

1 *Research Article*

## 2 **Phosphoproteomic Landscape of AML Cells Treated with** 3 **the ATP-Competitive CK2 Inhibitor CX-4945**

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27 leukemia

## 28 **Abstract**

29 Casein kinase 2 (CK2) regulates a plethora of proteins with pivotal roles in solid and  
30 hematological neoplasia. Particularly, in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) CK2 has been pointed  
31 as an attractive therapeutic target and prognostic marker. Here, we explored the impact of CK2  
32 inhibition over the phosphoproteome of two cell lines representing major AML subtypes.  
33 Quantitative phosphoproteomic analysis was conducted to evaluate changes in phosphorylation  
34 levels after incubation with the ATP-competitive CK2 inhibitor CX-4945. Functional  
35 enrichment, network analysis, and database mining were performed to identify biological  
36 processes, signaling pathways, and CK2 substrates that are responsive to CX-4945. A total of  
37 273 and 1310 phosphopeptides were found differentially modulated in HL-60 and OCI-AML3  
38 cells, respectively. Despite regulated phosphopeptides belong to proteins involved in multiple  
39 biological processes and signaling pathways, most of these perturbations can be explain by  
40 direct CK2 inhibition rather than off-target effects. Furthermore, CK2 substrates regulated by  
41 CX-4945 are mainly related to mRNA processing, translation, DNA repair, and cell cycle.  
42 Overall, we evidenced that CK2 inhibitor CX-4945 impinge on mediators of signaling  
43 pathways and biological processes essential for primary AML cells survival and  
44 chemosensitivity, reinforcing the rationale behind the pharmacologic blockade of protein  
45 kinase CK2 for AML targeted therapy.

## 46 1. Introduction

47 Protein phosphorylation is an essential post-translational modification in most cellular  
48 processes, making of protein kinases promising therapeutic targets for a wide variety of  
49 disorders, including cancer [1, 2]. Among the protein kinases involved in cell signaling  
50 networks, casein kinase 2 (CK2) is responsible of about 25% of all cell phosphoproteome [3].  
51 CK2 is a constitutively active and ubiquitously expressed Ser/Thr-protein kinase composed of  
52 two catalytic subunits ( $\alpha$  or its isoform  $\alpha'$ ) and two regulatory subunits ( $\beta$ ) [4]. The CK2  
53 consensus sequence (pS/pT-x1-x2-E/D/pS/pT, in which  $x1 \neq P$ ), is a small motif characterized  
54 by several acidic residues in the proximity of the phosphorylatable amino acid, as well as the  
55 absence of basic residues in those positions [5]. Concerning CK2 substrates, about one third  
56 are involved in gene expression and protein synthesis, while numerous are signaling proteins  
57 implicated in cell growth, proliferation, and survival [3, 6]. Also, a small number of CK2  
58 substrates are classical metabolic enzymes or associated with some virus life cycle [3].

59 Protein kinase CK2 has been linked to basically all the hallmarks of malignant diseases [7, 8].  
60 Accordingly, several CK2 inhibitors have been described, including small organic compounds  
61 designed to target the ATP-binding site on the CK2 catalytic subunit, flavonoids and a synthetic  
62 cell-permeable peptide termed CIGB-300, originally designed to block CK2-mediated  
63 phosphorylation through binding to phosphoacceptor domain in the substrates [9-11].  
64 Additionally, a cyclic peptide that antagonizes the interaction between the CK2  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$   
65 subunits and antisense oligonucleotides that reduce CK2 alpha subunit transcription have also  
66 been explored [12, 13]. However, only the ATP-competitive inhibitor CX-4945 and the  
67 synthetic peptide CIGB-300 have advanced to human clinical trials in and shall provide proof-  
68 of-concept for CK2 as a suitable oncology target [14, 15].

69 Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is one of the most frequent hematologic malignancies and  
70 high-expression of CK2 $\alpha$  subunit has been connected to a worse prognosis in AML patients  
71 with normal karyotype [16, 17]. Actually, CK2 is implicated in multiple signaling pathways,  
72 all of them essential for hematopoietic cell survival and function, and leukemic cells have been  
73 demonstrated to be more sensitive to downregulation of protein kinase CK2 [18, 19]. The latter  
74 becomes particularly relevant since AML stand among the most aggressive and lethal types of  
75 cancer and are often characterized by resistance to standard chemotherapy as well as poor long-  
76 term outcomes [20].

77 In recent years, quantitative phosphoproteomic approaches have been useful to explore the  
78 cellular response to kinase inhibition in different types of cancer cells [21]. In fact, the  
79 proteomic and phosphoproteomic patterns associated with prognosis of AML patients and its  
80 progression from diagnosis to chemoresistant relapse has been recently described, studies that  
81 suggested the importance of CK2 for chemosensitivity in human AML primary cells [22, 23].  
82 Besides, the CK2-dependant phosphoproteome has been explored by quantitative  
83 phosphoproteomic using not only CK2 inhibitors in HEK-293T, HeLa, and NCI-H125 cells,  
84 but also through genetic manipulation of CK2 subunits in C2C12 cells [24-27]. However, the  
85 impact of CK2 inhibition has not been widely assessed in AML cells, since to our knowledge  
86 no previous phosphoproteomic studies have been conducted for CK2 inhibitors in this  
87 particular hematological pathology. Considering the above, we decided to explore the CK2-  
88 regulated phosphoproteome and the consequent signaling networks perturbations induced after  
89 exposure of AML cells to CK2 inhibitor CX-4945. Mass spectrometry (MS)-based  
90 phosphoproteomics profiling allowed us to gauge the global impact of CX-4945 in human cell  
91 lines representing two differentiation stages and major AML subtypes.

## 92 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 93 *2.1. Cell Culture and AlamarBlue Assay*

94 Human AML cell lines HL-60 and OCI-AML3 were originally obtained from the American  
95 Type Culture Collection (ATCC, VA, USA) and the German Collection of Microorganisms  
96 and Cell Cultures (DSMZ, Braunschweig, Germany), respectively. Both cell lines were  
97 cultured in RPMI 1640 medium (Invitrogen, CA, USA) supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal  
98 bovine serum (FBS, Invitrogen, CA, USA) and 50 µg/mL gentamicin (Sigma, MO, USA) under  
99 standard cell culture conditions. The antiproliferative effect of CX-4945 on HL-60 and OCI-  
100 AML3 was assessed using AlamarBlue assay (Life Technologies, CA, USA). Briefly, cells  
101 were seeded in flat-bottom 96-well plates ( $2 \times 10^5$  cells/mL, 200 µL/well) and 24 h later serial  
102 dilutions 1:2 ranging from 50-1.6 µM of CX-4945 (Selleck Chemicals, TX, USA) were added.  
103 After 72 h of incubation, AlamarBlue was added at 10% (v/v), and cell suspension were  
104 incubated for 4 h. Next, fluorescence was measured using a CLARIOstar microplate reader  
105 (BMG LABTECH, Ortenberg, Germany) and half-inhibitory concentration ( $IC_{50}$ ) values were  
106 estimated using CalcuSyn software (v2.1) (Biosoft, Cambridge, United Kingdom).

### 107 *2.2. Sample Preparation and Phosphopeptide Enrichment*

108 HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells ( $10^7$  cells per each condition, three biological replicates) were  
109 treated or not with 5  $\mu$ M CX-4945 (Selleck Chemicals, TX, USA) for 8 h. After collected by  
110 centrifugation and washed with PBS, cells were resuspended in lysis buffer containing 2% SDS  
111 and 50 mM DTT. Samples were boiled at 95 °C for 10 min and proteins were extracted by  
112 multienzyme digestion filter-aided sample preparation (MED-FASP) with overnight lys-C and  
113 tryptic digestions [28]. Phosphopeptides were then enriched from each digestions using TiO<sub>2</sub>  
114 beads as previously described [29]. For enrichment, ‘Titansphere TiO<sub>2</sub> 10  $\mu$ m’ (GL Sciences,  
115 Inc., Tokyo, Japan) was suspended in 200  $\mu$ L of 3% (m/v) dihydroxybenzoic acid in 80% (v/v)  
116 CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 0.1% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH and diluted 1:4 with water and later used at a 4:1 ratio (mg beads:  
117 mg peptides). Next, 2 mg TiO<sub>2</sub> (per mg peptides) was added to each sample and incubated at  
118 room temperature under continuous agitation for 20 min. The titanium beads were sedimented  
119 by centrifugation and the supernatants were collected and mixed with another portion of the  
120 beads and incubated as above. The bead-pellets were resuspended in 150  $\mu$ L of 30% (v/v)  
121 CH<sub>3</sub>CN containing 3% (v/v) CF<sub>3</sub>COOH and transferred to a 200  $\mu$ L pipet tip plugged with one  
122 layer of Whatman glass microfiber filter GFA (Sigma, MO, USA). The beads were washed 3  
123 times with 30% (v/v) CH<sub>3</sub>CN, 3% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH (v/v) solution and 3 times with 80% CH<sub>3</sub>CN  
124 (v/v), 0.3% CF<sub>3</sub>COOH (v/v) solution. Finally, the peptides were eluted from the beads with  
125 100  $\mu$ L of 40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN (v/v) containing 15% NH<sub>4</sub>OH (m/v) and were vacuum-concentrated to  
126 ~4  $\mu$ L. Phosphopeptides were further desalted by Stage procedure [30].

#### 127 2.4. NanoLC-MS/MS and Data Analysis

128 Chromatographic runs for phosphopeptides and non-phosphopeptides were in home-made  
129 column (75 mm ID, 20 cm length). For phosphopeptides, was used a gradient from 5% buffer  
130 B (0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile) up to 30% in 45 min, then increase to 60% in 5 min, and  
131 up to 95% in 5 min more. Meanwhile for non-phosphopeptides the gradient started at 5% buffer  
132 B up to 30% in 95 min, then increase to 60% in 5 min, and up to 95% in 5 min more. An EASY-  
133 nLC 1200 system coupled to a QExactive HF mass spectrometer (both from Thermo Fisher  
134 Scientific, MA, USA) was used with the nanocolumn being at 60 °C. Peptides were detected  
135 in the mass range 300-1650 m/z using data-dependent acquisition and each mass spectrum was  
136 obtained at 60000 resolution (20 ms injection time) and followed by 15 MS/MS spectra (28 ms  
137 injection time) at 15000 resolution. Identification of peptides and proteins was based on the  
138 match-between-runs procedure using MaxQuant software (v1.6.2.10) [31], and considering  
139 oxidation (M), deamidation (NQ), N-terminal acetylation (proteins) and phosphorylation  
140 (STY) as variable modifications. None fixed modifications were considered as cysteines were

141 not modified. Alignment of chromatographic runs were allowed with default parameters (20  
142 min time window and a matching of 0.7 mins between runs). Filtering and quantification of  
143 phosphopeptides were performed in Perseus computational platform (v1.6.2.2) [32]. Reverse  
144 and potential contaminant hits were removed, while only phosphosites with localization  
145 probability above 0.75 were retained for further analysis. Student's t Test was employed to  
146 identify statistically significant changes ( $p$ -values lower than 0.05) in phosphorylation and  
147 protein levels, after filtering for two valid values in at least one group. An additional fold-  
148 change (treated vs. control) cutoff of 1.5 was also applied.

