# Supplementary Information



# **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**



# **Supplementary Table 1. Box plot statistics**

## 5 **Methodology:**

From public datasets (TCGA, GSE17856) of liver cancer patients showing gene expression and matched clinical data, a subset of data showing gene expression corresponding to various stages of liver cancer including metastasis was generated. The samples were divided into early stage and late metastatic stage of tumor progression to correlate the expression of Notch1 and 10 TBC1D15 in tumor progression. The early stage non-metastatic samples showed an average combined expression of both genes as 8.8 (range of 0.1-12), while late stage metastatic samples with an average of 14.7 (range 13-18). A t-test was performed to estimate the differences in the expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15 genes in early and late metastatic stage of liver cancer patients as well as normal non tumor individuals.















Creation of Conditional Knock out mose Tbc1d15 - IKMC Project: 45640 (IKMC-International Knockout Mouse Consortium:



Genotyping primer Sequences: (Red sequences exon 6 of TBC1d15 and LAR3 primer sequences; LAR3 reverse primer)

 $\mathbf b$ 

a



C

Genotyping primer Sequences: (Red sequences exon 6 of TBC1d15 and Exon7 primer sequences)



Homozygous for Transgenic Tbc1d15: Mouse 1 & 3

Supplementary Fig. 1 Choi and Siddique al.

### **Supplemental Figures:**

# **Supplementary Figure 1. Creation of conditional knockout mouse of Tbc1d15 from International Knockout Mouse Consortium (IKMC Project # 45640).**

(**a**) Pictorial diagram shows the construction of Tbc1d15 plasmid backbone for transgenic 5 mouse and plasmid map. (**b**). Pictorial diagram shows the Tbc1d15 genotyping. Genotyping primer Sequences: (Forward primer sequences were from Exon 6 of Tbc1d15 and reverse primer

was from LAR3 sequences. This genotyping is shown from three independent experiments. (**c**) Pictorial diagram shows the homozygosity. For homozygosity primer Sequences were synthesized from Exon 6 of Tbc1d15 and Exon7 primer. This genotyping is shown from three independent experiments.



**Supplementary Fig. 2** Choi and Siddique et al.

#### **Supplementary Figure 2. The protein complex was isolated from cell lysate by antibody immunoprecipitation.**

(**a**) Enriched protein complexes were divided into two parts for shotgun proteomics experiment and Western blots Co-IPs. (**b**) Representative mass spectra of target proteins in the protein 5 complex. Proteins are digested enzymatically to peptides by trypsin, leading to peptides with Cterminally protonated amino acids, the peptides are separated by HPLC and sequenced by high resolution MS/MS. The MS and MS/MS spectra were acquired and matched against protein sequence databases. The outcome of the experiment was the identity of the peptides and therefore the proteins making up the protein complex. (**c**) Asymmetric vs. symmetric cell division 10 analyses. Data are represented as ±SD (*n*=3). *p*-values by two-tailed unpaired *t* test. \**p*<0.05 (Student's *t* test).





Sequence: LFLYQSTMSSRNLRDWEQ, Charge: +3, Monoisotopic m/z: 758.71967 Da





Sequence: REFANHLQQLQGAFNDLIEEHSK, Charge: +3, Monoisotopic m/z: 908.79010 Da





Sequence: KLEQQCQQQQQQVEGLTHSL, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 1177.03430 Da

Sequence: GPGTPESKKATSCFPRPMTPR, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 1123.02637 Da



5 Sequence: TLECERGKQEAQLLAERSR, C4-Carbamidomethyl (57.02146 Da) Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 1137.57263 Da



Sequence: EMRLQNTLNEQ, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 688.36584 Da







Sequence: ELAKLRGQEAAQR, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 735.42499 Da



Sequence: SECERLIREVESR, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 803.41425 Da



Sequence: LTSMTGLNATLQQ, M4-Oxidation (15.99492 Da)



Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 697.36707 Da

Sequence: QNQKLQ, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 379.72855 Da



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Sequence: IAELQQRNRVCPPHLKTC, C18-Carbamidomethyl (57.02146 Da) Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 1082.03015 Da



Sequence: RRQSMAFSILNTPKKLGNSL, Charge: +2, Monoisotopic m/z: 1131.07996 Da



#### **Supplementary Figure 3. Mass-spectrometry data of NuMA1 protein that binds TBC1D15.**

Representative mass spectra of NuMA1 proteins in the protein complex is shown above. Proteins 5 are digested enzymatically to peptides by trypsin, leading to peptides with C-terminally protonated amino acids, the peptides are separated by HPLC and sequenced by high resolution MS/MS. The MS and MS/MS spectra were acquired and matched against protein sequence databases. The outcome of the experiment was the identity of the peptides and therefore the proteins making up the protein complex.



**Supplementary Fig. 4** Choi and Siddique et al.

**Supplementary Figure 4. Canonical Pathway analysis for the identified proteins.** Pathway analysis was performed to identify the inks of these pathways that were found in IP-Mass-spec analyses of TBC1D15-binding proteins. Note that NOTCH pathway is linked to endocytosis and 5 adhesion-junction pathways.



**Supplementary Fig. 5** Choi and Siddique et al.

#### **Supplementary Figure 5. The 169ASP residue of TBC1D15 (green) interacts with NuMA1 (blue).** To visualize the interaction between full-length TBC1D15 and C-terminus of NuMA1,

occluding portions of TBC1D15 were not included in the simulation. Docking conformations were 5 ranked according to lowest free energy of calculated structures. The docking of NUMA1 was the best candidate from this analysis and highlights the importance of this residue in mediating the interaction between the N-terminal region (aa 1-270) of TBC1D15 and NUMA1.

