A multi-omics integrative approach unravels novel genes and pathways associated with senescence escape after targeted therapy in NRAS mutant melanoma

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Abstract

Therapy Induced Senescence (TIS) leads to sustained growth arrest of cancer cells. The associated cytostasis has been shown to be reversible and cells escaping senescence further enhance the aggressiveness of cancers. Together with targeted therapeutics, senolytics, specifically targeting senescent cancer cells, constitute a promising avenue for improved cancer treatments. Understanding how cancer cells evade senescence is needed to optimise the clinical benefits of this therapeutic approach. Here we characterised the response of three different NRAS mutant melanoma cell lines to a combination of CDK4/6 and MEK inhibitors over 33 days. Transcriptomic data show that all cell lines trigger a senescence programme coupled with strong induction of interferons. Kinome profiling revealed the activation of Receptor Tyrosine Kinases (RTKs) and enriched downstream signaling of neurotrophin, ErbB and insulin pathways. Characterisation of the miRNA interactome associates miR-211-5p with resistant phenotypes. Finally, iCELL-based integration of bulk and single-cell RNA-seq data identified biological processes perturbed during senescence, and predicts new genes involved in its escape. Overall, our data associate insulin signaling with persistence of a senescent phenotype and suggest a new role for interferon gamma in senescence escape through the induction of EMT and the activation of ERK5 signaling.

INTRODUCTION

Hayflick first observed in 1961 that fibroblasts stop proliferating after 50 passages and display an enlarged and flattened phenotype characteristic of senescence [1, 2]. This observation was later explained by the progressive shortening of telomeres upon replication, which ultimately triggers a DNA Damage Response (DDR) leading to cell cycle arrest [3, 4]. This process was called "replicative senescence". Several cellular events and environmental conditions induce senescence, and it now emerges as a generic stress response involved in central biological processes such as embryonic development, wound healing and aging [2, 4, 5].

Many stressors that induce senescence (*e.g.*, oxidative stress, radiation), induce DNA damage and

activate DDR. This leads to engagement of the Senescence Associated Secretory Phenotype (SASP),

one of the characteristic features of senescence in which cells produce and secrete cytokines and

growth factors. The SASP itself can trigger senescence in adjacent cells and contributes to the

emergence of an inflammatory environment as the senescent cells, which are not eliminated by the

immune system, accumulate in the organism [5]. This accumulation leads to the development of

degenerative and hyperplastic pathologies and carcinogenesis, linking senescence to aging [6, 7].

Research in this field is challenging due to the heterogeneous and dynamic nature of the SASP and the

lack of a universal marker for senescence.

Focusing on cancer, the activation of known oncogenes results in a constant proliferative signaling

which causes replication forks to trigger DNA damage and drive primary cells to undergo oncogene-

induced senescence (OIS) [8]. Therefore, senescence may be considered as an early evolutionary

mechanism of protection against cancer leading to cell cycle arrest of over-proliferating cells [9].

However, cells can escape this arrest and re-establish growth, ultimately leading to the development

of cancer. Cancer cells can also undergo senescence when exposed to therapies, so called Therapy-

induced senescence (TIS).

Thus, senescence appears as a natural barrier against cancer, but recent works suggest that

senescence may be a reversible process [10]. Exit from senescence has been recently linked with the

stem-like properties of cancer cells, reinforcing the idea that aside from the SASP, senescence itself

may be a transient state in carcinogenesis.

Melanoma arises from the deregulated proliferation of melanocytes representing the deadliest type

of skin cancer accounting for about 75% of related deaths. Standard of care involves targeted

therapies and immunotherapies [11]. For the BRAF mutated subtype, representing half of the cases,

specific first line inhibitors targeting both MEK and BRAF have been developed. The NRAS mutated

subtype, which accounts for a quarter of all melanoma cases, lacks such a targeted approach but

ongoing clinical trials are assessing the effects of combined MEK and CDK4/6 inhibitors (NCT01781572;

NCT02065063). However, tolerance or resistance to such targeted treatments inevitably develops.

MicroRNAs have been shown to be involved in resistance to treatment. miRNAs are 20-22 nucleotides

short RNAs, which in complex with the Argonaute (AGO) protein, act as post-transcriptional regulators

of gene expression [12]. Canonically, miRNAs destabilise mRNAs by binding to a complementary

sequence within the 3' UTR, this resulting in downregulation of the mRNA and the encoded protein

[13]. Experimental methods based on immune-precipitation and sequencing have been developed to

profile miRNA-mRNA interactions. The qCLASH method has the advantage of capturing direct physical

interactions only, through an additional intermolecular ligation step linking mRNAs to their bound

miRNAs [14].

To characterise the response of 3 NRAS mutant melanoma cell lines to a combination of MEK and

CDK4/6 inhibitors, we treated the cells over 33 days and collected samples at multiple time points.

Samples were analyzed by total RNA-seq, small RNA-seq, qCLASH and kinome profiling. Our results

recapitulate several previous observations while displaying an unforeseen interplay between

interferon signalling and senescence. Additionally, we uncover deregulated processes associated with

the onset of senescence and its exit by adapting a non-negative matrix tri-factorization (NMTF)-based

methodology, "iCell" [15], to integrate bulk RNA-seq and single-cell data. Moreover, the

dimensionality reduction and the clustering properties of the NMTF allowed us to associate novel

genes to senescence escape.

RESULTS

Experimental design and description of the data sets

To study the effects of MEKi and CDK4/6i, 3 NRAS mutant melanoma cell-lines were selected: IPC298,

MELJUSO and SKMEL30. We determined the GI50 (drug concentration at which cell growth is reduced

by half) and opted for a concentration of 16nM, 110nM and 35nM of Binimetinib (MEKi) for IPC298,

MELJUSO and SKMEL30, respectively and 1 μM for Palbociclib (CDK4/6i) as this inhibitor led to

incomplete dose-response curves (Supp. Table 1). Upon treatment over 33 days, distinct cellular

responses (Fig. 1) were observed. IPC298 suffered very little from the treatment showing constant

proliferation and no morphological change. SKMEL30 stopped proliferating and accumulated

pigmentation before restoring proliferation after around 14 days. Finally, MELJUSO stopped dividing

and started to stretch to acquire a spindle-shape phenotype after 4 days.

As distinct morphological changes were observed at these time points, we profiled the transcriptome

of the cell lines at day 0, 4, 14 and 33 using total RNA-seq. Cellular signaling supporting the adaptation

to the treatment was investigated by profiling the kinome of the senescent MELJUSO and adaptative

SKMEL30 cell lines using PamGene technology. Next, we characterised the resistant miRNA

interactome of the SKMEL30 and IPC298 at 33 days by combining small RNA-seq and the qCLASH

method. Finally, by integrating bulk and single cell RNA-seq data, deregulated pathways and predicted

genes associated with senescence escape were identified.

Cell lines display coherent transcriptomic profiles composed of interferons, EMT and senescent

responses under prolonged CDK4/6i and MEKi treatment

Distinct cellular responses to treatment were reflected at the transcriptomic level where the cell lines

clustered separately on the PCA (Fig. 2.A). As MELJUSO displayed a different evolution over time, we

decided to analyze each cell line individually. Differential expression analysis, comparing later time

points to day 0, revealed a greater change in the MELJUSO transcriptome. MELJUSO corresponds to

9548, 11362 and 10126 significant (p.adj <= 0.05) differentially expressed genes at day 4, day 14 and

day 33, respectively when compared to SKMEL30 and IPC298 (9208, 9749, 6509 and 5436, 7575 and

3217, respectively) (Supp. Fig 1).

Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) was performed on differentially expressed genes using the

"hallmarks" from MSigDB, which revealed the downregulation of pathways related to proliferation

such as "MYC TARGETS V1", "E2F TARGETS", and "G2M CHECKPOINT" (Fig. 2.B), all affected by our

inhibitors. The clustering of samples on top of the heatmap clearly separates proliferative samples

(left part) comprising the IPC298 cell line and SKMEL30 day 33 from cytostatic samples (right part)

with MELJUSO and early time points for SKMEL30. Interestingly, we noticed across all cell lines an

enrichment in interferon responses and an enrichment in Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)

for the cytostatic samples (Fig 2.B). CDK4/6 inhibitors have been shown to induce cellular senescence

in different cell types [16, 17]. We therefore used a recently published classifier, "SENESCopedia", to

predict the levels of senescence in our samples (Fig. 2.C) [18]. On day 14, all cell lines display high

senescence scores suggesting that they all engage in a related transcriptional programme. Of note, all

samples with a high senescence score are also enriched in EMT which is coherent with previous

observations of EMT in different epithelial cell types after induction of senescence (fibroblasts,

colorectal and lung cancer) [19, 20, 21].

Altogether, these results suggest that all 3 cell lines trigger the same type of responses composed of

an interferon response, a senescence and "EMT" programme but with a different intensity and

temporality, which may explain the different phenotypes observed.

Kinome profiling of adapting cell lines shows reactivation of RTK pathways and suggests a key role

of ERK5

To better understand how the cell lines adapt to the treatment, we acquired PamGene data to profile

the kinome of SKMEL30 and MELJUSO cells at day 0, 1, 4 and 33 (Supp. Fig 2) as these two cell lines

showed distinct responses to combined kinase inhibitors. MELJUSO stops proliferating and changes

morphology after about 4 days while SKMEL30 acquires a dark pigmentation before restoring growth.

Kinase activities were inferred from the levels of peptide phosphorylation at different time points and

compared to day 0 (summarised in Fig 3.A). A phylogenetic representation shows that these two cell

lines react similarly to the treatment only at early time points (Supp. Fig 3).

