

1 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation suppresses colorectal cancer by promoting eEF2
2 phosphorylation via eEF2K

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19 **Running title:** *Rpl24*^{Bst} suppresses colorectal cancer via translation elongation

20 **Abstract:**

21 Increased protein synthesis supports the rapid proliferation associated with cancer. The
22 *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutant mouse reduces the expression of the ribosomal protein RPL24 and has been
23 used to suppress translation and limit tumorigenesis in multiple mouse models of cancer.
24 Here we show that *Rpl24^{Bst}* also suppresses tumorigenesis and proliferation in a model of
25 colorectal cancer with two common patient mutations, *Apc* and *Kras*. In contrast to previous
26 reports, *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation has no effect on ribosomal subunit abundance but suppresses
27 translation elongation through phosphorylation of eEF2, reducing protein synthesis by 40%
28 in tumour cells. Ablating eEF2 phosphorylation in *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutant mice by inactivating its
29 kinase, eEF2K, completely restores the rates of elongation and protein synthesis.
30 Furthermore, eEF2K activity is required for the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutant to suppress tumorigenesis.
31 This work demonstrates that elevation of eEF2 phosphorylation is an effective means to
32 suppress colorectal tumorigenesis with two driver mutations. This positions translation
33 elongation as a therapeutic target in colorectal cancer, as well as other cancers where the
34 *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation has a tumour suppressive effect in mouse models.

35 173 words

36 **Keywords:**

37 RPL24, Translation elongation, intestinal cancer, *in vivo* models, protein synthesis, eEF2K,
38 Bst

39 **Introduction:**

40 Tumour cells require rapid protein synthesis to acquire sufficient biomass in order to
41 divide and, as such, protein synthesis is directly regulated by many oncogenic signalling
42 pathways (Proud 2019; Robichaud et al. 2019; Smith et al. 2021). As well as exploiting
43 protein synthesis to drive cell division, cancers use translation to selectively synthesise a
44 proteome geared towards proliferation, survival and immune evasion. For example, in
45 colorectal cancer (CRC) translation of the mRNA encoding the proto-oncogene c-MYC is
46 selectively upregulated by eIF4E and mTORC1 signalling (Knight et al. 2020a). Likewise,
47 independent reports have shown that the expression of the immune suppressive ligand PD-
48 L1 is maintained on tumour cells by the activity of the translation factors eIF4A and eIF5B as
49 well as phosphorylation of eIF4E and eIF2 (Suresh et al. 2020; Xu et al. 2019; Cerezo et al.
50 2018).

51 *APC* is the most commonly mutated gene in CRC, followed by *TP53* and then *KRAS*
52 (Guinney et al. 2015). We have previously shown that *Apc*-deficient mouse models of CRC
53 are dependent on fast translation elongation, a process which can be suppressed by
54 rapamycin leading to near complete reversal of tumorigenesis (Faller et al. 2015). This
55 approach has had clinical success, where rapamycin (sirolimus) regressed *APC*-deficient
56 polyps of familial adenomatous polyposis patients in two independent clinical trials
57 (Yuksekkaya et al. 2016; Roos et al. 2020). Clinical data also suggest that CRCs increase
58 translation elongation to potentiate proliferation, exemplified by the lower expression of
59 the elongation inhibiting kinase eEF2K correlating with worse patient survival (Ng et al.
60 2019). However, the regulation of translation elongation in CRC is complex, notably being
61 influenced by specific cancer-associated mutations. We have shown that mutation of *Kras*

62 drives resistance to rapamycin in *Apc*-deficient models both in terms of its effect on
63 elongation and on proliferation (Knight et al. 2020a). This is consistent with *KRAS*-mutant
64 CRCs being resistant to rapalogues, and other therapeutics (Ng et al. 2013; Spindler et al.
65 2013; DeStefanis et al. 2019) and highlights the unmet need for effective therapies against
66 *KRAS*-mutant cancers. Although a recently developed compound covalently targeting
67 *KRAS*^{G12C} mutation has shown remarkable potency against this specific mutation (Hong et al.
68 2020).

69 Evidence suggests that targeting translation in *KRAS*-mutant colorectal cancer can
70 still be effective. As well as our recent study re-sensitizing *Kras*-mutant CRCs to rapamycin
71 by targeting translation initiation (Knight et al. 2020a), we have demonstrated that *Kras*-
72 mutant models of CRC depend upon the transporter SLC7A5 to maintain protein synthesis
73 by facilitating the influx of amino acids (Najumudeen et al. 2021). These data support
74 protein synthesis as a tractable target in CRC, with the discovery of additional factors
75 regulating these pathways only improving the potential to target protein synthesis in the
76 clinic (Knight and Sansom 2021).

77 In this study we analyse the previously characterised *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in models of
78 CRC with *Apc*-deletion and *Kras* mutations. This spontaneously arising 4 nucleotide deletion
79 in the *Rpl24* gene, which encodes RPL24 (a component of the 60S ribosomal subunit also
80 called large ribosomal protein subunit eL24), disrupts splicing of its mRNA, effectively
81 resulting in a *Rpl24* heterozygous animal (Oliver et al. 2004). Animals present with impaired
82 dorsal pigmentation and malformed tails, among other defects, leading to the designation
83 of a belly spot and tail (Bst) phenotype and the *Rpl24*^{Bst} designation. This tool has been used
84 to suppress overall protein synthesis in genetically engineered mouse models of c-MYC

85 driven B-cell lymphoma (BCL), *Pten*-deficient T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (T-ALL)
86 and T-cell specific *Akt2* activation (Barna et al. 2008; Signer et al. 2014; Hsieh et al. 2010). In
87 these studies, tumorigenesis increased total protein synthesis, which was rescued by
88 combination with the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation. Suppression of protein synthesis was sufficient to
89 slow tumorigenesis, with some *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} mice surviving over 3 times longer than the median
90 survival of tumour model mice wild-type for *Rpl24*. However, the means by which the
91 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation suppresses protein synthesis was not addressed in these studies, instead
92 deferring to the original observation that there is likely a defect in ribosome production
93 (Oliver et al. 2004).

94 Here we show that decreased expression of RPL24 suppresses proliferation and
95 extends survival in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant pre-clinical mouse model of CRC. Importantly,
96 we find that reduced RPL24 does not alter the available pool of ribosomal subunits, as
97 previously suggested, but instead alters signalling that regulates a translation factor.
98 Specifically, we observe increased phosphorylation of eEF2, an event that negatively
99 regulates translation elongation. We directly measure translation elongation to show that
100 the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation suppresses protein synthesis at the elongation step, consistent with
101 increased phosphorylation of eEF2. Relieving P-eEF2 by inactivating its inhibitory kinase,
102 eEF2K, completely restores translation elongation and protein synthesis rates as well as
103 reversing the beneficial effect of *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in our tumour models. Interestingly, we
104 find that the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation has no effect in *Kras*-wild-type models. We attribute this to a
105 specific requirement for physiological RPL24 in *Kras*-mutant cells, which may provide
106 additional mechanisms to target these cells clinically.

107 Finally, we provide evidence from transcriptomic and proteomic analyses of patient
108 tissue that supports the signalling pathways uncovered in our pre-clinical models being
109 altered in the human disease. Altogether this work demonstrates that the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation
110 is tumour suppressive in a solid tumour model, and elucidates an unexpected mode of
111 action underlying its impact on protein synthesis. This has implications for targeting
112 translation elongation in cancer and provides mechanistic insight to supplement the
113 previously published efficacy of the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mouse in models of cancer and other diseases.

114 **Results:**

115 *RPL24*^{Bst} mutation does not alter intestinal homeostasis but suppresses the rate of
116 translation

117 Prior to addressing the role of RPL24 in intestinal tumorigenesis we first analysed
118 whether the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation had any effect on normal intestinal homeostasis (Figure 1A).
119 We observed a reduction in RPL24 expression (Figure 1B), but no dramatic differences in
120 intestinal architecture, crypt proliferation shown by BrdU incorporation (Figure 1A) or
121 abundance of stem cells (*Olfm4*), Paneth cells (lysozyme) or goblet cells (AB/PAS) (Figure
122 S1A). Similarly, homeostasis in the colons of *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutant mice was unaffected,
123 exemplified by no change in proliferation scored by BrdU incorporation (Figure S1C). In
124 accordance with these *in vivo* observations, *ex vivo* organoids made from the small
125 intestines of *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} mice established in culture and grew comparably to wild-type
126 controls (Figures 1C and S1D). Surprisingly, we measured a >40% reduction in total protein
127 synthesis, by ³⁵S-methionine labelling, in *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} organoids compared to wild-type
128 counterparts (Figure 1D). Therefore, despite no change in homeostasis, *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation
129 had a dramatic effect on protein synthesis. This indicates a resistance to reduced protein

130 synthesis in the wild-type intestine, which appear to function normally despite a dramatic
131 reduction in protein output.

132 We then investigated how *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation suppresses translation. Performing
133 sucrose density gradients to quantify the number of ribosomes engaged in active translation
134 we observed an increase in ribosomes bound to mRNAs in polysomes in *Rpl24*^{Bst/+}
135 organoids, particularly the heavy polysomes (Figure 1E). This appears to contradict the
136 reduction in global protein synthesis observed in Figure 1D. However, ourselves and others
137 have previously observed increased polysomes in conjunction with reduced protein
138 synthesis in model systems where translation elongation is reduced (Knight et al. 2015;
139 Faller et al. 2015). In these instances slowed translation elongation increased the abundance
140 of polysomes via changes in signalling to the elongation factor eEF2. We therefore assayed
141 the regulatory phosphorylation of eEF2 (threonine 56 / T56) in wild-type and *Rpl24*^{Bst}
142 mutant samples. This phosphorylation event excludes eEF2 from the ribosome thereby
143 impairing the translocation step of translation elongation, reducing protein synthesis
144 (Ryazanov and Davydova 1989; Carlberg et al. 1990).

145 In small intestinal tissue assayed by IHC we observed an increase in the P-eEF2 T56,
146 specifically in the proliferating crypt and transit amplifying zone of *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} mouse
147 intestines (Figure 1B). Likewise we observed a 75% increase in P-eEF2 T56 in lysates
148 generated from *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} organoids compared to wild-type organoids (Figure 1D). These
149 organoids also showed a 50% reduction in RPL24 expression by western blot (Figure 1D).
150 Thus, in these two proliferative settings (intestinal crypts *in situ* and *ex vivo* organoids)
151 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation increases the phosphorylation of eEF2, which is known to suppress
152 translation. Surprisingly, we observed that in the differentiated villus, *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation

153 suppressed P-eEF2 T56 (Figure 1B). The reasons for this are unclear, but may relate to
154 different cell functions in the two compartments. This effect on P-eEF2 T56 is specific, as we
155 observed no effect on the phosphorylation of other translation related proteins, 4E-BP1 or
156 RPS6 (at S240/S244), readouts for modulation of signalling downstream of mTORC1 (Figure
157 S1A-B).

158 Altogether, this analysis of wild-type tissue indicates that physiological RPL24
159 expression is not required for proliferation or function, but reduction of RPL24 expression
160 reduces the rate of translation. Interestingly, this involves regulation of translation
161 elongation and correlates with increased P-eEF2 (Figure 1G). Previously the *Rpl24*^{Bst}
162 mutation had been suggested to suppress ribosome biogenesis, resulting in uneven 40S and
163 60S ratios. However, we observed no alteration in the relative levels of the 40S and 60S
164 subunits in sucrose density gradients (Figure S1E), consistent with previous reports that
165 RPL24 deletion has little effect on ribosome biogenesis (Barkić et al. 2009).

166 The wild-type mouse intestine regenerates following γ -irradiation, dependent on
167 Wnt and MAPK signalling pathways. These pathways are often deregulated in colorectal
168 tumours, such that this intestinal regeneration acts as a surrogate for oncogenic potential,
169 with reduced regenerative capacity indicative of reduced tumorigenic proliferation (Faller et
170 al. 2015). We observe that mutation of *Rpl24* restricts regeneration of the small intestine
171 (Figure S1F). Thus, RPL24 expression enables regeneration, which may correlate with effects
172 in tumorigenesis.

173 *RPL24 is required for proliferation in Apc-deficient Kras-mutant intestinal tumours:*

174 Next, we analysed the effect of the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation on a model of CRC driven by
175 tamoxifen-inducible *Villin*^{CreER} mediated deletion of *Apc* and activation of KRAS with a G12D

176 mutation. This model can be used with homozygous deletion of *Apc* ($Apc^{fl/fl}$) where
177 intestinal hyperproliferation generates a short term (3-4 days) hyperproliferation model or
178 with heterozygous deletion of *Apc* ($Apc^{fl/+}$) where intestinal adenomas form following
179 spontaneous loss of the second copy of *Apc*. The recombination of a lox-STOP-lox allele at
180 the endogenous *Kras* locus expresses a constitutively active G12D mutant form of the
181 protein. Mice were generated with the $Apc^{fl/fl}$ and $Kras^{G12D}$ alleles with and without the
182 $Rpl24^{Bst}$ mutation (Figure 2A). Hyperproliferation in the $Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}$ mutant
183 mice was significantly suppressed compared to $Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}$ control mice (Figure 2B and
184 C). Reduced RPL24 expression was confirmed by IHC (Figure 2C) and coincided with
185 increased P-eEF2 throughout the proliferative crypt area of the $Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}$
186 intestine (Figure 2C and S2A). Hyper-proliferation in the colon mirrored that of the small
187 intestine, with reduced proliferation in mice mutant for *Rpl24* compared to those expressing
188 wild-types levels of RPL24 (Figure S2B). In parallel, organoids were derived from the small
189 intestines of the same genotypes ($Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}$ and $Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}$) and their
190 growth compared. $Rpl24^{Bst}$ mutation resulted in significantly less proliferation *ex vivo*
191 (Figure 2D), consistent with the *in vivo* experiment shown in Figure 2B.

192 In the tumour model, where a single copy of *Apc* is deleted, $Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}$
193 $Rpl24^{Bst/+}$ mice lived on average 32 days longer than $Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}$ controls, an extension
194 of survival of 45% (Figure 2E). $Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}$ organoids derived from the
195 adenomas in this tumour model grew more slowly than controls (Figure S2C). There was no
196 significant difference in the number of tumours at experimental endpoint (Figure S2D),
197 indicating that adenomas can form but take longer to reach a clinically significant burden.
198 Therefore, RPL24 enables proliferation in *Apc*-deficient, KRAS-activated cells within the
199 intestinal epithelium of the mouse.

200 *RPL24 maintains translation elongation in Apc-deficient Kras-mutant intestinal tumour*

201 *models:*

202 The suppression of tumorigenesis in the *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant model correlated
203 with increased phosphorylation of eEF2 (Figure 2C and S2A). To investigate this further we
204 used 3 methods to measure the rate of translation; polysome profiling, ³⁵S-methionine
205 labelling and harringtonine run-off assays (Figure 3A). Polysome profiling from extracted
206 crypts from *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} and *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} showed an increase in
207 polysomes with the *Rpl24* mutation (Figure 3B), and notably a significant increase in the
208 quantity of heavy polysomes (Figure 3C). Intestinal organoids of the same genotype showed
209 a 35% reduction in ³⁵S-methionine incorporation (Figure 3D). These same organoids had a
210 greater than 40% decrease in elongation rate measured by harringtonine run-off (Figures 3D
211 and S3A). Together these data provide strong evidence that normal RPL24 expression is
212 required to maintain translation elongation in this CRC model. Polysome profiles and
213 protein synthesis rate measurements from *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} adenoma cultures also
214 showed more polysomes and lower protein synthesis compared to control adenoma
215 cultures (Figures S3B and C). Furthermore, the reduced protein synthesis rate does not
216 correlate with differences in free ribosomal subunit availability as the ratio of 40S to 60S
217 subunits is unchanged by the *Rpl24* mutation in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant cells (Figure
218 S3D).

219 Interpreting this molecular analysis in conjunction with the effects on tumorigenesis
220 leads to the conclusion that RPL24 expression maintains translation elongation and protein
221 synthesis rates, which in turn maintain tumour-related proliferation (Figure 3F).
222 Furthermore, suppressing RPL24 expression increases P-eEF2, which decreases the rate of

223 elongation and overall protein synthesis and correlates with suppressed tumorigenesis and
224 proliferation.

