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Functional dissection of an HECT ubiquitin E3 ligase

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SUMMARY

Ubiquitination is one of the most prevalent protein posttranslational modifications in eukaryotes, and its malfunction is associated with a variety of human diseases. Despite the significance of this process, the molecular mechanisms that govern the regulation of ubiquitination remain largely unknown. Here, we have used a combination of yeast proteome chip assays, genetic screening, and *in vitro/in vivo* biochemical analyses to identify and characterize eight novel *in vivo* substrates of the ubiquitinating enzyme Rsp5, a homolog of the human ubiquitin-ligating enzyme Nedd4 in yeast. Our analysis of the effects of a deubiquitinating enzyme, Ubp2, has demonstrated that an accumulation of K63-linked poly-ubiquitin chains results in processed forms of two substrates, Sla1 and Ygr068c. Finally, we have shown that the localization of another newly identified substrate, Rnr2, is Rsp5-dependent. We believe that our approach constitutes a paradigm for the functional dissection of an enzyme with pleiotropic effects.

INTRODUCTION

Post-translational modification (PTM), the covalent crosslinking of a modifying group to one or more amino acids of a protein, is of great interest because of its capacity to modulate the function, location, and stability of proteins as well as their interactions with other proteins [1]. Ubiquitination, one of the most prevalent PTMs in eukaryotes, has emerged as an important mechanism for intracellular signaling. Ubiquitin (Ub) is a highly conserved protein of ~8 kDa that is covalently attached to lysine (K) residues of target proteins, thereby drastically changing the fate of its substrates [2]. Ubiquitination occurs through a three-step process involving Ub-activating (E1), Ub-conjugating (E2) and Ub-ligating (E3) enzymes [3]. E3s determine substrate specificity, and mutations of these enzymes and/or their substrates can lead to a variety of human disorders, including neurodegenerative diseases and cancer [4].

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The two major classes of E3 enzymes are the RING and HECT domain-containing E3s. HECT E3s differ from RING E3s in that they participate directly in the ubiquitination reaction by forming a ubiquitin-thioester intermediate and subsequently catalyzing the ubiquitination of the substrate [5]. Many of the E3s are indispensable for life because they serve as “hubs” to convey upstream signals and/or direct the fate of their downstream targets. Since the substrates of most E3 enzymes are unknown, we chose to take a proteome-wide approach to identifying these molecules, using yeast protein arrays as a platform [6]. We chose Rsp5 as our candidate E3 because it is essential for yeast viability, and it has pleiotropic effects on various intracellular pathways, including endocytosis [7], mitochondrial inheritance [8], maintenance of the actin cytoskeleton [9], drug resistance [10], biosynthesis of fatty acids [11], and protein sorting at the trans-Golgi network [12]. Rsp5 is also the closest yeast ortholog to Nedd4, a human HECT E3 that is involved in a congenital human hypertensive disorder known as Liddle's syndrome. Identification of the downstream targets of the yeast E3 enzyme should help identify the mechanisms by which Rsp5 signaling operates to regulate various crucial biologic functions in yeast.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Protein chip

The yeast protein chips were fabricated in-house as described previously [13].

Strains and constructs

The genotypes of the strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. Yeast strain FW1808 contains a temperature-sensitive (Ts) allele of Rsp5 (*rsp5-1*), derived from the wild-type (WT) strain FY56 [14]. To overproduce fusion proteins, constructs were transformed in strains FW1808 and FY56 using standard protocols [13]. *UBP2* was deleted in strains FW1808 and FY56 using a standard yeast homologous recombination protocol [15,16]. Deletion of *UBP2* was confirmed by PCR analysis. Empty pEGH and pEGH-Rsp5 were used to transform the *rsp5-1* and WT strains for the drug sensitivity experiments. Genes of interest were also chromosomally tagged with the 13×Myc epitope or C-terminal GFP (S65T) [17], on both the *rsp5-1* and WT backgrounds.

Protein purification

GST proteins were purified from 50 ml of culture at the desired temperature, as described previously [13]. The concentration of each purified protein was either estimated on gels stained with Coomassie blue (using bovine serum albumin [BSA] as a standard) or was determined using the BCA™ protein assay kit (Pierce). To remove the GST tag, GST fusion proteins were digested with thrombin (Sigma) at 22° C for 2.5 h according to the manufacturer's instruction.

Ubiquitination reactions on the yeast proteome chips

A reaction mixture consisting of 5 μM E1 (Uba1), 25 μM E2 (UbcH5), and 0.04 μg/μL Ub, with or without the addition of 0.075 μg/μL E3 (GST-Rsp5 or Ubr1), was prepared in reaction buffer (25 mM Tris, pH 7.6, with 50 mM NaCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 4 mM ATP, and 0.5 mM DTT). A yeast proteome chip was incubated with 100 μL of the reaction mixture for 90 min at 37° C, and then subjected to three 15-min washes with 0.5 M NaCl, followed by three 15-min washes with 0.5% SDS at room temperature. The chip was then probed with anti-Ub (3,000-fold dilution) (Covance) and anti-GST (5,000-fold dilution) (Chemicon) antibodies, and detected with Cy3- (1:200) and Cy5- (1:200) labeled secondary antibodies, respectively (Jackson ImmunoResearch). The signals were acquired and analyzed by using GenePix software to determine the relative ubiquitination levels of each of the proteins on the chip.

Dosage lethality/suppression interaction

The plasmid constructs of 86 candidate substrates and 64 random proteins were transformed into strains FW1808 and FY56. The growth of each transformant was monitored by plating five-fold serial dilutions of the cells in quadruplicate on SC-Ura agar containing either 2% glucose or 2% galactose at 30° C (permissive temperature) or 34° C (semi-permissive temperature) for 3–4 days.

