# **Supplementary Information**

# **Chemical Evolution of an Autonomous DNAzyme with Allele-Specific Gene Silencing Activity**

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#### **Table of contents**

#### **Supplementary Figures**

Figure S1. Structural views of DNAzyme 10-23.

- Figure S2. Mechanism of DNAzyme-mediated RNA cleavage
- Figure S3. Structure activity relationship analysis of position 14 in the catalytic loop of DNAzyme 10-23
- Figure S4. Structure activity relationship analysis of 10-23 variants prepared with modified binding arms, G14 modification and a phosphodiester linkage at position 0-1 of the catalytic loop
- Figure S5. 2'-Methoxy walk of the catalytic loop for double modifications that enhance activity
- Figure S6. Structure-activity analysis of positions 7, 8, and 14 in the catalytic loop with 2' methoxy residues
- Figure S7. Structure-activity analysis of positions 7, 8, and 14 in the catalytic loop with 2' methoxyethoxy residues
- Figure S8. Structure-activity analysis of positions 7, 8, and 14 with a phosphorothioate linkage at position 0-1 in the catalytic loop.
- Figure S9. Chemical optimization of 10-23 variant 13
- Figure S10. Chemical optimization of 10-23 variant 42 measured at 100:1 (S:E)
- Figure S11. Summary of 10-23 Designs Evaluated in Kinetic Cleavage Assays
- Figure S12. Multiple turnover kinetic analysis of 10-23 variants measured at 10:1 substrate to enzyme concentration
- Figure S13. Transferability of Dz 46 chemistry to other targets
- Figure S14. Multiple turnover kinetic analysis comparing variant 46 to known methoxy derivatives at 100:1 substrate to enzyme concentration
- Figure S15. Magnesium dependency of engineered 10-23 variants measured at 100:1 substrate to enzyme concentration
- Figure S16. Activity of Dz 46 under reduced concentrations of magnesium
- Figure S17. Nearest neighbor analysis of unmodified Dz 1
- Figure S18. Analysis of Dz 46 cleavage motif preferences in long RNA substrates
- Figure S19. Analysis of Dz 1 cleavage preferences in long RNA substrates
- Figure S20. Evaluation of allele-specific cleavage by Dz 46 under multiple turnover conditions in the presence of RNase H
- Figure S21. Absolute values observed for allele-specific knock-down

#### **Supplementary Tables**

- Table S1. G12V KRAS targeting DNAzymes used in chemical evolution screening
- Table S2. Control oligos (active, inactive, and non-binding DNAzymes, ASO)
- Table S3. DNAzymes used to define the preferred cleavage motif
- Table S4. RNA substrates
- Table S5. *Hs*RNAse H1 level in human cell lines measured by ELISA



**Supplementary Figure 1. Structural views of DNAzyme 10-23.** Cartoon representation of an NMR-averaged precatalytic structure of 10-23 bound to an RNA substrate (green) encoding a prion protein (PDB: 7PDU). Structural views observed at 120° and 240° horizonal rotations and vertical rotations of 180<sup>o</sup>.



**Supplementary Figure 2. Mechanism of DNAzyme-mediated RNA cleavage.** Site-specific RNA cleavage occurs by deprotonation of the 2' hydroxyl group of the scissile residue with simultaneous protonation of the 5' hydroxyl group of the cleaved bond. In-line attack of the resulting 2' oxyanion on the adjacent phosphate results in the formation of an upstream cleavage product carrying cyclic phosphate and downstream cleavage product with a hydroxyl group.



**Supplementary Figure 3. Structure activity relationship analysis of position 14 in the catalytic loop of DNAzyme 10-23. a.** Nucleic acid sequence of DNAzyme 10-23 targeting a segment of KRAS G12V mRNA and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: 2'-F (2'-deoxy-2'-fluororibonucleic acid), OMe (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyribonucleic acid), MOE (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid), LNA (locked nucleic acid), FANA (2' fluoroarabinonucleic acid), and TNA (threose nucleic acid). **b-c.** Representative gel and bar graph showing the cleavage activity of each analog  $(n = 1)$ . All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM  $MqCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 4. Structure activity relationship analysis of 10-23 variants prepared with modified binding arms, G14 modification and a phosphodiester linkage at position 0-1 of the catalytic loop. a.** Sequences of DNAzyme 10-23 (wild-type and engineered variants) targeting a segment of KRAS G12V mRNA and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: LNA (locked nucleic acid), OMe (2'-deoxy-2' methoxyribonucleic acid), and phosphorothioate. **b-c.** Representative gels and bar graph showing the cleavage activity of each analog  $(n = 1)$ . All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 5. 2'-Methoxy walk of the catalytic loop for double modifications that enhance activity.** Sequence of DNAzyme 10-23 (variant 10) targeting a segment of KRAS G12V mRNA and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: LNA (locked nucleic acid), OMe (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyribonucleic acid), and phosphorothioate. Bar graph denotes the cleavage activity of each 10-23 variant after a 5 minute incubation at  $37^{\circ}$ C (n = 1). Colors scheme: 10-23 variant 9 (black), 10-23 variant 10 (red), and 10-23 variant 10 modified with a second OMe residue in the catalytic loop (blue). All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product.



