

### Supplementary Figure 1: Depletion of Fbw7 results in elevated Mcl-1 abundance.

- **a**, Total thymocytes from 8-wk-old Lck-Cre/*Fbw7*<sup>+/fl</sup> (Control) or Lck-Cre/*Fbw7*<sup>fl/fl</sup> (Fbw7 KO) mice were subjected to immunoblot analysis with the indicated antibodies. Thymic lymphoma cells were from a 15-wk-old Lck-Cre/*Fbxw7*<sup>fl/fl</sup> (Fbw7 KO) and *Terc<sup>-/-</sup>ATM<sup>/-</sup>p53<sup>-/-</sup>* (TKO) mice.
- **b**, Total thymocytes from 12-wk-old Mx1-Cre/ $Fbw7^{+/f1}$  (Control), leukemic Fbw7 KO or *Tall* transgenic mice were subjected to immunoblot analysis with the indicated antibodies.
- **c**, Immunoblot analysis of HeLa cells transfected with the indicated siRNA oligos after synchronization with nocodazole and release.
- **d.** *In vivo* effects of Mcl-1 depletion in Fbw7-deficient T-ALL cells. An *in vivo* xenograft model of Fbw7-deficient T-ALL was created by subcutaneous injection of  $1.2 \times 10^7$  CMLT1 cells (CMLT1-shGFP or CMLT1-shMcl-1) in SCID mice. Tumor burden was determined by measuring the diameters of the tumor size. The tumor volume was calculated by using the formula,  $1/2 \times (\text{tumor length}) \times (\text{tumor width})^2$ . Data was represented as the mean of tumor volume (mm<sup>3</sup>)  $\pm$  SEM with statistical significance determined by Student's t-test.



#### Supplementary Figure 2: Inactivation of Fbw7 does not affect Mcl-1 mRNA expression levels.

- a-c, Real-time RT-PCR analysis to examine the depletion efficiency of the siRNA oligos against Fbw7 (a), β-TRCP1 (b) and Skp2 (c) used in Figure 1b. Data was shown as mean ± SD for three independent experiments.
  - d, Real-time RT-PCR analysis to examine the relative Mcl-1 mRNA expression levels in wild-type (WT) and *Fbw7-/-* DLD1 cells. Data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.
  - e, Real-time RT-PCR analysis to examine the relative Mcl-1 mRNA expression levels in various T-ALL cell lines. Data was shown as mean ± SD for three independent experiments.

Lck-Cre/Fbw7<sup>fl/fl</sup> IB: McI-1 IB: Hsp90 30 CHX (min)



0 15

Control

0 15 30



Loucy

(Fbw7-WT)

Fbw7

0 0.5 1 2 4

IB: McI-1

IB: Bcl-2

IB: Tubulin

GFP

CHX (h) 0 0.5 1 2 4



Time after CHX (min)

20

30

10

Control

T-ALL cells with deletion/

mutation of Fbw7

Lck-Cre/Fbw7fl/fl

0

0

-0.5

-1

-1.5 -2

McI-1 protein level

DND41 (Fbw7-WT)