In-liquid ubiquitination

In-liquid ubiquitination reactions were carried out in test tubes using the buffer system mentioned above at 37° C for 90 min. The outcome of the ubiquitination reactions was determined by immunoblot analysis using an anti-GST antibody.

In vivo ubiquitination

After the yeast culture had been shifted from 30° C to 37° C for 2 h, the GST-tagged proteins of interest were purified from *rsp5-1*, *ubp2Δ*, *rsp5-1*, *ubp2Δ*, and WT cells as described previously, followed by immunoblot analysis using the anti-Ub antibody. The same blot was later stripped and re-probed with the anti-GST antibody as a quantity control.

Protein turnover analysis

Cells expressing Myc-tagged Rnr2 were grown to log phase and treated with 100 mg/mL cycloheximide. The relative Rnr2-Myc amounts at the indicated time points (0', 5', 10', 30', 60', 90', 120', and 150') were determined by immunoblot analysis using an anti-c-Myc (9E10) antibody (Santa Cruz).

Drug screen

The drug sensitivity of the *rsp5-1* and WT strains was assessed by plating five-fold serial dilutions of the cells in quadruplicate on agar with or without the drugs (Table 4) [18–20] for 3–4 days at 30° C and 34° C. Strains containing the empty vector were used as controls. Meanwhile, the *rsp5-1* cells were transformed with a low-copy plasmid carrying *RSP5* to determine whether the hypersensitivity of *rsp5-1* to HU could be reversed at the semi-permissive temperature.

FACS analysis

Approximately 1×10^7 yeast cells were harvested at mid-log phase and fixed in 70% (v/v) ethanol overnight at 4° C. Fixed cells were sequentially incubated with 2 mg/ml RNase A solution for 2 h at 37° C, then 5 mg/mL pepsin solution (in 4.5 μl/ml HCl) for 1 h at 37° C and 50 μg/mL (1×) propidium iodide (PI; in 0.1 M Tris, pH 7.5, with 180 mM NaCl and 70 mM MgCl₂) overnight at 4° C. The samples were then resuspended in 0.1× PI, sonicated twice on low power for 5 sec, and analyzed using a Becton Dickinson FACSCalibur. Data were collected on 20,000 cells per sample.

RESULTS

Identification of *in vitro* substrates of Rsp5

We first took advantage of a combination of protein chip technology, genetic screening, and biochemical assays to identify and characterize *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5 (Fig. 1A). After optimizing surface chemistries and detection methods, we chose a FullMoon surface for the reactions and anti-Ub antibodies for detection. Each ubiquitination reaction was set up by incubating a proteome chip with a mixture of Ub monomer, ATP, and the E1 (Uba1), E2 (UbcH5), and E3 (Rsp5) enzymes (Fig. S1A) [13]. To ensure that only covalently bound

ubiquitins were detected, the chips were washed under highly stringent and denaturing conditions after the reactions took place. To measure the Ub signals and the relative amounts of the spotted proteins, the chips were incubated with anti-Ub and -GST antibodies, followed by incubation with Cy3- and Cy5-labeled secondary antibodies to detect the anti-Ub and -GST antibodies, respectively (Fig. 1B, Fig. S1A). As a negative control, a separate proteome chip was incubated with the same reaction mixture lacking Rsp5. We also performed the ubiquitination reaction using Ubr1, a RING domain-containing E3 ligase, as an additional control. Each assay was performed in duplicate to ensure reproducibility.

After normalizing the Cy3 (ubiquitin) signals against the Cy5 (GST) signals and removing regional artifacts in the data using Lowess normalization, we determined the degree of Rsp5-dependent ubiquitination by comparing the normalized signals between the Rsp5 and the negative control experiments (without Rsp5) (Table S1). The example in Fig. 1B indicates that Ygr068c was clearly ubiquitinated by Rsp5, whereas it remained unmodified when Rsp5 was not included or was replaced by Ubr1. We decided to focus on the top 100 *in vitro* substrates of Rsp5 for further analysis and characterization. By comparing these hits to the top 40 substrates of Ubr1, as determined in the same fashion, we found that only Vma6 and Nkp2 were shared by both enzymes; this result indicates that specific substrates could be identified using *in vitro* ubiquitination reactions on a proteome chip.

Gene ontology and statistical analyses revealed no significant protein motifs (e.g., PXY motifs) shared by the substrate candidates. Forty-two proteins shared the same subcellular localization with Rsp5; however, Rsp5 has been localized to multiple subcellular compartments, including the Golgi, cytoplasm, endosomal membrane, plasma membrane, and mitochondria. Furthermore, none of them shared the same biological process with Rsp5 (Fig. 1C). Among the 145 proteins that had previously been shown to bind to either the full-length or the WW domains of Rsp5 [21,22], only five (Sla2, Met12, Bna5, Ygr068c, and Yjl084c) were found on the hit list, and four (excluding Sla2) of them contain a PXY motif [23]. Therefore, these data were unlikely to help us generate a robust hit list for further validation. These results therefore prompted us to conduct genetic and alternative *in vitro* assays before carrying out the more rigorous *in vivo* investigations.

Many *in vitro* substrates interact genetically with RSP5

We picked 86 top candidates from the hit list and 64 other proteins at random to evaluate in terms of their potential synthetic dosage lethality or suppression interaction with *RSP5* (Fig. 1A). The 150 genes we chose for this analysis were then overexpressed on both *RSP5* temperature-sensitive (*rsp5-1*) and wild-type (WT) strain backgrounds (Table 1, Table 2) [14], in order to monitor potential differences in colony growth at both a semi-permissive temperature (34° C) and permissive temperature (30° C). Of the 86 candidates, 28 (32.6%) showed an obvious synthetic growth defect or suppression (Figs. 2 and S1C). Among these, Sla2 and Ygr068c have known physical interactions with Rsp5 [9,24], while Sla1 and Taf3 could be co-purified with Rsp5 [25,26]. In contrast, only two (Rim11 and Slr2) of the 64 (3.1%) random genes showed dosage lethality/suppression interaction with Rsp5 (data not shown). This dramatic difference in the likelihood of observing dosage lethality interactions suggests that combining the results for protein chip assays and genetic screening may significantly improve the probability of identifying *in vivo* substrates.