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# Choi and Siddique et al.

# **Supplementary Figure 6. Construction of donor plasmid and subsequent quality control analysis.**

(**a**) Pictorial diagram shows the Donor plasmid for knocking in the customer-specified, inducible transgene to the mouse safe Harbor (Rosa26) locus. Total Plasmid Size: 11764 bp (vector: 5 ROSA26). The sequences were arranged in the following sequences- 5'arm Rosa 26- SA-CAG promoter-LoxP-EF1a- CopGFP-T2A- Puro- SV40 poly(A) signal -LoxP-Kozak-ATG-HA-NUMB-3A-Stop codon-pA (terminator)-3' arm of Rosa 26 locus. (**b**) Pictorial diagram shows *In vitro* DNA Cleavage assay to test gRNA activity. 600ng of Cas9 protein, 250ng gRNA, and 400ng of template containing a target sequences were incubated at 37° C for 1hr. After treating with RNAse, the 10 reaction mixture was analyzed in agarose gel. Template Size: 200bp (synthesized from IDT, USA). The successful cut produced two ladders of 128bp and 72bp. This *in vitro* DNA cleavage assay is shown from three independent experiments. (**c**) The gel picture shows the quality control and concentration of injected mRNA and DNAs. The representative pictures are shown from three independent experiments. (**d**) Immunoblots of *in vitro* test for Cre/LoxP switching expression in 15 the Donor plasmids CRISPR-Cas9 system. The immunoblots analysis are shown from three independent experiments.

Description: Donor plasmid for knocking in the customer-specified, inducible transgene described above to the mouse Safe Harbor (Rosa26) locus Whole Plasmid Size: 11764 bp Vector: ROSA26

#### **DONOR DRAWING:**

5'arm Rosa 26- SA-CAG promoter-LoxP-EF1a- CopGFP-T2A- Puro- SV40 poly(A) signal -LoxP-Kozak-ATG-HA-NUMB-3A-Stop codon--pA (terminator)-3' arm of Rosa 26 locus



Chromosome and Left Hand Arm SPECIFIC PRIMER; Product length: 1046bp



b

Chromosome and Right Hand Arm SPECIFIC PRIMER; Product length:



This is the proof for right insertion





Supplementary Fig. 7 Choi and Siddique et al.

**Supplementary Figure 7. This is the proof for right insertion of the NUMB-3A sequences.**  (**a**) The Gel picture shows the correct left insertion of the Knock in sequences. The chromosome and Left-Hand Arm (LHA) specific primers were designed and PCR was performed; Product length: 1046bp (**b**) The Gel picture shows the correct right insertion of the Knock in sequences.

#### a

The chromosome and Right-Hand Arm (RHA) specific primers were designed and PCR was performed; Product length: 1145bp. (**c**) The Gel picture shows the correct NUMB-3A sequences. The presence of NUMB-3A was assessed by designing the forward primer HA-Tag specific and Reverse primer from NUMB specific primer; Product length: 518bp. The representative pictures 5 are shown from three independent experiments (**b, c**).



**Supplementary Fig. 8** Choi and Siddique et al.

**Supplementary Figure 8. Hypothetical model of TBC1D15-mediated NOTCH degradation and inhibition of asymmetric cell division and oncogenesis.** (**Left**) Liver progenitor cells (LPC) undergo asymmetric cell division via establishment of asymmetric cell division machinery 10 to bridge between microtublues and asymmetrically-dividing daughter cells through interactions of Ga-LGN-Dynein-Microtubules. (**Right**) The binding of N-terminus of TBC1D15 to NUMB promotes dissociation and proteolysis of p53 and phosphorylation of NUMB by cooperation of RANGAP1-TBC1D15 interactions. TLR4-NANOG axis promotes phosphorylation of NUMB and TBC1D15-mediated p53 degradation, leading to the genesis of TICs and liver oncogenesis in 15 alcoholic liver disease. NuMA1-TBC1D15 interaction inhibits interactions between LGN-NuMA1 that is essential to establish asymmetric cell division machinery, leading to unrestricted expansion of stem cell compartment without differentiation (asymmetric cell division), leading to genesis of TICs, ultimately leading to recurrence and metastasis of hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs).

# **Supplementary Figure 9. Uncropped film figures.**

# Supplementary Figure uncropped original scan files Figure 1g



# Figure 2g





Figure 4b



Figure 4c



Figure 4d



# Figure 5a



Figure 5b



Figure 5e



# Figure 5f







**IB-ACTIN** 

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**IB-NANOG** 



**Supplementary Figure 10. Gating for FACS analyses.**

Supplementary Fig. 10<br>Choi and Siddique et al.

#### • **CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING**

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be 5 fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Keigo Machida (Keigo.machida@med.usc.edu).

