# *A nanobody-based approach to capture and visualize interactions of binary protein complexes in living cells*

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## Abstract

Protein function depends on interactions with other protein partners, ultimately leading to the formation of intricate protein-protein interaction (PPI) networks. These molecular networks (or interactomes) are formed progressively, each interaction influencing the next one. Accordingly, a same protein can lead to the formation of different interactomes depending on its first associated cofactor. Therefore, capturing PPIs of specific dimeric protein complexes is key for understanding the molecular rules underlying the diverse cell- and/or subcellular-functions of a bait protein of interest. Here, we introduce an innovative method called Bi-nano-ID that is based on bicolor bimolecular fluorescence complementation and the specific binding of a nanobody fused to a proximity-dependent biotinylating enzyme to tackle this issue. Bi-nano-ID was used to capture endogenous interactomes of the cytoplasmic TAZ/14-3-3e and nuclear TAZ/TEAD2 complexes, which are major downstream effectors of the Hippo signaling pathway. Among the different specific interactions, we revealed the role of a particular family of protease inhibitors for stabilizing and promoting the proliferative activity of TAZ/14-3-3e complexes in mesenchymal stem cells. Overall, our work establishes a novel sensitive method for capturing and visualizing specific interactions of binary bait protein complexes in human living cells.

**Introduction**

Proteins are not working individually within the cell environment, but by forming connected

networks, or interactomes, with other protein-binding partners. These molecular networks are

established by successive protein-protein interactions (PPIs) and can vary depending on the

cell type and/or cell compartment,  underlining their extreme modularity [1]. In addition,

transient and low-affinity PPIs are central for shaping interactome identity *in vivo*. Therefore,

capturing this type of PPIs has become a technological challenge for understanding protein

function in normal or pathological condition [2].

The conventional technique to identify endogenous interactomes of a protein of interest (POI)

is affinity purification (AP) with a specific antibody and the identification of interacting

proteins by liquid chromatography followed by mass spectrometry (LC/MS). However, AP-

based approaches have a bias towards direct, high affinity and stable PPIs [3].  Due to this

limitation, the recent development of several proximity-dependent labeling (PL) methods in

living cells partially addressed the difficulty to capture low affinity and transient PPIs

established by a POI. These methods take advantage of promiscuous enzymes fused to the POI

that can label proximal endogenous proteins (within a radius of approximately 10 nanometers),

including transient and weak partners. Although different types of labeling reactions have been

described, the most widespread approaches rely on the covalent binding of the small biotin

molecule, allowing single-step streptavidin purification before subsequent MS analysis of

labelled proteins [3].  One of the last generation and most commonly used Biotin-based

proximity labeling enzymes is the TurboID, which is a directed-evolution variant of the original

BioID, with less toxicity, smaller size and faster labeling activity [4]. In addition, split forms

of TurboID (split-TurboID) have been developed and used for contact-dependent labeling in

cells. This conditional proteomics method has been used to probe the proteomic composition

in a spatiality-specific subcellular compartment [5] or cell surface environment [6,7] and to

capture SUMO-dependent interactions [8]. However, the activity of the reconstituted TurboID

is relatively low compared to the  full length/uncut form. Consequently, it requires long

incubation times with the biotin (24 hours), which forbids having access to interactome

dynamics. On the other hand, biotin ligases do not allow observing PPIs in a native cellular

environment.

In this work, we develop a methodology called Bi-nano-ID (**bi**color bimolecular

fluorescent complementation-directed **nano**body coupled to proximity **id**entification enzyme).

This method aims at specifically characterizing endogenous interactomes of a specific dimeric

bait protein complex and visualizing each novel interaction simultaneously with the two bait

proteins in living cells.

As a proof of concept, Bi-nano-ID was established by using TAZ (WWTR1) associated

to two different cofactors. TAZ is a key player in the Hippo signaling pathway with a well-

known nucleocytoplasmic shuttling property in cells [9]. When the Hippo signaling is on,

upstream kinases phosphorylate TAZ, leading to its retention in the cytoplasm and interaction

with 14-3-3 proteins. Cytoplasmic TAZ/14-3-3 complexes promote proliferation and the

differentiation of different tissue types [10]. Upon Hippo signaling inactivation, TAZ

translocates into the nucleus and interacts with TEAD proteins, resulting in the expression of a

battery of target genes. TAZ/TEAD complexes are required for the differentiation of

osteoblasts and other cell types [11,12]. Aiming to verify the applicability of Bi-nano-ID, we

mapped the interactome of TAZ associated with either the long isoform epsilon of 14-3-3 (14-

3-3e) or the isoform 2 of TEAD (TEAD2) in human HEK293T cells. We further validated the

novel role of protease inhibitors in forming cooperative trimeric complexes with TAZ and 14-

3-3e complexes and promoting their proliferative activity in mesenchymal stem cells.

Overall, our work demonstrates that Bi-nano-ID is a sensitive and specific method for

deciphering interactomes of specific binary protein complexes in living cells.

**Results**

**Capturing the generic interactome of TAZ in living HEK293T cells**

In order to get a global picture of the TAZ interactome in HEK293T cells, as well as establishing

experimental parameters for LC/MS analysis of affinity-purified biotinylated proteins, we first generated

a TAZ-TurboID fusion construct under the control of a doxycycline (dox)-inducible promoter (see

Material and Methods). We also performed RNA-seq experiments, which showed that our HEK293T

cells express very low levels of endogenous TAZ and TEAD messengers, but did express several 14-3-3

isoforms (Table S1). Therefore, we concluded that the expression of TAZ-TurboID in HEK293T cells

will allow capturing interactions that could be associated with TAZ/14-3-3 complexes. In any case, we

defined all interactions that will be captured with TAZ-TurboID as "generic", since they represent all

possible interactions of TAZ without considering their dependency towards a specific TAZ-

associated cofactor (Fig. 1A).

The expression and activity of TAZ-TurboID was first verified by immunostaining

(Fig. 1B) and western blot (WB, Fig. 1C). These experiments validated the strong and specific

biotinylation activity of TAZ-TurboID when compared to the TurboID enzyme alone (Fig. 1B-

C and S1). We next performed cell protein extracts for LC/MS analysis with three biological
replicates of TAZ-TurboID and TurboID (see also Materials and Methods).

LC/MS analysis led to the identification of 243 proteins (Table S2), and we compared
this list to the list of previously known physical interactors of TAZ in the literature
(https://thebiogrid.org/117434/summary/homo-sapiens/wwtr1.html). 66 interactions were
common to the two lists, and one of the most enriched GO terms for these 66 known interactors
relates to the Hippo signaling pathway (Fig. 1D, S1 and Table S2). Interestingly, biological
functions associated with the hippo signaling pathway were not find in the remaining 275
known interactions, but were also enriched when considering the newly identified 177
interactions (Fig. 1D, S1 and Table S2). This analysis showed that our tools allowed the
capture of novel relevant candidate TAZ-interacting partners.

We next selected 6 known and 6 novel TAZ interactors for performing individual
Bimolecular Fluorescence Complementation (BiFC) in live HEK293T cells (see Materials and
Methods). BiFC relies on the property of monomeric fluorescent proteins to be reconstituted
upon complementation when the two sub-fragments are closed enough in space (10 nm, [13]).
It allows assessing whether two candidate proteins are part of the same protein complex with a
simple readout (apparition of a fluorescent signal upon excitation, Fig. 1E-E'). BiFC confirmed
that all tested candidates could interact with TAZ. Interaction profiles were diverse although a
majority were located in the cytoplasm (Fig. 1F and S1).

Overall, results obtained with TAZ-TurboID confirmed that the cell expression and
affinity purification systems were appropriate for further development of Bi-nano-ID in order
to capture specific interactions of TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes.

**Establishing Bi-nano-ID experimental parameters in HEK293T cells**
Bi-nano-ID is based on an anti-GFP nanobody coupled to the TurboID enzyme on the one side,
and BiFC on the other side (Fig. 2A). More particularly, the nanobody (named conditionally
stable (cs) GFP-binding peptide, csGBP) has been engineered to be unstable when not bound
to its epitope, allowing getting a better signal-to-noise ratio, and was originally described in
the context of BiFC resulting from the complementation between the N-terminal (0-155:
VN155) and C-terminal (156-239: VC) fragment of Venus (a derivative of the yellow
fluorescent protein YFP, [14]). The same GFP nanobody, without conditionally unstable
mutations, has also previously been used to capture interactions of Venus-based BiFC
complexes by immunoprecipitation [15].

