

Supporting Information

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SI Methods

Cell Culture and Transfection. HEK 293T and U2OS cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium, HCT116WT and p53^{-/-} cells were grown in RPMI 1640 medium, and CDK7 (as/as) HCT116 cells were grown in McCoy's 5A medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum at 37 °C. Doxorubicin and Cisplatin were from Sigma, Nutlin3 was from Cayman Chemical, and 3MB-PPI was from EMD chemicals. Transfection of plasmids was performed using Effectene reagent (Qiagen). Cells were harvested 48 h after transfection and processed for different assays. pSUPER driven expression of TFIIIB shRNA was performed by the double transfection method described previously (1). The siRNAs were obtained from Qiagen, and transfection was performed by using Hiperfect (Qiagen) for 48 h.

Luciferase Assay and Western Blotting. The AREG and p21 FL promoter luciferase constructs have been described before (2). The core promoter constructs contained nucleotides -56 to +4 of AREG and -56 to +3 of the p21 promoters cloned downstream of 5-GAL4 DNA binding sites. The AREG-p53bs luciferase construct was generated using 4-tandem upstream p53-binding

sequences (5'-CCAGGCAAGTCCAGGCAGG-3') cloned between NheI and XhoI restriction enzyme sites of the AREG promoter region. Luciferase activity was measured with the Promega Luciferase kit. Western blotting analysis was performed as described before (3) using antibodies listed in Table S1.

ChIP Assay. RNA extraction and quantitative RT-PCR analysis was performed as described previously (3). ChIP assay was performed with HEK293T, HCT116WT, and HCT116 p53^{-/-} cells as described previously (3). Statistical significance was analyzed by Student's *t* test ($P < 0.05$). The sequences of the qPCR primers used in the study are listed in Table S2.

Kinase Assay. A kinase assay with a panel of different CDK/cyclins was performed at Reaction Biology Corp. (Malvern, PA) using HotSpot 33P-ATP Filter-binding kinase assay format. The activity of the kinases was normalized under standard conditions using control substrates, and subsequently their activity on TFIIIB was tested at different time points (30, 60, 120, and 180 min) at room temperature.

1. Elsby LM, O'Donnell AJ, Green LM, Sharrocks AD, Roberts SG (2006) Assembly of transcription factor IIB at a promoter in vivo requires contact with RNA polymerase II. *EMBO Rep* 7(9):898–903.
2. Deng W, Malecová B, Oelgeschläger T, Roberts SG (2009) TFIIIB recognition elements control the TFIIA-NC2 axis in transcriptional regulation. *Mol Cell Biol* 29(6):1389–1400.

3. Wang Y, Fairley JA, Roberts SG (2010) Phosphorylation of TFIIIB links transcription initiation and termination. *Curr Biol* 20(6):548–553.

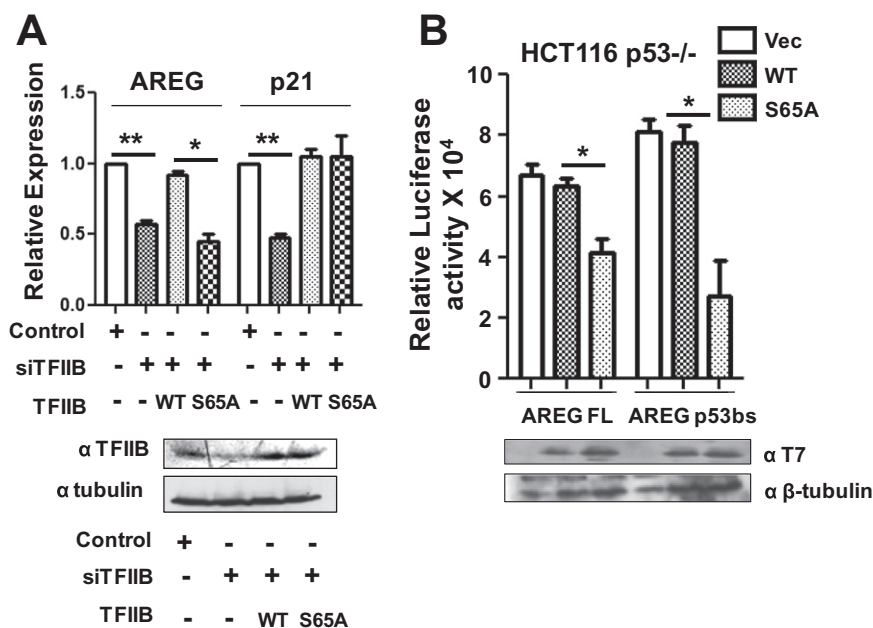


Fig. S1. p53 can bypass the requirement for the integrity of TFIIIB Ser65. (A) The endogenous expression of AREG and p21 was determined by qPCR in HCT116WT cells transfected with pSUPER shTFIIIB along with WT or S65A TFIIIB. Transfection with empty pSUPER vector and shTFIIIB are controls. Error bars denote SD. Western blotting analysis of the transfected cells was performed with anti-TFIIIB and anti-β tubulin antibodies. (B) Luciferase assay was performed with AREG promoter luciferase construct under the control of four tandem upstream p53-binding sites (AREG p53bs) and was compared with the original AREG FL promoter in the presence of wild-type TFIIIB and mutant S65A in HCT116 p53-null cells. The expression of the WT and S65A TFIIIB proteins was analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-T7 and anti-β tubulin antibodies (Lower).

