1	A genome-wide screen in mice to identify cell-extrinsic regulators of pulmonary
2	metastatic colonisation
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27	mouse.
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# 32 ABSTRACT

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34 Metastatic colonisation, whereby a disseminated tumour cell is able to survive and proliferate at a secondary site, involves both tumour cell-intrinsic and -extrinsic factors. To 35 36 identify tumour cell-extrinsic (microenvironmental) factors that regulate the ability of metastatic tumour cells to effectively colonise a tissue, we performed a genome-wide screen utilising the 37 38 experimental metastasis assay on mutant mice. Mutant and wildtype (control) mice were tail vein-dosed with murine metastatic melanoma B16-F10 cells and 10 days later the number of 39 40 pulmonary metastatic colonies were counted. Of the 1,300 genes/genetic locations (1,344 41 alleles) assessed in the screen 34 genes were determined to significantly regulate pulmonary 42 metastatic colonisation (15 increased and 19 decreased; P<0.005 and genotype effect <-60 or 43 >+60). Whilst several of these genes have known roles in immune system regulation (Bach2, Cyba, Cybb, Cybc1, Id2, Igh-6, Irf1, Irf7, Ncf1, Ncf2, Ncf4 and Pik3cg) most are involved in a 44 disparate range of biological processes, ranging from ubiquitination (Herc1) to diphthamide 45 synthesis (Dph6) to Rho GTPase-activation (Arhgap30 and Fgd4), with no previous reports of a 46 47 role in the regulation of metastasis. Thus, we have identified numerous novel regulators of 48 pulmonary metastatic colonisation, which may represent potential therapeutic targets.

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## 50

# 51 INTRODUCTION

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53 Metastasis is the spread of cancer cells to a secondary site within the body, and is the 54 leading cause of death for cancer patients. This multi-step process requires tumour cells to 55 survive in the circulation ('circulating tumour cells', CTCs), leave the circulation ('extravasate') at a distant site, survive at this new site ('disseminated tumour cells', DTCs) and eventually 56 57 proliferate, thus becoming a clinical problem. Circulating tumour cells can be found in the 58 patient's blood at the time of diagnosis, and thus it is highly likely that metastasis has already 59 occurred, especially since surgical excision of a primary tumour does not always prevent 60 metastasis (Talmadge and Fidler 2010). Indeed, studies have demonstrated that the early steps of the metastatic process are relatively efficient, with the post-extravasation regulation of tumour 61 growth ('colonisation') being critical in determining metastatic outcome (Chambers et al. 2001). 62 Thus, the prevention of metastasis is unlikely to be of therapeutic benefit, and a focus on 63 64 preventing the survival of CTCs and/or growth of DTCs would seem a more feasible approach (Fidler and Kripke 2015). 65

66 The survival and growth of metastatic cells involves contributions from both tumour cell 67 intrinsic factors and tumour cell extrinsic factors such as the microenvironment ('host'), which

includes stromal cells and the immune system (Quail and Joyce 2013). In recent years there 68 has been a revolution in our understanding of the role that host factors, such as the immune 69 70 system, stroma and vasculature play in the process of cancer progression. This is evidenced by 71 the development of agents, such as checkpoint inhibitors, that provoke the immune system to 72 identify and eliminate cancer cells. Importantly, studies in mice have made a significant 73 contribution to these breakthroughs, such as with the clinically relevant PD-1 (Zago et al. 74 2016) and CTLA4 receptors (Leach et al. 1996), which were first identified and functionally 75 characterised using mouse model systems. For this reason we sort to develop a genetic screen 76 to identify new genes as tumour cell extrinsic regulators of metastatic colonisation.

77 In designing our screen we aimed to, where possible, unbiasedly screen mouse mutants 78 to identify new genes involved in colonization of the lung, a common site of metastatic seeding 79 for many tumour types. To this end, we used the 'experimental metastasis assay', which we 80 have previously demonstrated is a sensitive, robust, and high-throughput method for in vivo quantification of the ability of metastatic tumour cells to colonize a secondary organ (Speak et 81 82 al. 2017), to screen mutant mouse lines generated as part of the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (Meehan et al. 2017). In this paper we describe a collection of mutants 83 84 identified over 7 years of screening (1,300 mutant mouse lines). This study reveals previously 85 unappreciated pathways and processes that regulate this biology.