In this work, we aimed at testing the efficacy and specificity of the csGBP nanobody in
the context of a complementation system that allows performing bicolor BiFC. This
complementation system has been developed to visualize two different PPIs simultaneously,
and could serve for the subsequent validation of novel interactions of the dimeric bait protein
complex in living cells (Fig. 2B). Bicolor BiFC relies on the property of the N-terminal
fragment of YFP (yellow fluorescent protein) to complement with the C-terminal fragment of
the blue fluorescent protein ECFP (enhanced cyan fluorescent protein), producing a yellow-
like fluorescent signal [16,17]. Two different splice sites in the N-terminal fragment of YFP
(at the position 155 or 173) can complement with the C-terminal fragment of ECFP (156-239),
with the 1-173 N-terminal fragment described to produce stronger fluorescent signals than the
1-155 N-terminal fragment [16]. Here, we tested the two complementation sites by using the
Venus and Cerulean fluorescent proteins, which display faster maturation time and higher
fluorescence brightness than YFP and ECFP, respectively (Fig. S2 and [18,19]). Practically,
TAZ was fused to the 155- or 173 N-terminal fragment of Venus (making VN155-TAZ and
VN173-TAZ constructs), and the 14-3-3e and TEAD2 cofactors were fused to the 156-239 C-
terminal fragment of Cerulean (making CC-14-3-3e and CC-TEAD2 constructs). All
constructs were under the same dox-inducible promoter and BiFC was analyzed in living
HEK293T cells. Results showed that BiFC obtained with the VN155 fragment was extremely
weak when compared to BiFC obtained with VN173, underlining that VN155 could not
complement efficiently with the CC fragment in both TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2
complexes (Fig. S2). BiFC with VN173-TAZ also validated the correct cytoplasmic or nuclear
localization of TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes in live HEK293T cells, respectively
(Fig. S2). Collectively, these experiments confirmed that the VN155 fragment was not best
appropriate for doing bicolor BiFC and we thus decided to establish Bi-nano-ID by using the
VN173 fragment.

Compared to the previous systems that were based on immunoprecipitation and
constitutive expression [15,20], the csGBP nanobody was here under the control of a dox-
inducible promoter and fused to the TurboID PL enzyme (see Materials and Methods). These
modifications allow getting a more specific and sensitive capture of protein partners.

The specificity of the csGBP-TurboID nanobody was first evaluated by
immunofluorescence. BiFC constructs were co-transfected with the nanobody tool and biotin
was added to visualize both BiFC and biotinylation (revealed by using Streptavidin Alexa-555)
in the same cells (see Materials and Methods). Confocal analyses confirmed that BiFC and
biotinylation signals colocalized in the case of TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes (Fig.

2C-D). In contrast, no biotinylation could be revealed when expressing the csGBP-TurboID
nanobody alone or together with the individual VN173-TAZ, CC-14-3-3e or CC-TEAD2
construct, demonstrating that the biotinylating activity was fully dependent on the binding of
the nanobody to BiFC complexes (Fig. S3). Biotinylation signals were also extremely weak in
the case of BiFC complexes with VN155-TAZ, underlining that the binding affinity of the
nanobody was dependent on the complementation efficiency between the N- and C-terminal
fragments (Fig. S2).

Next, we tested the specificity of our tools by doing WB upon affinity purification (AP)
with streptavidin-coupled beads. We used the same BiFC and control conditions as described
for the immunostaining. Proteins were extracted, purified and revealed after different
timepoints of incubation with the biotin to select the best experimental condition for having
strong BiFC-specific biotinylation signals with a good signal-to-noise ratio. All quantifications
were performed by normalizing the AP over the input and the correct expression of each
construct was also validated by using an anti-GFP recognizing the VN and CC fragments
(Fig.S4). Results showed non-specific biotinylation activity of the nanobody in the absence of
any BiFC constructs (first four lanes in Fig. 2E). Importantly, signals were strongly enriched
in the presence of BiFC complexes and quantifications showed that the best incubation time
was 180 min, with no stronger BiFC-specific biotinylation signals at 240 min (Fig. 2E-E' and
S4). The specificity of the nanobody was also more precisely quantified by considering each
single construct. This analysis showed negligeable biotinylation activity in the case of CC-14-
3-3e and CC-TEAD2 constructs (Fig. 2E and S4). In contrast, some signal could be observed
with VN-TAZ alone, indicating that the csGBP-TurboID nanobody was weakly recognizing
the VN173 fragment (Fig. 2E and S4).  In conclusion, these experiments established the
experimental conditions for purifying BiFC-specific interactomes with the csGBP-TurboID
nanobody tool. Because of the weak recognition of the VN173 fragment by the nanobody, we
also considered VN-TAZ as an additional filtering control for the analysis of BiFC-specific
MS data (see below).
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**Using Bi-nano-ID to capture specific interactomes of TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2**
**complexes in living HEK293T cells**
Mass spectrometry analysis was performed by using the streptavidin affinity purified fraction
of protein extracts from HEK293T cells in the different control and BiFC conditions. Control
conditions consisted in the expression of the nanobody alone (to discriminate for the general
background of the TurboID enzyme, referred to as csGBP-TurboID), and to the co-expression

of csGBP-TurboID with VN-TAZ (to discriminate for the weak affinity of the nanobody to the

VN173 fragment). These two control conditions were used to filter interactions obtained in the

two BiFC conditions (csGBP-TurboID co-expressed with VN-TAZ and CC-14-3-3e or with

VN-TAZ and CC-TEAD2, Fig. S5).

Results showed a good reproducibility between the three biological replicates in each

experimental condition (Table S3), and we considered interactions that were present in two or

three replicates for subsequent analyses. Interactions with BiFC complexes were filtered with

the interactions obtained in the two control conditions, which led to the identification of 96 and

42 candidate interactions for TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes, respectively

(Materials and Methods, Table S3 and Fig. S5).

To better discriminate for TAZ/14-3-3e- and TAZ/TEAD2-dependent interactions, we

compared the two BiFC interactomes with the interactome obtained with TAZ-TurboID. This

analysis revealed 50 and 30 interactions that were specifically found with TAZ/14-3-3e and

TAZ/TEAD2 BiFC complexes, respectively (Fig. 3A and S6). The finding of 50 interactions

specific of the TAZ/14-3-3e BiFC complex underlines that endogenous 14-3-3e did not hid all

specific binary complex interactions (although half of the 96 interactions of the TAZ/14-3-3e

BiFC complex were also captured with TAZ-TurboID).

Finally, since the goal of Bi-nano-ID was to capture specific interactions of the

cytoplasmic TAZ/14-3-3e versus nuclear TAZ/TEAD2 complexes, we compared their

respective interactomes. This last analysis revealed 32 interactions that were specific of

TAZ/14-3-3 and 12 interactions that were specific of TAZ/TEAD2 (Fig. 3A and S6). Thus,

Bi-nano-ID was successful in capturing BiFC-specific interactomes.

In order to better know the functions associated with the common and specific TAZ-

related interactomes, we performed a GO-term enrichment analysis for each interactome (see

Materials and Methods and Table S3). "Hippo signaling pathway" was strongly enriched in

TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 interactomes (in addition to the TAZ-TurboID interactome),

emphasizing that our tools led to the capture of functionally relevant interactions (Fig. 3B and

S7). Interestingly, functions related to mRNA stability and catabolic processes were also

enriched in the three interactomes, suggesting that they also represent a major and generic

molecular facet of TAZ (Fig. 3B and S7). Several GO terms were specifically associated with

TAZ/14-3-3e or TAZ/TEAD2 interactome. Importantly, some of these specific functions were

consistent with the known activity of 14-3-3 and TEAD proteins on YAP/TAZ effectors (such

as nuclear export and stem cell division for TAZ/14-3_3e or nuclear import import and

transcription for TAZ/TEAD2, Fig. 3B). Other specific functions (like "negative regulation of

adipose tissue development" and "circadian rhythm" for TAZ/14-3-3e, or "keratinocyte
development" and "odontoblast differentiation" for TAZ/TEAD2) have been described in the
literature with YAP/TAZ (see for example [21–24]). These observations underline that Bi-
nano-ID was efficient for capturing novel interactions that could be involved in known specific
TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 functions. Finally, not all the generic TAZ functions were
captured with the TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 interactomes (like oocyte maturation or
mitophagy regulation, Fig. S7), suggesting that these TAZ functions could rely on other 14-3-
3/TEAD-independent partnerships.