Eight proteins are confirmed as *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5

The authenticity of the 28 identified proteins with positive dosage lethality/suppression interactions, as well as 28 other proteins from the 86 top candidates, was examined by *in vitro* ubiquitination assays. The extent of ubiquitination of each protein was determined by immunoblot analysis with anti-GST antibodies (Fig. 3, Fig. S1C). Eight proteins (Bro1, Nsl1,

Rnr2, Rpn10, Sla1, Sla2, Taf3, and Ygr068c) of the positive group and three (Nkp2, Ygr206c, and Bna5) of the negative group were readily ubiquitinated by Rsp5 in solution.

To better evaluate each of the validation steps performed thus far and to identify *bona fide* Rsp5 substrates, we decided to include all the 28 proteins that were positive in terms of dosage lethality/suppression interactions, the three proteins that were positive in liquid assays but negative for dosage lethality, and Rim11 and Slr2, which were positive in the genetic screens but negative in protein chip assays, in our further experiments to determine whether their ubiquitination is Rsp5-dependent *in vivo*. These 33 proteins were purified from both WT and *rsp5-1* strains grown at the non-permissive temperature, and equal amounts of the purified proteins were then subjected to immunoblot analysis using anti-ubiquitin antibodies to detect their ubiquitinated forms (Fig. 4 and Fig. S1D). The same blot was then stripped and re-probed with anti-GST to visualize all their forms (Fig. 4 and Fig. S1D). The ubiquitinated substrates migrate slower than the unmodified forms, and this shift always correlates with the molecular weight of the unmodified form, excluding the possibility of contamination by other ubiquitinated proteins during the purification. Eight proteins (Rpn10, Rnr2, Nsl1, Nkp2, Sla1, Sla2, Taf3, and Ygr068c) showed Rsp5-dependent ubiquitination (Figs. 4 and S1D, Table 3). Therefore, these proteins are confirmed to be novel, *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5. In contrast, neither Rim11 nor Slr2 showed Rsp5-dependent ubiquitination, suggesting that positive results in dosage lethality/suppression screening can reflect indirect effects.

Rsp5 regulates the processing of Sla1 and Ygr068c via K63-linked poly-Ub chains

The deubiquitinating enzyme Ubp2 has been reported to form a complex with Rsp5 and to antagonize Rsp5-dependent poly-ubiquitination by removing the K63-linked poly-Ub chains [5]. We predicted that the deletion of *UBP2* would cause an accumulation of ubiquitinated substrates of Rsp5. To test this hypothesis, we determined the proportion of the total protein that was ubiquitinated for each of the eight validated substrates expressed on the *rsp5-1*, *rsp5-1ubp2Δ*, WT, and *ubp2Δ* backgrounds. Deletion of *UBP2* in cells with intact Rsp5 activity resulted in a significant and specific increase in the ubiquitination signals in all eight of the substrates (Table 1, Figs. 5A and S2A).

Intriguingly, two of the substrates (Sla1 and Ygr068c), when overexpressed, were processed in *ubp2Δ* strains to specific smaller products; however, they were not processed when Rsp5 function was dampened, indicating that this processing is Rsp5-dependent (Fig. 5B). These results suggest that Ubp2 specifically protects these two nonessential proteins from a previously unidentified type of processing, by removing poly-ubiquitin chains added by Rsp5.

When we assessed the endogenous protein levels of six of the substrates (Rpn10, Rnr2, Nsl1, Sla1, Taf3, and Ygr068c), we found that only Nsl1 increased slightly when Rsp5 function was impaired (Fig. S2C). Protein turnover analysis revealed that the protein levels of Rnr2 remained stable, even after 150 min of treatment with cycloheximide, in the case of both the *rsp5-1* mutant and WT, indicating a role for Rsp5 beyond targeting proteins for degradation (Fig. S2D).

A novel function can be assigned to Rsp5

Two of the *in vivo* substrates identified in this study, Rnr2 and Nsl1, reside in pathways not currently known to be regulated by Rsp5. We also found that the *rsp5-1* mutant was hypersensitive to hydroxyurea (HU), a specific inhibitor of ribonucleotide reductase (RNR), but not to methyl methanesulfonate (MMS) and camptothecin (CPT) (Fig. 6A), all of which lead to DNA damage responses by different mechanisms (Table 4) [18–20]. Moreover, introduction of low-copy-number plasmids containing the wild-type Rsp5 completely suppressed the hypersensitivity to HU in *rsp5-1* strains at 34° C (Fig. S3A). Hypersensitivity

to HU on an *rsp5-1* mutant background could not be explained by cell cycle arrest (Fig. S3B), nor could it be explained by the ubiquitination status of Rnr2 (Fig. S3C).

To further elucidate how Rsp5 regulates Rnr2, we asked whether the Rnr2 localization depends on Rsp5 activity. Using chromosomally *GFP*-tagged *RNR2* in WT and *rsp5-1* strains, we assessed the subcellular localization of Rnr2 at permissive and non-permissive temperatures and examined the effect of treatment with HU. We found that the majority of the Rnr2 molecules were redistributed from the nuclei to the cytoplasm in *rsp5-1* in the presence of HU at the non-permissive temperature (Fig. 6B, Fig. S4). However, when Rsp5 was active, the same dose of HU had no effect on the subcellular localization of Rnr2 (data not shown). In WT cells, the localization of Rnr2 was not affected by either the temperature shift or HU treatment (Fig. 6B, Fig. S4). In the presence of HU, the pattern of Rnr2 localization in *rsp5-1* obviously differed from that for the WT at the non-permissive temperature. Furthermore, when Rsp5 activity was restored by introducing a low-copy-number plasmid carrying *RSP5* in the *rsp5-1* strain, the localization of Rnr2 showed the same pattern as in the WT strain (Fig. 6B). Taken together, these results demonstrate that the Rsp5-dependent ubiquitination of Rnr2 contributes to the substrate's resistance to HU, perhaps by regulating the subcellular localization of Rnr2.