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# 8889 MATERIALS & METHODS

# 90

#### 91 Mice

92 The mutant mice were generated as part of the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium 93 (Meehan et al. 2017), using either targeted embryonic stem cell clones obtained from the 94 European Conditional Mouse Mutagenesis (EUCOMM) Programme/Knockout Mouse Project 95 (KOMP)-CSD collection or EUCOMMTools or CRISPR/Cas9 technology to either genetrap the 96 target transcript or disrupt a critical exon or to create a point mutation, as detailed previously 97 (van der Weyden et al. 2017b). The vast majority of lines (>98%) were on the C57BL/6 background, with other strain backgrounds including 129 and FVB (strain-matched control mice 98 99 were always used for each mutant line). The care and use of all mice in this study were in 100 accordance with the Home Office guidelines of the UK and procedures were performed under a 101 UK Home Office Project licence (PPL 80/2562 or P6B8058B0), which was reviewed and approved by the Sanger Institute's Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body. All mice were 102 103 housed in individually ventilated cages in a specific pathogen free environment. The diet, cage

104 conditions and room conditions of the mice were as previously reported (van der Weyden et al.105 2017a).

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# 107 Cells for tail vein injection

The B16-F10 mouse melanoma cell line was purchased from ATCC (CRL-6475), genetically validated, and maintained in DMEM with 10% (v/v) fetal calf serum and 2 mM glutamine, 100 U/mL penicillin/streptomycin at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The cell line was screened for the presence of mycoplasma and mouse pathogens (at Charles River Laboratories, USA) before culturing and never cultured for more than five passages.

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# 114 Experimental metastasis assay

B16-F10 ( $4-5 \times 10^5$ ) cells resuspended in 0.1 mL phosphate buffered saline (PBS) were injected into the tail vein of 6- to 12-week-old sex-matched syngeneic control and mutant mice. After 10 ( $\pm$  1) days the mice were humanely sacrificed, their lungs removed and washed in PBS and the number of metastatic foci counted macroscopically. The use of the experimental assay as a screen for metastatic colonisation ability has been previously described (Speak et al. 2017).

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# 121 Statistics and bioinformatic analysis

122 The raw data (number of metastatic foci counted in each mutant mouse relative to the wildtype 123 controls) from each cohort of mice was subjected to the non-parametric Mann-Whitney U test. An integrative data analysis (mega-analysis) was performed on the results from all mutant 124 mouse lines that had been tested in  $\geq$  3 independent cohorts, and was completed using R 125 (package nlme version 3.1) as previously described (van der Weyden et al. 2017b). Using the 126 Mouse Genome Database Informatics (MGI) portal (http://www.informatics.jax.org, v6.14), all 127 1,300 mutant lines screened were separated into unique symbols and annotated with molecular 128 function using the Gene Ontology (GO) chart tool (Bult et al. 2019) excluding annotations that 129 were Inferred from Electronic Annotation (IEA). Phenotypic information (MP-to-genotype) was 130 131 pulled from MGI using MouseMine (Motenko et al. 2015) and the phenotypes collapsed to the 132 parental term of the mouse phenotype hierarchy.

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# 134 Data availability Statement

Supplemental files available at FigShare. Table S1 lists the targeted genetic regions that were mutated in the genetically modified mice used in the screened. Table S2 is the complete data set (number of metastatic colonies) for all the mice comprising the 1,344 alleles screened (consisting of 23,975 individual mice). Table S3 explains how to interpret the data for the screen supplied in Table S2.

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# 143 **RESULTS**144

145 Tail vein injection of mouse melanoma B16-F10 cells primarily results in pulmonary colonisation (due to the capillary beds in the lungs being the first ones encountered by the cells 146 147 in the arterial blood after leaving the heart). As these cells are pigmented (melanin granules) their colonisation of the lungs can be determined by macroscopic counting of the number of 148 black metastatic foci on the lungs (Figure 1A). Sex- and age-matched wildtype mice were 149 concomitantly dosed with the cohorts of mutant mice (Figure 1B), and the results from mutant 150 mice were only compared to the wildtype mice dosed at the same time (due to day-to-day 151 152 variations in the assay, and factors such as sex and age of the mice affecting metastatic burden (Speak et al. 2017)). A 'metastatic ratio' (MR) was determined for each mutant mouse line, 153 which was calculated as the average number of metastatic colonies for the mutant line relative 154 to the average number of metastatic colonies for concomitantly dosed wildtype mice. If a mutant 155 mouse line showed a MR of <0.6 or >1.4 (and Mann-Whitney P<0.05), additional cohorts were 156 assayed (n≥2, assayed on independent days). An integrative data analysis (IDA) was performed 157 on the whole dataset and those with P<0.005 (Hochberg) and a biological effect ('genotype 158 effect') of  $\leq$  -55 or  $\geq$  +55 were classified as 'hits'. A biological filter was applied as we were only 159 160 interested in determining robust (strong) regulators of metastatic colonisation.

