

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Daam2 Driven Degradation of VHL Promotes Gliomagenesis

Wenyi Zhu¹⁻², Saritha Krishna¹, Cristina Garcia¹, Chia-Ching John Lin¹, Ken Scott³,
Carrie A Mohila⁴, Chad J Creighton⁵⁻⁶, Seung-Hee Yoo⁷, Hyun Kyoung Lee^{8-10*}, and
Benjamin Deneen^{1-2,9-10*}

¹ Center for Cell and Gene Therapy, Baylor College of Medicine

² The Integrative Molecular and Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program (IMBS), Baylor
College of Medicine

³ Department of Human and Molecular Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine

⁴ Department of Pathology, Texas Children's Hospital

⁵ Dan L Duncan Cancer Center, Division of Biostatistics, Baylor College of Medicine

⁶ Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

⁷ Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, The University of Texas Health
Science Center at Houston

⁸ Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neurology, Baylor College of Medicine

⁹ Neurological Research Institute, Texas Children's Hospital

¹⁰ Department of Neuroscience, Baylor College of Medicine

Baylor College of Medicine

One Baylor Plaza

Houston, Tx 77030

* Co-corresponding (hyunkyol@bcm.edu and deneen@bcm.edu)

29 **Abstract**

30

31 Von Hippel-Landau (VHL) protein is a potent tumor suppressor regulating
32 numerous pathways that drive cancer, but mutations in VHL are restricted to
33 limited subsets of malignancies. Here we identified a novel mechanism for VHL
34 suppression in tumors that do not have inactivating mutations. Using
35 developmental processes to uncover new pathways contributing to tumorigenesis,
36 we found that Daam2 promotes glioma formation. Protein expression screening
37 identified an inverse correlation between Daam2 and VHL expression across a
38 host of cancers, including glioma. These *in silico* insights guided corroborating
39 functional studies, which revealed that Daam2 promotes tumorigenesis by
40 suppressing VHL expression. Furthermore, biochemical analyses demonstrate
41 that Daam2 associates with VHL and facilitates its ubiquitination and degradation.
42 Together, these studies are the first to define an upstream mechanism regulating
43 VHL suppression in cancer and describe the role of Daam2 in tumorigenesis.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53 **Key Words**

54 Daam2, Von Hippel Landau protein, Glioblastoma Multiforme, Mouse Glioma

55 Model, Tumorigenesis, Ubiquitination, HIF1 α , pAkt.

56

57

58 **Running Title: Daam2 suppresses VHL during glioma tumorigenesis**

59

60

61 **Statement of Significance**

62 We found that the glial developmental factor Daam2 promotes glioma

63 tumorigenesis by suppressing VHL expression. Our studies show, for the first

64 time, a regulatory mechanism that operates upstream of VHL in cancer and

65 provides an explanation for how VHL expression is extinguished in tumors that

66 do not have inactivating mutations.

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77 **Introduction**

78 Tumor suppressor and oncogenic pathways function in part by subverting
79 existing cellular programs to promote cancer “hallmark” properties that engender
80 malignant growth (Hanahan and Weinberg, 2011). This corruption of normal
81 cellular physiology is mediated by aberrant activities of these tumorigenic
82 pathways, which are predominantly driven by genetic mutation. Importantly,
83 genetic mutation is not the sole source of this dysregulation, as changes in gene
84 expression via promoter methylation or protein turnover can phenotypically
85 resemble driver mutations and contribute to tumorigenesis (Esteller et al., 1999;
86 Hegi et al., 2004; Pineda et al., 2015; Reinstein and Ciechanover, 2006;
87 Semenza, 2003; Shen et al., 2005; Zochbauer-Muller et al., 2001). While these
88 broad regulatory processes have been linked to cancer, the underlying molecular
89 mechanisms that regulate expression of key components of tumorigenic
90 pathways are very poorly characterized.

91 *VHL* is a key tumor suppressor that is mutated in Von Hippel-Landau
92 disease, a hereditary form of clear-cell renal carcinoma (ccRCC) (Chen et al.,
93 1995; Gossage et al., 2015; Kim and Kaelin, 2004; Maher et al., 1990). *VHL*
94 functions by binding to HIF1 α and pAkt and modulating their degradation and
95 activity, respectively. Mutant forms of *VHL* associated with ccRCC are incapable
96 of binding HIF1 α or pAkt, resulting in stabilized expression and activation of
97 these proteins, which ultimately facilitates tumorigenesis (Guo et al., 2016; Ivan
98 et al., 2001; Jaakkola et al., 2001; Maxwell et al., 1999; Min et al., 2002; Ohh et
99 al., 2000). While dysregulated HIF1 α and pAkt are associated with most forms of

100 cancer, mutations in VHL are found predominately in ccRCC. This dichotomy
101 suggests that additional regulatory mechanisms oversee VHL dysregulation or
102 inactivation in other malignancies. Indeed recent studies have shown that ID2
103 can interfere with VHL activity in glioma cell lines (Lee et al., 2016). However, the
104 upstream mechanisms that directly regulate *VHL* expression and protein turnover
105 in cancer remain undefined.

106 One potential mode of tumor suppressor gene regulation is through
107 developmental mechanisms. Developmental processes directly contribute to all
108 forms of malignancy and are utilized by tumorigenic pathways to maintain cells in
109 an undifferentiated and proliferative state (Jackson et al., 2006; Kesari et al.,
110 2005; Stiles and Rowitch, 2008). Given these established molecular and
111 functional interactions, it stands to reason that expression of tumorigenic
112 pathways may be reciprocally regulated by developmental mechanisms.
113 However, whether such reciprocal regulation of tumor suppressor pathways by
114 developmental factors contributes to tumorigenesis is poorly defined.

115 To investigate the interface between developmental programs and the
116 regulation of tumor suppressor pathways, we used malignant glioma as a model
117 system. As a molecular entry point for these studies, we focused on Daam2, a
118 key developmental regulator that suppresses glial differentiation and also
119 contributes to dorsal patterning in the developing CNS (Lee et al., 2015; Lee and
120 Deneen, 2012). Here we found that Daam2 promotes tumorigenesis in mouse
121 and human models of malignant glioma. Bioinformatics analysis revealed that
122 Daam2 and VHL expression is inversely correlated across a host of human

123 malignancies. These *in silico* observations are corroborated by *in vivo* functional
124 studies, which revealed that Daam2 promotes tumorigenesis by suppressing
125 VHL expression. Mechanistically, we found that Daam2 associates with VHL and
126 facilitates its degradation by the ubiquitin pathway. Together, these studies
127 represent the initial characterization of Daam2 function in glioma and define, for
128 the first time, an upstream regulatory mechanism that controls VHL protein
129 expression in cancer. Moreover, because mutations in VHL are restricted to a
130 limited set of malignancies, we have identified a new mechanism for VHL
131 inactivation in tumors that do not have inactivating mutations.

132

133 **Results**

134 *Daam2 is expressed in human and mouse glioma*

135 Previously, we identified Daam2 as a component of the Wnt receptor complex
136 that directly contributes to dorsal patterning in the embryonic spinal cord and
137 oligodendrocyte differentiation during development and after injury (Lee et al.,
138 2015; Lee and Deneen, 2012). To further explore its role in neurological diseases,
139 we sought to investigate its role in malignancies of the CNS. Towards this we
140 took advantage of the TCGA pan-cancer expression data set (Akbari et al., 2014;
141 Cancer Genome Atlas Research et al., 2013) and evaluated Daam2 expression
142 across a spectrum of 34 malignancies, finding that it's most highly expressed in
143 low-grade glioma (LGG) and glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) (Figure 1A).

144 To validate Daam2 expression in LGG and GBM, we used in situ
145 hybridization (ISH) across a cohort of 35 LGG and 40 GBM primary human

146 samples, finding that Daam2 demonstrates heterogeneous expression within
147 each glioma sub-type (Fig.1B-C). Notably, the majority of tumors exhibited
148 staining intensity scores that exceeded normal brain samples, indicating that
149 Daam2 expression is elevated within glioma tumors (Fig. 1B-C; Supplemental
150 Figure S1). Next, we evaluated Daam2 expression in our mouse model of
151 malignant glioma, where we combine in utero electroporation (IUE), with
152 CRISPR-mediated deletion of *NFI*, *PTEN*, and *p53* (herein CRISPR/IUE)
153 (Supplemental figure S2) (Chen et al., 2016; Chen and LoTurco, 2012; Chen et
154 al., 2012; Cong et al., 2013; John Lin et al., 2017b). This model closely
155 resembles the genetics of GBM (Alcantara Llaguno et al., 2009; Kwon et al.,
156 2008; Zhu et al., 2005) and begins producing tumors detectable around post-
157 natal week 8. Combining this model, with our the Daam2-LacZ mouse line, we
158 performed immunostaining on the resultant tumors, finding that Daam2 exhibits
159 elevated expression levels in tumors, compared to normal brain tissue (Figure
160 1D). Finally, we evaluated Daam2 expression in xenograft tumors generated
161 from primary human GBM cell lines, finding that Daam2 is also highly expressed
162 in these human cell line models (Supplemental Figure S1). Put together, these
163 studies indicate that Daam2 expression is elevated in both human LGG and
164 GBM and is expressed in the associated model systems.

165

166 *Overexpression of Daam2 accelerates glioma tumorigenesis*

167 The forging expression analysis in human glioma and associated mouse models
168 led us to examine whether Daam2 contributes to glioma tumorigenesis. To

169 assess its role in glioma, we performed overexpression, gain-of-function (GOF)
170 studies in human GBM cell lines, finding that Daam2 accelerates the rate of cell
171 growth *in vitro* (Figure 2A-B). Next, we determined how Daam2 influences
172 anchorage independent growth, via soft agar assay, finding that it also
173 accelerates colony formation (Figure 2C-D). Together, these *in vitro* studies,
174 indicate that Daam2 promotes cell proliferation and growth in human GBM cell
175 lines

176 To evaluate the role of Daam2 in tumorigenesis, we turned to mouse
177 models of malignant glioma. The first model combines targeted PiggyBac
178 overexpression of oncogenic Ras-V12 (PB-Ras) in glial precursors with IUE, to
179 generate malignant glioma in mice around post-natal day 14 (Supplemental
180 Figure S2). Combining PiggyBac-mediated overexpression of Daam2 with this
181 Ras-driven model resulted in an acceleration of tumorigenesis (Supplemental
182 Figure S3). To further substantiate these findings in additional mouse models, we
183 next used our CRISPR/IUE model (Supplemental Figure S2). Consistent with the
184 Ras model, combined overexpression of Daam2 in the CRISPR/IUE model, also
185 resulted in accelerated tumorigenesis (Figure 2E-G). BrdU labeling analysis of
186 the resulting tumors from both models revealed that overexpression of Daam2
187 results in an increase in the number BrdU-expressing cells (Figure 2H-J;
188 Supplemental Figure S3). These data, combined with our *in vitro* studies, indicate
189 that overexpression of Daam2 promotes glioma cell proliferation and
190 tumorigenesis.

