SUPPLEMENTARY METHODS

Derivation of expression plasmids

pBT264 was a gift from Ligun Luo (Addgene plasmid #27438).³⁷ To generate pBT264-MBSacceptor, two 147 bp oligonucleotides (Supplementary Table 3) containing tough decoy (TuD) stem sequences and spacer fragments were annealed and ligated to pBT264 sequentially digested with BglII and MfeI. Two oligonucleotides containing SalI, ScaI, and NotI recognition sites, with or without a RNA polymerase III poly-T termination signal, were annealed and ligated to pKT2-Fah-U6-sgRNA-SBK ¹⁶ digested with SapI and EcoRI to generate pKT2-Fah-U6-TuDacceptor-pT and pKT2-Fah-U6-TuDacceptor-tail. To derive a TuD expression plasmid for in vivo TRAP-Seq, an Nhel recognition sequence was added to the 5' end of the U6-TuDacceptor-pT sequence of pKT2-Fah-U6-TuDacceptorpT by PCR. This amplicon was then inserted at the Nhel site of pKT2-Fah-eGFP-L10a² to derive pKT2-Fah-eGFP-L10a-U6-TuDacceptor-pT.

pMiRCheck2 was a gift from Nicholas Hand.³⁸ MicroRNA sensor plasmids were derived by ligating annealed oligonucleotides containing tandem miRNA recognition sequences to pMiRCheck2 at the XhoI and NotI recognition sites located in the 3'UTR of the Renilla luciferase cDNA. Similarly, dual luciferase reporter plasmids for mouse 3'UTRs were generated by PCR-amplifying regions of interest and inserting amplicons into the XhoI/NotI cloning site of pMiRCheck2. Predicted miRNA binding sites within the inserted sequences were mutated via overlap PCR.

pGeneClip (Promega) shRNA expression plasmids were derived by ligating oligonucleotides encoding the mouse miR-374b hairpin or a negative control shRNA.

Cell growth assays

Hepa 1-6 mouse hepatoma cells were transfected with 1 μ g of pGeneClip expression plasmids using Lipofectamine 3000, and were treated with 5 µg/mL puromycin for 7-10 days. After selection, equal numbers of cells were plated in 12-plates and cultured for one week. Cells were then fixed in paraformaldehyde and stained with 0.05% crystal violet.

For MEX3C inhibition experiments, Hepa 1-6 or Huh-7 cells were grown in 24-well plates and in the presence of triptolide (Sigma-Aldrich) for seven days. Cells were then fixed in paraformaldehyde and stained with 0.05% crystal violet.

High throughput DNA sequencing

Tough decoys in the TuDstd and TuDtail input libraries, and genomic DNA extracted from livers of Fah^{-1} mice, were amplified by two rounds of PCR to introduce Illumina capture and index sequences. Primer sequences are listed in Supplementary Table 3. In the first round of PCR, we performed four reactions using 200 ng of the plasmid library as template and eight separate reactions for each liver sample using 5 µg of genomic DNA as template. For each liver sample, the first round reaction products were pooled and 5 µL was used as template for the second PCR. Amplicons were gel purified, quantified using Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer and Kapa SYBR Fast qPCR protocols, and sequenced using a 75-cycle Illumina NextSeq 500/550 High Output kit. The distance from the 5' end of the MBS1 sequence to the 3' end of the MBS2 sequence enabled quantification of TuDs by 84 sequencing cycles using a custom primer complementary to the 5' TuD stem sequence. The remaining 7 cycles were used for the sample index read.

For the TuD competition experiment, TuD sequencing libraries were generated from input pools and mouse liver gDNA as above. Libraries were paired-end sequenced using a 300-cycle MiSeq Nano Kit v2 with our custom 5' primer and a standard Illumina 3' primer. Forward and reverse reads were averaged for each TuD and animal.

Dataset integration

To combine results across experiments, we used raw sequencing counts and calculated TuD reads per million (rpm) for each sequencing replicate. Locally weighted regression scatterplot smoothing (LOWESS) was used to inform our selection of minimal read count thresholds for data to be included in downstream analyses. For each animal, smoothing was performed on the ratio of liver rpm to the mean plasmid rpm against the log_{10} of the total rpm using a bandwidth size of 1,500 TuDs. Minimum read count thresholds were selected at the lowest total rpm value corresponding to a

smoothed line slope of zero. TuD fold change values (liver/input plasmid library) were defined as the residuals from the smoothed line. Prior to dataset integration, TuD log₂ fold change distributions of each liver sample were standardized by dividing each value by the sample standard deviation. Missing $log₂$ fold change values across all livers were then imputed sequentially as follows until all missing values were substituted. For each TuD, AB, within each experiment:

If at least one value is present for AB, missing AB values are replaced by the AB mean.