е

d

shRNA



С

### Supplementary Figure 3: Mcl-1 half-life is controlled by Fbw7.

- **a-b**, The thymocytes from 8-wk-old Lck-Cre/*Fbw7*<sup>+/fl</sup> (Control) or Lck-Cre/*Fbw7*<sup>fl/fl</sup> (*Fbw7* KO) were treated with 100  $\mu$ g/ml cycloheximide (CHX). At the indicated time points, whole cell lysates were prepared and immunoblots were probed with the indicated antibodies (**a**). Band intensity was measured, normalized by that of Hsp90, and expressed as a percentage of the corresponding normalized value for time zero (**b**).
  - **c**, The indicated T-ALL cell lines were treated with 20  $\mu$ g/ml cycloheximide (CHX). At the indicated time points, whole cell lysates were prepared and immunoblots were probed with the indicated antibodies.
  - **d**, DND41 and Loucy cells, which contain wild-type Fbw7, were infected with the indicated lentiviral shRNA construct and selected with 1  $\mu$ g/ml puromycin to eliminate the non-infected cells. Afterwards, the indicated cell lines were treated with 20  $\mu$ g/ml cycloheximide (CHX). At the indicated time points, whole cell lysates were prepared and immunoblots were probed with the indicated antibodies.
  - e, HPB-ALL and JRT3-T3.5 cells with deficient Fbw7 were infected with the Fbw7-expressing retrovirus construct (or an empty vector as a negative control) and selected with 1  $\mu$ g/ml puromycin to eliminate the non-infected cells. Afterwards, the indicated cell lines were treated with 20  $\mu$ g/ml cycloheximide (CHX). At the indicated time points, whole cell lysates were prepared and immunoblots were probed with the indicated antibodies.



Supplementary Figure 4: Endogenous Mcl-1 levels inversely correlate with GSK3 activity during cell cycle progression, and Fbw7 depletion-induced Mcl-1 upregulation is p53 independent.

- **a.** Immunoblot analysis of T98G cells induced to enter the G0 phase by serum starvation for 72 hours and then released for the indicated time periods.
- **b**, Immunoblot analysis of HCT116 *p53-/-* cells transfected with the indicated shRNA constructs.





# Supplementary Figure 5: Phosphorylation of Mcl-1 by GSK3 triggers Mcl-1/Fbw7 interaction.

- a-c, Detection of *in vivo* Mcl-1 phosphorylation status by mass spectrum analysis. HA-Mcl-1 was transfected into 293T cells, then immunoprecipitated with anti-HA in the presence of phosphatase inhibitors. The immunoprecipitate was resolved by SDS-PAGE and phosphorylation was detected by mass spectrum analysis. The Ser64 site (a), Ser121 site (b), Ser159 and Thr163 sites (c) were detected to be phosphorylated *in vivo*.
  - **d**, Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3 and/or HA-ERK1. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- e-f, HeLa or HCT116 cells were infected with the indicated lentiviral shRNA constructs (with shGFP as a negative control) and selected with 1  $\mu$ g/ml puromycin to eliminate the non-infected cells. Whole cell lystates were collected for immunoblot analysis.
- **g**, GSK3 phosphorylates Mcl-1 *in vitro* at multiple sites. Purified GSK3 protein (from New England Biolabs) was incubated with 5  $\mu$ g of the indicated GST-Mcl-1 proteins in the presence of  $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P-ATP. The kinase reaction products were resolved by SDS-PAGE and phosphorylation was detected by autoradiography.
- **h**, Phosphorylation of Mcl-1 at multiple sites *in vivo* triggers its interaction with Fbw7 *in vitro*. Autoradiograms showing recovery of <sup>35</sup>S-labeled Fbw7 protein bound to the indicated HA-Mcl-1 proteins immunoprecipitated from 293T cells. IN, input (5% as indicated).
- i, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with HA-Fbw7 together with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 constructs. Thirty hours post-transfection, cells were pretreated with 10 μM MG132 for 10 hours to block the proteasome pathway before harvesting.
- **j-k**, HeLa cells were transfected with the pcDNA3-HA-Fbw7 construct (with empty vector as a negative control) and selected with 800  $\mu$ g/ml G418 to generate a cell line stably expressing HA-Fbw7. Cells were pretreated with 20  $\mu$ M MG132 for 8 hours to block the proteasome pathway before harvesting. Where indicated, 25  $\mu$ M of the GSK3 $\beta$  inhibitor VIII (with DMSO as a negative control) was added for 8 hours before harvesting for immunoblot analysis (**j**). Under the same experimental conditions, another set of cells were collected and mitochondrial and cytosolic fractions were separated by ultracentrifuge before immunoblot analysis with the indicated antibodies (**k**).