191

192 Loss of Daam2 impairs glioma tumorigenesis

193 To further delineate the role of Daam2 in glioma, we next performed a series of
194 complementary loss-of-function (LOF) studies in human and mouse glioma
195 models. In human GBM cell lines we performed shRNAi-mediated knockdown of
196 human Daam2, finding that decreased expression of Daam2 inhibited their rate
197 of growth *in vitro* (Figure 3A-B). Next, we assessed the tumorigenic potential of
198 these GBM cell lines, finding that knockdown of Daam2 resulted in a significant
199 decrease in tumor growth *in vivo* (Figure 3C-E). These knockdown studies
200 across both *in vitro* and *in vivo* systems, complement the overexpression studies,
201 and further substantiate the role of Daam2 in glioma cell proliferation and
202 tumorigenesis.

203 To further evaluate the necessity for Daam2 in glioma tumorigenesis, we
204 used CRISPR/1UE model to generate malignant glioma in *Daam2*^{+/-} and *Daam2*^{-/-}
205 mice (Lee et al., 2015). As shown in Figure 3F-H, mice lacking Daam2
206 demonstrated decreased rates of tumor formation in this model compared to the
207 heterozygote control. Moreover, BrdU labeling revealed substantial decreases in
208 the number of proliferating cells in *Daam2*^{-/-} tumors (Figure 3I-K). Together, our
209 LOF, and complementing GOF (Figure 2) studies in human and mouse models of
210 glioma indicate that Daam2 promotes cell proliferation and tumorigenesis.

211

212 Daam2 suppresses VHL expression

213 Having established that Daam2 functions to promote glioma tumorigenesis, we
214 next sought to uncover the mechanism by which it operates. Previously, we

215 found that Daam2 functions as a positive regulator of Wnt-signaling in the
216 developing CNS (Lee and Deneen, 2012), suggesting that it may also function in
217 this manner in glioma. To evaluate Wnt-activity we used an established Wnt-
218 reporter (TOP-FLASH) and found that modulation of Daam2 expression has a
219 modest effect on Wnt activity in glioma cell lines and did not impact Wnt activity
220 in our mouse model of glioma (Supplemental Figure S4).

221 That Wnt-activity is not affected by changes in Daam2 expression raises
222 the question of how Daam2 promotes glioma tumorigenesis. To identify changes
223 in protein expression associated with Daam2-mediated tumorigenesis we
224 performed reverse phase protein lysate microarray (RPPA) on FACS-isolated
225 mouse glioma samples that overexpress Daam2. Analysis revealed a cohort of
226 proteins that are strongly downregulated in glioma samples that overexpress
227 Daam2 (Figure 4A; Supplemental Figure S4; Supplemental Table I). To further
228 substantiate these potential relationships, we leveraged existing TCGA RNA-Seq
229 and RPPA data to determine whether there is an inverse correlation between
230 Daam2 expression and this cohort of proteins across a spectrum of human
231 malignancies (Supplemental Figure S5). This analysis identified Von Hippel
232 Landau (VHL) as one of the proteins from this cohort with the most significant
233 inverse correlation score across this spectrum of malignancies, with lung
234 adenocarcinoma and GBM demonstrating the strongest negative correlations
235 between Daam2 and VHL (Figure 4B; Supplemental Figure S5).

236 VHL is an established tumor suppressor that is frequently mutated in clear
237 cell renal carcinoma (ccRCC) and functions by facilitating the degradation of

238 HIF1 α and pAkt (Guo et al., 2016; Ivan et al., 2001; Jaakkola et al., 2001;
239 Maxwell et al., 1999; Min et al., 2002; Ohh et al., 2000). Given that Daam2
240 expression is inversely correlated with VHL, we next assessed whether Daam2
241 demonstrates congruent correlation with HIF1 α and pAkt in the panel of human
242 cancers. Analysis of these data revealed that Daam2 expression was positively
243 correlated with HIF1 α and pAkt protein expression across this cohort of
244 malignancies, with GBM and lung adenocarcinoma also showing the strongest
245 positive correlation (Figure 4B). Together, our RPPA screen and associated
246 bioinformatics analysis of human malignancies indicate that Daam2 expression is
247 inversely correlated with VHL expression and positively correlated with its
248 downstream signaling axis.

249

250 *Daam2 promotes tumorigenesis through VHL*

251 The RPPA data suggests that Daam2 modulates expression of VHL in glioma.
252 To directly test this hypothesis, we evaluated expression of VHL and its signaling
253 axis in our Daam2-GOF and Daam2-LOF mouse tumor models. Immunostaining
254 for VHL in these models corroborated our RPPA data, where VHL expression
255 was dramatically reduced in Daam2-GOF tumors, and increased in the *Daam2*^{-/-}
256 tumors (Figure 4C-F). Next we assessed expression of VHL's downstream
257 effectors, pAkt and HIF1 α , finding that both of these proteins demonstrated
258 elevated levels of expression in the Daam2-GOF tumors, and pAkt having
259 decreased levels in the *Daam2*^{-/-} tumors (Figure 4G-K). One consequence of
260 elevated HIF1 α is increased angiogenesis (Fan et al., 2014; Keith and Simon,

261 2007; Semenza, 2004), which we detected in Daam2-GOF tumors via staining
262 for the endothelial marker, CD31 (Supplemental Figure S6). These data,
263 combined with our bioinformatics analysis, indicate that Daam2 suppresses VHL-
264 signaling in malignant glioma.

265 These observations raise the question of whether the effects of Daam2 on
266 glioma tumorigenesis are mediated through its suppression of VHL expression.
267 To determine whether an epistatic relationship exists, we overexpressed VHL in
268 the presence of Daam2 overexpression in human GBM cell lines, finding that
269 VHL suppresses the increased rate of cell growth mediated by Daam2-alone
270 (Figure 5A-B). Next, we extended these studies to our mouse models of glioma,
271 finding that combined overexpression of VHL with Daam2 similarly suppressed
272 the accelerated rate of tumorigenesis and proliferation mediated by Daam2-alone
273 (Figure 5C-I). Moreover, overexpression of VHL resulted in concordant
274 suppression of pAkt and angiogenesis in these tumors (Figure 5J-P;
275 Supplemental Figure S6). Put together, these data indicate that Daam2 promotes
276 tumorigenesis by suppressing VHL expression in glioma.

277

278 *Daam2 facilitates ubiquitination of VHL protein*

279 Analysis of human cancer data, along with our functional studies in mouse
280 models, strongly suggests that Daam2 expression results in the loss of VHL
281 protein. To determine the mechanism by which Daam2 influences the levels of
282 VHL protein, we next performed a series of immunoprecipitation experiments to
283 evaluate the biochemical relationship between Daam2 and VHL. Using protein

284 lysates extracted from our PB-Ras model of glioma, we found that Daam2 co-
285 immunoprecipitates with VHL, suggesting that these proteins associate (Figure
286 6A).

287 Given that Daam2 associates with VHL, and expression of VHL protein is
288 negatively correlated with Daam2, we hypothesized that these expression
289 dynamics are the result of Daam2 promoting the degradation of VHL. To test this
290 we co-transfected Daam2 and VHL in 293 cells, and measured the rate of
291 cyclohexamide-mediated degradation, finding that VHL degradation is
292 significantly enhanced in the presence of Daam2 (Figure 6B, D). The
293 ubiquitination pathway is a central mechanism that oversees protein degradation,
294 (Pickart and Eddins, 2004) (Kerscher et al., 2006; Ulrich and Walden, 2010),
295 therefore, we next examined whether Daam2 facilitates the ubiquitination of VHL.
296 Using *in vitro* systems, we found that in the presence of elevated levels of
297 Daam2, the extent of VHL ubiquitination is substantially increased and levels of
298 VHL protein demonstrate a concomitantly decrease (Figure 6C). Together, these
299 mechanistic studies reveal that the underlying biochemical relationship between
300 Daam2 and VHL is mediated by ubiquitin-driven protein degradation.

301

302 **Discussion**

303 Using factors critical for central nervous system (CNS) development as an entry
304 point to identify new mechanisms that contribute to tumorigenesis, we found that
305 the glial development factor, Daam2 promotes glioma tumorigenesis across
306 human glioma cell lines and multiple mouse models of glioma. Protein screening

307 and bioinformatics studies revealed that Daam2 and VHL expression is inversely
308 correlated across a broad spectrum of cancers, while functional interrogation of
309 this relationship demonstrated that Daam2 promotes tumorigenesis via
310 suppression of VHL expression. Mechanistically, Daam2 associates with VHL
311 and stimulates its ubiquitination and degradation. Together, these studies are the
312 first to define an upstream mechanism regulating VHL protein turnover in cancer
313 and describe the role of Daam2 in tumorigenesis.

