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miR-182 Modulates Myocardial Hypertrophic Response Induced by Angiogenesis in Heart

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Myocardial hypertrophy is an adaptive response to hemodynamic demands. Although angiogenesis is critical to support the increase in heart mass with matching blood supply, it may also promote a hypertrophic response. Previously, we showed that cardiac angiogenesis induced by placental growth factor (PIGF), promotes myocardial hypertrophy through the paracrine action of endothelium-derived NO, which triggers the degradation of regulator of G protein signaling 4 (RGS4) to activate the Akt/ mTORC1 pathways in cardiomyocytes. Here, we investigated whether miRNAs contribute to the development of hypertrophic response associated with myocardial angiogenesis. We show that miR-182 is upregulated concurrently with the development of hypertrophy in PIGF mice, but not when hypertrophy was blocked by concomitant expression of PIGF and RGS4, or by PIGF expression in eNOS^{-/-} mice. Anti-miR-182 treatment inhibits the hypertrophic response and prevents the Akt/ mTORC1 activation in PIGF mice and NO-treated cardiomyocytes. miR-182 reduces the expression of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 to regulate the hypertrophic response in PIGF mice. Particularly, depletion of Bcat2, identified as a new miR-182 target, promotes Akt^{Ser473}/p70-S6K^{Thr389} phosphorylation and cardiomyocyte hypertrophy. LV pressure overload did not upregulate miR-182. Thus, miR-182 is a novel target of endothelial-cardiomyocyte crosstalk and plays an important role in the angiogenesis inducedhypertrophic response.

Cardiac hypertrophy is a compensatory adaptation to increased hemodynamic demands. While in normal conditions the coronary vasculature provides sufficient oxygen and nutrient delivery, during myocardial hypertrophy an increase in coronary blood supply is critical to support the increase in heart mass and function¹. Although cardiomyocytes secrete growth factors that can induce an angiogenic response, in some cases the extent of angiogenesis may be limited and imbalanced relative to the extent of hypertrophy, which ultimately leads to heart failure^{2–5}. On the other hand, several studies collectively demonstrate that angiogenesis may conversely promote myocardial hypertrophy^{6–12}.

Previously, we showed that cardiac-specific transgenic expression of angiogenic factors PR39⁷ or placental growth factor (PIGF)¹¹ promotes myocardial hypertrophy through a paracrine mechanism mediated by the endothelium-released nitric oxide (NO) that coordinates angiogenesis and cardiomyocyte growth. Our studies focused on the role of NO in the degradation of regulator of G protein signaling type 4 (RGS4) through the Arg/N-end rule pathway of protein degradation¹³. RGS4 is a GTPase-activating protein for heterotrimeric Gq and Gi, which are associated with the hypertrophic response in failing human myocardium¹⁴. We determined that the increased vascular density and higher baseline NO production accelerated the degradation of RGS4 and promoted cardiomyocyte hypertrophy by relieving the repression of G $\beta\gamma$ -dependent PI3K γ activation of the Akt/ mTORC1 pathway¹¹. Moreover, the angiogenesis-induced myocardial hypertrophy was characterized by normal LV contractile function and no evidence of fibrosis or induction of markers associated with pathological

¹Yale Cardiovascular Research Center, Section of Cardiovascular Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, 06520, USA. ²Paris Cardiovascular Research Center PARCC, Inserm U970, 56 Rue Leblanc, 75015 Paris, France. ³Department of Molecular Physiology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, 06520, USA. ^{*}Present address: Department of Ophthalmology, Université de Montréal Centre de Recherche de l'Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont 5415, Blvd de l'Assomption, H1T 2M4 Montréal, QC, Canada. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to D.T. (email: Daniela.Tirziu@yale.edu) hypertrophy¹¹. Additional factors might modulate the activation of the Akt/mTORC1 pathway and we therefore investigated whether miRNAs contribute to the induction of the hypertrophic response associated with myocardial angiogenesis.

Thus, we studied the expression pattern of miRNAs in the mouse model of PIGF-induced myocardial angiogenesis¹¹ and the effects of anti-miRs in these mice. We also assessed whether NO and RGS4 were critical for the regulation of miRNA identified during the hypertrophic response using mouse models and cultured cardiomyocytes. Furthermore, we assessed whether miRNA involved in the angiogenesis-induced hypertrophic response was also associated with the pathological response to LV pressure overload induced by transverse aortic constriction (TAC). Our findings show that upregulation of miR-182 is associated with angiogenesis-induced myocardial hypertrophy and decreases the expression of branched chain aminotransferase 2 (Bcat2), forkhead box O3 (Foxo3), and adenylate cyclase type 6 (Adcy6). We also found that newly identified miR-182 target Bcat2, a critical enzyme responsible for branched chain amino acids (BCAAs) catabolism, plays an important role in the activation of the Akt/mTORC1 pathway and the modulation of hypertrophic response in cardiomyocytes.

Results

miR-182 is upregulated subsequent to angiogenic stimulation and is dependent on NO-induced RGS4 degradation. To investigate whether miRNAs are involved in the regulation of the hypertrophic response subsequent to angiogenic stimulation, we employed a cardiac specific inducible Tet-OFF mouse model of PIGF expression driven by tTA under the α MHC promoter¹¹. In this model, we have previously shown that myocardial hypertrophy develops subsequent to angiogenesis and requires 6 weeks to occur¹¹ (summarized in Supplementary Fig. S1 on line). Microarray profiling of miRNAs in LV myocardium in PIGF mice after 3 and 6 weeks of angiogenic stimulation revealed the upregulation of miR-182 expression at 6 weeks (Supplementary Fig. S1 on line). Furthermore, qPCR analysis confirmed the specific increase of miR-182 expression (by ~9-fold) in PIGF mice at 6 weeks concurrent with the development of hypertrophy, but not at 3 weeks when only angiogenesis was apparent (Fig. 1a).

