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## **Tissue factor is a critical regulator of radiation therapy-induced glioblastoma remodeling**

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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#### **Summary**

Radiation therapy (RT) provides therapeutic benefit for patients with glioblastoma (GBM), but inevitably induces poorly-understood global changes in GBM and its microenvironment (TME) that promote radio-resistance and recurrence. Through a cell surface marker screen, we identified that CD142 (Tissue factor or F3) is robustly induced in the senescence-associated β-galactosidase (SA-βGal)-positive GBM cells after irradiation. F3 promotes clonal expansion of irradiated SA-βGal+ GBM cells and orchestrates oncogenic TME remodeling by activating both tumorautonomous signaling and extrinsic coagulation pathways. Intratumoral F3 signaling induces a mesenchymal-like cell state transition and elevated chemokine secretion. Simultaneously, F3-mediated focal hypercoagulation states lead to activation of tumor-associated macrophages (TAMs) and extracellular matrix (ECM) remodeling. A newly developed F3-targeting agent potently inhibits the above oncogenic events and impedes tumor relapse in vivo. These findings support F3 as a critical regulator for therapeutic resistance and oncogenic senescence in GBM, opening potential therapeutic avenues.

#### **Graphical Abstract**



## **eTOC**

Jeon et al. find that Tissue factor (F3) is robustly upregulated in irradiated glioblastoma (GBM) cells. F3 signaling promotes irradiation-induced global remodeling of GBM tumor and its microenvironment, leading to GBM radio-resistance and recurrence. A new F3-targeting agent potently inhibits the above oncogenic events and impedes tumor relapse in vivo.

#### **Keywords**

Glioblastoma; Tissue factor; Senescence; Therapeutic resistance; Tumor microenvironment

## **Introduction**

Glioblastoma (GBM) is the most lethal brain cancer with no curative therapies available. Recent anti-angiogenic and immunotherapy approaches have not yet shown durable clinical benefits for GBM patients<sup>1,2</sup>. Currently, maximal surgical resection followed by radiation therapy (RT) and temozolomide (TMZ) chemotherapy is standard-of-care therapy for newly diagnosed GBM patients<sup>3</sup>. Limited benefits from current therapies can be attributed to multiple factors, including inherent radio-resistance of GBM tumors, preferential survival of GBM stem-like cells, and treatment-induced activation of pro-tumorigenic adaptive pathways<sup>4–6</sup>.

RT exerts cytostatic and cytotoxic anti-tumor effects against GBM, but tumor relapse is almost inevitable. Following RT, GBM tumors undergo phenotypic transition via global remodeling of epigenetic and transcriptome landscapes. RT enhances the secretion of various chemokines, cytokines, and extracellular matrix (ECM) molecules by tumor cells<sup>7,8</sup>. Many of RT-induced chemo/cytokines are known to induce GBM cell state transition and mediate reciprocal crosstalk between GBM cells and immune cells<sup>9–11</sup>. In addition, RT is a potent inducer of coagulopathy and immune modulation  $12^{-14}$ . While the above RT-induced global changes have long been hypothesized to account for tumor evolution and aggressiveness of recurrent tumors, the upstream initiators of these processes are poorly understood.

In many malignant tumors such as GBM, irradiation and targeted inhibitors transiently induce tumor cell senescence, referred to as therapy-induced senescence  $(TIS)^{15,16}$ . Because the senescence program involves global epigenomic reprogramming and the elevated secretion of multiple proteins, referred to as the senescence-associated secretory phenotype  $(SASP)$ , TIS may play a role in RT-induced global changes<sup>17,18</sup>. Tumor cell senescence remains poorly defined, with key questions unanswered including how senescent tumor cell states are regulated and how TIS affects treatment resistance and tumor recurrence. Here, we used an integrative approach to understand tumor cell senescence in the course of radiation resistance, combining the assays with a modified senescence-associated β-galactosidase (SA-βGal) substrate that allows sorting and live cell fate tracing of the senescent tumor cells, cell surface marker screening, single cell RNA sequencing, and profiling of transcriptome and chromatin landscapes. We demonstrate a causal link between RT-induced senescence and global oncogenic reprogramming and derive new therapeutic strategy to inhibit these processes.

### **Results**

#### **Irradiation-induced SA-**β**Gal+ GBM cells harbor stemness and senescence-like features.**

To determine the extent of senescence in GBM tumor, we utilized three different orthotopic patient-derived GBM models (Figure 1A). 827 and 022 GBM cells have homozygous deletion of *Cdkn2a*, a common genomic alteration found in GBM<sup>19</sup>. The brains of tumorbearing mice were irradiated and the activity of SA-βGal were measured with either a colorimetric substrate X-Gal or a cell-permeable fluorogenic substrate  $C_{12}FDG^{20,21}$  (Figures 1A and S1A). Irradiation induced strong SA-βGal activity especially in the tumor regions (Figure 1A). To determine the cell types of SA-βGal+ cells, we implanted red fluorescent protein (RFP)-transduced GBM tumors, irradiated the mice in vivo, and stained with C<sub>12</sub>FDG (Figure 1B). Flow cytometry analysis revealed that more than 90 % of SA-βGal<sup>+</sup> cells in the irradiated brains were positive for RFP, indicating that primarily GBM cells acquire RT-induced SA-βGal activity (Figure 1B). To better cover inter-tumoral GBM genetic heterogeneity and to avoid model-dependent biases, we utilized multiple patientderived GBM slices and organoids (Details are in Method sections)<sup>22–24</sup>. Across all GBM samples tested, we found robust induction of SA-βGal activity after RT (Figure S1 B and C).

To investigate cellular states of post-irradiated SA-βGal+ GBM cells, we separated SA-βGal<sup>+</sup> and SA-βGal<sup>-</sup> GBM subpopulations by C<sub>12</sub>FDG staining and subsequent

fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS). DNA damage repair activity and clonal growth capacity are critical for GBM radio-resistance and subsequent recurrence<sup>4</sup>.  $C_{12}$ FDG<sup>+</sup> cells after irradiation ( $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$ ) showed enhanced activities of ATM and DNA checkpoint kinases, relative to matched  $C_{12}FDG^{low/-}$  or mock-sorted bulk tumor cells (Figure 1C). Furthermore,  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells expressed Nestin (a representative GBM stemness marker) and were highly enriched with clonogenic cells, as determined by *in vitro* colony forming analysis (Figure 1 D and E). Next, we determined the levels of representative senescence markers in GBM tumors with or without irradiation.  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells had high levels of HP1Jand H3K9me3 but little or no expression of CDKN2A (also known as p16, a cell-cycle arrest-associated senescence marker) (Figure 1 F to I and data not shown). Notably, RT increased the number of GBM cells that express both Nestin and H3K9me3, which were further enriched in  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells (Figure 1G).

To examine global transcriptomes of SA-βGal+ GBM cells, we performed single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) and bulk RNA seq analysis. In total, we profiled about 100,000 single GBM cells and classified these cells based on the expression levels of stemness and cell cycle progression<sup>25–27</sup>. Both naïve and irradiated GBM cells contained the cell populations with high expression levels of the cell cycle and/or stemness gene signatures, reflecting their aggressive nature. Notably,  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  subpopulation harbored most of the single cells that have the highest scores for the stemness gene signature (Figures 1 H and I).

Cellular senescence has been extensively studied in irradiated IMR90 or WI38 cells (nontransformed human fibroblasts). Consistent with a traditional view of senescence, SA-βGal<sup>+</sup> IMR90 or WI38 cells did not proliferate (Figure S1 D and E). In contrast, bulk RNA sequencing analysis of matched  $C_{12}FDG^+$  and  $C_{12}FDG^{\text{low}/-}$  GBM cells after radiation showed that many of the cell cycle signature genes, including PCNA, BUB1, and FoxM1 are highly expressed in  $C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells<sup>28,29</sup> (Figure S1 F to H). These data suggest that SA-βGal+ GBM cells do not exhibit the irreversible cell cycle arrest state.

