

Figure S1: Characterisation of *Mcl1* **ΔIEC mice.** (*A*) Tissue specific PCR illustrating *Mcl1* deletion is specific to the intestine of *Mcl1*fl/fl *Vil1*-cretg/wt (M*cl1*ΔIEC) mice and not *Mcl1*fl/fl *Vil1*- 3 cre^{wt/wt} (wild type) mice. (*B*) Real time PCR from whole colon tissue homogenates demonstrates that levels of calprotectin were inversely correlated to levels of *Mcl1* expression 5 within 2-month-old *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice (n=15). (*C*) Representative images from the small intestine of 2-month-old wild type control mice compared with *Mcl1*ΔIEC littermate mice showing impaired intestinal architecture (H&E), increased IEC apoptosis (cl. casp. 3), and hyperproliferation (Ki- 67) (scale bars: 100µm, 25µm for inserts). (*D*) Blinded histological scoring showing increased histological score in the small intestine of 2-month-old *McI1*^{ΔIEC} mice compared with wild type control mice (n=5). (*E*) Representative images of western blot analysis from IEC isolated from 11 2-month-old wild type and *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice and analysed for markers of proliferation, apoptosis, as well as other BCL2 family members. (*F*) Representative images from western blot analysis showing no evidence of increased expression of the necroptosis markers MLKL or pMLKL in 14 IEC isolated from 2-month-old *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice suggesting that IEC death observed in *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice is mediated through apoptosis rather than necroptosis. Tubulin was used as a loading 16 control. Data presented as either bar charts or scatter plot graph show mean values \pm s.e.m. Statistical analysis was conducted by Mann-Whitney test (*D*) where * *p* ≤ 0.05.

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colon

THEORY

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Figure S2. Healy*, Boege*, Hodder* et al.

DAPI Universal 16s rRNA

wild type

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 $McI4^{\text{AIEC}}$

Figure S4: Characterisation of *Mcl1* **ΔIEC mice.** (*A*) Immunohistochemical characterisation of lymphocyte infiltrates in the colon of 2-month-old wild type control mice compared with *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} littermates showing increased B cells (B220), T cells (CD3) and macrophages (F4/80) in 75 McI^{1^{AIEC} mice. High magnification images show infiltrating immune cells within the lamina} propria or lymphoid follicles that were present throughout the small intestine and colon of *Mcl1* ΔIEC mice (scale bars: 100µm for lower magnification, 50µm for higher magnification images). (*B*) Ex vivo colon cultures established from 2-month-old mice and analysed for IL-10, IL-6, IL-21, IL-33, IFN-γ and CD40L expression using multiplex analysis (minimum n=10 per 80 group). Data presented as scatter plot graphs show individual data points \pm s.e.m. Statistical analysis was conducted by one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction (*B*) where ** *p*≤ 0.01.

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95 Figure S5: Inflammation in *McI1*^{AIEC} mice is independent of T and B cells. (A) 96 Representative images from the small intestine from 2-month-old *Rag1⁻¹* control mice 197 compared with age-matched *McI1*^{ΔIEC}*Rag1^{-/-}* mice illustrating impaired intestinal architecture (H&E), increased IEC apoptosis (cl. casp. 3) and hyperproliferation (Ki-67) (scale bars: 100µm, 25µm for inserts). (*B*) Blinded histological score of small intestine samples from 2-month-old 100 Mcl1^{ΔIEC}Rag1^{-/-} mice compared with age-matched *Rag1^{-/-}* control mice show significantly 101 increased pathology in *McI1*^{ΔIEC}*Rag1^{-/-}* mice (n=5). (*C*) 2-month-old *Rag1^{-/-}* control mice and 102 age-matched *McI1*^{ΔIEC}*Rag1⁻¹* mice were stained for B cell (B220), T cell (CD3) and macrophage (F4/80) expression using IHC to confirm the lack of mature T and B cells (scale bar: 100µm). (*D*) Ex vivo colon cultures were established from 2-month-old mice and analysed for IL-10, IL-6, IL-21, IL-33, IFN-γ and CD40L expression using multiplex analysis (minimum 106 n=9 per group). Data presented as either bar charts or scatter plot graph show mean values \pm s.e.m. Statistical analyses were conducted by Mann-Whitney test (*B*) or one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction (*D*) where * *p*≤ 0.05, ** *p*≤ 0.01.

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Mc/1^{AIEC} Rag1^{-/-} mice

 Figure S6: ILC depletion eliminates pro-inflammatory cytokine production. (*A*) 2-month-119 old *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC}*Rag1⁻¹* mice were treated with either isotype control or α-Thy1.2 depleting antibody for 4 weeks. Immunohistochemistry shows CD90 (Thy1) positive cells in the 3-month-old isotype control treated mice, which are not present in the mice that received α-Thy1.2 depleting antibody, thus indicating efficient depletion of ILC (scale bars: 100µm (left images), 25µm (right images)). (*B*) Ex vivo colon cultures established from 3-month-old mice and analysed for IL- 10, IL-6, IL-21, IL-33, IFN-γ and CD40L expression using multiplex analysis (minimum n=8 per 125 group). Data presented as scatter plot graph show mean values \pm s.e.m. Statistical analysis was conducted by one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction (*B*).