225 *Rpl24* mutation has no effect in CRC models expressing wild-type *Kras*:

226 In parallel to analysing the effect of *Rpl24* mutation in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant
227 intestinal tumours, we also assessed its role in *Apc*-deficient models wild-type for *Kras*. We
228 have previously shown that these are dependent on signalling from mTORC1 to maintain
229 low levels of P-eEF2, and that this can be suppressed by rapamycin treatment to great
230 therapeutic benefit (Faller et al. 2015). We observed that the hyperproliferation in the small
231 intestine or colon of *Apc^{fl/fl}* was not reduced by the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation (Figure 4A and B, and
232 S4A). Furthermore, in both germline *Apc^{Min/+}* and inducible *Apc^{fl/+}* models of *Apc*-deficiency
233 we see no benefit of the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation, with no difference in survival or tumour
234 development (Figures 4C and S4B). In agreement, *Apc^{fl/fl}* organoids with the *Rpl24^{Bst}*
235 mutation grew at an identical rate to those wild-type for *Rpl24* in culture (Figure 4D).
236 Together these data demonstrate that reduced RPL24 expression does not limit
237 tumorigenesis in *Apc*-deficient CRC models with wild-type *Kras*.

238 Despite no effect on proliferation, we observed an increase in P-eEF2 in *Apc^{fl/fl}*
239 *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* intestines compared to *Apc^{fl/fl}* (Figure 4B), showing that P-eEF2 is consistently
240 increased in the intestinal crypts of *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. However, we see no change in the ratio
241 of polysome to sub-polysomes in *Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* intestines compared to *Apc^{fl/fl}* (Figure S4C-
242 D) and no change in protein synthesis rate between organoids of these same genotypes
243 (Figure 4D). In contrast, rapamycin treatment significantly reduces protein synthesis in
244 *Apc^{fl/fl}* organoids treated in parallel (Figure 4D). From these data we conclude that the
245 change in P-eEF2 does not limit the rate of protein synthesis which likely allows efficient

246 tumorigenesis in these *Kras*-wild-type models of CRC. Importantly, neither P-4E-BP1 or P-
247 RPS6 S240/244 are reduced by *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in the *Apc*^{fl/fl} model (Figure S4E), indicating
248 that translation-promoting mTORC1 signalling remains high.

249 We hypothesised that the reason for the KRAS-specificity seen with the *Rpl24*^{Bst}
250 mutation may relate to expression levels between the different genotypes analysed. Using
251 unbiased RNA sequencing data from wild-type, *Apc*^{fl/fl} and *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} small intestinal
252 tissue we observed a consistent increase in ribosomal protein expression following *Apc*
253 deletion, then again following KRAS activation (Figure S4F). This is consistent with previous
254 reports (Smit et al. 2020), and a requirement to increase protein synthesis as a direct
255 consequence of KRAS activation. Indeed, the mRNA for all ribosomal proteins with sufficient
256 reads were increased on average nearly 1.5-fold by KRAS activation in the small intestine
257 (Figure 4F). In contrast, the *Rpl24* mRNA was only increased by 1.14-fold following *Kras*
258 mutation, despite a nearly two-fold increase following deletion of *Apc* (Figure 4F). This
259 manifests as a significant difference in the RNA expression of *Rpl24* compared to the other
260 ribosomal proteins. Therefore, RPL24 expression may be sufficient in *Rpl24*^{Bst} mice in *Apc*-
261 deleted models, but then becomes limiting following *Kras*-mutation due to the relatively
262 limited upregulation of *Rpl24* expression accompanying KRAS activation.

263 *Genetic inactivation of eEF2K completely reverses the anti-proliferative benefit of Rpl24*
264 *mutation:*

265 Thus far we have demonstrated a correlation between the increase in P-eEF2 and
266 the slowing of translation elongation following *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation. To test whether the
267 slowing of elongation caused by *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation was dependent on P-eEF2, we used a
268 whole-body point mutant of eEF2K, the kinase that phosphorylates eEF2, which almost

269 completely inactivates its kinase activity (Gildish et al. 2012). We crossed this *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A}
270 allele to the *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} mice to generate *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+}
271 *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} mice. In the short term hyperproliferation model, the inactivation of *Eef2k*
272 completely reversed the suppression of proliferation seen in *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+}
273 small intestines (Figure 5A-C), and the medial colon (Figure S5A). The kinase inactive *Eef2k*
274 allele resulted in no detectable P-eEF2 (Figures 5C and S2A), and we previously reported no
275 difference in hyper-proliferation between *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} and *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+}
276 *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} models (Knight et al. 2020a). The reversal in proliferation rate with *Eef2k*
277 and *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutations was also seen in intestinal organoid growth after 3 days (Figure 4D).
278 Furthermore, inactivation of eEF2K reverted the survival benefit of the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in
279 the *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} tumour model (Figure 4E). This experiment also shows the lack of effect
280 of the *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} mutation on tumorigenesis. Indeed, *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} had no impact on
281 tumorigenesis in inducible *Apc*^{fl/+} and germline *Apc*^{Min/+} models of *Apc*-deficient intestinal
282 tumorigenesis (i.e. expressing wild-type *Kras*) (Figures S5B-C). Heterozygous inactivation of
283 one copy of *Eef2k* resulted in a slight reversal of the extension of survival associated with
284 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in the *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} tumour model (Figure S5D).

285 Therefore, mutation of *Rpl24* requires functional eEF2K to suppress proliferation and
286 extend survival in this model of CRC. There was no alteration in the number of tumours in
287 the ageing model at endpoint (Figure S4E), again identifying tumour cell proliferation, rather
288 than tumour initiation, as the important factor regulated by RPL24 and eEF2K. These data
289 also identify the effect of *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation on the tumour phenotype was entirely
290 dependent upon eEF2K activity

291 .

292 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation suppresses translation exclusively via eEF2K/P-eEF2:

293 Next, we addressed the molecular consequences of inactivation of eEF2K
294 downstream of *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation. The reduction in protein synthesis that results from
295 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation is completely reversed by eEF2K inactivation (Figure 6A), with *Apc*^{fl/fl}
296 *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} organoids having an almost identical translation capacity
297 as *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} controls. Similarly, the rate of ribosome run-off was also reverted in
298 *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} compared to *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} organoids,
299 again to the same rate as controls with wild-type *Rpl24* (Figures 6B and S6A). In agreement,
300 crypt fractions from *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} mice have a reduced number
301 of heavy polysomes compared to *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} crypt cells (Figure S6B),
302 indicating faster translation elongation following eEF2K inactivation.

303 This has important implications for the function of RPL24, showing that ribosomes in
304 *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutant cells can elongate efficiently despite the reduction in RPL24 expression.
305 However, reduced RPL24 increases P-eEF2 which inhibits elongation, with an absolute
306 requirement for eEF2K for this (Figure 6C). Importantly, the combination of the *Rpl24* and
307 *eEF2K* mutants shows that when P-eEF2 is abolished elongation occurs at normal speed,
308 despite reduced expression of RPL24.

309 *The expression of RPL24, eEF2K and eEF2 is indicative of fast elongation in human CRC:*

310 Using pre-clinical mouse models we have demonstrated that physiological RPL24
311 expression maintains low eEF2K-mediated phosphorylation of eEF2 (Figure 7A). Hypo-
312 phosphorylated eEF2 then ensures rapid protein synthesis enabling tumour proliferation *in*
313 *vivo*. This requirement for RPL24 is specific to mutant-*Kras* models, indicating a likely
314 relationship between KRAS and RPL24 that is beyond the scope of this work. We next sought

315 to position this pre-clinical work in the context of clinical studies of the human disease.
316 Using publicly available datasets for RNA expression in normal and colon cancer tissue we
317 observe increased *RPL24* and *EEF2* expression in conjunction with reduced *EEF2K* expression
318 (Figure 7B). This mirrors the signalling pathways in our mouse models which focus on
319 ensuring high expression of active eEF2. Elevated *EEF2* message and reduced *EEF2K*
320 message in these clinical samples is consistent with conservation of this signalling in the
321 clinic. Similar results are seen for the protein expression of RPL24, eEF2K and eEF2 from
322 colon adenocarcinoma samples (Figure S7A), and for the three mRNAs in rectal
323 adenocarcinoma (Figure S7B). These expression analyses highlight the conservation of the
324 proliferative tumour-associated signalling pathways characterised in our pre-clinical mouse
325 models and patient samples from the clinic.

326 **Discussion:**

327 The original characterisation of the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation identified a defect in ribosome
328 biogenesis affecting the synthesis of 60S subunits (Oliver et al. 2004). The evidence to
329 support this was limited to analyses of fasted/refed mouse livers for nascent rRNAs and by
330 polysome profiles purporting to show reductions in 28S rRNA precursors and mature 60S
331 subunits respectively. In contrast, RNAi depletion of RPL24 in human cell lines had no effect
332 on ribosome biogenesis, or on the relative abundance of 40S and 60S subunits (Barkić et al.
333 2009; Wilson-Edell et al. 2014a). Furthermore, two reports have identified RPL24 as an
334 exclusively cytoplasmic protein, leading to the hypothesis that it is assembled into mature
335 ribosomes in the cytoplasm after rRNA synthesis and processing has already occurred
336 (Barkić et al. 2009; Saveanu et al. 2003). In agreement with this, in the hindbrain of E9.5
337 embryos, the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation had no effect on nucleolar architecture, indicating that it is

338 not required for nucleolar function (Herrlinger et al. 2019). Our data agree with these later
339 examples, as we fail to see any effect of the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation on 60S:40S ratio in wild-type
340 and transformed mouse intestines. Of further importance to the field, we also demonstrate
341 in our tumour model that the translation defect in *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutant mice is restored to
342 normal levels following inactivation of eEF2K in *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutant mice showing that the
343 defect is dependent on eEF2K. From this, we conclude that ribosomes produced in *Rpl24*^{Bst/+}
344 mice would allow protein synthesis to proceed at near physiological levels, however this
345 process is restricted via signalling through eEF2K/P-eEF2.

346 RPL24 depletion suppresses tumorigenesis in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant (APC KRAS)
347 mouse models of CRC, but not in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-wild-type (APC) models. In line with
348 this, protein synthesis is reduced following depletion of RPL24 in our APC KRAS models, but
349 not in APC models, despite induction of P-eEF2 in both cases. We previously showed that
350 suppression of translation elongation via mTORC1/eEF2K/P-eEF2, using rapamycin, in the
351 same APC models dramatically suppressed proliferation and extended survival (Faller et al.
352 2015). Thus, while RPL24 depletion or rapamycin treatment of *Apc*-deficient intestines each
353 induce P-eEF2, only rapamycin treatment suppresses protein synthesis. The effect on
354 protein synthesis appears to be the differential driving this divergence, with proliferation
355 only impaired when protein synthesis is reduced. Crucially, RPL24 deficiency does not
356 suppress mTORC1 activity since phosphorylation of the mTORC1 effectors 4E-BP1 and RPS6
357 (at S240/S244) are not reduced in *Apc*-deficient *Rpl24*^{Bst}, providing an explanation of how
358 proliferation and protein synthesis are maintained in *Apc*-deficient *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutant animals.
359 We also provide evidence that *Rpl24* mRNA is not elevated in line with other ribosomal
360 protein mRNAs following *Kras*-mutation, which could explain why physiological expression
361 levels of RPL24 are required for proliferation in *Kras*-mutant models.

362 It is interesting to reflect on previous work with the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutant mouse
363 considering the mechanism we have described here. The *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation suppresses
364 tumorigenesis in three mouse models of different types of blood cancer (Signer et al. 2014;
365 Barna et al. 2008; Hsieh et al. 2010). In each case the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation was found to
366 decrease translation, although how the mechanism of translational suppression was not
367 fully determined. Barna et al demonstrated a reduction in the cap-dependent translation
368 using a luciferase reporter in *Rpl24^{Bst}* MEFs (Barna et al. 2008). Furthermore, *Rpl24^{Bst}*
369 mutation dramatically suppressed cap-dependent translation following MYC activation,
370 consistent with *Rpl24^{Bst}* slowing tumorigenesis via reduced translation. We have shown that
371 in mouse models of CRC the molecular mechanism by which normal levels of RPL24
372 maintains translation is via eEF2K and P-eEF2, therefore implicating this pathway in these
373 previously studied blood cancer models.

374 The *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation has also been used to analyse brain development from neural
375 progenitor cells, and explored as a model for retinal degenerative disease (Riazifar et al.
376 2015; Herrlinger et al. 2019). These studies found a revertant phenotype in neural
377 progenitor cells overexpressing LIN28A and the defect in subretinal angiogenesis in
378 *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. The role of translation elongation with respect to these phenotypes should
379 now be analysed. eEF2K, and the many pathways it integrates, are potential targets for
380 intervention in these *in vivo* models. It will also be of interest to determine how the
381 inactivation of eEF2K affects the whole-body phenotypes of the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mouse, such as the
382 coat pigmentation and tail defects.

383 eEF2K has a pleiotropic effect in tumorigenesis, acting akin to a tumour suppressor
384 or promoter dependent on the context (Knight et al. 2020b). In some cancers eEF2K

385 promotes tumorigenesis. For example, under nutrient deprivation eEF2K acts as a pro-
386 survival factor in transformed fibroblasts and tumour cell lines by suppressing protein
387 synthesis to ensure survival (Leprivier et al. 2013). Here we show that eEF2K inactivation
388 does not modify intestinal tumorigenesis. However, eEF2K is required for the suppression of
389 tumorigenesis and protein synthesis following rapamycin/mTORC1 inhibition in APC cells
390 (Faller et al. 2015) or *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in APC KRAS cells (this work). Therefore, although
391 eEF2K does not directly drive tumorigenesis, low eEF2K activity ensures that there is no
392 blockade of translation or proliferation in tumour cells. Furthermore, eEF2K expression is
393 required for drug or signalling responses that suppress tumorigenesis, giving it tumour
394 suppressive activity. In accordance, CRC patients with low eEF2K protein expression suffer a
395 significantly worse prognosis (Ng et al. 2019). Furthermore, we present mRNA and protein
396 expression data showing that eEF2K is reduced in clinical CRC samples compared to normal
397 tissue. This agrees with a model where low eEF2K allows rapid translation elongation to
398 promote proliferation.

399 Using the same clinical data sets we demonstrate that both RPL24 and eEF2 are
400 elevated in CRC, consistent with their roles in promoting translation and proliferation. This
401 presents the possibility of direct targeting of either RPL24 or eEF2 for anti-cancer benefit.
402 RNAi against RPL24 in human breast cancer cell lines dramatically reduced proliferation
403 (Wilson-Edell et al. 2014b). Similarly, targeting eEF2 using a compound reported to slow its
404 exit from the ribosome and thus the rate of protein synthesis, reduces cell line and patient
405 derived organoid growth (Stickel et al. 2015; Keysar et al. 2020). These reports agree with
406 the data presented here suggesting that targeting of RPL24 or eEF2 would be beneficial in
407 CRC.

408 This work uncovers an unexpected role for the ribosomal protein RPL24 in the
409 regulation of translation elongation, acting via eEF2K/P-eEF2 signalling. We demonstrate
410 that depletion of RPL24 suppresses tumorigenesis in a pre-clinical mouse model of a solid
411 tumour, supplementing the three reports of the mutation suppressing blood tumour
412 models. We provide genetic evidence supported by molecular assays of translation
413 elongation to demonstrate that RPL24 depletion activates eEF2K to elicit tumour
414 suppression in our models. We also speculate as to the role of eEF2K in the previously
415 published blood cancer models where RPL24 depletion was beneficial. This work provides
416 additional evidence for the anti-tumorigenic role of the eEF2K in CRC, highlighting the
417 potential for targeting translation elongation for this disease.

418

419 **Materials and methods:**

420 **Materials availability:** The mouse strains used will be made available on request. However,
421 this may require a Materials Transfer Agreement and/or a payment if there is potential for
422 commercial application. We ourselves are limited by the terms of Materials Transfer
423 Agreements agreed to by the suppliers of the mouse strains.