To further investigate the role of miR-182 in angiogenesis-induced cardiac hypertrophy, we determined its expression in the PIGF/RGS4 mouse, where induced cardiac expression of RGS4 concurrently with PIGF inhibits the hypertrophic response¹¹. In contrast to the PIGF mice, miR-182 expression in PIGF/RGS4 mice was low and similar to control mice (Fig. 1a). Consistent with the quantitative PCR data in heart homogenates, *in situ* hybridization of miR-182 detected higher expression of miR-182 within the ventricular myocardium in PIGF mice, compared with PIGF/RGS4 mice and controls (Fig. 1b). Furthermore, the co-staining of miR-182 with cardiomy-ocyte marker, cardiac troponin T confirmed the presence of miR-182 in cardiomyocytes (Supplementary Fig. S2 on line). These data indicate that both the upregulation of miR-182 and the hypertrophic response are prevented when RGS4 expression is maintained.

Myocardial hypertrophy subsequent to angiogenesis requires endothelial-NO production to induce RGS4 degradation¹¹, and thus we investigated whether miR-182 upregulation in PIGF mice was NO dependent by inducing PIGF expression in eNOS^{-/-} mice. Interestingly, consistent with the inhibition of hypertrophic response¹¹, we found abrogation of miR-182 upregulation in PIGF-induced eNOS^{-/-} mice (Fig. 1c). Together these data indicate that miR-182 upregulation subsequent to PIGF-induced angiogenesis is dependent on NO-induced RGS4 degradation mechanism, whereas PIGF has no direct effect on miR-182 regulation.

Inhibition of miR-182 prevents NO-induced cardiomyocyte hypertrophy in vitro. Next, we determined whether NO can directly induce miR-182 expression in cardiomyocytes by treating neonatal rat cardiomyocytes (NRCs) with the NO donor (DETA-NONOate). We found significant upregulation of miR-182 expression in response to NO donor (Fig. 2a). In contrast, the treatment of NRCs with PlGF, or the cardiac hypertrophic GPCR agonist Ang II did not affect miR-182 expression (Fig. 2a). In order to assess whether miR-182 plays a role in NO-induced cardiomyocyte hypertrophy we inhibited miR-182 in NO-treated NRCs with antagomir. As shown in Fig. 2b, the treatment with anti-miR-182 antagonized miR-182 expression and attenuated the hypertrophic response induced by the treatment with NO donor (Fig. 2c,d). Because NO treatment activates Akt^{Ser473} and downstream mTORC1 target p70-S6K^{Thr38911}, we tested whether the inhibition of miR-182 blocked the activation of Akt/mTORC1 pathway in NO-treated NRCs. In agreement with the inhibition of the hypertrophic response, anti-miR-182 also diminished the phosphorylation of Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389} in NO-treated NRCs (Fig. 2e–g).

To assess whether miR-182 has a direct hypertrophic effect, we treated NRCs with a miR-182 mimic. While a 24-hrs treatment with NO donor increased cell size by 85%, the 24-hrs treatment with miR-182 mimic increased the cell size by 40%, compared with miR-scramble treatment (Fig. 2d,h). The treatment of NRCs with miR-182 and NO donor did not stimulate the cell growth further than the effect observed with NO donor alone (Fig. 2h). Consistent with the pro-hypertrophic effect in NRCs, miR-182 induced a significant increase in p70-S6K^{Thr389} phosphorylation (Supplementary Fig. S3 on line). These data in conjunction with the more dramatic reciprocal effects of anti-miR-182 treatment in NO-treated NRCs indicate that the activation of the Akt/mTORC1 pathway downstream of NO initiates the hypertrophic response, whereas miR-182 functions as a modulator.

Finally, to determine whether miR-182 has any effect on angiogenesis, we examined endothelial cell sprouting *in vitro*. Transfection of HUVECs with miR-182 mimic did not affect endothelial cell sprouting in response to VEGFA, as compared with miR-scramble, suggesting no direct effect of miR-182 on angiogenesis (Fig. 2i,j).

Inhibition of miR-182 prevents the hypertrophic response subsequent to angiogenesis in heart. We then proceeded to study whether miR-182 has an important role in modulating the hypertrophic response *in vivo*. PIGF mice were treated with intravenous injection of anti-miR-182 or control miR-scramble during the hypertrophic phase (the last 3 weeks of the 6 week angiogenic stimulation period) (Supplementary







Figure 1. miR-182 upregulation in the heart subsequent to PIGF-induced angiogenesis is dependent on NO-induced RGS4 degradation mechanism. (a) Increased miR-182 expression in PIGF mice, after 6 weeks of angiogenic stimulation, is concurrent with the development of hypertrophy. miR-182 is not induced in PIGF/ RGS4 mice, where hypertrophic response is inhibited. n = 6 (3 wk controls); 6 (3 wk PlGF); 6 (3 wk PlGF/RGS4); 6 (6 wk controls); 5 (6 wk PlGF); 6 (6 wk PlGF/RGS4). (b) In situ hybridization of LV myocardium sections with DIG labeled miRCURY LNA mmu-miR-182 detection probe or DIG labeled miR-scramble probe. (c) miR-182 is not upregulated in PIGF-induced eNOS^{-/-} mice, where the hypertrophic response is inhibited. n = 6 (controls); 5 (PIGF); 5 (eNOS^{-/-}); 8 (PIGF/eNOS^{-/-}). *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01.

Fig. S4 on line). Treatment with anti-miR-182 reduced the cardiac content of miR-182 in PIGF mice by 50%, compared with control miR-scramble treatment (Supplementary Fig. S4 on line). Anti-miR-182 treatment led to a 40% reduction (p = 0.057) in liver, whereas in kidney miR-182 content was not affected (Supplementary Fig. S4 on line).

The degree of LV hypertrophy was measured by echocardiography and calculated as a growth index that represents the ratio of parameters after treatment to the measurements prior treatment (Supplementary Fig. S4 on line). There was a significant increase of LV posterior wall (LVPW) thickness in PIGF mice, which was blocked by anti-miR-182 treatment, but not by control miR-scramble treatment (Fig. 3a). Similarly, in PIGF mice there was a 40% increase in LV mass, which was prevented by the treatment with anti-miR-182, but not by miR-scramble (Fig. 3a). Furthermore, the minor LV dilation observed in PIGF mice was also prevented by the treatment with anti-miR-182 (Fig. 3a). Consistent with the echocardiographic parameters, anti-miR-182 treatment also inhibited the increase in the heart weight to body weight ratio (HW/BW) in PIGF mice (Fig. 3b). Moreover, there was no impairment of LV contractile function in PIGF mice, and LV ejection fraction (EF) was also unaffected by the