To perform pathway enrichment on a reduced set of proteins such as kinases, we used a network-

based approach and obtained coherent results for the two cell lines (Table 1). Indeed, pathways like

RIG-I or Toll-like receptor signaling (related to innate immunity and interferon responses) were

enriched at early time points for both SKMEL30 and MELJUSO. Among the enrichment results, RTK

pathways involving ErbB, neurotrophin and insulin appear (Fig 3.B, 3.C). Some pathways were

enriched before the increase in receptor activity reached the significance threshold and those were

therefore not represented on the phylogenetic tree (Supp. Fig 3). This signaling seems to persist after

the receptor resumes normal activity (Table 1). It has previously been shown that the inhibition of

ERK1/2 suppresses negative feedback on RTK expression, which can then be further activated to

compensate for this inhibition [22] (Fig 3 B, Supp. Fig 3). Coherent with the enriched pathways, we

observed in both cell lines a significant increase in the activity of RTKs such as HER3 and NTRK2 as well

as insulin-related receptors (INSR, IGF1R and IRR). Noteworthy, downstream insulin signaling was

enriched in the cytostatic MELJUSO only (detailed representation of pathways Supp. Fig 4-8). Other

RTKs previously related to resistance such ALK, AXL or c-MET displayed an increased activity (complete

list Supp. Fig 9) but those were not associated with enriched downstream signaling. Within the MAPK

pathway, the decrease in ERK5 (*MAPK7*) activity was partially relieved in SKMEL30 but not in MELJUSO

(Fig 3.B). Along these lines, Tubita et al recently showed that knock-down by shRNA or inhibition of

the kinase activity of ERK5 triggers senescence in melanoma [23].

Overall, the kinome data show the reactivation of ErbB, neurotrophin and insulin pathways and

enrichment of their downstream signaling. Interestingly, ERK5 activity was strongly reduced in the

cytostatic cell line MELJUSO (Fig 3.B).

Contribution of miRNAs to the resistant phenotype

To see if miRNAs could participate in the adaptation to treatment and the proliferative phenotypes,

we profiled the miRNome of all three cell lines by small RNA-seq at day 0 and 33. In line with their

phenotypes, IPC298 showed little deregulation of miRNAs compared to SKMEL30 and MELJUSO cell

lines (Supp Fig. 10). Next, we performed qCLASH analysis for the two proliferative cell lines IPC298

(early adaptation) and SKMEL30 (late adaptation) (summarised in Fig 4.A).

Although qCLASH-based miRNA interactomes do not provide a complete picture of all interactions,

PCA was able to discriminate between the different cell lines and conditions (Supp. Fig 11). Previous

studies reported a correlation between the number of detected hybrids and the expression levels of

its miRNA and mRNA components [14, 24]. These correlations hold true for our matching total and

the small RNA-seq data when taking the total count across the replicates (Fig 4.B, left panels).

Moreover, further summing up the hybrids for each miRNA or mRNA strengthens the correlation

between RNA-seq and qCLASH data, especially for miRNAs (Fig. 4. B, right panels). qCLASH data also

contain transient interactions, which are unlikely to be functionally relevant for the cell and technical

replicates are often used to further select most likely interactions. We explored how the detection of

interactions in one, two or three replicates depends on their expression level and observed that

interactions detected in triplicates were associated with a greater expression supporting the rationale

of using such thresholds (Supp. Fig 12). To further select the most relevant miRNAs, we constructed a

network with the interactions specific to the resistant phenotype. We first selected the interactions

detected in triplicates, then ensured that they were present in both resistant IPC298 and SKMEL30

but absent from their untreated counterparts (Fig 4.C). Finally, we overlaid the log fold changes from

the small and total RNA-seq for the corresponding miRNAs and mRNAs onto the resulting network

(Fig. 4.D). Based on those representations, we selected some interactions to confirm their

deregulation by qPCR. We investigated if those observations could be extended to two BRAF mutant

cell lines, A375 and 624Mel which underwent the same treatment and re-established growth (Supp.

Fig 13). Most of the selected interactions did not exert a robust inverse expression between miRNA

and mRNA (Supp. Fig 14,15). Among mRNAs, we observed a robust upregulation of CCND1 which is a

known resistance mechanism to CDK4/6i as well as a strong upregulation of IFN related gene IFI6

(Supp. Fig 13). Except for the amelanotic cell line A375, we observed the upregulation of LGALS3BP,

TXNIP and TYRP1 (Fig 4.E). Among miRNAs, mir-211-5p was upregulated in all proliferative cell lines

except the amelanotic A375, which is known not to express it (Fig 4.F) [25], and MELJUSO (Fig 4.G),

which has very low levels.

Overall, the number of interactions detected by qCLASH method is influenced by the expression level

of the corresponding miRNA and mRNA. Most of the detected interactions did not exert the expected

inverse expression pattern between miRNA and mRNA. miRNAs and mRNAs displayed a more robust

change in expression across cell lines. Except for the amelanotic A375, upregulation of miR-211-5p is

associated with resistant and proliferative cell lines.

iCell integration of bulk and single-cell RNA-seq reveals perturbed pathways and predicts genes

facilitating senescence escape

To gain further insights into NRAS mutant melanoma cells' adaptation to treatment, we integrated

the bulk RNA-sequencing data with previous condition-matching single-cell data from our lab by

adapting and applying a Non-negative Matrix Tri-Factorization (NMTF) approach called iCell [15]. We

used the iCell methodology because it is a versatile data fusion framework, which has previously been

used to perform integrative comparative analyses of disease and control tissue data, predicting new

cancer and COVID-19 related genes [15, 26] and suggesting potential drug re-purposing candidates

[26].

For each condition (treated cell line and time point), we constructed protein-protein interaction (PPI)

networks by overlaying the experimentally validated PPI network for *Homo Sapiens* from BioGRID [27]

with the condition-specific bulk RNA-sequencing data. Also, we derived a condition-specific co-

expression (COEXP) network from the corresponding bulk RNA-seq data (see Methods section). Next,

we applied Non-negative Matrix Tri-Factorization (NMTF) on the corresponding adjacency matrices of

the resulting PPI, COEXP and the single-cell expression data collectively, to ensure data fusion

(Methods and [15]). This resulted in the creation of nine condition-specific iCell networks, by

multiplying the G1 matrix resulting from the data fusion and its transpose (which is equivalent to

computing the dot product between gene pairs) and considering as interactions the 1% highest values

in each row and column (see the Methods and [15]).

As illustrated in Supp. Fig 16, resulting condition-specific iCell networks were investigated by first

comparing the global topology of all resulting iCell networks over all treated single-cell line conditions

over all time points. Then, these topological changes were further characterised by identifying the

genes that change their local topology between each pair of conditions, as well as the ones whose

local topology is conserved. We related the identified most rewired genes and the least rewired ones

to MSigDB hallmarks by performing an Over-Representation Analysis (ORA) (see Methods for details).

For each condition, we also clustered the genes based on the local topology in the corresponding

condition-specific iCell network and then found the MSigDB hallmarks that are enriched in the

resulting clusters. We focused on two senescence-escape related hallmark pathways to predict novel

genes potentially related to these pathways based on their appearance in the clusters that were

enriched across all conditions.

Then, we compared the overall topology of the iCell networks obtained for each condition by using

thus far the most sensitive measure of global network topology, the "Graphlet Correlation Distance"

(GCD-11) (see Methods and [28]). The lower the GCD-11 value, the closer the topologies of the

networks [28]. We used Ward's hierarchical clustering to cluster the resulting heatmap of the GCD-

11s between all iCell networks (all-to-all matrix). In line with our phenotypic observations, we showed

on the heatmap (Fig 5.A) that for the resistant cell line IPC298, the conditions D4 and D33 have the

lowest GCD-11 value (0.26) and hence clustered together, suggesting early adaptation to treatment

of this cell line. For the two other cell lines, conditions D0 and D4 grouped together (GCD-11 values of

0.71 for SKMEL30 and 0.87 for MELJUSO), suggesting that these two cell lines adapt later.

Next, the local topology of genes in the condition-specific iCell networks was analysed to find out if

some are rewired under specific biological conditions. To this end, when comparing two conditions,

we focused on genes that were expressed in both conditions (Venn diagrams in Fig. 5.B and supp. Fig.

17). Within each iCell network, the local topology around a gene in the network was quantified by

using it's "Graphlet Degree Vector" (GDV). We then measure the rewiring of a gene between two

conditions by comparing its GDVs in the two networks using "Graphlet Degree Vector Similarity"

(GDVS) (detailed in Methods and in [29]). Between two conditions, genes with high GDVSs have

conserved topologies and are called "stable", while the genes with low GDVSs are rewired and are

called "perturbed". We related the top 10% of the most "stable" and the top 10% of the most

"perturbed" genes to MSigDB hallmarks [30] by performing ORA. For each cell line, the condition-

specific iCell networks were compared for all time points together (i.e., D4 vs D0, D33 vs D4, and D33

vs D0). For all cell lines, we observed that the top 10% of the most "perturbed" genes were enriched

at different contrasts in "ADIPOGENESIS" (also observed in senescent fibroblasts [31]) and "OXIDATIVE

PHOSPHORYLATION" (OxPhos) (a pathway commonly dysregulated in senescence which has been

proposed as a targeting strategy [32]) (Fig 5.C). Then, the local topology of genes was compared

between the condition-specific iCell networks of different cell lines, but at matching time points (e.g.,

MELJUSO_D0 vs SKMEL30_D0). Interestingly, the top 10% of the most "stable" genes were only found

to be enriched when comparing IPC298 vs MELJUSO at day 0 and when comparing MELJUSO vs

SKMEL30 at day 4, which suggests that these cell lines react coherently early on and diverge later

(supp Fig. 17). At day 0, and across all pairwise comparisons involving IPC298 cell line, the top 10% of

the most "perturbed" genes were enriched for OxPhos, suggesting a different initial metabolic state

for IPC298. On day 4, when comparing IPC298 and SKMEL30 cells, the top 10% of the most "perturbed"

genes were enriched in "INTERFERON ALPHA/GAMMA RESPONSE". At days 4 and 33, but not across

all pairwise comparisons, we found that the top 10% of the most "perturbed" genes are enriched in

"EPITHELIAL MESENCHYMAL TRANSITION", "ADIPOGENESIS" and "COAGULATION". Further

information on the relevance of these enriched pathways can be found in the Discussion.

