The insulin receptor adaptor IRS2 is an APC/C substrate that promotes cell cycle

protein expression and a robust spindle assembly checkpoint

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Summary

Insulin receptor substrate 2 (IRS2) is an essential adaptor that mediates signaling

downstream of the insulin receptor and other receptor tyrosine kinases. Transduction

through IRS2-dependent pathways is important for coordinating metabolic homeostasis,

and dysregulation of IRS2 causes systemic insulin signaling defects. Despite the

importance of maintaining proper IRS2 abundance, little is known about what factors

mediate its protein stability. We conducted an unbiased proteomic screen to uncover

novel substrates of the Anaphase Promoting Complex/Cyclosome (APC/C), a ubiquitin

ligase that controls the abundance of key cell cycle regulators. Surprisingly, we found that

IRS2 levels are regulated by APC/C activity and that IRS2 is a direct APC/C target in G_1.

Consistent with the APC/C's role in degrading cell cycle regulators, we find that IRS2-null

cells are deficient in proteins involved in cell cycle progression and display spindle

assembly checkpoint defects during M-phase. Together, these findings reveal a new

pathway for IRS2 turnover and indicate that IRS2 is a critical component of the cell cycle

control system in addition to acting as an essential metabolic regulator.

Keywords

Anaphase-Promoting Complex/Cyclosome; ubiquitin; cell cycle; insulin signaling

pathway; G_1

Introduction

The insulin and insulin-like growth factor 1 receptors (IR/IGF1R) are receptor tyrosine kinases that control metabolism, differentiation, and growth. Upon ligand binding at the cell surface, the activated IR/IGF1R undergoes a conformational change that allows it to auto-phosphorylate tyrosine residues on its cytoplasmic subunits (Haeusler et al., 2017). This facilitates the recruitment and phosphorylation of insulin receptor substrate (IRS) proteins, which serve as scaffolds to initiate downstream signaling (Copps and White, 2012). Two major pathways that are stimulated by this cascade are the PI3K-AKT and Ras-Raf-MAPK pathways, which coordinate metabolic homeostasis and growth, among other functions (Haeusler et al., 2017).

The most physiologically important and ubiquitously expressed IRS proteins are IRS1 and IRS2. Though IRS1 and IRS2 share similar structural and functional features, they have complementary roles and expression patterns that depend on tissue type and physiological state (Haeusler et al., 2017). These differences are illustrated by divergent phenotypes in knockout mice: whereas IRS1 knockout mice exhibit insulin resistance that is compensated by increased pancreatic β cell mass, IRS2 knockout mice exhibit β cell failure and resultant diabetes (Lavin et al., 2016). Distinct roles for IRS1 and IRS2 can also be observed within the same tissue. For example, in skeletal muscle, IRS1 is required for glucose uptake and metabolism, whereas IRS2 is important for lipid uptake and metabolism (Bouzakri et al., 2006; Long et al., 2011). Furthermore, recent work has shown that the ratio of IRS1 to IRS2 is important for hepatic glucose metabolism (Besse-Patin et al., 2019). Thus, maintaining proper IRS1 and IRS2 levels is critical for systemic and cellular homeostasis.

The ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis of IRS proteins is important for restraining signaling through the IR/IGF1R. For example, both IRS proteins are targeted for proteasomal destruction following persistent insulin or IGF1 stimulation in a negative feedback loop that attenuates PI3K-AKT signaling (Copps and White, 2012; Scheufele et al., 2014). In mice, removal of a ubiquitin ligase that is responsible for IGF1-induced degradation of IRS1 enhances insulin sensitivity and increases plasma glucose clearance (Scheufele et al., 2014). Though several ubiquitin ligases have been reported to control IRS1's proteasome-dependent degradation (Nakao et al., 2009; Rui et al., 2002; Shi et

al., 2011; Xu et al., 2008; Yi et al., 2013), only SOCS1/3 have been implicated in driving

IRS2 turnover (Rui et al., 2002). This is an intriguing disparity because hepatic IRS1

remains stable between fasting and feeding whereas IRS2 levels drop after feeding

(Kubota et al., 2008), suggesting that IRS2 is less stable than IRS1 in some physiological

contexts. Because SOCS1/3 also targets IRS1, there are no reports of ubiquitin ligases

that target IRS2 but not IRS1, leaving a gap in our knowledge of how IRS1 and IRS2 are

differentially regulated by the ubiquitin proteasome system.