314

315 *Daam2 stimulates glioma tumorigenesis*

316 Leveraging existing TCGA expression data across a broad spectrum of
317 malignancies, we found that Daam2 is most highly expressed in glioma and
318 melanoma. These expression characteristics in glioma were confirmed using
319 tissue arrays and functional studies revealed that Daam2 promotes cell
320 proliferation and tumorigenesis in human and mouse glioma models. These are
321 the first studies to describe the role of Daam-family proteins in tumorigenesis.
322 Daam1 and Daam2 have highly conserved formin domains yet exhibit non-
323 overlapping expression patterns in the developing CNS (Habas et al., 2001; Kida
324 et al., 2004; Lee and Deneen, 2012; Nakaya et al., 2004), suggesting distinct
325 functions during development. Indeed, Daam2 functions in this context via
326 canonical Wnt-signaling, while Daam1 operates via the non-canonical Wnt,
327 planar cell polarity (PCP) pathway (Habas et al., 2001; Lee and Deneen, 2012; Li
328 et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2008; Zhu et al., 2012). It will be important to discern
329 whether this functional diversity between Daam1 and Daam2 is also applicable to

330 CNS malignancies. Given that the PCP pathway has been implicated in tumor
331 cell invasion and migration (Anastas and Moon, 2013; Paw et al., 2015;
332 Weeraratna et al., 2002), it is possible that Daam-family proteins also contribute
333 to these features of tumorigenesis. Recent studies have implicated Daam1,
334 Daam2 and other formin-family genes in the migration of breast and
335 neuroblastoma cell lines (Luga et al., 2012), respectively, suggesting that the
336 Daam-family proteins may also contribute to invasion and metastasis in other
337 malignancies.

338 Our previous studies have shown that Daam2 potentiates canonical Wnt
339 signaling through the clustering of existing Wnt receptor complexes (Lee and
340 Deneen, 2012). While the Wnt pathway has been implicated in several forms of
341 cancer, including medulloblastoma, mutations in key components of the Wnt-
342 pathway and dysregulated Wnt-signaling has not been widely linked to low- or
343 high-grade glioma (Bienz and Clevers, 2000; de La Coste et al., 1998; Klaus and
344 Birchmeier, 2008; Lustig and Behrens, 2003; Morin et al., 1997; Rubinfeld et al.,
345 1997; Zurawel et al., 1998). This, coupled with the fact that Daam2 acts upon
346 existing Wnt receptor complexes, may explain why we did not witness any overt
347 changes in Wnt activity when we manipulated Daam2 expression in our glioma
348 models. Nevertheless, we cannot formally rule out a possible role for Daam2 in
349 canonical or non-canonical Wnt signaling in glioma or in other malignancies
350 driven by Wnt dysregulation.

351

352

353 *New Parallels Between Development and Cancer*

354 Our observation that manipulation of Daam2 expression promoted tumorigenesis,
355 but not canonical Wnt signaling, points to the possibility that it functions through a
356 Wnt-independent mechanism. RPPA and bioinformatics approaches revealed
357 that Daam2 expression is inversely correlated with a cohort of genes (Figure S5),
358 including VHL, across a broad spectrum of cancers. Moreover, the RPPA data
359 analysis identified a larger cohort of proteins that were downregulated in the
360 presence of Daam2 in our mouse model of glioma. These observations, coupled
361 with our findings that Daam2 associates with- and facilitates- the ubiquitination of
362 VHL, suggest that it may also play a role in the ubiquitination pathway. The
363 nature of this prospective relationship between Daam2 and the existing
364 ubiquitination machinery, and whether these relationships are specific to
365 malignancy or can be extended to development are areas of future investigation
366 and represent potentially new parallels between development and cancer. Indeed
367 dysregulation of ubiquitination is linked to protein aggregation associated with
368 several neurological disorders, functioning through both neuronal and glial
369 populations (Jansen, et al. 2014 and Hedge and Upadhya, 2007)

370 Another feature of Daam2 is that it functions to suppress the differentiation
371 of oligodendrocyte progenitor cells (OPC) during development and after injury
372 (Lee et al., 2015). Studies in mouse models suggest that OPCs may serve as a
373 cell of origin for glioma, while NG2-positive OPC populations are endowed with
374 tumor initiating properties (Ligon et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2011; Persson et al.,
375 2010; Stiles and Rowitch, 2008; Sugiarto et al., 2011; Yadavilli et al., 2015).

376 Moreover, OPCs have latent proliferative capacity that is essential for injury
377 responses, suggesting parallels between the processes that drive injury
378 responses and tumorigenesis. Indeed recent studies have linked the VHL-HIF1 α
379 signaling axis to OPC development and neonatal hypoxic injury responses (Yuen
380 et al., 2014). That Daam2 promotes tumorigenesis via suppression of VHL and
381 also regulates OPC development and injury responses, suggests that it may also
382 utilize these tumorigenic mechanisms in the context of injury. Together these
383 findings add to the emerging evidence that OPC associated signaling networks
384 play critical roles in glioma pathophysiology and further reinforce the parallels
385 between neurological disorders and cancer biology.

386

387 Regulation of VHL in cancer

388 Mechanistic studies revealed that Daam2 promotes glioma tumorigenesis via
389 suppression of VHL, a classic tumor suppressor that promotes HIF1 α
390 degradation and inhibits Akt activity. Importantly, inactivating mutations in VHL
391 are predominately found in ccRCC and are very rare in most other forms of
392 cancer, including glioma. These observations raise the critical question of how
393 HIF1 α becomes upregulated in cancers that do not exhibit VHL mutations. Our
394 studies show, for the first time, a regulatory mechanism that operates upstream
395 of VHL in cancer and provides an explanation for how VHL expression is
396 extinguished in tumors that do not have inactivating mutations. Moreover,
397 because Daam2-VHL expression demonstrates a robust, inverse correlation
398 across a spectrum of cancers, this is likely to be a generalized mechanism of

399 VHL suppression in cancer. Interestingly, prior studies in yeast have shown that
400 VHL can be degraded via the Hsp70 and Hsp110 chaperone system (McClellan
401 et al., 2005; Melville et al., 2003). Given that Hsp's are expressed across a host
402 of cancers (Garcia-Morales et al., 2007; Nylandsted et al., 2002; Sauvageot et al.,
403 2009), it will be important to determine whether Daam2 engages the Hsp
404 chaperone system to facilitate VHL degradation in glioma and other malignancies.

405 Given its role as the central regulator of HIF1 α , surprisingly little is known
406 about the regulatory biology surrounding VHL and its role in glioma formation.
407 Studies in glioma cell lines suggest that ID2 interference with VHL activity can
408 deregulate HIF1 α expression and promote tumorigenesis in xenograft models
409 (Lee et al., 2016). Interestingly, ID2 has also been linked to the suppression of
410 OPC differentiation via direct regulation of cell cycle kinetics (Wang et al., 2001).
411 These observations further reinforce the relationship between OPC development
412 and glioma tumorigenesis and highlight key parallels between ID2 and Daam2
413 function across these systems, as both genes suppress VHL, inhibit OPC
414 differentiation, and promote glioma tumorigenesis. Because both proteins
415 associated with- and regulate- VHL, albeit via distinct mechanisms, it's possible
416 that these suppressive functions are coordinated and contribute tumorigenesis.
417 From this, a model emerges where ID2 displaces VHL from the ubiquitin complex,
418 which facilitates its association with Daam2 and its subsequent ubiquitination and
419 degradation. It will be important to decipher whether ID2 and Daam2 functions
420 are in fact coordinated, and the extent to which Hsp proteins participate in this
421 mechanism. Finally, understanding whether and how these prospective

422 relationships are also applicable to OPC development and injury responses may
423 also reveal new insights in CNS repair mechanisms.

424

425 **Materials and Methods**

426 **TCGA database analysis and Comparative Bioinformatics**

427 RNA expression data underlying the results presented in Figure 1 were
428 generated by TCGA Research Network (<http://cancergenome.nih.gov/>). All data
429 used in this study were publicly available, e.g. from The Broad Institute's
430 Firehose pipeline (<http://gdac.broadinstitute.org/>). From TCGA, we collected
431 molecular data on 10224 tumors of various histological subtypes, for which RNA-
432 seq data (v2 platform alignment) were available. Correlation between VHL and
433 AKT pS473 protein on TCGA samples, were obtained from The Cancer
434 Proteome Atlas, or T CPA.

435

436 **In Utero Electroporation (IUE)**

437 To generate mouse gliomas, we performed in utero electroporation (IUE). Briefly,
438 the uterine horns were exposed, and DNA combination was injected into the
439 embryonic lateral ventricles along with Fast Green dye as the indicator. Then
440 electroporation was accomplished by BTW tweezertrodes connected with the
441 pulse generator (BTX 8300) in the setting of 33V, 55ms per pulse 100ms intervals.
442 In CRISPR-IUE model, the DNA combination is composed of the “helper-plasmid”
443 pGLAST-PBase (2.0 ug/ul) and all the other DNA (1.0 ug/ul), including pbCAG-
444 GFP, pbCAG-Luciferase, crNF1, crPTEN, crp53(Chen and LoTurco, 2012; John

445 Lin et al., 2017a). In the HRas-IUE model, the DNA combination is composed of
446 pGLAST-PBase (2.0 ug/ul) and others (1.0 ug/ul), including pbCAG-GFP2aHRas
447 and pbCAG-Luciferase.

448

449 **Glioma Xenograft Assays**

450 6-week-old SCID male mice (Taconic) were used for human GBM cell line
451 transplantation. 4×10^4 luciferase-infected primary GBM cells were injected into
452 each mouse brain, at the location of the 1mm front, 2mm right, 3mm deep from
453 the Bregma. Animals were euthanized and perfused six weeks after
454 transplantation of GBM cells. Brains were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and
455 70% EtOH overnight, respectively. After fixation, brains were embedded in
456 paraffin, sectioned and subjected to molecular and pathological analysis via
457 immunostaining or hematoxylin and eosin staining.

458

459 **Bioluminescent Imaging**

460 To measure the tumor growth after manipulation of Daam2 we performed
461 bioluminescent imaging before harvesting. Mice were monitored once a week. D-
462 Luciferin (Perkin Elmer, #122799) was diluted to 15 mg/ml with PBS and injected
463 into each mouse at a dose of 10 ul/g body weight.