#### **Supplementary Methods**

- **Genetically manipulated mouse models:** We generated a conditional *Tbc1d15* knockout mouse model with the help of the International Knockout Mouse Consortium. All the 10 background transgenic mice were created and bred by us. *Cre-ERT2* Tg mice (obtained from Drs. Daniel Metzger and Pierre Chambon, IGBM, Illkirch, France: **Fig. 1d**) allowed tamoxifen activation of *Cre* for removal of a floxed stop sequence for specific gene expression induction. To determine the causal roles of NUMB phosphorylation and TBC1D15 oncoprotein in alcohol-induced liver tumorigenesis in HCV-Tg mice, we generated *Alb::CreERT2*:*non-*15 *phosphorylatable mutant Numb-3ALSL* mice (Conditional expression of *Numb-3A* in ROSA26 locus downstream of a floxed stop sequence: *Lox-Stop-Lox*, *LSL*) and cross-bred these with *Ns5aTg* mice to produce *Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg* and *Alb::CreERT2:Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg*  mice under the congenic background. The knock-in approach of three non-phosphorylatable amino cid substitutions is ideal, but was a challenging task since the three phospho-serines 20 (S7, S265, S284) of wt NUMB region in a 134 kbp-genomic region. Male *Ns5aTg* mice fed a modified Lieber-DeCarli (L-D) alcohol diet had a 32% liver tumor incidence (female mice exhibited a lower incidence rate of 18%)<sup>7</sup>. To initiate overexpression of NUMB-3A, mice were injected intraperitoneally five times with tamoxifen at two-day intervals before the initiation of L-D diet feeding at the age of two months of age. Tamoxifen injection may affect alcohol-25 induced liver damage, and consequently, liver tumorigenesis in these models, as estrogen is known to aggravate alcoholic liver disease in mice  $41, 42$ . To exclude artifact from repetitive tamoxifen injection, the control group was also treated with tamoxifen. After feeding for nine months, mice were examined monthly for tumors by abdominal ultrasound using the VisualSonics' Vevo 770 High-Resolution Imaging System (at the Molecular Imaging Center of 30 USC). This allowed the 3D visualization and volume measurements of liver tumor masses.
- *Tbc1d15<sup>Flox/Flox</sup>* mice were generated such that the genomic region containing exons 4, 5, and 6 of Tbc1d15 gene, encoding most of the NUMB-binding domain (aa 69-229 aa) was floxed by stuffer sequence (STOP codon). These mice were crossed with *Alb::CreERT2* and *Ns5aTg* mice to generate the compound mice in the congenic C57Bl/6 background. To determine the 35 effects of TBC1D15 deficiency on liver tumor latency, incidence, and size*, Alb::CreERT2; Tbc1d15Flox/Flox;Ns5aTg* and *Tbc1d15Flox/Flox; Ns5aTg* mice were injected with tamoxifen (i.p.) and fed alcohol/WD for 12 months.

• **Sample preparation for LC/MS-MS:** The denatured samples were, reductively alkylated with iodacetamide, and trypsin-digested with trypsin as described previously<sup>43</sup>.

- 40 **TCGA data analyses:** We performed meta-analysis of public datasets (TCGA, GSE17856, GSE27150) of liver cancer patients. We correlated gene expression with matched clinical data. A subset of these data had gene expression information corresponding to various stages of liver cancer including metastasis was generated. The patient data were divided into early stages of tumor progression for correlation with the expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15 45 during tumor progression. A t-test was performed to estimate the differences in expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15 genes in early and late metastatic stage of liver cancer patients.
- **aPKC**ζ **pseudosubstrate inhibitor (PPI):** One hour after drug challenge (five times a week for four weeks of treatment) on days 28, intratracheal instillation with 10μg/mouse of aPKCζ pseudosubstrate attached to cell permeabilization vector peptide (Tocris, Minneapolis, MO,  $USA$ <sup>44</sup> into the tumor-beraing mice (10µg/mouse) was performed non-operatively. Inhibitor of

atypical protein kinase C (aPKC) ζ is attached to cell permeabilisation Antennapedia domain vector peptide.

- *In vitro* **kinase assays:** Aurora A and aPKCζ were measured by SignalChem Kinase activity assay Kits as described previously<sup>12</sup>.
- 5 *In vivo* **mouse imaging:** Each month following prior nine months of alcohol-Western diet, mice were examined for tumors by abdominal ultrasound using the VisualSonics' Vevo 770 High-Resolution Imaging System (Molecular Imaging Center at USC) which allows the 3D visualization and volume measurements of the liver tumor masses. Tumor burden was monitored monthly by measuring the body weight, which according to IACUC guidelines 10 cannot exceed more than 5% of the control body weight.
- **IP-western blots:** We obtained NOTCH truncation mutants (Full-length, ∆∆-E, TM-RAM, RAM , and NICD) from Dr. Chengyu Liang (USC) for the purpose of domain-mapping of NOTCH for its interaction with TBC1D15 protein. We transfected human NOTCH1 constructs together with a TBC1D15 construct to determine domains of NOTCH1 that interacts with 15 TBC1D15. We performed IP-Western analyses to examine the solution interaction between TBC1D15 and NOTCH1. NOTCH1 C-20 antibody (1:1000 dilution for Western blot analyses: SIGMA) was used for these analyses.
- **Immuno-affinity purification and tandem Mass-spectrometry:** We used on-line LC-Orbitrap XL CID MS/MS instrument to identify a potential interacting protein with TBC15. We 20 did trypsin digestion of IP samples separated by SDS-PAGE. Gel pieces were then subjected to a modified in-gel trypsin digestion procedure $^{36}$ .
- **Simulation of docking between TBC1D and NuMA1 or NOTCH1:** Based on the domain section of NUMA, NUMA aa 1788 to the end portion was simulated into the structure. The TBC1D15 of this structure is used to dock with NUMA from 3ro2 with LGN. The interacting 25 residues from NUMA to LGN are: ('2', 'GOL'), ('3', 'GOL'), ('7', 'HOH'), ('11', 'HOH'), ('18', 'LEU'), ('21', 'ALA'), ('22', 'LEU'), ('25', 'GLU'), ('28', 'CYS'), ('29', 'LYS'), ('40', 'PHE'), ('52', 'LYS'), ('53', 'THR'), ('55', 'SER'), ('56', 'ALA'), ('59', 'SER'), ('60', 'GLN'), ('63', 'ASN'), ('64', 'ALA'), ('66', 'PHE'), ('81', 'ASP'), ('85', 'ALA'), ('93', 'GLY'), ('96', 'LYS'), ('103', 'ASN'), ('106', 'LYS'), ('107', 'VAL'), ('136', 'ARG'), ('139', 'TYR'), ('140', 'ASN'), ('143', 'ASN'), ('146', 'HIS'), 30 ('150', 'LYS'), ('196', 'ARG'), ('199', 'GLY'), ('200', 'ASN'), ('203', 'ASN'), ('206', 'TYR'), ('207', 'LEU'), ('221', 'ARG'), ('235', 'ARG'), ('236', 'ARG'), ('240', 'ASN'), ('243', 'ASN'), ('246', 'ILE'), ('247', 'PHE'), ('276', 'GLN'), ('279', 'TYR'), ('280', 'SER'), ('283', 'ASN'), ('316', 'ARG').