Finally, to predict novel genes which could contribute to senescence escape facilitated by interferons,

genes were clustered based on their GDVs signatures in the corresponding condition-specific iCell

network using "Ward's hierarchical clustering" and the "k-medoids" algorithms. For each condition,

we performed ORA to associate the clusters to hallmarks from MSigDB (results of ORA on the clusters

obtained by using k-medoids clustering in Fig 5.D). The results for the two algorithms showed limited

agreement (Fig 5.E, left), as measured by Adjusted Rand Index for each condition: 0.31, 0.38 and 0.30

for MELJUSO at day 0, day 4 and day33; 0.32, 0.30 and 0.26 for SKMEL30 at the same time points and

0.27, 0.31 and 0.45 for IPC298. Therefore, we considered the results from the two different clustering

methods (hierarchical and k-medoids) separately. Enriched clusters were filtered to exclude genes

that are already known to be associated with hallmarks in MSigDB. For the remaining genes, we

counted the number of times a gene was found in the clusters that are enriched in one of the two

senescence escape-related pathways, EMT and interferon gamma (see Fig 5.E right). Then, based on

the distributions of the number of times genes appeared in these enriched clusters, we predicted the

genes that appeared in two or more of these enriched clusters as related to senescence escape. To

obtain more robust predictions, we only considered genes to be involved senescence escape-related

by using both algorithms. This resulted in a set of 90 genes, some of which are known to interact with

TP53, further suggesting a connection to senescence escape (Fig. 5.F, Supp. Table 2).

To conclude, the integrated analysis of bulk and single-cell data by using the iCell methodology further

confirms our phenotypic observations and uncovers the most dysregulated processes ("OXIDATIVE

PHOSPHORYLATION", "ADIPOGENESIS", "COAGULATION" and "EPITHELIAL MESENCHYMAL

TRANSITION") during adaptation to the treatment. Furthermore, it allowed us to predict 90 new genes

involved in senescence escape.

DISCUSSION

Most cancer cells inevitably develop resistance to targeted therapies. Anticipating the development

of such resistance to a newly tested combination of CDK4/6i and MEKi, we characterised the

transcriptomic responses in 3 NRAS mutant melanoma cell lines over an extended treatment duration

of 33 days. Our RNA-seq data exhibited a strong enrichment in interferon responses, coherent with

previous observations by Goel et al. [33] following CDK4/6 inhibition. This study showed that CDK4/6

inhibitors downregulate E2F2 and DNMT1, subsequently leading to a hypomethylation of the genome

(Supp. Fig 18). The works of Chiappinelli et al [34] and Roulois et al [35] first showed that

hypomethylation brought about by DNMT inhibitors induce the expression of otherwise silenced

endogenous retroviruses (ERVs). These ERVs then form dsRNAs in the cytoplasm and trigger an anti-

viral immune response associated with interferon production. This phenomenon was termed "viral

mimicry" and has in the meantime been reported in different cancer types and in response to different

epigenetic perturbations (DNMTi, HDACi, HMTi). Brägelmann et al [36] also reported the activation of

viral mimicry in the case of BRAF mutant melanoma and MAPK inhibitors (BRAFi + MEKi) further

supporting the E2F2-DNMT1 axis as a mechanism of action. Melanoma cells are considered very

immunogenic [37] and this partially explains why melanoma respond better to immunotherapy than

other cancer types. IFN signaling is known to upregulate PD-L1, explaining why many treatments

activating viral mimicry have been shown to synergise with immune checkpoint inhibitors. Here, we

confirm the appearance of an IFN signature following CDK4/6 and MEK inhibition suggesting a

potential induction of viral mimicry.

A "senescence score" predicted from our data with SENESCopedia [18] suggested induction of a

senescent transcriptional programme in all cell lines. Cytokines composing the SASP can induce

features of EMT [38] and EMT has been recently proposed to inhibit senescence in HeLa cells treated

with Doxorubicin [39]. TIS and EMT share common transcription factors with opposite effects on both

processes (Supp Fig. 19) [40] and cancer cells escaping from TIS have been associated with a

mesenchymal phenotype [41]. IFN gamma, by promoting EMT [42, 43, 44], could further support

escape from senescence (Supp Fig. 20.A). To understand the relationship between IFN gamma and

EMT gene sets (from the hallmarks) and a recent gene set characterizing senescence in cancer cell

lines [45], we looked at changes in expression (log2 fold change) between those gene sets at day 14

where all cell lines display high senescence scores. IFN gamma shows an opposite trend in expression

to the EMT and senescence gene sets (Supp Fig. 20.B), suggesting that IFN may accelerate the EMT

process and thereby repress senescence. Albeit interferon signaling has earlier on been linked with

senescence [45], only later Katlinskaya and Yu et al. showed a role of IFNAR1 in the induction of

senescence [47]. Recently, the accumulation of double stranded RNA was proposed to also contribute

to the onset of senescence [48, 49]. These findings suggest a link between senescence and viral

mimicry, which can engage autocrine and paracrine secretion of interferons. We propose that the

induced IFN gamma programme may contribute to senescence escape by inducing EMT.

To identify targetable proteins, which could explain the senescent phenotype, we profiled the kinase

activities of SKMEL30 and MELJUSO cells upon CDK4/6 and MEK inhibition. We observed the

reactivation of different RTKs due to ERK1/2 inhibition as previously reported by others [50]. Some of

the corresponding pathways such as ErbB, neurotrophin and insulin were found enriched through

network-based enrichment hinting at an active downstream signalling. Interestingly, all those

pathways have been shown to activate ERK5. In breast cancer, ERK5 contributes to the response to

EGF stimulation [51] and is involved in the resistance to ErbB-2 (HER2) inhibitors by facilitating G1-S

transition [52]. In BRAF mutant melanoma resistant to BRAFi and MEKi, IGF1R activation induces ERK5

phosphorylation [53]. In senescent fibroblasts, BDNF-TrkB has been shown to activate ERK5 and was

proposed to form an autocrine loop further enhancing senescent cell viability [54]. ERK5 activation

has also been linked to PDGFR signalling in NRAS mutant melanoma treated with MEK and ERK1/2

inhibitors [55, 56] (Fig 3B, 3D, 3E). In other cell types, Src is also known to activate ERK5 and Focal

Adhesion Kinases (FAK1 and FAK2) [57, 58]. Other Src Family Kinases (SFKs) display an increased

activity (Supp. Fig 20) and have been previously linked with EMT [59]. Finally, IFN gamma was reported

to activate ERK5 and its activation is necessary for the full expression of interferon stimulated genes

[60]. Linking this observation with our RNA-seq data (Supp. Fig. 21) further supports the idea that IFN

gamma could facilitate senescence escape by activating ERK5.

Investigating the contribution of miRNAs to the establishment of resistance, we noticed the

upregulation of mir-211-5p in all proliferative cell lines but the amelanotic A375. Interestingly, miR-

211-5p is known to derive from the TRPM1 transcript and both are very lowly expressed in the

senescent cell line MELJUSO (supp Fig. 21). miR-211-5p inhibits DUSP6, which regulates ERK5 kinase

activity, and this axis has been shown to be relevant i*n vivo* in genetic variants of A375 overexpressing

mir-211 or DUSP6 and treated with BRAF/MEKi [61]. In qPCR validation experiments, mRNAs displayed

a more robust change in expression with LGALS3BP, TXNIP and TYRP1 being upregulated in four out

of five cell lines. LGALS3BP and TXNIP are interferon-inducible and interestingly, LGALS3BP has been

reported to promote EMT.

Integrating single-cell and bulk RNA-seq data, we observed the perturbation of OxPhos in all cell lines.

This is in line with previous works demonstrating metabolic adaptation after MAPK inhibition or

CDK4/6i in BRAF mutant and uveal melanoma [62, 63]. Moreover, OxPhos metabolism has been

previously reported as a generic drug resistance mechanism and as a key decision point between cell

death and survival [64, 65]. Upon comparison of different treatment time points, differences in

processes such as "ADIPOGENESIS" and "COAGULATION" were observed. Interestingly, those have

recently been associated with replicative senescence [38], cell cycle arrest caused by CDK4/6i [66] and

escape from OIS [67]. EMT has been reported to inhibit senescence [22, 44]. We therefore clustered

the genes in the networks and enriched those clusters to report novel associations between genes

and the processes of EMT and IFN gamma response, which could support senescence escape. Our

predicted genes are coherent with the results of a genetic screen aiming to identify genes contributing

to senescence bypass after p16 overexpression in melanoma [68]. Interestingly, the IFN-inducible

gene LGALS3BP, previously reported to contribute to EMT and identified in our miRNA resistant

network, was predicted by our approach to be associated with senescence escape. On the other hand,

TXNIP, another IFN-inducible gene from the miRNA network, recently shown to participate in the

induction of senescence upon IGF1 stimulation, was found associated only once and therefore not

selected [69]. This further suggests that our approach can relate genes to function beyond their

expression pattern, providing a list of 90 genes associated with senescence escape in cancer cells (Fig.

5.F).

Taken together, our data describe how NRAS mutant melanoma adapt to CDK4/6 and MEK inhibition

by triggering an EMT programme. This is reminiscent of the Neural Crest Stem Cell (NCSC)-like state

identified in single cell RNA-seq of patient samples after MAPKi by Rambow and colleagues [70]. This

state was later characterised by FAK-dependent AKT activation [71], associated with slow or no

proliferation and the expression of EMT-related transcription factors.

In sum, our work sheds new light on the intimate relationships between three interacting pathways,

senescence, interferon and insulin signalling, with the EMT process (Fig. 6). Our data suggest a new

role of interferon gamma, which, by triggering EMT, can facilitate senescence escape while insulin

signaling is associated with a robust cytostasis and senescent transcriptome.