Figure 2. Inhibition of miR-182 prevents NO-induced cardiomyocyte hypertrophy. (a) miR-182 is upregulated in NRCs treated for 24 hrs with NO donor (DETA-NONOate, 100μ M), but not in PIGF (50 ng/ml) or Ang II (0.5 μ M) treated NRCs. (b) miR-182 inhibition with anti-miR-182 (50 nM) in NO-treated NRCs, compared with miR-scramble (50 nM). (c) Anti-miR-182 prevents the increase in cell size in NO-treated NRCs. (d) Representative NRCs transfected with anti-miR-182, miR-182 mimic and miR-scramble with and without NO donor treatment for 24 hrs compared with control NRCs (co-staining with an anti- α -actinin sarcomeric Ab and DAPI). (e) Western blot analysis of Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389}. (f) Relative change in Akt activation at Akt^{Ser477}. (g) Relative change in p70S6K activation at p70-S6K^{Thr389}. (h) miR-182 mimic promotes NRC hypertrophy. (i) Representative HUVECs sprouting (calcein AM staining) after transfection with miR-182 mimic or miR-scramble (50 nM). (j) Quantitative analysis of the tube area. * *P* < 0.05; ***P* < 0.01; ****P* < 0.001.



Bar 50 µm

Figure 3. Inhibition of miR-182 prevents myocardial hypertrophy and Akt/mTORC1 activation. (a) Growth index of echo-determined: LV posterior wall (LVPW) thickness, LV mass (normalized to body weight) and LV internal diameter in diastole (LVIDd) in untreated PIGF mice and PIGF mice treated with either anti-miR-182 or miR-scramble, compared with control. (b) Heart weight (HW)/body weight (BW) ratio at the end of treatment. (c) Echo-determined LV ejection fraction (LVEF). (d) Representative LV myocardium sections immunostained with anti CD31 and anti-laminin Abs. (e) Cardiomyocyte cross-sectional area measurements. (f) Western blot analysis of RGS4, Akt^{Ser473}, p70-S6K^{Thr389} expression in LV tissue lysates. (g) Capillary/myocyte ratio. n = 9 (controls); 9 (PIGF); 6 (PIGF+miR-scramble); 6 (PIGF+anti-miR-182). *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001 vs. control or as indicated.

treatment with anti-miR-182 (Fig. 3c). These results indicate that miR-182 has an important role in the hypertrophic response induced by angiogenesis in heart. To more directly assess the effect of anti-miR-182 on cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, we measured cardiomyocyte cross-sectional area in LV sections from PIGF mice with and without anti-miR-182 treatment. The results showed a significant inhibition of cardiomyocyte hypertrophy in anti-miR-182-treated PIGF mice, compared with either untreated or miR-scramble treated PIGF mice (Fig. 3d,e).

In PIGF mice, the NO-mediated RGS4 degradation releases the inhibition of Akt/mTORC1 pathway and induces an increase in Akt^{Ser473} and mTORC1/p70-S6K^{Thr38911}. In contrast to PIGF and miR-scramble-treated PIGF mice that had increased phosphorylation at Akt^{Ser473} (2-fold) and 70-S6K^{Thr389} (4-fold), the levels of phosphorylated Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389} in anti-miR-182-treated PIGF mice were not increased and were comparable with controls (Fig. 3f). Thus, these *in vivo* results are consistent with the *in vitro* data showing an inhibitory effect of anti-miR-182 on Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389} levels and hypertrophy in NRCs (Fig. 2c–g). Importantly, the RGS4 protein levels, compared with controls, were similarly decreased regardless of whether PIGF mice were treated with or without anti-miR-182 (Fig. 3f). Also, the treatment with anti-miR-182 did not affect PIGF-induced angiogenesis, based on the findings that the increase in vessel density was sustained during either control miR-scramble or anti-miR-182 treatment (Fig. 3g). Thus, taken together, these results indicate an important regulatory effect of miR-182 on the Akt/mTORC1 pathway that is independent of NO-induced RGS4 degradation.

miR-182 targets Bcat2, Foxo3, and Adcy6 to potentially regulate the hypertrophic response.

To better understand the regulation of the Akt/mTORC1 pathway and to identify the miR-182 targeted genes, which might be linked to the hypertrophic response subsequent to angiogenesis, we conducted comparative mRNA expression profiling in PIGF mice (angiogenesis with hypertrophic response) and PIGF/RGS4 mice (angiogenesis with inhibition of hypertrophic response). The mRNA transcripts that were selectively downregulated on microarrays of PIGF mouse hearts, but not of PIGF/RGS4 mouse hearts, were further analyzed using the miRWalk database of predicted and validated microRNA targets¹⁵. Using this approach, we identified 9 potential miR-182 targets associated with the hypertrophic response in PIGF mice (Supplementary Table S1 on line). Of these targets, 3 miR-182 targets: Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 were further validated by qPCR analysis (Fig. 4a).

Coincident with the upregulation of miR-182 expression in PIGF mice, there was significantly reduced expression of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 transcripts (Fig. 4b). Consequently, the treatment with anti-miR-182 partially restored the expression of Adcy6 and completely restored the expression of Bcat2 and Foxo3 to control levels (Fig. 4b).

Next, we addressed whether miR-182 negatively regulated the expression of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 transcripts in an isolated cell system. The treatment of MEFs with a miR-182 mimic resulted in a ~65% reduction of Adcy6 and a ~45% reduction of Bcat2 and Foxo3 expression (Fig. 4c), consistent with our *in vivo* observations.

