Engineering dynamic cell cycle control with synthetic small-molecule responsive RNA devices Wei KY and Smolke CD

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Text S1. Plasmid construction

All primers used in this study are listed in Table S4. All plasmids used in this study are listed in Table S5. All cell lines created and used in this study are listed in Table S2. Brief details on the construction of various plasmids built for this study are provided below and plasmid maps are drawn in Fig S7.

The plasmid construct used as the transfection marker to screen potential cell cycle regulatory nodes (pCS2622; Fig S7) is built on a pcDNA3.1(+) backbone (Life Technologies) and encodes an expression cassette for a transfection marker and the regulatory node. First, a fragment encoding a bGH polyA tail and the CMV promoter was PCR amplified from pCS1036 [1] using primers BsrGI_EcoRI_bGHpA_fwd and ApaI_XbaI_XhoI_CMV_rev. This fragment was inserted into pCS408 (pcDNA3.1(+) with EGFP cloned into the KpnI and XhoI restriction sites [1]) via the BsrGI and ApaI restriction sites to create CMV-EGFP-bGHpA-CMV-bGHpA. Next, a fragment encoding an EGFP reporter with a Us9 localization tag (Us9-EGFP), which localized the reporter to the golgi and plasma membranes [2], was PCR amplified from pCS2052 (Addgene #18657) using primers Us9_KpnI_fwd and EGFP_EcoRI_rev. This fragment was inserted into the intermediate plasmid described above via the KpnI and EcoRI restriction sites. Finally, a fragment encoding the HSVTK polyA tail was PCR amplified from pCS2587 using primers HSVTK EcoRI fwd and HSVTK EcoRV rev. This fragment was inserted into the intermediate plasmid described above via the EcoRI and EcoRV restriction sites to create pCS2622.

Plasmid pCS2622-p16 (pCS3341), used as the tandem cassette for p16 in tuning expression of key regulators, was constructed by PCR amplifying p16 using primers p16_SalI_XbaI_fw and p16_ ApaI_rv and inserting into pCS2622 via XhoI and XbaI. Plasmid pCMV p16 INK4A from which p16 was amplified was a gift from Bob Weinberg (Addgene plasmid $# 10916$).

Plasmid pCS2622-p27 (pCS3342), used as the tandem cassette for p27 in tuning expression of key regulators, was constructed by PCR amplifying p27 from using primers GB 2622 p27 fw and GB 2622 p27 rv and inserting into pCS2622 via KpnI and BamHI using Gibson assembly. Plasmid pCMV5 human p27 from which p27 was amplified was a gift from Joan Masague (Addgene plasmid #14049).

Plasmid pCS2441, the plasmid backbone for site-specific integration of constructs into cell lines, was built on the pcDNA5/FRT (Invitrogen) backbone such that the existing expression vector CMV-GOI-bGHpA is replaced by CMVTetO2-DsRed-bGHpA (Fig S7). Specifically, the CMV-d2EEGFP-bGHpA cassette in pCS2407 [3] was replaced by a multiple cloning site containing MfeI-NruI-NheI-AflII-HindII-AvrII-XmaI by annealing primers MCS_fwd and MCS rev and ligating into the vector via MfeI/XmaI.

pCS2441-Wee1mut (pCS3246), used in screening potential regulatory nodes, was constructed by PCR amplifying Wee1mut using primers GB_2441_Wee1mut_fw and GB 2441 Wee1mut rw and inserting into pCS2441 via BamHI and KpnI, replacing DsRed. Wee1mut sequence was ordered from Gen9 (Cambridge, MA).

pCS2441-syn21p27 (pCS3249), the base plasmid for G0/1 cell cycle controllers, was constructed by PCR amplifying p27 from pCMV5 human p27 (a gift from Joan Massague (Addgene plasmid # 14049)) using primers GB 2441 syn21 fw and GB 2441 p27 rv and inserting into pCS2441 BamHI and ApaI, replacing DsRed. The OFF control (sTRSV) and switch th-A (theoRs2) were PCR amplified using primers RzXhoIAsiSI fw and RzApaIPacI rv and inserted into the restriction sites XhoI and ApaI to form pCS2441-syn21p27-sTRSV

(pCS3250) and pCS2441-syn21p27-theoRs2 (pCS3252), which are used to test small molecule control of cell cycle arrest in G0/1.