**Supplementary Figure 6. Structure-activity analysis of positions 7, 8, and 14 in the catalytic loop with 2'-methoxy residues. a.** Sequence of DNAzyme 10-23 targeting a KRAS G12V mRNA segment and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviation: OMe (2'-deoxy-2' methoxyribonucleic acid). **b-c.** Representative gels and bar graph showing the cleavage activity of each analog (n = 1). All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 7. Structure-activity analysis of positions 7, 8, and 14 in the catalytic loop with 2'-methoxyethoxy residues. a.** Sequence of DNAzyme 10-23 targeting a KRAS G12V mRNA segment and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviation: MOE (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid). **b-c.** Representative gels and bar graphs showing the cleavage activity of each analog  $(n = 1)$ . All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 8. Structure-activity analysis of positions 7, 8, and 14 with a phosphorothioate linkage at position 0-1 in the catalytic loop. a.** Sequence of DNAzyme 10-15 targeting a KRAS G12V mRNA segment and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: OMe (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyribonucleic acid), MOE (2'-deoxy-2' methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid), and phosphorothioate. **b-c.** Representative gels and bar graph showing the cleavage activity of each analog ( $n = 1$ ). All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM  $MqCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 9. Chemical optimization of 10-23 variant 13. a.** Sequence of DNAzyme 10-23 targeting a segment of KRAS G12V mRNA and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: OMe (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyribonucleic acid), MOE (2'-deoxy-2' methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid), LNA (locked nucleic acid), and phosphorothioate. **b-c.** Representative gel and bar graph showing the cleavage activity of each analog  $(n = 1)$ . All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM  $MqCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 10. Chemical optimization of 10-23 variant 42 measured at 100:1 (S:E). a.** Sequence of DNAzyme 10-23 targeting a segment of KRAS G12V mRNA and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: OMe (2'-deoxy-2' methoxyribonucleic acid), MOE (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid), LNA (locked nucleic acid), and phosphorothioate. **b-c.** Representative gels and bar graphs showing the cleavage activity of each analog ( $n = 1$ ). All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 1000 nM substrate and 10 nM enzyme (100:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Supplementary Figure 11. Summary of 10-23 Designs Evaluated in Kinetic Cleavage Assays.**  Sequence of 10-23 DNAzyme variants targeting a size-matched segment of KRAS G12V mRNA and chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs: OMe (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyribonucleic acid), MOE (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid), LNA (locked nucleic acid), and phosphorothioate.



**Supplementary Figure 12. Multiple turnover kinetic analysis of 10-23 variants measured at 10:1 substrate to enzyme concentration. a.** Representative denaturing PAGE gels of timedependent RNA cleavage assays. **b-c.** Kinetic curves plotted after 10 (B) and 30 (C) minutes. All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. Error bars denote  $\pm$  standard deviation from the mean of 3 independent replicates.



**Supplementary Figure 13. Transferability of Dz 46 chemistry to other targets.** Initial velocities  $(v_0)$  and kinetic curves measured for Dz 1 (blue) and Dz 46 (red) versions of PCSK9, HTT, GATA3, and c-jun sequences. All four targets utilize the UGUU cleavage motif evaluated in Figure 2c. Reported values represent the mean for 2 independent replicates. The initial velocity for Dz 1 targeting HTT could not be determined due to a lack of cleavage activity observed under the 60 min timeframe. All reactions were performed under simulated physiological conditions in buffer containing 1 mM  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 1000 nM substrate and 10 nM enzyme (100:1, S:E).



**Supplementary Figure 14. Multiple turnover kinetic analysis comparing variant 46 to known methoxy derivatives at 100:1 substrate to enzyme concentration. a.** Nucleic acid sequence of chemically engineered 10-23 variants targeting a segment of KRAS G12V RNA. **b.** Representative denaturing PAGE gels of time-dependent RNA cleavage assays. **c.** Kinetic curves plotted over a reaction time of 30 minutes. All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 1000 nM substrate and 10 nM enzyme (100:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. Error bars denote  $\pm$  standard deviation from the mean of 3 independent replicates.



**Supplementary Figure 15. Magnesium dependency of engineered 10-23 variants measured at 100:1 substrate to enzyme concentration. a.** Nucleic acid sequence of 10-23 and chemically engineered 10-23 variants targeting a segment of KRAS G12V RNA substrate. **b.** Chemical structures of sugar modified analogs. Abbreviations of nucleotide analogs:  $OCH<sub>3</sub>$  (Ome: 2'-deoxy-2'methoxyribonucleic acid), MOE (2'-deoxy-2'-methoxyethoxyribonucleic acid), LNA (locked nucleic acid), and phosphorothioate. **c-d.** Representative gels and bar graphs showing the cleavage activity of 10-23 variants after 20 minutes of incubation at defined concentrations of MgCl<sub>2</sub>. All reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 1000 nM substrate and 10 nM enzyme (100:1, S:E). S: 5'-Cy5 labeled fulllength substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. Error bars denote  $\pm$  standard deviation from the mean of 3 independent replicates.