Angiogenesis-induced hypertrophic response augments myocardial hypertrophy during LV pressure overload and protects against early contractile dysfunction. In order to determine whether hypertrophy induced by angiogenic stimulation has a molecular signature distinct from the pathological hypertrophic response to LV pressure overload and/or has a beneficial effect, PIGF and PIGF/RGS4 mice were subjected to TAC after angiogenic stimulation for 3 weeks (schematically described in Fig. 5a). After 3 weeks of angiogenesis, there was no cardiac hypertrophy at the time of TAC in PIGF or PIGF/RGS4 mice (Fig. 5b), consistent with our prior data¹¹. As expected, at 2 and 6 weeks post-TAC, echocardiography demonstrated significant hypertrophy in all groups. However, the increase in LVPW thickness and LV mass was ~2-fold higher in PIGF mice than in either control or PIGF/RGS4 mice (Fig. 5b). A greater degree of myocardial hypertrophy in PIGF mice was also evidenced by higher HW/BW ratios (Fig. 5c). Although in PlGF mice the heart doubled in size by 2 weeks after TAC, the cardiac contractile function was preserved with significantly higher LVEF than in control mice subjected to TAC (Fig. 5d). However, there was a subsequent decline in cardiac function in all groups 6 weeks after TAC, with the PIGF mice having an even lower LVEF than control or PIGF/RGS4 mice (LVEF: 27% in PIGF mice vs. 46% in controls and 54% in PIGF/RGS4 mice, p < 0.001) (Fig. 5d). In PIGF/RGS4 mice, the angiogenesis-induced hypertrophic response was completely prevented compared with PIGF mice and the extent of myocardial hypertrophy and the decline in cardiac function after TAC were each comparable with control (Fig. 5b–d).

To exclude the possibility that the severe compromise in contractile function after TAC in PIGF mice could be due to a failure of angiogenesis during pressure overload we assessed the capillary density in LV sections. However, we found that the increased capillary density, observed in both PIGF and PIGF/RGS4 mice prior to TAC was sustained for 6 weeks after TAC in both models (Fig. 5e). Thus, these results indicate that PIGF-induced angiogenesis protects against early but not late contractile dysfunction after LV pressure overload.

miR-182 is not associated with LV pressure overload or pathological hypertrophy. Next, we assessed the expression of miR-182 and targeted genes in pathological hypertrophy induced by LV pressure overload. The greater hypertrophic response in PIGF mice after TAC was also associated with greater cardiomyocyte area when compared with control and PIGF/RGS4 mice at both 2 and 6 weeks post-TAC (Fig. 6a,b). Consistent with our observations that miR-182 modulates the angiogenesis-induced hypertrophic response, there was also a 7-fold increase in miR-182 expression in PIGF mice at both time points (Fig. 6c). In contrast, despite the induction of hypertrophy after TAC, there was no increase in miR-182 expression in either control or PIGF/RGS4 mice (Fig. 6c). The lack of miR-182 induction after TAC is in accord with *in vitro* data showing that AngII, a cardiac hypertrophic GPCR agonist, also did not induce miR-182 expression (Fig. 2a). Thus, miR-182 upregulation does not appear to be associated with pressure overload-induced or pathological hypertrophy.

We also analyzed miR-182 targeted genes in PIGF, PIGF/RGS4 and control mice at 2 and 6 weeks post-TAC. We found a significant and persistent downregulation of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 transcripts in PIGF mice at 2 and 6 weeks after TAC, compared to pre-TAC measurements. (Fig. 6d). Despite the lack of increase in miR-182,

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Figure 4. miR-182 downregulates Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 in PIGF mice and MEFs. (a) Alignment of mmu-miR-182 with putative 3' UTR target sites: one site in Bcat2 and Foxo3 and 4 sites in Adcy6. miR-182 seed sequence and the corresponding target sites are indicated in green box. Complementary bases are shown in red color. (b) Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcv6 transcripts are downregulated in PIGF mice and control miR-scrambletreated PIGF mice, compared with controls. Anti-miR-182 treatment completely restored Bcat2 and Foxo3 expression and partially restored Adcy6 expression in PIGF mice. n = 4 (controls); 4 (PIGF); 4 (PIGF + control miR-scramble); 5 (PIGF + anti-miR-182). (c) Reduction of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 expression in MEFs transfected with miR-182 mimic (50 nM). n = 4 independent experiments. *P < 0.05; *P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001.

pressure overload significantly decreased the expression of Adcy6 and Foxo3 in control and PIGF/RGS4 mice (Fig. 6d). In the case of Adcv6, the expression in PIGF mice at 2 weeks post-TAC was comparable with that in controls, although it was prevented in PIGF/RGS4 mice. In contrast, at 6 weeks after TAC, Adcy6 expression was equally decreased in all groups. Whereas Foxo3 downregulation after TAC was similar in all groups at both time points. These findings show that Adcy6 and Foxo3 are downregulated in response to pressure overload with a greater reduction in PIGF mice, suggesting an additive effect of pressure overload and miR-182. In contrast, Bcat2 expression was strikingly lower at 2 and 6 weeks post-TAC in PIGF mice, but there was only a trend to decreased expression in control and PIGF/RGS4 mice (Fig. 6d). These results indicate that the downregulation of Bcat2 strongly relates to the increase in miR-182 expression that is present in PIGF, but not in PIGF/RGS4 or control mice.

Bcat2 deficiency promotes hypertrophy and Akt/mTORC1 activation in cardiomyocytes. Because published studies have already shown that miR-182 directly regulates the expression of Foxo3¹⁶⁻¹⁸ and Adcy6^{19,20}, we further investigated whether miR-182 directly regulates the expression of Bcat2. To determine the direct binding of miR-182 to Bcat2-3' UTR, we co-transfected HEK293T cells with wild-type or mutant Bcat2-3' UTR reporter plasmid and either a miR-182 mimic or a miR-scramble negative control. The miR-182 mimic reduced the luciferase activity of wild type but not mutant Bcat2-3' UTR reporter, compared with



Figure 5. Angiogenesis-induced hypertrophic response augments myocardial hypertrophy during LV pressure overload. (a) PIGF and PIGF/RGS4 mice were subjected to TAC after 3 weeks of angiogenesis stimulation. All groups were examined at 2 and 6 weeks after TAC. (b) Echo-determined LVPWd thickness and LV mass/BW ratio at 2 and 6 weeks after TAC. Greater myocardial hypertrophy in PIGF mice after TAC, compared with PIGF/RGS4 and control mice. (c) HW/BW ratio 6 weeks after TAC in all groups. (d) Echo-determined LVEF prior and at 2 and 6 weeks after TAC. (e) Capillary/myocyte ratio in all groups prior to TAC and up to 6 weeks after TAC. n = 11 (controls); 6 (PIGF); 5 (PIGF/RGS4). *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 vs. pre-TAC or as indicated; # P < 0.05 vs. 2 wk post-TAC.