424 **Mouse studies:** Experiments with mice were performed under a licence from the UK Home
425 Office (licence numbers 60/4183 and 70/8646). All mice used were inbred C57BL/6J
426 (Generation ≥ 8) and were housed in conventional cages with a 12-hour light/dark cycle and
427 *ad libitum* access to diet and water. Mice were genotyped by Transnetyx in Cordova,
428 Tennessee. Experiments were performed on mice between the ages of 6 and 12 weeks,
429 both male and female mice were used. Sample sizes for all experiments were calculated
430 using the G*Power software (Faul et al. 2009) and are shown in the figures or legends.

431 Researchers were not blinded during experiments. The *Villin*^{CreER} allele (El Marjou et al.
432 2004) was used for intestinal recombination by intraperitoneal (IP) injection of tamoxifen in
433 corn oil at a final *in vivo* concentration of 80mg/kg. The *Apc* flox allele, *Apc*^{Min}, *Kras*^{G12D} lox-
434 STOP-lox allele, *Eef2k*^{D273A} and *Rpl24*^{Bst} alleles were previously described (Jackson et al.
435 2001; Shibata et al. 1997; Gildish et al. 2012; Oliver et al. 2004; Moser et al. 1990). Tumour
436 model experiments began with a single dose of tamoxifen after which mice were monitored
437 until they showed signs of intestinal disease – paling feet from anaemia, weight loss and
438 hunching behaviour. Tumours were scored macroscopically by counting the number visible
439 after fixation of intestinal tissue. For short-term experiments, mice wild-type for *Kras* were
440 induced on consecutive days (days 0 and 1) and sampled 4 days after the first induction (day
441 4). Mice bearing the *Kras*^{G12D} allele were induced once and sampled on day 3 post-induction.
442 Where indicated, 250µL of BrdU cell proliferation labelling reagent (Amersham Bioscience
443 RPN201) was given by IP injection 2 hours prior to sampling. For the regeneration
444 experiments, mice were exposed to 10 Gy of γ-irradiation at a rate of 0.423 Gy per minute
445 from a caesium 137 source. They were then sampled 72 hours after irradiation.

446 **Histology and immunohistochemistry:** Tissue was fixed in formalin and embedded in
447 paraffin. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) staining was carried out as previously (Faller et al.
448 2015), using the following antibodies; BrdU (BD Biosciences #347580), P-eEF2 T56 (Cell
449 Signaling Technology (CST) #2331), P-4E-BP1 T37/46 (CST #2855), P-RPS6 S235/6 (CST
450 #4858), P-RPS6 S240/4 (CST #5364), RPL24 (Sigma Aldrich HPA051653) and Lysozyme (Dako
451 A0099). The IHC protocol followed the Vector ABC kit (mouse #PK-6102, rabbit #PK-6101).
452 RNAScope analysis was carried out according to the manufacturers guidelines (ACD) using
453 probes to murine *Olfm4* (#311838). For all staining, a minimum of 3 biological replicates
454 were stained and representative images used throughout. For BrdU scoring in short-term

455 model experiments tissue was fixed in methanol:choloform:acetic acid at a ratio 4:2:1 then
456 transferred to formalin and embedded paraffin.

457 **Intestinal organoid culture:** Crypt cultures were isolated and then maintained as previously
458 described (Knight et al, in press). In all crypt culture experiments, multiple biologically
459 independent cultures were generated and analysed from different animals of the shown
460 genotypes. DMEM/F12 medium (Life Technologies #12634-028) was supplemented with 5
461 mM HEPES (Life Technologies #15630-080), 100 U/mL penicillin/streptomycin (Life
462 Technologies #1540-122), 2 mM L-glutamine (Life Technologies #25030-024), 1x N2, 1x B27
463 (Invitrogen #17502-048 and #12587-010), 100 ng/mL noggin (Peprotech #250-38) and 50
464 ng/mL EGF (Peprotech #AF-100-15). Wild-type cultures were also supplemented with 500
465 ng/mL R-spondin (R&D Systems #3474-RS). For *ex vivo* growth assays, cells were plated in
466 technical triplicate in 96 well plates, and proliferation measured using Cell-Titer Blue
467 (Promega #G8080) added to previously untreated cells each day for up to 4 days. Rapamycin
468 (LC Laboratories R-5000) was dissolved in DMSO and administered for 24 hours, comparing
469 to just DMSO vehicle treated cells.

470 **Western blotting:** Samples were lysed (10 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 50 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP40, 0.5%
471 SDS supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche #11836153001) PhosSTOP
472 (Roche #04906837001) and benzonase (Sigma Aldrich # E1014)) on ice and then the
473 protein content estimated by BCA assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific #23225). 20µg of protein
474 were denatured in loading dye containing SDS then resolved by 4-12% SDS-PAGE (Invitrogen
475 #NP0336BOX). Protein was transferred to nitrocellulose membranes, blocked with excess
476 protein and immunoblotted overnight at 4°C using the following antibodies; P-eEF2 T56 (CST
477 #2331), eEF2 (CST #2332), RPL24 (Sigma Aldrich HPA051653) and β-actin (Sigma Aldrich

478 #A2228) as a sample control. 1 hour incubation at room temperature with secondary
479 antibodies (HRP-conjugated anti-mouse secondary (Dako #P0447); HRP-conjugated anti-
480 rabbit secondary (Dako #P0448)) was followed by exposed to autoradiography films with
481 ECL reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific #32106). Quantification was performed using Image J
482 (Rueden et al. 2017).

483 **Sucrose density gradients:** Cells were replenished with fresh medium for the 6 hours before
484 harvesting. This medium was then spiked with 200 µg/mL cycloheximide (Sigma Aldrich
485 #C7695) 3 minutes prior to harvesting on ice. Crypt fractions from mice were isolated by
486 extraction of the epithelial from 10cm of proximal small intestine. Each data point plotted
487 represents an individual animal. PBS-flushed linearly-opened small intestines were
488 incubated in RPMI 1640 medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific #21875059) supplemented with
489 10mM EDTA and 200µg/mL cycloheximide for 7 minutes at 37°C with regular agitation to
490 extract villi. Crypts were isolated by transferring remaining tissue to ice-cold PBS containing
491 10mM EDTA and 200 µg/mL cycloheximide for a further 7 minutes, again with agitation. The
492 remaining tissue was discarded. Samples were lysed (300 mM NaCl, 15 mM MgCl₂, 15 mM
493 Tris pH 7.5, 100 µg/mL cycloheximide, 0.1% Triton X-100, 2 mM DTT and 5 U/mL
494 SUPERase.In RNase Inhibitor(Thermo Fisher Scientific #AM2696)) on ice and post-nuclear
495 extracts placed on top of 10-50% weight/volume sucrose gradients containing the same
496 buffer (apart from no Triton X-100, DTT, or SUPERase.In). These were then spun in an
497 SW40Ti rotor at 255,000rcf for 2 hours at 4°C under a vacuum. Samples were then
498 separated through a live 254 nM optical density reader (ISCO). Polysome to subpolysome
499 (P:S), heavy to light polysome (H:L) or 60S to 40S (60S:40S) ratios were calculated using the
500 manually defined trapezoid method. For harringtonine run-off assays, cultures were
501 prepared in duplicate for each genotype. One was pretreated with 2µg/mL harringtonine

502 (Sant Cruz #sc-204771) for 5 minutes (300 seconds) prior to cycloheximide addition. This
503 was then processed as above. Run-off rates were calculated as previously (Knight et al.
504 2015).

505 **³⁵S methionine incorporation assay:** Organoids were replenished with medium 6 hours prior
506 to analysis while in the optimal growth phase post-splitting. Technical triplicates were used
507 from 3 different animals per experiments. ³⁵S-methionine (Perkin Elmer #NEG772002MC)
508 was used at 30 μ Ci/mL for 30 minutes. Samples were prepared in technical triplicate then
509 lysed using the same buffer described for western blotting. Protein was precipitated in
510 12.5% (w/v) trichloroacetic acid onto glass microfiber paper (Whatmann #1827-024) by use
511 of a vacuum manifold. Precipitates were washed with 70% ethanol and acetone. Scintillation
512 was read on a Wallac MicroBeta TriLux 1450 scintillation counter using Ecoscint scintillation
513 fluid (SLS Ltd #LS271) from these microfiber papers. In parallel the total protein content was
514 determined by the BCA assay using un-precipitated sample. Protein synthesis rate was
515 expressed as the scintillation normalised to the total protein content (CPM / μ g/mL protein),
516 which was then changed to a relative value compared to relevant controls for each
517 experiment.

518 **Publicly available clinical data analysis:** The TNMplot and UALCAN web portals were used
519 to analysis publicly available dataset from The Cancer Genome Atlas and Clinical Proteomic
520 Tumor Analysis Consortium. Details of these portals are available in these publications
521 (Bartha and Gyórfy 2021; Chandrashekar et al. 2017).

522 **Statistical analyses:** All statistical analyses are detailed in the relevant figure legends. In all
523 cases, calculated *P* values less than or equal to 0.05 were considered significant. N numbers

524 for each experiment are detailed within each figure, as individual points on graphs or within
525 figure legends.

526 ***Data availability:*** Source data for Figure 1F and 4F are available as part of this manuscript.

527 All raw data used in this manuscript will be freely available on Dryad.

528

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538 **Author contributions:**

539 Study design: JRPK, OJS. Data acquisition: JRPK, NV, DMG, RAR, WJF. Data analysis: JRPK, NV.
540 Data interpretation: JRPK, NV, DMG, CGP, GM, TvdH, CMS, AEW, OJS. Writing the
541 manuscript: JRPK, AEW, OJS.

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Figure 1

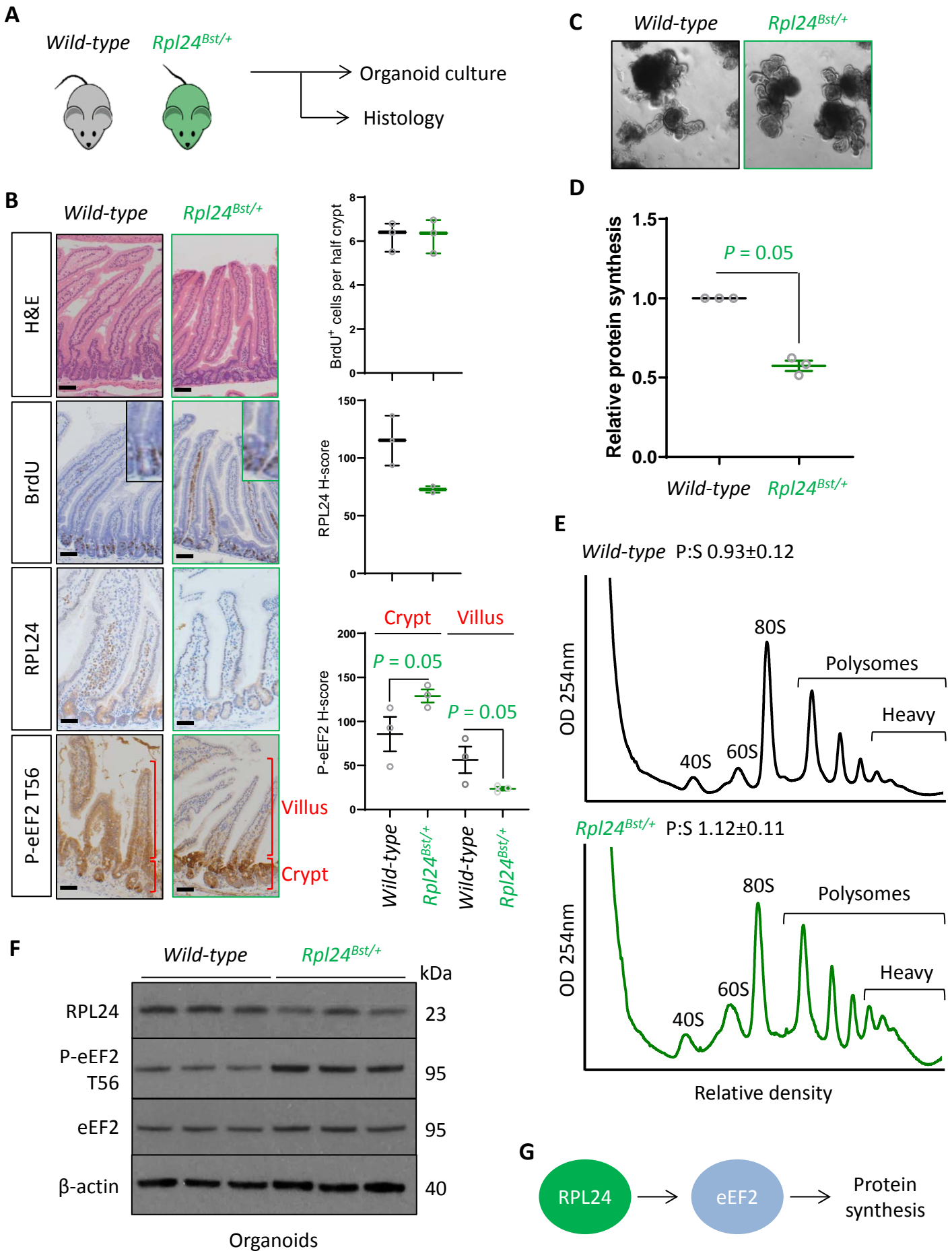
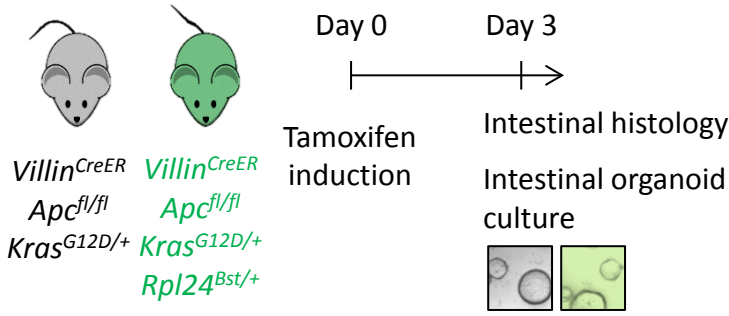


Figure 1: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation slows translation elongation but does not affect homeostasis in the intestinal epithelium:

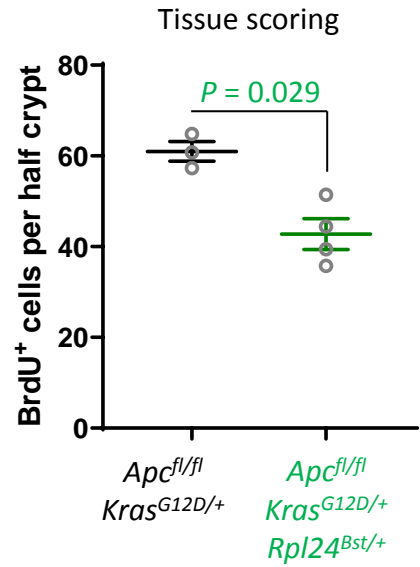
(A) Schematic representation of experimental procedure. Intestines from wild-type or *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice were analysed by histology or processed to make intestinal organoids. (B) Staining for H&E, BrdU, RPL24 and P-eEF2 T56 in sections from the small intestines of wild-type and *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. Red brackets in P-eEF2 staining indicates crypts and villi, correspondint to quantification to the right. Bars represent 50µm. Graphs on the right show scoring for BrdU positive cells, and H-score calculated for RPL24 and P-eEF2 T-56, plotted ±SEM. Significance was determined by one tailed Mann Whitney U test. (C) Micrographs of small intestinal organoids generated from wild-type or *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. (D) Protein synthesis rate quantified by ³⁵S-methionine incorporation in wild-type or *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* organoids (n=3), expressed relative to the wild-type protein synthesis rate (= 1). Data are from 3 biologically independent organoid lines for each genotype represented ±SEM with significance determine by Mann Whitney U test. (E) Representative polysome profiling from wild-type or *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* organoids. Average polysome:sub-polysome ratios from 3 independent organoid lines per genotype are shown above each profile ±SEM. (F) Western blotting from protein lysates generated from 3 biologically independent organoid lines for each genotype. There is a 50% reduction in RPL24 and a 75% increase in P-eEF2 T56 in the *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* organoids. (G) Schematic of the regulation of the potential role of RPL24 in regulating protein synthesis via eEF2.

