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Tetrad Graduate Program,
University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA
ORCID iD: [0000-0002-2463-8370](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2463-8370)

Kyle Wang

Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, The Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Harsha Garadi Suresh

Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Mythili Ketavarapu

Gladstone Institute for Data Science and Biotechnology, J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, USA, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

Henry N Ward

Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Graduate Program, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

Ian R Jones

Institute for Human Genetics, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacogenomics Graduate Program, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

Vivek Narayan

Institute for Human Genetics, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

Frances V Hundley

University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Tetrad Graduate Program, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Department of Cell Biology, Blavatnik Institute of Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

Arshia Zernab Hassan

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

Charles Boone

Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, The Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Chad L Myers

Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Graduate Program, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA, Department of Cell Biology, Blavatnik Institute of Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

Yin Shen

Institute for Human Genetics, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Department of Neurology, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Weill Institute for Neurosciences, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

Vijay Ramani

Gladstone Institute for Data Science and Biotechnology, J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, USA, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

Brenda J Andrews

The Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

ORCID iD: [0000-0001-6427-6493](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6427-6493)

David P Toczyski

University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, USA, Weill Institute for Neurosciences, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

ORCID iD: [0000-0001-5924-0365](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5924-0365)

For correspondence: dpt4darwin@gmail.com

Editors

Reviewing Editor

Silke Hauf

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, United States of America

Senior Editor

Yamini Dalal

National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, United States of America

Reviewer #1 (Public review):

The study by Longhurst et al. investigates the mechanisms of chemoresistance and chemosensitivity towards three compounds that inhibit cell cycle progression: camptothecin, colchicine, and palbociclib. Genome-wide genetic screens were conducted using the HAP1 Cas9 cell line, revealing compound-specific and shared pathways of resistance and sensitivity. The researchers then focused on novel mechanisms that confer resistance to palbociclib, identifying PRC2.1. Genetic and pharmacological disruption of PRC2.1 function, but not related PRC2.2, leads to resistance to palbociclib. The researchers then show that disruption of PRC2.1 function (for example, by MTF2 deletion), results in locus-specific changes in H3K27 methylation and increases in D-type cyclin expression. The study shows that increased expression of D-type cyclins results in palbociclib resistance.

Strengths:

The results of this study are interesting, and the study contributes insights into the molecular mechanisms of CDK4/6 inhibitors. Importantly, while CDK4/6 inhibitors are effective in the clinic, tumour recurrence is very high due to acquired resistance.

Weaknesses:

A key resistance mechanism is Rb loss, so it is important to understand if resistance conferred by PRC2.1 loss is mediated by Rb, and whether restoration of PRC2.1 function in Rb-deplete cells results in renewed palbociclib sensitivity. It is also important to understand the clinical implications of the results presented. Inclusion of these data would significantly improve the paper. At present, it is unclear if mutations in PRC2.1 are found in genetic analyses of tumour samples in patients with acquired resistance.

<https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.97577.2.sa3>

Reviewer #2 (Public review):

Summary:

Longhurst et al. assessed cell cycle regulators using a chemogenetic CRISPR-Cas9 screen in the haploid human cell line HAP1. Besides known cell cycle regulators they identified the PRC2.1 subcomplex to be specifically involved in G1 progression, given that the absence of members of the complex makes the cells resistant to Palbociclib. They further showed that in HAP1 cells the PRC2.1, but not the PRC2.2 complex is important to repress the cyclins CCND1 and CCND2. This can explain the enhanced resistance to Palbociclib, a CDK4/6-Inhibitor, after PRC2.1 deletion.

Strengths:

The initial CRISPR screen is very interesting, because it uses three distinct chemicals that disturb the cell cycle at various stages. This screen mostly identified known cell cycle regulators, which demonstrates the validity of the approach. The results can be used as a resource for future research.

The most interesting outcome of the experiment is the finding that knockouts of the PRC2.1 complex make the cell resistant to Palbociclib. In further experiments, the authors focused on MTF2 and JARID2 as main components of PRC2.1 and PRC2.2, respectively. Via extensive analyses, including genome-wide experiments, they confirmed that MTF2 is particularly important to repress the cyclins CCND1 and CCND2. Absence of MTF2 therefore leads to increased expression of these genes, sufficient to make the cell resistant to Palbociclib. This result will likely be of wide interest to the community.

