Identification of GSK3 as a primary target of IMiDs and biomarker of clinical response using Drosophila

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## Thalidomide and IMiDs: Mechanisms of Action (MOA)

• Pre-clinical studies have revealed multiple direct and indirect antitumor activities



- Recent studies have identified cerebron (CRBN) as a putative target of thalidomide induced teratogenicity
- A unifying molecular MOA to explain the pleiotropic antitumor activity has not yet been clearly defined

## Drug Discovery Platform in Drosophila



#### **Larval Imaginal Discs**



wingless protein signal



Distalless protein effector







**Final structure** 

- Mechanism of Action elucidation
- Library screening for new compound identification

#### Thalidomide Feeding Phenocopies Wg Pathway Mutant Phenotype











### Wnt/Wg Signaling Pathway





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#### IMiD Effects are Downstream of dAxin and Sgg/GSK3

#### IMiDs Disrupt Apical Localization of Sgg/GSK3



Sgg

Tubulin

DAPI

#### Sgg/GSK3 is a Component of the Biotin-IMiD Binding Complex In Vivo







University Health Network

#### Proposed Model of Thalidomide and IMiD Targeting In *Drosophila*





#### IMiDs Disrupt GSK3 Localization in Myeloma Cells



Princess Margaret Hospital

#### GSK3 is Required for IMiD Activity in Myeloma Cells





#### IMiDs Fail to Induce GSK3 Nuclear Localization in IMiD Resistant Cells



MY5

MY5.1R





#### GSK3 Localization Predicts for Lenalidomide Response in CLL



#### **Conclusions:**

- GSK3 is required for thalidomide and IMiD activity
- modulation of GSK3 activity by subcellular relocalization may account for the pleiotropic anti-cancer and teratogenic activity of IMiDs
- GSK3 localization is potential biomarker for IMiD resistance



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# IMiDS Reverse the Ectopic/Apical Localization of Sgg/GSK3 in dAxin Mutant cells





#### IMiD Treatment Upregulates the GSK3 Substrate, p27