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Supplemental Information

Targeting SOX2 Protein with Peptide

Aptamers for Therapeutic Gains

against Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Supplemental Information.

Figure S1. Establishment of a peptide aptamer library for screening based on BiFc. (A) Schematics of aptamer library construction and screening process. (**B**) TrxA-MCS-TrxA fragment and pBiFc-VC155-TrxA-MCS-TrxA vector were generated after high-fidelity PCR, ligation and enzyme identification. (**C**) A peptide aptamer expression library containing 33 random nucleotide sequences was obtained with high-fidelity PCR. (**D**) The peptide aptamer library was validated with bacterial liquid PCR using specific primers. (**E**) Constructs expressing SOX2 protein and peptide aptamers used for immunoprecipitation validation.



Figure S2. Production of lentivirus that is used to express peptide aptamers P15,

P18, P42 and GFP. Note that control contains GFP and the package cell line is HEK293T. Scale bar: 100 μm.



Figure S3. Stable expression of various peptide aptamers in different cell lines following lentiviral infection and drug selection. Scale bar: 100 µm.



EPC2

Figure S4. P42 aptamer overexpression does not impact the proliferation and apoptosis of normal esophageal epithelial cell lines (EPC2 and HEEC). Note apoptotic cells are rarely detected in EPC2 control and p42 overexpression groups (C). Scale bar: 100 µm.



Supplementary Table S1. The clinicopathological characteristics of 75 ESCCs are closely correlated with the levels of SOX2 protein.

| | | Cases in each group | Percent |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Histopathological | Ι | 11 | 14.7% |
| grade | I-II | 14 | 18.7% |
| | II | 34 | 45.3% |
| | II-III | 5 | 6.7% |
| | III | 11 | 14.7% |
| TNM Stage | T Stage | 24 | 32% |
| | N Stage | 46 | 61.3% |
| | M Stage | 5 | 6.7% |

| Lentiviral plasmid | Primer sequence(5'-3') |
|--------------------|--|
| For | Forward:5'-CTAGAGCTAGCGAATTCTTCGAAACCGGTGATATCC TCGAGG-3' |
| pCDH-CMV-Oligo- | Reverse:5'-GATCCCTCGAGGATATCACCGGTTTCGAAGAATTCG CTAGCT-3' |
| IRES-GFP-Puro | |
| construction | |
| For | Forward:5'-CG <u>GAATTC</u> GCCACCATGAGCGATAAAATTATTCAC-3' |
| | Reverse: 5'-CG <u>GGATCC</u> TCACAGGTTAGCGTCGAGGAA-3' |
| pCDH-CMV-Peptide- | |
| IRES-GFP-Puro | |
| construction | |

Supplementary Table S2. Primers used for lentiviral plasmid construction

Supplementary Table S3. The most prominent biological process, cellualr component and molecular function of changed protein upon ectopic expression

of P42 aptamer.

| | Biological Process | Cellular Component | Molecular Function |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Up-regulated | cellular process | cell | binding |
| | single-organism process | organelle | catalytic activity |
| Protein | biological regulation | extracellular region | molecular function |
| | | | regulator |
| | metabolic process | membrane | signal transducer activity |
| | response to stimulus | membrane-enclosed | structural molecule activity |
| | | lumen | |
| Down-regulated | cellular process | cell | binding |
| Protein | single-organism process | organelle | catalytic activity |
| | biological regulation | membrane | molecular function |
| | | | regulator |
| | metabolic process | extracellular region | molecular transducer |
| | | | activity |
| | response to stimulus | membrane-enclosed | transporter activity |
| | | lumen | |

Supplementary Table S4. The detailed information of chemically synthetic control peptide and peptide 42.

| | Control peptide | Peptide 42 |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sequence | TAMRA-YGRKKRRQRRRCGPV | TAMRA-YGRKKRRQRRRCGPVWFSTLFFPLF |
| | WISLARGPC(C12-C24) | FLISLARGPC(C12-C35) |
| Structure | | |

| | sequence(5'-3') |
|--|---|
| | 5'-ATGAGCGATAAAATTATTCACCTGACTGACGACAGTTTTGA |
| | CACGGATGTACTCAAAGCGGACGGGGCGATCCTCGTCGATTT |
| | CTGGGCAGAGTGGTGCGGTCCAGTGTGCTGGGCCCAGCCGGC |
| Synthesized Sequence for TrxA-MCS-TrxA | CAGATCTGAGCTCGCGGCCGCGATATCGCTAGCTCGAGGTCCG |
| | TGCAAAATGATCGCCCCGATTCTGGATGAAATCGCTGACGAAT |
| | ATCAGGGCAAACTGACCGTTGCAAAACTGAACATCGATCAAA |
| | ACCCTGGCACTGCGCCGAAATATGGCATCCGTGGTATCCCGAC |
| | TCTGCTGCTGTTCAAAAACGGTGAAGTGGCGGCAACCAAAGT |
| | GGGTGCACTGTCTAAAGGTCAGTTGAAAGAGTTCCTCGACGC |
| | TAACCTG-3' |
| For | Forward: 5'- <u>ACGCGTCGAC</u> CATGAGCGATAAAATTATTCAC-3' |
| pBiFc-VC155-TrxA-MCS- | Reverse: 5'-GG <u>GGTACC</u> CAGGTTAGCGTCGAGGAA-3' |
| TrxA construction | |
| Synthesized | 5'-CTGCAGAA <u>CCAGTGTGCTGG</u> N32 <u>GATATC</u> GCTAGCTCGAGC- |
| random sequence for | 3' |
| peptide expression | |
| For random sequence | Forward: 5'-CTGCAGAACCAGTGTGCT-3' |
| cloning | Reverse: 5'-GCTCGAGCTAGCGATATC-3' |
| For | Forward: 5'-TGCGGTCCAGTGTGCTGG-3' |
| pBiFc-VC155-TrxA-peptide | Reverse: 5'-ACCTCGA GCTAGCGATATC-3' |
| -TrxA identification | |
| For pBiFc-VN173-SOX2 | Forward: 5'-CGGAATTCAATGTACAACATGATGGAGAC-3' |
| construction | Reverse: 5'-TGC <u>TCTAGA</u> CATGTGTGAGAGGGGGCAG-3' |

Supplementary Table S5. Primers used for peptide library construction and BiFc

| | sequence(5'-3') |
|---|---|
| For pcDNA3.1-myc-hisC- TrxA-Peptide-TrxA construction | Forward:5'-cgGGATCCAACCATGAGCGATAAAATTATTCAC-3' |
| | Reverse:5'-CGGAATTCCCAGGTTAGCGTCGAGGAA-3' |
| For pCMV-Tag2B-SOX2 | Forward: 5'-CGGAATTCATGTACAACATGATGGAGACG-3' |
| construction | Reverse: 5'-CCCAAGCTTTCACATGTGTGAGAGGGGCA-3' |

Supplementary Table S6. Primers used for immunoprecipitation