If all AB values are missing, missing AB values are replaced by the mean BA value (i.e. its mirror).

If all values of AB and BA are missing, missing AB and BA values are replaced by sample medians.

The standardized and imputed TuD $log₂$ fold change values were converted to the linear scale and distributions were then transformed using the RUV-4 method, 39 which leverages internal negative controls within a dataset to identify and remove non-relevant factors. The input library type (TuDstd or TuDtail) was set as the factor variable. Following this adjustment, all imputed fold change values were removed.

After combining datasets, differential TuD abundance following repopulation was determined using Wilcoxon's rank-sum test. P-values were calculated for each TuD in comparison to the population of control TuD replicates (i.e. TuDs with a control MBS1 paired with a control MBS2; n=99). To correct for multiple testing, frequentist q-values (FDR) were derived from rank sum p-values using the 'qqvalue' Stata package⁴⁰ according to the Benjamini–Hochberg step-up procedure.⁴¹ TuDs with an FDR<0.05 were defined as significantly altered following repopulation.

Bradley-Terry modeling

To perform Bradley-Terry modeling, we first tallied wins and losses for each ordered MBS pairing across all replicates by comparing the MBS1 and MBS2 strength scores. A win was assigned to the MBS with the higher strength score; a loss was assigned to the MBS with lower strength score. The Bradley-Terry model of pairwise comparisons was then applied to win and loss tallies across the entire

data set using the BradleyTerry2 package for R.⁴² The scramble-1 MBS was used as the model reference.

MBS phenotypes

For each MBS, we assigned a 'phenotype,' defined as the median standardized $log₂$ fold change of all TuDs containing the MBS paired with a control (non-targeting) MBS among all replicates of the integrated data set. Each MBS phenotype is therefore derived from up to 72 fold change values (6 control MBSs x 2 orientations x 6 liver replicates). Three MBSs (scramble-3, miR-1a-1-5p, and miR-126-5p) had fewer than 20 such pairings, thus were not assigned a phenotype, and were excluded from further analyses.

Strength scores

For each detected TuD within each liver sample, a strength score was assigned to its constituent MBSs. The strength score of an MBS was defined as the ratio of the distance between the MBS phenotypes of both constituent MBSs ($|MBS1_{phenotype} - MBS2_{phenotype}|$) and the distance of the MBS phenotype to the TuD $log₂$ fold change ('observed phenotype'):

MBS1 strength score = $|MBS1_{\text{phenotype}} - MBS2_{\text{phenotype}}| / |MBS1_{\text{phenotype}} - observed$ phenotype MBS2 strength score = $|MBS1_{phenotype} - MBS2_{phenotype}| / |MBS2_{phenotype} - observed phenotype|$ For each MBS, overall strength scores were defined as the median strength score of the MBS across all TuDs containing the MBS.

MicroRNA interaction (MI) scores

Under the multiplicative model of pairwise genetic interaction between gene A and B, the interaction ($AB_{interaction}$) is defined as the difference between the observed phenotype ($AB_{observed}$) and the predicted AB phenotype (AB_{predicted}):

 AB _{interaction} = AB _{observed} - AB _{predicted}

where (AB_{predicted}) is the product of the observed individual gene phenotypes:

 $AB_{predicted} = A_{phenotype} \times B_{phenotype}$

As our MBS phenotypes are defined on the log2 scale, the predicted TuD phenotype (TuD_{predicted}) is:

$$
TuD_{predicted} = MBS1_{phenotype} + MBS2_{phenotype}
$$

For each TuD, we assigned a raw miRNA interaction (MI_{raw}) score equal to its residual from a LOWESS line fitted to the observed phenotype versus $TuD_{predicted}$ scatterplot. Modified t-value (MI_T) scores²⁶ were then calculated for each MBS pairing as described previously for a pairwise CRISPR screen: 36

$$
MI_{T} = (TuD_{exp} - TuD_{ctrl}) / \sqrt{(S_{var} \div TuD_{exp}N + S_{var} \div TuD_{ctrl}N)}
$$