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141 **Figure S7:** *McI1***^{∆IEC} raised under germ-free conditions are completely void of commensal**

 bacteria. (*A*) PCR analysis showing the presence of bacterial 16s DNA isolated from the 143 faeces of wild type and *Mcl1*^{∆IEC} mice raised under SPF conditions. Samples isolated from the 144 faeces of wild type and *Mcl1*^{∆IEC} mice raised under germ-free conditions showed no bacterial 16s. *E. coli* was used as a positive control. NTC: no-template control. (*B*) Representative images from FISH analysis illustrating Universal Bacterial 16S rRNA staining (red) in colon of a 2-month-old wild type control mouse raised under SPF conditions. No positive FISH signal 148 was recorded in either wild type control mice or *McI1*^{∆IEC} mice raised under germ-free conditions (scale bars: 200µm top images, 50µm for bottom images).

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Figure S8. Healy*, Boege*, Hodder* et al.

 Figure S8: Increased apoptosis, hyperproliferation and impaired differentiation are a direct consequence of MCL1 deficiency. (*A*) Representative images taken from colons of 2- 165 month-old wild type and *McI1*^{AIEC} mice following ABX treatment illustrating retained IEC apoptosis (cl. casp 3) and hyperproliferation (Ki-67) (scale bars 100µm, 25µm for inserts). (*B*) Representative images from the small intestine from 2-month-old germ-free wild type control 168 mice compared with germ-free *McI1*^{ΔIEC} mice illustrating that increased apoptosis (cl. casp. 3) and hyperproliferation (Ki-67) caused by MCL1 deficiency are also observed under germ-free conditions (scale bars: 100µm, 25µm for inserts). (*C*) Blinded histological scoring illustrating significantly reduced histological score in the small intestine of ABX treated 2-month-old *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice and 2-month-old germ-free *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice compared with age-matched *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice housed under SPF conditions (n=5). (*D*) Representative images illustrating the defective 174 intestinal epithelial barrier in *Mcl1*^{∆IEC} mice, irrespective of whether these mice were housed 175 under SPF or germ-free conditions (scale bars: 100µm for top images, 25µm for bottom). Data 176 presented as scatter plot graph show mean values \pm s.e.m. Statistical analyses were evaluated by Mann-Whitney test (*C*) where * *p*≤ 0.05.

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F4/80

 Figure S9: *Mcl1* **deletion does not result in intestinal inflammation under germ-free conditions.** (*A*) Immunohistochemical characterisation of lymphocytes in the colon of 2- 190 month-old germ-free wild type control mice compared with *McI1*^{ΔIEC} littermates showing no increase in infiltrating T cells (CD3), B cells (B220) or macrophages (F4/80) in germ-free *McI1*^{ΔIEC} mice (scale bar: 100μm). (B) Quantification of infiltrating T cells, B cells and 193 macrophages in germ-free *McI1*^{AIEC} mice compared with littermate controls. Data presented as 194 scatter plot graph show mean values ± s.e.m. Statistical analyses were evaluated by Mann-Whitney test (*B*).

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small intestine

 $McI4^{\text{AIEC}}$

McI1^{wt IEC}

 $McI1^{\text{AIEC}}$

Mc/1deficient IEC

Figure S12. Healy*,
Boege*, Hodder* et al.

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 Figure S12: *Mcl1* **deficiency correlates with a marked reduction of** *Atoh1* **expression in intestinal crypts.** (*A*) Corresponding single colour control images from Figure 4*D*. *Atoh1* expression levels in *Mcl1*-positive versus *Mcl1*-deficient IEC visualized using smFISH. White dots represents single molecules of *Atoh1.* Green boxes mark the areas shown in higher magnification in the image directly below (scale bars: 25µm for top images, 10µm for bottom images). (*B*) Corresponding single colour control images from Figure 4*D*. *Mcl1* expression levels in *Mcl1-*positive versus *Mcl1-*deficient IEC visualized using smFISH. White dots represents single molecules of *Mcl1.* Green boxes mark the areas shown in higher 264 magnification in the image directly below (scale bars 25µm for top images, 10µm for bottom images).

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Figure S14. Healy*, Boege*, Hodder* et al.