Figure 2

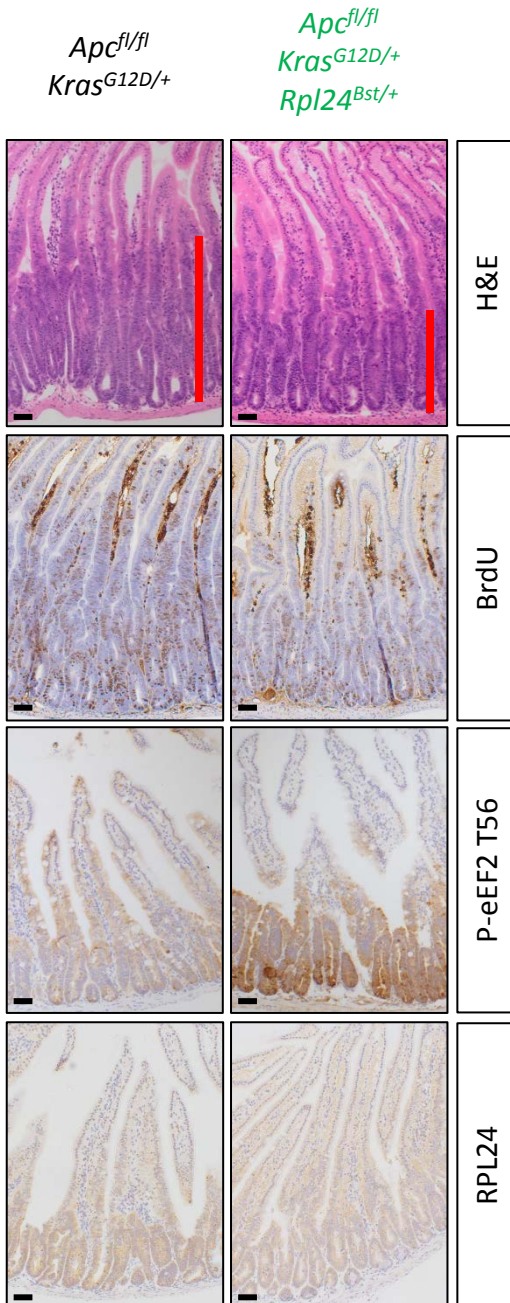
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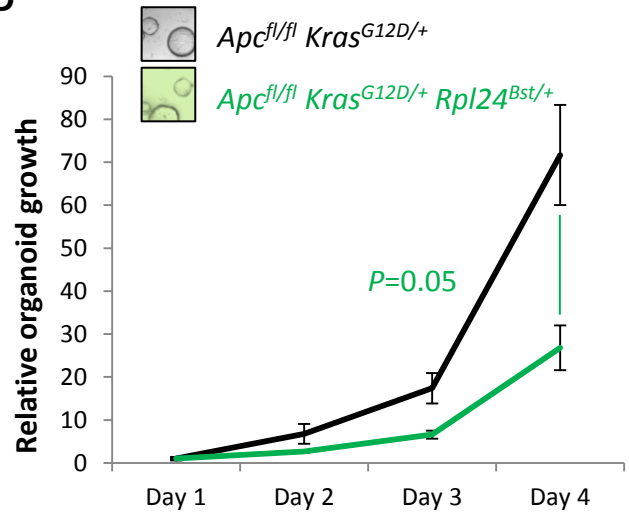
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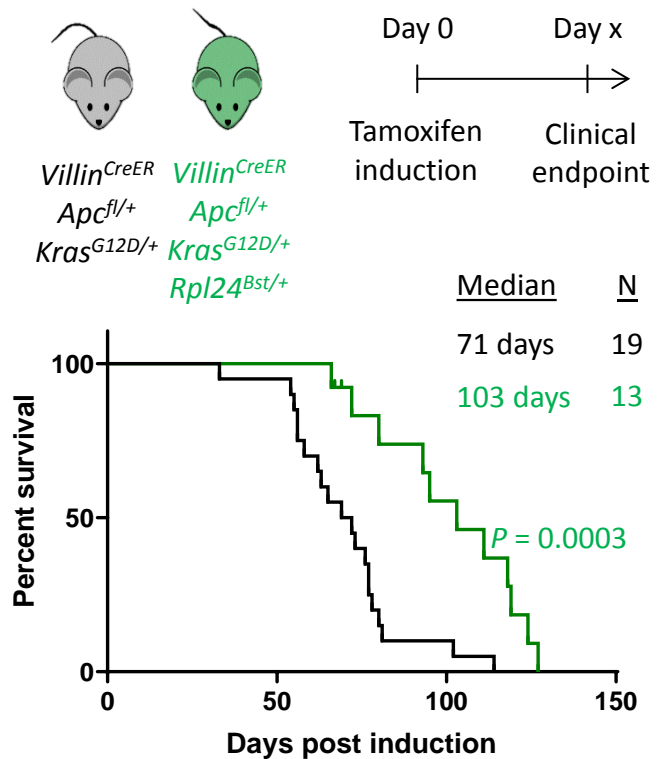


Figure 2: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation suppresses proliferation and extends survival in an *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant mouse model of CRC:

(A) Schematic representation of experimental protocols. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice were induced by intraperitoneal injection of tamoxifen at 80mg/kg then intestinal tissue analysed 3 days later. Tissue was taken for histological analysis or processed into intestinal organoids. (B) Quantification of BrdU incorporation in small intestinal crypts following deletion of *Apc* and activation of *Kras*, with (n=3) or without (n=4) *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation. Data are represented as the mean number of BrdU positive cells per half crypt from >20 crypts per mouse, \pm SEM. Significance was determined by Mann Whitney U test. (C) Representative images of intestines from the same experiment as in (B), stained for H&E, BrdU, P-eEF2 T56 and RPL24. The red bar on the H&E images indicates the extent of the proliferative zone. Bars represent 50 μ m. (D) *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* organoids with or without *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation were grown for 4 days and growth relative to day 1 determined by Cell Titer Blue assay. Data show the mean \pm SEM of n=3 independent organoid lines. Significance was determined by one tailed Mann Whitney U test. (E) Top: schematic of experimental protocol. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice induced with 80mg/kg tamoxifen then monitored until clinical endpoint. Survival plot for these genotypes for the days post induction that they reached endpoint. The median survival and n number for each cohort is shown and significance determined by Mantel-Cox test. Censored subjects were removed from the study due to non-intestinal phenotypes.

Figure 3

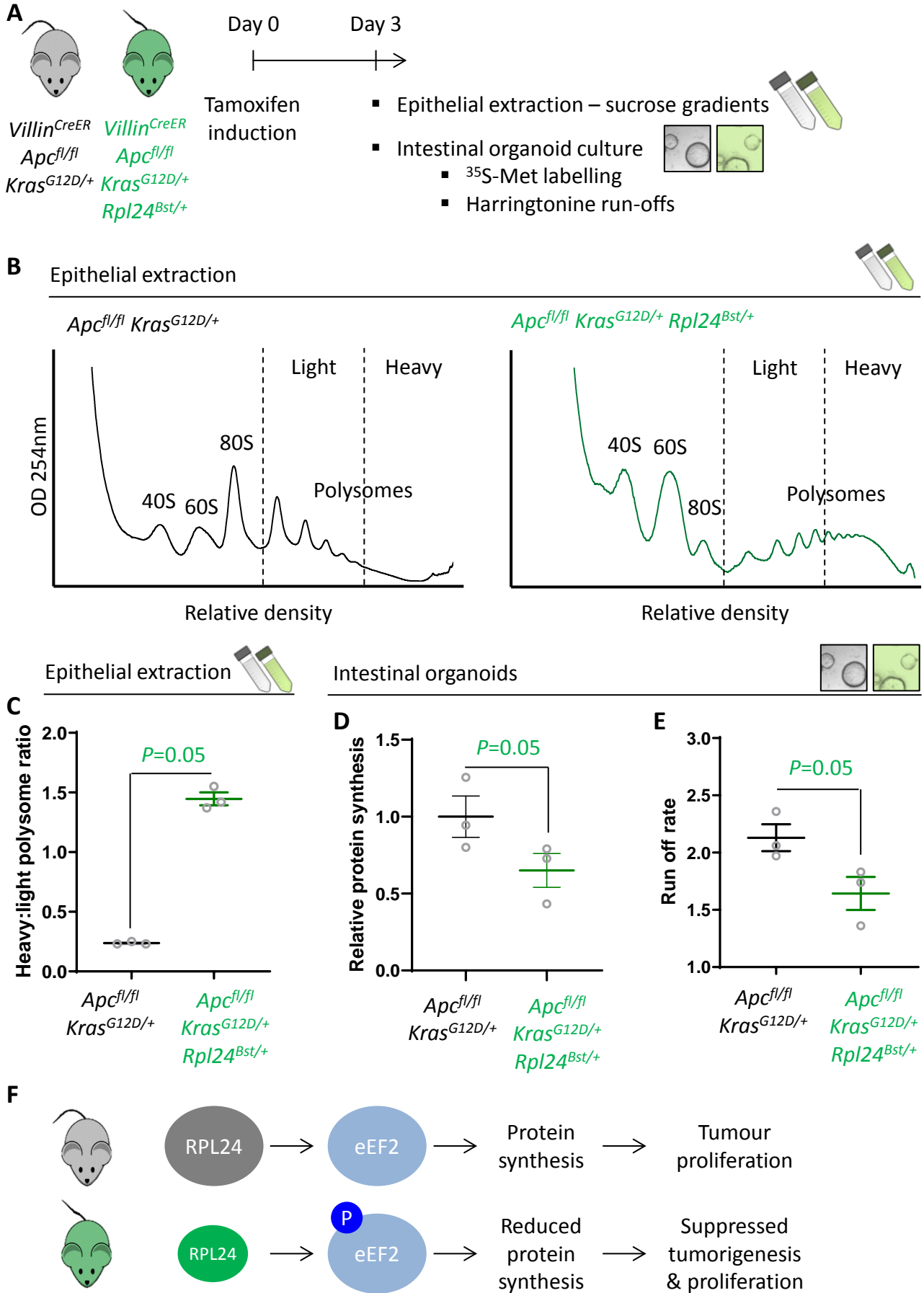


Figure 3: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation slows translation elongation in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant mouse models of CRC:

(A) Schematic representation of experimental approach. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice were induced by intraperitoneal injection of tamoxifen at 80mg/kg then intestinal tissue analysed 3 days later. Intestines were enriched for crypt epithelium for sucrose density analysis or processed into intestinal organoids. (B) Representative sucrose density polysome profiles generated from *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* intestinal extracts with or without the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation. Subpolysomal components (40S, 60S and 80S) and polysomes are labelled, with the polysomes also split pictorially into light and heavy. (C) Quantification of the heavy:light polysome ratio from the experiment in (B). Data show the mean of analysis from 3 mice \pm SEM with significance determined by one tailed Mann Whitney U test. (D) Relative protein synthesis rate quantified by ³⁵S-methionine incorporation in *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* three biologically independent organoid lines either wild-type or mutant for *Rpl24^{Bst}*. Data are represented \pm SEM with significance determined by Mann Whitney U test. (E) Ribosome run-off rate determined in *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* small intestinal organoid lines either wild-type or mutant for *Rpl24^{Bst}* (n=3 per genotype). Data are represented as the mean of 3 biological replicates \pm SEM with significance determined by Mann Whitney U test. Raw data are available in Figure S3A. (F) Schematics of the regulation of protein synthesis and tumour proliferation downstream of RPL24. Smaller RPL24 in bottom scheme represents reduced RPL24 expression. 'P' represents phosphorylation of eEF2.

Figure 4

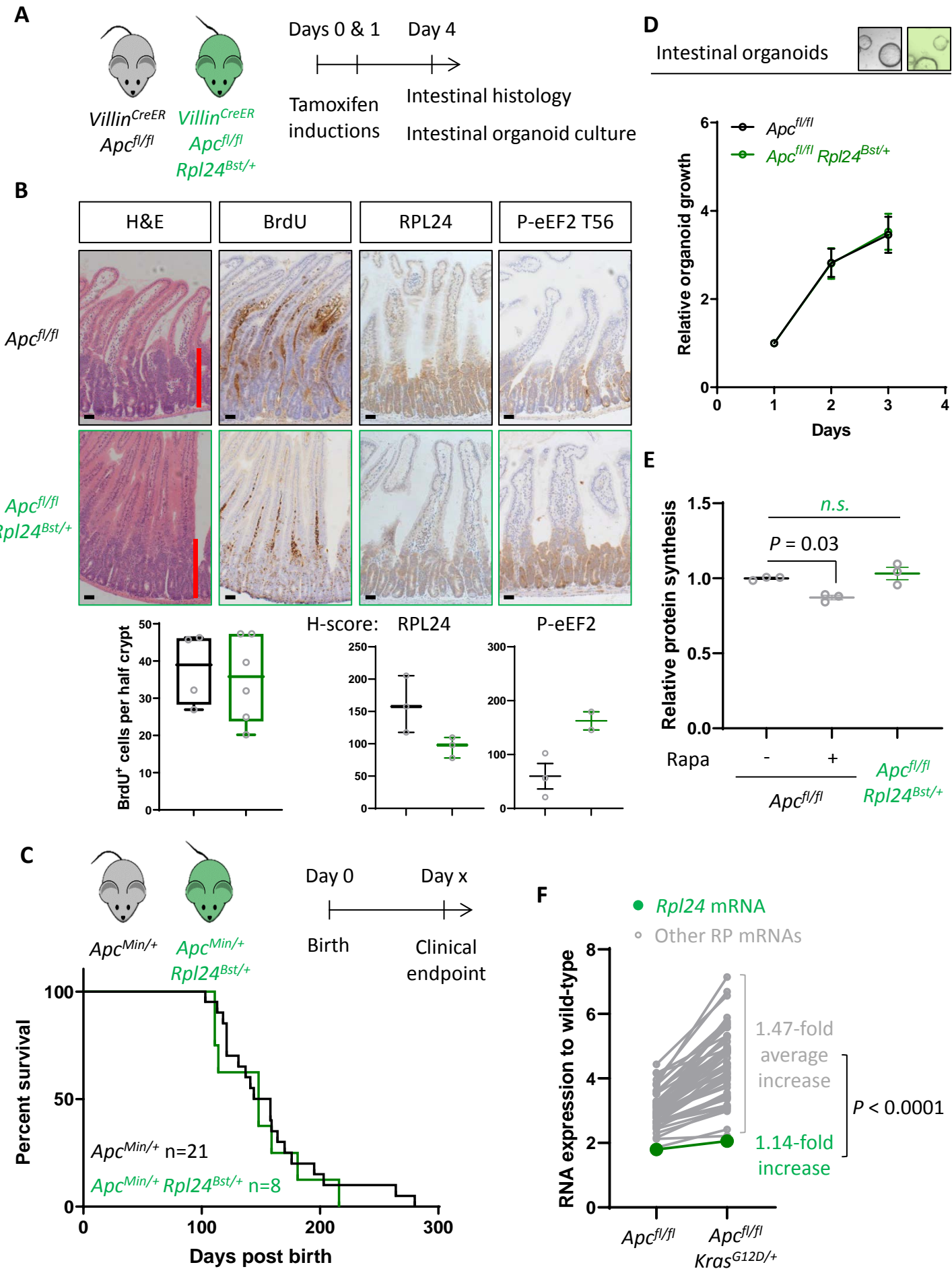


Figure 4: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation does not suppress proteins synthesis or proliferation in *Apc*-deficient *Kras* wild-type mouse models of CRC:

(A) Schematic representation of experimental approach. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice were induced by 2 intraperitoneal injection of tamoxifen at 80mg/kg on days 0 and 1 then intestinal tissue analysed on day 4. Intestines analysed histologically or intestinal organoids generated. (B) Top: representative micrographs showing proliferation as BrdU positivity and extent of proliferation as a red bar in H&E image. RPL24 and P-eEF2 T56, staining is also shown for each genotype. Bars represent 50µm. Below: BrdU scoring from *Apc^{fl/fl}* or *Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mouse intestines and H-scores for RPL24 and P-eEF2 T56 protein levels. For BrdU scoring BrdU was administered 2 h before sampling and at least 20 half crypts were scored per animal and the mean plotted ±SEM (C) *Apc^{Min/+}* tumour model survival curve, for mice with and without *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation. Lack of a significant difference was determined by Mantel-Cox test. (D) Relative growth of *Apc^{fl/fl}* and *Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* small intestinal organoids over 3 days, measure by Cell-Titer blue assay. The average change in proliferation is plotted from 3 independent biological replicates per genotype. (E) Relative protein synthesis rates quantified from ³⁵S-methionine incorporation into *Apc^{fl/fl}*, *Apc^{fl/fl}* treated with 250nM rapamycin for 24 h and *Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* small intestinal organoids. Significant changes were calculated by one-way ANOVA analysis with Tukey's multiple comparison. N=3 per genotype with the mean protein synthesis rate for each genotype plotted ±SEM. (F) Relative expression of ribosomal protein mRNAs in *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}* and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* whole intestine samples, where wild-type tissue has been normalised to 1. The fold increase in expression from *Apc^{fl/fl}* to *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* samples for *Rpl24* and the average of all other RP mRNAs is shown. Statistical analysis was by one sample t test of the other RP mRNA fold changes using the fold-change for *Rpl24* mRNA as the hypothetical mean.