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cells transfected with control miR-scramble (Fig. 7a). Next, we hypothesized that miR-182 negatively regulates Bcat2 expression in NO-treated NRCs and that the treatment with anti-miR-182 restores Bcat2 expression and inhibits hypertrophic response. Indeed, in NO-treated NRCs, the upregulation of miR-182 (Fig. 2b) suppressed Bcat2 expression by 50% (Fig. 7b). Consequently, the treatment of NO-treated NRCs with anti-miR-182 restored Bcat2 expression (Fig. 7b) and prevented the hypertrophic response (Fig. 2c,d). These data are in agreement with *in vivo* observations of reduced Bcat2 expression in PIGF mice concurrently with the upregulation of miR-182 and the development of hypertrophy and complete restoration of Bcat2 expression and inhibition of hypertrophic response with anti-miR-182 treatment (Figs 3 and 4b). Next, in order to determine whether Bcat2 has a direct effect on the cell growth and the Akt/mTORC1 pathway, we silenced Bcat2 expression in NRCs with siRNA (Fig. 7c). Interestingly, Bcat2 depletion resulted in a 2.5 fold increase in cardiomyocyte size (Fig. 7d,e) and a 7 fold increase in phosphorylation of Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389} (Fig. 7 f–h). Because Bcat2 is a critical determinant of the cellular catabolism of BCAAs our data strongly suggest that a loss in Bcat2 stimulates the Akt and mTORC1/ p70-S6K activation and the hypertrophic response through a BCAA-dependent mechanism.

Discussion

These data are the first to show that endothelium to cardiomyocyte communication can induce the expression of miRNAs in the heart, and that miR-182 induction is critical for the hypertrophic response that links angiogenesis to cardiomyocyte growth. We found that miR-182 upregulation in the heart occurs subsequent to PIGF-induced angiogenesis and requires endothelial-derived NO production, which triggers RGS4 degradation in cardiomyocytes. Consequently, the expression of miR-182 and myocardial hypertrophy were inhibited by the concomitant transgenic expression of PIGF and RGS4, or the expression of PIGF in eNOS^{-/-} mice. The mechanism by which miR-182 expression is controlled downstream of RGS4 is not known and future studies are required to address this issue.

For the purpose of this study, we focused on miR-182 and its important downstream role to modulate the Akt/ mTORC1 pathway. Our data show that miR-182 inhibition with antagomir prevented phosphorylation at Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389} and hypertrophy in both NO-treated cardiomyocytes and PIGF mice, despite the loss in RGS4 protein. The present data, also provide insight into potential mechanisms by which miR-182 might regulate the



Figure 6. miR-182 is not associated with the hypertrophic response induced by LV pressure overload. (a) Representative immunostaining with anti CD31 and anti-laminin Abs of LV myocardium sections at 2 weeks post-TAC in PIGF, PIGF/RGS4 and control mice. (b) Increased cardiomyocyte cross-sectional area in LV myocardium sections in all groups after TAC. Greater cardiomyocyte area in PLGF mice. (c) Increased miR-182 expression in PIGF mice, but not in PIGF/RGS4 or control mice. (d) Comparative analysis of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 expression prior and during TAC. n = 6 (control pre-TAC); 6 (PIGF pre-TAC); 6 (PIGF/RGS4 pre-TAC); n = 7 (control 2 wk post-TAC); 4 (PIGF 2 wk post-TAC); 4 (PIGF/RGS4 2 wk post-TAC); 6 (control 6 wk post-TAC); 6 (PIGF 6 wk post-TAC); 5 (PIGF/RGS4 6 wk post-TAC). **P* < 0.05, ***P* < 0.01, ****P* < 0.001 vs. pre-TAC or as indicated; # *P* < 0.05 vs. 2 wk post-TAC.



Figure 7. Bcat2 depletion induces cardiomyocyte hypertrophy. (a) Reduced activity of wild type (WT) Bcat2-3'UTR luciferase reporter in HEK293T cells co-transfected with miR-182 mimic, compared with miR-scramble. miR-182 did not reduce the activity of mutant (Mut) Bcat2-3'UTR luciferase reporter. Mutations in Bcat2-3'UTR are indicated in orange. (b) Reduction of Bcat2 expression in NO-treated NRCs and restoration of Bcat2 expression with anti-miR-182 treatment. (c) Bcat2 depletion in Bcat2-siRNA-treated NRCs. (d) Representative Bcat2-siRNA-treated NRCs after 24 hrs in a serum-free medium, compared with scramble-siRNA treated and control NRCs (co-staining with anti- α -actinin sarcomeric Ab and DAPI). (e) Increased cell surface area of Bcat2-siRNA-treated NRCs. (f) Western blot analysis of Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389}. (g) Relative change in Akt activation at Akt^{Ser473}. (h) Relative change in p70-S6K activation at p70-S6K^{Thr389}. n = 3 independent experiments; * P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001.

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hypertrophic response, including suppression of Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 expression. Remarkably, the depletion of Bcat2, an enzyme involved in the mitochondrial catabolism of BCAAs, had a direct effect on cardiomyocyte hypertrophy and increased Akt^{Ser473} and p70-S6K^{Thr389} phosphorylation, indicating the potential contribution of BCAAs to the growth response.

Angiogenic factor PIGF binds to VEGFR1 and indirectly amplifies angiogenesis by displacing VEGF-A from VEGFR1 and making it available for binding to pro-angiogenic VEGFR2²¹. As we¹¹ and others¹⁰ have observed, PIGF did not directly promote cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, which might be explained by the lack of VEGFR1

expression on cardiomyocytes^{8,10}. Consistent with the lack of a direct hypertrophic effect, PIGF also did not induce miR-182 expression in cardiomyocytes. Another member of the VEGF family, VEGFB, binds to VEGFR1, but is less pro-angiogenic, also promotes myocardial hypertrophy in the rat heart¹². However, in contrast with our PIGF model, VEGFB-induced hypertrophy was independent of NO¹². This apparent mechanistic difference between PIGF and VEGFB may reflect the capabilities of PIGF to induce angiogenesis and to activate endothelial eNOS through VEGFR1 phosphorylation at Tyr794²².

Only a few previous studies have addressed the potential function of miR-182 in the heart. One report related miR-182 to cardiac hypertrophy in rejecting cardiac allografts²³, while other two provided evidences of increased circulated miR-182 in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery²⁴ and patients with chronic congestive heart failure²⁵. However, several studies showed that miR-182 functions as an oncomiR in the early stages to promote cancer cell proliferation and growth and as a tumor suppressor in the late stages to inhibit cancer metastasis¹⁸ Among multiple targets, miR-182 oncogenicity was associated with the repression of FOXO3^{17,18} and FOXO1²⁶.