To formally test whether RT-SA-βGal+ GBM cells can clonally expand and contribute to post-RT tumor growth, we used the lentiviral-mediated barcode/RFP transduction technology to label GBM cells. We isolated  $C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells from the irradiated, labeled GBM tumors and immediately injected these cells into the brains of new recipient mice (Figure 1 J to M).  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+ GBM$  cells generated significantly larger tumors in new recipient mice, compared to non-irradiated (naïve) or irradiated bulk tumor cells (Figure 1K). Clonal expansion analysis by barcode sequencing revealed that larger numbers of individual barcodes were detected in the tumors derived from  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+$  GBM cells compared to those of naïve or RT-bulk cells (Figure 1L). This trend corroborates well with the current notion of the clonal diversity in cancer following treatment $30,31$ . Lastly, we performed in vivo limiting dilution tumor formation assays using the above cell populations.  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells derived from two different patient GBMs contained higher frequencies of tumor-forming cells than RT-bulk- or  $C_{12}FDG^-$  cells (Figure 1M). Collectively, these data suggest that irradiation-induced SA-βGal+ GBM cells harbor stemness and some of senescence-like characteristics and that they are a cell population contributing to post-RT tumor growth.

## **F3, highly expressed in irradiated C12FDG+ GBM cells, is associated with stemness, cell state transition, and an enhanced secretory phenotype.**

To investigate cellular states and molecular regulators of SA-βGal+ GBM cells, we profiled levels of cell surface proteins. Matched naïve and irradiated GBM cells (20 million cells each) were stained with  $C_{12}FDG$ , split into individual wells, and co-stained with each of 242 human clusters of differentiation (CD) antibodies (Figure 2A). Co-staining results were quantitated by flow cytometry and expression level of each CD marker was calculated. Enriched cell surface receptors in  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  cells included ABCG2, JAMA, PDGFR, CD109 and integrin proteins, implicated in stemness, GBM mesenchymal transition, and therapeutic resistance (Figure  $2B$ )<sup>32–34</sup>. The most enriched CD marker in our screen was CD142 (Tissue factor or  $F3$ ), originally identified as a cell surface receptor that initiates blood coagulation<sup>35</sup>. Tissue factor/F3 levels were increased over 10-fold in irradiated cells compared to the matched naïve cells, further increased in  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+$  cells (Figure 2B). In the irradiated PDX tumor-bearing mice, we found the robust F3 induction, co-localized with  $C_{12}FDG^+$  tumor cells (Figure 2C). This trend was further confirmed in GBM spheroids, GBM organoids and patient GBM slices (Figure S2 A to G).

Two F3 canonical functions are initiation of blood coagulation and promotion of cell survival via intracellular signaling. Coagulation factor VII (F7, a cognate F3 ligand) is mainly produced in the liver and circulates in the blood stream as an inactive pro-enzyme. Upon interaction with F3, F7 is converted into a protease-active form (FVIIa), which then initiates coagulation by catalyzing a thrombin-producing protease cascade<sup>36,37</sup>. Intracellular signaling is mediated by activation of integrin and the protease-activated receptor (PAR), leading to activation of MAPK, PI3K, and  $NF\kappa B^{38,39}$ . While F3 is expressed in various tumor types—including gliomas—and generally exerts pro-tumor effects<sup>40–42</sup>, the role(s) of F3 in RT responses and senescence are largely unknown.

To test whether post-irradiated F3high cells are enriched for *in vivo* tumorigenic capacity, we isolated matched F3high and F3low/− cells from PDX tumors 5 days after in vivo radiation by F3 antibody-based cell sorting, and then injected these cells into immunodeficient mice. Compared to matched F3low/− or mock-sorted bulk tumor cells, post-irradiated F3high subpopulations yielded significantly higher capacities for tumor formation (Figure 2 D and E).

To gain insight into signaling nodes associated with F3, we performed ATAC (assay for transposase-accessible chromatin)-seq analysis to map genome regions with open chromatin structures in matched F3high and F3<sup>low/−</sup> subpopulations. The most enriched transcription factor-binding motifs in RT-F3+ GBM cells are STAT3 and FOSL2 (master transcriptional factors for the GBM mesenchymal (MES) transcriptional network), RELA (NFκB, a master regulator for senescence and GBM cell survival), as well as Foxo4 and TEAD2 (implicated in tumor dormancy and senescence) $43-46$ , most of which were also enriched in  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+$  GBM cells (Figures 2F and S2I). Following RT, GBM tumors undergo phenotypic transition toward MES subtype, which is mediated by activation of NFκB and STAT3 signaling $9,45$ . We then determined the activation status of these pathways by immunoblots, immunostaining, and transcriptome analysis (Figures 2 G to L and S2 A to K). Consistent with ATAC data, irradiated F3high GBM cells have elevated levels of

active NFκB and STAT3 as well as stemness-associated proteins (Sox2, EZH2, and active β-catenin and integrin  $\beta1^{47,48}$  (Figures 2 G and H, and S2 H to K). Active integrin signaling in this subpopulation is further supported by additional surface marker screening using anti-F3 antibody and 240 human CD markers. Similar to the  $C_{12}$ FDG co-staining data, several different integrin family proteins were highly enriched in irradiated F3high GBM cells (Table S1). In addition, RT-F3+ cells have high levels of GBM mesenchymal markers  $(YKL-40, CD44, and active STAT3)$  (Figures 2J, 2K and S2J)<sup>49</sup>. Lastly, secretome profiling and gene signature analysis showed that irradiated F3high GBM cells secreted significantly higher levels of SASP factors such as IL6, IL8, HGF, and EGF, relative to bulk naïve or irradiated tumor cells (Figure 2 L and M). Together, these data indicate that the RT-F3<sup>+</sup> populations have enriched traits of stemness, mesenchymal GBM cell transition, senescencelike epigenomic reprogramming, and SASP.

#### **F3 signaling primes radiation-induced changes both in GBM and the TME.**

To probe the roles of F3 in GBM radiation responses in vivo, we performed immunohistochemical staining analyses using human PDX, GBM slice, and syngeneic mouse glioma models (Figure 3). Orthotopic PDX tumor-bearing mice were irradiated, and the brain tissues harvested 5 days later. In regions with a robust upregulation of F3, we found that F3 positively correlated with high levels of fibrin, a key effector in the F3-initiaited coagulation cascade (Figure 3A). F3-positive GBM cells were also positive for YKL-40 and CD44 (MES-like GBM markers) and fibronectin 1 (FN1, an ECM protein and MES-like GBM marker)<sup>9,50,51</sup>. Fibrin polymer and FN1 are known to form a mesh-like structure together, referred to as an oncogenic provisional ECM. It provides a scaffold for recruitment of macrophages, activated platelets, neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs), and traps various growth factors and chemokines<sup>52</sup>. Indeed, we found significant increases in the numbers of TAMs and M2-like TAMs (CD163+) in F3-positive, fibrin/FN1 complex-rich regions in the irradiated tumors (Figures 3B, 3C, and S3A).

Human GBM slices resected from newly diagnosed GBM patients maintain in vivo tumor architecture and TME including immune cells, endothelial cells, and astrocytes; thus, they can mimic acute responses of human GBM *in situ*<sup>24</sup>. We prepared acute GBM slices within 6 hours post-surgery, irradiated them ex vivo, and then processed for immunostaining and cytokine array analysis 3 days later (Figure S3B). Fibrinogen (precursor of fibrin) and F7 were detected in these GBM slices. Irradiation resulted in robust induction of fibrin/FN1 complexes and CD163+ macrophages. Cytokine analysis utilizing 4 sets of matched naïve and irradiated GBM tissue slices consistently showed higher levels of secreted proteins in the conditioned media from irradiated GBM slices (Figure S3C). These data suggest a causal relationship between that RT and fibrin polymerization, an enhanced secretory phenotype, and TAM polarization.

To validate the above findings in the intact immune microenvironment, we employed a PDGFβ-driven, p53-null, syngeneic mouse glioma, a representative proneural subtype tumor<sup>53</sup>. Naïve tumors showed relatively low basal levels of fibrin, TAMs and CD44<sup>+</sup> cells. Upon irradiation, however, we found massive increases in fibrin polymerization and TAM infiltration, as well as in levels of F3 and CD44 (Figure 3 D to F). Notably, most of the

 $CD163^+$ ,  $CD206^+$  M2-like TAMs were detected in the fibrin polymer-enriched,  $F3^+$ ,  $CD44^+$ tumor regions, indicating a strong positive correlation between them (Figure 3G). Together, these data further suggest a link between RT-induced coagulation, oncogenic TAMs, and GBM mesenchymal transition.