 Analyses of 3D structure of TBC1D15-NOTCH1 interaction identified TBC1D15 N terminal region (green) docking with a.a.1805-2113 of NOTCH1 (blue). Inhibitor A efficiently binds 35 both interactions domains for TBC1D15-NOTCH and TBC1D15-NUMB. Interface residues from TBC1D15 (red) are: ('17', 'GLY'), ('19', 'TYR'), ('139', 'LYS'), ('140', 'GLN'), ('141', 'ASN'), ('142', 'LYS'), ('143', 'GLU'), ('144', 'GLY'), ('145', 'MET'), ('146', 'GLY'), ('147', 'TRP'), ('165', 'PHE'), ('166', 'HIS'), ('167', 'GLN'), ('168','GLY') and ('171','LYS'). Inhibitor A: (5Z,9α,11α,15R)-9,11,15-Trihydroxy-17-phenyl-18,19,20-trinor-prost-5-en-1-oic acid.

40 • **Statistical Considerations:** For this study, HCC from three etiological backgrounds were used for PDX models: HCC can be attributed to ALD and NASH as these metabolic liver diseases are increasingly associated with HCC incidence. HCC from HCV or HBV patients were not included in this study because different viral genotypes may exhibit confounding different phenotypes and HCV- or HBV-infected PDX models pose a significant logistical 45 challenges from the biosafety standpoint.

• **NCBI tracking system number:** 

- o The data used in this study has been deposited to NCBI under **GSE61435 (Microarray)** and **GSE68237 (ChIP-Seq)**.
- o Human Gene expression profiling by array40: **GSE17856** and **GSE27150**

# • **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

o In vivo animal studies

#### • **Genetically manipulated mouse models**

- We generated a conditional Tbc1d15 knockout mouse model with the help of the International Knockout Mouse Consortium. All the background transgenic mice were created and bred by us. Cre activation mediated removal of a floxed stop sequence upon 5 tamoxifen induction of Cre-ERT2 Tg mice (obtained from Drs. Daniel Metzger and Pierre Chambon, IGBM, Illkirch, France: **Fig. 1d**). To determine the causal roles of NUMB phosphorylation and TBC1D15 oncoprotein in alcohol-induced liver tumorigenesis in HCV-Tg mice, we generated *Alb::CreERT2*:*non-phosphorylatable mutant Numb-3ALSL* mice (Conditional expression of *Numb-3A* in ROSA26 locus downstream of a floxed stop 10 sequence: *Lox-Stop-Lox*, *LSL*) and crossed with *Ns5aTg* mice to produce *Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg* and *Alb::CreERT2:Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg* mice under the congenic background. Knock-in approach of three non-phosphorylatable mutations is ideal, but was a challenging task since the three phospho-serines in the wt gene reside (S7, S265, S284) in a 134 kbp-genomic region. Male *Ns5aTg* mice fed a modified Lieber-DeCarli (L-D) 15 alcohol diet had a 32% liver tumor incidence (female mice had a lower incidence rate of 18%)<sup>7</sup>. To initiate overexpression of NUMB-3A, mice were injected intraperitoneally five times with tamoxifen at two-day intervals before the initiation of feeding at the age of two months of age. Tamoxifen injection may affect alcohol-induced liver damage, and consequently, liver tumorigenesis in the models as estrogen is known to aggravate 20 alcoholic liver disease in mice<sup>41</sup>. To exclude artifact from repetitive tamoxifen injection, the control group was also injected with tamoxifen. Each month after feeding for nine months, mice were examined for tumors by abdominal ultrasound using the VisualSonics' Vevo 770 High-Resolution Imaging System which allows the 3D visualization and volume measurement for liver tumor mass at the Molecular Imaging Center at USC.
- <sup>25</sup> *Flochd15<sup>Flox/Flox</sup>* mice were generated in which a genomic region containing exons 4, 5, and 6 of the gene, encoding most of NUMB-binding domain (69-229 aa) that promotes p53 degradation, is floxed by stuffer sequence (STOP codon). These mice were crossed with *Alb::CreERT2* and *Ns5aTg* mice to generate the compound mice in the congenic C57Bl/6 background. To determine the effects of TBC1D15 deficiency on liver tumor latency, 30 *incidence, and size, Alb::CreERT2; Tbc1d15<sup>Flox/Flox</sup>;Ns5aTg and <i>Tbc1d15<sup>Flox/Flox</sup>; Ns5aTg* mice were injected with tamoxifen (i.p.) and fed alcohol/WD for 12 months. Sibling controls and alcohol-WD was fed the identical diet but with dextrin replacing alcohol. After nine months of feeding, mice were examined monthly for tumors by abdominal ultrasound using the VisualSonics' Vevo 770 High-Resolution Imaging System as described above. At the 35 terminal point, liver tumor incidence, size, and weight were recorded. Liver biochemistry and immunostaining were performed for the key parameters of aPKC-NUMB-p53 and TBC1D15 pathways as already described above for the NUMB-3A overexpression model.
- Each month after feeding for nine months, mice were examined for tumors by abdominal ultrasound using the VisualSonics' Vevo 770 High-Resolution Imaging System which 40 allows both 3D visualization and volume measurement of liver tumor mass. Tumor burden was monitored monthly by measuring the body weight, which according to USC IACUC guidelines was not exceed more than 5% of the control body weight.