## 149 2.6. Enrichment Analysis and Sequence Logo

150 Biological processes significantly represented in differentially-phosphorylated proteins were  
151 identified through functional annotation and enrichment analysis, based on the information  
152 annotated in the Gene Ontology (GO) database (<http://www.geneontology.org/>) [33, 34].  
153 Analysis was performed with DAVID (v6.8) web-based tool (<http://david.ncifcrf.gov/>) and all  
154 identified phosphoproteins dataset was used as background [35, 36]. DAVID computes EASE-  
155 score, a modified Fisher Exact Test to identify significant enriched biological processes ( $p$ -  
156 values lower than 0.1) [35, 36]. The resulting list of GO terms with its corresponding  $p$ -values  
157 was further submitted to REVIGO (<http://revigo.irb.hr/>) for redundancy reduction [37]. In  
158 addition, sequence logos for down-regulated phosphopeptides were generated using WebLogo  
159 (v3.6.0) (<http://weblogo.threeplusone.com/>) and MaxQuant amino acid sequence window was  
160 used as input [38].

## 161 2.7. Enzyme-Substrate Relationship and Kinome Network Analysis

162 Enzyme-substrate-site relations were retrieved using the integrated protein post-translational  
163 modification network resource iPTMnet [39]. iPTMnet is based on a set of curated databases  
164 like PhosphoSitePlus (<http://www.phosphosite.org>) and PhosphoEML  
165 (<http://phospho.elm.eu.org>), which annotate experimentally observed post-translational  
166 modification [40, 41]. Besides, the KEA2 web tool (<https://www.maayanlab.net/KEA2/>) was  
167 used, first to retrieve information about kinases responsible for phosphoproteome modulation  
168 after CK2 inhibition, and second to identify which of such kinases were enriched based on the  
169 phosphoproteomic profile [42]. KEA2 is based on an integrative database of kinase-substrate  
170 interactions derived from disparate source including literature [42]. The software computes a  
171 Fisher Exact Test to distinguish significant enriched kinases ( $p$ -values lower than 0.05),  
172 through statistical analysis [42]. To represent the kinome network, the interactions among the

173 protein kinases associated to the phosphoproteomic profile, according to KEA2 and iPTMnet  
174 annotations, were retrieved using the Metascape gene annotation and analysis resource  
175 (<http://metascape.org>) [43]. Such bioinformatics software compiles the information from  
176 different integrative databases and applies the MCODE algorithm to extract highly connected  
177 regions or complexes embedded in proteins networks [44].

## 178 2.8. Identification and Analysis of CK2 Substrates

179 In addition to *bona fide* CK2 substrates, we searched for candidate substrates based on: 1) the  
180 presence of the CK2 consensus sequence (pS/pT-x1-x2-E/D/pS/pT, x1 ≠ P) [5], 2) the enzyme-  
181 substrate predictions retrieved from NetworKIN database [45], 3) the dataset of high  
182 confidence CK2 substrates reported by Bian *et al.* [46] and 4) the phosphoproteins which  
183 interact with CK2 according to Metascape database information [43]. Substrates that met at  
184 least two of such criteria were selected as the most reliable for further functional analysis. All  
185 identified substrates (*bona fide* and putative) were represented in a network context and  
186 classified according to biological processes annotated in GO database [33, 34], and the  
187 STRING database (<http://string-db.org/>) was used to identify interactions between proteins  
188 [47]. In such analysis only databases and experimental evidences were used as source of  
189 interaction data and the confidence score was fixed at 0.4. All protein-protein interaction  
190 networks (kinome network and CK2 substrates network) were visualized using Cytoscape  
191 software (v.3.5.0) [48].

## 192 3. Results and Discussion

### 193 2.1. Profiling the CX-4945-Responsive Phosphoproteome in AML Cells

194 Advances in high throughput technologies and bioinformatic tools for subsequent data analysis,  
195 make possible to explore on a wide-scale fashion the cellular response to inhibition of protein  
196 kinases. Particularly, phosphoproteomic studies provide solid evidences regarding kinase-  
197 substrates and kinases-kinases relationships involved in the complexity of networks regulating  
198 cellular processes in health and disease. Hence, we decided to explore the CK2-regulated  
199 phosphoproteome in AML cells using MS-based phosphoproteomic analysis of HL-60 and  
200 OCI-AML3 cells treated or not with 5 μM of the CK2 inhibitor CX-4945 during 8 h (**Figure**  
201 **1A**). Of note, the inhibitory effect of CX-4945 over CK2 enzymatic activity has been  
202 previously evidenced by reduction of *bona fide* CK2 substrates phosphorylation and

203 immunoblotting with antibody against pan-CK2 phosphorylated motif [25, 49]. In addition, as  
204 measured using AlamarBlue assay, CX-4945 showed a similar dose-dependent inhibitory  
205 effect on HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells proliferation, with IC<sub>50</sub> values of  $7.49 \pm 1.55 \mu\text{M}$  and  
206  $4.69 \pm 1.59 \mu\text{M}$ , respectively (**Figure S1**). AML is a highly heterogenous disease, and selected  
207 cell lines derive from the most common AMLs (i.e. acute promyelocytic and acute  
208 myelomonocytic leukemia), together accounting for roughly two thirds of all AML cases [50].  
209 Moreover, in spite of the similar antiproliferative effect exerted by CX-4945 in both AML cell  
210 lines, HL-60 has been described as refractory to CX-4945-induced apoptosis [51]. Thus,  
211 selected cells lines not only represent major AML subtypes, but also different niches that can  
212 be found in the clinical setting considering its differential sensitivity to CK2 inhibition with  
213 CX-4945.

214 Using this experimental approach, phosphoproteomic analysis of HL-60 led to identification  
215 of 3365 phosphopeptides corresponding to 3077 unique phosphopeptides (90% pS, 9.8% pT  
216 and 0.2% pY) on 1618 phosphoproteins (**Figure 1B**). Similarly, in OCI-AML3 cells 3177  
217 phosphopeptides were identified, corresponding to 2976 unique phosphopeptides (87.8% pS,  
218 11.9% pT and 0.3% pY) on 1645 phosphoproteins (**Figure 1B**). In parallel, proteomic analysis  
219 led to identification of 6636 and 6670 proteins in HL-60 and OCI-AML3, respectively (**Figure**  
220 **1B**). On the whole, we identified a total of 4267 unique phosphopeptides and 7515 proteins,  
221 with 1786 phosphopeptides and 5791 proteins that overlapped between both AML cell lines  
222 (**Figure 1B**).

223 Changes in phosphorylation and protein levels between untreated and CX-4945-treated cells  
224 were assessed using Student's t Test and  $p$ -value  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.  
225 We also applied a fold-change (treated vs. control) threshold of 1.5 ( $|\text{FC}| \geq 1.5$ ) to define the  
226 down- and up-regulated phosphopeptides and proteins. In HL-60 cells 275 phosphopeptides on  
227 224 proteins were significantly modulated, while in OCI-AML3 cells the number was almost  
228 5-fold higher with 1324 on 847 proteins (**Figure 2A, Table S1**). In both cellular contexts,  
229 treatment with CX-4945 elicited a global decrease of protein phosphorylation, based on the  
230 distribution of down- and up-regulated phosphopeptides in Volcano plots (**Figure 2A**). On the  
231 contrary, proteomic analysis indicated that in both cell lines CK2 inhibition showed no bias  
232 towards the protein down-regulation (**Figure 2B, Table S2**). Actually, proteome analysis  
233 evidenced that changes in phosphorylation upon CX-4945 treatment were mostly independent  
234 of protein abundance, since only eight down-regulated proteins (two in HL-60 cells and six in  
235 OCI-AML3 cells) had phosphorylation sites significantly inhibited (**Figure 2B**). Those



236 proteins were not considered as differentially phosphorylated after CK2 inhibition, and  
237 consequently, were not included in the functional interpretation of the phosphoproteomic  
238 profiles.

239 In summary, after normalization with the proteome dataset a total of 273 and 1310 significantly  
240 modulated phosphopeptides were identified in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells, respectively  
241 (**Figure 1B, Figure 2A**). Remarkably, such difference indicates that CX-4945 has a more  
242 pronounced effect over the CK2-dependant signaling in OCI-AML3 cells, which suggests that  
243 the molecular perturbations induced by this inhibitor could rely on the AML cellular  
244 background. However, CX-4945 had a similar dose-dependent inhibitory effect on HL-60 and  
245 OCI-AML3 cells proliferation (**Figure S1**). It suggests that despite the divergence concerning  
246 the molecular impact of CK2 inhibition, there is no differential sensitivity of AML cells  
247 towards the overall antiproliferative effect of CX-4945.

## 248 *2.2. Enrichment Analysis of Differentially Modulated Phosphoproteins*

249 For better understanding of putative biological processes perturbed after CK2 inhibition in  
250 AML cells, the differentially modulated phosphoproteins were classified in terms of their  
251 biological functions using the information from the GO database [33, 34]. Analysis was  
252 performed using DAVID web-based tool and GO terms list was further submitted to REVIGO  
253 for redundancy reduction [35-37]. Significantly represented biological processes in both  
254 phosphoproteomics profiles include mRNA processing, regulation of viral process and protein  
255 sumoylation (**Figure 3**). Also, phosphorylation sites differentially modulated in HL-60 are  
256 located on phosphoproteins related to mRNA splicing, cellular response to DNA damage and  
257 ribosome biogenesis, while in OCI-AML3 covalent chromatin modification, nuclear transport,  
258 regulation of cell proliferation and gene expression are significantly represented (**Figure 3**). Of  
259 note, apoptotic signaling pathway was only identified as significantly enriched in OCI-AML3  
260 cells. Consistently, previous studies have evidenced that HL-60 cell line displays refractoriness  
261 to CX-4945 induced apoptosis, probably owing to the absence of p53 protein (HL-60 cells are  
262 p53 null) and the lower CK2 protein level and activity in comparison to other AML cell lines  
263 [51]. In such study it was demonstrated that CK2 inhibition not only triggers apoptotic cell  
264 death in AML cell lines, but also in freshly isolated blasts from AML patients [51].