Where:

$$
S_{var} = \text{TuD}_{exp}V \times (\text{TuD}_{exp}N - 1) + \text{TuD}_{ctr}V \times (\text{TuD}_{ctr}N - 1) \div (\text{TuD}_{exp}N + \text{TuD}_{ctr}N - 2)
$$

TuD_{exp}: the median MI_{raw} score across all replicates for the MBS pairing in either orientation (5'-AB-3' or 5'-BA-3')

TuDexpN: the number of MIraw scores for the MBS pairing

TuD_{exp}V: the variance of MI_{raw} scores for the MBS pairing

 $TuD_{ctrl}:$ the median MI_{raw} score for all control $TuDs$ (containing two control MBSs) across all replicates

TuD_{ctrl}N: the number of MI_{raw} scores for all control TuDs

TuD_{ctrl}V: the variance of MI_{raw} scores for all control TuDs

Pairwise TuD MI_T scores that were derived from a minimum of six replicates (of a possible 12: 6 animal replicates x 2 possible MBS orientations) and were at least two standard deviations above or below the MI_T score population mean were considered significant miRNA interactions.

k-means clustering

 To partition hepatocyte transcripts according to expression level during repopulation, we utilized FPKM values from our recently published TRAP-Seq data set.² For each transcript, we calculated the proportion of reads (corrected for sample size) derived from three conditions: quiescent, and one and four weeks following the induction of repopulation. k-means clustering of read proportions was then performed for transcripts with FPKM>1 using Euclidean distance as the similarity measure. The optimal

number of clusters (4) was determined using the Calinski-Harabasz pseudo-F. To assess GC content, clustered transcripts were aligned to the RefSeq annotations for NCBI37/mm9 using BEDTools v2.25.0. Statistical significance of differences in GC content between clusters was determined using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Pathway and motif enrichment

Sets of mRNAs were subjected to gene ontology (categories: Biological Process, Cellular Component, Molecular Function) overrepresentation enrichment analysis using WebGestalt 2017.⁴³ Significant overrepresentation was defined by a Benjamini-Hochberg corrected FDR<0.05. Overrepresentation analysis of miRNA target site enrichment in TRAP-Seq clusters was performed using the MSigDB v6.0 miRNA network on WebGestalt 2017. Transcripts with less than one FPKM across all samples were excluded from the analysis. For presentation purposes, the list of significantly overrepresented miRNA binding sites was filtered to include only miRNAs tested in our screens. Enriched transcription factor binding motifs within sets of significantly altered genes from the TuD TRAP-Seq experiment were identified using the iRegulon plugin, v1.3 for Cytoscape.²⁸

MicroRNA target prediction

 Mouse mRNA 3'UTRs containing miR-374b-5p seed sequences were retrieved from SeedBank v1.1 on the seedViscious web server.⁴⁴ Transcripts predicted to be targeted by specific families of miRNAs were identified using mirPath v.3. 45 Gene browser tracks of miRNA binding sites were generated for microT-CDS predictions using the DIANA Web Server v5.0.⁴⁶

Human liver cancer data set

 MEX3C expression data from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) was accessed and visualized using the UCSC Xena platform (doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/326470).

Statistical analyses and data visualization

For in vitro luciferase assays, treatment groups were compared by repeated measures ANOVA with Dunnet's test for multiple comparisons using Prism 6 (GraphPad Software). All other statistical analyses were performed using Stata software (StataCorp). Significance of gene or TuD set intersections was determined using a one-tailed Fisher's exact (hypergeometric) test. Similarity of hierarchical cluster MBS membership by MBS position (MBS1 or MBS2) on the TuD $log₂$ fold change heatmap was determined by Pearson's χ^2 test. Differences in proportion of mRNAs containing a miR-374b-5p seed sequence were assessed using a two-sample proportion test. Differences in distributions were compared using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for equality of distribution functions. Statistical tests presented within figures are presented in Supplementary Table 4.

Mancala plots were developed to visualize MBS win and loss tallies used in Bradley-Terry modeling. The Mancala plot is a scatter plot of MBS1 and MBS2 win and loss tallies for each TuD. Data points are jittered to reveal density at the bins. The plot is rotated 45 degrees such that the victory margin becomes the vertical axis. Hive plots were produced using jhive v0.2.7. 47 Hierarchical cluster analyses with Ward's linkage were performed using the heatmap.2 function from the gplots package for R.⁴⁸ Remaining heatmaps were generated using the matrix2png web interface.⁴⁹ The arc diagram of TuD RNA secondary structure was derived using the R-chie web server.⁵⁰ All other plots were derived using Stata software (StataCorp).