We used Entpd1 and Hsp90aa1 mutant mice as positive controls, as the literature 161 162 suggested they should show altered metastatic burden. Entpd1 (ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 1) encodes the plasma membrane protein CD39. The enzymatic activity of 163 CD39 (NTPDase I), together with CD73 (ecto-5'-nucleotidase), result in the phosphohydrolysis 164 of extracellular ATP into adenosine, which acts as an immunosuppressive pathway through the 165 activation of adenosine receptors (Stagg and Smyth 2010). Entpd1-deficient mice that were 166 administered B16-F10 mouse melanoma cells and MC-38 mouse colon cancer cells via the 167 168 hepatic portal vein (experimental metastasis assay) were found to develop significantly fewer hepatic metastases than wildtype (control) mice (Sun et al. 2010). In agreement with this, we 169 found that *Entpd1* mutant mice showed significantly reduced numbers of pulmonary metastatic 170 colonies after tail vein dosing with B16-F10 cells, relative to wildtype mice. Hsp90aa1 (heat 171 shock protein 90 alpha family class A member 1) encodes a molecular chaperone that functions 172 to aids in the proper folding of specific target proteins ("clients"), including numerous kinases, 173 transcription factors and steroid hormone receptors (Li et al. 2012). Systemic administration of a 174 175 mitochondrial-targeted, small-molecule Hsp90 inhibitor (Gamitrinib) to Transgenic Adenocarcinoma of the Mouse Prostate (TRAMP) mice inhibited the formation of localised 176

prostate tumours, as well as the spread of metastatic prostate cancer to abdominal lymph nodes and liver (Kang et al. 2011). In agreement with this, we found that *Hsp90aa1* mutant mice showed significantly reduced numbers of pulmonary metastatic colonies after tail vein dosing with B16-F10 cells, relative to wildtype mice. Both *Entpd1* and *Hsp90aa1* were classified as 'hits' using the integrated data analysis (IDA) approach, thus we were confident that our screening methodology was robust.

We have previously published the results of screening 810 mutant mouse lines and 183 showed that endothelial SPNS2 can regulate metastatic colonisation by sphingosine-1-184 phosphate (S1P)-mediated control of lymphocyte trafficking (van der Weyden et al. 2017a; van 185 der Weyden et al. 2017b). Here we have included an additional 490 mutant mouse lines, to 186 187 make a total of 1,300 mutant mouse lines (1,344 alleles) screened. The mutant mouse lines were randomly selected and the genes (Table S1) cover a diverse range of molecular functions 188 (Figure 2a) and are involved in many different biological processes (Figure 2b). Of the 1,300 189 mutant muse lines screened, 1,247 lines (96%) carried alleles that targeted single protein 190 191 coding genes, with the other alleles targeting lncRNAs (21 lines), miRNAs (8 lines), CpG islands (13 lines), pseudogenes (3 lines), complexes/clusters/regions (3 lines), multiple protein coding 192 193 genes (3 lines) or gene segments (2 lines). The raw data for each individual mouse (number of 194 metastases counted) is listed in **Table S2**. The mutant mice tested were predominantly 195 homozygotes (880 lines, 68%), with heterozygotes generally only being tested (356 lines, 27%) if the line was lethal or sub-viable (i.e., where 0 or ≤13% of homozygote offspring were obtained 196 from heterozygous intercrosses, respectively) and in a small number of cases both 197 198 heterozygotes and homozygotes were assessed (64 lines, 5%). An IDA was performed on the 199 data from the 256 mouse lines that showed evidence of a phenotype in initial screening and for 200 which at least 3 independent cohorts were tested, and the 34 mutant lines classified as 'hits' are 201 shown Table 1.

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# 203 **DISCUSSION**

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We have characterised the mechanism of action for several genes that showed a 205 206 decreased metastatic colonisation phenotype in our screen, specifically Spns2 (van der Weyden et al. 2017a), Nbeal2 (Guerrero et al. 2014), Cybc1 (Thomas et al. 2017) and the 5 members of 207 the NOX2 complex (van der Weyden et al. 2018). These genes regulate pulmonary metastatic 208 colonisation primarily by impacting on the function of the haematopoietic/immune system 209 (lymphocytes, granulocytes/monocytes and platelets). In addition, Bach2 was also a 'hit' in our 210 211 screen, showing decreased metastatic colonisation, and Bach2 is a key regulator of CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell differentiation (Roychoudhuri et al. 2013), with Bach2 mutant mice recently being shown to have 212

increased CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell cytotoxic activity (Abeler-Dorner et al. 2020). Indeed, phenotypic analysis of the 34 metastatic colonisation regulating genes detailed in this study show a strong enrichment for genes involved in immune/haematopoietic system development and function with phenotypes in those categories representing 88% of all the reported phenotypes associated with those genes.

As we have previously predominantly focussed our attention genes positively regulating metastatic colonisation (i.e., mutant mice showing decreased metastasis), we will now turn our focus to discussing negative regulators of metastatic colonisation (i.e., mutant mice showing increased metastasis).