#### **Molecular mechanisms of F3 signaling in GBM reprogramming and radio-resistance**

Given strong spatiotemporal associations between F3 and RT-induced GBM remodeling (Figure 3), we first determined the roles of F3 in vivo via shRNA-mediated  $F3$  knockdown. Non-targeting shRNA or F3 knockdown (KD) shRNA-expressing GBM cells were transplanted into the brains of nude mice and in vivo radiation was started 20 days later (Figure 4 A and B). Immunostaining analysis of the tumor-bearing brain sections revealed that F3 suppression significantly abrogated RT-induced fibrin polymers and accumulation of IBA1<sup>+</sup> and CD44<sup>+</sup> cells (Figure 4A).  $F_3$  knockdown or irradiation alone extended the survival of tumor-bearing mice compared to the control group. Notably, the group injected with  $F<sub>3</sub>$  KD cells and given radiation showed far longer survival than all other groups (p <0.001 by log-rank analysis) (Figure 4B).

We then determined the effects of  $F3$  knockdown on the activation status of NF $\kappa$ B, STAT3, and integrin signaling (Figures 4 and S4). In the naïve state, F3 knockdown did not induce significant decreases in pp65 and pSTAT3, possibly reflecting low levels of F3. In contrast,  $F_3$  knockdown potently impeded RT-induced upregulation of NF $\kappa$ B, STAT3, and integrin activities, as well as mesenchymal traits (YKL-40 and FN1) (Figures 4 C and D, S4 A and B). Conversely, over-expression of constitutively active mutants of NFκB or STAT3 signaling rescued cell survival of RT-F3 KD cells, indicating that both NF<sub>K</sub>B and STAT3 activities are key downstream effectors of RT-induced F3 signaling (Figure 4E).

As RT-F3+ GBM cells secrete high levels of SASP factors (Figure 2M) and NFκB activity is a major regulator of SASP factor secretion, we determined the levels of cytokines/chemokines secreted by F3 KD GBM cells with or without irradiation. RTinduced upregulation of multiple cytokine/chemokines was significantly reduced by  $F_3$ knockdown (Figures 4F and S4C). To investigate the roles of F3 in chemokine-mediated TAM recruitment, we adapted in vitro transwell assays using U937 macrophage-like cells (primed  $U$ 937)<sup>54</sup>. Conditioned media from irradiated GBM cells attracted significantly larger numbers of U937 cells compared to conditioned media from matched naïve cells. F3 knockdown reduced the levels of macrophage recruitment by  $\sim 80\%$  (Figure 4G). Forced activation of NF $\kappa$ B activity but not STAT3 rescued SASP factor secretion in irradiated  $F_3$ knockdown cells and  $NFRB$  suppression by  $p65$  shRNA significantly inhibited RT-induced SASP factor secretion, suggesting that RT-induced SASP in GBM is largely dependent on NFκB signaling (Figure 4 H and I).

Conversely, over-expression of F3 in naïve GBM cells showed elevated levels of active NFκB, STAT3 and integrin signaling (Figure S4D). Consistent with this, F3 over-expressing cells were more proliferative in the culture media without the added growth factors and these cells had the enhanced SASP factor secretion compared to the control (Figure S4 E and F). Lastly, the roles of F3 in RT responses in tumor and TME in vivo were further confirmed in a doxycycline-mediated inducible  $F3$  KD system (Figure 4J). These data support that F3 is a

critical regulator for the survival and cell state transition of irradiated GBM cells, as well as for SASP factor secretion.

## Recombinant FVII protein impeded radiation-induced coagulation, SASP factor secretion, **and TAM accumulation in vivo.**

The above data collectively suggest that F3 signaling is a critical regulator for post-RT tumor growth and drives an oncogenic TME, making it a potential therapeutic target. Since F3 protein, after binding to its ligand F7, is eventually degraded via the ubiquitin pathway, we hypothesized that specific F7 derivatives may directly trigger F3 degradation without eliciting F3-mediated oncogenic effects<sup>55</sup>. To test, we over-expressed a series of F7 deletion mutants in GBM cells via lentiviral transduction and determined the proliferation of these GBM cells after irradiation (Figure 5A). Through this screen, we found a deletion mutant that potently impeded the growth of irradiated GBM cells, which we designated as FVII (141-amino acid protein without the F7 protease domain).

FVII recombinant protein lacked the pro-coagulation activity unlike wild-type F7 or FVIIa, as determined by *in vitro* coagulation assays (Figure S5A). Instead, FVII robustly induced ubiquitin-mediated degradation of F3 proteins and significantly reduced the level of F3 proteins in irradiated GBM cells (Figure 5 B and C). Consistent with this, irradiated GBM cells treated with FVII for a day showed a significant decrease in phosphorylated p65 and STAT3 proteins (Figure 5D). Furthermore, we found that FVII decreased the levels of the co-immunoprecipitated F3-integrin complexes, HUTS4 (specific for active integrin β1), and phosphorylated FAK (an immediate downstream effector of integrin signaling) (Figures 5E and S5B). We then determined the effects of FVII on survival and clonogenic growth of GBM cells (Figures 5 F and G). FVII treatment effectively impaired survival of irradiated GBM cells with an  $IC_{50}$  in the 0.1 to 1 nM range (Figure 5F). In contrast, normal neural progenitor cells (NPCs) and primary astrocytes did not exhibit cytotoxicity even at micromolar FVII concentration (Figure 5F). Unlike GBM cells, normal brain cells showed little change in the levels of pFAK and pERK after FVII treatment, partially explaining GBM-specific cytotoxicity of FVII (Figure S5C). Real-time cell imaging analysis demonstrated that FVII treatment potently impaired clonogenic growth of irradiated F3high GBM cells (Figure 5G). GBM cells treated with FVII showed disruption of mitochondrial membrane potential and defective mitochondrial structure (Figure S5 D to F). Lastly, to determine the effects of FVII on SASP factor secretion, we treated irradiated GBM cells with FVII for 1 day and collected the conditioned culture media. FVII treatment significantly diminished the secretion of cytokines (Figure 5H). Together, these data suggest that FVII is a potent anti-GBM agent that mitigates F3-mediated oncogenic signaling, especially in combination with RT.

To determine in vivo effects of FVII, we started with subcutaneous tumor models. We irradiated human PDX tumors focally when the tumors reached  $\sim$  500 mm<sup>3</sup> and administered

FVII protein (50 μg/kg body weight) via intravenous injection. Compared to the naïve controls, tumors harvested 5 days after radiation showed marked increases in fibrin/FN1 complexes, tumor-infiltrating CD11b<sup>+</sup>, F4/80<sup>+</sup>, CCR2<sup>+</sup> immune cells and CD163<sup>+</sup> M2-like TAMs, along with massive upregulation of F3 (Figure 5I and data not shown). Notably,

FVII treatment potently inhibited all the above changes, with a dramatic increase in the number of cleaved-caspase  $3$  (C-Cas3)<sup>+</sup> cells (Figure 5I). To evaluate *in vivo* effects of ΔFVII on signaling pathway activation and senescence-like characteristics, we harvested the tumors from each group and processed for further analyses. FVII treatment significantly reduced RT-induced cell survival signaling such STAT3, but increased levels of cell death-associated proteins in tumor (Figure 5J). RT-induced SA-βGal<sup>+</sup> reactivities were significantly decreased by FVII treatment and clonogenic capacities of sorted  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+$ cells isolated from these tumors were significantly abolished by in vivo FVII treatment (Figure S5 G and H). To analyze the chemokine/cytokine microenvironment within the tumors treated with radiation, FVII, or both agents, we performed cytokine profiling

assays using tumor lysates. Irradiation induced significant upregulation of secreted proteins, many of which have well-known functions for macrophage recruitment, M2-like TAM polarization, and cell state transition. Notably, FVII treatment significantly and globally repressed the chemokine/cytokine levels (Figures 5K and S5I).

