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

#### *In vivo* **treatment of normal and miR-155 KO mice and isolation of cells from bone marrow**

The WT B6 and miR-155 KO mice were treated with 25 mg/kg LPS from P. aeruginosa (Sigma, #8643) via IP (26-gauge needle). The mice were euthanized after 24 hours of treatment. Tibias, femurs, and pelvis were excised. After removing the muscle and connective tissue, the bones were flushed five times using a 23-gauge needle and 3 ml of cold Iscove's modified Dulbecco's medium (IMDM) and collected as central marrow. Lin- cells were enriched through the lineage depletion kit from Miltenyi Biotec (#130-090-858) and used for *in vitro* analysis. Mouse care and experimental procedures were performed in accordance with federal guidelines and protocols and were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the City of Hope.

### **Cell cultures, Plasmid and Chemicals**

Mouse wt Lin<sup>-</sup>Sca-1<sup>+</sup>c-Kit<sup>+</sup> (LSK) cells were cultured in IMDM medium with 20% FBS, supplemented with 10ng/ml mouse SCF and 10ng/ml mouse TPO. All cells were cultured at 37°C with 5%  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and high humidity. MV-4-11, THP1 and HL-60 cells were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection and maintained in IMDM (Iscove's Modified Dulbecco's Medium) or RPMI (Roswell Park Memorial Institute) medium supplemented with 10% FBS and 100 units of penicillin/streptomycin at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Cell lines were authenticated by cell morphology monitoring, growth curve analysis, and mycoplasma detection using a Mycoplasma detection kit (Roche, Germany).

GFP-SPRED1 and mutants were cloned in our laboratory using pcDNA vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). AKT and HA-Ub constructs were from Dr. Jee-Yin Ahn (Sungkyunkwan University, South of Korea). AC220 was purchased from LC Laboratories (Woburn, MA). Lipopolysaccharides (LPS) was from Sigma (Saint Louis, MO). K118 (SHIP1 Inhibitor) was from Echelon (Salt Lake, UT). MG132 was from Selleckchem (Houston, TX).

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#### **Mononuclear cells isolation from patient samples**

The specimen was transferred to a 50 ml conical tube and the volume was brought up to 25 ml using warm DPS (1x) with 2% FBS. The specimen was layered on the top of 20 ml Ficoll-Paque Plus in a 50 ml conical tube. Then, the tube was centrifuged at 300g for 32 minutes without break. The layer containing PBMC and plasma was carefully transferred to a 50 ml conical tube and the volume was brought up to 50 ml with warm DPS (1x). The tube was then centrifuge at 2400 rpm for 8 minutes. After discard the supernatant, the pellet was resuspended in 10 ml of warm DPBS (1x). The cell number and viability were determined, and the sample was frozen.

## **Synthetic small interfering RNA (siRNA) oligonucleotides**

The siGENOME SMARTpool for si-RNA of AKT was purchased from Thermo Scientific (Lafayette, CO). Scrambled control RNA (siSCR) was used as a control. The target sequences for siRNAs are shown in Table S1.

## **q-PCR analysis**

To measure the miRNA expression, total RNA was extracted using the miRNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). Reverse transcription using MultiScribe™ Reverse Transcriptase and q-PCR analysis using Taqman assays (Applied Biosystems) were performed according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNU44 and snoRNA234 was used as internal controls for human and mouse miRNA respectively. TaqMan gene expression assays used for qPCR analysis are listed in Table S2. Results are presented as log2-transformed ratio according to the  $2^{-\Delta Ct}$  method (ΔCt=Ct of target –Ct of reference).

## **Flow cytometry analyses**

Mouse cells were obtained from BM (from both tibias and femurs). For analysis of stem and progenitor cells, c-kit<sup>+</sup> cells were selected using anti-mouse CD117 microbeads or Lin<sup>-</sup> cells were

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selected using Lineage depletion microbeads (both from Miltenyi Biotec, San Diego, CA). Stem and progenitor populations were identified as LSK cells (Lin<sup>−</sup>Sca-1<sup>hi</sup>c-Kit<sup>hi</sup>) (1). All analyses were performed on a LSRII flow cytometer (BD Biosciences) and sorting was performed on ARIAIII or ARIA SORP instruments (BD Biosciences).

#### **Lentiviral transduction of mouse cells**

Mouse BM LSKs or Lin- were cultured overnight in IMDM with 20% FBS supplemented with 10ng/ml mouse IL3, IL6, SCF and TPO. Normal BM LSK or Lin- cells were transduced with FLT3- ITD or control retroviral supernatant (MOI=5) with polybrene (5 µg/ml, American Bioanalytical) by spinoculation, and 20-30% of GFP<sup>+</sup> cells were detected at 48 h. GFP<sup>+</sup> cells from the samples with low transduction efficiency (<80%) were selected by flow cytometry at 48h for further studies.