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## 223 **Duoxa2**

The strongest biological phenotype we observed, in terms of increased numbers of 224 pulmonary metastatic colonies relative to controls, was with Duoxa2 mutant mice. The Dual 225 oxidase maturation factor 2 (DUOXA2) gene encodes an endoplasmic reticulum protein that is 226 227 necessary for the maturation and cellular localization (transport from the endoplasmic reticulum to the plasma membrane) of dual oxidase 2 (DUOX2) (Grasberger and Refetoff 2006). The 228 NADPH oxidases, DUOX1 and DUOX2, are critical for the production of extracellular hydrogen 229 peroxide that is required for thyroperoxidase-mediated thyroid hormone synthesis in the thyroid 230 231 gland; as a result, mutations in DUOX and/or DUOXA2 result in thyroid dyshormonogenesis and congenital hypothyroidism (De Deken and Miot 2019). Indeed, Duoxa2 mutant mice were 232 significantly smaller than their wildtype or heterozygous littermates. A smaller body size (and 233 234 thus total blood volume) undoubtedly contributed to the increased pulmonary metastatic burden 235 we observed, as well as the presence of extrapulmonary metastases (bone marrow, liver, 236 kidney). However, it was recently shown that *Duoxa2* mutant mice have alterations in key 237 immune cell subsets (CD4+ T-cells, neutrophils, monocytes and NK cells) (Abeler-Dorner et al. 238 2020), which could also account for their increased metastatic colonisation. Thus, generation of an inducible Duoxa2 mutant mouse, wherein Duoxa2 could be deleted in an adult mouse, will 239 240 be required to disentangle any effects that loss of DUOXA2 may be having on metastatic colonisation aside from a smaller body size. 241

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#### 243 **Rnf10**

The *Ring finger protein 10 (Rnf10*) gene encodes a protein with a ring finger motif (a C3HC4type zinc finger). *Rnf10*/RNF10 has been shown to be important for key neurobiology functions, including myelin formation (Hoshikawa et al. 2008), neuronal cell differentiation (Malik et al. 2013) and synaptonuclear messaging (Carrano et al. 2019). It has also been reported to play a role in vascular restenosis (Li et al. 2019) and a SNP in *RNF10* has been associated with

adiposity and type 2 diabetes (Huang et al. 2014). We found that *Rnf10*-deficient mice showed increased pulmonary metastatic colonisation, with males having a consistently higher metastatic burden than females ( $290 \pm 26$  versus  $153 \pm 31$ , respectively); this is the only mutant line in which we observed a sexually dimorphic effect. Further investigations are required to provide mechanistic insight as to how *Rnf10* may be regulating metastatic colonisation, and why it has a stronger effect in males.

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#### 256 **Slc9a3r2**

The Slc9a3r2 (SLC9A3 regulator 2) gene encodes a member of the Na(+)/H(+) 257 exchanger regulatory factor (NHERF) family of PDZ scaffolding proteins. All NHERF proteins 258 are involved with anchoring membrane proteins that contain PDZ recognition motifs to form 259 multiprotein signalling complexes. SLC9A3R2 (also known as NHERF2) has been shown to 260 form complexes with a diverse range of proteins depending on tissue context, including 261 complexing with the lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) receptor and the epithelial anion channel, 262 cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) in airway and gut epithelia (Zhang 263 et al. 2017), the P2Y1 nucleotide and mGluR5 glutamate receptors to different ion channels in 264 neurons (Filippov et al. 2010) and megalin and CIC-5 in proximal tubule cells (Hryciw et al. 265 2012). However, it is not yet clear how loss of Slc9a3r results in increased metastatic 266 267 colonisation.

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## 269 *Ankhd1* and *Fzd6*

270 The Ankhd1 (ANKHD1 ankyrin repeat and KH domain containing 1) gene encodes a protein with multiple ankyrin repeat domains and a single KH-domain. ANKHD1 is the 271 mammalian homolog of *Mask1* in Drosophila (which is required for the activity of the Hippo 272 pathway effector, Yorkie) and promotes YAP1 activation and cell cycle progression (Machado-273 Neto et al. 2014). Studies have demonstrated a role for ANKHD1 in promoting cell cycle 274 progression/proliferation in renal cancer, multiple myeloma cell and prostate cancer cells 275 (Dhyani et al. 2012; Machado-Neto et al. 2014; Fragiadaki and Zeidler 2018) and in promoting 276 hepatocellular carcinoma metastasis (Zhou et al. 2019). The Fzd6 (frizzled class receptor 6) 277 278 gene is a member of the 'frizzled' gene family, which encode 7-transmembrane domain proteins that are receptors for Wnt signaling proteins. FDZ6 has a known role in non-canonical 279 WNT/PCP signalling in cancer (Corda and Sala 2017), including mediating transformation, 280 increased invasiveness of tumour cells and metastasis (Cantilena et al. 2011; Corda and Sala 281 2017; Corda et al. 2017). In agreement with this, increased expression of FDZ6 has reported in 282 283 many cancer types, and correlates with poor prognosis in patients with breast, brain and 284 oesophageal cancer (Corda et al. 2017; Huang et al. 2016; Zhang et al. 2019). Thus, both 285 *Ankhd1* and Fzd6 have well-characterised tumour cell-intrinsic roles, however, how they 286 mediate their role in regulating tumour cell extrinsic metastasis is not clear.