Weaknesses:

The work is limited to specific biological contexts, and the generality of the conclusions is uncertain.

Comments on revisions:

The revision offers new insights and is overall satisfying. I have no further recommendations that I consider essential.

<https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.97577.2.sa2>

Reviewer #3 (Public review):

This study begins with a chemogenetic screen to discover previously unrecognized regulators of the cell cycle. Using a CRISPR-Cas9 library in HAP1 cells and an assay that scores cell fitness, the authors identify genes that sensitize or desensitize cells to the presence of palbociclib, colchicine, and camptothecin. The results suggest that these three drugs inhibit proliferation through different mechanisms, and with each treatment, expected and unexpected pathways were found to affect drug sensitivity. The authors focus the rest of the experiments and analysis on the polycomb complex PRC2, as deletion of several of its subunits in the screen conferred palbociclib resistance. The authors find that PRC2, specifically a complex dependent on the MTF2 subunit, methylates histone 3 lysine 27 (H3K27) in promoters of genes associated with various processes including cell-cycle control. Further experiments demonstrate that Cyclin D expression increases upon loss of PRC2 subunits, providing a potential mechanism for palbociclib resistance.

The strengths of the paper are the design and execution of the chemogenetic screen, which provides a wealth of potentially useful information. The data convincingly demonstrate in the

HAP1 cell line that the MTF2-PRC2 complex sustains the effects of palbociclib (Fig. 4), methylates H3K27 in CpG-rich promoters (Fig. 5), and represses Cyclin D expression (Fig. 6). The correlation between MTF2-PRC2 inhibition and increased Cyclin D levels is shown in multiple cell lines using both genetic and chemical approaches. These results could be of great interest to those studying cell-cycle control, resistance mechanisms to therapeutic cell-cycle inhibitors, and chromatin regulation and gene expression.

There are a few weaknesses that somewhat temper the overall quality and potential impact of the study. First, the results from the colchicine and camptothecin screens (Fig. 1 and 2) are not experimentally validated, which lessens the rigor of those data and conclusions. Second, some experiments validating and further exploring results from the palbociclib screen (Figs. 4 and 5) are restricted to the Hap1 cell line, so the generality of some conclusions is not established. Third, conclusions drawn from data in Fig. 4D are not fully supported by proper use of biological replicates and analysis of the results.

Comments on revisions:

Proper statistical analysis considering biological replicates is still not applied to determine whether differences in palbociclib IC50 values at different GSK126 concentrations are significant.

<https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.97577.2.sa1>

Author response:

The following is the authors' response to the original reviews.

Public Reviews:

Reviewer #1 (Public Review):

The study by Longhurst et al. investigates the mechanisms of chemoresistance and chemosensitivity towards three compounds that inhibit cell cycle progression: camptothecin, colchicine, and palbociclib. Genome-wide genetic screens were conducted using the HAP1 Cas9 cell line, revealing compound-specific and shared pathways of resistance and sensitivity. The researchers then focused on novel mechanisms that confer resistance to palbociclib, identifying PRC2.1. Genetic and pharmacological disruption of PRC2.1 function, but not related PRC2.2, leads to resistance to palbociclib. The researchers then show that disruption of PRC2.1 function (for example, by MTF2 deletion), results in locus-specific changes in H3K27 methylation and increases in D-type cyclin expression. It is suggested that increased expression of D-type cyclins results in palbociclib resistance.

Strengths:

The results of this study are interesting and contribute insights into the molecular mechanisms of CDK4/6 inhibitors. Importantly, while CDK4/6 inhibitors are effective in the clinic, tumour recurrence is very high due to acquired resistance.

Weaknesses:

A key resistance mechanism is Rb loss, so it is important to understand if resistance conferred by PRC2.1 loss is mediated by Rb, and whether restoration of PRC2.1 function in Rb-deplete cells results in renewed palbociclib sensitivity. It is also important to understand the clinical implications of the results presented. The inclusion of these data would significantly improve the paper. However, besides some presentation issues and

typos as described below, it is my opinion that the results are robust and of broad interest.

Major questions:

(1) Is the resistance to CDK4/6 inhibition conferred by mutation of MTF2 mediated by Rb?