Our findings reveal that miR-182 suppressed Bcat2, Foxo3 and Adcy6 expression, raising the possibility that one or more of these actions contributed to the angiogenesis-induced hypertrophic response in the heart. Downregulation of Foxo3, a regulator of the atrophy-related gene program²⁷ would be expected to promote a growth response. Pressure overload and hypertrophic GPCR agonists are known to downregulate Foxo3 through the action of miR-23a²⁸. However, a recent study provides evidence that miR-182 also directly decreases Foxo3 expression. During glucocorticoid-induced atrophy in skeletal muscle, a decrease of intracellular miR-182 and increased release of miR-182 into exosomes augmented the Foxo3 expression and activation of the atrophy-related gene expression¹⁶. The overexpression of miR-182 decreased Foxo3 expression and attenuated skeletal muscle atrophy¹⁶. Together with our findings, these data indicate that miR-182 favors cellular growth in skeletal and cardiac muscle.

Bcat2 is another potential mechanism that might contribute to the hypertrophic response induced by miR-182. Bcat2 catalyzes the first step in mitochondrial catabolism of BCAAs (leucine, isoleucine, valine) and therefore is a critical determinant of the cellular BCAA content. BCAAs are avidly extracted by the heart in patients with coronary artery disease²⁹ and oxidized after conversion to their ketoacids. Interestingly, a recent study highlighted the role of Bcat2 in glucocorticoid-induced atrophy in skeletal muscle. In this model, upregulation of Bcat2 increased BCAA catabolism and induced muscle atrophy, while conversely BCAA treatment activated mTORC1 and attenuated muscle atrophy³⁰. Studies done in Bcat2^{-/-} mice showed also that elevated BCAAs and/or loss of BCAA catabolism increased the protein synthesis and mTORC1/p70S6K in skeletal muscle³¹. The anabolic effect of amino acids, in particular BCAAs to increase protein synthesis is mediated by their direct activation of mTORC1 with subsequent downstream phosphorylation of p70-S6K at Thr389^{32,33}. BCAAs appear to promote Akt phosphorylation at Ser473 through the activation of mTORC2 in a manner dependent on the activity of class I PI3K³⁴. Our results expand upon these findings by showing that miR-182 directly regulates Bcat2 expression and that Bcat2 downregulation activates Akt^{Ser473} and mTORC1/p70-S6K^{Thr389} and promotes cardiomyocyte hypertrophy.

Previously, it has been shown that miR-182 directly modulates Adcy6 expression to regulate mammalian circadian rhythm^{19,20}. However, the contribution of Adcy6 (required for cAMP synthesis in response to β -adrenergic stimulation) to the cardiomyocyte hypertrophy is not well understood. Although, Adcy6 expression was decreased in myocardial infarction and chronic LV pressure overload, this event was linked to a severe impairment in both calcium signaling and LV contractile function^{35,36}.

We did not find evidence of miR-182 induction during either LV pressure overload *in vivo* or in response to the GPCR agonist Ang II *in vitro*. Interestingly, pressure overload did downregulate Foxo3 and Adcy6 presumably through a distinct mechanism(s). However, in the case of Bcat2 a greater reduction was associated with miR-182 than that detected with pressure overload. Thus, angiogenesis-induced and pressure overload-induced hypertrophy may have some convergence and thus additive effects on selected downstream miR-182 targets.

Interestingly, during TAC-induced pressure overload, superimposed effect of angiogenesis on hypertrophy resulted in a greater myocardial hypertrophic response. Initially, this was protective at 2 weeks after TAC, preserving contractile function, but later at 6 weeks appeared to be detrimental. Although angiogenesis is more robust during TAC in PIGF mice, it still might not be sufficient to compensate for the excessive hypertrophy that develops in this model. Alternatively, other pathological factors and/or the duration of stress stimuli may contribute to the decline in heart function. The latter hypothesis is supported by a previous observation that pathologic exposure to intermittent pressure overload can trigger cardiac dysfunction independent of hypertrophy *per se*³⁷. Furthermore, increased angiogenesis during pressure overload-induced hypertrophy did not prevent the contractile dysfunction in a mouse model with sustained expression of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ coactivator-1 α (PGC-1 α)³⁸. PGC-1 α was shown to regulate the VEGF-induced angiogenesis in response to exercise and ischemia³⁹.

Cardiomyocyte transgenic PIGF expression has been previously reported to exaggerate the myocardial hypertrophic response after TAC¹⁰. However, in contrast to our model, there was no baseline induction of angiogenesis or hypertrophy in the prior experiments¹⁰. This apparent discrepancy likely reflects the different promoters used to control the transgene expression: traditional CMV minimal promoter coupled with TRE in our model¹¹ versus a modified MHC promoter linked to TRE to induce a low level of transgene expression in the prior study¹⁰. Interestingly, in contrast with our data, the PIGF transgenic mice, in the prior study, did not develop greater LV contractile dysfunction during TAC, even with superimposed angiotensin II/phenylephrine infusion¹⁰. Genetic background differences in the mouse strains could also contribute to these results: C57BL/6 strain in our study versus FVB/N strain, more resistant to cardiac dysfunction in the prior study¹⁰.

Although our study has implicated cardiomyocyte miR-182 as a target of endothelium to cardiomyocyte communication, we cannot exclude the possibility that miR-182 may conversely modulate cardiomyocyte to

endothelial cell communication and promote angiogenesis. A recent study showed that the conditioned medium from miR-182 transfected liver cancer cell lines promoted HUVEC angiogenesis potentially related to downregulation of RAS p21 protein activator 1 (RASA1)⁴⁰. To the extent that miR-182 promotes an increase in vasculature and blood perfusion, it could provide an additional mechanism responsible for developing and sustaining myocardial hypertrophy. However, more work is warranted to elucidate this potential crosstalk mechanism.

In conclusion, miR-182 is a novel target of endothelium to cardiomyocyte communication and plays an important role in the activation of the Akt/mTORC1 pathway and the hypertrophic response induced by angiogenesis in heart.