265 Recently, another phosphoproteomic study in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) cell line  
266 NCI-H125 using the clinical-grade synthetic peptide CIGB-300, found mRNA processing and  
267 ribosome biogenesis as biological processes modulated after CK2 inhibition [26]. Protein

268 folding, cytoskeleton organization, microtubule formation and protein ubiquitination were also  
269 significantly modulated after treatment with CIGB-300 [26]. According with both studies, CK2  
270 inhibition by CX-4945 or CIGB-300 modulates a common set of biological processes but also  
271 each drug exerts its own mechanism of action by modulating a unique array of  
272 phosphoproteins. Since this effect could be a consequence of the different neoplastic  
273 backgrounds explored in each study (AML and NSCLC), a phosphoproteomics study of AML  
274 cells treated with CIGB-300 is currently underway to validate our hypothesis.

275 Noteworthy, proteins involved in cellular response to DNA damage appeared differentially  
276 phosphorylated in HL-60 cells treated with CX-4945 (**Figure 3**). Accordingly, CK2-mediated  
277 phosphorylation has been verified to regulate proteins with critical role in DNA damage  
278 response and DNA repair pathways [52]. In fact, phosphoproteomic analysis of cells treated  
279 with radiomimetic compound or ionizing radiation to induce DNA double-stranded breaks  
280 showed a dynamic response for a significant number of CK2 phosphorylation motifs [53, 54].  
281 Furthermore, combination of CK2 inhibitors with DNA-targeted drugs evidenced a synergistic  
282 interaction in cancer models, owing to the suppression of DNA repair response triggered by  
283 such chemotherapeutic agents [55, 56]. Interestingly, a number of modulated phosphorylation  
284 sites in AML cells belong to proteins implicated in regulation of viral process (**Figure 3**). The  
285 relevance of CK2 in viral infections has been well documented, and a number of viral and  
286 cellular proteins essential for virus replicative cycle and pathogenesis are listed as *bona fide*  
287 CK2 substrates [57].

288 On the whole, CK2 inhibition with CX-4945 impacted on a broader set of biological processes  
289 in OCI-AML3, which is in agreement with the higher number of differentially modulated  
290 phosphopeptides in this cell line (**Figure 2A, Figure 3**). However, as pointed above such  
291 divergence does not impinge on the antiproliferative effect exerted by CX-4945.

### 292 2.3. Sequence Analysis of Phosphopeptides Identified in AML Cells

293 Protein kinases recognize structural and sequence motif, which in conjunction with other  
294 factors like subcellular co-localization or protein complex formation, determine their  
295 specificity [58]. Particularly, CK2 phosphorylation is specified by multiple acidic residues  
296 located mostly downstream from the phosphoacceptor amino acid, the one at position  $n + 3$   
297 playing the most crucial function. Besides, proline residue at position  $n + 1$  acts as a negative  
298 determinant for protein kinase CK2 phosphorylation [3, 5].

299 In our study, approximately 21% of the phosphopeptides identified in HL-60 and OCI-AML3  
300 fulfill the CK2 consensus sequence (**Figure 4A, Table S3**). This proportion of putative CK2  
301 substrates is in accordance with previous phosphoproteomic analysis [24, 59]. In HL-60 the  
302 majority of phosphopeptides (83.3%) containing the CK2 consensus sequence were unaffected  
303 by CX-4945 treatment. Moreover, 107 phosphopeptides (16.7%) containing the CK2  
304 consensus sequence were significantly modulated in HL-60 treated cells, of which 14.4% had  
305 a decreased and 2.3% had an increased phosphorylation respect to non-treated cells  
306 (**Figure 4A**). In contrast to HL-60 cells, the majority of phosphopeptides (53.9%) containing  
307 the CK2 consensus sequence had a decreased phosphorylation in OCI-AML3 cells treated with  
308 CX-4945, whereas 45.8% were unaffected and 0.3% had an increased phosphorylation  
309 (**Figure 4A**). This result reinforces the differential impact of CX-4945 over the CK2-dependent  
310 signaling, which was evidenced above by the higher number of total phosphopeptides that had  
311 a decreased phosphorylation in OCI-AML3 treated cells (1310 out of 2976) (**Figure 2A**).

312 CK2 substrates have different rates of phosphorylation turnover, some of them are promptly  
313 reduced after 6 h of treatment with CX-4945 but others are more resistant to dephosphorylation,  
314 since requires much longer treatment times (up to 24 h) and higher concentrations of the  
315 inhibitor [24]. We think that the foregoing could explain the proportion of putative CK2  
316 phosphopeptides that resulted unaffected after 8 h of treatment with CX-4945 in AML cells.  
317 Even more, in C2C12 cells devoid of CK2 catalytic activity (CK2 $\alpha/\alpha^{(-/-)}$ ) was demonstrated  
318 that not all the phosphopeptides conforming the CK2 consensus sequence have reduced  
319 phosphorylation levels, suggesting that other kinase(s) could fulfill the phosphorylation of  
320 these sites in the absence of CK2 [27]. CK2 consensus is a quite distinctive motif where  
321 phosphoacceptor amino acid is surrounded by acidic residues [5]. As demonstrated by sequence  
322 logo analysis, the positions up- and down-stream of phosphorylated sites in peptides that  
323 significantly decreased after treatment with CX-4945 are predominantly occupied by acidic  
324 residues (**Figure 4B**). Furthermore, 30% and 16% of the phosphopeptides down-regulated by  
325 CX-4945 had a glutamic acid at position n + 3 in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells, respectively  
326 (**Figure 4B**). Basic residues are less represented or practically absent at positions spanning  
327 between n + 1 to n + 4. All these features are consistent with the previously reported linear  
328 motif preference of CK2.

329 Notably, phosphopeptides containing the S/T-P motif were also down-phosphorylated in AML  
330 cells after CK2 inhibition with CX-4945 (**Figure 4B**). In fact, 35% and 53% of the significantly  
331 down-phosphorylated peptides had a proline at position n + 1 in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells,

332 respectively (**Figure 4B**). This motif is targeted by the large and heterogeneous category of  
333 proline-directed kinases and has been previously reported that such motif is incompatible with  
334 direct phosphorylation by CK2 [60]. Thus, the down-regulation of phosphopeptides containing  
335 S/T-P motif could be interpreted as off-target effect of CX-4945 or just an indirect result of  
336 CK2 inhibition, i.e. perturbations of other kinases involved in signaling networks where CK2  
337 is also implicated. Considering that this effect has been associated not only to CX-4945, but  
338 also to others CK2 inhibitors [24-26], we reasoned that decrease in phosphorylation such  
339 phosphopeptides is just a consequence of signaling propagation following CK2 inhibition.

#### 340 *2.4. Network Analysis of Kinases Associated with AML Phosphoproteomic Profiles*

341 To identify kinases responsible for the phosphoproteomic profile modulated in HL-60 and  
342 OCI-AML3 cells, an enzyme-substrate network was constructed using iPTMnet and KEA2  
343 bioinformatic resources [39, 42]. A total of 37 differentially modulated phosphopeptides in  
344 HL-60 cells ( $|FC| \geq 1.5$ ,  $p$ -value  $< 0.05$ ) were attributed to 31 kinases including CK2 with the  
345 higher number (10 phosphopeptides) (**Figure 5, Figure S2, Table S4**). A broader picture was  
346 observed in OCI-AML3 phosphoproteome, in which 207 differentially modulated  
347 phosphopeptides were associated to 73 kinases. As expected, CK2 enzyme was again among  
348 the most represented kinases with 29 phosphopeptides (**Figure 5, Figure S2, Table S4**).  
349 Kinases significantly associated with the phosphoproteomic profile were also identified using  
350 KEA2 bioinformatic tool [42]. In addition to CK2, members of the CDKs and MAPKs families  
351 like CDK1, CDK2, MAPK9 and MAPK14 were also significantly associated with the OCI-  
352 AML3 phosphoproteome (**Figure S2**). These results are in accordance with sequence logo  
353 analysis, which indicates that CK2 and proline-directed kinases motifs are the most frequent  
354 among the phosphopeptides down-regulated after CK2 inhibition in AML cells.

355 An interaction network of protein kinases associated with the phosphoproteomic profile  
356 modulated in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells was represented using the Metascape bioinformatic  
357 software (**Figure 5**) [43]. The kinome network also includes those kinases that were identified  
358 in AML cells after CK2 inhibition, with either not differentially modulated phosphopeptides  
359 (green nodes) or down-phosphorylated peptides (blue nodes). For instance, the tyrosine-  
360 phosphorylated and regulated protein kinase DYRK1A is known to promote cell proliferation  
361 and survival [61]. DYRK1A is auto-phosphorylated in S529, modification that enhances 14-3-  
362 3- $\beta$  protein binding and consequently increases the kinase catalytic activity [62]. DYRK1A  
363 S529 was found down-phosphorylated in our study, suggesting an inhibition of this kinase in

364 HL-60 cells. In fact, the S369 of Cyclin-L2, a known DYRK1A substrate which is involved in  
365 RNA processing of apoptosis-related factors [63], was also found down-phosphorylated in HL-  
366 60 cells (**Figure S2**).