To determine the effects of tumors and  $\Gamma$  FVII on systemic hemostasis, we measured the blood clotting activities by standard tail bleeding assays (Figure 5M). Compared to the control mice, tumor-bearing mice had shorter blood clotting time, which was further shortened by irradiation. While FVII treatment on non-tumor bearing mice did not affect blood clotting time, the combination of irradiation and  $\Gamma$  FVII reverted hypercoagulation state in the RT-tumor bearing mice to near-normal range (Figure 5M). Studies of tumor growth kinetics showed that irradiation or FVII monotherapy alone suppressed tumor growth rate to about 50 to 60 % of that of naive tumors, but the effect of either agent alone was transient and led to rapid regrowth (Figure 5L and 5N). In contrast, combination therapy yielded near-complete tumor regression (Figure 5N).

#### **ΔFVII therapies radio-sensitize GBM tumors in orthotopic PDX models.**

We tested the effects of FVII recombinant protein in orthotopic GBM PDX models using patient-derived 022 or 827 GBM cells. Irradiation was started 20 days (for 827 tumor) or 25 days (for 022 tumor) after tumor cell implantation and FVII protein was delivered via intravenous injection, concurrently with irradiation (Figures 6A and S6A). Five days after irradiation, the brains from each group were harvested for immunostaining (n=3) and immunoblot analysis through tumor dissection (n=3). Combination treatment with irradiation and FVII greatly diminished RT-induced fibrin accumulation, MES cell state transition, TAM polarization, and activities of integrin and NFκB signaling, but increased numbers of C-cas3<sup>+</sup> cells (Figure 6 A to D). Notably, histological examination of the brain sections from the mice receiving combined treatment at 38 days after implantation (the time when RT-treated mice were sacrificed) showed few tumor cells and only faint staining for fibrin polymers (Figure 6E). We also determined the effects of orthotopic GBM tumors and

FVII on systemic hemostasis by D-dimer and tail bleeding assays (Figure 6 F and G). Similar to subcutaneous tumor results (Figure 5M), FVII treatment potently inhibited the hypercoagulatory state in RT-tumor bearing mice (Figure 6 F and G). Lastly, irradiation or FVII monotherapy alone extended survival of tumor-bearing mice by about 10 days compared to the control group (Figure 6H). Notably, the group that received combination

therapy showed a far greater survival extension, with about 50 % of mice surviving and lacking detectable tumors three months later (Figure 6H).

While several studies have reported that the blood-brain barrier (BBB) is functionally disrupted in some  $GBM^{56}$ , the highly infiltrative GBM cells in the neighboring brain parenchyma presents technical challenges in developing effective anti-GBM therapeutics. As an independent but complementary therapeutic approach to FVII recombinant protein, we developed a neural progenitor cell (NPC)-based cellular vector system. NPCs have intrinsic tumor-homing properties and survive well in the brains $57,58$ . Lentivirally transduced

FVII-expressing NPCs were viable and maintained stable levels of secreted FVII (Figure S6B). Upon co-culture with irradiated GBM cells, FVII-expressing NPCs but not the control NPCs induced massive GBM cell death (Figure S6B). To mimic a clinical scenario in newly diagnosed human glioma patients, we injected FVII-expressing NPCs into the established PDX tumors, followed by head-only irradiation two days later (Figure S6 C and D). Similar to the RT and FVII combination, co-treatment with RT and FVII-NPCs greatly diminished RT-induced F3 induction and activities of pro-tumorigenic signaling, leading to longer survival of tumor-bearing mice (Figures S6 C to E).

## **Recurrent tumors from early-relapse GBM patients harbor the upregulated gene signatures for the senescence and coagulation pathways.**

Comparison of matching primary and recurrent GBMs can inform therapy-induced phenotypic tumor evolution, including GBM cell state and associations between TME components. We therefore analyzed transcriptional profiles of primary GBMs  $(n = 25)$ treated with radiation therapy and separated early relapses (Progression-free survival (PFS)  $<$  6 months, n = 11) from late relapses (PFS > 12 months, n = 14) using the dataset from GLASS consortium (Figure  $7$ )<sup>50,59</sup>. The status of pathway activation in each tumor was inferred by the pathway enrichment scores from representative gene signature sets<sup>9,14,60,61</sup> (Figure 7 A and B). We observed no significant differences in signature gene set levels between primary tumors with early and late relapse. When comparing relapsed GBMs, however, we found that early-relapse GBMs showed a significantly higher predicted presence of M2 macrophages and the enrichment of senescence, coagulation, and NFκB signatures compared with late-relapse  $GBMs<sup>50</sup>$  (Figure 7B). Furthermore, the enrichment scores for senescence, coagulation, and NFKB signatures highly correlated with each other, especially in the early-relapse tumor pairs (Figure 7 C and D). These data are consistent with our findings and may provide clinical relevance for potential translation of FVII-based therapies.

We then determined whether F3 targeting can be combined with other anti-cancer therapeutic approaches. A combination therapy with TMZ and FVII, and triple combination of RT, TMZ, and FVII significantly p rolonged the survival of tumor-bearing mice (Figure S7A). Aberrant activation of the EGFR, MET, and AKT pathways is frequently found in GBM, and each pathway has been established as a potential therapeutic target<sup>62,63</sup>. We treated 4 different GBM cells with representative EGFR, MET, and AKT inhibitors and

FVII (Figure S7B). Combination treatment robustly induced tumor cell death and impaired the clonogenic growth of GBM cells to a much greater degree than monotherapy alone

(Figure S7C). Lastly, pre-metastatic MG63 osteosarcoma model revealed RT-induced F3 signaling very similar to GBMs, raising the possibility that our findings on RT-induced F3 signaling may be applicable to other cancer types (Figure S7 D to H).

Our data collectively support the previously unidentified concept that activation of F3 signaling during therapy-induced senescence is a central initiator to trigger global adaptation programs in tumor cells and in the TME, leading to therapy resistance and tumor recurrence (Figure 7E).

## **Discussion**

We show that radiation-induced  $SA- $\beta$ Gal<sup>+</sup> GBM$  cells robustly contribute to post-RT tumor regrowth by active clonal expansion and global reorganization of immune, ECM, and cytokine landscapes in the TME. F3 proteins are rapidly elevated in the SA-βGal<sup>+</sup> GBM cells upon irradiation, and F3 signaling promotes clonal expansion, mesenchymallike cellular state transition, and secretion of oncogenic SASP factors and ECM proteins. Concurrently, F3 also initiates a hyperactive coagulation cascade including local fibrin polymers, which in turn facilitates TAM accumulation/polarization and ECM remodeling in the tumor regions. These F3-initiated cellular events are functionally linked, and together they constitute an oncogenic feed-forward loop, in which TAMs and SASP factors are critical players. In fact, F3 appears to be a master switch regulating the radiation response in GBM, with striking effects on senescence-like and mesenchymal tumor phenotypes as well as the microenvironment. We also demonstrate a strategy to inhibit oncogenic F3 signaling as an anti-GBM therapeutic approach. These data collectively support that F3 is a critical driver of oncogenic senescence and therapeutic resistance in GBM, opening potential therapeutic avenues for F3 targeting.

We report here the existence of an F3-driven phenotype in GBM sharing some features of senescent cells—including SA-βGal reactivity, senescence marker expression (HP1J and H3K9me3), enrichment of representative senescence gene sets, and SASP-like secretory phenotype—with features of GBM stem cells. On the other hand, robust clonal expansion of irradiated SA-βGal+ GBM cells is different from traditional view of cellular senescence in which irreversible cell cycle arrest is a central tenet. Our findings are highly consistent with recent studies showing that the senescence program activates key stemness signaling pathways such as WNT and YAP<sup>44,64</sup> and that the senescent state in cancer is highly dynamic and reversible<sup>44</sup>. Thus, we propose the cellular states of irradiated SA-βGal<sup>+</sup> GBM cells as the senescence-like GBM cell phenotype without stable cell cycle arrest.