DISCUSSION

Using traditional techniques to elucidate the molecular function of an enzyme with multiple roles in many pathways has always been challenging; identifying all the downstream substrates of such enzymes usually requires a systematic approach. The emerging protein chip technology offers a new tool for globally identifying *in vitro* substrates of various enzymes. Like other types of large-scale, high-throughput screening (e.g., yeast two-hybrid screening and gene expression profiling), investigators using this approach now face two challenges: how to identify *bona fide*, direct *in vivo* targets and how to establish a biological connection between a new target and its upstream modulator. Data integration has been proposed as a means of improving the accuracy of the “hits” derived from large-scale screening [27], but this strategy does not always work when obvious enrichment is lacking. Therefore, careful examination and evaluation of the robustness, reliability, and inherited bias of the proteomic approach is important for identifying the true substrates of an enzyme.

In this study, the use of chip assay allowed us to quickly narrow down the potential substrates from 5,800 to about 100 proteins. By using genetic screening and a less sensitive, solution-based ubiquitination reaction, we were able to rapidly reduce the number of candidates to eight; seven (87.5%) of these were further validated as true substrates of Rsp5 by more rigorous *in vivo* analyses. This combination of the three methods dramatically improved the probability of identifying *bona fide* substrates of Rsp5.

Of the yeast strains harboring knockout mutations of the eight *in vivo* substrates identified in this study, three (*rnr2Δ*, *nsl1Δ*, and *taf3Δ*) are lethal, two (*slaΔ1* and *sla2Δ*) are temperature sensitive, and two (*rpn10Δ* and *nkp2Δ*) show reduced fitness (Table 3) [28]. It is intriguing that many downstream targets of Rsp5 are also essential for viability. Although previous studies have suggested that the essential requirement for Rsp5 is related to the oleic acid pathway [29], our data seem to indicate that the vital importance of Rsp5 is correlated with its effects on several additional essential pathways. On the basis of the known functions of the substrates we have identified, it is likely that Rsp5 plays a pivotal role in a complicated network that regulates various crucial downstream events, including proteasome function, DNA synthesis, chromosome segregation, cytoskeleton assembly/ endocytosis, and transcription (Fig. 6C). These results should encourage in-depth studies related to the function of ubiquitin E3 ligase.

Among the 145 reported Rsp5-interacting proteins containing the PXY motif [30], only five were ubiquitinated *in vitro* by Rsp5 on the protein chip, and two of the five were confirmed as *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5. This situation may be explained by the notion that a significant portion of these proteins acts as adaptors for Rsp5. Emerging evidence suggests that many Rsp5-interacting proteins recruit Rsp5 to particular subcellular compartments to facilitate the ubiquitination of their substrates [31]. Moreover, the WW domains of Rsp5 may interact only with phosphorylated PXY motifs, and some adaptor proteins may mediate substrate interactions from which proline-rich PXY motifs are absent [32]. Therefore, it would be useful to carry out the Rsp5 ubiquitination on protein chips in the presence of an adaptor protein or after pre-treatment with specific kinases.

Previous studies have identified 11 proteins as *bona fide* substrates of Rsp5, as determined by Rsp5-dependent ubiquitination *in vivo* [12,14,24,26,29,33]. Most of these substrates either have a low protein abundance on chips because they are membrane proteins and are therefore difficult to express and purify (Fur4, Gap1, Lsb1, Sna4, and Ydl203c), or because they have proved to be unstable in separate attempts at purification (Rpb1 and Ste2). For the rest (Rvs167, Mga2, Sna3, and Ydl203c), we observed only moderate ubiquitin signals for Rvs167 and Sna3, suggesting that the protein chip approach has its own bias against certain proteins. Moreover, Gupta *et al.* used a similar proteome-wide approach but found a different spectrum of substrates (Fig. S5) [24]. The discrepancy can conceivably be explained by the different strategies used to validate the candidates. In our study, we found that combining the result of on-chip biochemical experiments with genetic interaction profiling significantly increased the probability of identifying biologically relevant substrates (Fig. 1A). Our results further suggest that protein-protein interaction is not required for substrate identification, since only four of the eight validated substrates have been previously shown to interact with Rsp5.

Among the validated *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5, Rnr2 is of particular interest. Rnr2 is a highly conserved ribonucleotide reductase (RNR) that converts nucleotides to deoxynucleotides in a reaction dependent on a diferric-tyrosyl cofactor [34]. A heterozygous null mutant of *RNR2* is associated with hypersensitivity to DNA damage and to treatment with HU, a chemical inhibitor of the RNRs [19]. After DNA damage, Rnr4 is redistributed within cells, perhaps reflecting an as yet-undefined posttranslational mechanism [35]. Our results suggest that Rnr2 localization is determined by Rsp5 activity as well as HU treatment. Rnr2 was found in both the nucleus and the cytoplasm in the WT strain, but the majority of the Rnr2 was localized to the nucleus in the *rsp5-1* mutant. The fact that the RNR complex needs to be present in the cytoplasm in order to be functional [34] may help explain why the *rsp5-1* mutant is hypersensitive to HU at the semi-permissive temperature.