(2) Are mutations in PRC2.1 found in genetic analyses of tumour samples in patients with acquired resistance?

We thank the reviewer for their editing and experimental suggestions, and have integrated their responses into our re-submitted manuscript.

We also agree that understanding the role of RB1 in mediating palbociclib resistance to the proposed resistance mechanism is of particular interest. However, as there are three RB proteins expressed in human cells, this is a technically difficult question to probe genetically. Despite this technical challenge, we have provided multiple lines of evidence in our resubmitted manuscript that the resistance to palbociclib observed in our PRC2.1-deficient cells is mediated through the canonical CDK4/6-RB1 pathway. First, disruption of RB1 in HAP1 cells results in palbociclib resistance to a level comparable level to PRC2.1 disruption (Fig. 4E). Second, inactivation of SUZ12 or MTF2 increases the number of cells entering S-phase in palbociclib treatment (Fig. 4G) with no increase in basal rates of apoptosis (Fig. S2D), suggesting that any proliferation advantage observed in PRC2.1-defective cells is due to resistance to palbociclib-induced cell cycle arrest. Third, we show that over expression of CCND1 and CCND2 is sufficient to drive resistance to palbociclib in wild-type HAP1 cells (Fig. S5F). And finally, increased levels of CCND1 and CCND2 observed in cells lacking PRC2.1 activity results in higher CDK4/6 activity as measured by RB1 phosphorylation, despite palbociclib blockade (Fig. 6F). All these lines of evidence strongly suggest that MTF2-containing PRC2.1 regulates G1 progression in through the canonical CDK4/6RB1 pathway by repressing CCND1 and CCND2 expression.

Whether or not MTF2 deletion leads to palbociclib resistance in clinical samples is also of a question of particular interest. Currently, we are unaware of any reports that specifically mention MTF2 deletion as leading to palbociclib resistance, and we were unable to find another example in our own cancer database review. However, we have included references to other examples of MTF2 mutation resulting in chemotherapeutic resistance in our discussion. Additionally, although MTF2 is rarely observed to be mutated in cancers (Ngubo et al. 2023), it is highly differentially expressed and investigating decreased MTF2 transcription in palbociclib resistant tumors, though challenging, might prove fruitful. However, as mechanisms of palbociclib resistance is an area of active investigation, we speculate that future studies might uncover additional examples of MTF2 mediating resistance to this clinically important chemotherapeutic.

Reviewer #2 (Public Review):

Summary:

Longhurst et al. assessed cell cycle regulators using a chemogenetic CRISPR-Cas9 screen in haploid human cell line HAP1. Besides known cell cycle regulators they identified the PRC2.1 subcomplex to be specifically involved in G1 progression, given that the absence of members of the complex makes the cells resistant to Palbociclib. They further showed that in HAP1 cells the PRC2.1, but not the PRC2.2 complex is important to repress the cyclins CCND1 and CCND2. This can explain the enhanced resistance to Palbociclib, a CDK4/6Inhibitor, after PRC2.1 deletion.

Strengths:

The initial CRISPR screen is very interesting because it uses three distinct chemicals that disturb the cell cycle at various stages. This screen mostly identified known cell cycle regulators, which demonstrates the validity of the approach. The results can be used as a resource for future research.

The most interesting outcome of the experiment is the finding that knockouts of the PRC2.1 complex make the cell resistant to Palbociclib. In a further experiment, the authors focused on MTF2 and JARID2 as the main components of PRC2.1 and PRC2.2, respectively. Via extensive analyses, including genome-wide experiments, they confirmed that MTF2 is particularly important to repress the cyclins CCND1 and CCND2. The absence of MTF2 therefore leads to increased expression of these genes, sufficient to make the cell resistant to palociclib. This result will likely be of wide interest to the community.

Weaknesses:

The main weakness of the manuscript is that the experiments were performed in only one cell line. To draw more general conclusions, it would be essential to confirm some of the results in other cell lines.

In addition, some of the findings, such as the results from the CRISPR screen as well as the stronger impact of the MTF2 KO on H3K27me3 and gene expression (compared to JARID2 KO), are not unexpected, given that similar results were already obtained before by other labs.