464

465 **Cell Growth Curve and Agar Assays**

466 For *in vitro* human GBM cell line studies, adult GBM-1 and GBM-2 cell lines were
467 kindly provided from Dr. Nabil Ahmed (Hegde et al., 2013). To manipulate the

468 expression of Daam2 in GBM cell lines, we used the lentivirus as described
469 above. To virally infect human primary GBM cells, 1.5×10^4 cells were plated in 6-
470 well plates with DMEM + 10% FBS. Cells were infected with either Daam2 or
471 Daam2 shRNAi virus for 14 hours to make the stable cell line for GOF and LOF
472 study, respectively. To assess rates of cell growth, 2×10^4 cells were plated in 12-
473 well plates and cells were counted over the course of three days.

474 For the agar assay, 2.5×10^4 cells (cell agar layer) was mixed with 5ml
475 Iscove's 1.4% Nobel Agar + 40% FBS, covered by top and bottom coating agar
476 layers (2ml Iscove's 1.4% Nobel Agar + 20% FBS) in a 6mm plate. We tightly
477 monitored the colony formation for several weeks.

478

479 **In Vitro Degradation Assay**

480 To test VHL degradation, 1×10^5 293T cells were plated into the 12 well plate
481 one day before transfection. 100 ng Myc-tagged Daam2 and GFP-tagged VHL
482 was transfected by iMfectin DNA Transfection Reagent (GenDEPOT) according
483 to the protocol. 30 hours post-transfection, cells were treated with 50 ul/ml CHX
484 for 0, 2, 4, 6 ,hours. Lysis and Western blot process is described in the
485 supplemental methods. To quantify the protein abundance the Western blot band
486 intensity in the 0-hour sample of both VHL+/- Damm2 groups are set as "1". The
487 intensity of 2, 4, 6-hour degradation western blot band is normalized and plotted
488 using Nonlinear Regression Curve by GraphPad.

489

490 **Statistical Analysis**

491 One-way ANOVA was used to analyze bioluminescent intensity and BrdU-
492 positive cell counts to determine the differences between Ctrl, D2 and D2/VHL
493 groups, followed by Tukey's test to compare between individual groups, which is
494 demarcated by an asterisk in the graphs. Independent *t*-test was used to analyze
495 the differences in bioluminescent intensity and BrdU-positive cell counts between
496 Ctrl vs. D2, Het vs. KO, Scrambled-shRNAi vs. D2-shRNAi.

497

498 **Please see supplemental methods for additional experimental details.**

499

500 **Author Contributions**

501 Conceptualization: W.Z, H.K.L, and B.D.; Methodology: W.Z., S.K., C.G., C.C.L.,
502 C.A.M., S.H.Y., H.K.L; Data Analysis: W.Z., C.J.C, C.A.M., H.K.L., B.D.; Key
503 Reagents: K.S., S.H.Y; Writing Manuscript: W.Z., H.K.L, and B.D.

504

505 **Acknowledgements**

506 This work was supported by grants from the Sontag Foundation (BD), Cancer
507 Prevention Research Institute of Texas (RP510334 and RP160192 to BD and
508 CC), and the National Institutes of Health (NS071153 and NS089366 to BD).
509 National Multiple Sclerosis Society (TA3054-A to HKL). We acknowledge the
510 assistance of the Baylor College of Medicine Mouse Phenotyping Core, the
511 Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center's Pathology Core, and Functional
512 Proteomics RPPA Core Facility at MD Anderson Cancer Center, this facility is
513 funded by NCI # CA16672. This project was also supported in part by the IDRC

514 grant number 1U54 HD083092 from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National
515 Institute of Child Health & Human Development.

516

517 **References**

518

519 Akbani, R., Ng, P.K., Werner, H.M., Shahmoradgoli, M., Zhang, F., Ju, Z., Liu, W.,
520 Yang, J.Y., Yoshihara, K., Li, J., *et al.* (2014). A pan-cancer proteomic
521 perspective on The Cancer Genome Atlas. *Nat Commun* 5, 3887.

522 Alcantara Llaguno, S., Chen, J., Kwon, C.H., Jackson, E.L., Li, Y., Burns, D.K.,
523 Alvarez-Buylla, A., and Parada, L.F. (2009). Malignant astrocytomas originate
524 from neural stem/progenitor cells in a somatic tumor suppressor mouse model.
525 *Cancer Cell* 15, 45-56.

526 Anastas, J.N., and Moon, R.T. (2013). WNT signalling pathways as therapeutic
527 targets in cancer. *Nat Rev Cancer* 13, 11-26.

528 Bienz, M., and Clevers, H. (2000). Linking colorectal cancer to Wnt signaling.
529 *Cell* 103, 311-320.

530 Cancer Genome Atlas Research, N., Weinstein, J.N., Collisson, E.A., Mills, G.B.,
531 Shaw, K.R., Ozenberger, B.A., Ellrott, K., Shmulevich, I., Sander, C., and Stuart,
532 J.M. (2013). The Cancer Genome Atlas Pan-Cancer analysis project. *Nat Genet*
533 45, 1113-1120.

534 Chen, F., Becker, A., and LoTurco, J. (2016). Overview of Transgenic
535 Glioblastoma and Oligoastrocytoma CNS Models and Their Utility in Drug
536 Discovery. *Curr Protoc Pharmacol* 72, 14 37 11-12.

537 Chen, F., Kishida, T., Yao, M., Hustad, T., Glavac, D., Dean, M., Gnarr, J.R.,
538 Orcutt, M.L., Duh, F.M., Glenn, G., *et al.* (1995). Germline mutations in the von
539 Hippel-Lindau disease tumor suppressor gene: correlations with phenotype. *Hum*
540 *Mutat* 5, 66-75.

541 Chen, F., and LoTurco, J. (2012). A method for stable transgenesis of radial glia
542 lineage in rat neocortex by piggyBac mediated transposition. *J Neurosci Methods*
543 207, 172-180.

544 Chen, J., Li, Y., Yu, T.S., McKay, R.M., Burns, D.K., Kernie, S.G., and Parada,
545 L.F. (2012). A restricted cell population propagates glioblastoma growth after
546 chemotherapy. *Nature* 488, 522-526.

547 Cong, L., Ran, F.A., Cox, D., Lin, S., Barretto, R., Habib, N., Hsu, P.D., Wu, X.,
548 Jiang, W., Marraffini, L.A., *et al.* (2013). Multiplex genome engineering using
549 CRISPR/Cas systems. *Science* 339, 819-823.

- 550 de La Coste, A., Romagnolo, B., Billuart, P., Renard, C.A., Buendia, M.A.,
551 Soubrane, O., Fabre, M., Chelly, J., Beldjord, C., Kahn, A., *et al.* (1998). Somatic
552 mutations of the beta-catenin gene are frequent in mouse and human
553 hepatocellular carcinomas. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 95, 8847-8851.
- 554 Esteller, M., Hamilton, S.R., Burger, P.C., Baylin, S.B., and Herman, J.G. (1999).
555 Inactivation of the DNA repair gene O6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase
556 by promoter hypermethylation is a common event in primary human neoplasia.
557 *Cancer Res* 59, 793-797.
- 558 Fan, Y., Potdar, A.A., Gong, Y., Eswarappa, S.M., Donnola, S., Lathia, J.D.,
559 Hambardzumyan, D., Rich, J.N., and Fox, P.L. (2014). Profilin-1 phosphorylation
560 directs angiocrine expression and glioblastoma progression through HIF-1alpha
561 accumulation. *Nat Cell Biol* 16, 445-456.
- 562 Garcia-Morales, P., Carrasco-Garcia, E., Ruiz-Rico, P., Martinez-Mira, R.,
563 Menendez-Gutierrez, M.P., Ferragut, J.A., Saceda, M., and Martinez-Lacaci, I.
564 (2007). Inhibition of Hsp90 function by ansamycins causes downregulation of
565 cdc2 and cdc25c and G(2)/M arrest in glioblastoma cell lines. *Oncogene* 26,
566 7185-7193.
- 567 Gossage, L., Eisen, T., and Maher, E.R. (2015). VHL, the story of a tumour
568 suppressor gene. *Nat Rev Cancer* 15, 55-64.
- 569 Guo, J., Chakraborty, A.A., Liu, P., Gan, W., Zheng, X., Inuzuka, H., Wang, B.,
570 Zhang, J., Zhang, L., Yuan, M., *et al.* (2016). pVHL suppresses kinase activity of
571 Akt in a proline-hydroxylation-dependent manner. *Science* 353, 929-932.
- 572 Habas, R., Kato, Y., and He, X. (2001). Wnt/Frizzled activation of Rho regulates
573 vertebrate gastrulation and requires a novel Formin homology protein Daam1.
574 *Cell* 107, 843-854.
- 575 Hanahan, D., and Weinberg, R.A. (2011). Hallmarks of cancer: the next
576 generation. *Cell* 144, 646-674.
- 577 Hegde, M., Corder, A., Chow, K.K., Mukherjee, M., Ashoori, A., Kew, Y., Zhang,
578 Y.J., Baskin, D.S., Merchant, F.A., Brawley, V.S., *et al.* (2013). Combinational
579 Targeting Offsets Antigen Escape and Enhances Effector Functions of Adoptively
580 Transferred T Cells in Glioblastoma. *Mol Ther* 21, 2087-2101.
- 581 Hegi, M.E., Diserens, A.C., Godard, S., Dietrich, P.Y., Regli, L., Ostermann, S.,
582 Otten, P., Van Melle, G., de Tribolet, N., and Stupp, R. (2004). Clinical trial
583 substantiates the predictive value of O-6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase
584 promoter methylation in glioblastoma patients treated with temozolomide. *Clin*
585 *Cancer Res* 10, 1871-1874.
- 586 Ivan, M., Kondo, K., Yang, H., Kim, W., Valiando, J., Ohh, M., Salic, A., Asara,
587 J.M., Lane, W.S., and Kaelin, W.G., Jr. (2001). HIFalpha targeted for VHL-