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS

Supplementary Figure 1. Sequential ligation of MBS pools for the generation of large TuD libraries. (A) A ssRNA tough decoy (TuD) containing two microRNA-binding sites (MBSs). (B) Schematic of the MBS cloning site of pBT264-MBSacceptor. The arc diagram displays the expected secondary structure of the TuD RNA formed by the stem and loop sequences shared across all TuDs, independent of the variable MBS sequences.

Supplementary Figure 2. Both TuD libraries enable repopulation of Fah^{-/-} livers through clonal expansion of transfected hepatocytes. (A) Mouse body weights over the four-week repopulation time course. (B) Representative correlations of plasmid input replicates. (C) Mouse liver replicate

correlations of TuDstd (top panel) and TuDtail (bottom panel) experiments. (D) Scatterplots of the first two eigenvectors (components) derived by principal component analyses performed independently for each experiment. Data points are colored according to sample type (liver, purple; plasmid, lime). Axes have been sized relative to the component eigenvalues.

Supplementary Figure 3. Analysis of high-throughput sequencing data following liver repopulation. (A) Volcano plots of TuDstd and TuDtail experiments following DESeq2 analysis. Significantly altered TuDs are colored according to depletion (blue) or enrichment (orange). Histograms of TuD fold change (log₂) and Wilcoxon ranksum p-value ($log₁₀$) distributions are displayed along the axes. (B) Scatter plot comparing log₂ fold change distributions of TuDstd and TuDtail experiments. Colored data points indicate TuDs with an adjusted P<.05. (C) Upset plot of the overlap of significantly altered TuD sets between TuDstd and TuDtail experiments. *** P<.001. (D) Combination of TuDstd and TuDtail datasets using internal negative control TuDs. Heatmap of Spearman's rank correlation coefficient values between liver replicates before (left) and after (right) Removal of Unwanted Variation (RUV) data transformation. (E) Representative scatter plots of $TuD \log_2 f$ old change values of liver replicates before (left) and after (right) data transformation. ρ, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. (F) Volcano plot of combined TuD datasets after RUV transformation. Significantly altered TuDs were identified by comparison to negative control TuDs. Colored data points indicate enriched (orange) or depleted (blue) TuDs with an FDR<0.05. Statistical significance was determined using the Wilcoxon rank-sum test with Benjamini-Hochberg multiple tests correction.

Supplementary Figure 4. TuD effects are largely independent of MBS orientation. (A) Dendrograms and heatmap of log₂ fold changes of the combined datasets. Colored bars indicate cluster annotations; black, missing values. (B) Overlap of the MBS clusters annotated in the log₂ fold change heatmap of panel A. Lines connect each MBS according to position (MBS1 or MBS2). MBSs that appear in the same cluster regardless of TuD position are connected by a colored line. Those MBSs with disjoint clustering across position are connected by a gray line. (C) Scatterplot of transformed $log₂$ fold changes

for TuD pairs where the constituent MBSs A,B are in opposite orientations. MBS combinations that were significantly altered in both orientations are colored according to agreement (orange, blue) or disagreement (red). , Spearman's rank correlation coefficient. (D) Overlap of significant TuD sets according to MBS orientation. Set comparisons are indicated by colored circles. The top bar chart displays the expected and observed overlap between sets. All observed set overlaps were significantly different than expected by chance. Hypergeometric test: $P=0.018$, $***P<0.001$. (E) Hive plots displaying the position occupied by the indicated MBS in all significantly altered TuDs (orange, blue). Colored points indicated MBS combinations for which both orientations were significantly altered (FDR<0.05). The vertical axis indicates the partner MBS and is ordered as in Supplementary Table 1.

Supplementary Figure 5. Scoring miRNA inhibition effects by phenotype and strength metrics (A) Quantile plot of 174 individual MBS phenotypes defined as the median transformed $log₂$ fold change of each MBS when paired with a control MBS. MBSs with the highest (orange) and lowest (blue) phenotypes are indicated on the accompanying rug plot (right panel). Control MBS phenotypes are shown in red. Vertical bars indicate 95% confidence interval estimations. (B) Derivation of MBS strength scores. (C) MBS strength scores were significantly correlated with MBS phenotypes. Scores were regressed on the phenotype and the square of the phenotype. Control MBSs are displayed in red.