**SERPINB4 potentiates the proliferative activity of TAZ and 14-3-3e in HS27A**
**mesenchymal stem cells**

YAP/TAZ regulators have context-dependent roles in stem cells, either driving self-renewal or
differentiation depending on the identity of the stem cell [25,26]. These differential activities
are also linked to the cytoplasmic or nuclear localization, therefore to the association with
cytoplasmic (including 14-3-3) or nuclear (including TEAD) cofactors. Here, we wondered
whether some specific TAZ/14-3-3e or TAZ/TEAD2 interactions captured with Bi-nano-ID
could be functionally validated in a stem cell context. To this end, we considered the HS27A
bone marrow mesenchymal stromal cell line that can be induced into different cell types
depending on the cell culture medium [27,28]. Given that a common enriched GO term for
TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes was related to the "positive regulation of osteoblast
differentiation" (Fig. 3B and Table S3), we decided to cultivate HS27A cells in an osteoblast-
differentiation medium. The differentiation into osteoblast was confirmed with Alizarin red
staining (see Materials and Methods and Fig. 4A). We hypothesized that cofactors working in
concert with TAZ/14-3-3e or TAZ/TEAD2 complexes could potentially display distinct
expression profiles depending on the mesenchymal-like/undifferentiated or osteoblast-
like/differentiated state of HS27A cells. In order to identify such candidate cofactors, we
performed RNA-seq experiments of HS27A cells at day 1 (proliferation state) and at day 15
(osteoblast differentiation state). RNA-seq data showed several genes that were strongly up- or
down-regulated when comparing the proliferative and differentiated state of HS27A cells (Fig.
4B and Table S4). Unexpectedly, neither *TAZ*, nor *TEAD* or *14-3-3* genes showed a significant
differential expression level between the undifferentiated and differentiated cell state (Table
S3). This observation suggests that their role could depend on post-transcriptional regulatory
process, such as the regulation of the nuclear shuttling. Nevertheless, although a number of the
genes displaying a differential expression profile could correspond to downstream effectors of

TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes, we crossed these lists of differentially expressed

genes to our lists of specific candidate cofactors captured with Bi-nano-ID. This analysis led

to the identification of *SERPINB3* and *SERPINB4.* Interestingly, these two genes were among

the most downregulated genes during the differentiation process, and the corresponding

proteins were specifically captured with TAZ/14-3-3e (LC/MS analysis could not discriminate

between SERPINB3 and B4, which are 100% identical at the protein sequence level, Fig. 3B

and S8). SERPINB4 has previously been described to promote squamous cell carcinomas [29]

and was recently associated with psoriasis severity that is characterized by epidermal

hyperproliferation and infiltration of inflammatory cells [30]. Moreover, the analysis of the

known interactome of SERPINB4 revealed two other interaction partners that were specifically

captured with TAZ/14-3-3e: S100A8 and S100A9 (Fig. 3B-C and 4C). These two proteins have

been described to be part of a common circuit with the hippo signaling and promote the

proliferation and colony formation of breast cancer cells [31]. Finally, "stem cell division" was

also among the most enriched GO terms specific of the TAZ/14-3-3e interactome (Fig. 3B and

Table S3). Altogether, these observations suggest that SERPINB3 and B4 could play a role for

the proliferation of HS27A cells, making them strong candidates to test in the context of

TAZ/14-3-3e proliferative activity.

To test this hypothesis, we generated two different siRNAs targeting *TAZ*, *14-3-3e* or

*SERPINB3* and *B4*. The specificity of each siRNA was individually tested in HS27A cells (Fig.

S8 and Materials and Methods) and we next assessed their effect on HS27A cells proliferation,

either alone or in various heterologous combinations. Results showed that the individual

targeting of *TAZ, SERPINB3/B4* or *14-3-3e* affected the proliferation rate of HS27A cells at

35h post transfection, and this effect tended to fade over time (at 50h, which could be explained

by siRNA dilution over cell generations; Fig. 4D). Importantly, combining siRNAs against

*SERPINB3/B4* and *TAZ* or *SERPINB3/B4* and *14-3-3* already impacted proliferation at 25h

post-transfection, and further decreased HS27A proliferation rate when compared to individual

siRNAs (Fig. 4D). These combinatorial effects were similar to the one observed when

combining *TAZ* and *14-3-3* siRNAs and were more persistent over time when compared to

individual siRNAs (Fig. 4D). These results show that SERPINB3 and B4 are required for the

proliferation of HS27A cells and act in concert with TAZ and 14-3-3. Moreover, this effect

was independent of epistatic relationships given that the knock-down of *SERPINB3* and *B4* had

no effect on *TAZ* or *14-3-3e* expression (Fig. S8). Thus, *SERPINB3* and *B4* could have a

redundant role for promoting the proliferative activity of TAZ/14-3-3e complexes in HS27A

cells. We hypothesize that this cooperative activity could result from the formation of specific

trimeric protein complexes.

**Specific interaction interfaces allow the formation of trimeric TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4**

**complexes**

The ability of SERPINB3-B4 to interact with TAZ and 14-3-3e was tested by performing

bicolor BiFC. We used *SERPINB4* as a cDNA template for generating the fusion CC-

SERPINB4 construct, knowing that conclusions reached with this construct will also apply for

SERPINB3. CC-SERPINB4 was expressed with VN-TAZ and CN-14-3-3e to simultaneously

visualize its interaction with either TAZ or 14-3-3e in the same living cell context (Fig. 5A).

Confocal analysis showed overlapping Venus and Cerulean signals with a diffuse pattern and

few enrichment dots in the cytoplasm (Fig. 5A'-A"). The observation of superposable Venus

and Cerulean BiFC signals indicates that TAZ-SERPINB4 and SERPINB4-14-3-3e

interactions occur at the same locations within the cell, strongly suggesting that the three

proteins could be part of a same trimeric complex.

To assess the role of 14-3-3e for TAZ-SERPINB4 interaction, we performed BiFC

between VN-TAZ and CC-SERPINB4 when affecting simultaneously endogenous *14-3-3e*

expression in HEK293T cells (around 60% loss was obtained upon siRNA transfection, Fig.

5B and S8). Under this condition, BiFC signals were strongly diminished (around 50% loss,

Fig. 5B'-B"'), underlining that endogenous 14-3-3e is promoting TAZ-SERPINB4 interaction.

Given that HEK293T cells express low levels of endogenous *TAZ*, we also performed

the complementary experiment by looking at BiFC between VN-14-3-3e and CC-SERPINB4

when over-expressing HA-tagged TAZ (Fig. 5C).  Under this condition, BiFC signals were

increased around 7 folds, demonstrating that TAZ could also promote the interaction between

14-3-3e and SERPINB4 (Fig. 5C'-C").

Altogether, these experiments established that binary interactions between SERPINB4 and

TAZ or SERPINB4 and 14-3-3e were increased in the presence of the third partner, strongly

suggesting that TAZ, 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 could form a cooperative trimeric protein

complex.

In order to better understand how the trimeric TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4 complex could

be formed, we used the artificial intelligence platform AlphaFold for structure prediction

(https://alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/ and [32]) and ENDscript for extracting and having a

comprehensive visualization of all contacts between the three partners [33]. Interestingly,

AlphaFold predicted several structured complexes with good confidences score (between 600

and 700). More particularly, the top ranked model showed that a C-terminal disordered region

of TAZ was falling between the interface of interaction with 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 (Fig. S9).

This disordered region of TAZ contains a predicted short linear interaction motif (SLIM) that

could be recognized by LATS kinases in the cytosol ([34–36] and Fig. S9). More specifically,

the Glu309 of this SLiM interacts with two Lys residues of SERPINB4 at position 189 and

237, and no other contacts are predicted between TAZ and SERPINB4 (Fig. S9). In contrast,

several residues at the N- and C-terminus of 14-3-3e are predicted to contact TAZ (Fig. S9). In

particular, the residue D234 interacts with the residue R308 of TAZ (Fig. S9), underlining that

the C-terminal SLIM of TAZ is a central node for making strong interactions with both

SERPINB4 and 14-3-3e.

To experimentally validate the predictive interaction interface of TAZ with SERPINB4,

we mutated the residue Glu309 into an Alanine residue (construct TAZ[E309A]), anticipating that

this mutation could affect TAZ/SERPINB4 interaction specifically in the context of

TAZ/SERPINB4/14-3-3e trimeric complex. Indeed, interaction interfaces are all predicted to

be different when comparing the trimeric complex to the different dimeric complexes (Fig.

S10-12). In particular, the residue Glu309 of TAZ is not predicted to contact any SERPINB4

residues in the dimeric TAZ/SERPINB4 complex (Fig. S10). These predictions underscore that

binary interactions could be completely remodeled in the presence of the third partner.

The correct expression and localization of TAZ[E309A] was verified (Fig. S9) and the effect of the

TAZ punctual mutation was analyzed by doing bicolor BiFC to simultaneously analyze the

interaction of SERPINB4 with either TAZ[E309A] or 14-3-3e (Fig. 6A). Results showed 80% loss

of BiFC between SERPINB4 and TAZ[E309A], thus confirming that the residue E309 of TAZ was

central for recruiting SERPINB4 in the context of the trimeric complex (Fig. 6A'-A"). The

inability of TAZ[E309A] to interact with SERPINB4 was also indirectly demonstrated by the

absence of any promoting effect of HA-TAZ[E309A] when over-expressed with VN-14-3-3e and

CC-SERPINB4 (Fig. 6B-B"), indicating that HA-TAZ[E309A] lost most of its ability to form a

trimeric complex with SERPINB4 and 14-3-3e.

Surprisingly, bi-colour BiFC in the context of VN-TAZ[E309A] also showed a strong

decrease (around 50%) of signal between CN-14-3-3e and CC-SERPINB4 (Fig. 6A'-A").