Figure 5

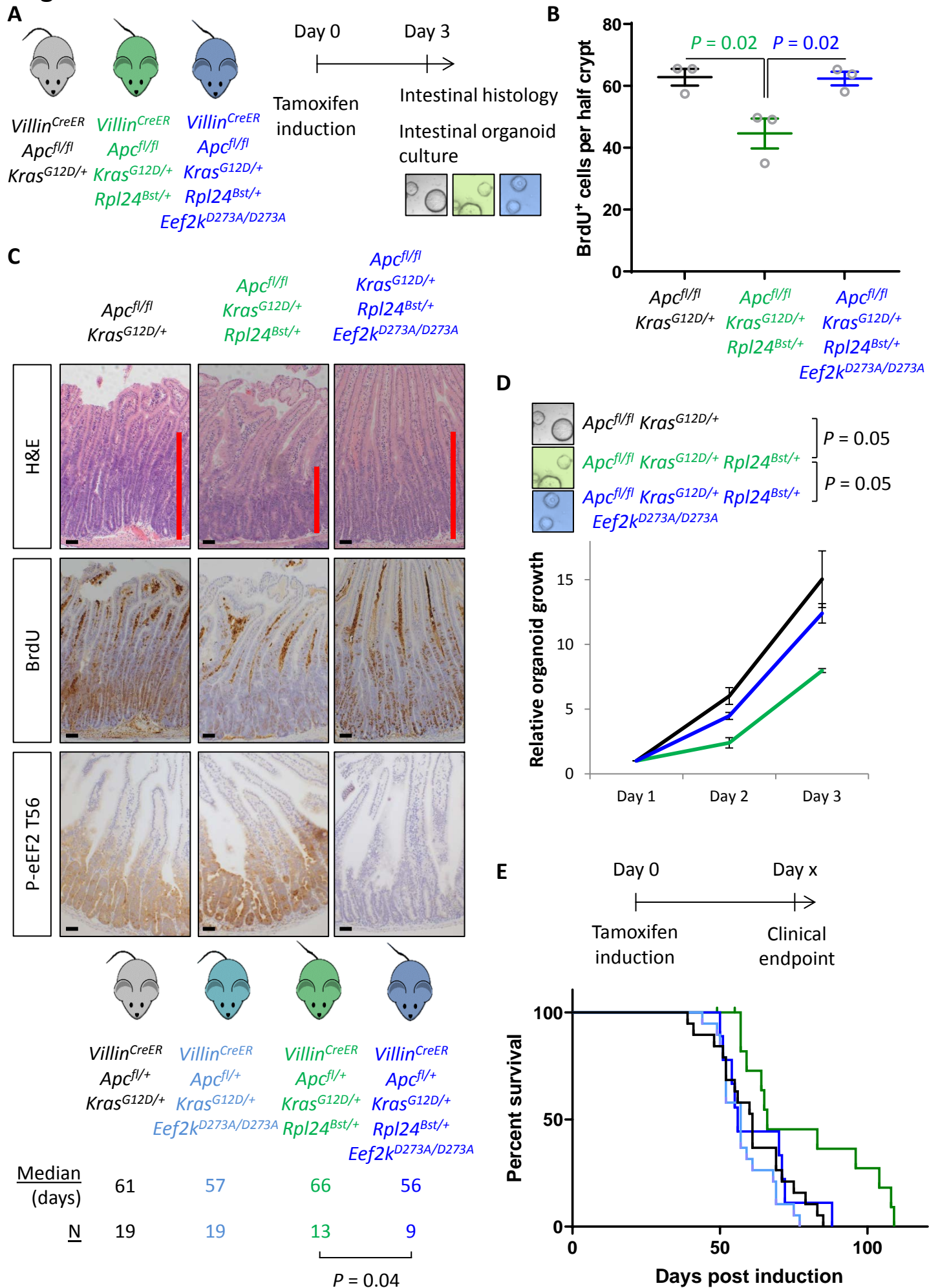


Figure 4: Genetic inactivation of eEF2K reverses the reduced tumorigenesis following *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant models of CRC:

(A) Schematic representation of experimental approach. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}*, *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+} Eef2k^{D273A/D273A}* mice were induced by intraperitoneal injection of tamoxifen at 80mg/kg then intestinal tissue analysed 3 days later. Intestines were analysed histologically or processed into intestinal organoids. (B) BrdU incorporation quantified from within small intestinal crypts following deletion of *Apc* and activation of *Kras*, either wild-type or mutant for *Rpl24*, or mutant for *Rpl24* and *Eef2k*. Data are represented as the mean of at least 20 crypts per mouse \pm SEM with significance determined by one-way ANOVA analysis with Tukey's multiple comparison. N=3 per genotype. (C) Representative images of H&E, BrdU and P-eEF2 T56 staining of intestines from the same experiment as (B). Red bar on H&E indicates extent of proliferative zone. Bars represent 50 μ m. (D) Organoids deficient for *Apc* and with activated *Kras* with or without *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation, or mutant for both *Rpl24* and *Eef2k* were grown for 3 days and growth relative to day 1 determined by Cell Titer Blue assay. Data show the mean \pm SEM of n=3 biologically independent organoid lines. Significance was determined by one tailed Mann Whitney U test. (E) Survival plot for *Apc Kras* ageing mice with or without the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation, *Eef2K* mutation and with both *Rpl24* and *Eef2k* mutations. Median survival and n numbers for each cohort are shown and significance determined by Mantel-Cox test. Censored subjects were removed from the study due to non-intestinal phenotypes.

Figure 6

Intestinal organoids

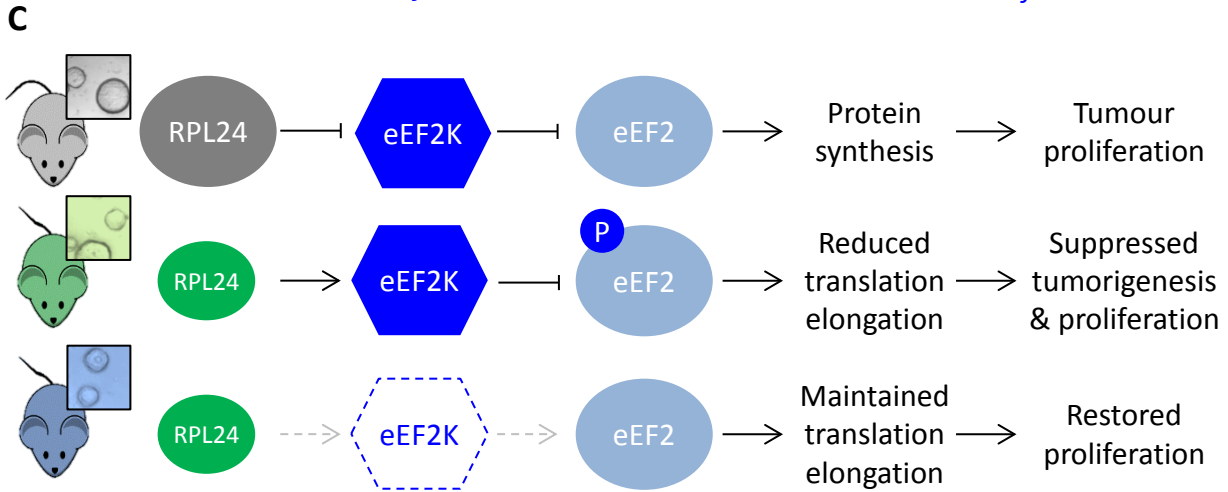
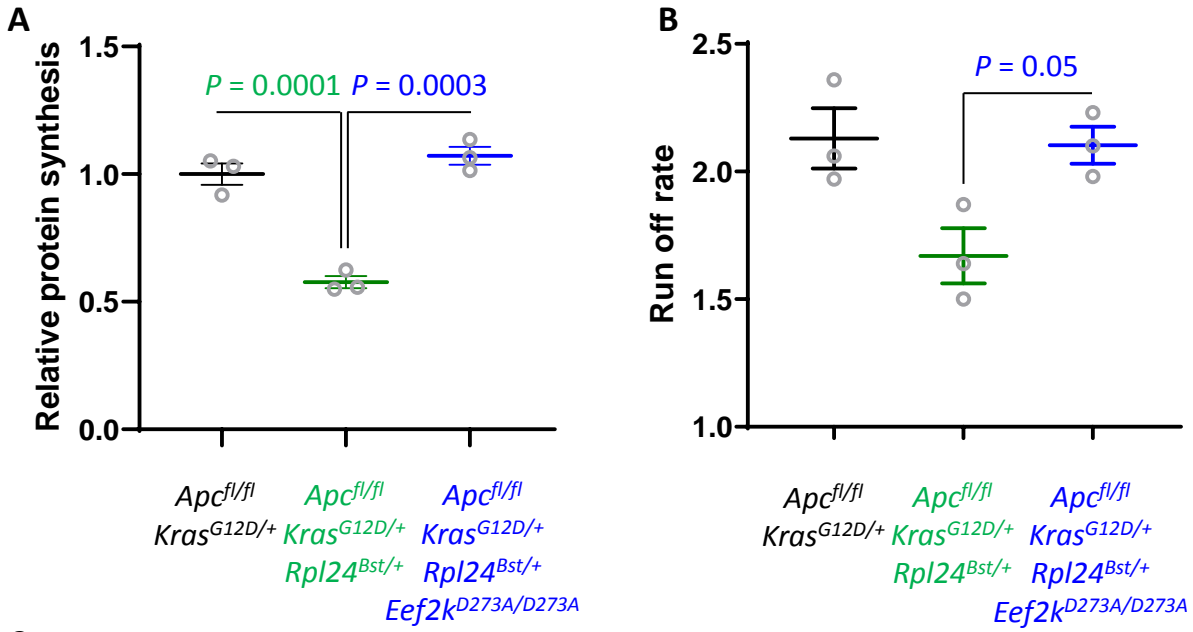
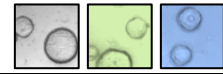
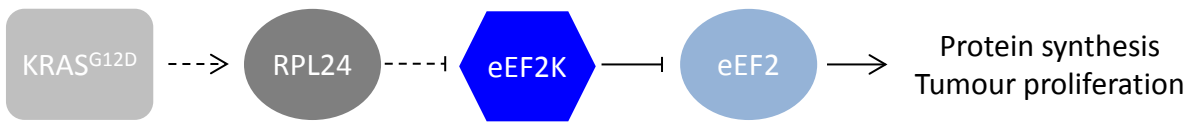


Figure 6: Genetic inactivation of eEF2K restores translation rates following *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation:

(A) ³⁵S-methionine incorporation to determine relative protein synthesis by in *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* small intestinal organoids wild-type or mutant for *Rpl24* or with both *Rpl24* and *Eef2k* mutations. Data are represented \pm SEM with significance determined by one-way ANOVA analysis with Tukey's multiple comparison. N=3 per genotype, each representing an independent organoid line. (B) Ribosome run-off rate determined in *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* small intestinal organoids mutant or wild-type for *Rpl24* or with both *Rpl24* and *Eef2k* mutations. Data are the mean of 3 biologically independent organoid lines represented \pm SEM with significance determined by Mann Whitney U test. Raw data are available in Figure S5A. The run-off rate for *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* control organoids is reproduced from Figure 3E. (C) Schematic representation of findings in *Apc*-deficient *Kras*-mutant mouse and organoid models. Top: RPL24 expression maintains translation and proliferation by suppressing the phosphorylation of eEF2 by limiting eEF2K activity. Middle: reduced expression of RPL24 activates eEF2K, increasing P-eEF2, reducing translation elongation and suppressing tumorigenesis and proliferation. Bottom: inactivation of eEF2K reverts the phenotype in *Rpl24^{Bst}* cells, due to the inability to phosphorylate and suppress eEF2. Elevated elongation rates correlate with increased proliferation following inactivation of eEF2K.

Figure 7

A



B

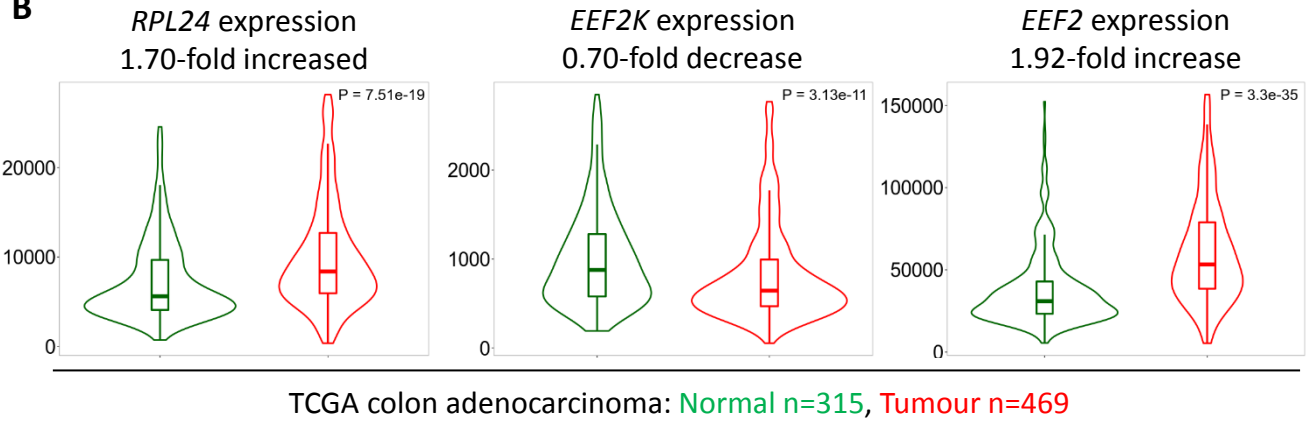


Figure 7: Expression of *RPL24*, *EEF2K* and *EEF2* is consistent with increased eEF2 activity in CRC tumours