We thank the reviewer for their suggestions and we believe that we have addressed their main concern about the generality of the MTF2 regulation of D-type cyclin expression in our resubmitted manuscript. We have now shown through shRNA knockdown that MTF2 represses CCND1 in two additional cell lines, the breast cancer MDA-MB-231 and immortalized monkey COS7 cell line (Fig. 6E). However, it is important to note that MTF2 did not control CCND1 expression in every cell line tested (Fig. 6D), underscoring the context-dependent nature of this regulation. Future studies will illuminate what cell or tumor types in which this regulation is observed.

Additionally, while MTF2 has previously been shown to exert a greater effect on H3K27me3 levels in some circumstances (Loh et al. 2021, Rothberg et al. 2018), a number of notable reports in ES cell lines have concluded that PRC2 localization and H3K27me3 at the majority of genomic sites are dependent on both PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 activity (Healy et al. 2019, Højfeldt et al. 2019, Perino et al. 2020, Oksuz et al. 2018). Therefore, we think it is important to highlight the greater dependence on MTF2 for promoter proximal H3K27me3 levels in our transformed cell line context.

Reviewer #3 (Public Review):

This study begins with a chemogenetic screen to discover previously unrecognized regulators of the cell cycle. Using a CRISPR-Cas9 library in HAP1 cells and an assay that scores cell fitness, the authors identify genes that sensitize or desensitize cells to the presence of palbociclib, colchicine, and camptothecin. These three drugs inhibit proliferation through different mechanisms, and with each treatment, expected and unexpected pathways were found to affect drug sensitivity. The authors focus the rest of the experiments and analysis on the polycomb complex PRC2, as the deletion of several of its subunits in the screen conferred palbociclib resistance. The authors find that PRC2, specifically a complex dependent on the MTF2 subunit, methylates histone 3 lysine 27 (H3K27) in promoters of genes associated with various processes including cell-cycle

control. Further experiments demonstrate that Cyclin D expression increases upon loss of PRC2 subunits, providing a potential mechanism for palbociclib resistance.

The strengths of the paper are the design and execution of the chemogenetic screen, which provides a wealth of potentially useful information. The data convincingly demonstrate in the HAP1 cell line that the MTF2-PRC2 complex sustains the effects of palbociclib (Figure 4), methylates H3K27 in CpG-rich promoters (Figure 5), and represses Cyclin D expression (Figure 6). These results could be of great interest to those studying cell-cycle control, resistance mechanisms to therapeutic cell-cycle inhibitors, and chromatin regulation and gene expression.

There are several weaknesses that limit the overall quality and potential impact of the study. First, none of the results from the colchicine and camptothecin screens (Figures 1 and 2) are experimentally validated, which lessens the rigor of those data and conclusions. Second, all experiments validating and further exploring results from the palbociclib screen are restricted to the Hap1 cell line, so the reproducibility and generality of the results are not established. While it is reasonable to perform the initial screen to generate hypotheses in the Hap1 line, other cancer and non-transformed lines should be used to test further the validity of conclusions from data in Figures 4-6. Third, conclusions drawn from data in Figures 3D and 4D are not fully supported by the experimental design or results. Finally, there have been other similar chemogenetic screens performed with palbociclib, most notably the study described by Chaikovsky et al. (PMID: 33854239). Results here should be compared and contrasted to other similar studies.

We thank the reviewer for their suggestions regarding our manuscript. While the genes recovered as mediating cellular responses to camptothecin and colchicine was never confirmed following our chemogenetic screens, we felt our primary findings were in the area of palbociclib resistance and decided focus our follow-up investigations on genes. We included the results camptothecin and colchicine chemogenetic screens as confirmation of the specificity of PRC2 mutation resulting in resistance to palbociclib (Fig. 4C) and for others in the community to use as a resource for future investigations. We have also clarified our results for Figure 3D and 4D in our revised manuscript, as well as included additional plots of these results (Fig. S1DS1F). And, with our resubmitted manuscript, we believe we have addressed their concern of the generality of our results by demonstrating our primary finding that MTF2 regulates D-type cyclins in additional cell lines other than HAP1. We feel these results indicate that while not “general”, there are additional cellular contexts that our main result holds true. In line with this, and to address how our chemogenetic screens fits into the landscape of previous studies, including Chaikovsky et al., we have included the following lines to our discussion: “Additionally, other chemogenetic screens utilizing palbociclib and have not identified that inactivation of PRC2 components as either enhancing or reducing palbociclib-induced proliferation defects, suggesting that PRC2 mutation is neutral in the cell lines studied. These observations not only underscore the context-dependent ramifications of mutation of these PRC2 complex members, but also may help inform the context in which CDK4/6 inhibitors are most efficacious.”