 Figure S14: IEC MCL1 deficiency results in activation of WNT signalling pathways. (*A*) Representative images from the colon of wild type control and i-*McI1*^{ΔIEC} mice showing crypt hyperplasia (H&E), increased apoptosis (cl. casp. 3) and hyper-proliferation (BrdU) in i-304 Mcl^{1ΔIEC} mice sampled 4 days post induction, mirroring results observed in the Mcl^{1ΔIEC} mice (scale bars: 100µm, 25µm for insert). (*B*) Serum analysis indicating increased FITC-dextran i-306 Mcl^{1ΔIEC} mice compared with age-matched wild type controls 4 hours after oral administration (2 days after induction, n=4). (*C*) Immunohistochemical characterisation of lymphocyte 308 infiltrates in the colon of wild type control mice compared with i-Mcl1^{ΔIEC} littermates showing increased lymphocytes (CD45), T cells (CD3) and macrophages (F4/80) in the lamina propria 310 of i-*Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice (2 days after induction) (scale bars: 100μm). (*D*) Expression of genes as analysed by RNA sequencing of small intestine tissue from i-Mcl¹^{ΔIEC} mice compared with wild type control mice illustrated in heat maps and captured in the GSEA signatures. WNT target 313 genes commonly upregulated in human CRC (left), and genes enriched in i-Apc^{ΔIEC} mice (right). Red boxes represent high expression while blue boxes represent low expression. Data 315 presented as scatter plot graph represents mean values \pm s.e.m. Statistical analysis was conducted by Mann-Whitney test (*B*) where *** *p* ≤ 0.001.

Genes up-regulated during DNA damage response upon detection of DNA damage

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 i -McI 1^{AIEC}

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 Figure S17: MCL1 deficiency-induced hyperproliferation is dependent on WNT 371 **signaling.** (A) BrdU staining from the colon of wild type, i-Ctnnb1^{ΔIEC/+}, i-Mcl1^{ΔIEC} and i-372 Mcl1^{ΔIEC}Ctnnb1^{ΔIEC/+} mice, sampled 4 days after induction, indicating increased epithelial cell 373 proliferation following *Mcl1* deletion is partially rescued in i-*Mcl1*^{ΔIEC}Ctnnb1^{ΔIEC/+} mice (scale bars: 100µm). Quantitative analysis of BrdU positive cells/half crypt is shown below (n=3 or 4 375 per group). (*B*) BrdU staining from the colons of vehicle treated wild type and i-*Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice 376 compared with WNT974 treated wild type and i-McI^{1NEC} mice, sampled 3 days post induction, (scale bars: 100µm) as well as quantitative analysis of BrdU positive cells/half crypt illustrating inhibition of epithelial cell proliferation following WNT974 treatment (n=3 per group) (below). 379 Data presented as scatter plot graph represents mean values ± s.e.m. Statistical analysis was conducted by Mann-Whitney test (*A-B*) where * *p* ≤ 0.05.

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 Figure S18: MCL1-deficiency induced hyperproliferation is dependent on WNT signaling. (*A*) Representative images from the small intestine of wild type control and i-*McI1*^{AIEC} mice following treatment with WNT974 or vehicle control, 3 days post induction. Images show the effect of WNT974 on ISC differentiation (AB/PAS, Lysozyme), apoptosis (cl. caps. 3), ISC populations (*Olfm4*, SOX9) and DNA damage (γH2AX) (scale bars: 100µm). (*B*) Representative images from the colon of wild type control and i-*McI1*^{ΔIEC} mice following treatment with WNT974 or vehicle control, 3 days post induction. Images show the effect of WNT974 on ISC differentiation (AB/PAS), apoptosis (cl. caps. 3), ISC populations (SOX9) and DNA damage (γH2AX) (scale bars: 100µm).

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Wnt2b

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 $McI4^{\text{AIEC}}$

Mc/1^{deficient IEC}

Figure S19. Healy*,
Boege*, Hodder* et al.

 Figure S19: Increased *Wnt2b* **expression is not directly linked to** *Mcl1* **deficiency.** (*A*) Corresponding single colour control images from Figure 5*G*. *Wnt2b* expression levels in *Mcl1-* positive versus *Mcl1-*deficient IEC visualized using smFISH. White dots represents single molecules of *Atoh1.* Green boxes mark the areas shown in higher magnification in the image directly below (scale bars: 25µm for top images, 10µm for bottom images). (*B*) Corresponding single colour control images from Figure 5*G*. *Mcl1* expression levels in *Mcl1-*positive versus *Mcl1*-deficient IEC visualized using smFISH. White dots represents single molecules of *Mcl1.* Green boxes mark the areas shown in higher magnification in the image directly below (scale 425 bars: $25\mu m$ for top images, $10\mu m$ for bottom images).

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McI1^{AIEC} Confetti^{tg/+} mice

Figure S22. Healy*, Boege*, Hodder* et al.