At the early stages of tumor initiation, oncogene-induced senescence (OIS) is an essential tumor-suppressive barrier that limits expansion of pre-malignant cells. It has been generally thought that cells under OIS remain arrested due to activation of TP53 and/or Cdkn2a pathways, however, a subset of these cells escapes from OIS and progresses to more aggressive stages<sup>65</sup>. GBM harbors defects in apoptosis and cell cycle regulators such as homozygous deletion of *Cdkn2a* and deregulated TP53 pathways, possibly enabling bypass of cell cycle arrest while adopting other pro-tumorigenic features of senescence. It is increasingly clear now that various therapies including irradiation, chemotherapeutics,

and targeted inhibitors induce massive numbers of senescent or senescent-like cells in malignant cancers <sup>15,66</sup>. In most of these studies, however, senescent-like tumor cells have been identified by colorimetric SA-βGal assay and very limited senescent cell marker staining without cell fate determination. Our findings in GBM may provide a clue to better characterize TIS in other malignancies.

The close relationship between cancer and thrombosis has been recognized by Trousseau since 186567. Hyper-coagulability can lead to serious, life-threatening conditions such as venous thromboembolism (VTE). VTE is frequently found in cancer patients, among whom high-grade glioma patients showed the highest incidence<sup>52,68</sup>. F3, originally identified as an initiator of a stress-responsive coagulation cascade, has been implicated in hypercoagulation activities in cancer, pro-proliferative signaling, and tumor dormancy, and metastasis38,40,52,69,70. A more recent study reported that F3 is preferentially expressed in quiescent stem-like GBM cells<sup>42</sup>. In addition, increased blood clotting activities and aberrant fibrin clots have frequently been observed in patients with senescence-associated pathologies including COVID, tissue injury, and aging  $71-74$ . Our findings may suggest the possibility that senescence plays a causal role in hypercoagulation activity in non-cancer pathologies as well.

Various therapeutic approaches that target senescent tumor cells and/or senescenceassociated pathways have been developed as potential anticancer approaches<sup>66</sup>. These approaches can be largely classified into three categories:  $(i)$  targeting individual oncogenic SASP factors<sup>75,76</sup>, *(ii)* targeting individual stemness/survival pathways that are particularly induced by the TIS program  $44,77$ , and *(iii)* targeting senescent tumor cells with senolytic approaches78. Similar to the highly overlapping RTK signaling networks found in cancer, post-therapy malignant tumors secrete multiple SASP factors with very similar or redundant functions11,75,79–83. TIS-associated epigenetic reprogramming may reactivate multiple, potentially redundant, oncogenic transcription networks<sup>44,64,77</sup>. Our data suggest that FVII targeting approach can be developed into a viable therapeutic option. F3 targeting potently inhibited radiation-induced TAM accumulation and oncogenic TAM polarization, indicating a potential intersection with TAM re-education approaches and/or other immune-based anti-cancer approaches. We postulate that F3 signaling is a crucial hub triggering multiple oncogenic pathways in the therapy-induced tumor cell senescence setting.

As senescence in the brain parenchyma and immune landscapes are likely critical for RTinduced remodeling and GBM radio-resistance, extensive studies in syngeneic tumor models can provide deeper understanding of associations between immune, microenvironmental components and treatment response. Most of our data were obtained from PDX-bearing immunocompromised mice models. Despite this caveat, our data reveal that F3 signaling in GBM is an active adaptation program to evade therapeutic pressure and leverage oncogenic aspects of therapy-induced senescence. Thus, inhibiting F3 signaling may represent a promising strategy to markedly enhance otherwise suboptimal anti-GBM therapies. Our findings may provide a step forward to a better understanding of F3 signaling, which may be critical for advancing therapeutic strategies.

## **STAR METHODS TEXT**

#### **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

**Lead contact—**Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Jeongwu Lee (leej7 $@ccf.org$ ).

**Materials availability—**Materials generated in this study are available from the lead contact upon request.

**Data and code availability—**The datasets generated during this study are available at GEO under accession number GEO; GSE162931. Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead contact upon request.

#### **METHOD DETAILS**

**Patient-derived glioblastoma specimens and derivatives—**Following written informed consent, tumor samples classified as GBM, based on the WHO criteria, were obtained from patients undergoing surgical treatment in accordance with the NIH, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, and Samsung Medical Center Institutional Review Boards. Within 1 to 6 hours after surgical removal, tumors were washed in PBS and processed for the following models.

GBM spheroids: Tumor cells were cultured in Neurobasal medium supplemented with N2, B27 and bFGF and EGF (NBE medium; Neurobasal media, N2 and B27 supplements (0.5x each; Invitrogen), and human recombinant bFGF and EGF (25 ng/mL each; R&D Systems $)^{47,84}$ .

GBM organoids: GBM organoids display tumor cell hierarchy and differentiation heterogeneity by oxygen/nutrient gradient. Tissue pieces were cut into 0.5 to 1 mm diameter and cultured in the dishes on top of an orbital shaker rotating at 120 rpm at 37°C in a 5%  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ , 95% humidity incubator<sup>22,23,85</sup>.

GBM slices: GBM tissue pieces were sliced using a vibrating blade microtome into 3 to 5 mm diameter, 300 μm thick slices and transferred to a culture dish.

**Primary cell cultures—**Normal NPCs derived from human embryonic stem cells (H9, Invitrogen, Cat # N7800100) and aborted fetal brain tissues (Lonza, Cat # PT-2599) were cultured in NBE media or neural progenitor maintenance media (Lonza, Cat# CC-3209). Primary human astrocytes (Lonza, Cat# CC-2565) were cultured in astrocyte growth media (Lonza, Cat# CC-3186). Human U937 cells from ATCC (CRL-1593.2) were maintained in RPMI 1640 media (Gibco,11875093) with 10% FBS (Gibco,10438026), and 1 % penicillin/ streptomycin (Gibco, 15140148). For all co-culture experiments, FBS serum was not used.

**Patient-derived xenograft (PDX) and RCAS-TVA mouse glioma models—**All mice experiments were performed according with the IACUC approved protocols. For orthotopic tumor implantation, GBM cells were injected intracranially into the striatum of

nude mice (BALB/c nu/nu) by using a stereotactic device (Kopf instruments, coordinates:

2 mm anterior, 2 mm lateral from the bregma, 2.5 mm depth from the dura) as previously described<sup>47</sup>. For F3 inducible knockdown, drinking water containing doxycycline (D9891, Sigma, 2mg/ml) and 5% sucrose was given at 20 days after injection. The water was protected from light and exchanged every 2 days. Syngeneic RCAS-TVA mouse gliomas induced by *PDGFB* overexpression in  $p53$ -null background were generated as previously reported53. When mice develop neurological symptoms (lethargy, ataxia, and seizures) or significant body weight loss, mice were killed and processed for histological analysis.

**Lung metastasis model—**Naïve or irradiated MG63 cells  $(5 \times 10^5)$  were injected into the tail vein of each nude mice (BALB/c nu/nu).

**FVII-mediated therapy in animal models—All mice were randomly assigned to** appropriate treatment groups. For recombinant FVII protein experiments, FVII proteins (50 μg/kg body weight) were administered via intravenous injection daily, concurrent with irradiation or temozolomide treatment (25 mg/kg body weight, intraperitoneal injection, T2577, Sigma)<sup>86</sup>. For FVII-expressing NPC experiments, NPCs  $(1\times10^6 \text{ cells per mice})$ were injected into the brains of tumor-bearing mice, two days before irradiation.

**Blood clotting time test—**To determine tail-bleeding time, mice were kept under anesthesia and placed on a heating pad. Distal tail was cut at 5 mm from the tip and immediately submerged into 10 ml PBS at 37  $\textdegree C^{87}$ .

**D-dimer ELISA assays—**Plasma was collected in 3.2% buffered sodium citrate tube from each sample for D-dimer detection. The amount of D-dimer was assayed using mouse Ddimer ELISA kit (Novus Biologicals, NBP3-08100) according to manufacturer's protocol.

**Radiation regime—**For irradiation of tissues and cells, a single dose of 3Gy, 5Gy, or 10 Gy was used. For *in vivo* irradiation, the anesthetized mice were placed in a lead shielding device in which the brains or subcutaneous tumors were exposed. Localized radiation was performed with either a single dose of 10 Gy or a fractionated regime (2Gy daily for 5 days).