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# 288 **Regulation of the immune system**

289 Five genes with known roles in regulating immune cell function were identified; the 290 cell included NK cells. lymphocytes immune types (Tand B-cells) and 291 granulocytes/macrophages, which have all been shown to play critical roles in regulating metastasis (reviewed in (Blomberg et al. 2018)). Thus genes that interfere with their production, 292 293 maturation and/or function could understandably result in increased levels of metastatic 294 colonisation.

295 Irf1: The Interferon regulatory factor 1 (IRF1) gene encodes a transcription factor that is one of 9 members of the interferon regulatory transcription factor (IRF) family. IRF1 stimulates 296 297 both innate and acquired immune responses through the activation of specific target genes, by regulating target genes through binding to an interferon-stimulated response element (ISRE) in 298 299 their promoters and inducing either transcriptional activation or repression (Ikushima et al. 2013). Irf1 null mice are immunodeficient, characterised by a marked reduction in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells 300 301 (Penninger et al. 1997) and a decrease in NK cell numbers with associated impaired cytolytic 302 activity (Taki et al. 1997).

Irf7: The Interferon regulatory factor 7 (IRF7) gene is another member of the IRF family and plays a critical role in the innate immune response against viruses. Irf7-null mice are highly susceptible to H1N1 infection (Wilk et al. 2015) and secrete decreased levels of IFN- $\alpha/\beta$  in response to stimulation (Honda et al. 2005).

*Id2:* The *ID2* (*inhibitor of DNA binding 2*) gene encodes a helix-loop-helix-containing protein that lacks a DNA-binding domain and is one of the four members of the ID family (ID1– ID4). ID proteins dimerise with E protein, RB and Ets transcription factors, preventing the formation of DNA-binding transcription complexes. *Id2* null mice show a greatly reduced population of natural killer (NK) cells, as *Id2* plays a role in NK cell maturation (Yokota et al. 1999; Boos et al. 2007).

*Igh-6*: The *IGH-6 (immunoglobulin heavy constant mu)* gene encodes a protein that is important for the production of the heavy chain of IgM antibodies and maturation of pre-B cells, the precursors of B-lymphocytes. *Igh-6* null mice are B-cell-deficient, with their development arrested at the stage of pre-B-cell maturation (Kitamura et al. 1991). *Igh-6<sup>-/-</sup>* mice also show impaired Th1 T-cell responses to Salmonella antigens/infections (Mastroeni et al. 2000; Ugrinovic et al. 2003) demonstrating a role for B cells in the establishment and/or persistence of a stable T-cell memory pool.

Pik3cg: The PIK3CG (phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit 320 gamma) gene, encodes a class I catalytic subunit of phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K), known 321 by many names, including p110-y and PI3Ky. Like other class I catalytic subunits (p110- $\alpha$ , 322 p110- $\beta$ , and p110- $\delta$ ), p110- $\gamma$  binds a p85 regulatory subunit to form PI3K, which phosphorylate 323 inositol lipids and is involved in the immune response. p110-y is highly expressed in leukocytes 324 and is important for restraining inflammation and promoting appropriate adaptive immune 325 responses in both humans and mice (Takeda et al. 2019). p110-v null mice show defective 326 327 thymocyte development and T cell activation, as well as neutrophil migration and oxidative burst (Sasaki et al. 2000). 328

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## 330 Protein modification

A number of genes encoding protein modifiers were identified; these included a ubiquitinrelated protein, a serine hydrolase and a protein involved in amidation. How the targets of these proteins can regulate metastatic colonisation is still unclear.