Figure S22: Carcinoma development in *Mcl1* **ΔIEC mice follows the Vogelstein model of colorectal cancer development.** (*A*) Examples of MCL1 deficient tumor qualities used to 486 determine tumor classification in 12-month-old *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice (Fig. 7*B*). Image 1 illustrates hyperplasia within intestinal crypt cells (scale bar: 100µm), 2 illustrates representative low grade adenoma (LGA) (scale bar: 250µm), 3 illustrates representative high grade adenoma (HGA) (scale bar: 250µm) while images 4 and 5 illustrate representative carcinoma under low (scale bar: 1mm) and high (scale bar: 100µm) magnification. (*B*) Tumor heterogeneity ⁴⁹¹ illustrated by representative images of tumors observed in 12-month-old *McI1*^{ΔIEC} Confetti^{tg/wt} mouse (scale bars: 100µm-left, 250µm-centre and 100µm-right). (*C*) Heterogeneous differentiation within carcinoma showing CD44, CDX2, synaptophysin and Ki-67 (scale bars 250µm for upper panel images, 50µm for lower panel images). (*D*) Strong *Axin2* expression 495 in tumors isolated from 12-month-old *McI1*^{AIEC} mouse irrespective of whether mice were housed under spf or germ-free conditions determined using *in situ* hybridization (scale bars: 250µm-left, 500µm-right). Areas marked with black boxes represent the areas shown under higher magnification in Figure 7*E*.

pathogenic
potentially pathogenic functionally irrelevant wild type

 Figure S23: MCL1-deficiency associated carcinoma show a number of pathogenic mutations in key WNT signalling regulating genes. (*A*) Selected mutations detected by whole-exome sequencing and variant filtration. Missense mutations in the genes of interest are displayed by allelic state. The coverage of the position for each allele is given in brackets."./." is the wild type sequence. Exome data were aligned to the Mus musculus reference genome (GRCm38/mm10) and codon variants are displayed according to the 514 following transcript references: Apc - ENSMUST00000079362, Lrp5 ENSMUST00000176867, Fbxw7 - ENSMUST00000107678, Pole - ENSMUST00000007296, Arid1a - ENSMUST00000105897, Ctnnb1 - ENSMUST00000145093. Abbreviations: Chr:Pos = Position in reference genome; REF = reference allele; ALT = alternative allele; LGD = low grade dysplasia. The color code illustrates the clinical significance of the homolog mutation in humans (see Supplementary Tables S7 – S12 for more information).

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Supplemental Information:

Mice

 Housing and experimental procedures of all animals were performed in accordance with the Cantonal Veterinary Office (Zurich, Switzerland) under the license numbers ZH217/12 and ZH166/15 or the UK Home Office regulations (licence 70/8646) as well adhering to ARRIVE guidelines. Animals were maintained under specific pathogen free (SPF) conditions at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, or at the CRUK Beatson Institute, Glasgow, Scotland. Germ- free housing of mice was performed within the Clean Mouse Facility of the University of Bern 540 via embryo transfer $¹$.</sup>

541 Mice with an IEC specific deletion of *Mcl1*, *Mcl1*^{flx/flx} mice ^{2, 3} were crossed with mice expressing Cre-recombinase under the enterocyte-specific villin promoter, to generate IEC-specific *Mcl1* knockout mice (*Mcl1*^{flox/flox} *Vil1*cre^{tg/+}) (*Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice). *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice were backcrossed onto the *Rag1*-/- background (Jackson Laboratories, mouse strain 002216) to generate *Mcl1*^ΔIEC*Rag1*-/- 545 mice. Confetti^{tg/+} mice (Jackson Laboratories, mouse strain 017492 were intercrossed to *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice to generate *Mcl1*^{ΔIEC}Confetti^{tg/+} mice. These mouse lines were generated at the University of Zurich. Both male and female mice were used for each experiment. Age-matched and littermate mice that did not carry the Villin-Cre transgene were used as wild type control mice.

Mice with an IEC-specific inducible deletion of *Mcl1* (i-*Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice), *Ctnnb1* (i-*Ctnnb1*^{ΔIEC} mice), *Apc* (i-*Apc*[∆]IEC mice) as well as double knockout mice (i-*Ctnnb1*[∆]IEC*Mcl1* [∆]IEC mice and i-552 Apc^{∆IEC} Mcl1^{∆IEC} mice) were generated at the CRUK Beatson Institute, Glasgow. Genetic depletion in these mice was typically induced between 6 and 12 weeks of age when weighing 554 over 20g. Genetic alleles used were: *Vil-Cre-ER^{T2 4}, Mcl1^{fl 5}, Ctnnb1^{f I6} and Apc⁷.* Recombination was induced using a single intra-peritoneal (IP) injection of 2mg tamoxifen for two consecutive days. A brief overview of each mouse line can be found in Table S1.