367 CK2 has direct interactions with 13 and 27 kinases related to the phosphoproteomic profile  
368 identified in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells, respectively (**Figure 5**). Such kinases include nine  
369 *bona fide* CK2 substrates, three of them (MAPK1, MAPK9 and CDK1) related to both  
370 phosphoproteomics profiles (**Figure 5**). Although none of the CK2 phosphosites belonging to  
371 these kinases were identified in the present study, the results suggest a signal propagation  
372 downstream of these proteins. For instance, CK2 phosphorylates mitogen-activated protein  
373 kinase 1 (MAPK1) at S246 and S248, such event promotes MAPK1 nuclear translocation and  
374 phosphorylation of target transcription factors [64]. A total of 19 phosphopeptides which are  
375 substrates of MAPK1 were identified down-phosphorylated in OCI-AML3 after CK2  
376 inhibition (**Figure S2**). Besides, CK2 phosphorylates cyclin-dependent kinase 1 (CDK1) at S39  
377 and regulates cell cycle [65]. Accordingly, the enzyme-substrate network evidenced an  
378 inactivation downstream of CDK1 since at least, 43 phosphosites modulated by CDK1 were  
379 down-phosphorylated in OCI-AML3 cells. Such phosphopeptides belong to proteins related to  
380 chromatin remodeling, mitotic spindle assembly, and DNA repair (**Figure S2**).

381 Highly connected regions in the kinome networks associated to HL-60 and OCI-AML3  
382 phosphoproteomic profiles were identified using MCODE algorithm [44]. Clusters  
383 representing cell cycle and MAPK targets appeared as a common denominator in kinome  
384 networks from both AML cell lines (**Figure 5**). In contrast, signaling pathways mediated by  
385 VEGF and PI3K/AKT only appeared in OCI-AML3 kinome network (**Figure 5**). Protein  
386 kinase CK2 it is known that up-regulates PI3K/AKT pathway, in part by phosphorylating and  
387 activating AKT1 [66]. To note, PI3K/AKT pathway is constitutively active and sustain  
388 viability of primary acute lymphoblastic leukemia cells (ALL), signaling alteration that results  
389 from CK2 overexpression and hyperactivation [67]. AML and ALL are hematological diseases  
390 with several features in common, and previous studies have showed that the antineoplastic  
391 effect of CX-4945 in both malignancies is mediated by attenuation of the PI3K/AKT pathway  
392 [51, 68-70]. Accordingly, we found a number of AKT1 substrates down-phosphorylated in  
393 OCI-AML3 cells after CK2 inhibition with CX-4945, whereas in HL-60 cells the PI3K/AKT  
394 pathway did not appeared significantly represented in our analysis, explaining perhaps the  
395 refractoriness to CX-4945-induced apoptosis displayed by this cell line.

396 Importantly, previous phosphoproteomic results from primary AML cells have indicated that  
397 at the diagnosis time, patients that relapse after chemotherapy had a higher CK2, MAPK and  
398 CDK activity in comparison with patients which have free-relapse evolution [22]. However,  
399 the high CK2 activity at diagnosis of relapsed patients was no longer observed in  
400 chemoresistant cells [23]. Aasebø *et al.* pointed out that the proteome and phosphoproteome  
401 profiles changed considerably from the first diagnosis to the first relapse, therefore CK2 could  
402 be important in inducing treatment-resistant clones but dispensable for the survival of clones  
403 that already have become resistant to therapy [23]. Remarkably, in our study substrates of CK2,  
404 MAPKs and CDKs were found down-phosphorylated after CX-4945 treatment of AML cell  
405 lines, being MAPKs and CDKs signaling modulation probably a down-stream consequence of  
406 CK2 inhibition (**Figure 5, Table S4**).

#### 407 2.5. Identification of CK2 Substrates Modulated by CX-4945 in AML Cells

408 Besides the *bona fide* CK2 substrates annotated in iPTMnet and KEA databases [39, 42],  
409 additional candidate CK2 substrates in AML cells were searched. According to the presence of  
410 the CK2 consensus sequence, 39% and 26% of all differentially modulated phosphopeptides  
411 on HL-60 and OCI-AML3 respectively, could be putative CK2 substrates responsive to CX-  
412 4945. However, phosphosites recognized by other protein kinases like Ser/Thr-protein kinase  
413 Chk1 or cAMP dependent protein kinase catalytic subunit alpha (PKACA) could contain an  
414 acidic amino acid at position  $n + 3$  (**Figure S3**). Indeed, we observed that arginine is frequent  
415 at position  $n - 3$  from the phosphorylated residue (**Figure 4**), a motif that is recognized by  
416 basophilic kinases [59]. Therefore, we search for additional evidences in support  
417 phosphoproteins containing the CK2 consensus sequence as candidate CK2 substrates.

418 First, differentially phosphorylated proteins identified in AML cells were searched as candidate  
419 CK2 substrates using NetworKIN database [45]. Such database includes enzyme-substrate  
420 interactions predicted not only based on the consensus sequence recognized by the enzyme,  
421 but also using a protein association network to model the context of substrates and kinases,  
422 which improves the prediction accuracy [45]. Second, the phosphoproteomic profile  
423 differentially modulated in AML cells after CK2 inhibition was compared with a dataset of  
424 high confidence CK2 substrates reported by Bian *et al.* [46]. These authors identified *in vitro*  
425 CK2 substrates by combining kinase reaction on immobilized proteomes with quantitative  
426 phosphoproteomics, and to reduce false positive results compared *in vitro* phosphosites with *in*  
427 *vivo* phosphorylation sites reported in databases [46]. Lastly, the differentially modulated

428 phosphoproteins that interact with CK2 were searched using Metascape, which performed  
429 interactome analysis based on integrative protein-protein interactions databases like  
430 InWeb\_IM and OmniPath [43].

431 Taking into account the four levels of predictions (CK2 consensus sequence, NetworKIN  
432 prediction, CK2 substrates predicted by Bian *et al.* [46] and interaction with CK2) we identified  
433 a total of 117 and 359 candidate CK2 substrates differentially modulated after CK2 inhibition  
434 in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells, respectively (**Table S5**). This dataset was filtered out to find  
435 those substrates that had the concomitant occurrence of two or more criteria associated to CK2  
436 phosphorylation. Applying this workflow, in HL-60 cells 64 phosphosites on 53 proteins were  
437 identified as the most reliable CK2 substrates modulated after treatment with CX-4945,  
438 whereas 168 phosphosites on 120 proteins were identified in OCI-AML3 cells (**Figure 6**,  
439 **Table S5**). The list includes those CK2 substrates previously confirmed as *bona fide* according  
440 to iPTMnet and KEA databases [39, 42].

441 Remarkably, for the 67% and 71% of the high confidence CK2 substrates modulated in HL-60  
442 and OCI-AML3 cells, respectively, any related enzyme was annotated in iPTMnet database.  
443 Besides, to our knowledge the phosphosites S280 of coilin protein and T180 of inosine-5'-  
444 monophosphate dehydrogenase 2 (IMPDH2) are reported for the first time. Coilin protein is an  
445 integral component of Cajal bodies-subnuclear compartments, whereas IMPDH2 catalyzes the  
446 first and rate-limiting step for *de novo* guanine nucleotide biosynthesis pathway [71, 72].  
447 Interestingly, both proteins regulate cell growth and have been related to malignant  
448 transformation [72, 73]. However, validation of coilin S280 and IMPDH2 T180 as  
449 phosphorylation sites targeted by CK2 and the biological roles of such post-translational  
450 modifications need further experimentation.

## 451 2.6. Functional Characterization of CK2 Substrates Identified in AML Cells

452 Phosphoproteins identified as candidate CK2 substrates are related to transcription, mRNA  
453 splicing, rRNA processing, translation, DNA repair and cell cycle in both AML cells lines  
454 (**Figure 6**). However, the number of potential CK2 substrates differentially modulated after  
455 CK2 inhibition is higher in OCI-AML3 cells than in HL-60 cells. As pointed before, this could  
456 explain the different sensitivity to CX-4945 cytotoxic effect of HL-60 cells in comparison to  
457 other AML cell lines [51]. In fact, we identified candidate CK2 substrates related to apoptosis  
458 only in the phosphoproteomic profile of OCI-AML3 cells (**Figure 6**). This subset includes  
459 three tumor suppressors: erythrocyte membrane protein band 4.1 like 3 (EPB41L3 S88), the

460 programmed cell death 4 protein (PDCD4 S457) and the death inducer-obliterator 1 (DIDO1  
461 S809). However, the effect of CK2-mediated phosphorylation for the function of these proteins  
462 remains to be determined.

463 CK2 inhibition in AML cells could impact the transcriptional machinery by modulating the  
464 phosphorylation of several candidate substrates. Such CK2 candidate substrates in OCI-AML3  
465 phosphoproteomic profile are centered around the RNA polymerase II subunit A (POLR2A)  
466 according to protein-protein interactions gathered from STRING database (**Figure 6**) [47].  
467 Three components of the PAF1 complex which interacts with RNA polymerase II during  
468 transcription were identified as candidate CK2 substrates: RNA polymerase II-associated  
469 factor 1 homolog (PAF1 S394), RNA polymerase-associated protein LEO1 (LEO1 S296, S630,  
470 S658 and T629) and RNA polymerase-associated protein CTR9 homolog (CTR9 T925). PAF1  
471 complex is required for transcription of Hox and Wnt target genes [74]. Therefore, down-  
472 phosphorylation of these candidate substrates could modulate the Wnt signaling pathway.  
473 Supporting this hypothesis, previous studies highlights that CK2 is a positive regulator of Wnt  
474 signaling pathway and CK2 inhibition by CX-4945 has been associated with Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin  
475 inhibition [75, 76].

476 Substrates related to transcription include *bona fide* CK2 targets such as the non-histone  
477 chromosomal protein HMG-14 (HMGN1) and the high mobility group protein HMG-I/HMG-  
478 Y (HMGA1) [77-79]. The phosphorylation level of both proteins (HMGN1 S7, S8, S89;  
479 HMGA1 S103) decreased after CK2 inhibition by CX-4945 (**Figure 6**). Importantly, AML  
480 patients that relapsed after chemotherapy have an increased phosphorylation level of HMGN1  
481 S7 [22]. In general HMG proteins modulate chromatin and nucleosome structure, participate  
482 in transcription, replication, DNA repair, and extracellular HMGN1 has been described to  
483 function as an alarmin that contributes to the generation of innate and adaptative immune  
484 responses [80, 81]. The biological effect of CK2 phosphorylation of HMGN1 and HMGA1 is  
485 currently unknown, although, previous studies suggest that phosphorylation of HMGN1 could  
486 interfere with its nuclear localization [78].