334 Herc1: The HERC1 (HECT and RLD domain containing E3 ubiguitin protein ligase family *member 1*) gene encodes an E3 ubquitin ligase protein. In humans, six *HERC* genes have been 335 reported which encode two subgroups of HERC proteins: large (HERC1-2) and small (HERC3-336 337 6). The HERC1 protein was the first to be identified and has been found to play numerous roles, including membrane trafficking, protein stability and DNA damage repair, through its interactions 338 with clathrin, TSC2 and pyruvate kinase (M2 isoform), respectively (reviewed in (Garcia-Cano et 339 al. 2019)). Tambaleante (tbl) mice, which carry a spontaneous missense mutation in Herc1, 340 341 show neurological phenotypes including, Purkinje cell degeneration, hind limb clasping and impaired rotarod performance (Mashimo et al. 2009). Whilst mutations/loss of HERC1 342 343 expression have been reported in some cancers (reviewed in (Garcia-Cano et al. 2019)), it is 344 not clear how tumour cell-extrinsic loss of *Herc1* resulted in increased metastatic colonisation.

345 Abhd17a: The ABHD17A (abhydrolase domain containing 17A) gene encodes a member of the ABHD17 family of proteins that are membrane-anchored serine hydrolases which can 346 347 accelerate palmitate turnover on PSD-95 and N-Ras. The catalytic activity of ABHD17 proteins are required for N-Ras depalmitoylation and re-localization to internal cellular membranes (Lin 348 and Conibear 2015) and ABHD17 proteins finely control the amount of synaptic PSD-95 by 349 regulating PSD-95 palmitoylation cycles in neurons (Yokoi et al. 2016). More recently, regulation 350 of the palmitovlation status of the transcription factor TEAD, which is depalmitovlased by 351 ABHD17A, has been suggested to be a potential target for controlling TEAD-dependent 352 processes, including cancer cell growth (Kim and Gumbiner 2019). 353

354 *Dph6:* The *Dph6* (*diphthamine biosynthesis 6*) gene encodes protein that is required for 355 the amidation step of the diphthamide pathway in yeast. Diphthamide is a highly modified

histidine residue in eukaryotic translation elongation factor 2 (eEF2) and diphthamide synthesis 356 is required for optimal translational accuracy and cell growth (Uthman et al. 2013). In 357 eukaryotes, the formation of diphthamide involves a conserved biosynthetic pathway involving 7 358 members, DPH1-7 that has been predominantly studied in yeast (reviewed in (Schaffrath et al. 359 2014)). However, they do play an import role in mammalian cells as *Dph1* null mice display 360 multiple developmental defects that parallel Miller-Dieker syndrome (MDS) (Yu et al. 2014), 361 associated with deletions on chromosome 17p13.3, Dph3 null mice are embryonically lethal (Liu 362 et al. 2006) and Dnajc24 (Dph4) null mice almost always die before birth with the few that do 363 survive showing severe developmental defects reminiscent of *Dph1* null mice (Webb et al. 364 2008). Recently, Dph6 mutant mice were shown to have an immune phenotype with alterations 365 366 in many innate and adaptive cell lineages (Abeler-Dorner et al. 2020), and it is possible that these may be affecting metastatic colonisation. Thus, as very little is known about ABHD17A 367 and DPH6 in the context of cancer, it is difficult to precisely speculate how they may be playing 368 a role in tumour cell extrinsic regulation of metastatic colonisation. 369

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# 371 **Rho GTPase regulating proteins**

Rho GTPases are molecular switches that control a wide variety of signal-transduction pathways, including regulation of the cytoskeleton, migration, and proliferation. Rho GTPases can be regulated by GTPase-activating proteins (GAPs) and Rho GDP/GTP nucleotide exchange factors (Rho GEFs). We identified one of each of these family members.

Arhgap30: The ARHGAP30 (Rho GTPase activating protein 30) gene encodes a Rho GTPase-activating protein, with a role in regulating cell adhesion (Naji et al. 2011), as well as suppressing lung cancer cell proliferation, migration and invasion (Mao and Tong 2018). In colorectal cancer (CRC), ARHGAP30 levels correlate with p53 acetylation and functional activation (Wang et al. 2014), and ARHGAP30 has been proposed as a prognostic marker for CRC (Wang et al. 2014), early-stage pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (Liao et al. 2017) and lung adenocarcinoma (Li et al. 2018).

383 Fgd4: The FDG4 (FYVE, RhoGEF And PH Domain Containing 4) gene encodes a GEF specific to the Rho GTPase, CDC42. FDG4, also known as FRABIN, contains an actin filament-384 binding domain (ABD), an Dbl homology domain (DHD), a cysteine rich-domain (CRD), and two 385 pleckstrin homology domains (PHD), which are involved in binding to the actin and activating 386 CDC42 at that vicinity, resulting in actin cytoskeleton reorganization (allowing for shape 387 changes such as the formation of filopodia and lamellipodia) (Nakanishi and Takai 2008). FGD4 388 389 overexpression has been observed in pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms (Shahid et al. 2019) and expression of FDG4 positively correlates with the aggressive phenotype of prostate 390 391 cancer (Bossan et al. 2018). Mutations in this gene can cause Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT)

disease type 4H (CMT4H), characterised by heterogeneous hereditary motor and sensory
 neuropathies as a result of demyelination of peripheral nerves (Delague et al. 2007).