Methods

Cell culture

NRAS-mutant MELJUSO, SKMEL30 and IPC298 (ACC-74, DSMZ; ACC-151, DSMZ; ACC-74, DSMZ) and BRAF-mutant A375 and 624MEL (CRCL-1619, ATCC; kindly provided by Dr. Ruth Halaban, Yale School of Medicine) melanoma cell lines were grown in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, L-glutamine (2 mM), streptomycin (100 µg/mL) and penicillin (100 units/mL). The cells were kept at 37°C, in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2 and sub-cultivated twice a week. Resistance of MELJUSO, SKMEL30, and IPC298 cells to the MEK and CDK4 inhibitors was induced by treatment with 110nM, 35nM or 16nM of Binimetinib, respectively, and 1µM of Palbociclib for 33 days.

Total RNAseq

Transcriptome sequencing was performed using total RNA. Libraries were prepared using "TruSeq Stranded Total RNA Library Prep Gold" Kit (Illumina, USA) and sequenced as 2x75bp on a NextSeq 550 (Illumina, USA). The sequencing was carried out at Luxgen platform, LNS. Data were aligned to the reference genome (hg38) using STAR (v 2.7.9a) and differential expression analysis was performed using R (v 4.2.2) and DESeq2 (v 1.34.0). This analysis was automated in a snakemake workflow (v 0.3.2) [72] (https://gitlab.lcsb.uni.lu/aurelien.ginolhac/snakemake-rna-seq) using docker file (v 0.6) (https://hub.docker.com/r/ginolhac/snake-rna-seq/tags). Mixing all cell lines into one analysis masked the differences of each time course. Therefore, a subset per cell line was created and the differential gene expression was performed independently. To predict senescence scores with SENEScopedia [18], data were reprocessed and aligned to GENCODE (v 34) using kallisto (v 0.46.2) according to the recommendations of the authors.

Gene-list based pathway enrichment

Over-Representation Analysis (ORA) and Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) were performed using

R (v 4.2.2) and the package "clusterProfiler" (v 4.0.5). The Hallmark Gene Set Collection from MSigDB

were used as reference. Differentially expressed genes used for GSEA were ranked according to the π

value, which takes into consideration both the statistical significance and the biological relevance

through the product of the p-value and the fold change [73]. The results were represented using the

package "pheatmap" (v 1.0.12) using the default "Ward.D2" clustering algorithm. ORA results were

displayed using the "ggplot2" (v 3.3.6) package.

Kinase activity (PamGene)

To assess the kinase activity within the NRAS mutant melanoma cell lines MELJUSO and SKMEL30 to a

combination of CDK4/6 and MEK inhibitors, cell samples were collected at day 0, 1, 4 and 33. Cell

pellets were lysed in Mper (78501, Thermo Fisher) supplemented with Halt Phosphatase Inhibitor

Cocktail (78428, Thermo Fisher) and Halt Protease Inhibitor Cocktail, EDTA free (78437, Thermo

Fisher), for 15 min on ice. The lysate was clarified (10000g, 15 min, 4°C) before aliquoting and freezing

at -80°C. Adopting a balanced design, three replicates for each condition and cell line were assessed

for both tyrosine kinase activity on PTK chips (86402, PamGene International B.V., 's-Hertogenbosch,

the Netherlands) and serine threonine kinase activity on STK chips (87102, PamGene International

B.V., 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands) using the manufacturer's protocol. Each chip contains a

panel of 196 (PTK) and 144 (STK) phorylatable peptides. The phosphorylation of these peptides by

native kinases in the applied lysate was quantified by sequence agnostic fluorescently coupled anti

phosphorylation antibodies (Suppl. Fig.4). Image processing was achieved using the instrument

manufacturer's Bionavigator software before applying COMBAT normalization and performing

Upstream Kinases Analysis (UKA) using a multiple hypothesis testing approach. This identified

responsible kinases for the observed phosphorylation status with a median final score for the

likelihood of the kinase being responsible for observed phosphorylation to which a cutoff of 1.2 was

applied and a median kinase statistic indicating the degree of and direction of kinase activity change

between compared conditions. The results were compiled to construct representative kinome trees

with an adaptation of the CORAL tool [74] in R (v 4.2.0).

Network-based pathway enrichment

To identify biological pathways enriched in a protein list, we applied a network-based protein set

enrichment analysis approach using EnrichNet [75]. The inputs are a list of the PamGene protein

identifiers and the database of interest from which reference protein sets will be extracted. The

databases include (KEGG, BioCarta, WikiPathways, Reactome, PID, and GO. Using a genome-scale

molecular interaction network, we map the target and reference datasets and then perform a network

analysis, which involves two steps: i) the use of a random walk with restart (RWR) algorithm to score

the distance between the mapped target protein set and reference datasets in the network. ii) the

comparison of the calculated scores against a background model. Extensive information on how the

RWR method for node relevance scoring was developed is found in [75]. A network similarity score

(XD-score) measures how close the protein set of the PamGene data is to the pathways in the

databases. The XD score is compared to a classical enrichment analysis score (p-values) which measure

the   significance   of   the   overlap   between   pathways   and   the   protein   set.

A similarity ranking table of the reference datasets is generated, including their network-based

association scores (measured using the XD-score). The table ranks the pathways from a chosen

database to the protein set of the PamGene data. Using an interactive graph-based visualization, we

generate interoperable interaction networks for each pathway. This network (XML-based) highlights

the proteins that overlap in pathways, illustrating their interactions.

Small RNAseq

Small RNAseq was performed on the same samples used for total RNAseq. Libraries were prepared

using "QIASeq miRNA Library kit" (Qiagen, Germany) and sequenced as 2x75bp on a NextSeq 550

(Illumina, USA). The sequencing was carried out at Luxgen platform, LNS. Data were aligned to the

miRBase (v 2.2.2.1) and piRBase (regulatoryrna.org, v 2.0) using bowtie2 (v 2.3.4.1) and differential

expression analysis was performed using R (v 4.2.2) and DESeq2 (v 1.34.0). This analysis was

performed using a snakemake workflow adapted from a previous workflow designed by

https://github.com/jounikuj/ for this library preparation. Briefly, the snakemake workflow applies 4

passes of trimming (including UMIs) and map the obtained reads on miRBase using bowtie2 with the

parameter –very-sensitive-local. Next, the corresponding un-mapped reads are aligned to piRBase and

the successfully mapped read coming from these 2 passes of alignment are merged in a unique BAM

file per sample. Finally reads are counted, after UMI collapsing (UMI_tools v. 1.0.0) using a

combination of samtools (v 1.9) and bash commands.

qCLASH

qCLASH sample preparations were performed exactly as previously described by Kozar *et al.* [16]

Briefly, 50 million cells were UV cross-linked at a wavelength of 250nm and 600J/cm2. AGO protein

immunoprecipitation was performed using Protein G Dynabeads (Invitrogen), and 10µl 2A8 anti-Ago

antibody (Millipore) per sample. qCLASH libraries were sequenced on a NextSeq500 instrument with

a read length of 85bp. The raw sequences were pre-processed and analyzed as previously described

[16] using the bioinformatics pipeline *hyb* [76], and custom scripts available at GitHub

(https://github.com/RenneLab/qCLASH-Analysis).

miRNA network construction and representation

qCLASH data were analysed using R (v 4.2.2) and the "tidyverse" package. Interaction lists were

converted to "igraph" objects with the corresponding package (v 1.3.4) and further exported to

cytoscape using "RCy3" (v 2.12.4). Final representations were made using Cytoscape (v 3.8.2) and the

plugin "Legend Creator" (v 1.1.6).

RT-qPCR

RNA was extracted from cell lysates using the Quick-RNA MiniPrep kit with on-column DNase I

treatment (Zymo Research, USA) according to the mnufacturer's protocol. RNA purity and quality were

assessed using the NanoDrop2000 Spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, USA). 500ng of RNA were

used to perform reverse transcription using the miScript RT II Kit and HiFlex Buffer Reverse

Transcription (Qiagen, Netherlands). Quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) was performed

using the CFX384 Detection System (BioRad, USA) using 5ng and 50ng of cDNA as a template for

subsequent miRNA and mRNA expression detection, respectively. Primers were purchased from

Qiagen (miScript Primer Assay range) and from Eurogentec (primer list Supp. Table 4) to respectively

amplify miRNA and mRNA. Amplification curves were analyzed using CFX software (BioRad, USA) and

expression was normalised using three housekeeping genes (RNU1A, RNU5A, SCARNA17 for miRNA

and HPRT, PPIA, TBP for mRNA).

Single cell RNA-seq analysis

Single cell RNA-seq data from [Randic et al, in revision] were reprocessed using Seurat (v 4.2.0) and

SeuratObject (v 4.1.2). Reads were aligned to human genome hg38 using STAR aligner. Transcripts

were filtered to be detected in at least 3 cells and to totalise at least 100 counts across cells. Cells were

filtered based on mitochondrial transcripts (<=25%), ribosomal transcripts (<= 1%), and a cell

complexity (log10GenesPerUMI >=80%). Thresholds for Unique Molecular Identifiers (UMI), genes

detected were different between cells lines (for MELJUSO and SKMEL30: 150 and 100, for IPC298: 350

and 150). Finally, mitochondrial, ribosomal and hemoglobin genes were removed, and genes were

filtered to have at least 10 counts across the filtered cells.

iCell data-fusion framework

iCell methodology [15] was applied separately to each of the three cell lines (MELJUSO, SKMEL30 and

IPC298) at day 0, day 4 and day 33, to obtain integrated networks that encompass the condition-

specific (i.e., defined by a cell line and day) PPI, COEX, and single-cell RNA-seq data from our lab

[Randic et al, unpublished]. We used the iCell methodology because it is an intermediate data

integration method that uses Non-negative Matrix Tri-factorization (NMTF) to simultaneously

decompose multiple relational matrices through the inference of a single joint model [15, 77].

Therefore, it does not suffer from information loss of early integration approaches that combine all

datasets into a single dataset before integration, or late integration methods that first build models

for each dataset and then combine them into an integrated model. Additionally, NMTF-based

methods are co-clustering methods that encode the high-dimensional input data into three low-

dimensional matrix factors [78]. The clustering information is contained in the so-called cluster

indicator matrices that are easily interpretable (unlike the resulting matrices of other artificial

intelligence algorithms), making them ideal for mining biological data.