487 The most densely down-phosphorylated protein among the candidate CK2 substrates is the  
488 protein IWS1 homolog (IWS1) which was identified with eight phosphopeptides in OCI-  
489 AML3 cells (**Figure 6**). This protein recruits a number of mRNA export factors and histone  
490 modifying enzymes to the RNA polymerase II elongation complex and modulates the  
491 production of mature mRNA transcripts [82, 83]. As illustrated by **Figure 6**, several candidate



492 CK2 substrates related to mRNA splicing were down-phosphorylated after CK2 inhibition in  
493 AML cells, including members of the spliceosome complex. Among those proteins are  
494 heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins (HNRNPC, HNRNPL), serine and arginine rich  
495 splicing factors (SRSF2, SRSF11) and pre-mRNA processing factors (PRPF3 and PRPF40A)  
496 (**Figure 6**). In particular, CK2 phosphorylation of heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins  
497 C1/C2 (HNRNPC) it known that regulates its binding to mRNA [84, 85]. In agreement with  
498 our results, was previously demonstrated that CK2 inhibition by quinalizarin and CIGB-300  
499 modulates a subset of CK2 substrates related to transcription, RNA processing and mRNA  
500 splicing [24, 26]. To note that at the time of diagnosis, phosphoproteins containing CK2  
501 phosphoacceptor sites and related to RNA processing have an increased phosphorylation level  
502 in relapse AML patients when compared to those which have a relapse-free evolution [22].  
503 Another phosphoproteomic study comparing pairing samples of AML patients at the time of  
504 diagnosis and first relapse found that also RNA-splicing and -binding proteins were up-  
505 phosphorylated at first relapse [23].

506 CK2 phosphorylation of proteins related to rRNA processing and translation has been well  
507 documented [3]. Among the proteins probably subject to CK2 regulation in AML cells are  
508 members of the nucleolar ribonucleoprotein complex (NAF1 S315; DKC1 S451, S453, S485,  
509 S494; NOP56 S520, S570) (**Figure 6**). According to information gathered from STRING  
510 database [47], such proteins interacts with phosphoproteins related to ribosome biogenesis  
511 (RIOK2 S332, S337; BMS1 S639; LTV1 T171) which were identified mainly in OCI-AML3  
512 cells (**Figure 6**). The effect of CK2 regulation of these proteins remains to be elucidated.  
513 However, the results highlight the important role of CK2 in regulating protein biosynthesis to  
514 support the high proliferative rate of tumor cells. In line with this result, a cluster of eukaryotic  
515 translation initiation factors (EIF) was down-phosphorylated after CK2 inhibition (**Figure 6**).  
516 This cluster contains two members of the EIF3 complex: EIF3J S11 and EIF3C S39. EIF3J is  
517 a known CK2 substrate and its phosphorylation on S127 promotes assembly of EIF3 complex  
518 and activation of the translational initiation machinery [86]. Besides, CK2 phosphorylates  
519 EIF2 $\beta$  on S2, a phosphopeptide also identified in our study, and such modification stimulates  
520 EIF2 $\beta$  function in protein synthesis [87]. Down-phosphorylation of proteins related to the  
521 translational machinery after CK2 inhibition could add a beneficial impact at the clinical  
522 evolution of AML patients, since protein translation has been associated with increased relapse  
523 risk [22, 23].

524 Another function attributed to CK2 is the regulation of the cellular DNA damage response [52].  
525 After CK2 inhibition in AML cells, the biological process of DNA repair appeared significantly  
526 represented in the phosphoproteomic profiles (**Figure 3**). A recent study demonstrated that  
527 proteins related to DNA repair have increased phosphorylation levels in relapse AML patients  
528 [22]. Among those phosphoproteins associated with such unfavorable chemotherapy outcome,  
529 we identified in our study that treatment of AML cells with CX-4945 down-phosphorylates  
530 TRIM28 S19, TP53BP1 S523/S525 and LIG1 S66, this latter a known CK2 substrate (**Table**  
531 **S1**) [88]. Besides, others known and putative CK2 substrates related to DNA repair were also  
532 found down-phosphorylated in our study, like the DNA damage recognition and repair protein  
533 (XPC S94) (**Figure 6**). In particular, CK2 phosphorylation of XPC at S94 promotes recruitment  
534 of ubiquitinated XPC to the chromatin which is important for nucleotide excision repair  
535 following ultraviolet induced DNA damage [89]. Previous studies demonstrated that CK2  
536 inhibition by CX-4945 inactivates the function of other essential DNA repair proteins,  
537 supporting the synergistic interaction of this inhibitor with chemotherapeutic agents that induce  
538 DNA damage [55].

539 Worthy of note, we identified members of the heat shock protein 90 (HSP90) chaperone  
540 proteins differentially modulated in OCI-AML3 phosphoproteomic profile. CK2 mediated  
541 phosphorylation of HSP90 is required for its chaperone activity toward client kinases, some of  
542 them involved in human cancers [90, 91]. Phosphosites from HSP90-alpha (HSP90AA1 S263)  
543 and HSP90-beta (HSP90AB1 S226) were both down-phosphorylated after CK2 inhibition in  
544 OCI-AML3 cells (**Figure 6**). Thus, modulation of HSP90 by CX-4945 in OCI-AML3 cells  
545 could be in part responsible for the signal propagation downstream of CK2 inhibition and the  
546 pronounced effect over the kinome network in this cell line. In agreement with our findings,  
547 besides attenuation of PI3K/AKT pathway, disruption of unfolded protein response (UPR)  
548 have also been pointed as a mediator of CX-4945-induced apoptosis in ALL cell lines and  
549 primary lymphoblasts [69, 70]. Importantly, in such effect the reduction of chaperoning activity  
550 of HSP90 appears to play a critical role [69, 70]. Moreover, in multiple myeloma (MM) cells,  
551 another hematological malignancy having common features with AML, has been documented  
552 that CK2 inhibition causes apoptotic cell death through alterations of the UPR pathway [92].

553 In summary we found that the phosphoproteomic profiles modulated after CK2 inhibition with  
554 CX-4945 in AML cell lines, contain protein mediators of signaling pathways and biological  
555 processes previously described in primary AML cells (**Figure 7**) [22, 23, 51, 68]. Therefore,  
556 our findings, in conjunction with Quotti Tubi *et al.* results and AML patients phosphoproteomic

557 data from Aasebø *et al.*, support the rationale of protein kinase CK2 pharmacologic inhibition  
558 for AML targeted therapy, an approach that could significantly improve the outcome in AML  
559 therapeutics.

## 560 **5. Conclusions**

561 Our study provides the first quantitative phosphoproteomic analysis exploring the molecular  
562 impact of the ATP-competitive CK2 inhibitor CX-4945 in human cell lines representing two  
563 differentiation stages and major AML subtypes. Here, we identified a total of 273 and 1310  
564 unique phosphopeptides as significantly modulated in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells,  
565 respectively. Modulated phosphopeptides are mainly related to mRNA processing and splicing,  
566 response to DNA damage stimulus, protein sumoylation and regulation of viral processes. In  
567 addition, the network analysis illustrated how the relationship of CK2 with other kinases could  
568 orchestrate the perturbation of AML cells phosphoproteome. In this complex cellular response,  
569 phosphorylation mediated by other kinases besides CK2 could be interpreted as a consequence  
570 of signal propagation downstream of CK2 inhibition, rather than off-targets effects.  
571 Additionally, using database mining and prediction tools, in HL-60 cells we identified 64  
572 phosphosites on 53 proteins as high confidence CK2 substrates responsive to CX-4945,  
573 whereas 168 phosphosites on 120 proteins were identified in OCI-AML3 cells. Such substrates  
574 not only explain the variety of cellular effects exerted by CX-4945, but also reinforce the  
575 instrumental role of protein kinase CK2 in AML biology. Finally, our results, in conjunction  
576 with previous findings in primary AML cells, support the suitability of using CK2 inhibitors  
577 for AML targeted therapy.

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580 and G.V.P.; data curation, V.B.; writing-original draft preparation, M.R. and A.R.; writing-  
581 review and editing, A.C.R. and G.V.P.; supervision, S.E.P. and Y.P.; project administration,  
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941 **Figures and Supplementary Materials**

942 **Figure 1.** Phosphoproteomic and proteomic analysis of human AML cells treated with the CK2  
943 inhibitor CX-4945: (a) Workflow for the exploration of phosphorylation changes induced in  
944 HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells after treatment with CX-4945. Three biological replicates of each  
945 group were evaluated; (b) Number of identified and significantly modulated phosphopeptides  
946 and proteins in each AML cell line. Phosphoproteomic results are showed before and after  
947 normalization with the proteome dataset. (\*) MED-FASP: multienzyme digestion filter-aided  
948 sample preparation [28].

949 **Figure 2.** Phosphoproteomic and proteomic profile of human AML cells treated with the CK2  
950 inhibitor CX-4945. Volcano plots of quantified (a) phosphopeptides and (b) proteins from HL-  
951 60 and OCI-AML3 cells after treatment with 5  $\mu$ M CX-4945 during 8 h. Red points indicate  
952 those phosphopeptides/proteins that met statistical significance cut-off ( $|FC| \geq 1.5$ ,  $p$ -value  $<$   
953 0.05). Additionally, black points indicate those phosphopeptides with decreased  
954 phosphorylation due to the reduction of the corresponding protein abundance in proteomic  
955 analysis (down-regulated proteins are also indicated in black).

956 **Figure 3.** Enrichment analysis for differentially modulated phosphoproteins in HL-60 and  
957 OCI-AML3 cells treated with CX-4945. Biological processes significantly represented in  
958 phosphoproteomic profile were identified using annotations from GO database. The  $p$ -value of  
959 modified Fisher Exact Test from DAVID is placed in square brackets.

960 **Figure 4.** Sequence analysis of phosphopeptides identified in AML cells treated with the CK2  
961 inhibitor CX-4945: (a) Pie charts show the percent of phosphopeptides identified in HL-60 and  
962 OCI-AML3 cells that either, contains or not the CK2 consensus sequence. For the former  
963 category, the percentage of phosphopeptides that are significantly increased or decreased, or  
964 that do not show significant changes in their phosphorylation levels are reported in lateral pie  
965 charts; (b) Sequence logos corresponding to phosphopeptides significantly down-  
966 phosphorylated in AML cells treated with CX-4945. Logos were generated using WebLogo  
967 tool and MaxQuant amino acid sequence window as input [38]. (\*) Phosphopeptides with

968 decreased phosphorylation due to the reduction of protein abundance were not considered as  
969 differentially regulated.

