

A: Sensitivity to ERKi SCH772984 of a low passage BRAF mutant melanoma cell line was measured after three days treatment in a dose response curve. Y-axis represents the percentage of living cells. **B**: Schematic overview of the VBIM screen setup. **C**: Insertion was excised by activation of Cre after addition of 4-OHT, resulting in re-sensitization to SCH772984 as determined by crystal violet staining (representative example is shown). **D**: Sequencing of clone SD3#5 after splinkerette-PCR identified insertion in *MITF* gene locus in intron 2/3. **E**: Immunoblotting of a subset of clones revealed expression of FLAG-tagged proteins, correlating with increased MITF expression. HSP90 served as a loading control. **F**: Lentiviral overexpression of MITF resulted in increased resistance to BRAFi (PLX4720, 5μM) or MEKi (0.5μM) in 04.07 cells as shown by crystal violet staining after five and ten days.

Supplementary. Fig 2



A: Immunoblotting of several ERKi (SCH772984)-resistant cell lines and their treatment-naïve counterparts. HSP90 served as a loading control. **B:** Dose response curves of PLX4720-resistant melanoma cell lines and their treatment-naïve counterparts to PLX4720 treatment. Y-axis represents the percentage of living cells. **C:** MITF expression was monitored in M229 and M238 cells starting from initial treatment with PLX4720 to acquisition of resistance. **D:** Colo679 cells were exposed to increasing concentrations of PLX4720 for four days and cell extracts were blotted for the indicated

antibodies. HSP90 served as a loading control. **E**: *TWIST* mRNA was measured in acquired PLX-4720-resistant cells and their treatment-naïve counterparts. Error bars are based on biological replicates and normalized to *RPL13*. **F**: *CDH1* and *CDH2* mRNAs were measured in acquired PLX4720-resistant cells and their treatment-naïve counterparts. Error bars are based on technical replicates and normalized to *RPL13*. **G/H**: Dose response curves of PLX4720-resistant melanoma cell lines and their treatment-naïve counterparts to MEK inhibitor (G) and ERK inhibitor (H) treatment. Y-axis represents the percentage of living cells.





A: *MITF* mRNA expression in different BRAF mutant melanoma cells normalized to *ACTINB*. Error bars represent technical replicates. **B:** MITF^{endo_hi} (black) and MITF^{endo-lo} (blue) treatment-naïve BRAF^{V600E} melanoma cells were exposed to different concentrations of PLX4720, ERKi or MEKi in a three day-dose response curve.



A: RNA sequencing was performed on three MITF^{endo_hi} and three MITF^{endo_lo} BRAF^{V600E} mutant melanoma cell lines. The heatmap is based on all RTKs; genes were ordered according to their correlation to MITF. **B:** An independent set of BRAF^{V600E} mutant melanoma cell lines was plotted based on MITF and

AXL expression. Their sensitivities to BRAFi (vemurafenib) and to ERKi SCH772984 are indicated by color codes. The AXL vs. MITF correlation p-value is 7E⁻⁰⁹ and the ERKi sensitivity p-value 3E⁻⁰⁵. **C**: A panel of melanoma cell lines was exposed to either gefitinib or R428 and drug sensitivity was measured in a drug dose response curve after three days. Y-axis represents the percentage of living cells.



A: Five MITF^{endo_lo} and one MITF^{endo_hi} BRAF mutant melanoma cell lines were exposed to a combination of BRAFi PLX4720 with either AXLi R428 (0.3µM), EGFRi Gefitinib (2µM), PDGFRi Imatinib (1µM) or a combination of all for nine days. A375 cells were used as a control for efficient BRAFi treatment. Remaining cells were stained with crystal violet. **B:** MITF^{endo_lo} cells were exposed to a combined inhibition of the MAPK-pathway by BRAFi dabrafenib (2µM) and MEKi trametinib (0.05µM) with combined AXL (R428, 0.3µM) and EGFR (Gefitinib, 2µM) inhibition. After nine days of combined treatment the remaining cells were stained with crystal violet. **A375** cells were used as a control for efficient BRAFi dabrafenib (2µM) and MEKi trametinib (0.05µM) with combined AXL (R428, 0.3µM) and EGFR (Gefitinib, 2µM) inhibition. After nine days of combined treatment the remaining cells were stained with crystal violet. **A375** cells were used as a control for efficient MAPK-pathway inhibition. **C:** Three MITF^{acq_lo} PLX4720-resistant cells lines and their treatment-naïve counterparts were

exposed to AXLi R428 (0.3μ M), EGFRi gefitinib (2μ M) or PDGFRi imatinib (1μ M) for nine days in the presence or absence of PLX4720 (3μ M). Remaining cells were stained with crystal violet.

Supplemetary Fig. 6



A: An independent set of NRAS mutant and BRAF/NRAS wild-type melanoma cell lines was plotted based on *MITF* and *AXL* mRNA expression. **B**: NRAS mutant, treatment-naïve PDX samples were analyzed by immunoblotting for the indicated proteins. HSP90 served as a positive control. **C**: FM6 and BLM cells were plated at low densities and treated with ERKi (1µM), BMS777607 (5µM) or a combination. After six days of treatment remaining cells were stained by crystal violet. **D**: FM6 cells were lentivirally transduced with shRNAs to knock down AXL expression. Efficient knockdown was confirmed by immunoblot (lower panel). AXL knockdown decreased viability of the ERKi-resistant population as measured by dose response curve. Error bars result from three independent experiments. **E**: Dose response curves of SkMel2 and SkMel2R confirmed resistance to MEKi and cross-resistance to ERKi.

Supplementary figure 7: raw images