Recommendations for the authors:

Reviewer #1 (Recommendations For The Authors):

(1) "We found that only thirteen and twenty genes resulted in sensitivity or resistance, respectively, in every conditions tested and were deemed non-specific and excluded from any further analysis (see Table S2)." It's unclear to me why these genes were deemed 'nonspecific'. Are these genes functionally important for the general exclusion of xenobiotic molecules?

By this, we simply meant that these effects were not specific to one condition. Such genes could affect drug half-life or a general stress response, but are less likely to have functions directly tied to the pathway targeted by a drug than are genes whose loss affects only one condition.

(2) "Given that increased CCND1 levels is sufficient to drive increased CDK4/6 kinase activity, upregulation of these D-type cyclins is likely to be a significant contributor to the palbociclib resistance in MTF2Δ cells." It's unclear to me what is the basis for this statement. This is only true if there is free CDK4/6. If CDK4/6 is already fully occupied by D-type cyclins, then increased CCND1 levels would not be expected to have an effect.

While we anticipated that increased levels of CCND1 would result in more CDK4/6-Dtype association, we now demonstrate in the new Figure S5F that there is more CCND1 in complex with CDK6 in both SUZ12Δ and MTF2Δ cell lines. Furthermore, we able to show in Figure S5G that overexpression of D-type cyclins results in resistant to palbociclib-induced proliferation defects in HAP1 cells.

(3) The description of the results is very confusing in places, especially regarding "resistance" versus "sensitivity" genes. For example: "CCNE1, CDK6, CDK2, CCND2 and CCND1, all of which are integral to promoting the G1/S phase transition, ranked as the 2nd, 24th, 27th, 29th and 46th most important genes for palbociclib resistance, respectively (Figures 1F and 1G). CCND1 and CCND2 bind either CDK4 or CDK6, the molecular targets of palbociclib, whereas CDK2 and CCNE1 form a related CDK kinase that promotes the G1/S transition.

Similarly, cells with sgRNAs targeting RB1, whose phosphorylation by CDK4/6 is a critical step in G1 progression, displayed substantial resistance to palbociclib." My reading of this paragraph suggests that disruption of the CDK6 locus is associated with palbociclib resistance - surely this is a typo and instead should have been sensitivity? Please explain.

We thank the reviewer for pointing this out and have corrected this typo

(4) Sensitivity to palbociclib was enhanced in cells expressing sgRNAs targeting H4 acetylation, positive regulators of Pol II transcription, and regulators of the DNA Damage Response pathway (Figures 3A and 3B), although this sensitivity was much weaker than that seen with DNA damaging agents. This observation is consistent with long-term treatment with palbociclib inducing DNA damage, as has been suggested by a number of recent publications 65,66." This is also consistent with recent work on Cdk7 inhibitors (Wilson et al. Mol Cell 2023), as Cdk7 inhibition is expected to affect both CDK1/2/4/6 activities and Pol II transcription.

We thank the reviewer for bringing this observation to our attention and we have added this citation to this passage in our manuscript.

(5) Figure 3D - would it not make sense to plot the data such that palbo concentration is on the x-axis? It is also difficult to interpret since the data are normalized to starting "% proliferation" at the indicated palbo treatment, when it is likely that % proliferation changes significantly with palbo concentration. Indeed, this is the graphing format used for a later figure (Figure 4D). The data with rotenone suggests palbo antagonizes rotenone-mediated reduction in proliferation. But it's unclear to me whether the graph shows the converse - that rotenone treatment modulates palbo-induced cell cycle arrest.

This reviewer is correct about the fact that increasing doses of palbociclib in the absence of oxidative phosphorylation do indeed have an effect on proliferation. However, it is helpful to

normalize proliferation values to each initial dose of palbociclib and then compare this to the different oxidative phosphorylation inhibitors treatment combinations. To illustrate that the oxidative phosphorylation inhibitors do indeed antagonize palbociclib-induced proliferation defects, we have now included the data graphed as each oxidative phosphorylation inhibitor vs palbociclib as Supplemental Figures S1D-S1F.