970 **Figure 5.** Protein-protein interaction network of kinases associated to phosphoproteomic  
971 profiles differentially modulated by CX-4945 in HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells. Protein clusters  
972 were identified with MCODE algorithm and the related biological processes and signaling  
973 pathways are indicated. For each protein kinase the node size is proportional to the number of  
974 target phosphopeptides that appeared differentially phosphorylated in response to CK2  
975 inhibition. Kinases that are significantly associated with the phosphoproteomic profiles,  
976 according to KEA2 results, are highlighted with a red border. In addition, kinases indicated  
977 with a red line are bona fide CK2 substrates, whereas green and blue nodes correspond to those  
978 kinases that were identified in our analysis with either not differentially modulated  
979 phosphopeptides and down-phosphorylated peptides, respectively.

980 **Figure 6.** Network of CK2 substrates differentially modulated after CK2 inhibition with CX-  
981 4945 in AML cells. For each substrate, the phosphoacceptor sites (*bona fide* and predicted) for  
982 CK2-mediated phosphorylation and its modulation after incubation with CX-4945 are  
983 indicated. Phosphoproteins are grouped according to related biological processes annotated in  
984 GO database and squares representing protein-protein interactions networks retrieved from  
985 STRING database are shown.

986 **Figure 7.** Signaling pathways and biological processes deregulated in primary AML cells and  
987 modulated by the CK2 inhibitor CX-4945 in AML cell lines. Phosphoproteins up-regulated in  
988 primary AML cells and down-phosphorylated in CX-4945-treated AML cells are indicated.

989 **Figure S1.** Antiproliferative effect of CK2 inhibitor CX-4945 in AML cell lines. Proliferation  
990 of HL-60 and OCI-AML3 cells was assessed using AlamarBlue assay. Dose-response curves  
991 are representative of three independent experiments and  $IC_{50}$  values are shown as mean  $\pm$  SD,  
992 n = 3. ns, not significant.

993 **Figure S2.** Enzyme-substrate network of differentially modulated phosphopeptides identified  
994 in AML cells using annotations from iPTMnet and KEA2. In squares are indicated the MAPK  
995 and CDK families as well as the CK2 substrates differentially modulated in HL-60 and OCI-  
996 AML3 cells after CK2 inhibition by CX4945. Kinases that are significantly associated with the  
997 phosphoproteomic profiles, according to KEA2 results, are highlighted with a red border.  
998 Network includes all kinases associated to AML cells modulated phosphoproteome, however  
999 green and blue nodes correspond to those kinases that were identified in our analysis with either  
1000 not differentially modulated phosphopeptides and down-phosphorylated peptides, respectively.

1001 **Figure S3.** Sequence logos of phosphopeptides targeted by protein kinases representing five  
1002 kinase groups (CAMK, Atypical, CK1, AGC and other) in the human kinome. The analysis  
1003 was performed using the Motif Analysis tool of PhosphositePlus (PSP)  
1004 (<http://www.phosphosite.org/>). All the substrates annotated in PSP database for each kinase  
1005 were used as input sequences.

1006 **Table S1.** Phosphoproteomic profile of AML cells treated with the CK2 inhibitor CX-4945.

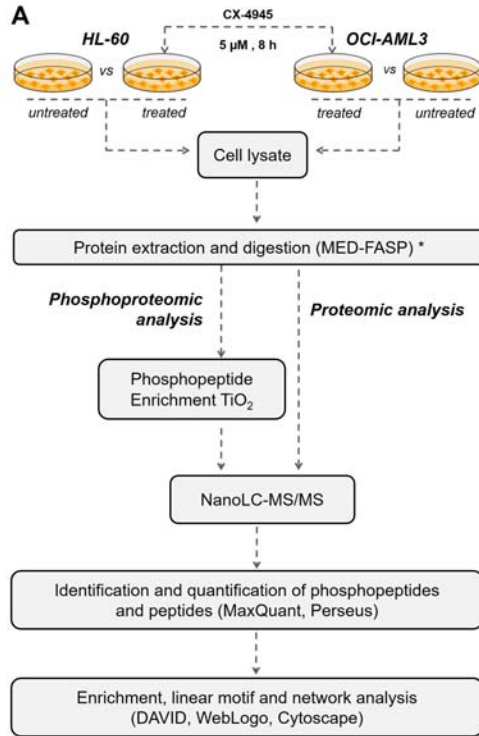
1007 **Table S2.** Proteins differentially modulated in AML cells treated with the CK2 inhibitor CX-  
1008 4945.

1009 **Table S3.** Phosphopeptides that fulfill the CK2 consensus sequence in AML  
1010 phosphoproteomic profiles.

1011 **Table S4.** Data mining of kinases associated to differentially phosphorylated peptides in AML  
1012 phosphoproteomic profiles.

1013 **Table S5.** Candidate CK2 substrates differentially modulated in AML cells treated with CX-  
1014 4945.

**FIGURE 1**

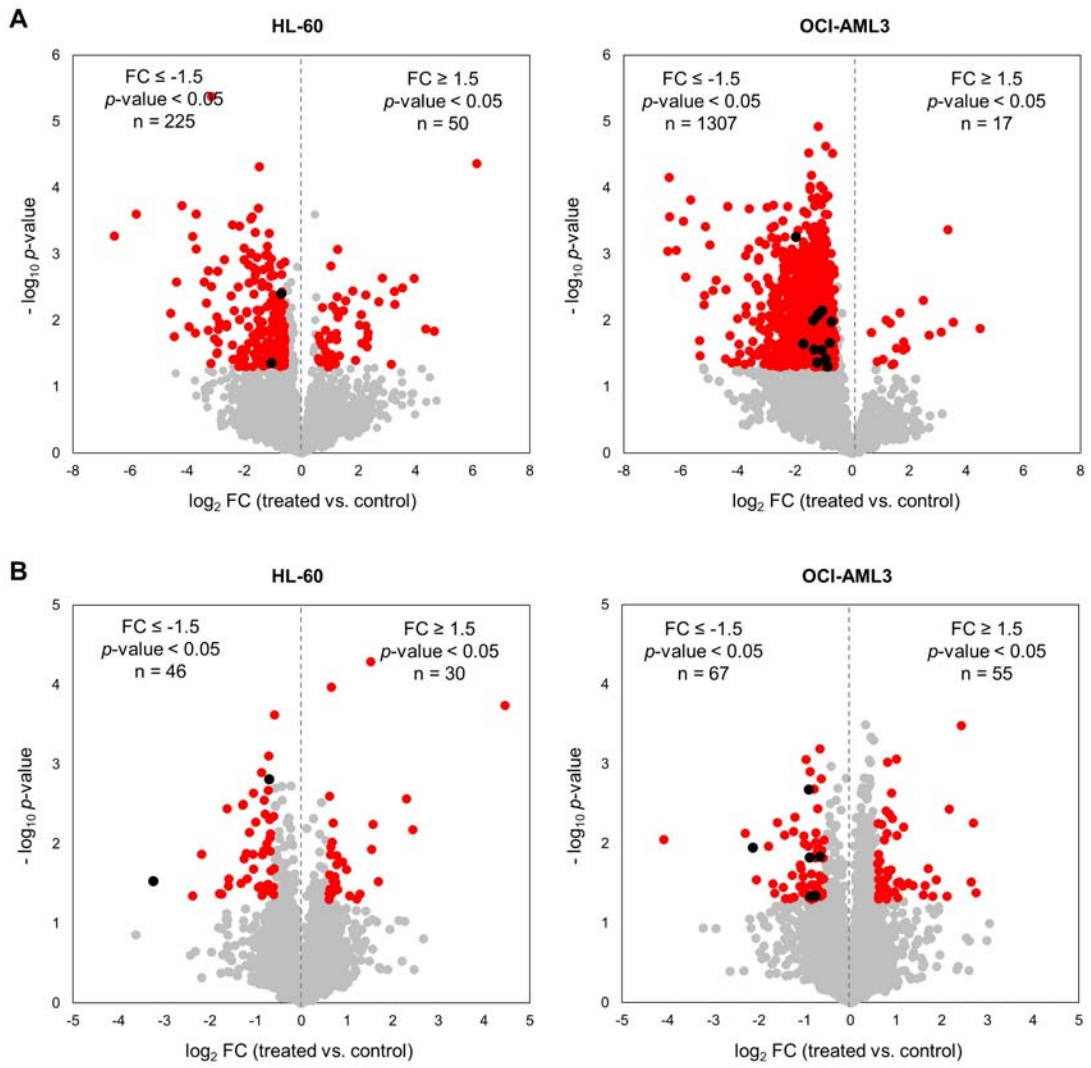


**B**

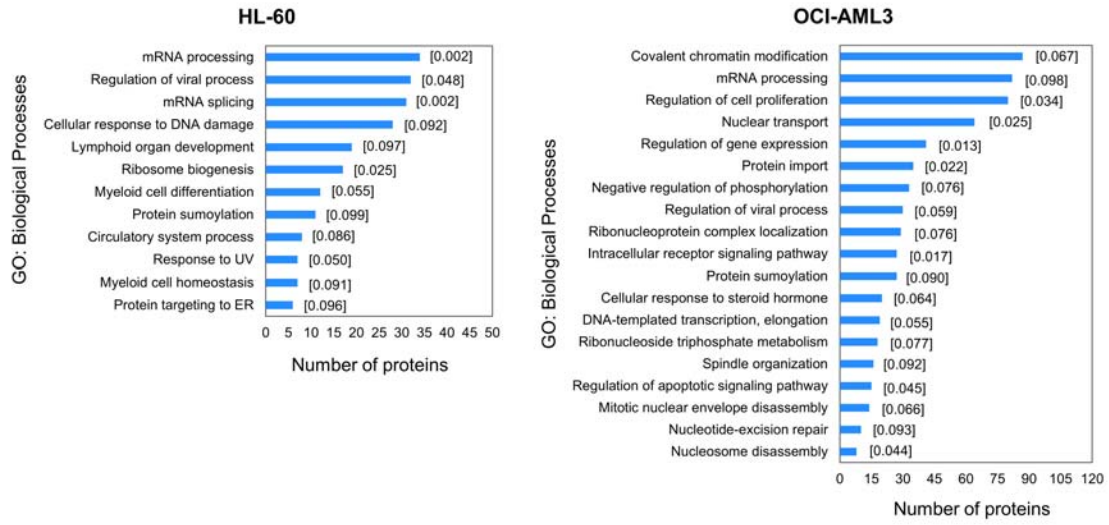
<b>Phosphoproteome and Proteome Dataset</b>	<b>HL-60</b>	<b>OCI-AML3</b>
Unique phosphopeptides	3077	2976
<i>Total: 4267 ; Overlap: 1786</i>		
Corresponding phosphoproteins	1618	1645
Proteins (Proteomic analysis)	6636	6670
<i>Total: 7515 ; Overlap: 5791</i>		
Significantly modulated phosphopeptides	275	1324
<i>Total: 1479 ; Overlap: 120</i>		
Corresponding phosphoproteins	224	847
With down-phosphorylated peptides	181	838
With up-phosphorylated peptides	48	17
Significantly modulated proteins (Proteomic analysis)	76	122
<i>Total: 195 ; Overlap: 3</i>		
<b>Phosphoproteome after normalization with proteome dataset</b>		
Significantly modulated phosphopeptides	273	1310
<i>Total: 1463 ; Overlap: 120</i>		
Corresponding phosphoproteins	222	841
With down-phosphorylated peptides	179	832
With up-phosphorylated peptides	48	17