Although much is known about these two genes and they have well established roles in tumour cell-intrinsic roles in cancer, it is not clear at this stage how they may be mediating an increased metastatic colonisation phenotype.

397

# 398 CONCLUSION

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400 In summary, we have used the experimental metastasis assay to screen 1,300 mutant mouse lines to identify novel host/microenvironmental regulators of metastatic colonisation. We 401 402 have identified 34 genes whose loss of expression results in either an increased or decreased ability for mouse melanoma cells to undergo metastatic colonisation of the lung following tail 403 vein injection. Some of these genes regulate key pathways in immune cell development or 404 function, however many have only been shown to play a role in tumour cell-intrinsic pathways 405 with no known tumour cell-extrinsic functions reported, thus, we have identified numerous novel 406 regulators of pulmonary metastatic colonisation, which could represent potential therapeutic 407 408 targets.

409

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# 417 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

418 L.v.d.W, A.O.S and D.J.A conceived the experiments and led the work. L.v.d.W, A.S., V.I. and 419 A.O.S performed the experiments and interpreted the data. L.v.d.W. wrote the manuscript and 420 all authors critically reviewed the manuscript and approved the final version.

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- 422

# 423 FIGURE LEGEND

Figure 1. The metastatic colonisation assay. (A) Representative macroscopic image of lungs from wildtype (+/+) and mutant (*Tbc1d22a*<sup>tm1b/tm1b</sup> and *Rnf10*<sup>tm1b/tm1b</sup>) mice 10 days after tail vein dosing with B16-F10 melanoma cells, demonstrating examples of decreased and increased metastatic colonisation, respectively. (B) Schematic of the B16-F10 pulmonary metastasis

428 screen, showing that a cohort of mice consists of wildtype mice and groups of different mutant 429 mice, all of which are tail vein dosed with the B16-F10 melanoma cells, and then the number of 430 pulmonary metastatic colonies counted 10 days later (the 'metastatic ratio' of a mutant line is 431 derived by dividing the average of the metastases for a mutant group by the average number of 432 metastases for the wildtype group).

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Figure 2. Gene Ontology annotation of the 1,300 mutant mouse lines screened as detailed in
Methods. A) Molecular functions of genes screened and B) Biological processes of genes
screened.

437 438

# 439 SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

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Table S1. A list of the targeted genetic regions that were mutated in the genetically 441 442 **modified mice used in the screened.** The name, feature type and chromosomal location is 443 listed for all the genes/ genetic locations that were targeted in the mutant mice screened. 'Feature 444 type' is defined as at http://www.informatics.jax.org/userhelp/GENE feature types help.shtml. The 'current symbol' 445 446 is the most recent name for the gene/genetic region (as on some occasions the name has been 447 changed at MGI since the mouse line was originally screened).

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Table S2. Complete data set for all the mice comprising the 1,344 alleles screened. Results of the B16-F10 pulmonary metastasis screen for the 1,344 alleles consisting of 23,975 individual mice. There are a number of meta-data (such as sex, genetic background, assay date, zygosity, gene, cell number used and QC notes) that should be considered in any analysis. Details of how to interpret the data are explained in Table S3.

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Table S3. Explanation of how to interpret the data for the screen. An explanation of the
data format, data options and other relevant information to allow interpretation of the data in
Table S2.

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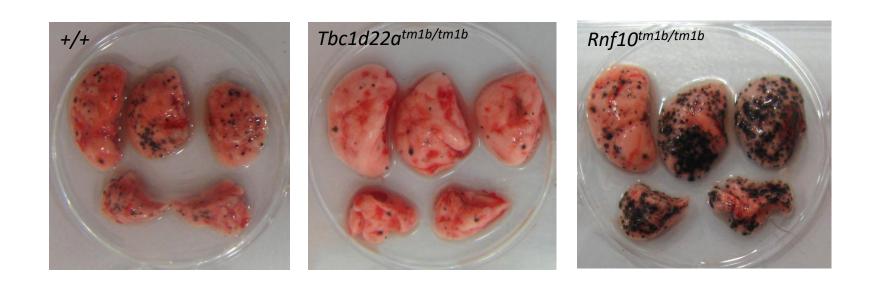
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**Table 1.** Results of the Integrative Data Analysis showing mutant mouse lines with statistically significant decreased or increased pulmonary metastatic colonisation (using a statistical threshold of P<0.0005 and a biological threshold of genotype estimate  $\leq$  -55 or  $\geq$  +55). The genotype of the mutant mice listed were all homozygotes except *Id2*, which were heterozygotes. 'Cohorts' was the number of individual cohorts that were tested for this particular mouse line. 'Genotype estimate' is the alteration in number of pulmonary metastatic colonies for that mutant mouse line relative to control mice. P value is the Hochberg test. \* The mutant mice (and controls) were administered 1/10th dose of other lines. \*\* The genotype estimate is an average of the values obtained for both sexes (as there was a sex effect observed); the values for each sex are: 290 ± 26 (male) and 153 ± 31 (female).