558 **Table S1. Description of mouse strains**

In situ Hybridization

 RNA ISH was performed on FFPE tissues according to the manufacturer`s protocol using five commercially available probes. 1) A probe designated Mm-Mcl1 (by Advanced Cell Diagnostics (ACD); ACD catalog number #317241), and targeting nucleotides 495-1678 of murine Mcl1 gene. 2) A probe designated Mm-Lgr5 (by Advanced Cell Diagnostics (ACD); ACD catalog number #312171), and targeting nucleotides 2165-3082 of murine Lgr5 gene. 3) A probe designated Mm-Olfm4 (by Advanced Cell Diagnostics (ACD); ACD catalog number #311838), and targeting nucleotides 25-1043 of murine Olfm4 gene. 4) A probe designated Hs-MCL1 (by Advanced Cell Diagnostics (ACD); ACD catalog number #588851), and targeting nucleotides 1514-3532 of human Mcl1 gene. 5) A probe designated Hs-OLFM4 (by Advanced Cell Diagnostics (ACD); ACD catalog number #311048) targeting nucleotides 1111-2222 of human OLFM4 gene.

Bacterial DNA isolation

 Bacterial DNA was isolated from stool samples that were previously stored at -80°C. DNA was isolated using the PureLink Microbiome DNA purification kit (Invitrogen, A29789) according to the manufacturer's protocols.

PCR for bacterial DNA

579 The 16S PCR was performed as described previously⁸ with some modifications. Reactions 580 were performed in a final volume of 50 μ l containing 10 ng of fecal DNA template⁹, 200 nM dNTP, 200 nM of each primer, 1 U HotStarTaq polymerase (Qiagen), and 1-fold CoralLoad PCR Buffer (Qiagen). "Universal" primers were used to amplify the genes encoding 16S rRNA from all bacterial groups: Forward primer (5′- ACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAGT -3′) and 584 reverse primer, (5'- ATTACCGCGGCTGCTGGC -3')⁸, resulting in an 197 bp amplikon. PCR assays were performed in a C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler (Biorad) using the following

 program: 95°C for 5 min, then 25 cycles of 94°C for 60 sec, 55°C for 90 sec and 72°C for 60 sec. These cycles were followed by 72°C for 10 minutes, and storage at 4°C. Amplified products were separated on a 2% (m/v) agarose (Invitrogen) gel in Tris/acetate/EDTA buffer (National diagnostics) containing 1-fold GelRed Nucleic Acid Gel Stain (Biotium).

FISH for Bacterial 16s rRNA

 5 μ m tissue sections of paraffin-fixed colon samples were deparaffinated in xylol to ethanol baths in decreasing ratios. Tissue sections were permeabilized in hybridization buffer containing PBS 0.9M NaCl, 20mM Tris-HCl, and 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate for 10 mins at 50°C. Hybridization was performed with an Alexafluor-647 labeled universal 16s rRNA bacterial probe (5'-[AF 647] GCTGCCTCCCGTAGGAGT-3'; Eurofin genomics, 10nM per section) diluted in hybridization buffer for 4 hours at 50°C, followed by two washing steps using the PBS 0.9M NaCl and 20mM Tris-HCl. DAPI was applied diluted in the washing buffer for 5 mins at RT, followed by one washing step. Samples were mounted with Vectashield (Vector laboratories) and stored in the dark at 4°C. Images were recorded with an LCI laser scanning confocal microscope (Zeiss) or a pannoramic 250 flash II scanner (3DHISTECH).

Western blot

 Colon tissue was isolated from 2-month-old mice immediately after euthanasia and placed in ice-cold PBS containing phosphatase inhibitor cocktail tablets (PhosStop, Roche #04906837001) and protease inhibitor cocktail tablets (cOmplete EDTA-free tabs, Roche #11873580001). Intestinal tissue was opened longitudinally and the epithelial layer was scraped directly into 200µl of ice-cold complete RIPA lysis buffer. All antibodies used for western blot analysis can be found in Table S2. Samples were run on 4-20% Mini-PROTEAN® TGX Stain-Free™ gels (Bio-Rad Laboratories, #456-8093) and were developed using a 611 ChemiDocTM XRS+ imaging machine (Bio-Rad Laboratories) with Image LabTM software.

Organoid Isolation and Culturing

 In brief, small intestinal tissue was dissected, flushed with PBS and opened longitudinally, with villi and mucous layers then removed mechanically by scraping. The resulting intestinal samples were washed with PBS, incubated with 2mM EDTA at 4°C for 30 minutes followed by further washing and filtration through a 70µm mesh in order to isolate intestinal crypts. These isolated crypts were suspended in growth factor reduced Matrigel® (Corning), plated in 10- µl droplets, and incubated at 37°C in 5% CO2. i-*Apc*[∆]IEC or i-*Apc*[∆]IEC*Mcl1*[∆]IEC organoids were maintained in Advanced DMEM/F12 growth media (Thermo), supplemented with 2mM L- glutamine, 10mM HEPES, 12.5% (w/v) BSA, 100ng/ml murine NOGGIN, 50ng/ml murine EGF, 621 and 1 x proprietary B27 and N2 supplements (Thermo). Wild type control or i-Mcl1^{∆IEC} organoids were maintained in the same media, supplemented with 0.5µg/ml murine R-SPONDIN1.