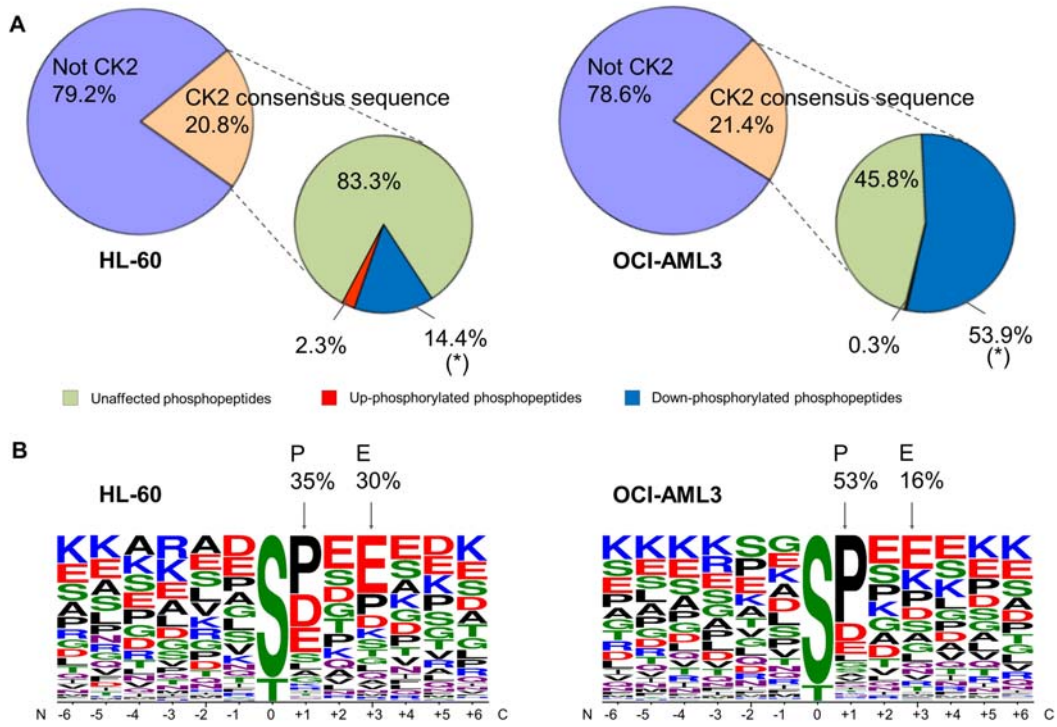
**FIGURE 2**



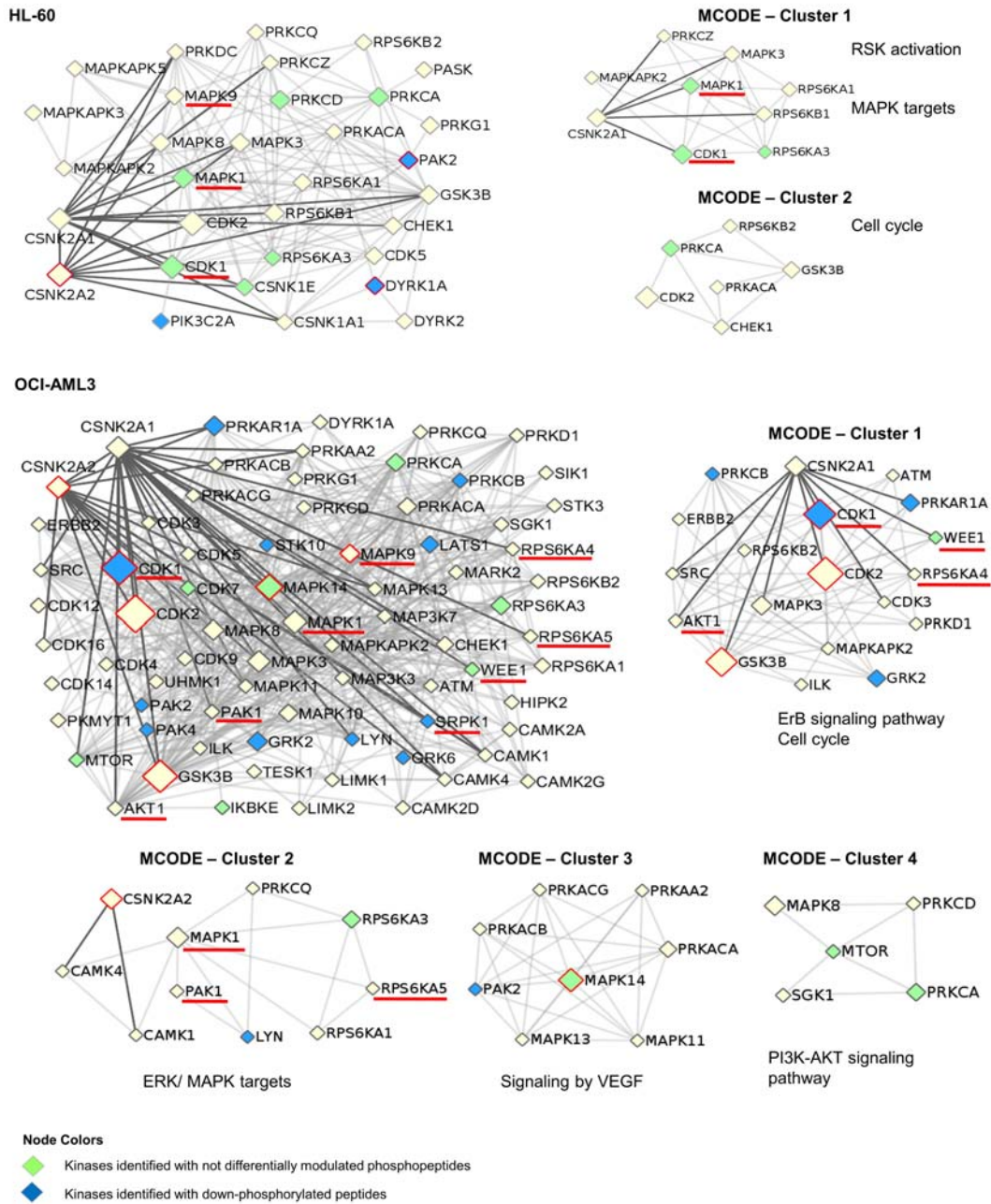
**FIGURE 3**



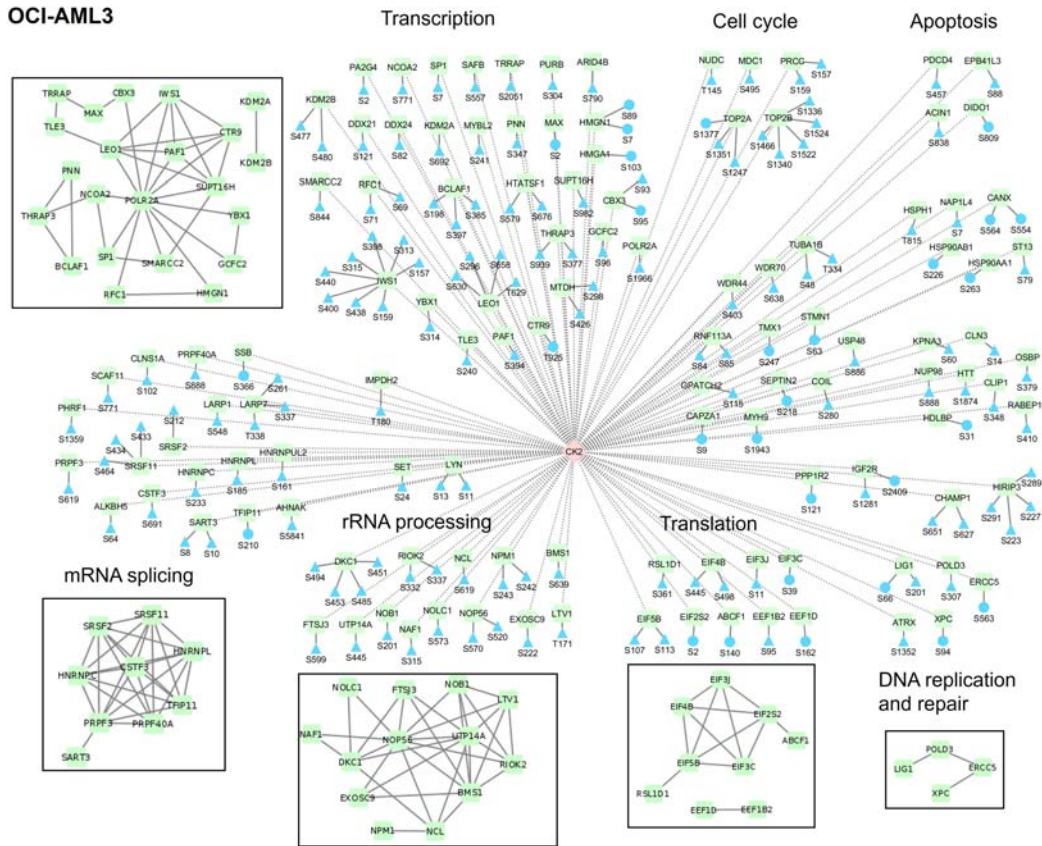
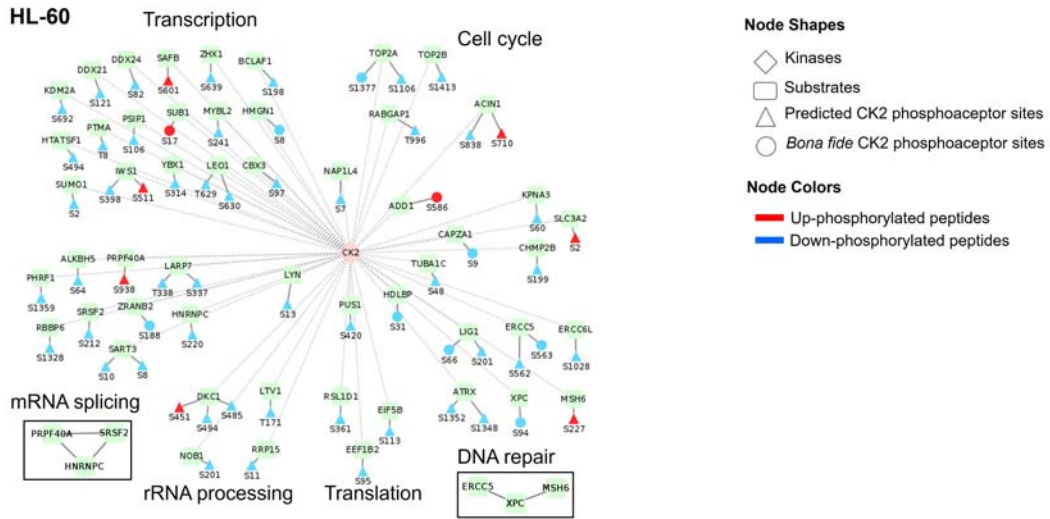
**FIGURE 4**