We conclude that a combination of proteome microarray-based biochemical assays and genetic interaction screens offers a powerful platform for identifying *bona fide* substrates of enzymes involved in various cellular pathways and our approach constitutes a paradigm for the functional dissection of an enzyme with pleiotropic effects.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

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The abbreviations used are

PTM	post-translational modification
K	lysine
Ub	ubiquitin
RING	really interesting new gene-ankyrin
HECT	homologous to the E6-AP carboxyl terminus
GST	glutathione S-transferase
GFP	green fluorescent protein

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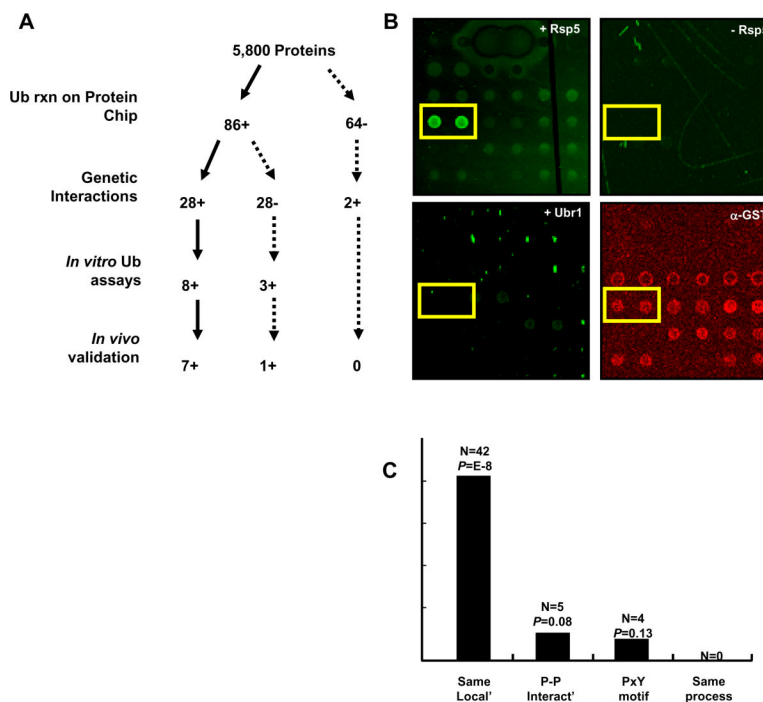


Fig. 1. Identification of Rsp5 substrates using yeast proteome chips

(A) Scheme of the study. Eighty-six candidate substrates identified by the chip assays and 64 randomly chosen proteins were subjected to the genetic interaction screening in parallel. Twenty-eight of the 86 showed dosage lethality/suppression, namely genetic interaction with Rsp5, while only two of the 64 showed a genetic interaction with Rsp5. Eight of the 28 that showed positive genetic interaction, and three of the 28 that did not show genetic interaction were confirmed as *in vitro* substrates of Rsp5 using traditional in-liquid assays. Further *in vivo* analysis confirmed a total of eight *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5. (B) An example of a specific substrate identified in the proteome chip analysis. Ygr068c was strongly ubiquitinated by Rsp5 (upper left panel), whereas it remained unmodified when Rsp5 was either not included (upper right panel) or was replaced by Ubr1 (lower left panel). In addition, its ubiquitination signals were independent of the amount of protein on the chip (lower right panel). (C) Gene ontology (GO) analysis of the top 100 candidate substrates of Rsp5. N and P indicate the number of substrates in each category and P-values of enrichment, respectively.

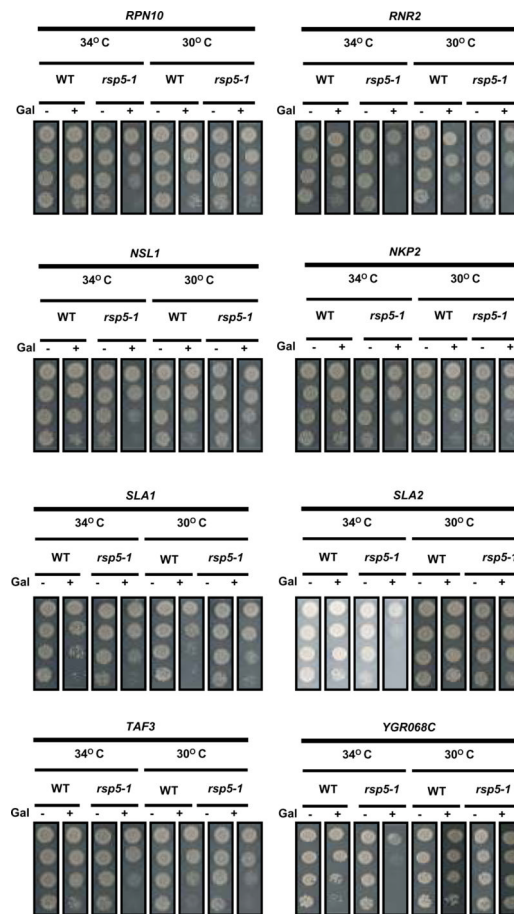


Fig. 2. Dosage lethality/suppression interaction between the candidate substrates and Rsp5
 WT and *rsp5-1* mutant were transformed with plasmids containing the GST-tagged candidate substrates of Rsp5 identified using the protein chip assays. The transformed strains were grown at 30°C or 34°C on 2% glucose (to inhibit overexpression of candidate substrates) or galactose (to induce over-expression of candidate substrates). The figure illustrates some examples of strains with (*RPN10*, *RNR2*, *NSL1*, *SLA1*, *SLA2* and *YGR068C*), or without (*NKP2*) a synthetic dosage lethality/suppression interaction with *RSP5*.