636 **Table S2. Table of antibodies**

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Histological Scoring

 Histological scoring was performed by a pathologist in a blinded fashion by analysing H&E 656 stained slides from 2-month-old wild type control, *McI1*^{ΔIEC}, *Rag1^{-/-}* or *McI1*^{ΔIEC}*Rag1^{-/-} mice.* Histological scores were attributed independently to the small intestine and colon of each mouse. Histological scoring was based on architectural changes (crypt hyperplasia and villin/crypt ratio length), inflammatory changes (neutrophil and lymphoplasmocyte infiltration), epithelial damage (epithelial surface damage) and cell death (apoptosis) using a modified 661 established scoring system designed to discriminate between normal tissue (score = 0) and mild (score = 1), moderate (score = 2) or severe (score = 3) pathology. Detailed criteria for each category are provided in Table S3 and representative images of each scoring criteria are displayed as Supplementary Data 1. Histological score was determined using 5 mice per group.

678 **Table S3. Histological scoring criteria**

 Supplementary Data 1. Representative H&E images of small intestine which illustrate the 681 criteria needed to be considered wild type (score = 0), mild (score = 1), moderate (score = 2) or severe (score = 3) in relation to crypt hyperplasia, neutrophil or lymphoplasmocyte infiltration, epithelial damage, villi-crypt length ratio and apoptosis during histological scoring 684 $(200 \mu m \text{ scale bar}).$

Sanger Sequencing and Whole Exome Sequencing

 Genomic DNA was isolated from FFPE tissue blocks using Machery & Nagel's NucleoSpin FFPE Kit and analysed by either Sanger Sequencing or Whole Exome Sequencing. For both, regions of normal tissue, hyperplasia, low-grade hyperplasia, high-grade hyperplasia or 693 carcinoma were identified based on previously described criteria ¹¹. For Sanger Sequencing, AmpliTaq Gold polymerase was used to amplify 296bp of the *Ctnnb*1 gene (exon 2) following 695 the manufacturer's recommendations (Primer sequences obtained from Huang et al. fwd: 5'- TACAGGTAGCATTTTCAGTTC AC -3'; rev: 5'- TAGCTTCCAAACACAAATGC -3'). PCR products were sequenced at Microsynth, Balgach, Switzerland. Sequences were aligned against the reference NC_000075.6 (chr9:120950522-120950749 *Mus musculus* strain C57BL/6J). Codon changes were outlined according to transcript reference NM_000076.5.

 For array Comparative Genomic Hybridization (aCGH) and Synteny analysis, regions of healthy tissue, hyperplasia or carcinoma were identified based on previously described criteria 702 ¹¹. Genomic DNA was isolated from FFPE tissue blocks using Macherey & Nagel's NucleoSpin 703 FFPE Kit before aCGH and Synteny analysis were performed as previously described ¹³.

 Whole exome sequencing of tumor and non-tumor tissue was performed on genomic DNA isolated from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) samples at Ontogenetic Corporations, 706 Atlanta (GA, USA). Samples were chosen according to previously published criteria ^{11, 14} to distinguish between normal tissue, hyperplastic tissue, low grade adenoma, high grade adenoma and carcinoma. Tissue samples matching these criteria were punched out of the FFPE blocks and genomic DNA was extracted with the NucleoSpin FFPE kit (Macherey & Nagel). Sequencing data have been deposited at the European Nucleotide Archive under the accession number PRJEB20295.

 Enrichment of the whole exome (Agilent SureSelect Mouse All Exon kit) and subsequent Illumina sequencing on a HighSeq2500 (125bp PE) was performed at Ontogenetic Corporations, Atlanta (GA, USA). Ontogenetic Corporations processed the sequence reads on the DNAnexus platform (Mountain View, CA, USA) using the advanced mouse exome analysis 716 pipeline. Quality filtered reads were aligned against the mouse reference genome 717 (GRCm38/mm10) using BWA¹⁵. After removing PCR duplicates (PicardTools: Mark duplicates 718 (Broad Institute)) GATK's Unified Genotyper was used to call variants after realignment and 719 base quality score recalibration 16 .

 Raw variants were filtered based on GATK's recommendations. Variants were divided into SNPs and INDELs to apply different parameters during the filtration step. For retaining SNPs 722 in the dataset the criteria were "QD > 2.0 & FS < 60.0 & MQ > 40.0 & MQRankSum > -12.5 & ReadPosRankSum > -8.0". The selected INDELs have to fulfill "QD > 2.0 & FS < 200.0 & ReadPosRankSum > -20.0" to be selected. Afterwards the SNP and INDEL dataset per sample was combined and variant filtration steps for depth and genotype quality can be applied (DP>=10; QUAL>=30). Variants were annotated and functional effects were predicted with 727 SNPEff¹⁷. The exome datasets were filtered for the WNT, TGF-β, PI3K, RTK-RAS and P53 signaling pathways. A full list of target genes can be found in Table S4 to S9.