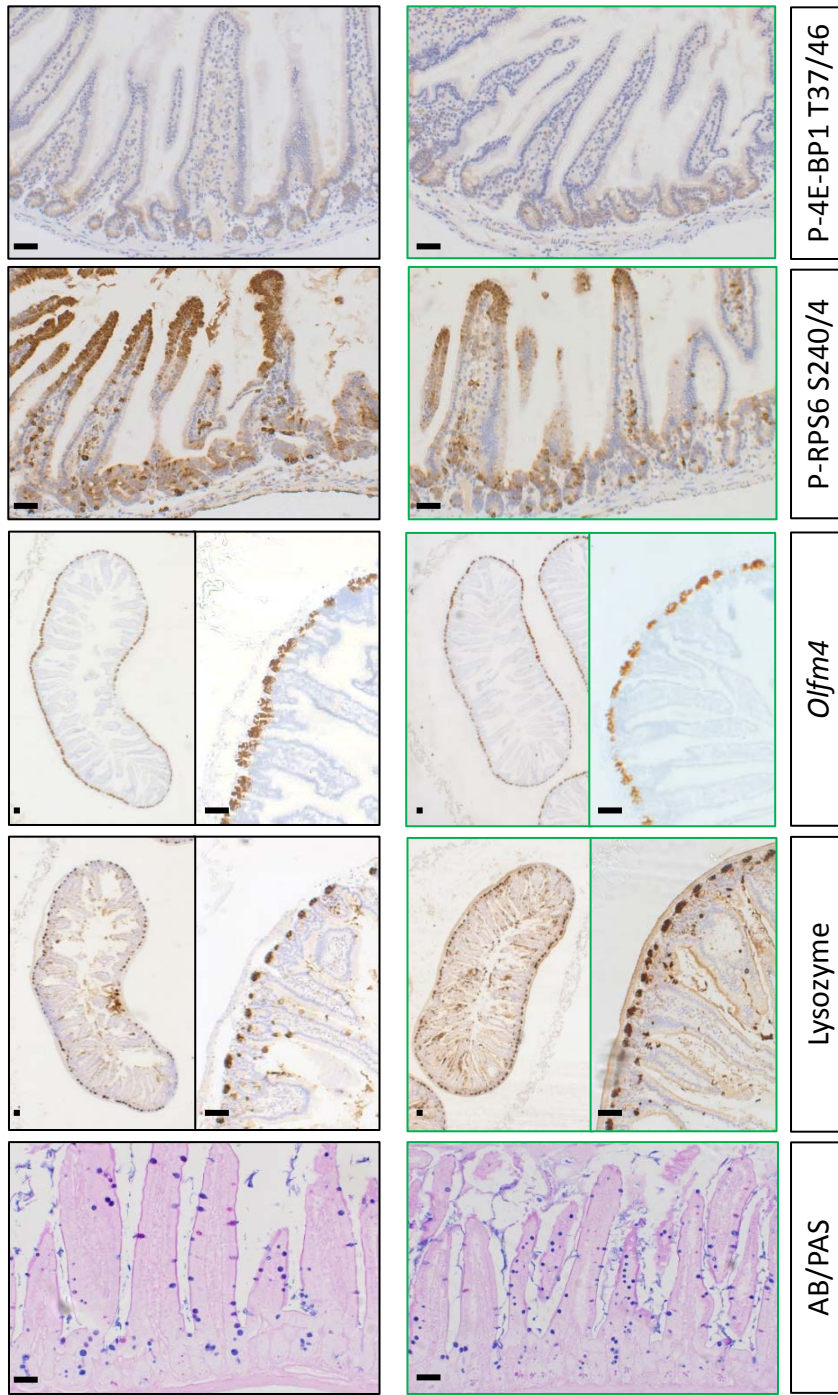
(A) Schematic of the findings presented here from pre-clinical mouse models. KRAS activation requires RPL24 expression to maintain low eEF2 phosphorylation. This occurs via a double negative regulation of eEF2K, whereby RPL24 suppresses eEF2K, which suppresses eEF2. eEF2 activity correlates with protein synthesis and proliferation rates. Dashed lines indicate indirect or undefined regulatory pathways. (B) RNA expression levels of RPL24, *EEF2K* and *EEF2* between normal colon and colon adenocarcinoma samples using data extracted from The Cancer Genome Atlas by TNMplot. Relative expression changes are annotated, as well as *P* values for each transcript.

Figure S1

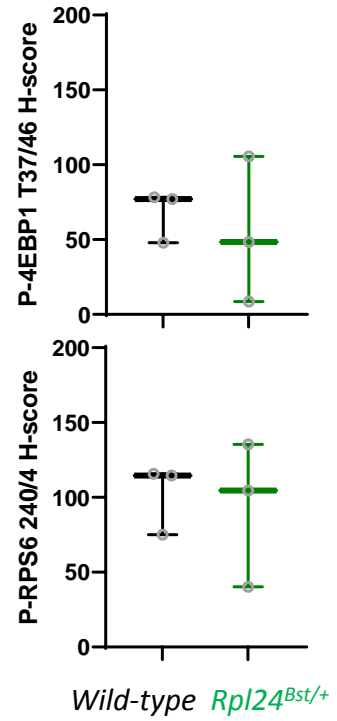
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Wild-type

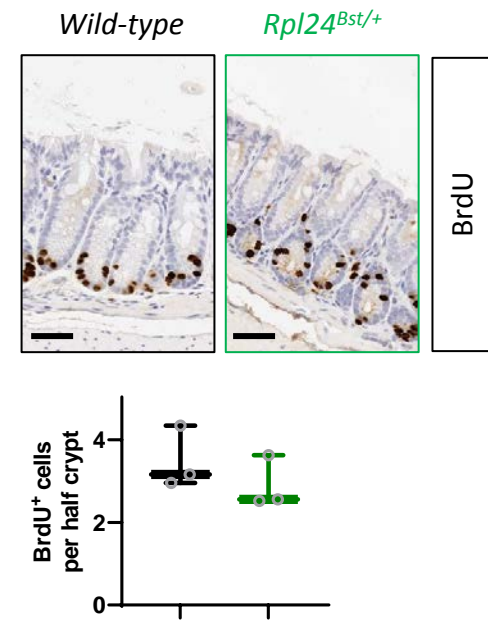
Rpl24^{Bst/+}



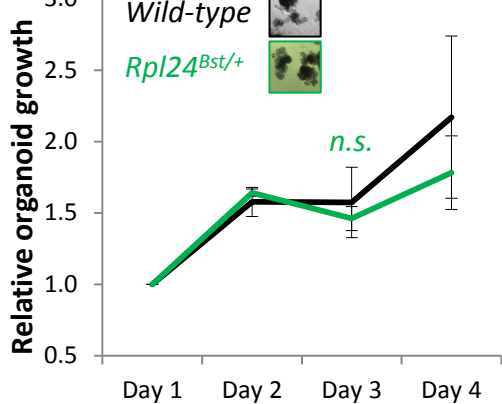
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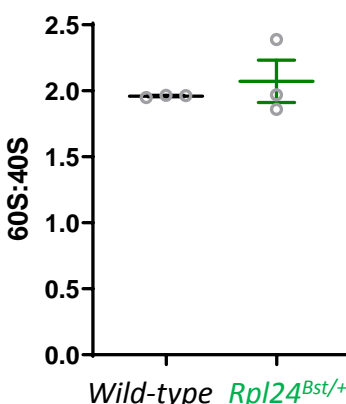
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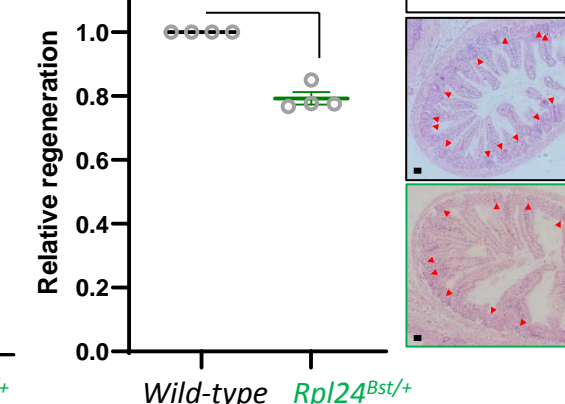
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E



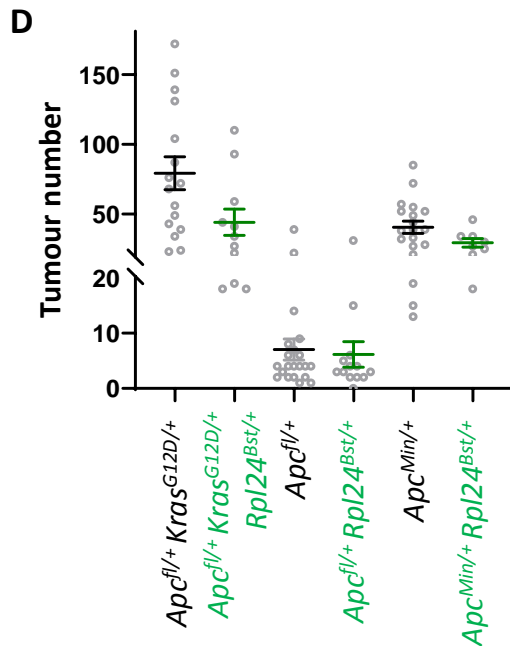
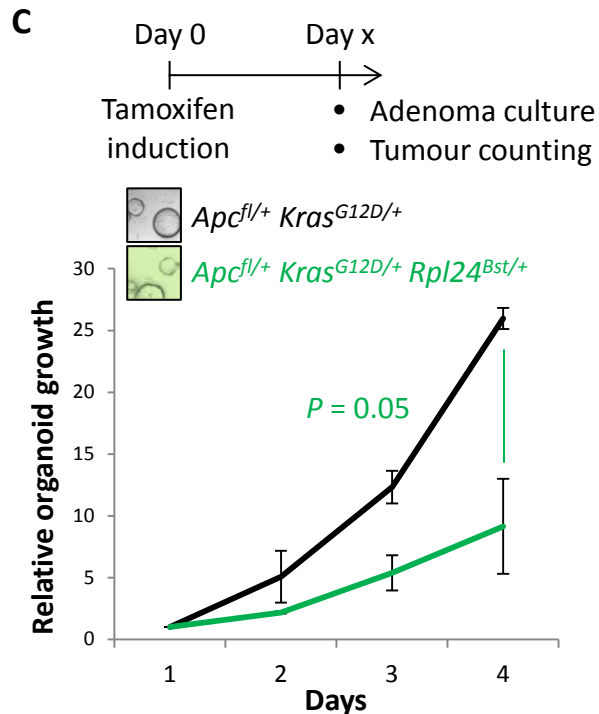
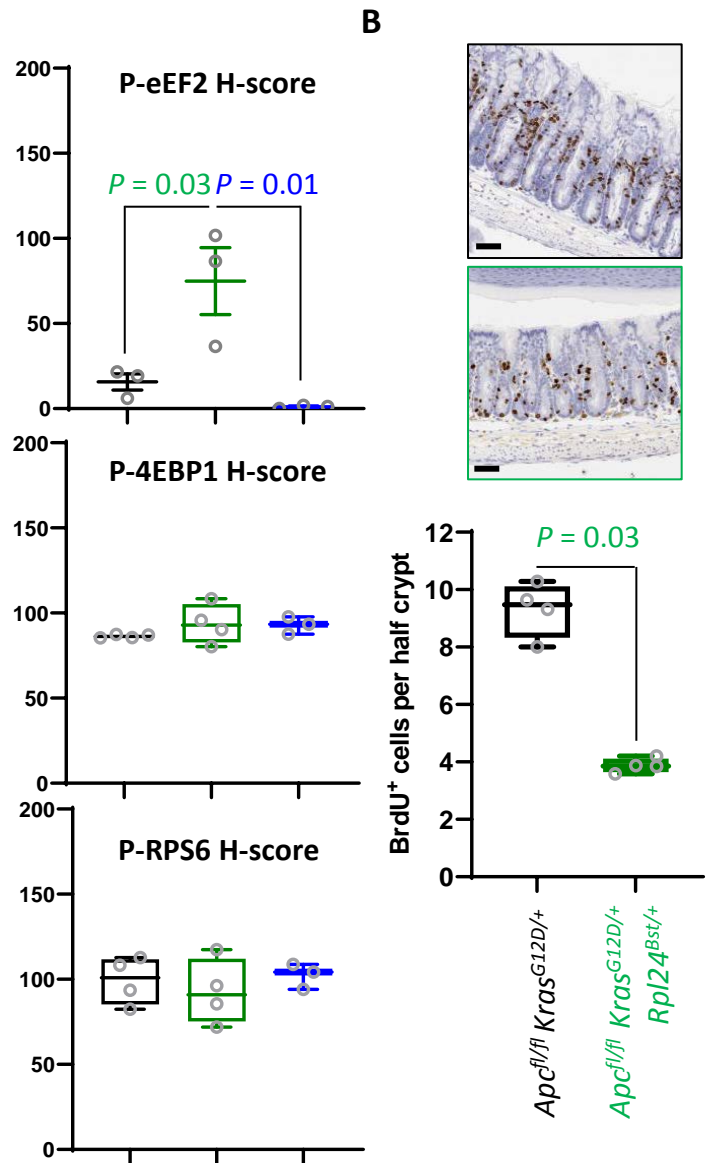
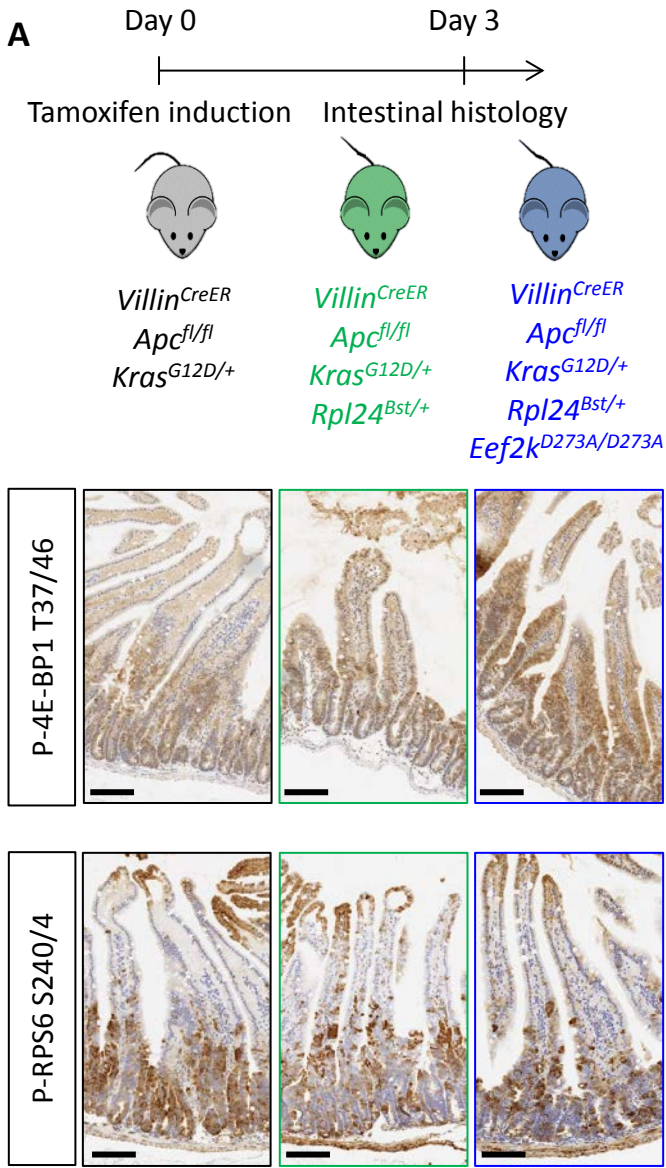
F



Supplemental Figure 1: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation does not affect intestinal homeostasis, or 40S:60S ratio:

(A) Representative images of staining for intestinal lineages and translation associated phosphorylation sites – P-4E-BP1 T37/46, and P-RPS6 240/4 of intestinal sections from wild-type and *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. *Olfm4* defines stem cells, lysozyme for Paneth cells and AB/PAS (Alcian blue/periodic acid-Schiff) for goblet cells. Bars represent 50 μ m. (B) H-score quantification of P-RPS6 S240/4 and P-4E-BP1 T37/46 from the same experiment as in (A). (C) BrdU staining of the medial colon from wild-type and *Rpl24^{Bst}* mice, top, with scoring of BrdU positive cells per half crypt below. Scores are from 3 mice per genotype, each plotted as the average of at least 20 half crypts. (D) Organoids either wild-type or mutant for *Rpl24^{Bst}* were grown over 4 days and the change in growth plotted relative to day 1. Triplicate independent lines were used for each genotype, with the average of these plotted on the graph \pm SEM. Lack of significance was determined by Mann Whitney U test. (E) Area under the curve for 40S and 60S ribosomal subunits was determined from the traces as in Figure 1E. Data are from three independent biological replicates \pm SEM. (F) Wild-type or *Rpl24^{Bst}* mice were given 10Gy of irradiation then sampled 72 h later. The number of regenerative crypts was quantified from at least 6 cross sections and the average plotted relative to wild-type regeneration set as 1 (n=4 per genotype). Micrograph insets show representative sections of intestine for wild-type (black box) and *Rpl24^{Bst/+}* (green box) mice. Red arrows indicate regenerating crypts. Bars represent 50 μ m. Data are represented as the mean \pm SEM with significance determined by Mann Whitney U test.