Methods

Animal models. The TET-OFF mouse lines PIGF and PIGF/RGS4 with regulated heart specific transgenic expression sensitive to tetracycline transactivator (tTA) driven by the α MHC promoter were recently described by our laboratory¹¹. All transgenic mouse lines were generated in C57Bl/6 strain. The PIGF and PIGF/RGS4 were generated by crossing driver line α MHC-tTA⁷ with TRE-PIGF and correspondingly TRE-PIGF/RGS4 mice. The PIGF-induced eNOS^{-/-} mice were generated by crossing α MHC-tTA- eNOS^{-/-} with TRE-PIGF- eNOS^{-/-} mice. Genotyping was performed by Transnetyx (Cordova), using a qPCR based system to detect the presence or absence of a target sequence within each sample¹¹. Transgene expression was repressed during embryonic and postnatal development by doxycycline in diet (200 mg/kg; Bio-Serv) and induced on normal chow diet at 5 weeks of age. Littermates inheriting only responder or driver transgene were used as controls. All animal experiments were performed under a protocol approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Yale University. All experiments were carried out in accordance with the approved guidelines.

Transverse aortic constriction (TAC). PIGF, PIGF/RGS4 and control mice, 8 weeks old, were subjected to TAC by tying an 8-0 nylon suture ligature against a 27.5 gauge blunt needle, as previously described⁴¹. The resulting constriction produces a 4 m/sec velocity. Mice were monitored up to 6 weeks after TAC procedure.

Echocardiography. Mice were anesthetized with 1% isoflurane inhaled anesthesia. M-mode images were acquired with a Visual Sonic 2100 high-resolution ultrasound imaging system¹¹.

Antagomir treatment in mice. The *in vivo* LNA anti-mmu-miR-182-5p probe and control miR-scramble (Exiqon) were packed into the MaxSuppressorTM. *In Vivo* RNA-LANCEr II, a phospholipid-oil emulsion (Bioo Scientific). Prior to *in vivo* administration in order to increase efficiency of delivery, the lipid suspension was homogenized to unilamellar vesicles, 120–140 nm diameter range, by extrusion through a 100 nm pore size filter using a Lipid Extruder (Bioo Scientific). LNA anti-miR-182 and control miR-scramble were delivered via tail vein injection, $20 \mu g/mouse/$ injection on day 1, 4 and 7 during 3 weeks treatment period.

miRNA isolation and quantification. Total RNA was isolated from LV samples using miRNeasy mini kit (Qiagen) and converted into cDNA using a TaqMan MicroRNA Reverse Transcription kit (Applied Biosystems) with specific miRNA primers supplied with the TaqMan MicroRNA Assay (Applied Biosystems). Quantitative PCR was performed in a CFX96 Real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad) using Taqman miRNA probes (Applied Biosystems) and SsoFast Probes Supermix (Bio-Rad). Small nucleolar RNA 202 or U6 (Applied Biosystems) were used as endogenous control for miRNA quantification.

miRNA and mRNA microarrays. We used the Affymetrix GeneChip miRNA 2.0 array for miRNA expression profiling. The arrays were processed in conjunction with the FlashTag Biotin Labelling kit (Genisphere) by W.M. Keck Biotechnology Resource Laboratory at Yale. Total RNA (130 ng) isolated from LV samples were labeled with the FlashTag Biotin HSR RNA Kit, according to the manufacturer's recommendation. Biotin-labeled samples were hybridized for 16 hours at 48 °C and 60 rpm on GeneChip miRNA 2.0 arrays. GeneChips were washed and stained in an Affymetrix GeneChip Fluidics Station 450, then scanned with a GeneChip Scanner 3000 7G. The data were analyzed and normalized using Expression Console Software with Affymetrix analysis settings.

We used the Affymetrix mouse gene 1.0 ST arrays (~29000 transcripts) for mRNA expression profiling. The arrays were processed and analyzed by W.M. Keck Biotechnology Resource Laboratory at Yale. High quality total RNA (250 ng) samples were processed to biotin-labeled cDNA using an Ambion WT expression kit and Affymetrix GeneChip WT Terminal Labeling kit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Biotin-labeled samples were hybridized for 16 hours at 45 °C and 60 rpm on GeneChip Mouse Gene 1.0 ST Array. GeneChips were washed and stained in an Affymetrix Fluidics Station 450, then scanned using a GeneChip Scanner 3000 7G. The data were analyzed with a Microarray Suite version 5.0 (MAS 5.0) using Affymetrix analysis settings and global scaling as normalization method.

The data have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus⁴² and are accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE67824.

miR-182 detection and localization by *in situ* **hybridization (ISH).** ISH was performed on LV sections, fixed in 4% PFA and embedded in paraffin, using a specific double-digoxigenin (DIG) labeled miRCURY LNA mmu-miR-182 detection probe (Exiqon). DIG labeled miR-scramble probe was used as a negative control and a DIG labeled probe against U6 snRNA as a positive control. The ISH detection was optimized for 50 nM miR-182 and miR-control probe and 25 nM for U6 positive control. After ISH the sections were co-stained with

an anti-cardiac troponin T antibody (Abcam) and DAPI. The images were analyzed with a Nikon Eclipse 80i microscope.

Histological assessments. <u>Capillary density</u> and <u>cardiomyocyte size</u> were determined on serial 5 µm LV sections immunostained with anti CD31 antibody (R&D Systems) or IB4 (Sigma) and anti laminin Ab (Sigma), as we previously described^{7,11}. Capillary/myocyte ratio and cardiomyocyte cross-sectional area were determined in captured images using a Nikon Eclipse 80i microscope and analyzed with the Image J analysis software.

Cell culture experiments. <u>Neonatal rat cardiomyocytes</u> (NRCs) were isolated from 2-day-old Sprague-Dawley rats using a Neonatal Cardiomyocyte Isolation System (Worthington Biochemical Corp.) and plated on fibronectin-coated plates in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS^{7,11}. NRCs were treated with NO donor DETA-NONOate (Cayman Chemical Co), PIGF-2 (R&D System) or Ang II (Sigma-Aldrich) in serum-free medium (DMEM supplemented with 1 mg/ml BSA, 10µg/ml transferrin and 10µg/ml insulin) for 24 hours, as we previously described¹¹.