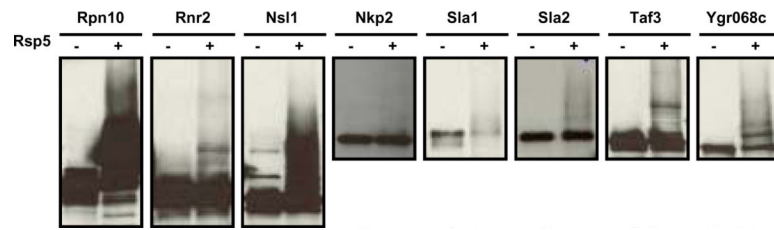


Fig. 3. *In vitro* validation of the chip results

Candidate substrates that showed positive genetic interactions with *RSP5* were purified and subjected to traditional in-liquid ubiquitination reactions. The outcomes of these reactions were determined by immunoblot analysis with anti-GST antibodies. Several candidate substrates, including Rpn10, Rnr2, Nsl1, Nkp2, Sla1, Sla2, Taf3, and Ygr068c, showed significant GST ladders after the addition of Rsp5.

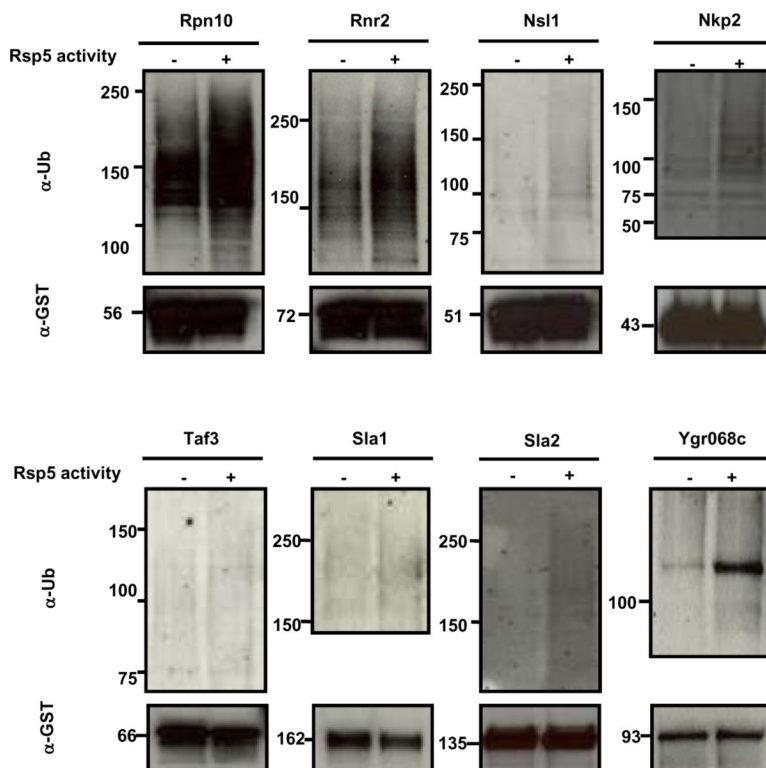


Fig. 4. *In vivo* validation of Rsp5 substrates

GST-tagged candidate proteins were purified from WT and *rsp5-1* strains grown at 37° C (non-permissive temperature) for 2 h. Ubiquitination was detected with anti-Ub antibodies (top panel); the same blot was stripped and re-probed with anti-GST antibody as a loading control (bottom panel). Eight proteins were confirmed to be *in vivo* substrates of Rsp5 by comparison of the ubiquitin signals in the presence and absence of the Rsp5 activity *in vivo*.