1

Full length

N283

C322

N515

ΔF



d



С



IB: HA

IB: Myc

IB: Myc

IB: HA

IB: Myc

IB: HA





#### Supplementary Figure 6: Mcl-1 interacts specifically with Cullin 1 and Fbw7 in vivo.

- **a**, Illustration of the various Fbw7 deletion constructs used in **b**.
- **b**, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with Myc-Mcl-1 and various HA-tagged Fbw7 constructs. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 10 μM MG132 overnight before harvesting.
- c, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with HA-Mcl-1 and various Myc-tagged Cullin constructs. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 10 μM MG132 overnight before harvesting.
- **d**, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of HEK-293 whole cell lysates (WCL) and anti-Mcl-1 immunoprecipitates (IP). Mouse IgG was used as a negative control for the immunoprecipitation procedure. Cells were treated with 10 μM MG132 overnight before harvesting.
- e-g, Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- **h**, Immunoblot analysis of HeLa or U2OS cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- i, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from HeLa cells transfected with HA-tagged Fbw7 and the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 constructs. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 330 nM Nocodazole for 18 hours to arrest cells in the M phase and 25 μM MG132 for 8 hours before harvesting.
- **j**, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with Myc-Mcl-1 and the indicated HA-tagged F-box protein constructs (or HA-Cdh1 as a negative control ). Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 330 nM Nocodazole for 18 hours to arrest cells in the M phase and 25  $\mu$ M MG132 for 8 hours before harvesting.
- k, Illustration of the various Mcl-1 deletion constructs used in l.
- **I**, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with HA-Fbw7 and various Myc-Mcl-1 constructs. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 10 μM MG132 overnight before harvesting. IP analyses were performed to demonstrate the role of the individual BH domains and the transmembrane domain in mediating Mcl-1/Fbw7 interaction. Deletion of the BH3 or BH4 domains was found to have no effect on Mcl-1/Fbw7 interaction, and deletion of the BH1 or BH2 domains only moderately decreased Mcl-1/Fbw7 interaction. On the other hand, deletion of the transmembrane domain has a more dramatic effect on Mcl-1/Fbw7 interaction.







## Supplementary Figure 7: Fbw7 isoform specificity and dimerization requirement for its ability to promote Mcl-1 destruction.

- **a**, Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and Flag-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- **b**, HEK-293 cells were transfected with the indicated shRNA constructs. Whole cell lysates were collected for immunoblot analysis.
- c, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with the indicated HA-tagged and Flag-tagged Fbw7 constructs. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 10  $\mu$ M MG132 overnight before harvesting. LIEE, Fbw7 $\alpha^{L256E/I257E}$
- **d**, Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- e, Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Flag-Cyclin E and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.



#### Supplementary Figure 8: Fbw7 promotes Mcl-1 ubiquitination.

- **a**, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and anti-Myc immunoprecipitates of 293T cells transfected with the indicated plasmids. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with the proteasome inhibitor MG132 overnight before harvesting.
- **b**, The SCF<sup>Fbw7</sup> complex promotes Mcl-1 ubiquitination *in vitro*. Affinity-purified SCF<sup>Fbw7</sup> complexes were incubated with purified recombinant GST-Mcl-1 proteins, purified E1, E2 and ubiquitin as indicated at 30°C for 45 minutes. The ubiquitination reaction products were resolved by SDS-PAGE and probed with the anti-Mcl-1 antibody.
- **c**, Inactivation of the individual putative ubiquitination sites in Mcl-1 does not impair Fbw7mediated Mcl-1 destruction. Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- **d**, Combinational inactivation of the putative ubiquitination sites in Mcl-1 leads to a progressive resistance to Fbw7-mediated Mcl-1 destruction. Immunoblot analysis of 293T cells transfected with the indicated Myc-Mcl-1 and HA-Fbw7 plasmids in the presence or absence of HA-GSK3. A plasmid encoding GFP was used as a negative control for transfection efficiency.
- e, Inactivation of the five putative ubiquitination sites impairs the Fbw7-mediated ubiquitination of Mcl-1 *in vivo*. Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and anti-Myc immunoprecipitates of 293T cells transfected with the indicated plasmids. Twenty hours post-transfection, cells were treated with the proteasome inhibitor MG132 overnight before harvesting.
- **f**, Immunoblot analysis of wild-type (WT) or *Fbw7-/-* DLD1 cells treated with 10 μM camptothecin (CPT) for the indicated durations of time.