<u>Transfection of NRCs</u> with anti-rno-miR-182 5p (Ambion), rno-miR-182 mimic 5p (Ambion), control miR scramble (Ambion), Bcat2 siRNA (Ambion), and AllStars Negative Control siRNA (Qiagen) were carried out using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Invitrogen). After transfection, NRCs were kept overnight in complete medium, then were placed in serum-free medium and used for experiment.

<u>NRCs surface area</u>. For cell area measurements, NRCs were plated on fibronectin-coated glass bottom plates and fixed at the end of experiments with 4% ice-cold PFA. After permeabilization with 2% PFA, 0.1% Triton X-100 and 0.1% NP-40, the cells were stained with an anti- α -actinin sarcomeric Ab (Sigma-Aldrich) and DAPI (Invitrogen) as previously described¹¹. NRCs were visualized with a Nikon Ti E Eclipse inverted spinning disk confocal microscope. Cell surface area was determined in 12 random fields (20 × 1.5 magnification) captured with a Volocity 3D imaging software (PerkinElmer) and then measured using an Image J analysis software.

<u>3'-UTR luciferase reporter assay.</u> To determine whether miR-182 directly binds to the Bcat2-3' UTR, we utilized a Gaussia luciferase (GLuc) /secreted Alkaline Phosphatase (SEAP) dual-reporter pEZX-MT05 vector (GeneCopoeia). HEK293T cells were co-transfected with 1 μ g of wild type or mutated Bcat2-3' UTR GLuc/SEAP dual-reporter pEZX-MT05 plasmid and mmu-miR-182-5p mimic (Ambion) or control miR-scramble (Ambion) (100 nM) with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). After 48 hours, both the GLuc and internal control SEAP activity were assessed in cell culture medium using a GeneCopoeia Secrete-Pair Dual Luminescence assay kit and measured with a BioTek Synergy 2 Multi-Mode microplate reader. Luciferase activity was normalized to SEAP activity and reported relative to control miR-scramble activity.

<u>Transfection of MEFs</u> with mmu-miR-182-5p mimic (Ambion) (50 nM) and control miR scramble (Ambion) (50 nM) were carried out using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Invitrogen). After transfection, MEFs were kept overnight in complete medium (DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS), then were placed in serum-free medium and analyzed 48 hours later.

Endothelial cell sprouting assay. HUVECs were transfected with hsa-miR-182 5p mimic or miR scramble and the sprouting assay was conducted as previously described⁴³. Briefly, 24 hours after transfection the cells were harvested and re-suspended in 300 μ l fibrinogen solution (2.5 mg/ml fibrinogen (Sigma) in EBM-2 supplemented with 2% FBS and 50 μ g/ml aprotinin (Sigma)), and plated on top of a pre-coated fibrin layer (400 μ l fibrinogen solution clotted with 1U thrombin (Sigma) for 20 min at 37C). The second layer of fibrin was added and allowed to clot for 1 hour at 37 °C. Human fibroblasts, WI-38 cells (250,000 cells/well), in EBM-2 supplemented with 2% FBS and 25 ng/ml VEGF-A, were then plated on top of the second fibrin layer. Cultures were then incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO₂. After 5 days, the cultures were labeled with 4 μ g/ml Calcein AM for 1 hour, and imaged with a Nikon Ti E Eclipse inverted spinning disk confocal microscope using a standard FITC filter.

miRNA target genes expression. Total RNA was reversed transcribed using iScript cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad) and qPCR was carried out using iQ SYBR Green supermix kit (Bio-Rad). The following primer sets were used:

Foxo3 mouse (NM_019740.2): F: 5' cgttgttggtttgaatgtgg 3' and R: 5' gagagcagatttggcaaagg 3'; **Adcy6 mouse**: (NM_007405): F: 5' agggaggtcctgtgtgtttg 3' and R: 5' ctcctgtgcaacctgggtat 3'; **Bcat2 mouse** (NM_009737): F: 5' gcatctagtccagcgtcctc 3' and R: 5' ccaaggttctccttgaaca 3', **Bcat2 rat** (NM_022400.1): F: 5' caggatgctacgttctgcaa 3' and R: 5' aacaggagggcttgtgtgac 3'; **Gapdh mouse** (NM_008084.2): F: 5' aactttggcaatggagagg 3' and R: 5' cacacgtgggtaggaaca 3'. **Gapdh rat** (NM_017008): F: 5' agcagcgcattcttgtg 3' and R: 5' cttgcgggtaggtaggtcaggtcag 3'.

Western blotting. LV tissue/cell homogenates were extracted in RIPA lysis buffer as previously described^{7,11}. Following transfer to Immobilon PVDF membranes (Perkin Elmer), the membranes were immunoblotted with specific antibodies against: RGS4 (Millipore), Akt (Millipore); Akt^{Ser473}, p70-S6K and p70-S6K^{Thr389} (Cell Signaling); GAPDH (Research Diagnostics, INC). Immunoreactive bands were visualized using the horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibody and enhanced chemiluminescent substrate (Pierce). Images were captured using a G: Box gel imaging system and analyzed with a GeneTools software (Syngene).

Statistical analysis. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. Differences between multiple groups were assessed, as required by the experimental design, using one-way ANOVA, two-way ANOVA or repeat measures two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-hoc test for multiple comparisons. Comparisons between two independent groups were performed using a two-sample t test. All *p* values were calculated using two-tailed statistical tests. Differences were considered significant when p < 0.05. Data were analyzed using GraphPad Prism Version 6.03.

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Author Contributions

N.L., C.H., I.M.J., B.L., I.P., A.E., H.J.C. and D.T. designed, performed experiments and analyzed the data presented in Figures 1 and 2 and supplementary Figures 1–3; N.L., J.H., N.M., L.H.Y. and D.T. performed experiments and analyzed the data presented in Figures 3 and 4, supplementary Figure 4 and table 1; I.M.J., J.Z., N.M., L.H.Y., N.L. and D.T. designed, performed experiments and analyzed the data presented in Figures 5 and 6; N.L., C.H., H.J.C. and D.T. performed experiments and analyzed the data presented in Figures 5 and 6; N.L., C.H., H.J.C. and D.T. performed experiments and analyzed the data presented in Figure 7; D.T. wrote the manuscript with input from the other authors. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Additional Information

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