## 45 • **METHOD DETAILS**

#### **Immuno-affinity purification and tandem Mass-spectrometry**

We used LC-Orbitrap XL CID MS/MS to identify a potential interacting protein with TBC1D15. We did in-gel digestion of IP samples separated by SDS-PAGE. Gel pieces were then subjected to a 50 modified in-gel trypsin digestion procedure<sup>36</sup>. Peptides were collected and subjected to LC-MS/MS sequencing and data analysis. The identification of TBC1D15 and its interacting proteins were carried out by mass spectrometry and validated by another functional assay. By using of strict scoring metrics, we identified several high-confidence interacting proteins, including

NOTCH1, 2, 3, and 4, NuMA1, and RanGap1. RANGAP1 is a crucial regulator of RAN-GTP/GDP cycles and mitosis coordinator and known to regulate expression of AURKA<sup>20</sup>.

# **LC/MS/MS Analysis**

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For LC/MS-MS, the sample was denatured, reduced with DTT, alkylated with Iodacetamide, and digested with trypsin as described previously. Protein sequences were analyzed by use of an LC/MS system with LTQ Orbitrap XL (Thermo Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) and an Eksigent 10 NanoLC Ultra 2D (Dublin, CA) as previously described<sup>36</sup>. Peptides were separated with 5  $\mu$ m C18 beads packed in a 10 cm column (75 μm inner diameter) on a Eksigent NanoLC Ultra 2D system by use of a binary gradient of buffer A (0.1 % formic acid) and buffer B (80% ACN and 0.1% formic acid). The peptides were loaded with buffer A (at a flow rate of 300 nL/min). Peptides were eluted with a linear gradient from 10% to 35% buffer B in 95 min followed by 50% B for 15 min (at a flow 15 rate of 250 nL/min). The column was washed with 90% buffer B and equilibrated with 5% buffer B for 10 min. The eluates were sprayed into the LTQ Orbitrap XL with the ion transfer tube at 250 °C at 2.1-2.25 kV with no sheath gas flow. After accumulation to an AGC target value of 500,000 in the linear ion trap with 1 microscan, MS spectra were obtained in the orbitrap in the range of m/z 350–2,000 at a FWHM resolution of 30,000.

20 The precursors selected for fragmentation by collision-induced dissociation (CID) were processed for peptide sequencing and modification site localization. Fragment ions were examined in the liner ion trap. The five most abundant precursor ions were chosen for fragmentation by CID. The data-dependent acquisition mode was selected while five CID datadependent MS/MS scans came after the high-resolution MS scan. For all sequencing events, 25 dynamic exclusion was enabled to minimize repeated sequencing. Peaks selected for fragmentation more than once within 60 s were excluded from selection (10 ppm window).

#### **Data Processing of LC/MS/MS**

Proteome Discoverer 1.4 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was used for protein identification using 30 Sequest algorithms. The following criteria were followed. For MS/MS spectra, variable modifications were selected to include M oxidation and C carbamidomethylation with a maximum of four modifications. Searches were conducted against Uniprot or in-house customer database. Up to two missed cleavages were allowed for the proteolytic enzyme and protease digestion. Peptides were fully tryptic. MS1 tolerance was 10 ppm. MS2 tolerance was set at 0.8 Da. If 35 peptides met the false discovery rate of 1%, peptides reported were accepted via search engine. No fixed cutoff score threshold was in place while until the 1% FDR rate is reache, spectra were accepted. Peptides with a minimum of six amino acid lengths were processed for identification. the mass spectra were mannually inspected and validated.

# 40 **TCGA data analyses**

From public datasets (TCGA, GSE17856) of liver cancer patients showing gene expression and matched clinical data, a subset of data showing gene expression corresponding to various stages of liver cancer including metastasis was generated. A representative Box plot showing the expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15 in non-tumor normal (n= 62) early stage of cancer (n= 284) 45 and late (n=102) metastatic stages of liver cancer patients. The samples were divided into early stage and late metastatic stage of tumor progression to correlate the expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15 in tumor progression. The early stage non-metastatic samples showed an average combined expression of both genes as 8.8 (range of 0.1-12), while late stage metastatic samples with an average of 14.7 (range 13-18). The box whisker plot representing interguartile range 50 (IQR) of minimum, 25th percentile, median, 75th percentile and maximum values show that more aggressive tumors have a higher combined expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15. A t-test was performed to estimate the differences in the expression of Notch1 and TBC1D15 genes in early and late metastatic stage of liver cancer patients as well as normal non tumor individuals.

#### **Animal Treatment**

These mice were fed modified high-fat Lieber-DeCarli (L-D) liquid diet (Bioserv, NJ) with alcohol (3.5%w/v) and high-fat or isocaloric dextrin using glass tubings for 3 months from 2 months of age (every day the diet is renewed). Based on the predicted incidence rates of HCC and attrition 5 rates (15-30%) in the different genetic and dietary groups and the power analysis using the 80% power and a p-value of 0.05, the numbers of mice required for statistical analysis of the outcome in this study are derived. This formula of alcohol liquid diet has been used for many research institutions in worldwide (Lieber-DeCarli diet) and our previous study shows that the calorie intake between alcohol diet and control diet is not statistically different.