729 An exome coverage of $38.93x - 124.87x$ was achieved containing $\sim 9000 - 15000$ filtered 730 variants (see Table S7). This low level of variance in the whole exome was unsurprising, since 731 the strain used in this mouse model is of a pure inbred background (C57BL/6), as was used to 732 prepare the *Mus musculus* reference genome (for detailed information and discussion see 733 Fairfield 2015)¹⁸.

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- 737 **Table S5.** Variant statistics after individual filtration of SNPs and INDELs (parameters are
- 738 mentioned in the text).

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- 740 **Table S6.** Variants after applying the filters for depth and genotype quality (DP
- 741 >=10, QUAL >=30).

742 <u>IH</u>

Table S7. Genes of interest from the signaling pathways of WNT, TGF-beta, RTK-RAS and

p53.

Table 8. Identified variants per sample within the gene regions of interest. Variants were filtered to a depth of 10 and genotype quality of 30.

768 The clinical significance of particular SNV was determined by searching several databases. 769 After annotation we checked UniProt¹⁹ for functional consequences of an amino acid change. 770 Additionally, we performed a protein BLAST to identify the homologous protein and position of 771 the functional change in humans to check the clinical association in the COSMIC database 20 .

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773 **Table S9.** Classification of functional consequences of detected amino acid changes.

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Single molecule FISH (smFISH)

 Mice were sacrificed and the small intestine was removed and flushed with cold PBS. Small intestine tissue was opened longitudinally and spread on whatman filter paper. Flat tissue was then fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-281692) in PBS for 3 hours and subsequently incubated in a 30% sucrose, 4% PFA in PBS solution at 4°C overnight with gentle agitation. Fixed tissues were then embedded in Tissue-Tek OCT Compund 789 (Sakura, 4583) and stored at -80 $^{\circ}$ C. 7 μ m thick sections of fixed tissue were sectioned onto poly L-lysine coated coverslips and used for smFISH staining. Probe libraries were designed using the Stellaris FISH Probe Design Software (Biosearch Technologies), see Tables S10- S12 for complete list of smFISH probes. Probe libraries were coupled to Cy5 (*Mcl1*) or Alexa594 (*Atoh1* or *Wnt2b*). Tissue sections were hybridized with smFISH probe sets based 794 on a previously published protocol²¹. smFISH imaging was performed on a Leica THUNDER Imager 3D Cell Imaging system using the following THUNDER Computational Clearing Settings, Feature Scale (nm): 383, Strength (%): 97.75, Deconvolution settings: Auto and Optimization: High. Objective: 100X/1.4. Quantification of smFISH was performed as 798 previously described using the TransQuant software²². Atoh1 smFISH quantification was performed by selecting 7 *Mcl1* expressing and 7 *Mcl1* deficient crypts from the small intestines 800 of 3 different *Mcl1*^{∆IEC} mice. Individual epithelial cells were identified within each crypt and quantification was performed by determining the amount of single RNA molecules per epithelial cell.

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809 **Table S10.** *Mcl1* **probes for smFISH**