**FIGURE 5**



**FIGURE 6**



**FIGURE 7**

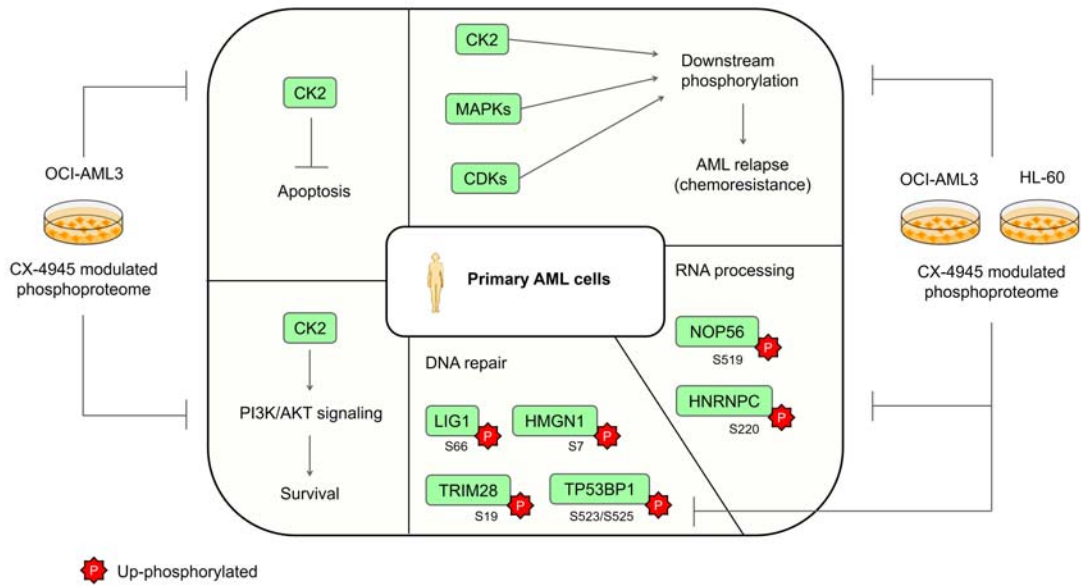
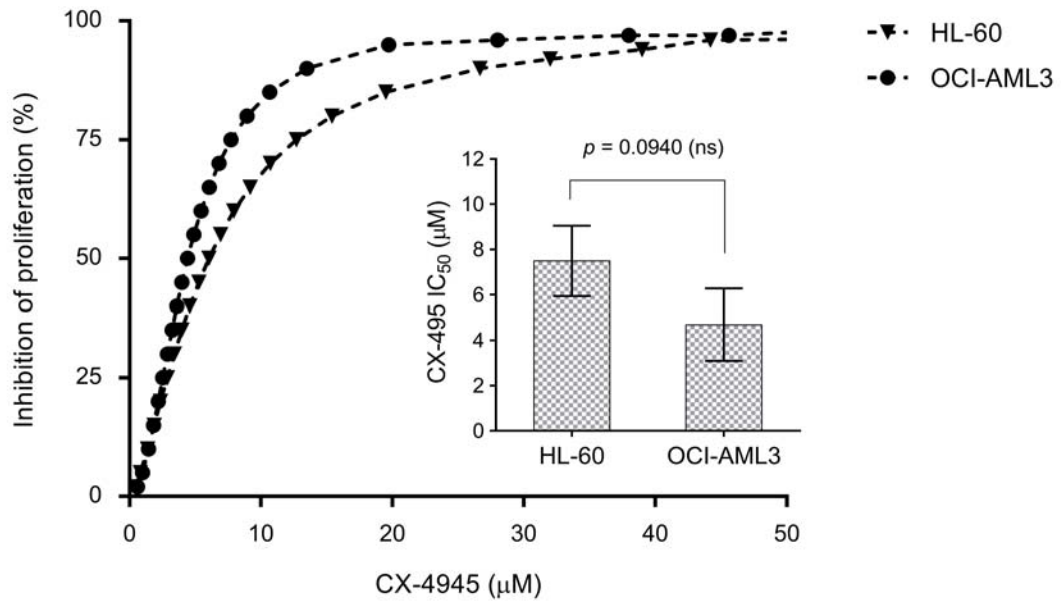
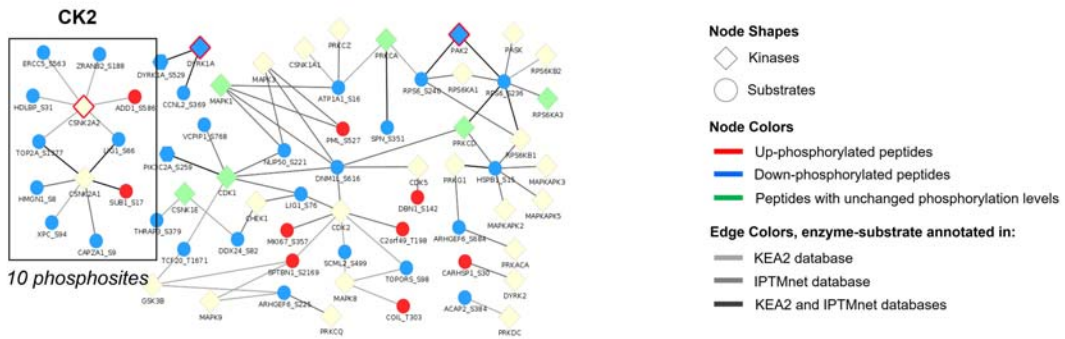


FIGURE S1



**FIGURE S2**

**HL-60**



**OCI-AML3**

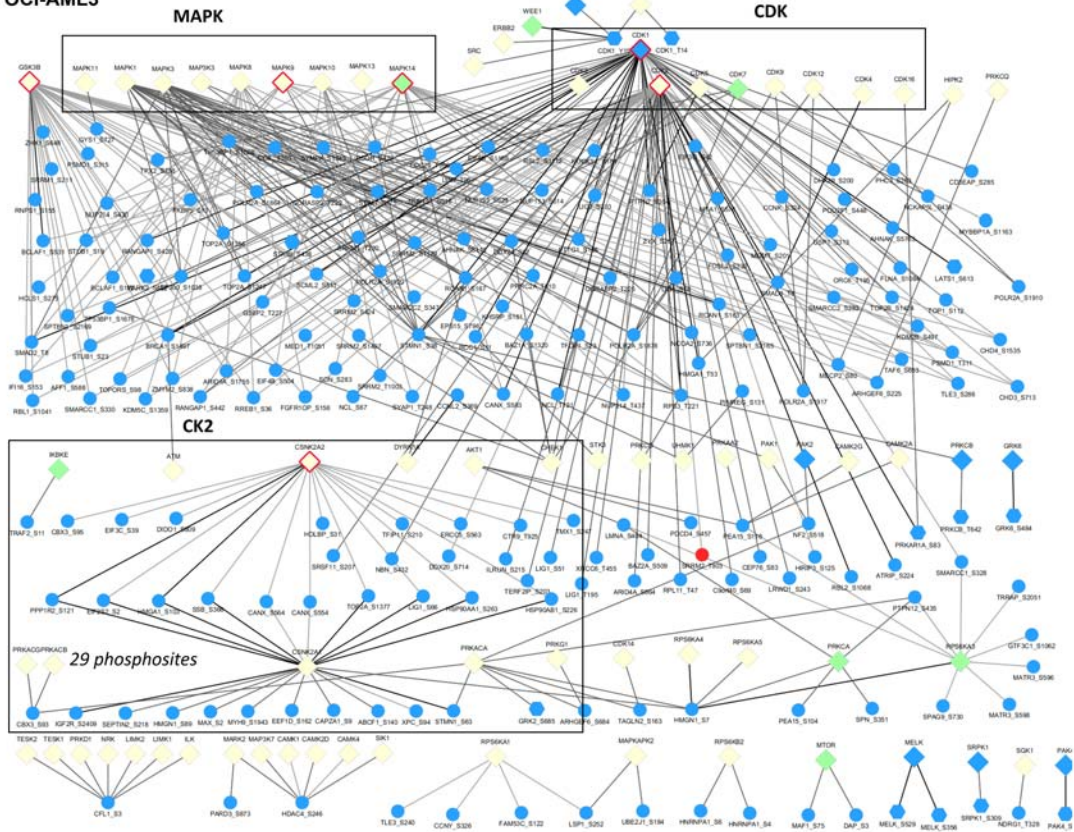




FIGURE S3