**Senescence-Associated** β**-Galactosidase (SA-**β**Gal) reactivity assays—**For colorimetric SA-βGal assay, we used senescence-β-galactosidase kit (9860, Cell Signaling). Briefly, samples were incubated with β-galactosidase staining solution (pH 6.0) at 37°C in a dry incubator without the added  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . Staining images were analyzed using an inverted fluorescence microscope (DM4000 B, Leica). For fluorometric SA-βGal staining assay, live cells or tissues were pre-treated with bafilomycin A1 (B1793, Sigma-Aldrich, 100 nM) and then cultured with  $C_{12}$ FDG (5-Dodecanoylaminofluorescein Di-β-D-Galactopyranoside, D2893, Invitrogen) as described with minor modifications<sup>21</sup>. C<sub>12</sub>FDG intensity was analyzed by LSR II Fortessa flow cytometer (BD) or confocal microscope.

**Fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS)—**Cell sorting was performed using BD FACS Aria II. GBM cells were stained with either  $C_{12}$ FDG or F3 antibody (BD 550312 1:20), and each subpopulation was sorted based on the levels of staining intensities. A matched isotype antibody was used as a control and propidium iodide (PI, 5 μg/ml) was used for live/dead cell determination. To ensure purity and viability of the sorted subpopulations,

we repeated flow cytometry analysis and PI staining after initial sorting. Data were collected and analyzed using FlowJo software.

**Flow cytometry analysis—**Dissociated GBM cells were incubated with 5% donkey or goat serum, 2mM EDTA in PBS for 30 minutes to block non-specific binding, and then labeled with anti-F3-FITC antibody (BD 550312, 1:20), Nestin (SC-23927, 1:100), H3K9me3 (ab8898, 1:100), or ABCG2 (BD562167, 1:100) in 5% serum containing PBS for 1 hour. For detection of intracellular proteins, cells were permeabilized with 0.1% saponin (S7900, Sigma-Aldrich). After gently wash by cold PBS, the cells then incubated with Alexa Flour secondary antibodies (Invitrogen, 1:400) for additional 30 minutes.

Annexin V staining and mitochondria TMRE assays were performed using standard detection kits (ab113852, Abcam). Flow cytometry assays were performed using at least three independent biological samples.

**In vivo clonal analysis using barcode-sequencing—**GBM cells were transduced with Clone Tracker 50M lentiviral barcode library (BC13X13V, Cellecta Inc.). For in vivo clonal analysis, transduced GBM cells were injected into the brains of nude mice. Genomic DNA was extracted from the resultant tumor tissues using QIAamp DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit (69504, Qiagen) following manufacturer instructions. Barcodes from the tumor were amplified using sample-specific primer sets provided in the NGS prep kit (LNGS-200, Cellecta Inc.). Library quality and fragment sizes were assessed on a Fragment Analyzer before high-throughput sequencing on a HiSeq. Sequence processing and analysis were performed by using Cellecta NGS Demultiplexing and Alignment software.

**Cell surface marker screening—**BD lyoplate human cell surface marker screening panel contains 242 purified monoclonal antibodies against human clusters of differentiation (CD) markers (560747, BD). Patient-derived GBM cells (131 and 559) were used for cell surface marker screening. Briefly, GBM cells (about  $1.5 \times 10^8$ ) were dissociated with Accutase (A6964, Sigma-Aldrich) and incubated with bafilomycin A1 (100 nM) and  $C_{12}$ FDG (33 μM) for 2 hours at 37°C or anti-F3-FITC for 1 hour at 4°C. After C<sub>12</sub>FDG or F3 staining, cells were split and incubated with each CD antibody for 1 hour at  $4^{\circ}$ C. Flow cytometry data were measured using LSRII HTS system and analyzed using FlowJo software (NIH).

**Single cell RNA-sequencing (scRNA-seq) and bulk RNA-seq analysis—**Cells were dissociated with Accutase and suspended in 1% BSA PBS solution. Live cell FACS sorting was performed with DRAQ5 fluorescent probe (62251, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Cell vitality was determined by trypan blue staining and live cells were diluted to a final concentration of 1000 viable cells/μL in 0.1% BSA PBS solution. Each sample had over 90% viability. ScRNA-seq library preparation and sequencing were performed as previously reported<sup>23,26</sup>. Briefly, scRNA-seq data were processed through 10x Genomics Chromium Single Cell Platform, and count matrices were generated using their Cell Ranger pipeline (10x Genomics). ScRNA-seq data were analyzed using scanpy. For quality control, genes detected in less than 5 cells and cells with fewer than 1000 genes were excluded. Expression values were corrected to 100,000 reads per cell and transformed. Unbiased

clustering was performed by UMAP dimensionality reduction visualization analysis<sup>26</sup>. Gene signature sets used in this report are; GBM subtype<sup>88</sup>, stemness<sup>25,42</sup>, cell cycling<sup>26</sup>, NF $\kappa$ B<sup>9</sup>, senescence<sup>60,61,89</sup>, and coagulation<sup>14</sup>.

**ATAC-sequencing analysis—**Cells were stained with either C<sub>12</sub>FDG or F3 antibody (BD 550312, 1:20), and each subpopulation was sorted using BD FACS Aria II. Propidium iodide (PI, 5 µg/ml) was used for live/dead cell determination.  $5 \times 10^5$  cells / sample were used for ATAC-Seq Library Preparation (K1157, APExBio). Briefly, cells were resuspended in 50μl ATAC lysis buffer containing (0.5 μl 10% NP40, 0.5 μl 10% Tween 20, and 0.5 μl 2% Digitonin) for 3 min on ice and then cold ATAC lysis buffer containing (0.5 μl 10% Tween 20) was added. Nuclei were centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 10 min at  $4^{\circ}$ C in a fixed angle. Nuclei were resuspended in 50μl tagmentation master mix containing (5μl transposase, 16.5μl PBS, 0.5μl 2% Digitonin, 0.5 μl 10% Tween 20, 2.5μl water, and 25μl 2x tagmentation buffer). The tagmentation reaction was incubated at  $37^{\circ}$ C for 30 min in a thermomixer with 1000 rpm. Reactions were cleaned up with DNA purification kit (28104, Qiagen). Libraries were amplified and sequenced on a Nextseq instrument (Illumina).

**Bioinformatics data analysis—**Analysis for genomic alterations including amplification, deletion, and mutation of key genes and glioma subtype assignment were performed, as described <sup>50,59,62,88,90</sup>. Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated by "cor" function of R and Pearson's Chi-squared Test was conducted using "chisq.test" function of R with default settings.

**Chemokine/Cytokine profiling assays—**Conditioned media was filtered through 0.2 μm filters (Sartorious Stedium Biotech). Filtered media or cell lysates were incubated with Human Cytokine antibody array kit (AAH-CYT-1000, RayBiotech). Intensity of each spot was measured using ImageJ and analyzed using the RayBiotech analysis tool (AAH-ANG-1000, RayBiotech). Heatmaps were generated by "heatmap.2" function of R package.

**Lentivirus—**Human HEK293 cells (ATCC) were cultured in DMEM media supplemented with 10% FBS, 1% penicillin and streptomycin. For viral production, 293T cells were co-transfected with the corresponding lentiviral vector and packaging plasmids (psPAX2 and pCMV-VSV-G) using CalPhos Mammalian Transfection Kit (631312, Clontech). Viruscontaining supernatants were collected and concentrated by Lenti-X concentrator (631231, Clontech).

All expression vectors were cloned into pLenti6/V5 vector (K495500, Invitrogen) and validated by sequencing and immunoblot analysis. Expression vectors used in this study include wildtype  $F3$ , wildtype  $F7$ ,  $F7$  deletion series, STAT3C mutant, and IKK-2 S177E  $S181E (IKK2SSEE)$  mutant (a gift from Anjana Rao, Addgene plasmid # 11105)<sup>91</sup>. A series of F7 deletion mutants was designed to include and/or exclude domains of F7 proteins. Short hairpin RNA (shRNA)-expressing lentiviral vectors were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and doxycycline-inducible shRNA plasmids were purchased from Dharmacon.  $F<sub>3</sub>$  or  $pp65$ shRNA constructs were tested and at least two independent shRNA knockdown vectors were selected for further studies.