Etoposide



b

d

f

0 uM

1 uM

3 uM

10 uM

**30 uM** 

CMLT1

Fbw7 deletion/

mutation

СРТ



Nocodazole



С

1.2

1

0.8

0.6

0.4

0.2

0

Lousy

Fbw7 WT

Relative cell viability



е



DND41

BE13



h





CMLT1HPB-ALLJRT3-T3.5Image: problem of the state of the s

Fbw7 WT cell lines

Fbw7 mutated cell lines

### Supplementary Figure 9: Fbw7-deficient T-ALL cell lines are more sensitive to sorafenib, but have increased resistance to ABT-737 treatment.

- **a**, Thymocytes isolated from 8-wk-old Lck-Cre/*Fbw*7<sup>+/fl</sup> (Control) or Lck-Cre/*Fbw*7<sup>fl/fl</sup> (*Fbw*7 KO) were cultured at 37°C for the indicated times and then stained with annexin V for determination of the proportion of apoptotic cells by flow cytometry. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD from three independent experiments.
- **b**, Thymocytes of 8-wk-old Lck-Cre/*Fbw*7<sup>+/fl</sup> (Control) or Lck-Cre/*Fbw*7<sup>fl/fl</sup> (*Fbw*7 KO) were cultured for 12 h at 37°C with the indicated concentrations of dexamethasone and then analyzed as in (**a**). \*\*, P < 0.01 using the Student *t* test. \*\*\*, P < 0.005 using the Student *t* test.
- c-f, Cell viability assays showing that compared with T-ALL cell lines with wild-type Fbw7, Fbw7-deficient T-ALL cell lines were more resistant to multiple apoptotic stimuli including etoposide (c), camptothecin (CPT) (d), Taxol (e) and Nocodazole (f). Data was shown as mean ± SD for three independent experiments.
  - g, Cell viability assays showing that compared with T-ALL cell lines with wild-type Fbw7, Fbw7deficient T-ALL cell lines were more sensitive to sorafenib, but resistant to ABT-737 treatment. T-ALL cells were cultured in 0.5% FBS-containing medium with the indicated concentrations of sorafenib or ABT-737 for 48 hours before performing the cell viability assays. Data was shown as mean ± SD for three independent experiments.
  - **h**, Immunoblot analysis of the indicated human T-ALL cell lines with or without sorafenib treatment in 0.5% FBS-containing medium.
  - i, 7-AAD/Annexin V double staining FACS analysis to detect the percentage of sorafenib-induced apoptosis of the indicated Fbw7-deficient T-ALL cell lines. Various T-ALL cells were cultured in 0.5% FBS-containing medium with or without sorafenib (2 μM) treatment for 48 hours before the FACS analysis. Numbers indicate the percentage of apoptotic cells.
  - **j**, 7-AAD/Annexin V double staining FACS analysis to detect the percentage of ABT-737-induced apoptosis of the indicated Fbw7-deficient T-ALL cell lines. Various T-ALL cells were cultured in 10% FBS-containing medium with or without ABT-737 (0.8 μM) treatment for 48 hours before the FACS analysis. Numbers indicate the percentage of apoptotic cells.