For each condition (treated cell lines and time points), we constructed condition-specific Protein-

Protein Interaction (PPI) and gene co-expression (COEXP) networks as follows. We collected the

experimentally validated protein-protein interactions of *Homo sapiens* from BioGRID (v 4.3.195) [32],

from which we excluded genes (nodes in the network) that are not expressed in our condition-specific

bulk RNA-seq data (zFPKM < −3, [79]). To generate the condition-specific COEXP networks, we applied

Spearman's correlation between the gene expression profiles from the condition-specific bulk RNA-

seq data, using a 0.9 correlation threshold with a *p-value ≤ 0.01*. These two condition-specific

networks were further filtered to exclude genes (nodes in the networks) that are not expressed in any

single cell according to the corresponding condition-specific single cell RNA-seq data.

For each condition, we followed the iCell methodology [15] to integrate the condition-specific PPI,

COEXP, and single-cell expression data together. To this aim, we used Non-negative Matrix Tri-

Factorization to simultaneously decompose the adjacency matrices of the PPI and COEXP networks,

A_1 and A_2, respectively, and the single cell RNA-seq expression data, *E*. More precisely, the two

adjacency matrices, A_1 and A_2, are simultaneously decomposed as the products of three matrix

factors each, A_1 as the product of matrix factors G_1, S_1 and G_1^T, and A_2 as the product of matrix factors

G_1, S_2 and G_1^T, i.e.: $A_1 \approx G_1 S_1 G_1^T$ and $A_2 \approx G_1 S_2 G_1^T$, where G_1 is interpreted as the cluster indicator

matrix of the genes and matrices S_1 and S_2 are interpreted as the compressed representations of the

PPI and COEXP networks, respectively. The condition-specific single-cell RNA-seq expression matrix,

E, is decomposed into the product of three matrix factors G_1, S_3 and G_2^T as: $E \approx G_1 S_3 G_2^T$, where S_3 is

interpreted as the compressed representation of the single-cell expression data, G_2 is the cluster

indicator matrix of single cells, and G_1 is the cluster indicator matrix of the genes that is shared across

the decompositions of all input matrices, which facilitates the information flow and allows for learning

from all data.

Furthermore, to ease interpretability, we constrain all matrix factors to be non-negative. We also

impose orthogonality constraint to the G_2 matrix factor to obtain less ambiguous functional

organization captured by the clusters [78].

This decomposition is done by minimizing the following objective function, F:

550
$$\min_{G_1,G_2,S_1,S_2,S_3 \geq 0} F(G_1, G_2, S_1, S_2, S_3) = \min_{G_1,G_2,S_1,S_2,S_3 \geq 0} \left[\sum_{i=1}^{2} \|A_i - G_1 S_i G_1^T\|_F^2 + \|E - G_1 S_3 G_2^T\|_F^2 \right], G_2 G_2^T = I,$$

where $\| \ \|_F$ denotes the Frobenius norm and I is the identity matrix.

Because minimizing this objective function is an NP-hard continuous optimization problem [80], we

heuristically solve it by using a fixed point method that, starting from an initial solution, iteratively

applies multiplicative update rules [78] to converge towards a locally optimal solution (described in

the next section).

After minimizing F, we used the obtained matrix factors to create an integrated network that

encompasses the condition-specific PPI, COEXP, and single cell RNA-seq data, which we call iCell

network. Following the iCell methodology [15], we created this network by computing $G_1 \cdot G_1^T$ and

thresholding the resulting matrix to preserve only the top 1% of the strongest relationships in each

row and column.

We apply this methodology for each condition separately, resulting in nine condition-specific iCell

networks.

Fixed point solver

Following the iCell methodology [15], first we derive the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions, which

are necessary for a solution to be optimal [80]:

566
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial G_1} = \sum_{i=1}^{2}\left(-A_i^T G_1 S_i + A_i G_1 S_i^T + G_1 S_i G_1^T G_1 S_i^T + G_1 S_i^T G_1^T G_1 S_i\right) - EG_2 S_3^T + G_1 S_3 G_2^T G_2 S_3^T - \eta_1 = 0,$$

567
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial G_2} = -E^T G_1 S_3 + G_2 S_3^T G_1^T G_1 S_3 - \eta_2 = 0,$$

568
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial S_1} = -G_1^T A_1 G_1 + G_1^T G_1 S_1 G_1^T G_1 = 0,$$

569
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial S_2} = -G_1^T A_2 G_1 + G_1^T G_1 S_2 G_1^T G_1 = 0,$$

570
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial S_3} = -G_1^T E G_2 + G_1^T G_1 S_3 G_2^T G_2 = 0,$$

571
$$\eta_1, \eta_2, G_1, G_2 \geq 0,$$

572
$$\eta_1 \odot G_1 = 0,$$

573
$$\eta_2 \odot G_2 = 0,$$

574
$$G_2 G_2^T = I,$$

575   where $\odot$ is the Hadamard (elementwise) product, I is the identity matrix, and matrices, η_1 and η_2,

576   are the dual variables for the primal constraints $G_1 \geq 0$ and $G_2 \geq 0$, respectively.

577   Then, we derive the following multiplicative update rules for all matrix factors, G_1, G_2, S_1, S_2 and S_3,

578   to   solve   the   KKT   conditions   presented   above:

579
$$G_1 = G_1 \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{2}(A_i G_1 S_i^T) + EG_2 S_3^T}{\sum_{i=1}^{2}(G_1 S_i G_1^T G_1 S_i^T) + G_1 G_1^T EG_2 S_3^T}},$$

580
$$G_2 = G_2 \sqrt{\frac{E^T G_1 S_3}{G_2 G_2^T E^T G_1 S_3}},$$

$$581 \qquad\qquad S_1 = S_1 \sqrt{\frac{G_1^T A_1 G_1}{G_1^T G_1 S_1 G_1^T G_1}} \ ,$$

$$582 \qquad\qquad S_2 = S_2 \sqrt{\frac{G_1^T A_2 G_1}{G_1^T G_1 S_2 G_1^T G_1}} \ ,$$

$$583 \qquad\qquad S_3 = S_3 \sqrt{\frac{G_1^T E G_2}{G_1^T G_1 S_3 G_2^T G_2}} \ .$$

In our fixed point approach, we start from initial solutions of the matrix factors, which we compute

using singular value decomposition (SVD) of the original input matrices [81], and iteratively use the

derived update rules to compute new matrix factors, G_1, G_2, S_1, S_2 and S_3, until convergence.

Initializing the matrix factors with SVD reduces the number of iterations that are needed to achieve

convergence and makes our solver deterministic [81]. To satisfy the non-negativity constraint of

NMTF, we generate the initial solutions by taking the absolute values of the entries from the matrices

computed using SVD.

The iterative process ends when the objective function does not decrease anymore, which we

measure every ten iterations with: $\left| \frac{F^{-1} - F^0}{F^0} \right| \leq 10^{-3}$, where F^0 is the value of the objective function

at the current iteration, *i*, and F^{-1} is the value computed at iteration *i-10*.

Analyzing the topology of iCells

To mine the biological knowledge hidden in the iCell networks, we applied graphlet-based methods

because they are the most sensitive measures of network topology to date [28, 34]. Graphlets are

small, connected, nonisomorphic, induced subgraphs of a large network that appear at any

frequencies in the network [82]. Within a graphlet, the symmetries between groups of nodes are

called automorphism orbits and are used to characterise the different topological positions that a

node participates in [82]. These orbits are used to generalised the notion of the node degree (the

number of edges that the node touches in the network): for each orbit, the "graphlet degree of the

node" in the network is the number of times the node touches (is found at the position of) the

particular orbit [28]. Following the methodology of Yaveroğlu *et al*. (2014), we characterised the

topology of each node in a network by using the 11 nonredundant orbits of 2- to 4-node graphlets.

Therefore, the topology of every node is captured by an 11-dimensional vector called "Graphlet

Degree Vector" (GDV).

We compared the global topological dissimilarity between two condition-specific iCell networks by

using "Graphlet Correlation Distance" (GCD-11), because it is the most sensitive network distance

measure [28]. To do this, first we characterised the global topology of a network with its "Graphlet

Correlation Matrix" (GCM), which is an 11×11 symmetric matrix that contains the Spearman's

correlations between GDVs over all nodes of the network. Then, the GCD-11 between two networks

is the Euclidean distance between the upper triangle values of their GCMs. The lower the GCD-11

value, the closer the topologies of the networks [28].

Additionally, we measure the change in the wiring of a gene between two condition-specific iCell

networks by using the "Graphlet Degree Vector Similarity" (GDVS) between the GDVs of the node in

the two networks, which is computed as follows. Given the GDV vector of a gene (node) in one

network, $\boldsymbol{a}$, and the GDV vector of the same gene (node) in another network, $\boldsymbol{b}$, the distance between

the ith coordinates of vectors $\boldsymbol{a}$ and $\boldsymbol{b}$ is defined as:

619
$$D_i(\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{b}) = w_i \frac{|log(\boldsymbol{a}_i + 1) - log(\boldsymbol{b}_i + 1)|}{log(max\{\boldsymbol{a}_i, \boldsymbol{b}_i\} + 2)},$$

620   where w_i is the weight of orbit i that accounts for dependencies between the orbits [29]. Then, GDVS

621   between vectors $\boldsymbol{a}$ and $\boldsymbol{b}$ is defined as:

622
$$GDVS\ (\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{b}) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{11} D_i(\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{b})}{\sum_{i=1}^{11} w_i}.$$

GDVS is the similarity measure in (0,1] range, such that the similarity equal to 1 means that the two

GDV vectors are identical, and thus, that the gene has the same local topology in both networks. We

use GDVS to identify the genes whose topology changed between two condition-specific iCell

networks, which we termed "perturbed" (i.e., whose GDVSs were close to 0), as well as the genes

whose local topology did not change, which we termed "stable" (i.e., whose GDVSs were close to 1).

These comparisons were made between different time points for the same cell line, as well as between

different cell lines for the same time point.