Figure S2

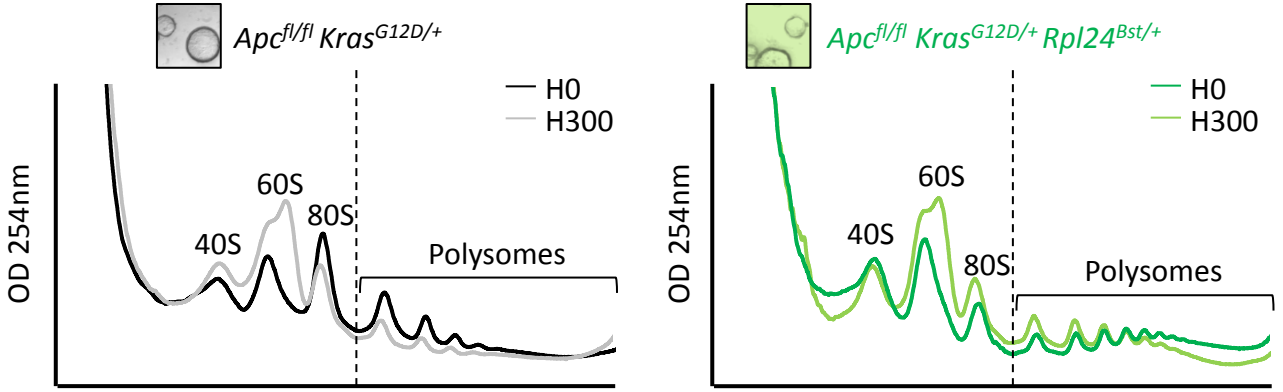


Supplemental Figure 2: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation leads to increased eEF2F phosphorylation and suppresses proliferation in colorectal cancer models.

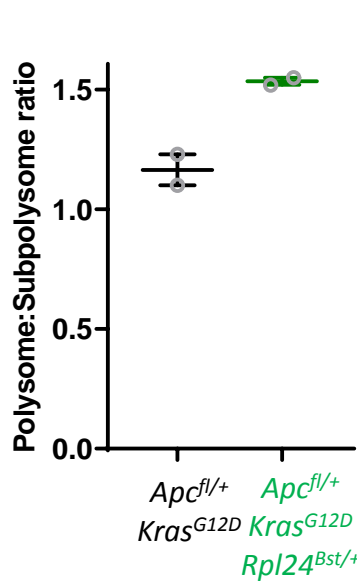
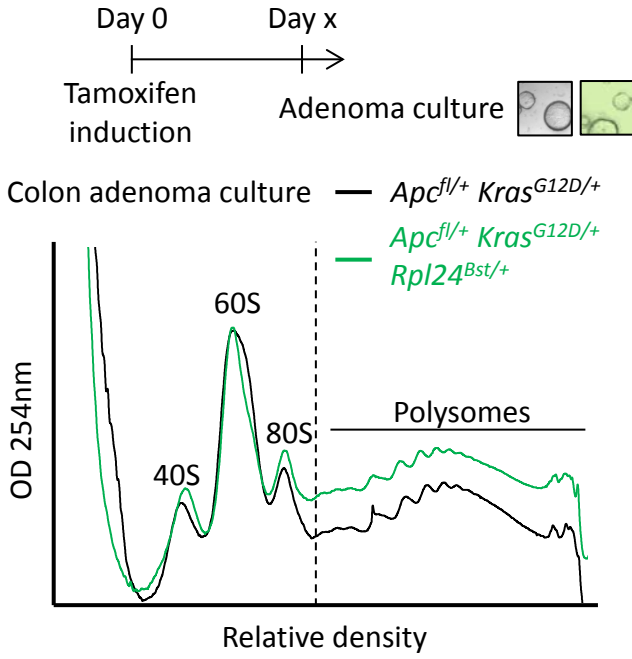
(A) Top: Schematic representation of experimental approach. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}*, *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+} Eef2k^{D273A/D273A}* mice were induced by intraperitoneal injection of tamoxifen at 80mg/kg then intestinal tissue analysed 3 days later. Bottom: Staining for P-4E-BP1 T37/46 and P-RPS6 S240/4 from the genotypes above. Right: H-score quantification for P-eEF2 T56 (matched to images shown in Figures 2C and 5C), P-4E-BP1 T37/46 and P-RPS6 S240/4. Small intestines from at least 3 animals from each genotype (*Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}*, *Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* and *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+} Eef2k^{D273A/D273A}*) were stained and the intensity quantified from the proliferative crypt region. Data are represented for 3 independent animals plotted \pm SEM. Significance was determined by one-way ANOVA analysis with Tukey's multiple comparison. (B) Top: Staining for BrdU in the medial colons of *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. Bottom: Representative micrograph images of each genotype. Scores are from 4 mice per genotype, each plotted as the average of at least 20 half crypts. Significance was determined by Mann Whitney U test. (C) Top: Schematic showing the generation of colonic adenoma cultures. of *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}* and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice were induced and aged until colonic tumours were present. Individual adenomas were then excised and adenoma cells isolated. Bottom: Growth of these cultures over 4 days, plotted relative to day 1. Biologically independent triplicate organoid lines were used, with the averages plotted \pm SEM. Significance was tested by Mann Whitney U test. (D) Tumour numbers for all tumour models reported, with and without *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation. Each point represents an individual mouse. From top to bottom n = 16, 11, 21, 13, 19 and 8 mice.

Figure S3

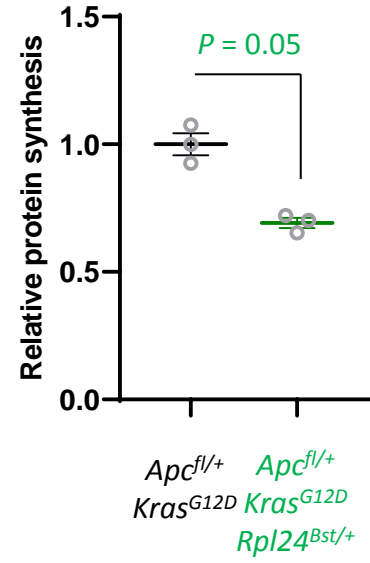
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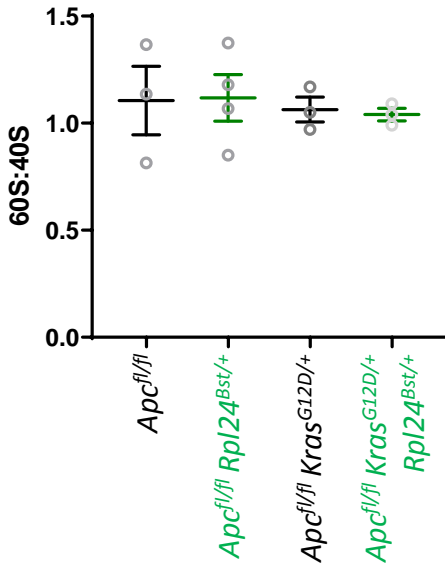
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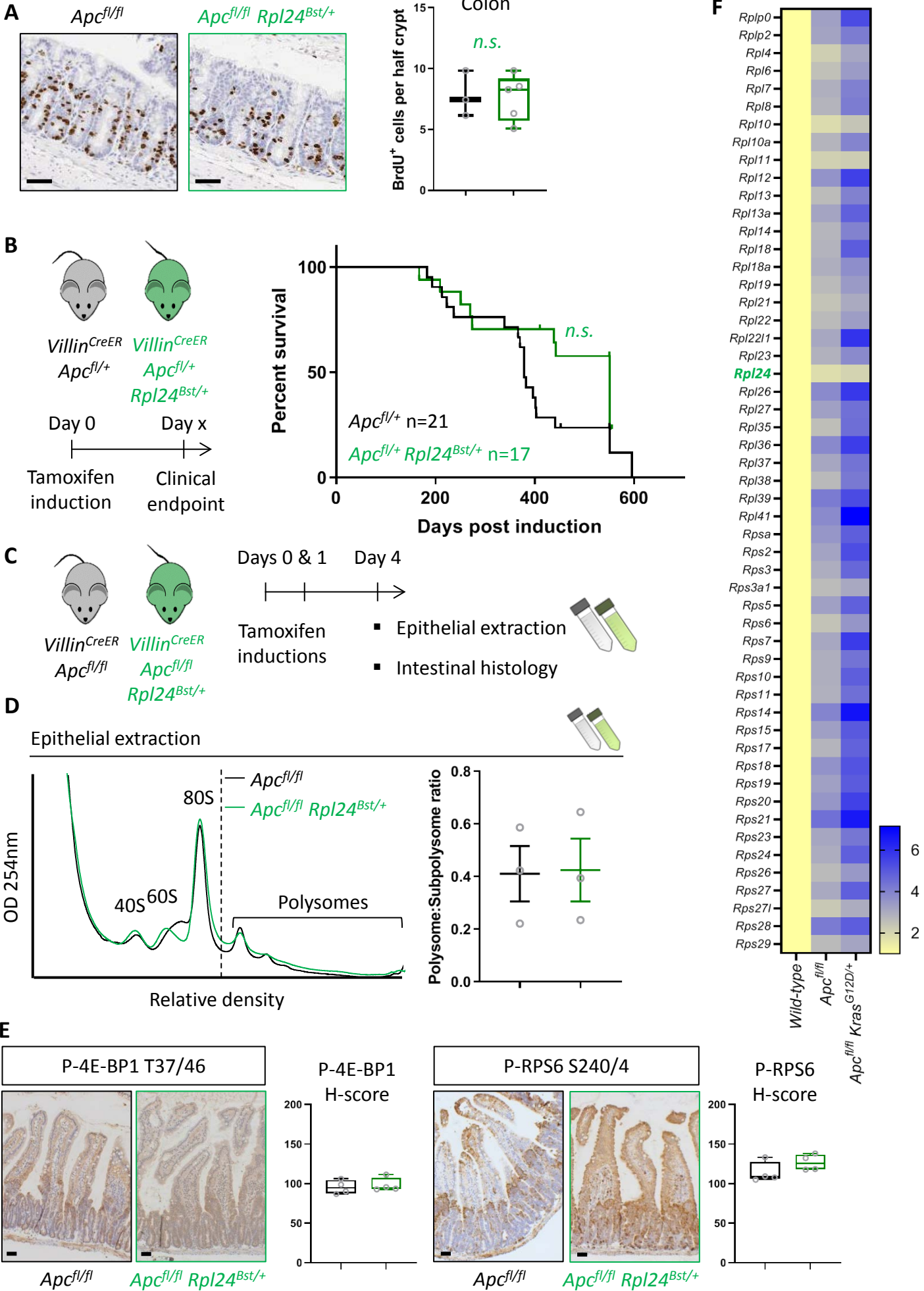
D



Supplemental Figure 3: The effect of *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation on translation and ribosome composition:

(A) Representative polysome profiles from *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* or *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* small intestinal organoid cultures, pre-treated with harringtonine for 5 min / 300 s (H300) or untreated (H0). These traces were analysed for the run-off rates shown in Figure 3D. (B) Representative polysome profiles from *Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}* or *Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* colonic adenoma cultures (left) and quantification of the polysome to sub-polysome ratio from these (right). Two biologically independent lines were analysed per genotype and plotted \pm SEM. Scheme above denotes the generation of adenoma cultures from distinct colonic tumours in aged *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}* and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice. (C) Relative protein synthesis rates quantified by ³⁵S methionine incorporation in the colonic adenoma cultures described in (B) with n=3. The average protein synthesis rates were plotted relative to *Apc^{fl/+} Kras^{G12D/+}* controls (= 1) for 3 organoid lines per genotype \pm SEM. Significance was determined by Mann Whitney U test. (D) 60S to 40S ratio from sucrose density gradients from lysates generated from the indicated genotypes. Data show the mean \pm SEM. Representative traces are shown in Figure 3A and S4D.

Figure S4



Supplemental Figure 4: *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation has no benefit in models of CRC with wild-type *Kras*:

(A) Left: Staining for BrdU in the medial colons of *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}* and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice.

Bottom: Scores are from 3 and 5 mice per genotype, each plotted as the average of at least 20 half crypts.

Lack of significance was determined by Mann Whitney U test. (B) Left: Schematic of experiment. the

Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+} mice with or without *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation were induced then aged until showing signs of

intestinal tumours. Right: Survival curve from the *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/+}* tumour model, with and without *Rpl24^{Bst}*

mutation. Censored subjects were sampled for health reasons not relating to the intestine. Lack of a

significant difference was determined by Mantel-Cox test. (C) Schematic representation of experimental

approach. *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* mice were induced by 2 intraperitoneal injection of

tamoxifen at 80mg/kg on days 0 and 1 then intestinal tissue analysed on day 4. Intestines analysed

histologically or by epithelial extraction for sucrose density gradient analysis. (D) Left: Representative

polysome profiles generated from *Apc^{fl/fl}* intestinal extracts with or without the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation.

Subpolysomal components and polysomes are labelled. Right: Quantification of the polysome:subpolysome

ratio across 3 biologically independent replicates for each genotype. Data show the mean \pm SEM. (E) Staining

of small intestinal tissue for P-4E-BP1 T37/46 and P-RPS6 S240/4 from *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}* or *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}*

Rpl24^{Bst/+} mice alongside H-score quantification from the proliferative zones of the intestines of 4 mice per

genotype. (F) Relative ribosomal protein mRNA abundances from RNA sequencing of wild-type, *Villin^{CreER}*

Apc^{fl/fl} and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* whole small intestinal tissue. 3 independent biological samples were

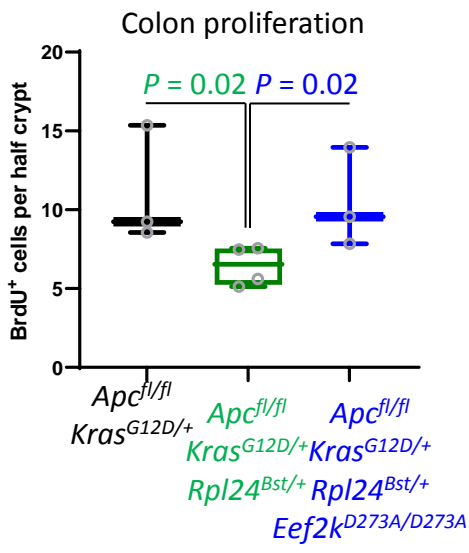
analysed per genotype with the averages used in this analysis. RNA sequencing reads for *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl}*

and *Villin^{CreER} Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* tissue was normalised to wild-type tissue set to 1. Values are shown

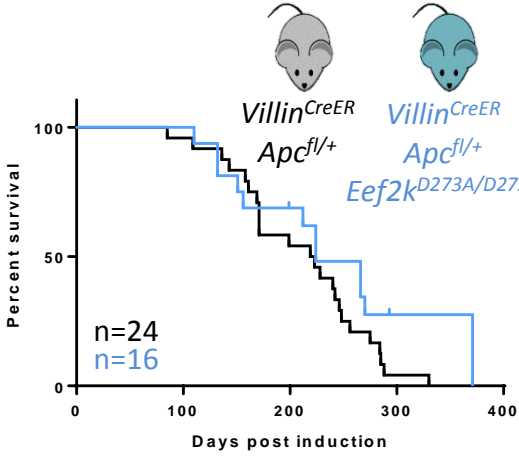
horizontally scaled as fold changes to the wild-type tissue for each genotype.