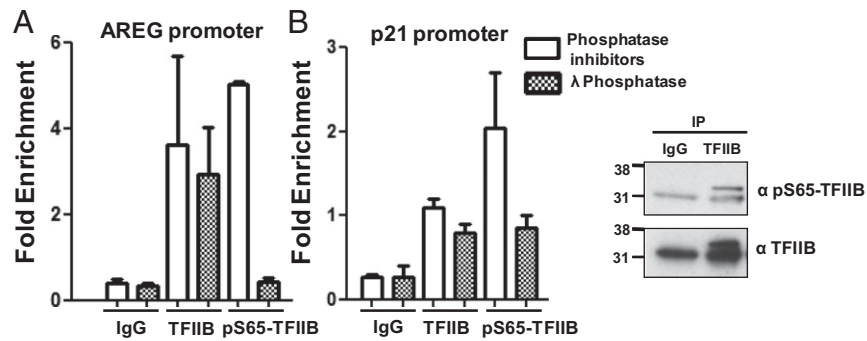


Fig. S2. TFIIIB present at the p21 promoter contains phosphoserine-65. (A) ChIP assay was performed with anti-TFIIIB and pSer65-TFIIIB antibodies in presence of either phosphatase inhibitor mixture or after lambda phosphatase treatment to determine the relative occupancy of phosphorylated-ser65-TFIIIB at the promoters of the AREG and (B) the p21 gene. qPCR data of three independent experiments are plotted as fold enrichment relative to 18S DNA. Error bars denote SD. Western blotting analysis was performed with TFIIIB-immunoprecipitates using anti-pS65-TFIIIB and TFIIIB antibodies.

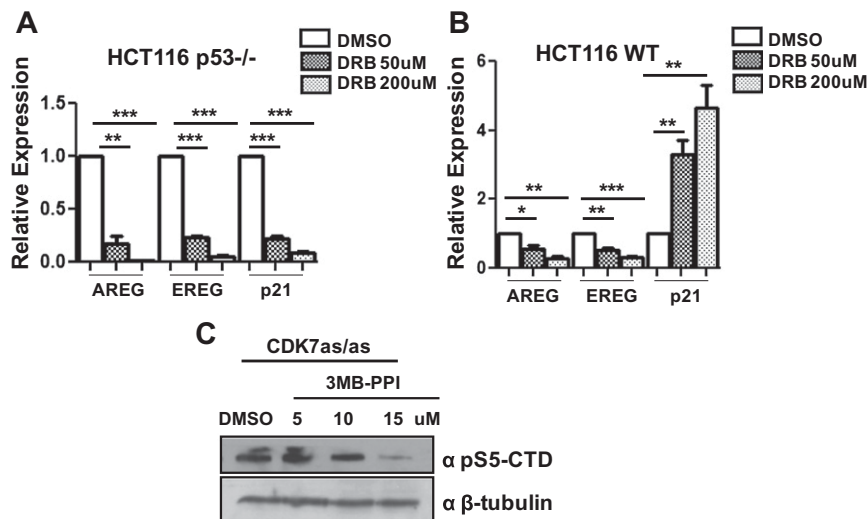


Fig. S3. CDK7 phosphorylates TFIIIB. (A and B) qPCR analysis of AREG and p21 mRNA after treatment with the indicated concentrations of DRB in HCT116 p53^{-/-} (Left) and WT cells (Right) for 24 h. The values are normalized relative to the expression of 18S rRNA. (C) CDK7 (as/as) cells were treated with the indicated concentrations of 3MB-PPI for 12 h and immunoblotted with phospho-ser5-CTD (of RNAPII) and β -tubulin antibodies.

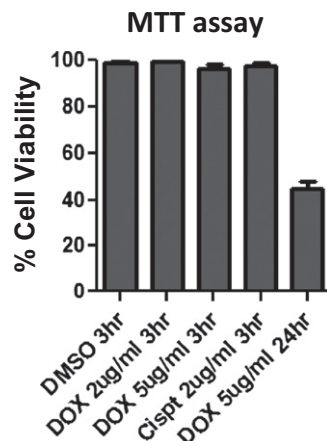


Fig. S4. 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay was performed to estimate the cell viability after indicated time points and concentrations of doxorubicin and cisplatin treatment in HCT116 WT cells.

Table S1. Antibodies used in CHIP assay and Western blotting

Antibody	Catalog no.	Company
T7	69522-3	Novagen
β -tubulin	ab6046	Abcam
Ssu72	sc-69613	Santa cruz
CstF-64	sc-28201	Santa cruz
p53 (DO1)	sc-126	Santa cruz
CDK7	sc-7344	Santa cruz
CDK9	sc-484	Santa cruz
RNAPII	ab5408	Abcam
p-Ser5-CTD RNAPII	ab5131	Abcam
p-Ser65-TFIIB		made by Eurogentec
TFIIB		made by Eurogentec
Secondary antibodies		Jackson Immuno Research