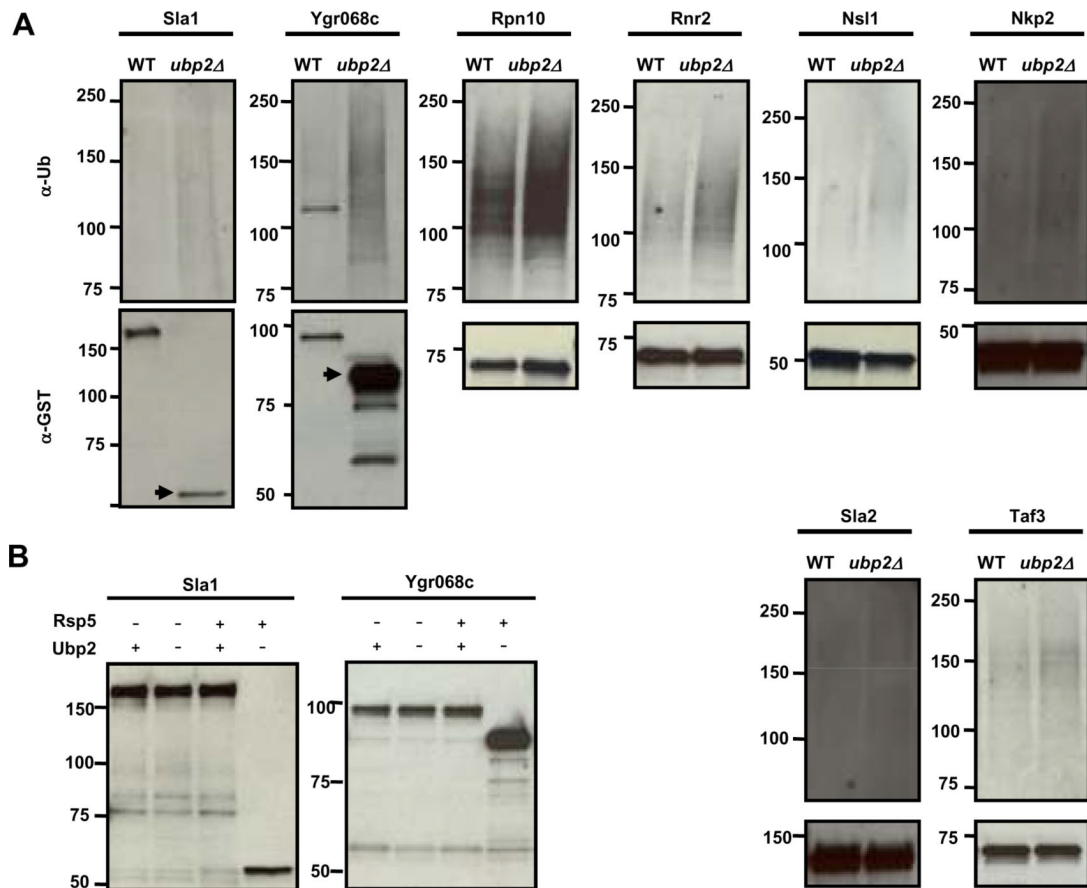


Fig. 5. Effects of an Rsp5 antagonizing enzyme, Ubp2

(A) GST-tagged substrates were over-expressed and purified from WT and *ubp2Δ* cells grown at 37° C (non-permissive temperature) for 2 h. The eight Rsp5 substrates all showed a significant increase in ubiquitin signals in *ubp2Δ* cells. Ubiquitination was detected with the anti-Ub antibodies (top panel), and the total amount of each protein loaded was determined with anti-GST antibody (bottom panel). Sla1 and Ygr068c were processed to specific smaller products when *UBP2* was deleted (arrows). (B) When overexpressed, two substrates (Sla1 and Ygr068c), were processed to very specific smaller products in *ubp2Δ* but not in *rsp5-1 ubp2Δ*, indicating that the processing was Rsp5-dependent.

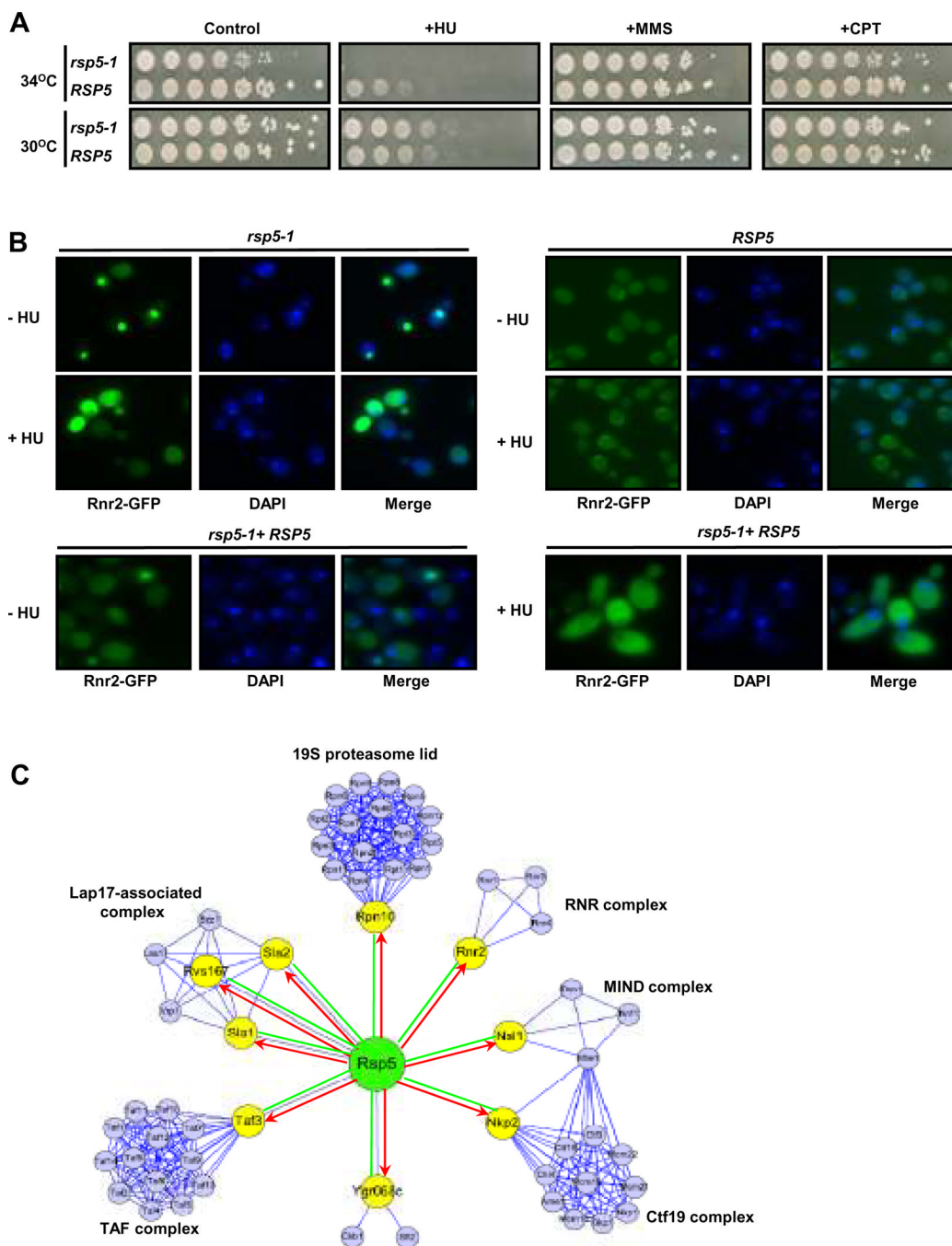


Fig. 6. New functions can be assigned to Rsp5

(A) Yeast viability was examined on YPD and YPD agar containing HU, MMS or CPT. Cells were incubated at the indicated temperatures for 3–4 days. The *rsp5-1* mutant, when grown at the semi-permissive temperature, showed hypersensitivity to HU, but not to two other DNA damaging agents, MMS and CPT. HU, hydroxyurea; MMS, methyl methanesulfonate; CPT, camptothecin. (B) Subcellular localization of Rnr2 is dependent on Rsp5 activity. The WT and *rsp5-1* strains were grown to early log phase and split in half: one half of the culture was treated with HU and the other was left untreated, while the temperature was shifted to 37°C for 2 h. Rnr2 was seen to be mostly confined to the nucleus in *rsp5-1*, but was redistributed to the cytoplasm after HU treatment. However, when Rsp5 activity was restored by introducing a