#### **Apoptosis assay**

Apoptosis was measured by labeling cells with Annexin V-PE or FITC or APC and 4, 6‐diamidino‐ 2‐phenylindole (DAPI) (all from BD-PharMingen, San Diego, CA) and analyzed by flow cytometry.

## **Immunoprecipitation and Immunoblotting analyses**

Cells were washed and harvested in ice-cold PBS and subsequently lysed in RIPA buffer containing 10 mM protease inhibitor cocktail (Thermo Scientific, Lafayette, CO). For immunoprecipitation, 500  $\mu$ g – 1 mg of cell lysate were incubated with indicated antibody for overnight at 4°C. 50 µl of Protein A/G agarose beads (Cell Signaling, Danvers, MA) were added and the mixture was inverted for 3 hours at 4°C. For immunoblotting, immunoprecipitated complex or 50 µg of each cell lysate was separated on NuPAGE 4-12% gradient gels (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) and immunocomplexes were visualized with enhanced chemiluminescence reagent (Thermo Scientific, Lafayette, CO). The list of antibodies is presented in Table S3.

#### **Immunocytochemistry**

Cells were collected, washed in ice-cold PBS and mounted on glass slide using the Cytocentrifuge (CytoSpin4, 600 rpm, 10 minutes). Cells then were washed with PBS, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 15 minutes and permeabilized in 0.5% Triton X-100 for 15 minutes. Nonspecific epitopes were blocked with 5% bovine serum albumin (BSA) for 30 minutes. Primary antibodies are listed in Table S3 and secondary anti-mouse/rabbit/goat-Alexa 594/488/647 goat antibodies were from Thermo Scientific (Lafayette, CO). Cell images were acquired using a Zeiss confocal laser-scanning-microscope (Zeiss LSM880). Nuclei were counterstained with prolong Gold Antifade with DAPI (Molecular Probes, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA).

### **Cellular Fractionation**

The cells were collected and washed in PBS followed by fractionation into nuclear and cytoplasmic fractions using a subcellular fractionation kit (Thermo Scientific, Lafayette, CO). Briefly, the cells were vigorously vortexed in cytoplasmic extraction reagents and subsequently centrifuged to isolate the soluble cytoplasmic fraction. The remaining insoluble fraction, which contained nuclei, was suspended in nuclear extraction reagent and centrifuged to collect the nuclear fraction. All steps were performed at 4°C.

### **Kinase assay**

One microgram of purified targeted protein (i.e. SPRED1 and GSK3) was incubated with active AKT recombinant protein and 10 μCi of [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>] ATP (PerkinElmer Life Sciences) in 50 μl of kinase buffer. Reactions were incubated at 30°C for 1 hour. Protein complex was then separated on NUPAGE 4-12% gradient gels (Thermo Scientific, Lafayette, CO). The gel was then dried, and the phosphorylated protein was visualized by autoradiography. The information of used proteins for kinase assay is listed in Table S4.

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### **miRNA labeling and analysis with SmartFlare probes**

MiRNAs were labeled and analyzed with SmartFlare probes as described before (1,2). The lyophilized SmartFlare probes for miR-126 and miR-155 and uptake, scramble or 18S housekeeping control (EMD Millipore) were reconstituted with 50  $\mu$  of nuclease free water and kept at room temperature. MV-4-11 and primary AML blasts (treated or non-treated) were plated in a 96 well plate (30,000 cells/well) in 200 µl of media. Working solution of each SmartFlare probe was prepared by diluting 1:20 with PBS. Then, 4 µl of working solution was added into 200 µl of media with 30,000 cells in a single well of a 96-well plate to get the concentration of 100 pM. The cells were plated in  $37^{\circ}$ C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 16 hours. Cells were then washed in 1× PBS and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 3 min. Nuclei were counterstained with DAPI, and the images were analyzed using a confocal microscope (Zeiss LSM880). To ensure that the cell types, including MV-4-11 and primary AML blasts, were able to effectively endocytose the SmartFlare probes, we examined the uptake of probes in these cells using a SmartFlare uptake control, a scrambled control and a housekeeping 18S control (according to the manufacturer's guidelines) (3,4).

### **Mathematic model of FLT3-ITD regulated miR-126 and miR-155**

Mathematical model of FLT3-ITD regulated cell proliferation through controlling dynamics of miRNA circuits such as miR-126 and miR-155 is represented by the circuit in Figure 6A. The activation of FLT3-ITD (X) is assumed to increase from an initial value  $X_0$  to a final value  $X_f$  in a continuous and smooth fashion. The activation of X is therefore modeled by the equation in Figure 6B where the parameters  $\sigma$  and  $\phi$  determine the velocity and the time at which the activation takes place, respectively.