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#### **aPKC**ζ **pseudosubstrate inhibitor (PPI)**

One hour after a challenge (five times a week for four week-treatment) on days 28, intratracheal instillation with 10μg/mouse of aPKC ζ pseudosubstrate attached to cell permeabilization vector peptide (Tocris, Minneapolis, MO, USA)<sup>44</sup> into the tumor-beraing mice (10µg/mouse) was 15 performed non-operatively. Inhibitor of atypical protein kinase C (aPKC) ζ is attached to cell permeabilisation Antennapedia domain vector peptide. Consists of amino acids 113-129 of aPKC ζ pseudo substrate domain linked by a disulfide bridge to the Antennapedia domain vector peptide. The Antennapedia peptide is actively taken up by intact cells, at 4 or 37°C, ensuring rapid and effective uptake of the inhibitor peptide. Once inside the cell, the disulfide bonds are subjected 20 to reduction in the cytoplasm leading to the release of the inhibitor peptide. Induces mast cell degranulation by a PKC ζ-independent pathway.

Sequence: CRQIKIWFQNRRMKWKK CSIYRRGARRWRKLYRAN\* (Modifications: Disulfide bridge between 1 -1\*) and RLYRKRIWRSAGR sequences (ZIP) were used as scrambled 25 (http://www.tocris.com/dispprod.php?ItemId=212092#.VQNbXOG2L2c,

Effect of intrathecal administration of ZIP on mechanical and thermal sensitivity or locomotor function in normal rats Intrathecal scrambled peptide (10 μg, n=8) did not modify mechanical and thermal withdrawal responses compared to baseline in normal mice. More interestingly, intrathecal administration of 10 $\mu$ g (n = 8) of ZIP did not alter mechanical and thermal withdrawal 30 responses compared to baseline, and the control scrambled peptide group throughout the whole experiment. Finally, neither the control scrambled peptide nor ZIP had any effect on the locomotor function of rats on the rotarod, assessed at 30 and 60 min post-injection.

#### *In vitro* **kinase assays**

35 Aurora A and aPKCζ were measured by SignalChem Kinase activity assay Kits as described previously. Briefly, after immuno-precipitation, samples were incubated in 20 μl reaction mixture containing each substrates and buffers. Next, 5 μl of  $\gamma$ -[<sup>32</sup>P] ATP assay cocktail was added, the mixture was incubated in a water bath at  $30^{\circ}$ C for 15 min. Then, 20 µl of the reaction mixture was spotted onto individual pre-cut strips of of phosphocellulose p81 paper (Millipore, Temecula, CA), 40 and the dried strips were washed three times with 1.0% phosphoric acid solution. Radioactivity on the p81 paper was scored in presence of scintillation fluid on a liquid scintillation analyzer (Packard Instrument Co.). The activities were presented in the figure as  $\gamma$ -[<sup>32</sup>P] ATP specific activity or Kinase specific activity. To test if TBC1D15-mediated positive regulation of aPKC $\zeta$ activity, we directly tested whether TBC1D15 increases NUMB phosphorylation in a manner 45 dependent on aPKCz or/and AURKA by using Huh7 cells transduced with Flag-NUMB, aPKCz, AURKA, and/or TBC1D15 and incubated with  $γ$ -[ $³²$ P] ATP. Following cell lysis, Flag-NUMB was immunoprecipitated and immunoblotted for autoradiography. We also treated the cells with the AURKA inhibitor MK5108 to test the contribution of this kinase. Flag-NUMB phosphorylation modestly increased with the expression of aPKCz and AURKA but conspicuously increased with 50 the concomitant expression of TBC1D15 and this effect was attenuated in the absence of AURKA and dose-dependently abrogated by the AURKA inhibitor MK5108. These results collectively suggest TBC1D15 positively upregulates AURKA activity and NUMB phosphorylation to drive symmetric division.

#### **NUMB Phosphorylation Analyses**

The effects on NUMB phosphorylation were assessed by incubating the cells with  $^{32}P$ orthophosphate in phosphate-free DMEM with 10% dialyzed FBS for 4 hours, followed cell lysis, NUMB immunoprecipitation, PAGE, and autoradiography to monitor incorporation of  ${}^{32}P$  into  $5 \text{ }$  NUMB<sup>12, 37</sup>. p53 dissociation from NUMB and p53 levels were assessed by co-IP and IB. Selfrenewal activity was evaluated through methylcellulose spheroid formation assays and Colony formation assay as previously described  $38$ .

#### *In vivo* **mouse imaging**

10 Each month after feeding for nine months, mice were examined for tumors by abdominal ultrasound using the VisualSonics' Vevo 770 High-Resolution Imaging System which allows the 3D visualization and volume measurement for liver tumor mass at the Molecular Imaging Center at USC. Contrast-enhanced micro-CT and texture-based volume renderings (VRT) were performed to demonstrate a reduction of tumor size and to measure tumor volume based on 3D data collected using Inveon CT (Siemens Medical Solutions, Knoxville, TN) at a voxel size of (10 $^6$  $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>). Tumor burden was monitored monthly by measuring the body weight, which according to IACUC guidelines cannot exceed more than 5% of the control body weight.

#### **FRET assays**

20 Live cells were gated according to forward and sideward scatter (FSC/SSC) and photomultiplier tube (PMT) voltages was adjusted, and FRET was evaluated in double positive cells as compensation for CFP and YFP. When excited at 405 nm, YFP showed some emission in the FRET-channel. As YFP is excited at 405 nm (FRET/YFP), an additional gate was introduced to exclude cells exhibiting false-positive signals from FRET channel. A triangular gate was 25 introduced to FRET versus CFP was plotted and the amounts of FRET-positive cells were examined (**Fig. 2h, bottom**). The triangular gate was adjusted to measure cells transfected with CFP and YFP<sup>34, 35</sup>.