low-copy-number plasmid carrying *RSP5* into the *rsp5-1* strain, the localization of Rnr2 showed the same pattern as in the WT strain: Rnr2 was localized to both the cytoplasm and the nucleus, and it did not show any obvious redistribution after HU treatment. DNA was visualized by DAPI staining. (C) Rsp5 serves as a hub for regulating various crucial biological functions by ubiquitinating its downstream substrates, which exist in protein complexes involved in DNA repair (RNR complex), chromosome segregation (MIND and Ctf19 complex), actin assembly (Lap17-associated complex), and transcription initiation (TAF complex and 19S proteasome lid).

TABLE 1

Strains used in this study.

Strain	Genotype	Reference
FY56	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128</i>	Huibregtse <i>et al.</i> , 1997
FW1808	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128</i>	Huibregtse <i>et al.</i> , 1997
JYL01	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10::URA3</i>	This study
JYL02	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10::URA3</i>	This study
JYL03	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2::URA3</i>	This study
JYL04	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2::URA3</i>	This study
JYL05	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1::URA3</i>	This study
JYL06	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1::URA3</i>	This study
JYL07	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NKP2::URA3</i>	This study
JYL08	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NKP2::URA3</i>	This study
JYL09	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1::URA3</i>	This study
JYL10	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1::URA3</i>	This study
JYL11	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA2::URA3</i>	This study
JYL12	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA2::URA3</i>	This study
JYL13	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SAR1::URA3</i>	This study
JYL14	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SAR1::URA3</i>	This study
JYL15	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 TAF3::URA3</i>	This study
JYL16	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 TAF3::URA3</i>	This study
JYL17	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 YGR068C::URA3</i>	This study
JYL18	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 YGR068C::URA3</i>	This study
JYL19	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL20	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL21	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL22	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL23	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL24	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL25	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NKP2::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL26	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NKP2::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL27	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL28	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL29	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA2::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL30	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA2::URA3 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL31	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 [pEGH]</i>	This study
JYL32	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 [pEGH]</i>	This study
JYL33	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 [pJYL01]</i>	This study
JYL34	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 [pJYL01]</i>	This study
JYL35	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL36	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 ubp2Δ:: KanMX</i>	This study
JYL37	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10-Myc::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL38	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study

Strain	Genotype	Reference
JYL39	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL40	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL41	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL42	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL43	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL44	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL45	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 TAF3-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL46	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 TAF3-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL47	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 YGR068C-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL48	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 YGR068C-MYC::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL49	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL50	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RPN10-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL51	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL52	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL53	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL54	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 NSL1-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL55	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL56	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 SLA1-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL57	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 TAF3-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL58	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 TAF3-MYC::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL59	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 YGR068C-Myc::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL60	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 YGR068C-Myc::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL61	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-GFP::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL62	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-GFP::KanMX6</i>	This study
JYL63	<i>MATa ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-GFP::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
JYL64	<i>MATa rsp5-1 ura3-52 his4-912ÆR5 lys2Æ128 RNR2-GFP::KanMX6 ubp2Δ::URA3</i>	This study
Y258	<i>Mata, pep4-3, his4-580, ura3-52, leu2-3, 112</i>	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2001

TABLE 2

Plasmids used in this study.

Plasmid	Details	Reference
pEGH	<i>RGS-HisX6</i> (pEG(KG[2 <i>micron/URA3</i>]))	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2001
pJYL01	<i>RSP5</i> (pEGH[2 <i>micron/URA3</i>]))	This study
pFA6a-13Myc-kanM X6	See reference	Longtine <i>et al.</i> , 1998
pFA6a-GFP(S65T)-kanMX6	See reference	Longtine <i>et al.</i> , 1998
pRS406	See reference	Wach <i>et al.</i> 1994
pRS400	[<i>UKanMX4</i>]	Brachmann <i>et al.</i> , 1998

TABLE 3

Eight Rsp5 substrates

Substrate	Knockout phenotype*	Ranking on Chip	PPI*	GI**	Ubr1***	Function
Rpn10	Reduced fitness	9	-	S	-	Ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolism
Rnr2	Inviabile	10	-	S	-	DNA replication/ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase activity
Nsl1	Inviabile	31	-	S	-	Chromosome segregation/Essential component of the MIND kinetochore complex
Nkp2	Reduced fitness	12	-	N	+	Non-essential kinetochore protein
Sla1	ts	94	+	W	+	Cytoskeletal protein binding protein
Sla2	ts	5	+	S	-	required for assembly of the cortical actin cytoskeleton
Taf3	Inviabile	66	+	W	-	Transcription initiation from RNA polymerase II promoter
Ygr068c	Viable	73	+	S	-	Unknown

* Knockout phenotype and PPI (protein protein interaction) data base: YPD and SGD

** GI (genetic interaction): dosage lethality/suppression defect induced by over-expression of potential substrates in this study; S indicates strong, W indicates weak, N indicates no genetic interaction.

*** Ubr1 data is based on protein chip results in this study.

TABLE 4

Drugs used in this study

Drug	Conc.	Mechanism	Reference	Rsp5-dependent sensitivities
HU	0.2M	ribonucleotide reductase dependent inhibition of DNA synthesis	Mulder K W, <i>et al.</i> , 2005	Yes
MMS	0.03%	DNA-damaging alkylating agents	Lundin C, <i>et al.</i> , 2005	No
CPT	40µg/ml	DNA-damaging topoisomerase-I inhibition	Wang LF, <i>et al.</i> , 1997	No