The evolution in time of the compartments  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$ ,  $T_4$ ,  $Y_1$ , and  $Y_2$  is determined by assuming the law of mass action. With this assumption, the interaction between two compartments e.g., A and B, is directly proportional to their product e.g., AB: the constant of proportionality is positive if e.g. A activates B and is negative if e.g., A inhibits B. Moreover, each compartment has a natural death rate proportional to itself and a natural production rate. With these prescriptions, the evolution in time of all compartments is modeled in Figure 6B where the dot on top of the variables on the left hand side represent the time derivative, the positive parameters  $\alpha$ , β, γ, δ, ε, η, κ, λ, μ, ρ, ξ quantify the interaction between the compartments, and  $Θ$ <sub>i</sub> and  $Γ$ <sub>i</sub> (i=1,...,6) are the constant death rate and the constant growth rate, respectively. Finally, the leukemic growth Z is assumed to follow a logistic law with a carrying capacity K and a constant growth rate  $v$  described by the second-to-last equation in Figure 6B.

The time evolution of all compartments in the circuit is indeed obtained by numerically solving the set of ordinary differential equations (ODEs). In particular, we used the built-in ODE45 Matlab solver based on an adaptive 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> order Runge-Kutta scheme and the results are shown in Figure 6B.

### **Supplementary References**

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# **Supplementary Table 1. The target sequences for siRNAs**

# **Supplementary Table 2. TaqMan gene expression assays used for qPCR analysis**



# **Supplementary Table 3. List of antibodies used for IP and IB analysis**





# **Supplementary Table 4. List of proteins used for** *in vitro* **kinase assay**



# **Supplementary Table 5. Characteristics of patient samples**







#### **Supplementary Table 6. Mathematical model parameters and initial conditions**

Numerical integration of the system of ordinary differential equations described in Eq. 8 was performed using the reported parameters. The parameter dimensional units and values are reported at the two-digit significance level. Concentration, time, and the number of cells is represented by C, T, and cell, respectively. The set of parameters reported here and used in the model were estimated to show that the dependency structure encoded in the interaction schematic (Figure 6). The corresponding mathematical equations were qualitatively consistent with the experimental evidence. Initial conditions were as follows:  $T_{1-4}(0) = Y_{1-2}(0) = 0$  and  $Z(0) = 0.5, X(0) = 1$ . The model parameters were estimated based on rates of reactions relative to the timescale of leukemia growth and relative proportions of concentrations at steady-state in the presence and absence of FLT3-ITD.





#### **Supplementary Figure Legends**

**Figure S1. Specificity of SmartFlare probes.** MiR-126 and miR-155 were overexpressed or knocked down in MV-4-11 cells and the cells were stained with specific SmartFlare probe for each miRNA. Staining images are shown on the left and relative PCR results are on the right.

**Figure S2. Effects of AC220 treatment** *in vivo* **on levels of miR-126 and miR-155.** The BM cells from FLT3-ITD+ AML patients pre- or post-treated with AC220 (n=4) were collected to analyze as indicated. Levels of miR-126 and miR-155 as measured by q-PCR (A) and staining with SmartFlares miRNA probes (B).

**Figure S3. Effects of AC220 and K118-SHIP1 inhibitor on levels of miR-126 and apoptosis.** (A and B) Effects of miR-155 inhibition on SHIP1/p-AKT/SPRED1 signaling and miR-126 expression. HL-60 cells (A) or Lin- BM cells from normal wt mice (B) were treated with either miR-126 inhibitor or miR-155 inhibitor alone or combination for 24 hours. Left, expression levels of miR-126 and miR-155 by q-PCR. Right, cell lysate was immunoblotted with indicated antibodies. (C) Left, MV-4-11 cells were transfected with siSCR or siSHIP1 (20 and 40 nM) for 24 hours and miR-126 was examined. Middle and right, the cells were treated with either AC220 (0.5 nM) or K118 (10 μM) alone, or combination of these inhibitors for 24 hours. Levels of miR-126 and apoptosis are shown.

**Figure S4. Effects of AKT phosphorylation on SPRED1 stabilization and localization.** (A and B) Interaction of AKT and SPRED1 in Lin- BM cells from *MII*<sup>PTD/wt</sup>/*FIt3*<sup>ITD/ITD</sup> AML mice (A) and HL-60 cells (B). (A) Protein lysate from Lin- BM cells from *Mll*PTD/wt/*Flt3*ITD/ITD AML mice were immunoprecipitated with anti-IgG or anti-AKT antibody and immunoblotted with anti-SPRED1