pCS2441-syn21CCNB1mut (pCS3256), the base plasmid for G2/M cell cycle controllers, was constructed by PCR amplifying CyclinB1(L45A,R42A) from pCyclinB1(L45A,R42A)mCherry (a gift from Jonathon Pines (Addgene plasmid # 39852) using primers BamHI_XbaI_CCNB1_fw and ApaI_XhoI_CCNB1_rv and inserting into the relevant pCS2441switch vector via BamHI and ApaI, replacing DsRed. The OFF control (sTRSV) and switches were PCR amplified using primers RzXhoIAsiSI fw and RzApaIPacI rv and inserted into the restriction sites XhoI and ApaI to form pCS2441-syn21CCNB1mut-sTRSV (pCS3257), pCS2441-syn21CCNB1mut-theoRs2 (pCS3261; CCNB1mut Switch th-A), pCS2441 syn21CCNB1mut-theoRs4 (pCS3262; CCNB1mut Switch th-B), pCS2441-syn21CCNB1mut-L2b9(1x) (pCS3259; CCNB1mut Switch th-C), and pCS2441-syn21CCNB1mut-L2b9(2x) (pCS3260; CCNB1mut Switch th-Cx2), which are used to test small molecule control of cell cycle arrest in G2/M.

pCS2786-Cas9-mCherry-theoRs2 (pCS3256), used to characterize switch th-A (theoRs2) activity, was constructed by PCR amplifying a DNA fragment encoding a P2A cleavable linker, mCherry, and switch th-A with primers GB_Cas9_P2A_fw and GB_postRZ_rv from an existing plasmid and inserting into pCS2786-Cas9 via XbaI using Gibson assembly.

Figure S1: Overview of DNA staining and cell cycle quantification experiments. Generally, cells are seeded in dishes and grown for 3 days. Cells are then collected, permeabilized, and stained for DNA content and run on a flow cytometer. Each sample is analyzed by gating for cells using side scatter (SSC) vs. forward scatter (FSC) and for singlets using height of the forward scatter signal vs. the area of the forward scatter signal. The proportion of cells in G0/1 and G2/M can be quantified by gating on the amount of propidium iodide staining. The protocol with transient transfections has extra steps, shown in brackets including transfection, a fixation step, and gating on transfected cells using GFP.

Figure S2: Representative histograms of cell count vs. DNA staining. Top row shows the OFF control, which does not change in the percentage of cells in any of the cell cycle phases between the addition 0 and 1 mM theophylline (theo). Bottom row shows the Switch th-A. For integrated p27-switch controllers (left), there is an increase in the percentage of cells in G0/1 (and correspondingly a decrease in G2/M) when 1 mM theo is added compared to when 0 mM theo is added. For integrated CCNB1m-switch controllers (right), there is an increase the percentage of cells in G2/M (and correspondingly decreases the percentage of cells in G0/1) when 1 mM theo is added compared to when 0 mM theo is added.

Figure S3: Double thymidine block treated (right graph) or control treated (left graph) HeLa cells. The percentage of cells in a population arrested in G0/1 was measured by DNA staining and flow cytometry.

Figure S4: siRNA knockdown of CDK4, CDK6, or both CDK4 and CDK6 in U2-OS cells. siNT2 is a control sequence. The percentage of cells in a population arrested in G0/1 was measured by DNA staining and flow cytometry. Error bars represent standard deviation of triplicates.

Figure S5: Ribozyme switch controls for arresting cells in G2/M. An OFF control (non-switch, wild-type sTRSV hammerhead ribozyme) and an ON control (non-switch, non-cleaving sTRSV hammerhead ribozyme) were inserted in the 3' UTR of CCNB1m, stably integrated into U2-OS T-Rex Flp-In cells, and tested for their ability to arrest cells in G2/M.

Figure S6: Ribozyme switch controls for arresting cells in G0/1. An OFF control (non-switch, wild-type sTRSV hammerhead ribozyme) and an ON control (non-switch, non-cleaving sTRSV hammerhead ribozyme) were inserted in the 3' UTR of p27, stably integrated into U2-OS T-Rex Flp-In cells, and tested for their ability to arrest cells in G0/1.

Figure S7: Plasmid maps of the two main plasmid backbones, pCS2622 and pCS2441. For pCS2441, the default gene of interest (GOI), DsRed, is subsequently replaced by sequences encoding regulatory nodes and ribozyme switches (or appropriate control).

Table S1: Regulatory nodes tested in this study. The nodes and a simplified descriptions of their functions in the mammalian cell cycle are listed in alphabetical order. When no reference is provided, see [4] for more information.

Table S2: Ribozyme switch performance in yeast and HEK293. Switch activities are reported as measured by the ratio of GFP/mCherry in a cell population (yeast or HEK293) harboring the indicated switch in the two-color characterization plasmid via flow cytometry.

Table S3: Cell lines created in this study. Cell lines are created by stable integration into U2-OS T-Rex FlpIn lines using the FlpIn system. Blasticidin selection maintains T-Rex integration. Hygromycin selection maintains integrated cassette.

Table S4: Primer sequences used in this study.

Table S5: List of the plasmids used in this study. Plasmids obtained from Addgene are indicated by the Addgene plasmid number.

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Table S6: Sequences of ribozyme controls and switches used in this study. Sequences listed below include the restriction sites for XhoI (ctcgag) and AsiSI (gcgatcgc) 5' of the switch sequence and PacI (ttaattaa) and ApaI (gggcccc) 3' of the sequence. Main switch sequence is underlined and flanked by short spacer sequences which are italicized.

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