- 588 mediated destruction by proline hydroxylation: implications for O₂ sensing.
589 *Science* 292, 464-468.
- 590 Jaakkola, P., Mole, D.R., Tian, Y.M., Wilson, M.I., Gielbert, J., Gaskell, S.J., von
591 Kriegsheim, A., Hebestreit, H.F., Mukherji, M., Schofield, C.J., *et al.* (2001).
592 Targeting of HIF- α to the von Hippel-Lindau ubiquitylation complex by O₂-
593 regulated prolyl hydroxylation. *Science* 292, 468-472.
- 594 Jackson, E.L., Garcia-Verdugo, J.M., Gil-Perotin, S., Roy, M., Quinones-Hinojosa,
595 A., VandenBerg, S., and Alvarez-Buylla, A. (2006). PDGFR α -positive B cells
596 are neural stem cells in the adult SVZ that form glioma-like growths in response
597 to increased PDGF signaling. *Neuron* 51, 187-199.
- 598 John Lin, C.C., Yu, K., Hatcher, A., Huang, T.W., Lee, H.K., Carlson, J., Weston,
599 M.C., Chen, F., Zhang, Y., Zhu, W., *et al.* (2017a). Identification of diverse
600 astrocyte populations and their malignant analogs. *Nat Neurosci*.
- 601 John Lin, C.C., Yu, K., Hatcher, A., Huang, T.W., Lee, H.K., Carlson, J., Weston,
602 M.C., Chen, F., Zhang, Y., Zhu, W., *et al.* (2017b). Identification of diverse
603 astrocyte populations and their malignant analogs. *Nat Neurosci* 20, 396-405.
- 604 Keith, B., and Simon, M.C. (2007). Hypoxia-inducible factors, stem cells, and
605 cancer. *Cell* 129, 465-472.
- 606 Kerscher, O., Felberbaum, R., and Hochstrasser, M. (2006). Modification of
607 proteins by ubiquitin and ubiquitin-like proteins. *Annu Rev Cell Dev Biol* 22, 159-
608 180.
- 609 Kesari, S., Ramakrishna, N., Sauvageot, C., Stiles, C.D., and Wen, P.Y. (2005).
610 Targeted molecular therapy of malignant gliomas. *Curr Neurol Neurosci Rep* 5,
611 186-197.
- 612 Kida, Y., Shiraishi, T., and Ogura, T. (2004). Identification of chick and mouse
613 Daam1 and Daam2 genes and their expression patterns in the central nervous
614 system. *Brain Res Dev Brain Res* 153, 143-150.
- 615 Kim, W.Y., and Kaelin, W.G. (2004). Role of VHL gene mutation in human cancer.
616 *J Clin Oncol* 22, 4991-5004.
- 617 Klaus, A., and Birchmeier, W. (2008). Wnt signalling and its impact on
618 development and cancer. *Nat Rev Cancer* 8, 387-398.
- 619 Kwon, C.H., Zhao, D., Chen, J., Alcantara, S., Li, Y., Burns, D.K., Mason, R.P.,
620 Lee, E.Y., Wu, H., and Parada, L.F. (2008). Pten haploinsufficiency accelerates
621 formation of high-grade astrocytomas. *Cancer Res* 68, 3286-3294.

- 622 Lee, H.K., Chaboub, L.S., Zhu, W., Zollinger, D., Rasband, M.N., Fancy, S.P.,
623 and Deneen, B. (2015). Daam2-PIP5K is a regulatory pathway for Wnt signaling
624 and therapeutic target for remyelination in the CNS. *Neuron* 85, 1227-1243.
- 625 Lee, H.K., and Deneen, B. (2012). Daam2 is required for dorsal patterning via
626 modulation of canonical Wnt signaling in the developing spinal cord. *Dev Cell* 22,
627 183-196.
- 628 Lee, S.B., Frattini, V., Bansal, M., Castano, A.M., Sherman, D., Hutchinson, K.,
629 Bruce, J.N., Califano, A., Liu, G., Cardozo, T., *et al.* (2016). An ID2-dependent
630 mechanism for VHL inactivation in cancer. *Nature* 529, 172-177.
- 631 Li, D., Hallett, M.A., Zhu, W., Rubart, M., Liu, Y., Yang, Z., Chen, H., Haneline,
632 L.S., Chan, R.J., Schwartz, R.J., *et al.* (2011). Dishevelled-associated activator of
633 morphogenesis 1 (Daam1) is required for heart morphogenesis. *Development*
634 138, 303-315.
- 635 Ligon, K.L., Huillard, E., Mehta, S., Kesari, S., Liu, H., Alberta, J.A., Bachoo,
636 R.M., Kane, M., Louis, D.N., Depinho, R.A., *et al.* (2007). Olig2-regulated
637 lineage-restricted pathway controls replication competence in neural stem cells
638 and malignant glioma. *Neuron* 53, 503-517.
- 639 Liu, C., Sage, J.C., Miller, M.R., Verhaak, R.G., Hippenmeyer, S., Vogel, H.,
640 Foreman, O., Bronson, R.T., Nishiyama, A., Luo, L., *et al.* (2011). Mosaic
641 analysis with double markers reveals tumor cell of origin in glioma. *Cell* 146, 209-
642 221.
- 643 Liu, W., Sato, A., Khadka, D., Bharti, R., Diaz, H., Runnels, L.W., and Habas, R.
644 (2008). Mechanism of activation of the Formin protein Daam1. *Proc Natl Acad*
645 *Sci U S A* 105, 210-215.
- 646 Luga, V., Zhang, L., Vitoria-Petit, A.M., Ogunjimi, A.A., Inanlou, M.R., Chiu, E.,
647 Buchanan, M., Hosein, A.N., Basik, M., and Wrana, J.L. (2012). Exosomes
648 mediate stromal mobilization of autocrine Wnt-PCP signaling in breast cancer
649 cell migration. *Cell* 151, 1542-1556.
- 650 Lustig, B., and Behrens, J. (2003). The Wnt signaling pathway and its role in
651 tumor development. *J Cancer Res Clin Oncol* 129, 199-221.
- 652 Maher, E.R., Yates, J.R., Harries, R., Benjamin, C., Harris, R., Moore, A.T., and
653 Ferguson-Smith, M.A. (1990). Clinical features and natural history of von Hippel-
654 Lindau disease. *Q J Med* 77, 1151-1163.
- 655 Maxwell, P.H., Wiesener, M.S., Chang, G.W., Clifford, S.C., Vaux, E.C.,
656 Cockman, M.E., Wykoff, C.C., Pugh, C.W., Maher, E.R., and Ratcliffe, P.J.
657 (1999). The tumour suppressor protein VHL targets hypoxia-inducible factors for
658 oxygen-dependent proteolysis. *Nature* 399, 271-275.

- 659 McClellan, A.J., Scott, M.D., and Frydman, J. (2005). Folding and quality control
660 of the VHL tumor suppressor proceed through distinct chaperone pathways. *Cell*
661 *121*, 739-748.
- 662 Melville, M.W., McClellan, A.J., Meyer, A.S., Darveau, A., and Frydman, J.
663 (2003). The Hsp70 and TRiC/CCT chaperone systems cooperate in vivo to
664 assemble the von Hippel-Lindau tumor suppressor complex. *Mol Cell Biol* *23*,
665 3141-3151.
- 666 Min, J.H., Yang, H., Ivan, M., Gertler, F., Kaelin, W.G., Jr., and Pavletich, N.P.
667 (2002). Structure of an HIF-1alpha -pVHL complex: hydroxyproline recognition in
668 signaling. *Science* *296*, 1886-1889.
- 669 Morin, P.J., Sparks, A.B., Korinek, V., Barker, N., Clevers, H., Vogelstein, B., and
670 Kinzler, K.W. (1997). Activation of beta-catenin-Tcf signaling in colon cancer by
671 mutations in beta-catenin or APC. *Science* *275*, 1787-1790.
- 672 Nakaya, M.A., Habas, R., Biris, K., Dunty, W.C., Jr., Kato, Y., He, X., and
673 Yamaguchi, T.P. (2004). Identification and comparative expression analyses of
674 Daam genes in mouse and *Xenopus*. *Gene Expr Patterns* *5*, 97-105.
- 675 Nylandsted, J., Wick, W., Hirt, U.A., Brand, K., Rohde, M., Leist, M., Weller, M.,
676 and Jaattela, M. (2002). Eradication of glioblastoma, and breast and colon
677 carcinoma xenografts by Hsp70 depletion. *Cancer Res* *62*, 7139-7142.
- 678 Ohh, M., Park, C.W., Ivan, M., Hoffman, M.A., Kim, T.Y., Huang, L.E., Pavletich,
679 N., Chau, V., and Kaelin, W.G. (2000). Ubiquitination of hypoxia-inducible factor
680 requires direct binding to the beta-domain of the von Hippel-Lindau protein. *Nat*
681 *Cell Biol* *2*, 423-427.
- 682 Paw, I., Carpenter, R.C., Watabe, K., Debinski, W., and Lo, H.W. (2015).
683 Mechanisms regulating glioma invasion. *Cancer Lett* *362*, 1-7.
- 684 Persson, A.I., Petritsch, C., Swartling, F.J., Itsara, M., Sim, F.J., Auvergne, R.,
685 Goldenberg, D.D., Vandenberg, S.R., Nguyen, K.N., Yakovenko, S., *et al.* (2010).
686 Non-stem cell origin for oligodendroglioma. *Cancer Cell* *18*, 669-682.
- 687 Pickart, C.M., and Eddins, M.J. (2004). Ubiquitin: structures, functions,
688 mechanisms. *Biochim Biophys Acta* *1695*, 55-72.
- 689 Pineda, C.T., Ramanathan, S., Fon Tacer, K., Weon, J.L., Potts, M.B., Ou, Y.H.,
690 White, M.A., and Potts, P.R. (2015). Degradation of AMPK by a cancer-specific
691 ubiquitin ligase. *Cell* *160*, 715-728.
- 692 Reinstein, E., and Ciechanover, A. (2006). Narrative review: protein degradation
693 and human diseases: the ubiquitin connection. *Ann Intern Med* *145*, 676-684.