Thus, the loss of interaction between TAZ[E309A] and SERPINB4 also affected the interaction

between SERPINB4 and 14-3-3e, underlining that the interaction interfaces between

SERPINB4 with 14-3-3e were remodeled when TAZ was not interacting with SERPINB4.

To further confirm that interaction interfaces are different when considering the trimeric and

dimeric complexes, we analyzed the effect of the E309A mutation of TAZ in the absence of

14-3-3e. To this end, we repeated the analysis of BiFC between VN-TAZ$^{E309A}$ with CC-
SERPINB4, in wild type condition or by simultaneously expressing *14-3-3e* siRNA (Fig. 6C).
First, we observed BiFC despite the presence of endogenous *14-3-3e* in wild type condition
(Fig. 6C'). This observation confirmed that VN-TAZ$^{E309A}$/CC-SERPINB4 dimeric complexes
could be formed in excess with regard to endogenous 14-3-3e. Importantly, depleting
endogenous *14-3-3e* did not affect the BiFC signals, demonstrating that TAZ$^{E309A}$/SERPINB4
complexes were formed through distinct and 14-3-3e-independent interaction interfaces as
compared to TAZ-SERPINB4 interactions established in the context of trimeric
TAZ/SERPINB4/14-3-3 BiFC complexes (Fig. 6C'-C").

Collectively, these experiments confirmed that the E309 residue of TAZ is used for
interacting with SERPINB4 in the specific context of the trimeric association with 14-3-3e. In
addition, the interaction of SERPINB4 with the E309 residue of TAZ allows SERPINB4 to
interact with 14-3-3e, thus showing the mutual dependency of each partner to form a
cooperative trimeric protein complex.

**Discussion**
In this study, we developed and validated Bi-nano-ID, a novel method that combines BiFC
with proximity-dependent biotinylation, to investigate binary protein interactions and their
associated interactomes in living cells. By using TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 interactions
as a proof-of-concept, we demonstrated the efficacy of Bi-nano-ID in capturing and
characterizing these interactions within their specific cellular compartments.

**Advantages of Bi-nano-ID over other experimental approaches**
To date, the unique alternative methodologies to capture interactomes of dimeric complexes
rely on split-BioID and split-TurboID enzymes, which can be reconstituted upon spatial
proximity. These approaches have been used to identify interactomes of different dimeric
protein complexes and to monitor [8,37,38] or capture interactions in specific cellular
compartments [5]. However, these systems have to deal with the strong auto-affinity between
the split TurboID fragments and require long biotin incubation times (minimum 8 hours) due
to the decreased activity of the reconstituted TurboID. In contrast, Bi-nano-ID integrates BiFC,
which is well established for providing a specific readout of many different types of PPIs. In
addition, the use of a BiFC-recognyzing nanobody allows the robust and rapid biotinylation
capabilities of full length TurboID. This combination enhances the specificity and sensitivity
for detecting protein interactions and their proximate interactomes within defined cellular

localization. Finally, by using fragments compatible for bi-color BiFC, Bi-nano-ID allows to
rapidly validate candidate proteins of the interactome together with the bait dimeric complex
in living cells.
409

**Bi-nano-ID identified distinct interaction partners for TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2**
**complexes**
Interactions between TAZ and 14-3-3e or TAZ and TEAD2 were visualized using BiFC,
showing distinct cytoplasmic and nuclear fluorescence patterns respectively, and confirming
their subcellular localization as influenced by the Hippo signaling pathway. This initial
validation set the foundation for integrating the csGBP nanobody fused with the TurboID
enzyme, which led to the biotinylation of proteins in proximity to the BiFC complexes. The
subsequent biotinylation was specific and colocalized with the BiFC signals, as revealed by
immunofluorescence and Western blot analyses, indicating the precision and reliability of Bi-
nano-ID in live-cell contexts.
Due to the weak recognition of the VN173 fragment by the csGBP nanobody, we also
tested our tools when using VN155-TAZ, which was not recognized by the nanobody in
previous work [15]. These assays showed that BiFC was weak and not exploitable with 14-3-
3e or TEAD2 fused to the CC fragment. Consequently, biotinylation was also less efficient.
We concluded that VN155 was much less appropriate than VN173 in our bi-color
complementation strategy. In addition, using VN173-TAZ alone as a negative control was
efficient for discriminating the background resulting from the weak affinity of the csGBP
nanobody for the VN173 fragment in the mass spectrometry analysis.
Our work identified a substantial number of proteins in proximity to TAZ/14-3-3e and
TAZ/TEAD2 complexes. The stringent filtering process ensured high specificity, leading to
the identification of 96 candidates for TAZ/14-3-3e and 42 candidates for TAZ/TEAD2.
Further refinement excluded proteins identified in proximity to TAZ alone, isolating 50 unique
TAZ/14-3-3e interactors and 30 unique TAZ/TEAD2 interactors. Gene ontology enrichment
analyses revealed that TAZ-TurboID, TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ-TEAD2 interactors all
predominantly participate in Hippo pathway regulation, highlighting that our approach was
successful for revealing novel interactions that could modulate TAZ function. Importantly,
TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 interactomes displayed clear distinct GO term enrichments,
allowing assigning specific functions of TAZ to the association with either 14-3-3e or TEAD2
cofactors. Collectively, these results demonstrate the suitability of Bi-nano-ID for capturing

and distinguishing interactomes of a bait protein associated with a different cofactor in two
different cellular compartments.
441

**Molecular insights into TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4 complex formation and its biological**
**implications**

Our detailed molecular dissection using bicolor BiFC and mutagenesis identified a critical interaction interface for both 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 within the TAZ protein. More particularly, this region encompasses residues 307-315 and is predicted to be phosphorylated by LATs kinases, therefore under dynamic regulation depending on the activation of the Hippo pathway. Importantly, mutating the single Glu309 residue of TAZ predicted to form electrostatic interactions with two Lys residues of SERPINB4 was sufficient to abolish all cooperative interactions involved for the trimeric complex assembly. Interestingly, the Glu309Ala mutation was able to also affect the interaction between 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 but only in the context of the trimeric complex, highlighting that 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 have TAZ-dependent and TAZ-independent modes of interaction (Fig. 7). We suggest that the TAZ-dependent mode of interaction, therefore interaction in the context of trimeric TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4 complexes, could be more stable and potentiate the proliferative activity of TAZ/14-3-3 complexes. This hypothesis results from our assays in human bone marrow stromal cells (HS27A) but could potentially apply more generally in cell progression, proliferation and metastasis for cancer biology and tissue regeneration. In this context, the identification of the most relevant interaction interface used in the trimeric and not the dimeric complex could have strong incidence for future therapeutic development.

In conclusion, our work highlights the importance of considering interactomes of dimeric protein complexes over single bait proteins, and the relevance of Bi-nano-ID in this perspective.

**Materials and Methods**

**Cell culture**

HEK293T cells were purchased from the European Collection of Authenticated Cell Cultures (ECACC) through the biological resource center CelluloNet (AniRA platform of the UAR3444, Lyon, France). Human bone marrow stromal cells (HS27A) were a gift from the team of Dr. Véronique Maguer-Satta (CRCL). HEK-293T cells were cultured as a monolayer in Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium (DMEM-GlutaMAX-I, Gibco by Life Technologies) supplemented with 10% (*v/v*) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Gibco by Life

Technologies), 1% (*v/v*) Penicillin-Streptomycin (5,000U penicillin and 5mg
streptomycin/mL, Gibco), and 5 ml of 100 mM sodium pyruvate (Gibco by Life Technologies)
incubating at 37°C, in an atmosphere of 5 % $CO_2$. HS27A cells were cultured in RPMI 1640
(Gibco by Life Technologies) supplemented with 10% (*v/v*) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum
(FBS) (Gibco by Life Technologies) and 1% (*v/v*) Penicillin-Streptomycin (5,000U penicillin
and 5mg streptomycin/mL, Gibco) incubating at 37°C, in an atmosphere of 5 % $CO_2$.
479

**Cloning**

481 Plasmids used in this study were cloned either by gateway cloning or conventional restriction
482 digestion into pLIX _403 vector (a gift from David Root; Addgene plasmid #
483 41395; http://n2t.net/addgene:41395, RRID: Addgene_41395). All constructs are placed under
484 the same tet-off dox-inducible promoter. All constructs were sequenced (Genewiz company,
485 Germany) before using. Oligonucleotides used for the cloning are listed (Table S5).
486