antibody. (B) HL-60 cells were transfected with HA-AKT and GFP-SPRED1 and immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting were performed as shown. (C) Cellular distribution of SPRED1 WT and SPRED1 S238A (non-AKT-phosphorylated mutation) in Lin- BM cells from *Mll*PTD/wt/*Flt3*ITD/ITD AML mice (left) and HL-60 cells (right). Indicated transfected cells with SPRED1 WT and SPRED1 S238A were fractionated and immunoblotted with indicated antibodies. (D) Interaction between SPRED1 WT and SPRED1 S238A with RAN. Lin- BM cells from *Mll*PTD/wt/*Flt3*ITD/ITD AML mice (left) and HL-60 cells (right) were transfected with HA-RAN and GFP-SPRED1 WT or GFP-SPRED1 S238A. Immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting as shown. (E) Different half-life expression of SPRED1 WT and SPRED1 S238A. MV-4-11 cells were transfected with GFP-SPRED1 WT or GFP-SPRED1 S238A for 24 hours and continuously treated with CHX on time course. Cell lysate was immunoblotted with anti-GFP and anti-ACTIN antibodies. (F and G) Effects of AKT inhibition on SPRED1 localization. MV-4-11 cells were treated with DMSO control or AKT inhibitors (AZD8055, AKTi viii, or MK2206) for 24 hours. Fractionated lysate was immunoblotted with indicated antibodies (F). The treated cells were stained with SPRED1 and RAN (G). (H) Effect of AKT KD and OE on SPRED1 ubiquitination. FLT3-ITD+ AML blasts were co-transfected with HA-Ubiquitin and siSCR or siAKT (left) and GFP vector or GFP-AKT (right) for 24 hours. Ubiquitination assay was performed with anti-SPRED1, anti-GFP and anti-HA-Ubiquitin antibodies. (I) Effect of AKT KD and OE on protein stability of SPRED1. FLT3-ITD+ AML blasts were transfected with siSCR and siAKT (top) or HA vector control and HA-AKT (bottom) for 24 hours. Lysate from indicated transfected cells were immunoblotted with anti-SPRED1, anti-AKT and anti-ACTIN antibodies. (J) Effect of AKT KD on SPRED1 protein stability. FLT3-ITD+ AML blasts were transfected with siSCR or siAKT for 24 hours. The cells were then treated with CHX (10 μM) for the indicated times and lysate was immunoblotted with indicated antibodies.

**Figure S5. Effects of FLT3 activation on miR-155-regulated miR-126 levels.** (A) Effects of FLT3-ITD overexpression on SPRED1/AKT interaction in HL-60 cells. Protein lysate from control or FLT3-ITD infected HL-60 cells was immunoprecipitated with anti-AKT antibody and immunoblotted with anti-SPRED1 antibody. Input control was shown. (B) Effects of AC220 treatment *in vivo* on SPRED1 localization. The BM cells from FLT3-ITD+ AML patients pre- or post-treated with AC220 (n=4) were collected and stained with anti-SPRED1 and anti-RAN antibodies. Scale bar, 10 μm. (C) and (D) Effects of FLT3 activation on miR-155-regulated miR-126 levels. (C) FLT3 wt THP1 cells and FLT3-ITD MV-4-11 cells were treated with FLT3 ligand (100 ng/ml) for 24 h. Left, levels of miR-155 and miR-126 measured by q-PCR. Middle, cell lysate was immunoblotted with indicated antibodies. Right, densitometry quantification of immunoblotting. (D) CD34+ normal PBSC, FLT3 wt and FLT3-ITD AML blasts (each, n=3) were treated with FLT3 ligand (100 ng/ml) for 24 h. Top, levels of miR-155 and miR-126 measured by q-PCR. Bottom, cell lysate was immunoblotted with indicated antibodies (left) and densitometry quantification of immunoblotting (right).

**Figure S6. Schematic model of FLT3-ITD-caused a deregulated "circuitous architecture" of the miRNome in AML.** FLT3-ITD inputs a signal that leads to concurrent miR-126 down- and miR-155 up-regulation in AML blasts. FLT3-ITD downregulates miR-126 expression through a miR-126-SPRED1 negative "feedback loop" in which SPRED1, a downstream target of miR-126, inhibits the miRNA biogenesis "gatekeeper" complex XPO5-RAN-GTP and blocks miR-126 maturation (left). In parallel, FLT3-ITD also upregulates miR-155 expression through a miR-155- DDX3X negative "feedback loop" in which altered levels of DDX3X, a downstream target of miR-155, disrupt the splicing of the lnc-RNA BIC-155, thereby allowing previously unreported NXF1 mediated transport of unspliced BIC-155 to feed into cytoplasmic DROSHA activity and enhance mature miR-155 synthesis, thereby circumventing the XPO5-RAN-GTP blockage (right). These two "feedback loops" are interconnected through a "feedforward loop" generated by a direct regulatory role of miR-155 on miR-126 expression through modulation of the SHIP1-AKT signaling (bottom). This complex circuit of interconnected loops eventually converge to a common output signal for leukemia growth that can be therapeutically targeted.



