Clustering

For each cell line and each time point, we performed clustering of the Graphlet Degree Vectors (GDVs).

Prior to clustering, the features were weighted by using previously defined weights [29] and then log-

transformed. In addition, both the NMTF and GCM matrices were scaled to a 0 mean and unit variance.

For each input matrix, we first computed the Hopkins statistics to estimate cluster tendency. Then, to

identify the numbers of clusters, we estimate the cluster validity of potential solutions reporting

between 50 and 150 clusters, using 21 different metrics. We rank all clustering solutions for each

metric. Then, for each input matrix, the number of clusters is selected based on the solution associated

with the minimal median rank across all 21 metrics. We then performed hierarchical and k-medoids

clustering using a Pearson correlation-based distance and validated the obtained repartitions using

silhouette width and the between/within average distance ratio. All scripts are available on the

associated Git repository.

Network representation of gene predictions

Protein-Protein interactions between TP53, a known regulator of senescence, and genes associated

with "EMT" and "INTERFERON GAMMA RESPONSE" which have been linked with senescence escape

were extracted from BioGRID (v 4.4.217). A network representation was created by using Cytoscape

(v 3.9.1). The representation was further refined by using stringApp (v 2.0.0) and clusterMaker2 app

(v 2.3.2) and modified by using Inkscape (v 1.2.1).

Availability of data and materials

Raw data together with processed files were deposited to : PRJEB59603. Code to reproduce the results in this manuscript are available via GitLab repository (https://gitlab.com/Ahmed7emdan/integrative-multi-omics-analysishttps://github.com/).

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Authors' contributions

SK conceived the study. SK, FT, DP, MT, TR and VG contributed to the experimental design. VG, FT, and DP acquired total RNA-seq and small RNA-seq data and AM, AG and VG processed, analysed and interpreted the data. TR, DP and CM acquired PamGene data, JL processed the data and performed Upstream Kinase Analysis. MO and AH performed network-based pathway enrichment and created xml models to overlay the inferred kinase activities; VG and CA interpreted the results. IK and HH performed qCLASH method, IK processed the data and AG, VG and HH analysed the hybrids and constructed the miRNA network. HH performed qPCR validations. MB processed the scRNA-seq data. NP, NMD, GC and KM conceived the data integration. KM, GC, and VG performed it and analysed the

results under the supervision of NMD and NP. LT performed the gene clustering; AB, MB, and VG

analyzed the gene clusters. VG, HH, AH, CA, AB and FT contributed to the figures. VG and SK drafted

the manuscript with input from all authors. NP, NMD and MO reviewed the manuscript. All authors

read and approved the final manuscript.

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 Figure Legends

Fig. 1 Experimental setup, cellular phenotypes and omics characterization. IPC298, MELJUSO and

SKMEL30 cell lines display different phenotypes upon CDK4/6i and MEKi. We characterised those using

RNA-seq, kinome profiling and qCLASH method. RNA-seq and qCLASH data were further combined to

construct a resistant miRNA network. Bulk and single-cell RNA-seq were finally integrated into "iCell"

networks.

Fig. 2 NRAS mutant melanoma trigger IFN and EMT responses upon MEKi and CDK4/6i. A. Principal

component analysis clusters cell lines separately reflecting distinct observed phenotypes. B. Gene Set

Enrichment Analysis using the hallmarks gene sets from MSigDB. All cell lines display an enrichment

in interferons responses and at day 14 in EMT. C. Senescence scores predicted by Cancer

SENESCopedia. SENESCopedia webtool (https://ccb.nki.nl/publications/cancer-senescence) uses a

gene expression classifier to predict senescence in cancer cell samples [18].

Fig. 3 MEKi and CDK4/6i lead to RTKs reactivation. A. Summary of significantly deregulated kinases. B.

Kinase activities after MEKi and CDK4/6i. ERK1/2 inhibition leads to RTKs activation. Rreceptors names

are colored according to the enriched pathways. C. Phylogenetic tree for SKMEL30 on day 1. The size

of the leafs represents the "Median Final Score", a score greater than 1.2 indicates a significant change

between conditions. The color of the branches and leaves shows the "Median Kinase Statistic", which

is the difference in kinase activity. Circles highlight RTKs contributing to enriched pathways. D. andE.

Activity of ERK5 in the senescent and adaptative cell lines. D. zoom on the MAPK pathway showing

the deregulation of ERK5 (*MAPK7*) in MELJUSO cell line. E. same for the SKMEL30 cell line.

Fig. 4 miRNA-mRNA interactions potentially contributing to resistance. A. Summary of the interactions

detected through the qCLASH method. B. Top part, correlations between hybrid counts (qCLASH) and

miRNA/mRNA counts (RNA-seq). Bottom part, summing hybrid counts per mRNA or miRNA (qCLASH)

further strengthen the correlations with the RNA-seq. To select candidates, we considered the

interactions detected in three technical replicates (colored circles). Then for the two cell lines,

interactions present in the resistant state but absent in the sensitive state were considered. Finally,

interactionscommon to the two cell lines IPC298 and SKMEL30 were used. D. RNA-seq data for

SKMEL30 cell line as log fold changes overlayed onto the resistant miRNA network. Selected

interactions for further validation by qPCR are represented with thick lines and the corresponding

mRNAs and miRNAs with bolded borders. E. Relative expression of LGALS3BP, TXNIP and TYRP1

mRNAs assessed by qPCR across three NRAS and two BRAF mutant melanoma cell lines. F. Relative

expression of miR-211-5p across the same cell lines.

Fig. 5 "iCell" integration of bulk and single-cell RNA-seq. A. Comparison of iCell networks topology

using Graphlet Correlation Distances (GCD). iCELL networks recapitulate phenotypic observations and

early adaptation of IPC298. B. Venn diagrams representing genes overlap between conditions. C.

Comparison of gene local topology using Graphlet Degree Signature Similarity (GDSS). Within all cell

lines, the different time points were compared. ORA was performed on the top 10% most "stable" or

"perturbated" genes. D. Genes were clustered according to their Graphlets Degree Signatures. ORA

was performed to associate gene clusters with biological function. E. Left panel: number of enriched

clusters detected for each gene across all conditions. Right panel, Number of detected clusters for the

EMT and iFN gamma pathways (related to senescence escape) for the two algorithms. F. Protein-

protein interactions (BioGRID) between P53 and the genes associated with EMT and IFN gamma.

Fig. 6 Graphical summary. The phenotypes observed across three different NRAS mutant melanoma

cell lines can be summarised as "senescent" (left) and "resistant" (right). Insulin signalling is associated

with the "senescent" phenotype and can be explained by the mechanism of action of MEKi, which

downregulates ERK1/2, suppressing negative feedback on RTKs. Interferon signaling Can be explained

by CDK4/6i, which downregulates DNMT1 leadingand lead to hypomethylation of the genome and

expression of Endogenous Retroviruses (ERVs). Induced expression of intracellular ERVs trigger an

innate immune response and production of interferons. IFN gamɣ can activate ERK5, inducing EMT.

This phenotype is moreover associated with upregulation of miR-211-5p, which indirectly regulates

ERK5.

Tables

Table 1. Enrichment results from PamGene data. Network-based enrichment was performed on the

significantly deregulated kinases at different time points. MELJUSO and SKMEL30 cells show at all time

points an enrichment in ErbB and neurotrophin pathway. Only MELJUSO cells show an enrichment in

insulin pathway at day 4 and day 33.

Supplementary figures

Supplementary Figure 1. Volcano plots for the total RNA-seq. MELJUSO, SKMEL30 and IPC298 cell lines

were treated with CDK4/6i and MEKi.

Supplementary Figure 2. Pamgene data acquisition, processing and interpretation workflow.

Supplementary Figure 3. Phylogenetic trees representing the kinome responses to MEKi and CDK4/6i.

The size of the leafs represents the "Median Final Score", a score greater than 1.2 indicates a

significant change between conditions. The color of the branchs and leafs shows the "Median Kinase

Statistic" which is the difference in kinase activity. Circles highlight RTKs contributing to enriched

pathways. SKMEL30 and MELJUSO cell lines show similar responses at early time points but not at 33

days.

Supplementary Figure 4. Pathway representation of ErbB signaling in MELJUSO cell line. The color of

the nodes represents the cellular localization while kinases are illustrated as rectangles with stripes

showing their activity at day 1, day4 and day 33.

Supplementary Figure 5. Pathway representation of ErbB signaling in SKMEL30 cell line. The color of

the nodes represents the cellular localization while kinases are illustrated as rectangles with stripes

showing their activity at day 1, day4 and day 33.

Supplementary Figure 6. Pathway representation of Neurotrophin signaling in MELJUSO cell line. The

color of the nodes represents the cellular localization while kinases are illustrated as rectangles with

stripes showing their activity at day 1, day4 and day 33.

Supplementary Figure 7. Pathway representation of Neurotrophin signaling in SKMEL30 cell line. The

color of the nodes represents the cellular localization while kinases are illustrated as rectangles with

stripes showing their activity at day 1, day4 and day 33.

Supplementary Figure 8. Pathway representation of Insulin signaling in MELJUSO cell line. The color of

the nodes represents the cellular localization while kinases are illustrated as rectangles with stripes

showing their activity at day 1, day4 and day 33.

Supplementary Figure 9. Upregulation of RTKs upon MEKi and CDK4/6i. The heatmap represents the

"Median Kinase Statistic" for kinases, significant values are represented in black. RTKs are colored

according to the enriched pathways in which they are involved.

Supplementary Figure 10. Volcano plots for the small RNA-seq. MELJUSO, SKMEL30 and IPC298 cell

lines were treated with CDK4/6i and MEKi.

Supplementary Figure 11. Principal Component analysis (PCA) for the top 500 most detected

interactions. PCA clearly distinguishes cell lines and conditions.

Supplementary Figure 12. miRNA/mRNA vs hybrids count detected in one, two or three biological

replicates. Interaction detected in triplicates are associated with greater expression values.

