### **Supplementary Information**

# Functional characterization of p53 pathway components in the ancient metazoan *Trichoplax adhaerens*.

Jia Wei Siau, Cynthia R. Coffill, Weiyun Villien Zhang, Yaw Sing Tan, Juliane Hundt, David Lane, Chandra Verma, Farid Ghadessy





**Figure S1.** Pull-down assay showing interactions of *in vitro* expressed Tap53 $\Delta$ /TaMdm2 and p53/HDM2. Nutlin (10µM) is able to disrupt the p53/HDM2 interaction (left) but not the Tap53 $\Delta$ /TaMdm2 interaction (right). Control lanes (CON) show amounts of indicated p53 proteins pulled down in absence of MDM2/TaMdm2 immobilisation on beads

Figure S2



**Figure S2:** Homology models of (a) TaMdm2 bound to Tap53, (b) hMdm2 bound to Tap53, (c) TaMdm2 bound to hp53 and (d) hMdm2 bound to Tap53 M23L mutant. Mdm2 is represented as white surface while p53 peptide is shown in orange.

Figure S3 : Uncropped Western Blots.













Figure 2D:









Figure 5:







## Figure 6B:











#### **Supplementary Materials and Methods**

#### Homology modelling

The amino acid sequences of Trichoplax p53 (Tap53) and Trichoplax Mdm2 (TaMdm2) were obtained from the UniProt database (accession numbers B3RZS6 and B3RT05 respectively)<sup>1</sup>. Template protein complex structures were obtained from the Protein Data Bank<sup>2</sup>. The structure of human Mdm2 (Mdm2) bound to a 12mer peptide inhibitor (PDB code 3EQS)<sup>3</sup>) was used as a template to model the TaMdm2–Tap53 and Mdm2–Tap53 complexes, while the structure of the human Mdm2-Mdm4 RING domain heterodimer (PDB code 2VJF)<sup>4</sup>) was used as a template to model the TaMdm2 RING domain homodimer and TaMdm2-mMdm4 (mouse Mdm4) RING domain heterodimer. The 3EQS structure was chosen instead of the wild-type Mdm2-p53 complex as the Tap53 peptide is expected to have an additional  $\alpha$ -helix turn due to the absence of a proline residue near its C-terminus. ClustalW<sup>5</sup> was used for sequence alignment. For each target structure, 10 multichain homology models were generated by MODELLER9v136<sup>6</sup> and ranked by their DOPE score. The best model is the one with the lowest DOPE score and it was assessed for its stereochemical quality by PROCHECK<sup>7</sup>. Symmetry restraints were applied to build the model of the TaMdm2 RING domain homodimer.

#### References

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