**Fluorescent immunostaining**

$50.10^5$ HEK-293T cells were seeded on glass coverslips in 24-well plate for 18-24 hours to
about 80% confluency, then transiently transfected with 250 ng of each plasmid using
jetPRIME (Polyplus, Ref 114-15) and following manufacturer's instructions in the presence of
doxycycline (dox, 100 ng/ml). After 14h of dox induction, cells were washed with PBS and
replaced by fresh complete media without dox for 6h at 37°C. Cells were then cultured in 50
μM Biotin for 3h at 37°C under 5% $CO_2$. Cells were then washed twice with 1X PBS and fixed
with 4% (*v/v*) paraformaldehyde at 4°C for 15 min. In between each step, cells were washed
with 1X PBS. Cells were permeabilized with 0,1% Triton for 10 min followed by a blocking
step in 2% (*w/v*) BSA for 1h at RT. Cells were then incubated with primary antibody (Rabbit-
anti-GFP A11122 Invitrogen at 1/1000) in PBS supplemented with 2% (w/v) BSA for 3 hr at
RT. Next, samples were incubated with anti-rabbit-Alexa Fluor 488 and Alexa Fluor 555-
Streptavidin to reveal biotinylated proteins, in PBS supplemented with 2% (w/v) BSA for 1 hr
at RT. Finally, cell-coated coverslips were mounted in VECTASHIELD antifade mounting
medium with DAPI (VECTOR, Cat No. LS-J1033-10) and imaged by confocal microscopy
(Zeiss LSM780).
503

**Western blots**

Cells were cultured in Biotin (50 μM) at 37°C under 5% $CO_2$ at several incubation times (10
min, 90min, 180min, and 240min). Cells were washed twice with 10 ml ice-cold DPBS,

harvested by scraping, pelleted by centrifugation at 1,400 r.p.m. for 3 min, and either processed

immediately or stored at -80°C before further analysis.

The protocol of TurboID labeling (with TurboID-HA or TAZ-TurboID-HA constructs) is

similar to the approach followed for Bi-nano-ID labeling, except that cells were incubated with

biotin 50 μM for 10 min.

Collected cell pellets for both Western blotting (WB) and proteomic analysis were resuspended

in ice-cold RIPA/1%SDS-cell lysis buffer (50mM Tris pH8, 150mM NaCl, 0.5% sodium

deoxycholate, 1% NP40/IGEPAL) (volume ratio between cell pellet: buffer = 1:3) and

incubated on ice for 20-30 min, maintaining constant vortex (2-3 times). The cells were then

treated with Benzonase Nuclease (Sigma, E1014-25KU) for 10 to 20 min on ice or to observe

the solution becomes less viscous. This was subjected to spin at 14000×g at 4°C for 10 min.

The supernatant was then transferred to 1,5 Eppendorf tube. To test the expression of the

constructs, 10% of the protein extracts were kept for WB as input fraction. Proteins were

quantified using Pierce BCA Protein Assay (Thermofischer, A55865). Streptavidin magnetic

beads (Sigma, 88817) were equilibrated with two PBS washes and resuspended in RIPA buffer

supplemented with 1% SDS (50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate,

1% NP40, 1% SDS). 1 mg of protein extracts were incubated with 40 μl of streptavidin beads

in a final volume of 1 ml RIPA-SDS overnight at 4°C on a rotating wheel. Beads were then

washed twice with SDS-Buffer (10 mM Tris.HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% SDS, 200 mM NaCl),

twice with RIPA-SDS and twice with acetonitrile buffer (20% acetonitrile in MS-grade water).

For WB validation, acetonitrile washing step was skipped.

For western blot analysis, proteins (Input and AP) were resolved on 12% SDS-PAGE, blotted

onto PVDF membrane (Biorad) and probed with specific antibodies after saturation. The

antibodies (and their dilution) used in this study were, Histone 3 (1791 Abcam, 1/10,000), GFP

(A11122 Life Technologies, 1/1000), and Streptavidin-HRP (SA10001 Invitogen, 1/5000).

Developing was performed using chemiluminescence reaction (ECL, Cytiva) with secondary

antibody coupled to HRP (Promega, 1/5000).

**Mass spectrometry preparation**

Streptavidin beads were resuspended in 14 μl of ammonium bicarbonate 50 mM and proteins

were subjected to reduction with 1 μl DTT (100 μM, 57°C, 45min) and alkylation with 1μl

iodoacetamide (500μM, RT, 45min at dark). The proteins were then digested with a mixture of

endoproteinase Lys-C/trypsin (ratio protein/enzyme 1/100, overnight, 37°C, 500 rpm). After a

cleaning step with SP3 beads, peptides were dried, suspended in Formic Acid (FA) 0.1%,

DMSO 2% and injected in the mass spectrometer. Samples were analyzed on a Q Exactive HF
mass spectrometer coupled with a nanoRSLC Ultimate 3000 system (ThermoFisher Scientific).
Peptides samples were loaded on a C18 Acclaim PepMap100 trap-column 300 µm ID x 5 mm,
5 µm, 100Å (ThermoFisher Scientific) and separated on a C18 Acclaim Pepmap100 nano-
column, 50 cm x 75 µm i.d, 2 µm, 100 Å (ThermoFisher Scientific) with a 60 minutes linear
gradient from 3% to 90% buffer B (A: 0.1% FA in $H_2O$, B: 0.1% FA in ACN). The flow rate
was maintained at 300 nL/min and the oven temperature was kept constant at 40°C. Peptides
were analysed using a DDA TOP20 HCD method: MS data were acquired in a data dependent
strategy (DDA) selecting the fragmentation events based on the 20 most abundant precursor
ions in a survey scan (350-1400 Th). Resolutions of the survey and MS/MS scans were
respectively set at 60,000 and 15,000 at m/z 200 Th. The Ion Target Values for the survey and
the MS/MS scans in the Orbitrap were set to 3E6 and 1E5 respectively and the maximum
injection times were set to 60 ms for both MS and MS/MS scans. Parameters for acquiring
HCD MS/MS spectra were as follows: collision energy = 27 and isolation window = 2 m/z.
The precursors with unknown charge state, charge state of 1 and 8 or greater than 8 were
excluded. Peptides selected for MS/MS acquisition were then placed on an exclusion list for
30 s using the dynamic exclusion mode to limit duplicate spectra.
558
**Mass spectrometry analyses**
Each batch of experiment included TurboID and TAZ fused to TurboID samples (Table S2),
and csGBP-TurboID, csGBP-TurboID with VN-TAZ, csGBP-TurboID with VN-TAZ and
CC-14-3-3e, csGBP-TurboID with VN-TAZ and CC-TEAD2 samples (Table S3). Each
condition was performed in three independent biological replicates. Raw mass spectrometry
data were analysed using MaxQuant free software including the Andromeda search Engine
[39]. Using *Homo sapiens* (Swissprot) database peptide were identified. Default parameters of
MaxQuant were used with the following modifications: digestion by Trypsin/P and LysC,
lysine biotinylation as variable modification (as well as methionine oxidation and N-terminal
acetylation), cytosine carbamidomethylation as fixed modification, Instrument set Orbitrap
(with precursor tolerance 20 ppm, MS tolerance 0.5 Da), match between runs option was
activated, FDR 1%, label-free quantification (LFQ) and iBAQ were calculated (Tables S2 and
S3). Protein enrichment was calculated using the LFQ Log2 ratio and normalized on the median
value (Table S2 and S3). For each ratio, distribution (90%) and corresponding standard
deviations (SD) were calculated to define the proteins significantly enriched (ratio > confidence
interval defined as median ± 2 SD). Imputation of value divided by 0 (referred to infinite) has

been performed for confidence intervals calculation (Table S1 and S2). Subsequently, proteins
significantly enriched in at least 2 replicates were considered biologically relevant considering
biological variability and stochasticity of the MS-process and used for further analysis (Table
S2 and S3). Enriched proteins from the different samples were then compared with discriminate
proteins enriched in proximity with csGBP-TurboID individually or in proximity with VN173-
TAZ alone. Details about the filtering process are detailed (Fig. S5). For TAZ generic
candidates, protein enrichment was calculated using the LFQ Log2 ratio of TAZ-
TurboID/TurboID and normalized on the median value with distribution (90%) and
corresponding standard deviations (SD) were calculated to define the proteins significantly
enriched (ratio > confidence interval defined as median ± 2 SD).
Raw data of MS analyses, Uniprot and contaminant databases and Maxquant files that support
the findings of this study will be deposited in PRIDE (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/archive).
The mass spectrometry proteomics data will be deposited to the Center for Computational Mass
Spectrometry repository (University of California, San Diego) via the MassIVE tool.
589
**Data analysis and visualisation**
For proteome analysis, Perseus free software was used to generate clustering visualization
(PCA, [40]), based on LFQ log10 value of protein expressed after Perseus canonical filtering
(Reverse, Potential Contaminant, only identified by site) and replacement of missing values.
Functional networks of TAZ interactome were generated with STRING software [41], based
on 0.15 interaction score of experimental evidence and database and pathway co-occurrence.
Visualization of networks was built with Cytoscape free software [42]. For GO-Term
annotations and over-represented GO-Term related to biological process analysis was
performed using PANTHER [43] and represented using Prism. The selection of significant
GO-term was corrected by FDR<0.05, a fold enrichment higher than 10 and a raw p-
value>0.05. Statistical analyses were performed using one-way ANOVA (BiFC quantification,
siRNA effect, proliferation assay). Predictions of TAZ/1433e/SERPINB4 interaction model
was performed using Alphafold [32].
603
**BiFC and Multicolor BiFC validation**
For transfection, $3.10^5$ HEK293T cells were seeded on glass coverslips in 6-well plates and
incubated for 24h. Then, cells were transfected with jetPRIME (Ref 114-15, Polyplus
Transfection, France) following manufacturer's instructions. A total of 1 μg of plasmid DNA
(CC, VN and CC tagged proteins constructs including mcherry reporter to assess transfection

efficiency) was transfected per well. After 14h of incubation in the presence of doxycycline

(100 ng/mL), the cell-coated coverslip was taken and mounted carefully on a glass slide for

image capturing under Zeiss LSM780 confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany). All

samples were imaged using identical settings and were quantified as previously described [44].