Supplementary Figure 13. miRNA/mRNA expression detected by qPCR across three NRAS and two

BRAF cell lines. Statistical significance was calculated for each condition using multiple welch's t-test

and an FDR of 0.01. Red rectangles highlight upregulated elements and blue rectangles,

downregulated elements.

Supplementary Figure 14. Expression of miRNAs and mRNAs detected by qPCR in let-7a, let-7f, miR-

27a, miR-146a, miR-211 and miR-320a hubs in SKMEL30.

Supplementary Figure 15. Expression of miRNAs and mRNAs detected by qPCR in let-7a, let-7f, miR-

27a, miR-146a, miR-211 and miR-320a hubs in IPC298.

Supplementary Figure 16. Workflow of the data integration, construction an investigation of the iCELL

networks.

Supplementary Figure 17. Comparison of gene topology using Graphlet Degree Signature Similarity

(GDSS) for matching time points. ORA was performed on the top 10% most "stable" or "perturbated"

genes. Venn diagrams represent genes overlap between conditions.

Supplementary Figure 18. Activation of the viral mimicry upon MEKi and CDK4/6i. MEK and CDK4/6

inhibitors converge on the E2F2 transcription factor. E2F2 regulates the DNA methyltransferase 1

enzyme (DNMT1) responsible for maintaining the DNA methylation profil. The downregulation of

DNMT1 leads to a global hypomethylation of the genome and allows the expression of Endogenous

retroviruses (ERVs). These transcripts hybridise in the cytoplasm and form dsRNA reminiscent of a viral

infection. Cytosolic Pattern Recognition Receptors (PRR) such as RIG-I or MDA5 or endosomal one

such as TLR3 then activate the innate immune system leading to an interferon signaling.

Supplementary Figure 19. Expression of common regulators of senescence and EMT as listed by (Mir

Mohd Faheem et al. 2020) upon MEKi and CDK4/6i.

Supplementary Figure 20. Trend in expression between the "EMT" and IFN gamma gene sets from the

hallmarks MSigDB and a recent "senescence" gene list. A. Scheme representing the relationships

between the different gene sets. B. Heatmap for the "INTERFERON GAMMA RESPONSE" and

"EPITHELIAL MESENCHYMAL TRANSITION" hallmarks gene sets and the "SenMayo" gene list [28].

Supplementary Figure 21. Activation of Src Family Kinases (SFKs). The heatmap represents the

"Median Kinase Statistic" for kinases, significant values are represented in black.

Supplementary Figure 22. Interferon Gamma response upon MEKi and CDK4/6i. The heatmap

represents the logFC of the genes which contribute to the enrichment result. More precisely, it

represents a sub-selection of the "INTERFERON GAMMA RESPONSE" gene set which contributes to

the "leading edge" (ascendant portion) of the running sum used in GSEA.

Supplementary Figure 23. Expression of TRPM1 transcripts in total RNA-seq. TRPM1 transcript

contains miR-211-5p in an intronic region.

Supplementary Figure 24. Pathway enrichment on qCLASH data using KEGG references. Samples were

normalised for read depth and total number of detections for hybrids was summed across technical

replicates. Those were further summarised per mRNA and contrasted between conditions. Finally, the

top 5% most differentially targeted were used to perform ORA to relate these gene lists to KEGG

pathways.

Supplementary tables

Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics and concentrations of inhibitors used for the different cell

lines across the study.

Supplementary Table 2. 90 genes associated with senescence escape and numbers of clusters

enriched for the two algorithms: hierarchical clustering and k-medoids.

Supplementary Table 3. Primer list for mRNA and miRNAs measured by qPCR.

1011

Data sets:

Data integration:

A

Cell line	Time	Deregulated kinases	Total kinases
MelJuso	Day1	61	157
MelJuso	Day4	73	157
MelJuso	Day33	90	157
SKMel30	Day1	52	162
SKMel30	Day4	71	162
SKMel30	Day33	40	162

C

Kinase	MELJUSO Day1	MELJUSO Day4	MELJUSO Day33	SKMEL30 Day1	SKMEL30 Day4	SKMEL30 Day33
ERK1	-1.4	-0.68	-1.48	-0.84	-0.47	-1.02
ERK2	-1.61	-1.05	-1.91	-0.92	-0.59	-1.08
HER3	1.02	2.31	1.16	0.86	2.94	-0.02
TRKA	0.82	2.57	1.65	0.72	3.17	-0.08
TRKB	0.82	2.56	1.41	0.73	2.93	-0.14
TRKC	0.97	2.69	1.46	0.76	3.05	-0.11
IGF1R	0.94	2.5	1.28	0.87	3.43	0.04
InSR	0.95	2.57	1.25	0.89	3.27	0.1
IRR	0.81	2.18	1.56	1.16	4.77	0.03
Src	0.98	2.93	1.32	0.84	3.02	-0.11
ERK5	-2.22	-1.58	-1.99	-0.95	-0.47	-0.57
FAK1	0.88	2.47	1.12	0.66	2.76	-0.08
FAK2	1.09	2.49	1.35	0.71	2.61	0.01

Score
a Non-significant
a Significant

Median Kinase Statistic

B SKMel30 Day 1

Branch & Node Colour
Median Kinase Statistic
-4   0   4

Node Size
Median Final Score
1.2   3.6

D MELJUSO

E SKMEL30

RTKs involved in enriched pathways:
○ : ErbB signaling   ○ : Neurotrophin signaling   ○ : Insulin signaling

Pathway enrichment results for MELJUSO cell line

Day1			Day4			Day33		
Pathway Name	XD-score	p-adj	Pathway Name	XD-score	p-adj	Pathway Name	XD-score	p-adj
Shigellosis	1.83	6.12E-20	mTOR signaling pathway	1.13	1.33E-10	Type II diabetes mellitus	1.42	1.49E-09
NOD-like receptor signaling pathway	1.38	6.69E-14	Acute myeloid leukemia	1.05	1.50E-09	mTOR signaling pathway	1.08	2.57E-11
Epithelial cell signaling in Helicobacter pylori infection	1.12	3.49E-13	Type II diabetes mellitus	0.89	3.91E-06	ErbB signaling pathway	1.01	3.31E-12
Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	1.02	1.41E-14	Glioma	0.86	8.12E-08	Acute myeloid leukemia	1.00	3.13E-10
RIG-I-like receptor signaling pathway	1.00	1.99E-11	ErbB signaling pathway	0.86	2.02E-10	Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway	0.95	4.51E-12
ErbB signaling pathway	0.97	2.54E-13	Gap junction	0.77	3.34E-09	Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.95	4.23E-12
GnRH signaling pathway	0.93	1.47E-14	Prion diseases	0.75	2.78E-04	Glioma	0.95	1.69E-08
Type II diabetes mellitus	0.91	8.02E-07	Adherens junction	0.72	1.69E-07	Prion diseases	0.95	2.91E-05
Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway	0.90	6.70E-13	Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	0.71	2.99E-10	Adipocytokine signaling pathway	0.87	2.60E-08
Neurotrophin signaling pathway	0.89	4.52E-17	VEGF signaling pathway	0.68	5.13E-08	VEGF signaling pathway	0.86	5.62E-10
Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	0.89	5.76E-14	Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway	0.65	7.58E-09	Shigellosis	0.86	1.53E-07
Pancreatic cancer	0.76	1.12E-08	Prostate cancer	0.65	5.45E-08	Neurotrophin signaling pathway	0.83	5.38E-13
Colorectal cancer	0.75	1.52E-07	Long-term potentiation	0.65	1.48E-06	Aldosterone-regulated sodium reabsorption	0.82	4.81E-05
T cell receptor signaling pathway	0.73	2.23E-12	Aldosterone-regulated sodium reabsorption	0.64	3.96E-04	Gap junction	0.82	7.28E-11
VEGF signaling pathway	0.69	6.13E-09	Tight junction	0.62	6.96E-11	Prostate cancer	0.80	1.21E-09
Acute myeloid leukemia	0.57	9.12E-08	Vascular smooth muscle contraction	0.60	4.24E-09	Adherens junction	0.79	3.65E-08
Prostate cancer	0.56	9.34E-08	Insulin signaling pathway	0.59	1.38E-10	GnRH signaling pathway	0.77	9.13E-11
Leishmaniasis	0.48	6.22E-06	Neurotrophin signaling pathway	0.59	2.88E-10	T cell receptor signaling pathway	0.75	3.13E-11
Dorso-ventral axis formation	0.48	1.13E-02	Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.58	8.17E-07	Long-term potentiation	0.72	2.77E-07
			GnRH signaling pathway	0.55	6.47E-08	NOD-like receptor signaling pathway	0.71	1.45E-06
			Adipocytokine signaling pathway	0.53	2.89E-05	Pancreatic cancer	0.69	2.77E-07
			Hedgehog signaling pathway	0.52	7.95E-05	Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	0.65	1.68E-09
			Long-term depression	0.51	7.43E-07	Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	0.64	4.58E-09
			T cell receptor signaling pathway	0.47	2.18E-07	Epithelial cell signaling in Helicobacter pylori infection	0.63	2.77E-07
			Chemokine signaling pathway	0.44	4.38E-14	Long-term depression	0.59	1.26E-07
						Vascular smooth muscle contraction	0.55	2.33E-08
						Insulin signaling pathway	0.54	9.87E-10
						Colorectal cancer	0.54	3.31E-05

RTKs involved in enriched pathways: ◯ : ErbB signaling   ◯ : Neurotrophin signaling   ◯ : Insulin signaling