**FVII recombinant proteins—**We designed various recombinant variant FVII proteins including FVII and S404A FVII mutant as well as wild type FVII  $92$ . Recombinant FVII variant proteins including wildtype F7, S404A F7, and FVII (181 amino acid protein without peptidase S1 domain; 141 amino acid protein in a secreted form) were synthesized (Genscript) and validated by immunoblot analysis, in vitro clotting assay (factor 7 human chromogenic activity Assay; ab108830, Abcam), and cysteine bond determination by MASS spectrometry.

**Immunofluorescence analysis—**Tissue slices were harvested 1 to 3 days after irradiation and fixed in 4% PFA (SC281692, Santa Cruz biotechnology). To prepare the frozen sections of tumors, samples were washed in PBS, cryoprotected in 30% sucrose (S0389, Sigma-Aldrich) at 4°C overnight, embedded in O.C.T compound (4583, SAKURA Tissue Tek), and sectioned using a cryostat (CM3050S, Leica). Tissue sections and cells were blocked using a blocking solution (0.3% Triton X-100, 5% goat or donkey serum, 1% BSA in PBS) for 1 hour at room temperature. For mouse tissue sections, mouse-on-mouse blocking reagent (MKB-2213, Vector Laboratories) was added to the blocking solution. Immunofluorescence images were taken using a Leica TCS SP5 Confocal Microscope.

**Immunohistochemistry analysis (IHC)—**Paraffin sections were prepared in the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute imaging core. For immunohistochemistry analysis (IHC), tissue sections were deparaffinized in xylene (214736, Sigma-Aldrich) and rehydrated through ethanol gradient. Antigen retrieval was achieved by microwaving the sections in Unmasking solution (citrated based buffer, pH 6.0, H-3300, Vector Laboratories). Endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked by incubation with BLOXALL blocking solution (SP-6000, Vector Laboratories). All images were taken by slide scanner Leica SCN400 microscope and analyzed by Imagescope and ImageJ.

**Immunoblots and co-immunoprecipitation—**Cells were lysed in Pierce IP lysis buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% NP-40, and 5% glycerol; #87788, Thermo) supplemented with protease inhibitors cocktail (Complete Mini, 11836153001, Sigma-Aldrich) and phosphatase inhibitor (#78428, Thermo), incubated on ice for 30 minutes and cleared by centrifugation at 4°C for 20 minutes. For immunoprecipitation, protein lysates were incubated with appropriate antibodies for overnight at 4 °C. Protein bands were visualized using ECL Western Blotting Detection Reagents (RPN2232, GE Healthcare) and subjected to densitometry analysis using ImageJ.

**Cell growth, viability, drug treatment, and soft agar colony forming assays—** Standard methods including cell counting and MTT assays (11465007001, Sigma-Aldrich) were used. Cilengitide (1 to 5 μM, S6387, Selleckchem), integrin blocking antibody (ab24693, Abcam), and cucurbitacin (100 nM, C4493, Sigma-Aldrich) were used to inhibit integrin or STAT3 signaling, respectively.

Soft agar colony forming assays were performed to determine capacity of clonogenic cell growth by counting single cell-driven colonies. GBM cells were mixed with top agar (Neurobasal media, N2 and B27, 0.4% agarose) and layered on top of 0.8% agarose.

Medium with fresh FVII (100 ng/ml) was added every 3 days. Three weeks later, colonies were fixed with 4% PFA and stained with 0.5% crystal violet.

**Macrophage recruitment assay—**Immune cell recruitment capacity of GBM cells and U937 cells was measured using transwell inserts (8 μm pore size, 3422). The cells were subsequently fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde at room temperature for 15 min and stained with crystal violet at room temperature for 10 min.

**NF**κ**B, STAT3, and TCF/LEF reporter assays—**To determine transcriptional activities of the above pathways, cells were transduced with lentiviral constructs containing NFκB consensus element, STAT3 binding elements, and TCF/LEF transcriptional response elements with the minimal promoter red firefly luciferase reporter gene (Systems Biosciences). Luciferase intensities were measured by ONE-Glo Luciferase Assay System according to manufacturer's protocol (E6110, Promega).

**Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)—Cells were fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde /** 4% PFA in 0.1M sodium cacodylate buffer at 4°C overnight. Cell suspension samples were washed and treated with 1% osmium tetroxide for 1 hour, stained with 1% uranyl acetate, dehydrated, and then embedded in LX-112. Samples were analyzed using Zeiss EM 10 transmission electron microscope.

**Real-time live cell imaging analysis—**Cell growth was monitored by using Incucyte live cell analysis system (Essen Bioscience). Confluency of each well was determined every 3 hours for the entire experimental periods.

#### **Quantitation and statistical analysis**

All data were expressed as means  $\pm$  SD from at least three independent experiments. Quantification of immuno-positive cells in immunostaining analyses was carried out using NIH imageJ software (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD). For the animal survival studies, p values were determined by log-rank test. Student's t-test or ANOVA were used to determine statistical significance. Pearson correlation coefficient was calculated by "cor" function of R.

### **Supplementary Material**

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY**

All authors of this paper support inclusive, diverse, and equitable conduct of research.

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## **Highlights**

- **•** Irradiated SA-βGal <sup>+</sup> GBM cells clonally expand and promote post-RT tumor regrowth.
- **•** RT-induced F3 signaling enhances the enriched features of senescence and stemness.
- **•** F3 is a key driver for oncogenic ECM and TME remodeling in GBM radioresistance.
- FVII is a potent anti-GBM agent that mitigates F3-mediated oncogenic signaling.





(A) Representative images of SA-βGal activity in the brain sections. GBM tumor-bearing mice were not irradiated or irradiated (naïve and RT, respectively) and stained with X-gal or  $C_{12}$ FDG five days later. Tumor regions were shown in H&E images. Different patientderived GBMs are designated as numbers. \* p < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA. (B) Proportion of RFP+ cells (human GBM cells) and RFP− cells (mouse cells) within

 $C_{12}FDG^{+}$  populations (n = 3 per each).

(C) Immunoblots of DNA damage response (DDR) proteins in sorted  $RT-C_{12}FDG^{+}$  and C12FDG− GBM subpopulations. β-actin was used as a loading control.

(D) In vitro clonogenic growth of irradiated GBM subpopulations. Single cells from each subpopulation were plated in soft agar, cultured for 3 weeks, and resultant colonies counted.  $* p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test.

(E) Flow cytometry plot of  $C_{12}$ FDG and Nestin staining in naïve and RT GBM cells.

Quantitation of  $C_{12}FDG^{+}$  / Nestin<sup>+</sup> cells are shown. \*  $p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA.

(F) Immunofluorescence (IF) staining images of C<sub>12</sub>FDG and senescence markers (HP1 $\gamma$ and H3K9me3).

(G) Flow cytometry plot of H3K9me3 and Nestin staining in naïve, RT-bulk, and RT- $C_{12}FDG^+$  GBM cells.  $* p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test.

(H) t-distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE) plots of GBM single cells in the naïve, RT-bulk, and  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+$  GBM cells (total of 105,653 cells). Color gradient was overlaid with stemness signature scores. \* p < 0.001 by Mann-Whitney test.

(I) Immunoblots of H3K9me3 and GBM stemness markers (Nestin and Sox2) proteins in three matched sets of RT-C<sub>12</sub>FDG <sup>+</sup> and RT-C<sub>12</sub>FDG <sup>-</sup> GBM subpopulations.

(J to L) Barcode-mediated clonal expansion and clonal diversity determination analysis. (J) Experimental schematic. (K) Floating bar plots of RFP-labeled cell populations in vivo. Center line in each bar represents mean value (n=4 animals per group). (L) Numbers of unique barcodes and barcode distribution within the tumors derived from the indicated cell populations.  $* p < 0.01$  by two-way ANOVA. NS, not significant.

(M) In vivo limiting dilution tumor formation results using naïve, RT-bulk, and RT-C<sub>12</sub>FDG<sup>+</sup> GBM cells. P values were determined by two-way ANOVA. Results are presented as mean  $\pm$ SD. See also Figure S1.



**Figure 2. F3, highly expressed in irradiated C12FDG+ GBM cells, is associated with stemness, cell state transition, and an enhanced secretory phenotype.**

(A) A schematic of the cell surface marker screen. (B) The lists of the cell surface proteins that were enriched in RT-bulk and  $RT-C_{12}FDG^+$  GBM cells compared to naïve cells.