**Supplementary Figure 16. Activity of Dz 46 under reduced concentrations of magnesium. a.**  Bar graph showing normalized initial rates for Dz 46 in the presence or absence of 1 mM ATP. Reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 1000 nM substrate and 10 nM enzyme (100:1, S:E). Error bars denote  $\pm$  standard deviation of the mean for 3 independent replicates (blue circles) . **b-c.** Kinetic curve and representative gel of Dz 46 activity under pseudo first-order reaction conditions. The observed rate constant  $(k_{obs})$  is shown. Reported value represents the mean for 2 independent replicates. Reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 0.25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 0.5  $\mu$ M substrate and 2.5  $\mu$ M enzyme (1:5, S:E). Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product.



**Supplementary Figure 17. Nearest neighbor analysis of unmodified Dz 1. a**. Profiles observed for reactions performed in the presence of 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and **b.** 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>. Normalized initial rates observed for each DNAzyme-substrate pair using 1000 nM substrate and 10 nM enzyme (100:1, S:E) at 37°C in buffer containing 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, 140 mM KCl. Reported values are the mean of 2 independent replicates (blue circles).



**Supplementary Figure 18. Analysis of Dz 46 cleavage motif preferences in long RNA substrates. a.** Predicted secondary structures of 60 nt. substrates carrying UGUU (top) or AGUU (bottom) cleavage motifs. Nucleotides complementary to the DNAzyme binding sites are outlined in red; cleavage motifs are highlighted in grey; cleavage sites are indicated by arrows. **b.**  Representative PAGE gels showing time-dependent cleavage of the substrates shown above. Reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P:  $5'-Cy5$  labeled cleavage product. For each cleavage motif,  $n = 1$ .



**Supplementary Figure 19. Analysis of Dz 1 cleavage preferences in long RNA substrates. a.** Representative PAGE gels showing time-dependent cleavage of the substrates shown in Supplementary Figure 18a. Reactions were performed in simulated physiological buffer containing 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM substrate and 50 nM enzyme (10:1, S:E). Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product. For each cleavage motif, n = 1.



**Supplementary Figure 20. Evaluation of allele-specific cleavage by Dz 46 under multiple turnover conditions in the presence of RNase H.** Denaturing PAGE gels showing time-dependent RNA cleavage profiles in reactions containing both the wild-type (red) and G12V (green) substrates (1:1) in the presence of 5 ng/µL human RNase H1. Reaction was performed in a buffer containing 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM NaCl, and 140 mM KCl at 37°C with 500 nM total substrate and 50 nM enzyme ( $n = 1$ ). Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel. S: 5'-Cy5 labeled full-length substrate, P: 5'-Cy5 labeled cleavage product.



a



**Supplementary Figure 21. Absolute values observed for allele-specific knock-down. a.** Absolute signals of G12V and WT KRAS mRNA levels observed for cells treated with Dz 46 in a time course of 6h, 12h and 24h**.** Error bars denote ± standard deviation from the mean of 4 replicates (2 biological and 2 technical). **b.** Representative of agarose gel images observed following RFLPA analysis shown in Figure 5c along with a GAPDH loading control from the same cDNA (2 technical replicates). Molecular weight markers indicated to the right of the gel.



**Table S1. G12V KRAS targeting DNAzymes used in chemical evolution screening** 



Note: LNA (+); 2'-O-methoxyribonucleic acid (m); phosphorothioate linkage (\*); 2'-Omethoxyethylribonucleic acid (/i2MOE/); FANA (f); TNA (t); 2'-fluororibonucleic acid (/i2F/)



### **Table S2. Control oligos (active, inactive, and non-binding DNAzymes, ASO)**

Note: LNA (+); 2'-O-methoxyribonucleic acid (m); phosphorothioate linkage (\*); 2'-Omethoxyethylribonucleic acid (/i2MOE/)

# **Table S3. DNAzymes used to define the preferred cleavage motif**





Note: LNA (+); 2'-O-methoxyribonucleic acid (m); phosphorothioate linkage (\*); 2'-Omethoxyethylribonucleic acid (/i2MOE/)

### **Table S4. RNA substrates**





Note: r denotes RNA; /5Cy5/: Cy5 tag at 5' end; /5Alex750N/: Alexa Fluor 750 tag at 5' end; GU cleavage sites are bolded; 4 nt. cleavage motifs are underlined.



## **Table S5.** *Hs***RNAse H1 level in human cell lines measured by ELISA**

<sup>a</sup> Mateus, A, et al., (2013) Mol. Pharmaceutics, 10:2467-2478; BNID:108893

<sup>b</sup> Jiang, Xiaoyu et al., (2016) Magnetic Resonance in Medicine, 75:2076-1085