Supplementary Figure 6. Scoring miRNA inhibition effects on liver repopulation using Bradley-Terry probability modeling. (A) For each pairwise TuD within each sample, the two constituent MBSs were assigned a win or loss based on MBS phenotypes and the observed TuD $log₂$ fold change. Wins and losses were tallied for each ordered pairing across all replicates and used as the input for a Bradley-Terry model of pairwise comparisons. (B) Quantile plot of Bradley-Terry model coefficients for 174 individual MBSs. The top three MBSs by coefficient are colored by enriched (orange) or depleted (blue) phenotypes. Control MBS coefficients are shown in red. (C Bradley-Terry model coefficients were significantly correlated with MBS strength scores. , Spearman's correlation coefficient. (D) Mancala plots of win and loss tallies for all TuDs containing a miR-374b-5p MBS (left panel) or miR-539-5p (right panel).

Supplementary Figure 7. Putative target pathways overlap (A) Heatmap displaying the KEGG pathways significantly enriched for the miRNAs indicated, as predicted by microT-CDS. (B) KEGG pathways enriched for predicted targets of the 11 members of the miR-10a/miR-30 families displayed in Figure 4.

Supplementary Figure 8. Repopulating hepatocytes increase expression of AU-rich transcripts and miR-374b-5p. (A) Kernel density plot of mRNA GC content. Dashed vertical lines indicate population medians. Densities were compared using a two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. (B) AGO2-bound miR-374b-5p levels increase in mice following partial hepatectomy.³ (C) The miR-374b host gene, *Ftx*, showed increased chromatin accessibility at the promoter during liver repopulation in Fah^{-1} mice.²

Supplementary Figure 9. Profiling miR-374b-5p effects by translating ribosome affinity purification followed by RNA sequencing. (A) Body weights of mice injected with TRAP-Seq plasmids expressing TuDs containing a miR-880-5p MBS paired with a scramble-3 MBS (green) or with a miR-374b-5p MBS (pink). Data are presented as mean \pm 95% confidence intervals with smoothed fit lines. (B) Heatmap of significantly altered transcripts encoding subunits of the cytosolic ribosome. (C) The ribosome subunit transcripts of panel B plotted as a fraction of FPKM from our previous TRAP-Seq data set.² (D) *Igf2* and Afp mRNAs display reduced ribosomal occupancy in TuD374 treated mice, consistent with accelerated repopulation. Values are displayed as transcripts per kilobase million (TPM). (E) Motif analysis of genes up- or down-regulated by TuD374 within +/-20 kilobase of the TSS. Left panel, transcription factors (TF) associated with the top four motif clusters by normalized expression score (NES) within each gene set. Right panel, quantile plots of enriched motif NES. Colored data points indicate enriched motifs for the indicated motif cluster. Sequence logos of the top motifs are shown as insets.

Supplementary Table 1. MicroRNA-binding site sequences.

The table below lists the microRNA-binding site (MBS) RNA sequences. The DNA oligonucleotide sequences for insertion into pBT264-MBSacceptor are derived as follows:

(1) Convert the RNA sequence below to DNA ('top strand')

- (2) Derive the reverse complement DNA sequence ('bottom strand')
- (3) To the 5' end of the top strand, add 'CTTC'"
- (4) To the 5' end of the bottom strand, add 'CGGT'"

Supplementary Table 2. High coverage of pKT2-FAH-TuD libraries

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Supplementary Table 3. Oligonucleotide sequences

Supplementary Table 4. Statistical tests in figures

S9A Studen't t-test, paired

Supplementary Table 5. TuD374/TuDctrl competition sequencing counts

 $FDR < 5\%$ in both orientations

 $let - 7f - 5p$

ErbB signaling pathway Proteoglycans in cancer Adherens junction Melanoma Protein digestion and absorptionAdherens junction Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) AMPK signaling pathway Transcriptional misregulation in cancer Valine, leucine and isoleucine biosynthesis Pathways in cancer Signaling pathways regulation pluripotency of stem cells FoxO signaling pathway Hippo signaling pathway mTOR signaling pathway PI3K-Akt signaling pathway Lysine degration Amoebiasis Glycosphingolipid biosynthesis - lacto and neolacto series Fatty acid degradation MAPK signaling pathway **ECM-receptor interaction** Mucin type O-glycan biosynthesis $let-7c-5p$ $let-7e-5p$ miR-551b-3p -15

 $Log_{10}(FDR)$

10a/30 family miRNAs