Figure S5

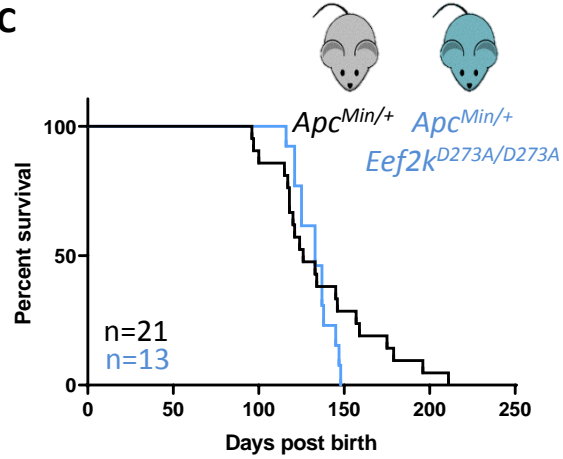
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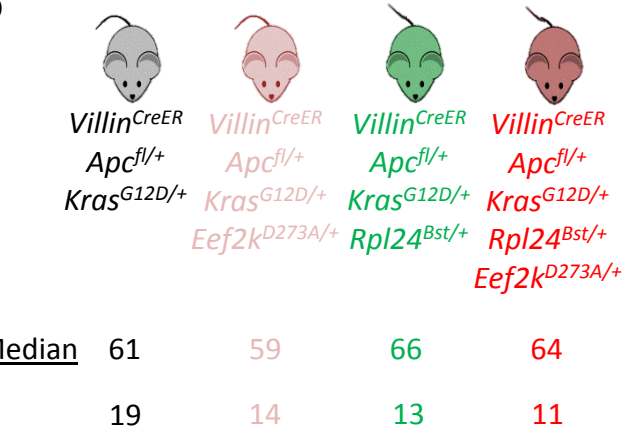
B



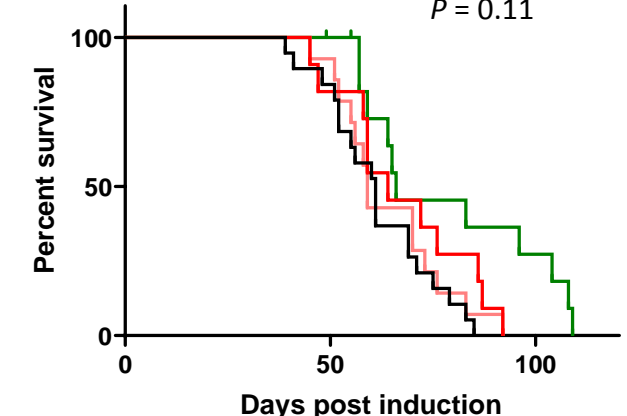
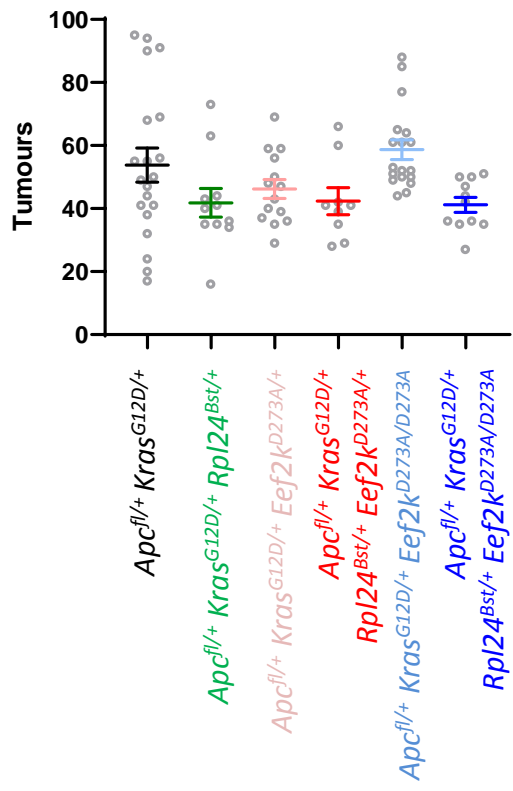
C



D



E

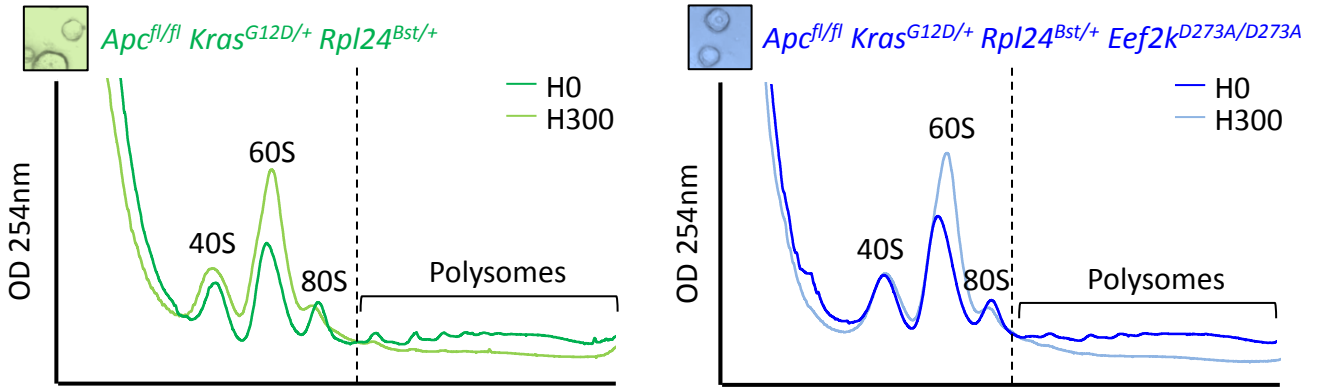


Supplemental Figure 5: Heterozygous mutation of *Eef2k*^{D273A/+} partially suppresses the effects of *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation in the tumour model:

(A) Scoring for BrdU incorporation in the medial colons of *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+}, *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} and *Apc*^{fl/fl} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} mice. Scores are from 3, 4 and 3 mice respectively per genotype, each plotted as the average of at least 20 half crypts. Significance was determined by one-way ANOVA analysis with Tukey's multiple comparison. (B) Survival curve from the *Apc*^{fl/+} tumour model for mice bearing the *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A} mutation or wild-type for *Eef2k*. Lack of a significant difference was determined by Mantel-Cox test. (C) *Apc*^{Min/+} tumour model survival curve, for mice with wild-type *Eef2k* or the inactivating mutation, *Eef2k*^{D273A/D273A}. Lack of a significant difference was determined by Mantel-Cox test. (D) Survival curve from the *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} tumour model for mice bearing the *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation and/or one copy of the inactivating *Eef2k* mutation. Median survival in days and n numbers are shown for each genotype. Significance test was performed by Mantel-Cox test. *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} and *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} *Rpl24*^{Bst/+} survival curves are reused from Figure 5E. (E) Tumour numbers scored macroscopically from *Apc*^{fl/+} *Kras*^{G12D/+} mice with or without *Rpl24*^{Bst} mutation and with no, one or two copies of the inactivating *Eef2k*^{D273A} mutation. Each point is an individual mouse with the bars depicting the mean \pm SEM. From left to right n = 20, 11, 14, 9, 18 and 11 mice.

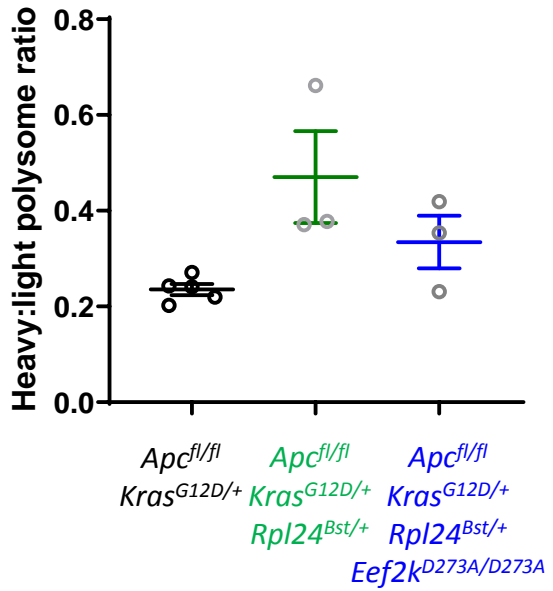
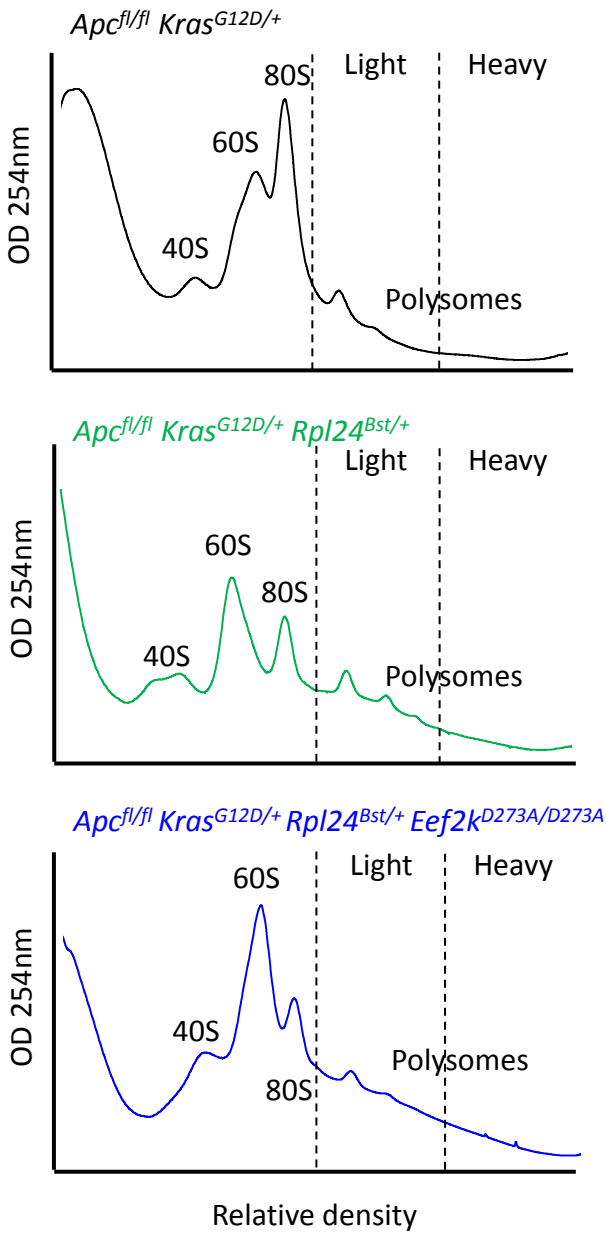
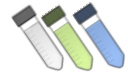
Figure S6

A



B

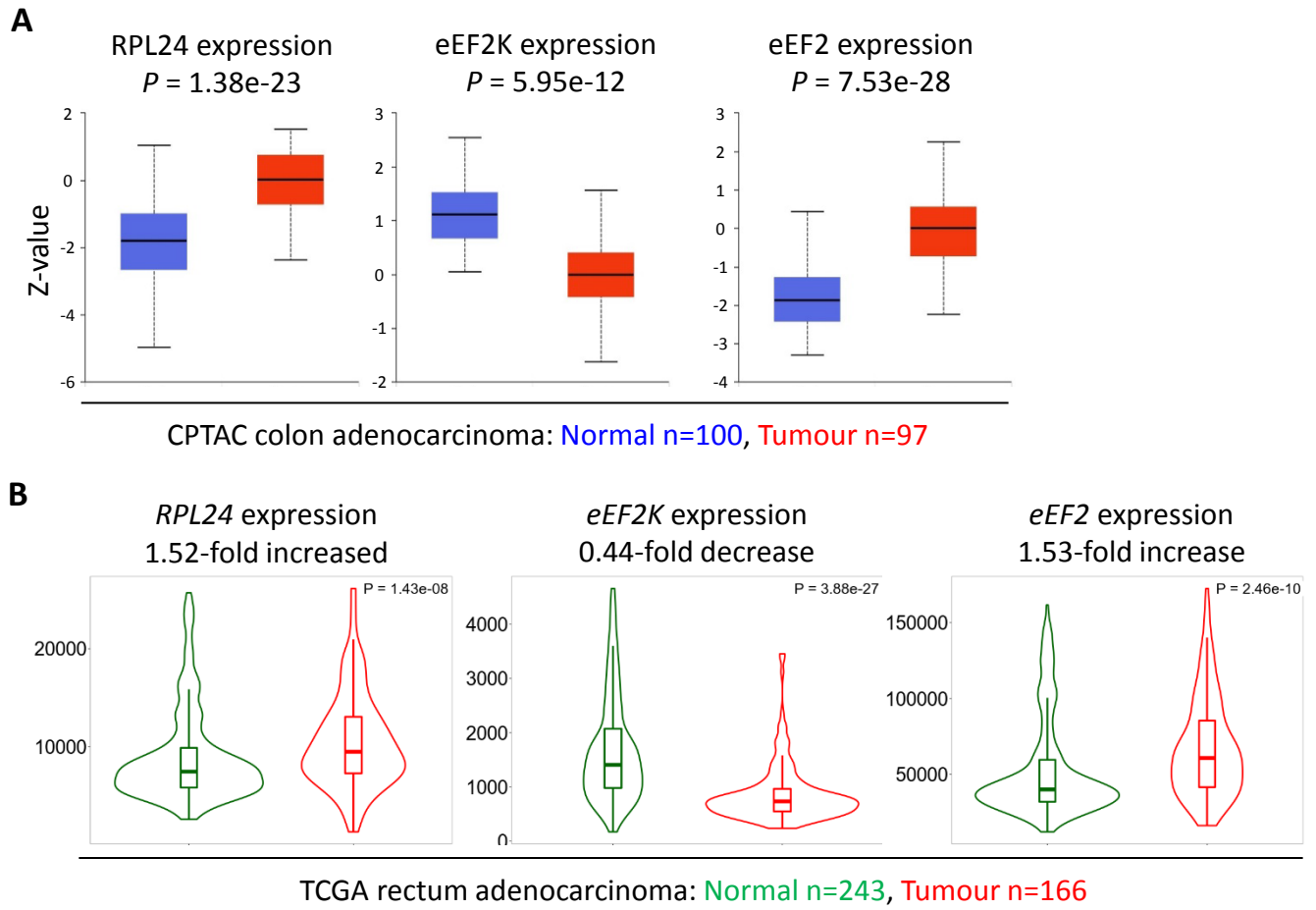
Epithelial extraction



Supplemental Figure 6: Inactivation of *Eef2k* restores translation elongation speed in *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutant mice:

(A) Polysome profiles from sucrose density gradients of *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+}* or *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+} Rpl24^{Bst/+} Eef2k^{D273A/D273A}* small intestinal organoid cultures, pre-treated with harringtonine for 5 mins / 300 s (H300) or untreated (H0). These traces are representative of those analysed for the run-off rates shown in Figure 6B. (B) Representative sucrose density profiles generated from *Apc^{fl/fl} Kras^{G12D/+}* intestinal extracts with or without the *Rpl24^{Bst}* mutation and inactivation of eEF2K. Subpolysomal components and polysomes are labelled, and the polysomes have been split pictorially into light and heavy. To the right of this is quantification of the heavy:light polysome ratio. Data show the mean \pm SEM of 5, 3 and 3 mice reading from left to right.

Figure S7



Supplemental Figure 7: Expression of *RPL24*, *EEF2K* and *EEF2* suggest increased eEF2 activity in CRC tumours

(A) Protein levels of *RPL24*, *eEF2K* and *eEF2* in normal colon and colon adenocarcinoma collated from the Clinical Proteomic Tumor Analysis Consortium by UALCAN. Numbers of samples and P values are shown for each protein. (B) RNA expression levels of *RPL24*, *EEF2K* and *EEF2* between normal rectum and rectum adenocarcinoma samples using data extracted from The Cancer Genome Atlas by TNMplot. Relative expression changes are annotated, as well as P values for each transcript.