(C) IF staining images of  $C_{12}$ FDG and F3 in the brains of PDX tumor-bearing mice.

 $C_{12}FDG^{+}/F3^{+}$  double-positive cells were quantitated (n=3 per each tumor). \* p < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA.

(D and E) In vivo proliferation of RT bulk, RT-F3<sup>+</sup>, and RT-F3<sup>−</sup> cell populations (D) and in *vivo* limiting dilution tumor formation results.  $* p < 0.01$  by two-way ANOVA.

(F) Enriched transcription factor-binding motifs in RT-F3+ subpopulations, as determined by ATAC sequencing analysis.

(G and H) Immunoblots of pp65, pIκBα, EZH2, active-β-catenin, Sox2, and HUTS4 proteins in the RT-F3<sup>+</sup> and RT-F3<sup>-</sup> GBM subpopulations. For detection with HUTS4 antibody (specific for the activated form of ITGB1), non-denaturing gels were used. (I) Quantitation of stemness gene set expression in naïve, RT-bulk, RT-F3+, and RT-F3<sup>−</sup> GBM single cells (total of 28,890 cells).

(J) Immunoblots of MES GBM transition-associated proteins (pSTAT3, IL6, and YKL-40). (K) IF images of F3 and CD44 in matched naïve and irradiated GBM tissue slices and quantitation.

(L) Quantitation of SASP factor gene set expression in the above subpopulations. (M) Heatmap plots and quantitation of the secreted proteins from naïve, RT-bulk, and RT-F3<sup>+</sup> GBM cells. Results are mean  $\pm$  SD. \* p < 0.001 by Mann-Whitney test in I and L. See also Figure S2 and Table S1.



**Figure 3. Radiation-induced F3 prime global changes both in tumor and microenvironment.** (A) Immunohistochemical (IHC) staining images of F3, fibrin, and YKL-40 in 827 GBM tumors. Tumor-bearing mice were irradiated in vivo and tumors were harvested 5 days later. (B and C) IF images of fibrin, FN1(an ECM molecule), F4/80, CD163 (M2-like TAM) staining. Fibrin<sup>+</sup>/FN1<sup>+</sup> areas and numbers of YKL-40<sup>+</sup>, F4/80<sup>+</sup>, and CD163<sup>+</sup> cells were quantitated (n = 4 per each).  $*$  p < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA.

(D to F) IF images of fibrin, IBA1, CD163, CD44, F3 in syngeneic mouse gliomas and quantitation. \* p < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test.

(G) Correlation between the levels of fibrin polymers and CD163+ TAMs in the brain sections of tumor-bearing mice with or without RT. r value determined by Pearson's correlation coefficient analysis. Results are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD. \* p < 0.001. See also Figure S3.

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(A) IHC images of fibrin, IBA1, and CD44 in the brains of 827 tumors expressing either non-targeting (NT) or F3 shRNAs (KD) with or without RT.

(B) Kaplan-Meier survival curves of mice in (A). n=8 for each group. p < 0.001 by log-rank analysis.

(C) Immunoblots to determine the activation status of NFκB and STAT3, and integrin in F3 KD GBM cells with or without RT.

(D) Luciferase reporter assays to measure transcriptional activities of NFκB and STAT3 signaling.

(E) Survival of irradiated F3 KD cells with forced activation of STAT3 or NFκB.

(F) Levels of the secreted proteins from GBM cells with or without F3 KD and RT.

(G) Recruitment of macrophage (Mφ)-like U937 cells co-cultured with the above cell groups.

(H and I) Levels of cytokine secretion in the cells with forced activation of STAT3 or NFκB (H) or inhibition of NFκB, STAT3, integrin signaling (I). Details of inhibitors are in Method section. SASP factor index is an arbitrary unit calculated from total amounts of the secreted proteins.

(J) IHC images of doxycycline-inducible  $F3$  shRNA expressing tumors. Tumors were harvested 7 days after doxycycline treatment. \*  $p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test in D, E, G, H, and I. See also Figure S4.



#### Figure 5. FVII treatment impeded RT-induced coagulation, SASP factor secretion, and TAM **accumulation** *in vivo***.**

(A) Schematic of F7 deletion mutant structures.

(B) Co-immunoprecipitation (IP)-immunoblots of F3 and Ubiquitin (Ub) in naïve and irradiated GBM cells treated with FVII recombinant protein for 1 day. Levels of ubiquitinated F3 proteins were quantitated by densitometry.

(C to E) Immunoblots of F3 (C), pp65 and pSTAT3 (D), and integrin signaling components (E) in irradiated GBM cells treated with FVII for 1 day. (E) Co-IP blots of F3-integrin  $\beta$ 1 (ITGB1) immunocomplexes.

(F) Cell survival of normal brain cells and irradiated GBM cells treated with FVII.

Irradiated GBM cells, NPCs, and astrocytes were cultured with various concentrations of FVII for 3 days and cell survival was determined by MTT assay.

(G) Live-cell imaging of RT-F3<sup>+</sup> 022 GBM cells treated with FVII. Cell growth was monitored in real-time over 12 days.

(H) Quantitation of the secreted proteins using the conditioned media from irradiated GBM  $(022$  and 827) cells treated with FVII for 1 day.

(I) Representative staining images of fibrin, CD163, CCR2, and cleaved-caspase-3 (C-cas3) in the 827 GBM-derived PDX tumors treated with RT, FVII, or both.

(J) Immunoblots of F3, pSTAT3, BBC3, C-cas3, bFGF, HGF, and H3K9me3 proteins using GBM tumor lysates.

(K) Levels of the secreted proteins from the above tumor sets.

(L) Tumor sizes and fibrin staining in the above tumor sets harvested 5 days after RT.

(M) Tail bleeding times of tumor-bearing mice treated with RT,  $FVII$ , or both. n=3 for each group.

(N) Tumor volumes of the above groups (n = 6). Results are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD. \* p < 0.001 by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test in B, F, G and N.  $* p <$ 0.001 by one-way ANOVA in C, H, and M. See also Figure S5.

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Figure 6. FVII therapies radio-sensitize GBM tumors in orthotopic PDX models.

(A) IHC images of fibrin, CD44, and CD163 in orthotopic 827 GBM tumor-bearing mice treated with RT, FVII, or both. Recombinant FVII protein (50 μg/kg body weight) was administered via intravenous injection daily, concurrent with irradiation. (B and C) Representative immunoblots of Fibrin, FN1, YKL-40, HUTS4, pp65, CD163, and

CD206 in GBM tumors (B) and quantitation in (C).

(D) IF images of fibrin/FN1, CD44, CD163, and C-cas3 and quantitation.  $* p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test in C and D.

(E) H&E staining images of the mouse brain sections from combination treated group. Human tumor cells were stained with STEM121 antibody (human cell-specific marker).

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(F and G) D-dimer levels in plasma (F) and tail bleeding time determination (G). N=3 for each group. \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA in F. \*  $p < 0.001$  by one-way ANOVA in G.

(H) Kaplan-Meier survival curves of tumor bearing mice treated with radiation, FVII, or both. n=10 for each group. Combination-treated group showed a significant survival extension, compared to all other groups. p < 0.001 by log-rank analysis. See also Figure S6.

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#### **Figure 7. Expression of senescence and coagulation gene sets in matched primary and recurrent human GBM pairs.**

(A) Heatmap plots of the senescence, coagulation, NFκB, cell cycling, and stemness gene set expression in early ( $n = 11$ ) and late relapsed ( $n = 14$ ) GBM pairs.

(B) Quantitation of each gene signature expression in the following tumor sets. EP, earlyrelapse GBM patients' primary tumors; ER, early-relapse GBM patients' recurrent tumors; LP, late-relapse GBM patients' primary tumors; LR, late-relapse GBM patients' recurrent tumors. Wilcoxon rank test and two-tailed Student's t test were performed. \*  $p < 0.001$ .

(C and D) Scatter plot showing the correlations of coagulation and senescence signature gene expression (C), and NFκB and coagulation (D). r values were determined by Pearson's correlation coefficient analysis.

(E) Schematic illustration to depict the roles of F3 signaling in RT-induced GBM remodeling. See also Figure S7.

## **KEY RESOURCES TABLE**