• *The highest concentration of GSK126 tested (5μM) does not appear to confer resistance, but perhaps this is due to off-target effects or cytotoxicity?*

We agree with the reviewer that at the highest doses of dose of GSK126, low doses of palbociclib do not confer resistance to palbociclib. However, higher doses do appear to have this effect. We have included a statement in our results section to address this reviewer's observations.

• *Disruption of Emi1 leads to resistance (Figure 1F, FZR1), yet overexpression induces resistance (Mouery et al. bioRxiv 2023). Explain.*

We do not understand why EMI1 responds in this way, and therefore we cannot comment on this in the text.

Typos/stylistic comments:

• *Typo "However, the net result of these opposing effects on cell cycle progression, and the contribution of the individual subcomplexes to this regulation, rained unclear."*

We thank the reviewer for pointing this out, and we have corrected it.

• *Use of the word "growth" - I think the authors should be more precise. Is "proliferation" meant here?*

We thank the reviewer for pointing this out, and we have corrected it.

• *n Figure 4G, two of the panels have 8.42%. Is this correct, or may it be a copy/paste error?*

This was an error, but is no longer relevant as we have reconducted and reanalyzed this experiment.

Reviewer #2 (Recommendations For The Authors):

Major Points

(1) Some of the conclusions should be confirmed in additional cell lines. I would suggest testing the resistance to Palbociclib in several additional cell lines, where MTF2 and JARID2 are deleted. If the conclusion can be generalized, one would expect that the differential role of MTF2 versus JARID2 can be confirmed in more cell lines.

While the PRC2.1-dependent repression of D-type cyclins does not appear to be general, we have now demonstrated in Figures 5SE and 6F that there are multiple different cellular contexts in which our observations are consistent. Specifically, we demonstrate that GSK126 causes upregulation of CCND1 in both immortalized nontumor cells (COS7 cells) and in the breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231. Moreover, in both cases we showed that this effect is PRC2.1-dependent, as shRNA knockdown of MTF2 increases expression of CCND1.

(2) In addition, it may be attractive to make use of publicly available RNA-seq data of MTF2 and JARID2 knockout/down cells, to investigate the generality of the finding that PRC2.1 regulates CCND1 and CCND2.

While it would be useful to address this issue, Figure S5E demonstrates that the repression of D-type cyclin expression by PRC2.1 is context dependent. Furthermore, prior to identifying the lines shown in Figure 6F and 5SE, we were not aware of which lines to focus our investigations on. However, we have now demonstrated a few cellular contexts in which either chemical inhibition of PRC2 or knockdown of MTF2 results in de-repression of CCND1 expression.

(3) At a bare minimum the authors should strongly discuss the limitations of the study, and tone down the conclusions.

We would agree with this based upon the data in the original submitted manuscript, however, now that we have shown that this effect is more general, this is less critical. That said, we do not see this effect in all cell lines, and we have made this apparent in the final version of the manuscript.

Minor point

(1) In my view, Figures 1-3 should be shortened to the most essential points, and some data/figures should be moved to the supplementary figures. Especially the STING genenetwork graphs are in my view not particularly meaningful.

While we understand the opinion of this reviewer, we feel that these data will be of significant interest to some readers.

(2) Figure 6E and 6F/G appear to be largely redundant. This can perhaps be made more concise.

This has been addressed in the new version of Figure 6

(3) Figure 5D should be enlarged.

We thank the reviewer for this suggestion and have enlarged the image.

Reviewer #3 (Recommendations For The Authors):

The manuscript could be edited to improve clarity. In several places, the scientific logic motivating an experiment is confusing, and there are several hypotheses and conclusions that seem opposite from what the data are suggesting. Some aspects of the figures were also unclear. Specific examples include the following:

(1) Last sentence of abstract : "Our results demonstrate a role for PRC2.1, but not PRC2.2, in promoting G1 progression." Data show that knockout of PRC2.1 components promotes G1 progression through upregulation of CycD, so the conclusion here is the opposite.

We thank the reviewer for catching this error. We have now changed this to “in antagonizing G1 progression”.