0.2

0

0

2 CPT (nM)

6



С

е

g



#### Supplementary Figure 10: Manipulating Fbw7 activity changes ABT-737 sensitivity.

- a, Cell viability assays showing that re-introduction of wild-type Fbw7 into the Fbw7-deficient T-ALL (CMLT1) cell line partially restored its sensitivity to ABT-737 treatment. The CMLT1 cells were cultured in 10% FBS-containing medium with the indicated concentrations of ABT-737 treatment for 48 hours before performing the cell viability assays. Data was shown as mean ± SD for three independent experiments.
- **b**, Cell viability assays showing that re-introduction of wild-type or Mcl-1-3A into DND41 cells results in an increase in resistance to ABT-737 treatment. Indicated DND41 cells were cultured in 10% FBS-containing medium with the indicated concentrations of ABT-737 treatment for 48 hours before performing the cell viability assays. Data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.
- c, Cell viability assays showing that depletion of Fbw7 in DND41 cells resulted in elevated resistance to multiple apoptotic stimuli. Data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.
- **d**, Cell viability assays showing that re-introduction of wild-type Fbw7 into the Fbw7-deficient T-ALL cell lines (HPB-ALL and JRT3-T3.5) partially restored their sensitivity to etoposide-induced apoptosis. Data was shown as mean ± SD for three independent experiments.
- e-f, Cell viability assays showing that re-introduction of Mcl-1-3A into DND41 cells results in an increase in resistance to Taxol (e) and CPT (f) treatments. Data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.
- g, Cell viability assays to demonstrate that sorafenib treatment restored ABT-737 sensitivity in Fbw7-deficient HPB-ALL cells. HPB-ALL cells were cultured in 10% FBS-containing medium with the indicated concentrations of sorafenib and ABT-737 for 48 hours before performing the cell viability assays. In order to score the effects of increasing concentrations of ABT-737 on cell viability, each reading was scaled relative to the respective sorafenib treatment with 0  $\mu$ M ABT-737 set as 100%. Data was shown as mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.
- h, 7-AAD/Annexin V double staining FACS analysis to demonstrate that sorafenib treatment restored ABT-737 sensitivity of Fbw7-deficient CMLT1 and JRT3-T3.5 cells. CMLT1 and JRT3-T3.5 cells were cultured in 10% FBS-containing medium with the indicated concentrations of sorafenib and/or ABT-737 for 48 hours before the FACS analysis. Numbers indicate the percentage of apoptotic cells.



е

IB: c-Mule IB: HA





IB: Cdc25A

IB: Tubulin



## Supplementary Figure 11: c-Mule is not the physiological E3 ubiquitin ligase for Mcl-1 in T-ALL cell lines.

- **a**, Immunoblot analysis of HeLa cells transfected with the indicated siRNA oligonucleotides.
- **b**, Real-time RT-PCR analysis to examine the Fbw7 mRNA levels after treatments with the various siRNA oligos in (a). Data was shown as mean <u>+</u> SD for three independent experiments.
- c, Immunoblot analysis of HeLa cells transfected with the indicated shRNA constructs.
- **d**, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with HA-Mcl-1. Thirty hours post-transfection, cells were pretreated with 20  $\mu$ M MG132 for 8 hours to block the proteasome pathway before harvesting. Where indicated, 25  $\mu$ M GSK3 $\beta$  inhibitor VIII (with DMSO as a negative control) was added for 8 hours before harvesting.
- e, Immunoblot (IB) analysis of whole cell lysates (WCL) and immunoprecipitates (IP) derived from 293T cells transfected with the indicated HA-Mcl-1 constructs. Thirty hours post-transfection, cells were pretreated with 10  $\mu$ M MG132 for 10 hours to block the proteasome pathway before harvesting.
- **f**, Immunoblot analysis of the indicated human T-ALL cell lines cultured in 10 % FBS-containing medium. HeLa and 293T cell lines were included as positive controls for detection of the endogenous c-Mule expression.
- **g**, Various cell lines were infected with the lentiviral sh-c-Mule construct (with shGFP as a negative control) and selected with 1  $\mu$ g/ml puromycin to eliminate the non-infected cells. Whole cell lystates were collected for immunoblot analysis with the indicated antibodies.