- 694 Rubinfeld, B., Robbins, P., El-Gamil, M., Albert, I., Porfiri, E., and Polakis, P.
695 (1997). Stabilization of beta-catenin by genetic defects in melanoma cell lines.
696 *Science* 275, 1790-1792.
- 697 Sauvageot, C.M., Weatherbee, J.L., Kesari, S., Winters, S.E., Barnes, J.,
698 Dellagatta, J., Ramakrishna, N.R., Stiles, C.D., Kung, A.L., Kieran, M.W., *et al.*
699 (2009). Efficacy of the HSP90 inhibitor 17-AAG in human glioma cell lines and
700 tumorigenic glioma stem cells. *Neuro Oncol* 11, 109-121.
- 701 Semenza, G.L. (2003). Targeting HIF-1 for cancer therapy. *Nat Rev Cancer* 3,
702 721-732.
- 703 Semenza, G.L. (2004). Intratumoral hypoxia, radiation resistance, and HIF-1.
704 *Cancer Cell* 5, 405-406.
- 705 Shen, L., Kondo, Y., Rosner, G.L., Xiao, L., Hernandez, N.S., Vilaythong, J.,
706 Houlihan, P.S., Krouse, R.S., Prasad, A.R., Einspahr, J.G., *et al.* (2005). MGMT
707 promoter methylation and field defect in sporadic colorectal cancer. *J Natl*
708 *Cancer Inst* 97, 1330-1338.
- 709 Stiles, C.D., and Rowitch, D.H. (2008). Glioma stem cells: a midterm exam.
710 *Neuron* 58, 832-846.
- 711 Sugiarto, S., Persson, A.I., Munoz, E.G., Waldhuber, M., Lamagna, C., Andor, N.,
712 Hanecker, P., Ayers-Ringler, J., Phillips, J., Siu, J., *et al.* (2011). Asymmetry-
713 defective oligodendrocyte progenitors are glioma precursors. *Cancer Cell* 20,
714 328-340.
- 715 Ulrich, H.D., and Walden, H. (2010). Ubiquitin signalling in DNA replication and
716 repair. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 11, 479-489.
- 717 Wang, S., Sdrulla, A., Johnson, J.E., Yokota, Y., and Barres, B.A. (2001). A role
718 for the helix-loop-helix protein Id2 in the control of oligodendrocyte development.
719 *Neuron* 29, 603-614.
- 720 Weeraratna, A.T., Jiang, Y., Hostetter, G., Rosenblatt, K., Duray, P., Bittner, M.,
721 and Trent, J.M. (2002). Wnt5a signaling directly affects cell motility and invasion
722 of metastatic melanoma. *Cancer Cell* 1, 279-288.
- 723 Yadavilli, S., Scafidi, J., Becher, O.J., Saratsis, A.M., Hiner, R.L., Kambhampati,
724 M., Mariarita, S., MacDonald, T.J., Codispoti, K.E., Magge, S.N., *et al.* (2015).
725 The emerging role of NG2 in pediatric diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. *Oncotarget*
726 6, 12141-12155.
- 727 Yuen, T.J., Silbereis, J.C., Griveau, A., Chang, S.M., Daneman, R., Fancy, S.P.,
728 Zahed, H., Maltepe, E., and Rowitch, D.H. (2014). Oligodendrocyte-encoded HIF
729 function couples postnatal myelination and white matter angiogenesis. *Cell* 158,
730 383-396.

- 731 Zhu, Y., Guignard, F., Zhao, D., Liu, L., Burns, D.K., Mason, R.P., Messing, A.,
732 and Parada, L.F. (2005). Early inactivation of p53 tumor suppressor gene
733 cooperating with NF1 loss induces malignant astrocytoma. *Cancer Cell* 8, 119-
734 130.
- 735 Zhu, Y., Tian, Y., Du, J., Hu, Z., Yang, L., Liu, J., and Gu, L. (2012). Dvl2-
736 dependent activation of Daam1 and RhoA regulates Wnt5a-induced breast
737 cancer cell migration. *PLoS One* 7, e37823.
- 738 Zochbauer-Muller, S., Fong, K.M., Virmani, A.K., Geradts, J., Gazdar, A.F., and
739 Minna, J.D. (2001). Aberrant promoter methylation of multiple genes in non-small
740 cell lung cancers. *Cancer Res* 61, 249-255.
- 741 Zurawel, R.H., Chiappa, S.A., Allen, C., and Raffel, C. (1998). Sporadic
742 medulloblastomas contain oncogenic beta-catenin mutations. *Cancer Res* 58,
743 896-899.

744
745
746

747 **Figure Legends**

748
749

Figure 1. Daam2 is expressed in human glioma

750 (A) Analysis of Daam2 RNA expression across a spectrum of cancers. Data was
751 generated by TCGA Research Network and is publicly available (see methods).
752 Box plots represent 5%, 25%, 50%, 75%, and 95%. Asterisk denotes tumor
753 groups significantly higher (red) or lower (blue) as compared to corresponding
754 non-tumor ("normal") group. P-values were generated by t-test on log-
755 transformed data. (B) Tissue microarray showing in situ hybridization expression
756 analysis of human Daam2 across 35 LGG (red boxes) and 40 GBM (green
757 boxes). Blue box denotes normal human brain samples. (C) Graded pathological
758 scoring (0-low intensity, 3-high intensity) of Daam2 expression in the samples in
759 B; values are the percentage of LGG and GBM tumors from the tissue microarray
760 that were assigned respective score. (D) Immunohistochemistry analysis of
761 Daam2-LacZ expression in mouse glioma generated in Daam2^{LacZ/+} mice.

762 **Figure 2. Daam2 accelerates glioma tumorigenesis**

763 (A-B) Cell proliferation analysis of human GBM1 and GBM2 cell lines infected
764 with lentivirus containing Daam2 or GFP control. (C-D) Soft agar assay with
765 GBM1 cell line infected with lentivirus containing Daam2 or GFP control, images
766 are representative. Each of these *in vitro* experiments was performed in triplicate
767 and replicated three times. (E-G) Representative bioluminescence imaging of
768 mice bearing CRISPR-IUE glioma with Daam2 overexpression or control, imaged
769 at 7 weeks of age. Imaging quantification in G is derived from 7 Daam2-
770 overexpression and 8 control mice; *p=0.0079. (H-J) Immunohistochemistry
771 analysis of BrdU expression from mice bearing CRISPR-IUE glioma from each
772 experimental condition. Relative number of BrdU expressing cells is quantified in
773 J and is derived from 6 total mice, 4 slides per mouse, from each experimental
774 condition; ***p=0.0019. Scale bar in H is 50nm. Error bars in G and J are +/-
775 SEM.

776

777

778 **Figure 3. Loss of Daam2 suppresses glioma tumorigenesis**

779 (A) qRT-PCR demonstrating effective knockdown of human Daam2 mRNA
780 expression in human GBM1 cell line infected with lentivirus containing Daam2-
781 shRNAi or scrambled control. (B) Cell proliferation analysis of human GBM1 cell
782 line infected with human Daam2-shRNAi or scrambled control lentivirus. (C-E)
783 Representative bioluminescence imaging of mice transplanted with GBM1 cell
784 lines transfected with Daam2-shRNAi or scrambled control, imaged 6 weeks

785 post-transplantation. Imaging quantification is derived from 7 mice transplanted
786 with GBM1/Daam2-shRNAi and 5 GBM1/scrambled controls; *p=0.0325. (F-H)
787 Representative bioluminescence imaging of mice bearing CRISPR-IUE glioma
788 generated in *Daam2*^{+/-} or *Daam2*^{-/-} mice, imaged at 8 weeks of age. Imaging
789 quantification is derived from 8 *Daam2*^{-/-} and 9 *Daam2*^{+/-} mice; **p=0.0049. (I-K)
790 Immunohistochemistry analysis of BrdU expression from mice bearing CRISPR-
791 IUE glioma from each experimental condition. Relative number of BrdU
792 expressing cells is quantified in K and is derived from 6 total mice, 4 slides per
793 mouse, from each experimental condition; ****p=0.00001. Scale bar in I is 50nm.
794 Error bars in E, H and K are +/- SEM.

795

796

797 **Figure 4. Daam2 suppresses VHL expression**

798 (A) Heatmap analysis of RPPA data showing the core cohort of proteins
799 downregulated by overexpression of Daam2 in the PB-Ras mouse glioma model.
800 (B) Correlation of Daam2 mRNA expression with VHL and Akt pS473 protein
801 expression data and HIF1 α mRNA expression. Protein and mRNA expression
802 data from samples was obtained from The Cancer Proteome Atlas (TCPA) and
803 correlations with Daam2 mRNA was performed using Pearson's. Abbreviated
804 cancer type is listed on top panel and number of tumors analyzed in the TCPA
805 dataset for each cancer type is listed in parenthesis; GBM is denoted by green
806 text. (C-F) Representative immunohistochemical analysis of VHL expression in
807 CRISPR-IUE glioma tumors derived from Daam2-overexpression (D) or knockout

808 of Daam2 (F) and associated controls. (G-J) Representative
809 immunohistochemical analysis of Akt pS473 expression in CRISPR-IUE glioma
810 tumors derived from Daam2-overexpression (H) or knockout of Daam2 (J) and
811 associated controls. Images are representative of analysis performed on 6
812 independent tumors for each experimental condition. (K) Immunoblot with
813 antibodies against HIF1 α from protein lysates derived from CRISPR-IUE glioma
814 overexpressing Daam2 or control. Scale bars in C and G are 50nm.

815

816 **Figure 5. Daam2 promotes gliogenesis via suppression of VHL**

817 (A-B) Cell proliferation analysis of human GBM1 and GBM2 cell lines infected
818 with lentivirus containing Daam2, GFP control, or Daam2+VHL. (C-E, I)
819 Representative bioluminescence imaging of mice bearing PB-Ras glioma with
820 Daam2 overexpression, Daam2+VHL overexpression, or control, imaged at
821 10days post-natal. Imaging quantification in I is derived from 10 Daam2-
822 overexpression, 6 Daam2+VHL, and 12 control mice; *p=0.0001, **p=0.0046. (F-
823 H, M) Immunohistochemistry analysis of BrdU expression from mice bearing PB-
824 Ras glioma from each experimental condition. Relative number of BrdU
825 expressing cells is quantified in M and is derived from 6 total mice, 4 slides per
826 mouse, from each experimental condition; *p=0.0089, **p=0.0007. (J-L)
827 Representative immunohistochemical analysis of VHL expression in PB-Ras
828 glioma from described experimental conditions and associated controls. (N-P)
829 Representative immunohistochemical analysis of Akt pS473 expression in PB-
830 Ras glioma tumors derived from the described experimental conditions and

831 associated controls. Images in J-P are representative of analysis performed on 6
832 independent tumors for each experimental condition. Statistics derived by one-
833 way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and followed by Tukey's test for between-
834 group comparisons. Scale bar in F is 50nm. Error bars in I and M are +/- SEM.