(2) In the second paragraph of the results, CCNE1, CDK2, etc are described as scoring high for palbociclib resistance, but those genes scored as sensitizing. Also, in that

paragraph, it is described that a drug is sensitizing cells to loss of a gene, which seems like incorrect logic. It should be clarified that knock-out of a gene either sensitizes or desensitizes cells to the drug.

We thank the reviewer for catching this error. We have now corrected it.

(3) In the motivation for the experiment in Figure 3D, it is written: "we asked whether chemical inhibition of oxidative phosphorylation could rescue sensitivity to palbociclib". Considering that knock-out of genes that mediate oxidative phosphorylation confer resistance to palbociclib, it is confusing why it was expected that chemical inhibitors would restore sensitivity.

We are sorry if the original wording was confusing. We have now changed this to "combined inhibition of oxidative phosphorylation and CDK4/6 activity mutually rescue the proliferation defect imposed by agents targeting the other process".

(4) If the intention of Figure 3D is to test the hypothesis that chemical inhibition of oxidative phosphorylation modulates sensitivity to palbociclib, the clarity of Figure 3D would be improved if data were shown such that palbociclib concentration is on the x-axis and the different curves are different drug concentrations.

It appears that there is some mutual suppression, which inhibition of each process rescues cells partly from inhibition of the other. In fact, with these drugs the stronger of the two is seen as the rescue of mitochondrial poisons by palbociclib. We have now discussed this in the text.

(5) The authors should check the units on the x-axis in Figure 4D, should they be log[μM Palbo] or log [nM Palbo]?

We thank the reviewer for catching this error. We have now corrected it

(6) It should be clarified which data are summarized in the graph to the right in Figure 4G, are these experiments with palbociclib?

This is currently included in the figure legends.

(7) The text suggests that the control CCNE1 knockout is shown in Figure 4E, but those data are missing.

This has been corrected in Figure 4E.

Several conclusions are not well supported by the data and should be revised or more data and analysis should be added.

(1) The titular conclusion that the "PRC2.1 Subcomplex Opposes G1 Progression through Regulation of CCND1 and CCND2" has only been demonstrated in the context of a Cdk4/6 inhibitor in HAP1 cells. There is little evidence supporting this claim that is broadly applicable. For example, data in Figure 4G show small and not demonstrable significant differences in G1 and S phase populations in the mock experiments. Also, experiments in other cells are needed to support the rigor and generality of the conclusion.

Our chemogenetic screen and competitive proliferation assay data in Figure 4A, 4C and 4E support the conclusion that PRC2.1 and PRC2.2 play opposing roles in G1 progression. Furthermore, we have repeated the initial BrdU incorporation experiments shown in Figure

4G and have been able to demonstrate that JARID2Δ cells do indeed display a significant decrease of cells entering into S-phase when treated with palbociclib. Most importantly, in the Figures 6D and 6E we show additional cell lines where this is the case. Therefore, we feel that this title is valid in the current version of the manuscript, where we have shown it to be the case in multiple tumor-derived human cell lines as well as immortalized non-human primate cells.

(2) It is unclear how the data in Figure 3D support the conclusion that the administered inhibitors of oxidative phosphorylation influence response to palbociclib.

As noted in the response to point 4, we have now discussed this mutual rescue more thoroughly in the text.

(3) In Figure 4D, the IC50 values should be calculated and statistical significance based on biological replicates should be determined. Also, the conclusion that "increasing doses of GSK126 withstood palbociclib-induced growth suppression" is overstated, as ultimately all drug conditions succumb to palbociclib suppression of proliferation, although there may be differences in sensitivity.

We have now included a statistical analysis of each data point in Figure 4D.

Editorial comments:

(1) The title does not seem to optimally capture the content of the paper. Please consider changing it, e.g. focusing on palbociclib resistance.

While we used this particular drug to make the original observation, we feel it is more general to discuss the underlying biology (cyclin gene control) than the pharmacological methodology. Moreover, we have now extended our findings about the regulation of D-type cyclins by PRC2.1 to several cell lines, derived from both cancers and primary cells, reinforcing the fact that this effect is observed more broadly.

(2) Please indicate the biological system (haploid human HAP1 cells) in either title or abstract.

The abstract now indicates that we have observed this in CML, breast cancer and immortalized primary cells.

<https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.97577.2.sa0>