Atoh1 mus*_Atoh1_1* gattttttttccttcctcct
mus*_Atoh1_*2 ttcctagtctcttctqcaaq mus_Atoh1_2 ttcctagtctcttctgcaag
mus Atoh1 3 cccgaacaacaacaacaaaa mus*_Atoh1_3* cccgaacaacaacaacaaaa
mus *Atoh1* 4 cagttcaacgaaggggataa mus_*Atoh1*_4 cagttcaacgaaggggataa mus*_Atoh1_5* | ttttacctcagcccactctt mus_Atoh1_6 tatccaggagggacagttct
mus Atoh1 7 tgcaaagtgggagtcagcca mus_*Atoh1*_7 tgcaaagtgggagtcagcca mus*_Atoh1_8* agaatgcagcagatactggg mus_*Atoh1*_9 tctccttaccagctcaccct mus_*Atoh1*_10 agctgttcccgtactttgac mus_*Atoh1*_11 acaaccccacccttcagctt mus*_Atoh1_12* attcacctgtttgctggaag
mus*_Atoh1_13* agcctcctttgcttctgtac agcctcctttgcttctgtac mus_Atoh1_14 ttgaaggacgggataacgtt
mus Atoh1 15 tttggacagcttcttgtcgt tttggacagcttcttgtcgt mus_Atoh1_16 | ttgatgtagatctgggccat
mus Atoh1 17 | attgggagtctgcagcaact mus_*Atoh1*_17 attgggagtctgcagcaact mus_Atoh1_18 atttttgcaggaagctgtgg
mus_Atoh1_19 tgtgccatcatcgctgttag tgtgccatcatcgctgttag mus_Atoh1_20 tttgctgttgtcctcctgta
mus Atoh1 21 ttctgtgggatctgggagat ttctgtgggatctgggagat mus_Atoh1_22 | taatgagagtggggggaaaa
mus Atoh1 23 | aactggcctcatcagagtca aactggcctcatcagagtca mus*_Atoh1_24* tttcagggagctgttgcctt mus_Atoh1_25 aagggcatttggttgtctca
mus_Atoh1_26 aagggtgcagggatatttgt mus_Atoh1_26 aagggtgcagggatatttgt
mus Atoh1 27 cgatcaccacagaccaaaaa mus_*Atoh1*_27 cgatcaccacagaccaaaaa mus_*Atoh1*_28 gaagtcaagtcgttgctaac mus_Atoh1_29 | taggaggaaggggattggaa mus*_Atoh1_30* | ctacatacagaggaaggaga mus_Atoh1_31 gatgccacgtaaaggtacat
mus Atoh1 32 atattggcagcatggaccat mus_*Atoh1*_32 atattggcagcatggaccat mus_*Atoh1*_33 cagagatacgacattttagc mus*_Atoh1_34* | taagtgaaacccagaccaga mus*_Atoh1_35* | ggatgaactcccaaggtata
mus*_Atoh1_36* | atttgtgagtgagcgcaaca mus_*Atoh1*_36 atttgtgagtgagcgcaaca mus_Atoh1_37 ggggaaacaacttcattgac
mus Atoh1 38 aaagtacccaatgcgggtct aaagtacccaatgcgggtct mus*_Atoh1_39* caacacaatagtccgtgttc
mus*_Atoh1_40* cttatctgcccctgcatttt mus_Atoh1_40 cttatctgcccctgcatttt
mus Atoh1 41 ggtgtctaagctctacagat mus*_Atoh1_41* ggtgtctaagctctacagat
mus*_Atoh1_42* | tagacacactgctggacaca mus*_Atoh1_42* | tagacacactgctggacaca
mus *Atoh1* 43 | atgaagtgcgtgtattctgg mus_*Atoh1*_43 atgaagtgcgtgtattctgg mus*_Atoh1_44* ttgagtttcttcaaggcggc
mus_Atoh1_45 aaaagttgctctgcattggc aaaagttgctctgcattggc mus*_Atoh1_46* ccaaatgcctttgacactac mus*_Atoh1_47* gaaatgggtccaaatacgca
mus*_Atoh1_48* cgatctcgagtagaaaatgt mus_*Atoh1*_48 cgatctcgagtagaaaatgt

811 **Table S11.** *Atoh1* **probes for smFISH**

813 **Table S12.** *Wnt2b* **probes for smFISH**

RNASeq

 For RNASeq analysis, RNA was extracted from small intestinal tissue that had been frozen in RNAlater (Sigma-Aldrich); taken from mice sacrificed 3 or 4 days post induction. RNA extraction and DNA digestion was performed on homogenised tissue using QIAGEN RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN, #74104) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The quality of the purified RNA was tested on an Agilent 2200 Tapestation using RNA screentape. Libraries for cluster generation and RNA sequencing were prepared following an adapted method from 822 Fisher *et al.*, 2011²³ using an Illumina TruSeq RNA LT Kit v2. Libraries were run on the Illumina NextSeq 500 using the High Output 75 cycles kit (2x36cycles, paired end reads, single index) . Quality control of the raw RNASeq data files was performed by fastqc [\(http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/\)](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/) and fastq screen [\(http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastq_screen/\)](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastq_screen/). Next, RNASeq reads were aligned to the mouse genome (GRCm38.75) using TopHat2 (tophat2), and gene level 828 counts were determined from the resulting bam files using htseq_count [\(http://www-](http://www-huber.embl.de/users/anders/HTSeq/doc/count.html) [huber.embl.de/users/anders/HTSeq/doc/count.html\)](http://www-huber.embl.de/users/anders/HTSeq/doc/count.html) with default settings. Differential expression analysis and data normalisation was performed using the R package DESeq2, with statistically significant differences in gene expression defined using a false discovery rate 832 (FDR) of 5% or 10%. A detailed list of signaling pathways enriched in i-Mcl^{1 ΔIEC} mice compared with wild type control mice is shown in Table S13. A table of linked toxic pathologies associated 834 with up-regulated genes detected in i-*McI1*^{ΔIEC} mice are listed in Table S14.

 GSEA analysis was performed using the GSEA v2.0 software (Broad Institute). The reference gene sets were obtained from published sources as follows; genes upregulated following APC 838 loss & WNT target genes commonly upregulated in human colorectal cancer 26 .

841 Table S13. Pathways enriched in i-Mcl1^{ΔIEC} mice compared with wild type control mice.

852 Table S14. Toxic pathologies associated with genes enriched in i-*Mcl1*^{ΔIEC} mice compared with wild type control mice.

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