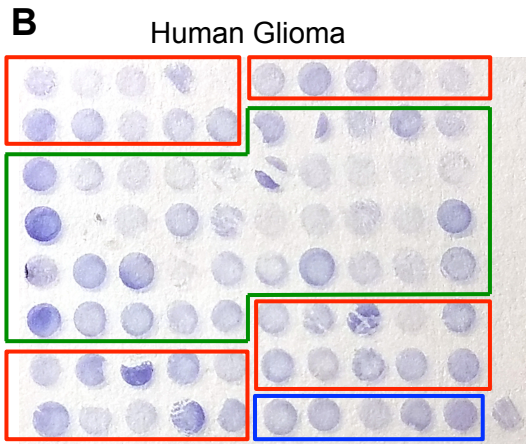
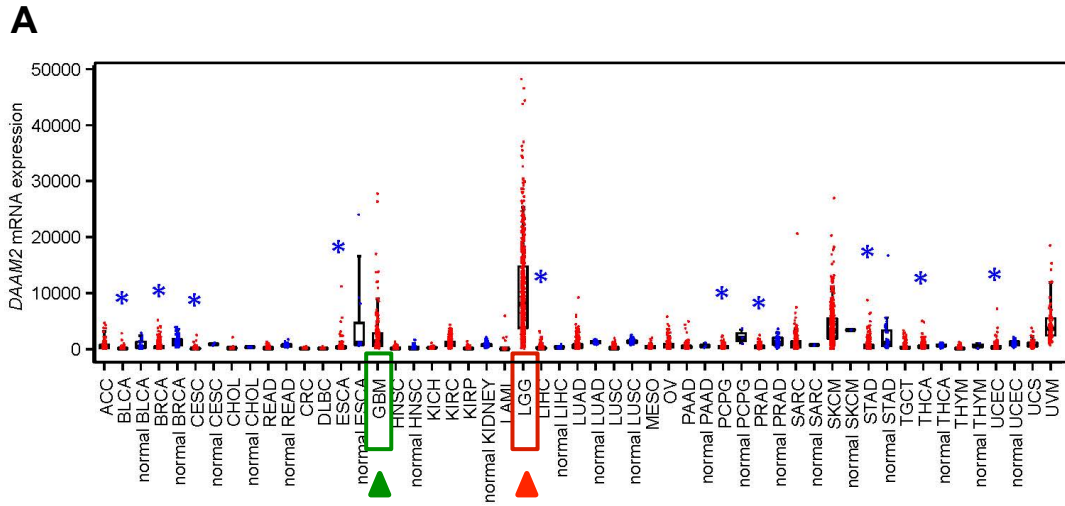
835

836 **Figure 6. Daam2 mediates VHL degradation and ubiquitination**

837 (A) Immunoprecipitation of Flag-Daam2, followed by immunoblot with VHL on
838 lysates derived from PB-Ras glioma overexpressing Flag-Daam2. Detection of
839 endogenous VHL in the "IP" lane, indicates Daam2 associates with VHL in
840 mouse glioma. (B,D) 293 cells were transfected with VHL and Daam2 (or control).
841 24 hrs after transfection, cells were treated with 40µg/ml cycloheximide and
842 incubated for the indicated time before harvest. Western blotting was performed
843 to monitor VHL levels using anti-VHL antibody. Quantification in D shows the
844 effect of Daam2 on VHL stability. Half-life of VHL (5.082hr) was significantly
845 decreased in the presence of Daam2 (3.679hr). Error bars represent mean ±
846 SEM (n=3). Half-life was determined via nonlinear, one-phase exponential decay
847 analysis (half-life parameter, K, is significantly different in two conditions:
848 p=0.0081). Error bars represent mean ± SEM (n=3). (C) Daam2 enhances VHL
849 ubiquitination. 293T cells were co-transfected with Flag-VHL, HA-UB(ubiquitin),
850 and Myc-Daam2. Cells were treated with MG132 (10ug/ml) 6 hrs before harvest.
851 Whole-cell lysate were immunoprecipitated with anti-Flag M2 beads then
852 analyzed by western blotting with Flag and HA antibodies.