Three biological replicates were systematically performed.

**RTqPCR and siRNA**

For siRNA transfection, $3.10^5$ cells per ml were seeded on 6-well plates, and 10 pmol/mL of

total siRNA was transfected with INTERFERin (Polyplus Transfection, France) according to

the manufacturer's recommendations. Total RNAs were extracted using the MACHEREY-

NAGEL RNA extraction kit (REF 744352.4). A total of 500 ng of RNA was converted to first-

strand cDNA using the RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Scientific, MA,

USA). Real-time qPCRs were performed in 96-well plates using the IQ SYBR Green Supermix

(Catalog #1708880, BioRad, CA, USA). Data were quantified using ΔΔ-Ct method and were

normalized to GAPDH expression. siRNA and primers sequence used in the study are

summarized (Table S4).

**HS27A cells differentiation, Alizarin Red staining and RNAseq**

*RNA samples*

HS27A cells differentiation protocol toward osteoblasts was adapted from the team of Dr.

Véronique Maguer-Satta (Cancer Research Center of Lyon - CRCL). HS27A cells were

cultured in human Osteoblast differentiation media (417D-250) for 15 days. Cells undergo

Alizarin red stain which labels calcium deposit to verify the differentiation. For staining, cells

were rinsed in 1X PBS and fixed with 4% PFA for 30min. This is followed by washing cells

with water and staining with 2% Alizarin solution (pH 4.2) for 2-3 min. RNA was extracted

from cells at proliferating and differentiating states using MACHEREY-NAGEL RNA

extraction kit (Ref 744352.4).

*Construction of the libraries and sequencing*

Determination of RNA concentration by fluorometric assay (Qubit4.0, Thermofisher) and

analysis of distribution profiles of total RNA samples by capillary electrophoresis (Tapestation

4150, Thermofisher) were conducted by the Sequencing platform (PSI, IGFL, Lyon). The

quality and quantity of the triplicate samples were satisfactory for initiating library

construction, with no degradation of samples observed and RIN values > 8.6. mRNA capture

was performed using the "NEBNext® Poly(A) mRNA Magnetic Isolation Module" protocol
(New England Biolabs, E7490L) with a starting material of 1µg of total RNA for each sample,
the various steps of the protocol having been carried out according to the supplier's
recommendations. Libraries were constructed using the Lexogen protocol "CORALL Total
RNA-Seq Library Prep Kit with UDI 12 nt Set B1" protocol (Clinisciences, 118.96) according
to the supplier's recommendations and from 10µl of previously purified mRNA per sample. 16
cycles of PCR amplification were performed to finalize the construction of indexed library.
The libraries were quantified (Qubit4.0, Thermofisher) and qualified (Tapestation 4150,
Thermofisher). Sequencing was performed on the Illumina NextSeq 500 platform using Mid
Output reagents with the following parameters: PE 2x81bp and 6bp index i7. A total of
194,006,581 reads were generated (Table S3).
653
*Bioinformatics analyses*
Reads were mapped onto the human genome using a local pipeline derived from the one
supported by Lexogen (https://www.lexogen.com/corall-data-analysis/). Lexogen has made
their pipeline available on the Lexogen's Kangooroo app webpage
(https://kangooroo.com/home). In brief, UMI were first trimmed with the program umi_tools
extract (version 1.1.2, [45]). Adapter sequences were then removed using the Cutadapt package
(version 3.5, [46]) and reads quality control was performed using FastQC (version 0.11.8;
https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/). Read mapping was achieved
with STAR (Spliced Transcripts Alignment to a Reference, version 2.6.1a, [47]) using the
Homo sapiens GRCh38 genome reference (Ensembl, release 109). UMI deduplication was
conducted with the program umi_tools dedup (version 1.1.2, [45]) enabling the accurate
bioinformatic identification of PCR duplicates. The mapped reads were then quantified by Mix²
(version 1.4.0.1, [48]), allowing to generate a count table per sample. Differential gene
expression analysis was performed with DESeq2 [49] using a custom R script available on the
following GitLab repository: https://gitbio.ens-lyon.fr/igfl/merabet/HS27ADiff. A Docker
image is also provided to reproduce the results of the analysis.
670

**xCELLigence Assays**

The xCELLigence system (ACEA Biosciences Inc., San Diego, CA, USA), which records
cellular events in real time by measuring electrical impedance across microelectrodes
integrated on the bottom of culture plates (E-plates), was utilized in proliferation experiments.
First, HS27A cell culture media were added to each well of 16-well E-plates (ACEA

Biosciences Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) to measure background impedance. Then, $10.10^3$ of

HS27A cells were transfected with a mixture of control, 14-3-3e, TAZ, SERPINB4 siRNAs at

10 pmol/mL using INTERFERin (Polyplus Transfection, France) according to the

manufacturer's protocol. Transfected cells were directly seeded on E-plates ($5 .10^5$ cells/well),

and the impedance was measured every 15 min for 96 h. The impedance signal was

proportional to the number of cells proliferating in each well and was displayed as cell index.

Data were analyzed with the RTCA Software 2.0 and were presented as mean $+/-$ SEM of

three experiments performed in triplicate.

**Figure legends**

**Figure 1: Capturing the interactome of TAZ-TurboID in HEK-293T cells. (A)** Schematic

representation of the capture of the interactome of TAZ-TurboID. The addition of Biotin leads

to the labeling of proteins in proximity of the bait protein construct. Biotinylated proteins are

affinity purified with streptavidin-coupled beads and analyzed by liquid chromatography

coupled to tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). **(B)** Validation of the specific

biotinylating activity of Turbo-ID or TAZ-TurboID by immunofluorescence in HEK293T

cells. Biotinylation was revealed with streptavidin (SA) coupled to the 555 dye (red). The

expression of each construct was confirmed with an immunostaining against the HA tag present

in each construct (gray). Dapi (blue) stains for nuclei. Scale bar = 20 µm. **(C)** Western blot

analysis of biotin labeling by TurboID or TAZ-TurboID. The input and affinity purified (AP)

biotinylated proteins from samples expressing each construct were analyzed via western

blotting after biotin incubation (10 minutes). Samples were probed by streptavidin conjugate,

HA and Histone 3 (H3) antibodies. The band corresponding to TurboID or TAZ-TurboID is

indicated with anti-HA. **(D)** GO term analysis of the TAZ-TurboID interactome compared to

the known interactions of TAZ in the literature. The 177 novel interactions captured in this

study have several GO term enrichments directly or indirectly related to the Hippo signaling.

**(E-E')** Principle of BiFC with Venus and Cerulean derived fragments. The N-terminal

fragment of Venus (VN) can complement with the C-terminal fragment of Cerulean (CC) and

provide a Venus-like fluorescence signal. **(F)** Illustrative confocal acquisitions of BiFC

between VN-Taz and new candidate partners fused to CC, as indicated. Hoechst stains for

nuclei in live HEK293T cells (blue). Scale bar = 20 µm.