#### **Immunoprecipitation-Western Blot**

30 We obtained NOTCH truncation mutants (Full-length,  $\Delta$ -E, TM-RAM, RAM, and NICD) from Dr. Liang's lab to do domain-mapping of NOTCH to interact with a trafficking protein TBC1D15. We transfected hNOTCH1 constructs with a TBC1D15 construct to see if which domain of NOTCH1 interacts with TBC1D15. We performed IP-Western analyses to examine the interaction between TBC1D15 and NOTCH1. NOTCH1 C-20 antibody (1:1000 dilution for Western blot analyses: 35 SIGMA) was used.

 In detail, Huh7 (differentiated hepatocyte-derived carcinoma cell line) were cultured in DMEM high glucose media supplemented with 10% FBS and 0.1% non-essential amino acids in T25 flask and were co-transfected with NOTCH1 full-length constructs together with TBC1D15 truncation mutants in one group and TBC1D15 Full-length construct together with NOTCH1 40 truncation mutants in the other group. The TBC1D15 truncation mutants that were used were: Full Length mTBC1D15-FLAG, mTBC1D15 N-Terminus-FLAG, mTBC1D15-F1-2KR-FLAG, MTBC1D15-CΔC-FLAG, shTBC1D15-685 and shTBC1D15-963. NOTCH1 constructs that were used were: hNOTCH1-Full-length-myc, hNOTCH1 ΔE-3myc, hNOTCH1 TMRM-3myc, hNOTCH1ΔEΔDRAM-3myc, mNOTCH1 ΔEΔPEST-myc and hNOTCH1 ΔE V1754L. BioT was 45 used as the transfection reagent (Bioland Scientific LLC, B01-01). Cells were lysed with Triple detergent lysis buffer after 48 hours post-transfection, and half of the lysates were used for total lysate analysis while the other half were used for immunoprecipitation (IP). IP lysates were precleared for one hour with 20μL protein A/G beads (Santa Cruz Biotechnologies, sc-2003) and incubated overnight in 4°C with anti-flag tag (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA1-91878) or anti-Myc 50 tag antibody (EMD Millipore Corp, 05-274) on a rotation device. In the next day, protein A/G beads were pulled down and washed with triple detergent lysis buffer and boiled in  $6 \times$  loading dye followed by electrophoresis by SDS-PAGE and protein analysis by nitrocellulose membrane.

 Huh7 cells were transfected with TBC1D15 full-length construct by Bio-T. The media was replaced 24 hours after transfection. The cells were lysed with Triple detergent lysis buffer at 48

hours post-transfection. IP lysates were incubated for 2 hours in 4<sup>o</sup>C with 1.0 µg of the appropriate control IgG (corresponding to the host species of the NuMA1 antibody, Santacruz biotechnology, SC-2025) and NuMA1 antibody (BD Biosciences, 810561) on a rotation device. After two hours, these lysates were added protein A/G beads (20 μl of 50% bead slurry) and incubated with gentle  $5$  rocking for one hour  $4^{\circ}$ C. Immunoprecipitates were washed with triple detergent lysis buffer and resuspended/boiled in the immunoprecipitate pellets with 10  $\mu$ l 6  $\times$  Laemmli sample buffer for 5 min.

### **Purification of Recombinant Proteins**

10 To purify flag-TBC1D15, and GFP-NuMA1 wild type/mutants (T1804A, S2047A T1991A) proteins, HEK-293A cells were grown to 70–80% confluence and transfected with 10 µg plasmid constructs [flag-TBC1D15, and GFP-NuMA1 wild type/mutants (T1804A, S2047A T1991A)], individually. Cells were washed once with cold PBS 48 hours post-transfection, and lysed with 1 ml cold NP-40 Lysis Buffer (10 mM HEPES pH 7.5, 10 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl2, 0.5% NP-40) for one hour 15 on ice, followed by centrifugation at 13,000 x g for 10 min and collection of the supernatant. For each immunoprecipitation, 1 mg supernatants were incubated with 30 ml of a 40% slurry of M2 anti-Flag agarose or with 1  $\mu$ g anti-GFP antibody for 2 hours at 4°C with rotating. The reaction mixture 30 µl of a 25% slurry of protein G-agarose was added, and all samples were incubated for an additional 2 hours. Agarose-beads were washed once in Buffer W (20 mM Tris pH 7.3, 300 20 mM NaCl, 0.5% triton X-100, 2% glycerol), washed once with PBS containing 0.2% Triton X-100, and washed once with PBS. Flag-TBC1D15 were eluted by incubation with 3 x Flag peptide (1 mg/mL, Invitrogen) overnight at 4°C with rotating. All samples were stored at -80°C in PBS containing 5% glycerol and 1 mM DTT.

### 25 *In vitro* **Protein Interaction Assays**

For purified recombinant Flag-TBC1D15, we were incubated with GFP-NuMA1 (wild type and mutants)-conjugated agarose resin for 45 min at room temperature with rotating. Samples were washed twice with Buffer W and washed once with cold PBS. Then, it was boiled in 6 x Laemmle sample buffer prior to analysis by SDS-PAGE.

# *In vitro* **Kinase Assays**

Kinase assays were carried out using 2 ng of the purified kinase domain of Aurora-A (Millipore Ltd, 14-511) incubated with 10 µg of the Flag-TBC1D15 and GFP-NuMA1 (wild type and mutants). The reagents were incubated for 30 minutes at 30° C in kinase buffer consisting of 20 mM HEPES  $35$  pH 7.5, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 M KCl, 0.5 mM EGTA, 2 mM DTT, 0.25 mM NaVO<sub>4</sub>, and 1 mM ATP. For the phosphorylation time-course, kinase reactions were stopped by addition of 6 x Laemmli sample buffer. To differentiate the phospho-proteins from their non phosphorylated counterparts, samples were separated by Phos-TAG SDS- PAGE (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd, AAL-107).