853

Figure 1



C

Score	LGG	GBM
0	8%	0%
1	15%	24%
2	62%	61%
3	23%	16%

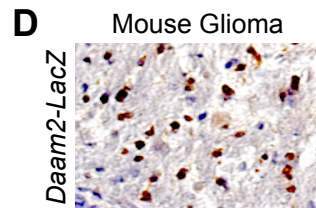


Figure 2

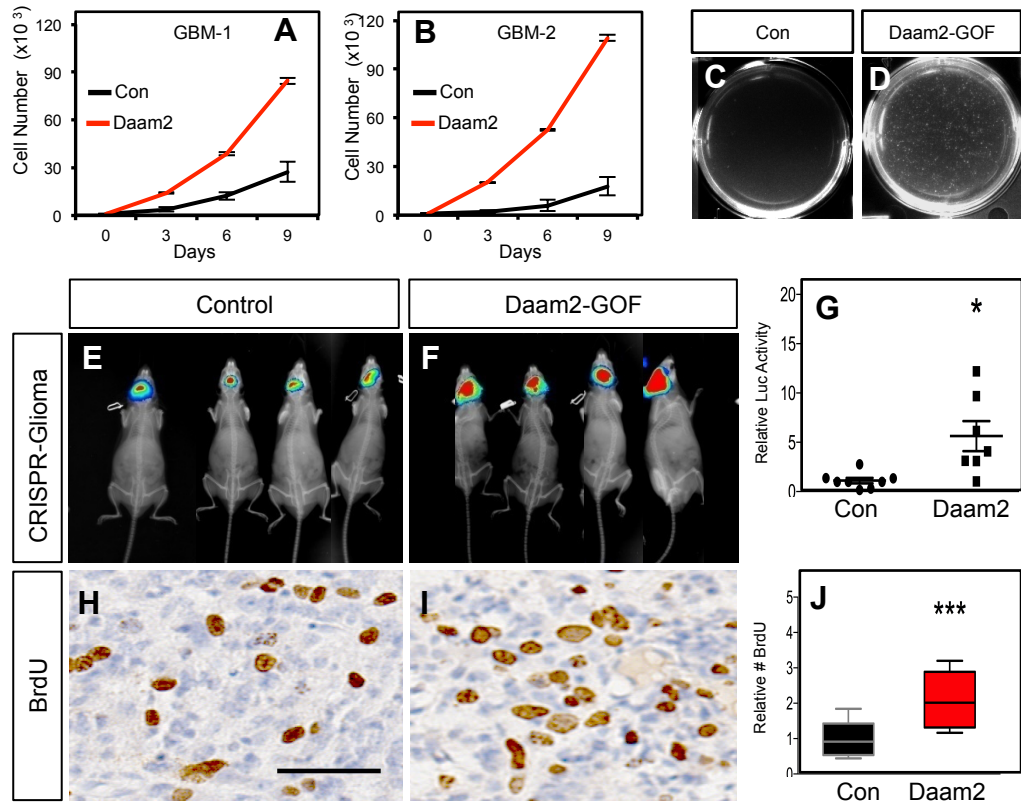


Figure 3

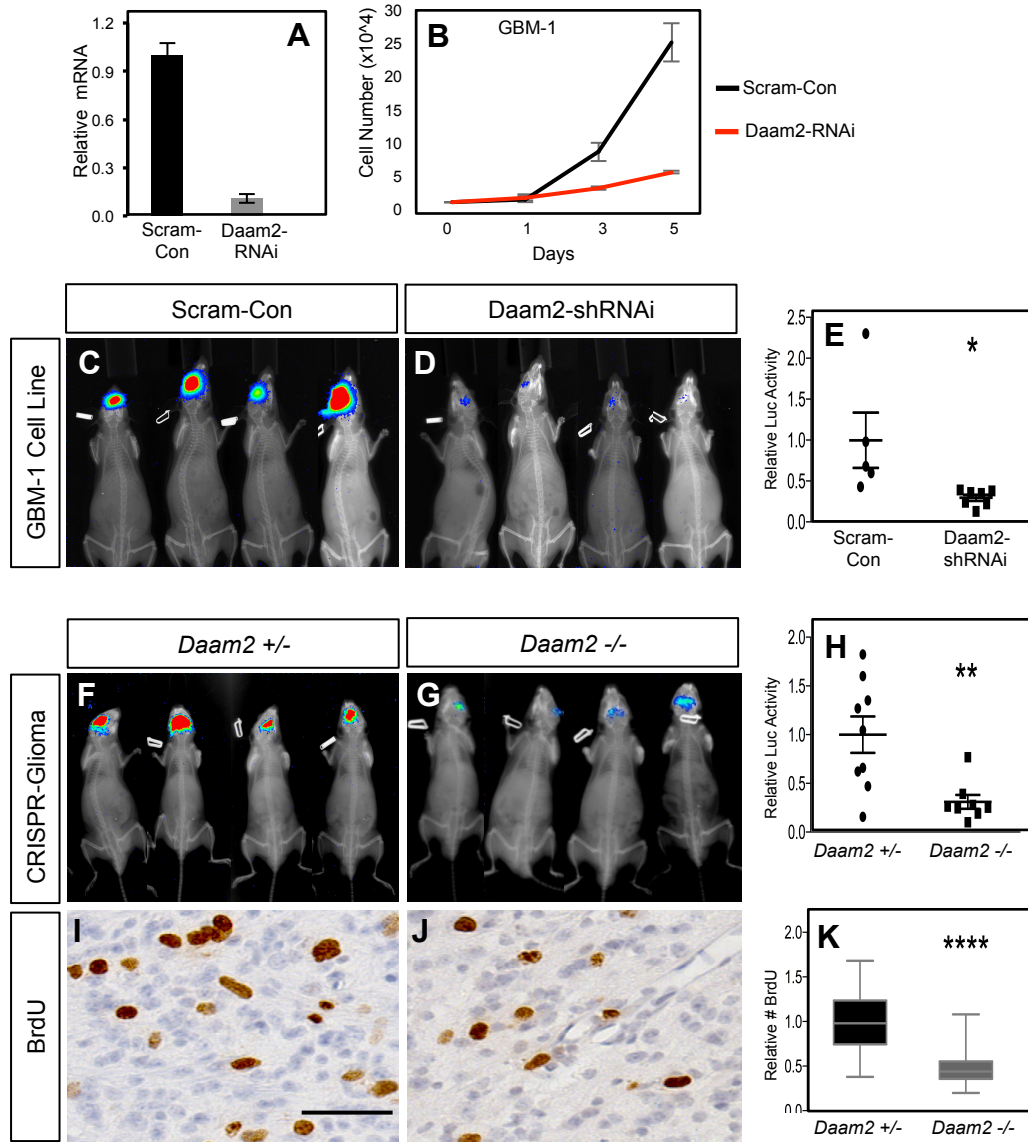


Figure 4

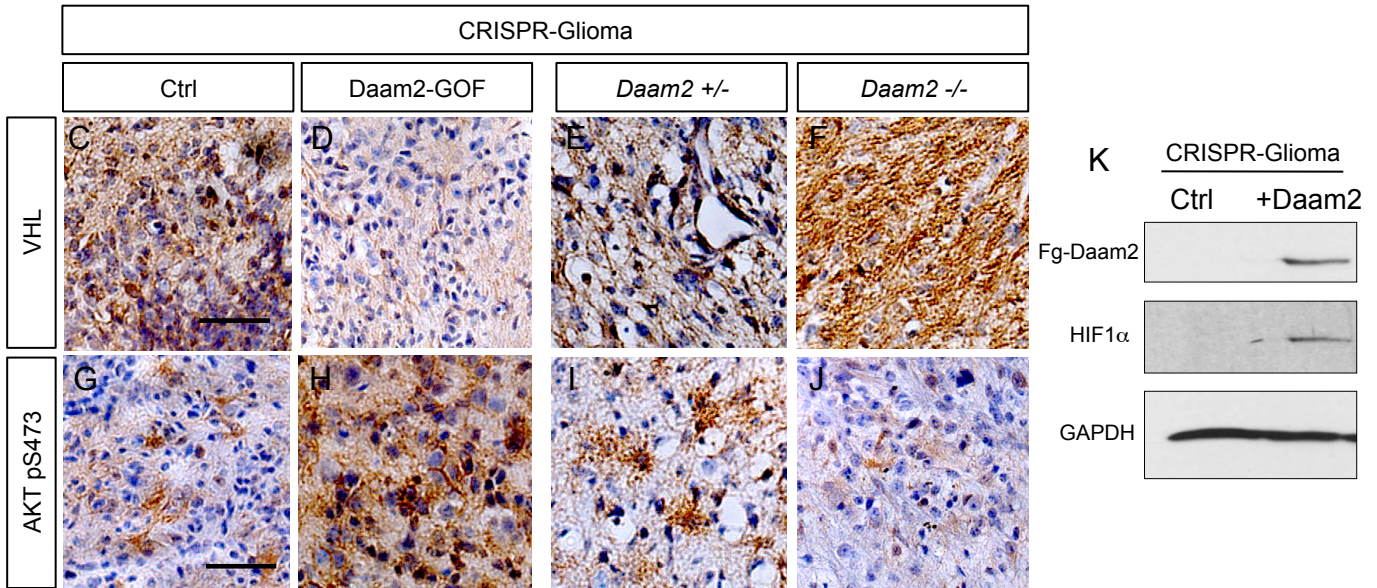
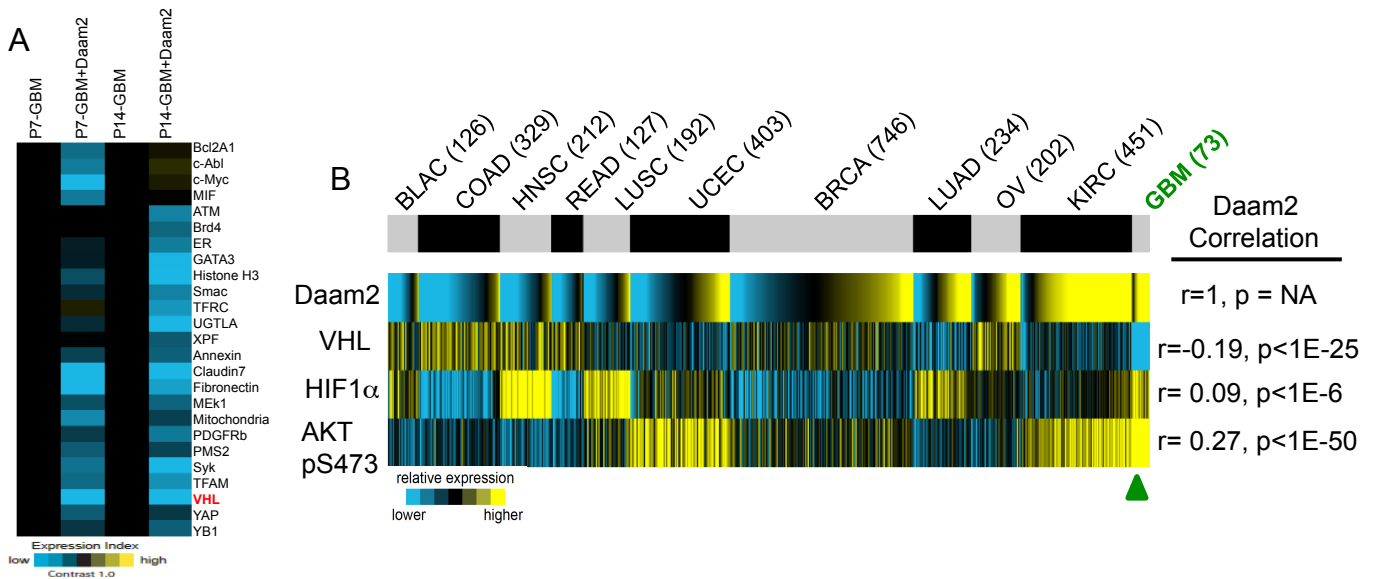


Figure 5

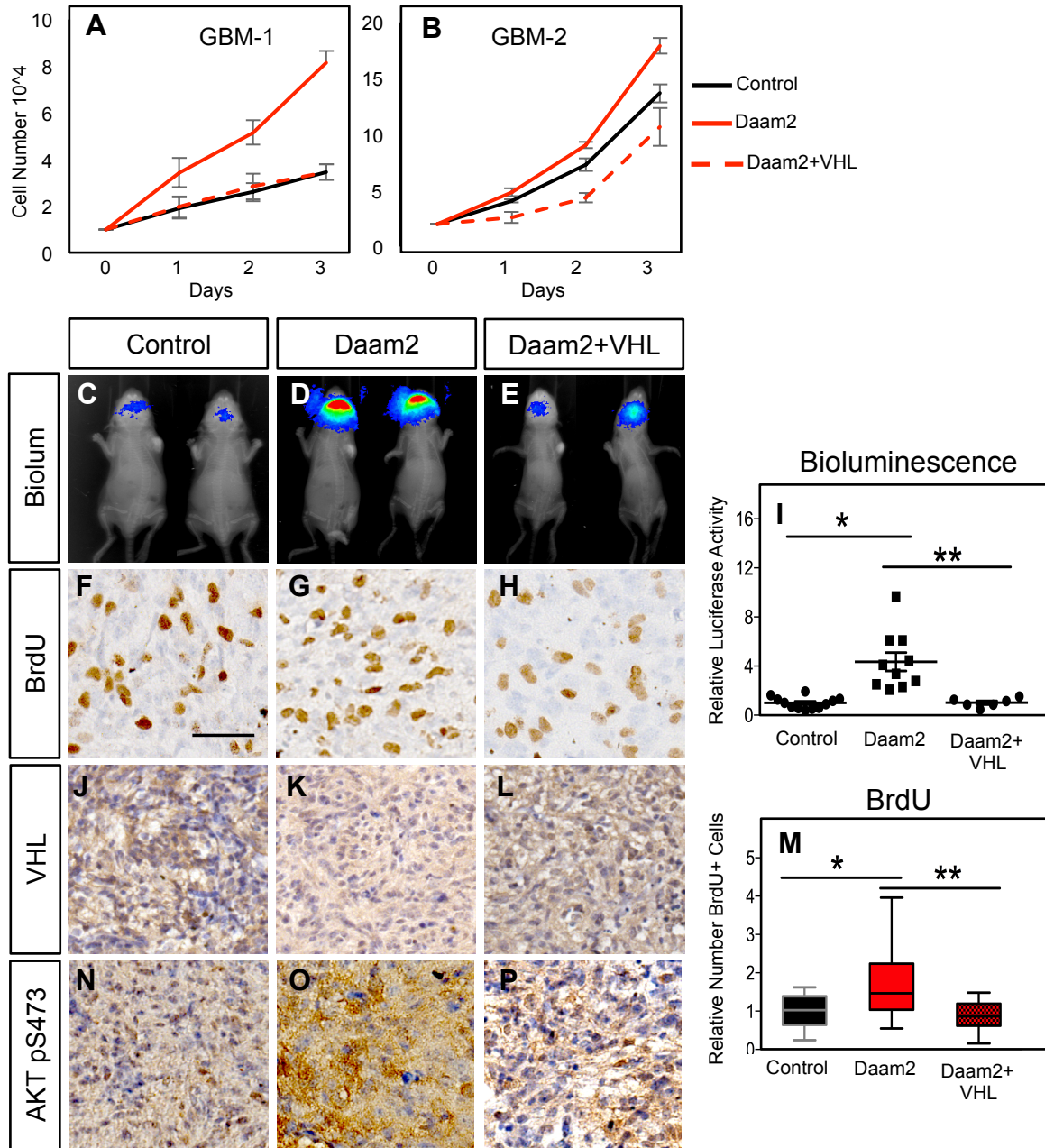


Figure 6