**Figure 2: Establishing Bi-nano-ID experimental parameters in HEK293T cells. (A)**

Principle of Bi-nano-ID. BiFC resulting from the complementation between the VN and CC

fragment is recognized by a GFP nanobody (csGBP) coupled to the TurboID enzyme. The addition of biotin allows the biotinylation of surrounding partners, which can then be purified by affinity purification (AP) and analyzed by mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). **(B)** Simultaneous visualization of the interaction between a novel candidate partner (gray ball) and each protein of the bait dimeric complex. The superposition of Venus- (green) and Cerulean-like (blue) fluorescent signals in the cell is indicative of co-localized interactions, therefore of trimeric complex assembly. **(C-D)** Validation of the specificity of Bi-nano-ID by immunofluorescence. Biotinylation is revealed with streptavidin (SA) coupled to the 555 dye (red). Interaction between the fusion TAZ and 14-3-3e (C) or TEAD2 (D) is revealed by BiFC (green). Dapi stains for nuclei (blue). Enlargements highlight the specific colocalization of red and green signals in the cytoplasm or the nucleus for TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes, respectively. Scale bar = 20 µm. **(E)** Western blot of biotin labeling by TurboID. Affinity purified biotinylated proteins from samples expressing dsGBP fused TurboID individually or in combination with VN173-TAZ, and/or CC-14-3-3e or CC/TEAD2 were analyzed via western blotting after different biotin (50 µM) incubation timepoints (10, 90, 180, 240 minutes), as indicated. Samples were probes by streptavidin conjugate (to reveal biotinylated proteins) and GFP (to reveal the VN and CC fusion constructs). and HA antibodies at (1:1000). Colored arrowheads depict sizes corresponding to VN-TAZ (blue arrowhead), CC-14-3-3e (magenta arrowhead) and CC-TEAD2 (orange arrowhead). Note that parasite bands with the nanobody alone are present at the size of VN-TAZ and CC-TEAD2. **(E')** Quantification of the intensity of the biotinylation bands in the different conditions at 180min biotin incubation time, as indicated. Quantification was obtained from three biological replicates. Statistical tests were performed with one-way ANOVA (*$p < 0.05$, ****$p < 0.0001$).

**Figure 3: TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 interactome clustering. (A)** Venn diagrams showing common and specific interactions between TAZ-TurboID, TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 interactomes. **(B-B')** Specific interactions and GO term enrichment for TAZ/14-3-3e interactome. Light pink to dark pink and magenta gradient illustrates low to medium and high protein enrichment, respectively (as deduced from the lfq value of mass spectrometry data, see also Table S2). **(C-C')** Specific interactions and GO term enrichment for TAZ/TEAD2-interactome. Yellow to light and dark orange gradient illustrates low to medium and high protein enrichment, respectively (as deduced from the lfq value of mass spectrometry data, see also Table S2).

**Figure 4. Role of SERPINB3 and SERPINB4 in TAZ/14-3-3e-dependent proliferation of**

**HS27A mesenchymal stem cells. (A)** HS27A cells differentiate into osteoblast and are stained

with alizarin (red) after 15 days of culture in a osteoblast differentiation medium. **(A')**

Statistical Quantification of the HS27A cell alizarin staining at day 3, 7 and 15 of culture.

Statistical tests were performed with one-way ANOVA (****$p < 0.0001$). (B) Distribution as

a volcano plot of up- (Log2FC>0.5 and Log10*pvalue*>0,8) or down (Log2FC<-0.5 and

Log10*pvalue*>-0,8)-regulated genes during the differentiation of HS27A cells (as deduced

from RNA-seq. at day 1 and day 15). (C) String interactome for SERPINB4 (based on 0.15

interaction score of experimental evidence and database and pathway co-occurrence). (D)

Quantification with xCELLigence assays of HS27A cells transfected with the different siRNAs

as indicated. siC = siRNA control (see also Materials and Methods). Measures were performed

at different time points post-transfection and resulted from three independent biological

replicates. Two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons; * $p < 0.05$ and **** $p <$

$0.0001$.

**Figure 5: SERPINB4 forms a cooperative trimeric complex with TAZ and 14-3-3e in**

**living HEK293T cells.** **(A)** Scheme of bicolor BiFC illustrating expected Venus-and

Cerulean-like signals when considering the interaction of SERPINB4 with TAZ or 14-3-3e.

**(A')** Illustrative confocal acquisition showing the simultaneous interaction of SERPINB4 with

TAZ (green) or 14-3-3e (blue) in living HEK293T cells. **(A'')** Quantification of green and blue

fluorescent signals colocalizing in living HEK293T cells (from two independent biological

repliactes). **(B)** Scheme of BiFC performed between TAZ and SERPINB4 (green) when

affecting the expression of endogenous 14-3-3 proteins. **(B')** Illustrative confocal acquisition

of BiFC between TAZ and SERPINB4 (green) in the siRNA control (ctrl) condition or when

co-transfecting siRNA targeting endogenous *14-3-3e*, as indicated. Merge with Hoechst (blue)

and mCherry (green) stains for nuclei and transfection efficiency, respectively. **(B'')**

Quantification of the BiFC (normalized over transfection efficiency) between TAZ and

SERPINB4 with no siRNA (first column), control siRNA (second column) or siRNA against

*14-3-3e* (third column). **(C)** Scheme of BiFC performed between 14-3-3e and SERPINB4

(green) when co-expressing HA-tagged TAZ. **(C')** Illustrative confocal acquisition of BiFC

between 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 without (first column) or with HA-TAZ, as indicated. HA-

TAZ was revealed with an anti-HA antibody (gray) and mCherry (red) stains for transfection

efficiency. **(C'')** Quantification of the BiFC between14-3-3e and SERPINB4 in the absence

(first column) or presence (second column) of HA-TAZ. Statistical tests were performed with

one-way ANOVA from three biological replicates (ns: non-significant, ***$p < 0.001$,

**$p < 0.01$). Scale bar $= 20$ μm.

**Figure 6: Role of the E309 residue of TAZ as a critical interaction interface for**

**SERPINB4**

**(A)** Scheme of bicolor BiFC with the mutated TAZ$^{E309A}$ construct illustrating the expected loss

of Venus-like BiFC with the SERPINB4 construct and the preserved Cerulean-like BiFC

between SERPINB4 and 14-3-3e. **(A')** Illustrative confocal acquisition showing the loss of

BiFC between mutated TAZ$^{E309A}$ and SERPINB4 (green) and the preserved BiFC between

SERPINB4 and 14-3-3 (blue) in living HEK293T cells. mCherry (red) stains for transfection

efficiency in the merge picture. **(A'')** Quantification of the BiFC (normalized over transfection

efficiency) between wild type (1) or mutated (2) TAZ and SERPINB4, and between

SERPINB4 and 14-3-3e in the wild type (3) or mutated (4) TAZ co-transfection condition. (B)

Scheme of BiFC performed between 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 (green) when co-expressing HA-

tagged mutated form of TAZ. **(B')** Illustrative confocal acquisition of BiFC between 14-3-3e

and SERPINB4 without (first column) or with mutated HA-TAZ$^{E309A}$, as indicated. Mutated

HA-TAZ$^{E309A}$ was revealed with an anti-HA antibody (gray). mCherry (red) stains for

transfection efficiency. **(B'')** Quantification of the BiFC between 14-3-3e and SERPINB4 in

the absence (first column) or presence of wild type (second column) or mutated (third column)

HA-TAZ$^{E309A}$. **(C)** Scheme of BiFC performed between mutated TAZ$^{E309A}$ and SERPINB4

(green) when affecting the expression of endogenous 14-3-3 proteins. **(C')** Illustrative confocal

acquisition of BiFC between mutated TAZ$^{E309A}$ and SERPINB4 (green) in the siRNA control

(ctrl) condition or when co-transfecting siRNA targeting endogenous *14-3-3e*, as indicated.

Merge with Hoechst (blue) and mCherry (green) stains for nuclei and transfection efficiency,

respectively. **(C'')** Quantification of the BiFC (normalized over transfection efficiency)

between mutated TAZ$^{E309A}$ and SERPINB4 with no siRNA (first column), control siRNA

(second column) or siRNA against *14-3-3e* (third column). Statistical tests were performed

with one-way ANOVA from three biological replicates (ns: non-significant, **$p < 0.01$,

****$p < 0.0001$). Scale bar $= 20$ μm.

**Figure 7. A specific interaction mode underlies the formation of TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4**

**trimeric complexes.** The Glu309 of TAZ is a unique contact residue for SERPINB4, being

responsible of the formation of a cooperative trimeric complex with 14-3-3e. The trimeric

TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4 complex relies on specific interaction interfaces that are not used in

the dimeric complexes. Accordingly, the Glu309A mutation of TAZ allows the formation of a

dimeric complex with SERPINB4 but this dimeric complex is insensitive to 14-3-3e. Thus, the

binding of SERPINB4 to TAZ/14-3-3e leads to a strong remodeling of protein-protein

interactions. This remodeling could have incidence on the overall protein complex stability and

proliferation activity. Sites of contact are highlighted as well as TAZ-contacting residues with

14-3-3e and SERPINB4 in the dimeric and trimeric complexes (as deduced from AlphaFold

and Endscript predictions).

**Supplementary Figures**

**Supplementary Figure 1. Biotinylation activity and interactions of TAZ-TurboID in**

**HEK293T cells. (A)** Quantification of the SA-555 immunostaining in HEK293T cells

expressing TurboID or TAZ-TurboID, as indicated. **(B)** Quantification of the intensity of bands

revealed with the streptavidin staining in WB for TurboID and TAZ-TurboID, as indicated. **(C)**

Venn diagram for TAZ-TurboID specific interactions captured with the three biological

replicates (R1-R3). **(C')** Principal component analysis of TurboID and TAZ-TurboID

replicates. **(D)** Go term analysis of the 66 common interactions between TAZ-TurboID and the

known interactions of TAZ int the literature, and of the remaining 275 known interactions not

captured in this study. **(E)** Illustrative confocal acquisitions of BiFC between VN-Taz and new

candidate partners already known in the literature and fused to CC, as indicated. Hoechst stains

for nuclei in live HEK293T cells (blue). Scale bar = 20 μm.