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# **Human tissue specimens**

The paraffin-embedded tissue sections of human hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) were obtained from the University of Minnesota Liver Tissue Cell Distribution System. All tissue sections were obtained from patients with informed consent prior to surgery, in accordance with the approved 45 protocol of the Institutional Review Board of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. The tissue sections were obtained from de-identified patients (43-67 years old) with alcohol and/or viral hepatitis associated liver tumors of varying grades. Non-tumor tissues were obtained from clearly delineated margins of surgical specimens.

# 50 **Immunostaining**

Tissue sections were re-hydrated by immersion in xylene  $(3 \times 5 \text{ mins})$  followed by continued rehydration steps in 100%, 90% and 70% ethanol. Following washing in PBS ( $3 \times 5$  min), antigen retrieval was performed in 10mM sodium citrate (pH 6.0) at 90 °C for 1 hour and slides were then allowed to cool down to room temperature. Following antigen retrieval, tissues were blocked in

5% goat-serum and 0.3% TritonX in BSA for overnight in 4C with primary antibody for TBC1D15 and NOTCH1 (1:1) at 1:100 ratio. Fluro-conjugated secondary antibody (Invitrogen) was added the next day at a 1:100 ratio and DAPI containing mounting media was then used to complete the staining process. Slides were then imaged using a Leica Fluorescence microscope on the SP8 5 software.

**Dual Luciferase Assay** 

Huh7 cells were treated either with shTBC1D15 lentivirus or with sh-Scrambled lentivirus in T25 flask. After 48 hours, the cells were spit into 6-well plates. Following a 24-incubation period, the 10 cells were treated with Hey1 and Hey2 promoter constructs using BioT as the transfection reagent and transfection was done in triplicates. Constructs used were: pluc Hey1, pluc Hey1 Δ215, pluc ΔSac I/Hind III, plucΔ41, PGI3-Hey2, RPBJ-mutB and pGL-BASIC. 48 hours following transfection, the cells were washed in cold PBS and then lysed using passive lysis buffer. After lysis of the cells, the cell lysates were added to LARII reagent and then measurements were taken 15 for firefly lucifrase activity. Stop and Glo was added to stop the reaction and measurement was then taken for the *Renilla* Luciferase activity to obtain a *Firefly* to *Renilla* ratio.

# **NOTCH1 stability**

Huh7 cells were transduced with scrambled shRNA (sh-Scr) or shRNA targeting TBC1D15. Two 20 days after transfection, culture medium was replaced by methionine-free medium and the cells were labeled with <sup>35</sup>S- methionine for 60 min. Cycloheximide (CHX) was added and cells were harvested at the indicated times afterwards.

# **Immuno-affinity purification and tandem Mass-spectrometry**

25 We used on-line LC-Orbitrap XL CID MS/MS to identify a potential interacting protein with TBC15. We did in-gel digestion of IP samples separated by SDS-PAGE. Gel pieces were then subjected to a modified in-gel trypsin digestion procedure<sup>36</sup>. Peptides were collected and subjected to LC-MS/MS sequencing and data analysis. The identification of TBC15 and its interacting proteins were carried out by mass spectrometry and validated by another functional assay. By using strict 30 scoring metrics, we have identified several high-confidence interacting proteins, including NuMA1, and RanGap1. RANGAP1 is a crucial regulator of RAN-GTP/GDP cycles and mitosis coordinator and known to regulate expression of  $AURKA^{20}$ .

# **Pathological analysis**

35 At the end of 12 months, the mice were euthanized and liver tumors measured, weighted, and collected for histological (H&E), biochemical (IB for TLR4, NANOG, p-NUMB, NUMB, p53, TBC1D15), and immunohistochemical (NANOG, p-NUMB, p53) analyses. Non-tumor areas of the livers were also corrected for the same analyses. A pathologist with substantial experience in mouse liver histological analysis performed blind histological and immunohistochemical analysis.

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### • **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS Statistics and Reproducibility:**

We compared the 4 genotypes of mice given Alcohol-WD for tumor incidence. The *Tbc1d15Flox/Flox:Ns5aTg* mice or *Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg* mice *were* more likely to develop 45 *liver tumors compared to the Alb-CreRT2;Tbc1d15<sup>Flox/Flox</sup>:Ns5aTg mice or Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg* mice *were* more likely to develop liver tumors compared or Alb::CreERT2*: Numb-3ALSL:Ns5aTg* mice (using a 0.05-level chi-square test based on the 2x2 table using nQuery). We began with 25 mice in each group, ended up a minimum of 20 mice completed the experiments. Statistical analysis for biochemical/immunohistochemical 50 parameters was performed as described above. A two-tailed t-test was used for most comparisons, with *p*<0.05 considered statistically significant. Data are presented as mean±S.D. Statistical analysis for biochemical parameters was performed as described above. For immunostaining of p-aPKCz, p-NUMB, TBC1D15, p53, and NANOG, results

were reported as the percent of positive cells in each liver section. With 20 subjects in each of the four groups.

# • **DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY**

- 5 o **NCBI tracking system number:** 
	- § The data used in this study has been deposited to NCBI under **GSE61435 (Microarray)** and **GSE68237 (ChIP-Seq)**.
		- § Human Gene expression profiling by array40: **GSE17856** and **GSE27150**
- § The permanent URL to the Proteomics dataset is: 10 ftp://massive.ucsd.edu/MSV000085321/

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