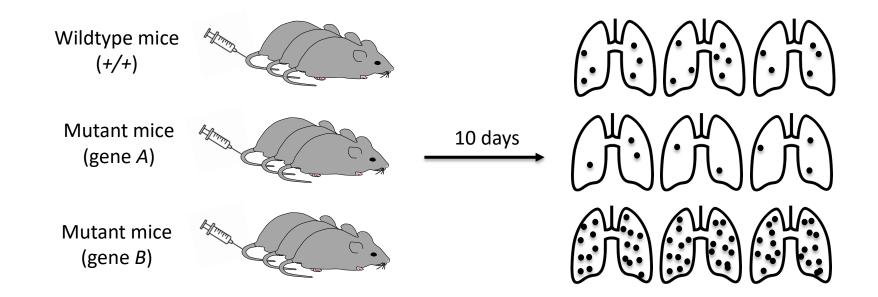
GENE	ALLELE	COHORTS	GENOTYPE ESTIMATE	P VALUE
Duoxa2*	<tm1b(komp)wtsi></tm1b(komp)wtsi>	5	+721 ± 21	2.02E-15
Irf1	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	4	+246 ± 32	1.12E-04
Rnf10**	<tm1b(komp)wtsi></tm1b(komp)wtsi>	5	+221 ± 28	1.74E-08
Pik3cg	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	+198 ± 14	7.20E-12
Herc1	<em1wtsi></em1wtsi>	4	+178 ± 27	2.75E-04
Arhgap30	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	5	+178 ± 11	2.25E-31
Dph6	<tm1a(komp)wtsi></tm1a(komp)wtsi>	5	+141 ± 13	7.94E-17
Slc9a3r2	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	+141 ± 20	2.11E-05
lgh-6	<tm1(cgn)></tm1(cgn)>	6	+101 ± 13	6.78E-08
Abhd17a	<tm1a(komp)wtsi></tm1a(komp)wtsi>	6	+96 ± 11	1.99E-08
Irf7	<tm1(komp)wtsi></tm1(komp)wtsi>	6	+92 ± 16	5.39E-05
ld2	<tm2b(eucomm)wtsi></tm2b(eucomm)wtsi>	6	+89 ± 11	4.91E-12
Fgd4	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	4	+89 ± 15	1.15E-03
Ankhd1	<tm1b(komp)wtsi></tm1b(komp)wtsi>	5	+60 ± 10	1.68E-06
Fzd6	<tm2a(eucomm)wtsi></tm2a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	+59 ± 10	7.70E-07
Grsf1	<tm1b(eucomm)wtsi></tm1b(eucomm)wtsi>	7	-55 ± 5	6.36E-12
Ncf4	<tm2pth></tm2pth>	8	-61 ± 9	3.84E-08
Mier1	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	3	-63 ± 13	5.02E-04
Cybc1	<tm1a(komp)wtsi></tm1a(komp)wtsi>	11	-67 ± 11	1.79E-06
Abraxas2	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	3	-67 ± 11	4.42E-04
Rwdd1	<tm1b(komp)wtsi></tm1b(komp)wtsi>	9	-70 ± 8	1.79E-14
Cybb	<tm1din></tm1din>	6	-71 ± 8	2.76E-12
Bach2	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	-71 ± 7	7.12E-10
Ncf1	<m1j></m1j>	3	-74 ± 10	8.51E-06
Ncf2	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	-77 ± 6	5.99E-13
Lrig1	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	5	-92 ± 10	2.53E-13
Cyba	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	-99 ± 6	1.18E-17
Arhgef1	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	6	-100 ± 6	7.03E-14
Fbxo7	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	4	-100 ± 15	7.63E-08
Tbc1d22a	<tm1b(komp)wtsi></tm1b(komp)wtsi>	6	-102 ± 9	5.12E-22
Hsp90aa1	<tm1(komp)wtsi></tm1(komp)wtsi>	3	-103 ± 13	6.37E-06
Entpd1	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi hmgu=""></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	4	-106 ± 16	9.13E-08
Nbeal2	<tm1a(eucomm)wtsi></tm1a(eucomm)wtsi>	4	-124 ± 14	9.79E-09
Spns2	<tm1a(komp)wtsi></tm1a(komp)wtsi>	10	-160 ± 6	2.81E-37

Figure 1

Α



B



# Figure 2