**Supplementary Figure 2. Comparison between VN173 and VN155 for doing Bi-nano-ID.**

**(A)** Scheme of the complementation between VN155 or VN173 from Venus and CC from

Cerulean. The two complementation systems produce a Venus-like signal. **(B-B')** Comparison

of BiFC performed with VN173-TAZ (B) or VN155-TAZ (B'). BiFC was performed with CC-

14-3-3e or CC-TEAD2 in live HEK293T cells. Hoechst stains for nuclei (blue) and mCherry

(mCh) for transfection efficiency (red). **B''** Quantification of BiFC obtained with VN173-TAZ

or VN155-TAZ. BiFC was normalized over transfection efficiency in each condition.

Quantification was deduced from at least three biological replicates. Statistical tests were

performed with one-way ANOVA (****$p < 0.0001$). **(C)** Validation of the weak biotinylation

with BiFC performed with VN155-TAZ. Biotinylation is revealed with streptavidin (SA)

coupled to the 555 dye (red). Interaction between the fusion TAZ and 14-3-3e or TEAD2 is

revealed by BiFC (green). Dapi stains for nuclei (blue). Scale bar = 20 μm. **(C')** Quantification

of the biotinylation signal for each condition, as indicated. Quantification was obtained from

three biological replicates. Statistical tests were performed with one-way ANOVA

(****$p < 0.0001$).

**Supplementary Figure 3. Specificity of the csGBP nanobody for the BiFC. (A)** Fluorescent

immunostaining with SA-55 (red) and anti-GFP (green) recognizing the VN and CC fragment

with single construct transfection, as indicated. DAPI (blue) stains for nuclei. **(A')**

Quantification of the biotinylation signal when compared to signals obtained with BiFC

complexes. Quantification was obtained from three biological replicates. Statistical tests

performed with one-way ANOVA (****$p < 0.0001$).

**Supplementary Figure 4.** Western blots of biotinylated proteins extracted from HEK293T

cells upon transfection with the different constructs, as indicated. (A) Input fraction of extracted

proteins revealed on WB probed by streptavidin, GFP and H3 antibodies. Colored arrowheads

indicate the band corresponding to VN173-TAZ (blue arrowhead), CC-14-3-3e (magenta

arrowhead) and CC-TEAD2 (orange arrowhead). (A') Histogram showing the quantification

of the biotinylation bands in each condition, as indicated. The quantification was deduced by

subtracting the AP band with the corresponding input band. Statistical tests were performed

with one-way ANOVA from three biological replicates (****$p < 0.0001$, *$p < 0.05$).

**Supplementary Figure 5. Filtering steps for identifying TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2**

**interactomes.** Filter 1 was applied to remove BiFC interaction candidates that were also found

with dsGBP-TurboID alone (comparing BiFC+csGBP-TurboID to csGBP-TurboID alone in

the three replicates). Filter 2 identified interactions obtained with VN173-TAZ alone when

compared to the dsGBP-TurboID condition in each replicate. Filter 3 identified BiFC-specific

interactions when removing interactions found with csGBP-TurboID alone (filter 1) and VN-

TAZ alone (filter 2). Only interactions found in 2 or 3 replicates were considered. This filtering

was applied for TAZ/14-3-3e (upper panel) and TAZ/TEAD2 (lower panel) complexes, leading

to the identification of 96 and 42 specific interactions, respectively.

**Supplementary Figure 6. Molecular clustering of TAZ-TurboID, TAZ/14-3-3e and**

**TAZ/TEAD2 interactomes.**

**Supplementary Figure 7. Functional clustering of TAZ-TurboID, TAZ/14-3-3e and**

**TAZ/TEAD2 interactomes.** The clustering was based on GO terms that were 10 times

enriched at the minimum. Specific TAZ/14-3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 Go term enrichments are
shown in the Fig. 3.

**Supplementary Figure 8. (A)** Protein sequence alignment of SERPINB3 and SERPINB4. **(B)**
Effect of siRNAs targeting *SERPINB3* and *SERPINB4* on endogenous *SERPINB3* in HS27A
cells. **(C)** Effect of siRNAs targeting *SERPINB3* and *SERPINB4* on endogenous *SERPINB4* in
HS27A cells. **(D)** Effect of siRNAs targeting *14-3-3* on endogenous *SERPINB4* expression in
HS27A cells. **(E)** Effect of siRNAs targeting *TAZ* on endogenous *SERPINB4* expression in
HS27A cells. **(F)** Effect of siRNAs targeting *14-3-3* on endogenous *SERPINB4* expression in
HEK293T cells. **(G-G'')** Effects of siRNAs targeting *TAZ* (G), *14-3-3e* (G') or *SERPINB3/B4*
(G'') on endogenous *TAZ* expression in HS27A cells. **(H)** Effects of siRNAs targeting *14-3-3e*
on endogenous *TAZ* expression in HEK293T cells. **(I-I'')** Effects of siRNAs targeting *TAZ* (I),
*14-3-3e* (I') or *SERPINB3/B4* (I'') on endogenous *14-3-3e* expression in HS27A cells. **(J)**
Effects of siRNAs targeting *14-3-3e* on endogenous *14-3-3e* expression in HEK293T cells.
Graphs result from the quantification of RTqPCR from three biological replicates in each
condition. Statistical tests were performed with one-way ANOVA (ns: non-significant,
**$p < 0.01$, ****$p < 0.0001$).

**Supplementary Figure 9. The residue Glu309 of TAZ is critical to recruit SERPINB4 in**
**the context of the trimeric association with 14-3-3e. (A)** AlphaFold prediction of TAZ/14-
3-3e/SERPINB4 trimeric complex. Enlargement highlights key residues of TAZ involved in
the interaction with SERPINB4 (Glu309) and 14-3-3e (Asp308). **(B)** Endscript-2 prediction of
all contacts established between the three partners in the TAZ/14-3-3e/SERPINB4 trimeric
complex (https://endscript.ibcp.fr/ESPript/ENDscript/index.php). Accessibility (acc, white to
cyan and blue indicates not to mildly or highly accessible, respectively), hydrophobicity (hyd)
and beta-sheet or alpha-helical structures are indicated below or above the sequence. Residues
involved in contacts inferior to 3,3A or in contact between 3,3 and 5A are highlighted with a
red or black letter, respectively. **(C)** Prediction of disordered regions (red line above the gray
line), ordered domain (blue box), short linear interaction motifs (violet boxes) and LAT1-
phosphorylation sites in TAZ protein sequence. Adapted from ELM
(http://elm.eu.org/search.html) and IUPred2A (https://iupred2a.elte.hu/). **(D-D')**
Quantification of wild type or mutated TAZ expression in HEK293T cells. VN-fusion
constructs were revealed with anti-GFP (green). Dapi stains for nuclei (D). Quantification from
three biological replicates shows similar expression levels of wild type and mutated VN-fusion

TAZ constructs (D'). Statistical tests were performed with one-way ANOVA

(****$p < 0.0001$). **(E-E').** Quantification of normalized BiFC (over mCherry, red) between

SERPINB4 and wild type TAZ (green, column 1 in E') and 14-3-3e (blue, column 2 in E').

**Supplementary Figure 10. AlphaFold (A) and Endscript2 (B) prediction of TAZ/14-3-3e**

**dimeric protein complex.**

**Supplementary Figure 11. AlphaFold (A) and Endscript2 (B) prediction of**

**TAZ/SERPINB4 dimeric protein complex.**

**Supplementary Figure 12. AlphaFold (A) and Endscript2 (B) prediction of 14-3-**

**3e/SERPINB4 dimeric protein complex.**

**Supplementary Tables**

**Supplementary Table 1. RNA-seq data of HEK293T cells.**

**Supplementary Table 2. Mass spectrometry data and GO term enrichment for TAZ-**

**TurboID**

**Supplementary Table 3. Mass spectrometry data and GO term enrichment for TAZ/14-**

**3-3e and TAZ/TEAD2 complexes**

**Supplementary Table 4. RNA-seq data of HS27A cells.**

**Supplementary Table 5. Sequences of oligonucleotides and primers used in this study for**

**cloning and RTqPCRs**

**Authors contribution**

S.M. designed the study. N.H.S. performed the experiments and acquired the data. J.C. and

N.H.S., with the support of S.M. and F.D., were responsible of proteomics data analyses. N.H.S

and L.G. analyzed the RNA-seq data. Y.J. was responsible for the cytoscape network

illustration. S.M. and N.H.S. wrote the paper and J.C., L.G. and F.D. amended it.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7