Pathway enrichment results for SKMEL30 cell line

Day1			Day4			Day33		
Pathway Name	XD-score	p-adj	Pathway Name	XD-score	p-adj	Pathway Name	XD-score	p-adj
Shigellosis	1.27	1.09E-13	Acute myeloid leukemia	1.27	8.19E-10	Shigellosis	1.17	1.64E-11
Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway	1.17	2.92E-16	Glioma	0.91	4.31E-08	NOD-like receptor signaling pathway	1.02	3.88E-10
NOD-like receptor signaling pathway	1.12	5.18E-11	mTOR signaling pathway	0.83	1.43E-09	Dorso-ventral axis formation	0.94	2.69E-04
Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.95	1.99E-13	ErbB signaling pathway	0.80	1.52E-09	Pancreatic cancer	0.85	1.06E-09
Type II diabetes mellitus	0.94	4.51E-07	Type II diabetes mellitus	0.74	4.02E-05	Type II diabetes mellitus	0.80	2.89E-06
RIG-I-like receptor signaling pathway	0.91	3.10E-10	Adipocytokine signaling pathway	0.71	1.06E-06	Epithelial cell signaling in Helicobacter pylori infection	0.79	1.70E-08
Epithelial cell signaling in Helicobacter pylori infection	0.88	2.11E-10	Long-term potentiation	0.69	7.97E-07	Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.78	4.11E-10
GnRH signaling pathway	0.87	2.04E-13	Fc gamma R-mediated phagocytosis	0.66	2.29E-09	Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway	0.75	1.53E-09
Neurotrophin signaling pathway	0.86	3.07E-16	Gap junction	0.60	3.74E-07	GnRH signaling pathway	0.74	1.54E-11
ErbB signaling pathway	0.80	9.43E-11	Prostate cancer	0.59	3.74E-07	ErbB signaling pathway	0.65	5.44E-09
Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	0.75	1.70E-11	Fc epsilon RI signaling pathway	0.58	6.98E-08	Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	0.62	1.04E-09
VEGF signaling pathway	0.73	2.85E-09	Vascular smooth muscle contraction	0.57	2.42E-08	RIG-I-like receptor signaling pathway	0.58	6.16E-07
Aldosterone-regulated sodium reabsorption	0.69	9.10E-05	Prion diseases	0.54	2.70E-03	T cell receptor signaling pathway	0.57	1.31E-09
T cell receptor signaling pathway	0.69	2.45E-11	Adherens junction	0.52	1.93E-05	Leishmaniasis	0.57	6.62E-07
Leishmaniasis	0.65	1.91E-07	Neurotrophin signaling pathway	0.49	2.15E-08	Colorectal cancer	0.54	9.30E-06
Adherens junction	0.65	2.25E-07	Apoptosis	0.49	4.20E-06	Endometrial cancer	0.51	9.97E-05
Colorectal cancer	0.64	1.78E-06	Tight junction	0.46	5.47E-08	Neurotrophin signaling pathway	0.47	3.13E-09
Prion diseases	0.54	1.08E-03	Non-small cell lung cancer	0.46	7.94E-05	VEGF signaling pathway	0.42	8.77E-06
Dorso-ventral axis formation	0.52	8.88E-03	Vibrio cholerae infection	0.46	7.74E-04			
Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)	0.48	2.12E-04	Aldosterone-regulated sodium reabsorption	0.46	3.50E-03			
			Long-term depression	0.43	6.55E-06			
			Salivary secretion	0.42	6.05E-05			
			Progesterone-mediated oocyte maturation	0.41	6.05E-05			
			Gastric acid secretion	0.40	2.79E-04			
			VEGF signaling pathway	0.37	1.14E-04			

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure 1.

DATA COLLECTION

DATA PROCESSING

INTERPRETATION

Supplementary Figure 2.

Supplementary Figure 3.

MELJUSO
ErbB signaling pathway

Supplementary Figure 4.

SKMEL30
ErbB signaling pathway

Supplementary Figure 5.

MELJUSO
Neurotrophin signaling pathway

Supplementary Figure 6.

SKMEL30
Neurotrophin signaling pathway

Supplementary Figure 7.

MELJUSO
Insulin signaling pathway

Extra-cellular elements
Cell surface
Plasma membrane
Cytoplamic elements
Nuclear elements

Kinase

d1	d4	d33

Supplementary Figure 8.

Supplementary Figure 9.

Supplementary Figure 10.

Supplementary Figure 11.

Supplementary Figure 12.

Supplementary Figure 13.

SKMel30 Treatment Sensitive
SKMel30 Treatment Resistant

Supplementary Figure 14.

IPC298 Treatment Sensitive
IPC298 Treatment Resistant

Supplementary Figure 15.

Supplementary Figure 16.

Supplementary Figure 17.

Supplementary Figure 18.

Supplementary Figure 19.

A

B

Supplementary Figure 20.

Supplementary Figure 21.

Supplementary Figure 22.

Supplementary Figure 23.

Supplementary Tables

	Gender	Stade	Mutations	Binimetinib (MEKi)	Palbociclib (CDK4/6i)	Phenotype
MELJUSO	Female	Primary	NRAS, TP53, CDKN2A, TERT, APC	110nM	1µM	Filliform
SKMEL30	Male	Metastatic	NRAS, HRAS	35nM	1µM	Pigmented
IPC298	Female	Primary	NRAS, TP53, CDKN2A, TERT	16nM	1µM	Normal
A375	Female	-	BRAF, CDKN2A, TERT	30nM	1µM	-
624MEL	Male	-	BRAF, TP53	50nM	1µM	-

Supplementary Table 1.

Gene	Total number of clusters enriched	Hierarchical clustering	k-medoids
NEAT1	8	3	5
GOLGB1	7	3	4
HMG20B	7	3	4
LUC7L3	7	3	4
MFSD12	7	3	4
S100B	7	3	4
TAX1BP1	7	3	4
TIMP2	7	3	4
ACTG1	6	3	3
ANXA5	6	3	3
B2M	6	3	3
BPTF	6	3	3
CANX	6	3	3
CD63	6	3	3
CHD4	6	3	3
CTSD	6	3	3
FTL	6	3	3
GNAS	6	3	3
GPNMB	6	3	3
HLA-A	6	3	3
HLA-C	6	3	3
HSP90B1	6	3	3
HSPA5	6	3	3
IGFBP7	6	3	3
KTN1	6	3	3
LGALS3BP	6	3	3
LMNA	6	3	3
NCL	6	3	3
PSAP	6	3	3
S100A6	6	3	3
SERF2	6	3	3
TMSB10	6	3	3
TOMM7	6	3	3
TUBA1A	6	3	3
UBC	6	3	3
YWHAB	6	3	3
ANXA2	5	3	2
CALR	5	3	2
CBX3	5	3	2
CCND1	5	3	2
CCT6A	5	3	2
DDX5	5	3	2
DSTN	5	3	2
EIF3A	5	3	2
FTH1	5	3	2

Gene			
GAPDH	5	3	2
HLA-DRB1	5	3	2
HNRNPA2B1	5	3	2
HNRNPU	5	3	2
HSPB1	5	3	2
LIMA1	5	3	2
MAP4	5	3	2
MATR3	5	3	2
NDUFA4	5	3	2
PEBP1	5	3	2
PLP1	5	3	2
PRRC2C	5	3	2
RBM25	5	3	2
S100A10	5	3	2
SPTBN1	5	3	2
SQSTM1	5	3	2
SYNM	5	3	2
TPT1	5	3	2
YWHAZ	5	3	2
CAPN3	5	2	3
CDC37	5	2	3
HSP90AA1	5	2	3
HSP90AB1	5	2	3
AHNAK	4	2	2
AKAP12	4	2	2
CD74	4	2	2
CTNNA1	4	2	2
DAG1	4	2	2
HLA-B	4	2	2
HLA-DPB1	4	2	2
HLA-DRA	4	2	2
HSPG2	4	2	2
ITGA6	4	2	2
MCAM	4	2	2
MEGF9	4	2	2
MTDH	4	2	2
NQO1	4	2	2
PABPC1	4	2	2
PRNP	4	2	2
SNRNP35	4	2	2
TBC1D16	4	2	2
TMED9	4	2	2
WBP4	4	2	2
ZC3H13	4	2	2
ZNF121	4	2	2

Supplementary Table 2.

Gene	Forward Primer (5' - 3')	Reverse Primer (5' - 3')	Size (bp)
NFIA	AGTGGATGGCATGAAGTGGA	CAGGGAGGAGGTCTGTGAAG	105
ILF2	CGTGGAAAGCCTAAGAGCAC	AAGATTGGGTGGCACTGTTG	127
TOP2A	CGCCCAGACACCTACATTG	TGTTTGTTGTCCGCAGCATT	155
LGALS3BP	TGAGTGTGGATGCTGAGTGT	CTTGACTGACGACAGGGTGA	94
CCND1	AGAGGCGGAGGAGAACAAAC	ATGGAGGGCGGATTGGAAAT	99
TXNIP	GAGCCAGCCAACTCAAGAGA	GAGCAGAGACAGACACCCGC	152
TOP1	GAATCAAGGGTGAGAAGG	GATGAAGTACAGGGCTAC	146
STAT2	GTTCTCCTCCTATGTTGG	CTCTCGCTTAGTGAAGTC	127
MYC	ACAGCATACATCCTGTCCGT	CGCACAAGAGTTCCGTAGC	119
MYO5A	CGGAAAGACCTGGAGCAAACTC	TGCTGCACGATGCGGTGATTGA	153
IFI6	GTGGCTGCCTCGCTGAT	TTACCTATGACGACGCTGCT	119
TYRP1	ACCAGAGGGTTCTCATAGTCAG	GCTTTGCCATATCCAGGG	90
HPRT	TGGACAGGACTGAACGTCTT	GAGCACACAGAGGGCTACAA	77
PPIA	CAGACAAGGTCCCAAAGACA	CCATTATGGCGTGTGAAGTC	139
TBP	ACCCAGCAGCATCACTGTT	CGCTGGAACTCGTCTCACTA	120

miRNA	Forward Sequence	ISB-UNI Sequence
miR-146a	UGAGAACUGAAUUCCAUGGGUU	ATCGAGCACCAGTTACGC
miR-211	UUCCCUUUGUCAUCCUUCGCCU	""
miR-320a	AAAAGCUGGGUUGAGAGGGCGA	""
miR-27a	UUCACAGUGGCUAAGUUCCGC	""
let-7a	UGAGGUAGUAGGUUGUAUAGUU	""
let-7f	UGAGGUAGUAGAUUGUAUAGUU	""

Supplementary Table 3.