The Anaphase-Promoting Complex/Cyclosome (APC/C) is a 1.2 mDa ubiquitin

ligase that targets key cell cycle related proteins for destruction by the proteasome (Alfieri

et al., 2017; Chang and Barford, 2014). To transfer ubiquitin to its substrates, the APC/C

works with one of two co-activators: Cdc20 during M-phase or Cdh1 during G_1. These co-

activators stimulate the catalytic activity of the APC/C and facilitate substrate recognition.

APC/C^{Cdc20} and APC/C^{Cdh1} recognize substrates via short degron motifs in unstructured

protein regions called destruction boxes (D-boxes) and KEN-boxes. An additional degron,

called the ABBA motif, is used by APC/C^{Cdc20} only (Alfieri et al., 2017; Chang and Barford,

2014; Davey and Morgan, 2016).

To probe the substrate landscape of the APC/C, we conducted an unbiased

proteomic screen by acutely blocking APC/C^{Cdh1} activity with small molecule APC/C

inhibitors (apcin and proTAME) (Sackton et al., 2014; Zeng et al., 2010) in G_1 cells. Using

this approach, we uncovered diverse putative APC/C^{Cdh1} substrates, including IRS2. We

demonstrate that IRS2, but not IRS1, is a direct target of APC/C^{Cdh1}, thereby establishing

a novel mode by which IRS1 and IRS2 are differentially regulated. Using IRS2 knockout

cell lines, we show that IRS2 is important for the expression of proteins involved in cell

cycle progression. We further show that genetic deletion of IRS2 perturbs spindle

assembly checkpoint function. Taken together, these data establish a role for IRS2 in

normal cell cycle progression, revealing new connections between an essential

component of the growth factor signaling network and cell cycle regulation.

Results

Chemical proteomics reveals proteins whose abundances are APC/C^{Cdh1} regulated

To identify novel substrates and pathways regulated by APC/C^{Cdh1}, we designed an experiment that coupled small molecule inhibition of the APC/C in G$_1$ cells to high resolution tandem mass tag (TMT)-based quantitative proteomics (**Figure 1A**). Blocking Cdk4/6 activity inhibits Rb phosphorylation, causing cells to arrest at the G$_1$ restriction point (Ezhevsky et al., 1997). Thus, to generate a homogeneous population of G$_1$ cells, we treated asynchronous hTERT-RPE1 cells bearing fluorescent ubiquitination-based cell cycle indicator (FUCCI) constructs (Sakaue-Sawano et al., 2008) with the Cdk4/6 inhibitor palbociclib. Following G$_1$ arrest, cells were acutely treated with a combination of APC/C inhibitors (6 µM proTAME + 50 µM apcin) or vehicle (DMSO) for 8 hours. Cells were then collected for proteomic analysis with the expectation that APC/C-regulated proteins would be stabilized in cells treated with APC/C inhibitors compared to control cells (**Figure 1A**). The combined use of proTAME and apcin results in robust inhibition of the APC/C (Sackton et al., 2014), which guided our decision to use this treatment scheme. Moreover, this scheme was designed to specifically identify APC/C^{Cdh1} substrates rather than APC/C^{Cdc20} substrates since APC/C^{Cdh1} degrades Cdc20 during G$_1$ phase (Prinz et al., 1998). Illustrating this point, Cdc20 was undetectable in G$_1$ palbociclib-arrested cells (**Figure 1B**).

The experimental approach outlined in **Figure 1A** was validated using the FUCCI reporter system. This system relies on the expression of two stably integrated fluorescent fusion proteins—mAG1-geminin (1-110) and mCherry-Cdt1 (30-120)—to monitor the activity of endogenous cell cycle-related ubiquitin ligases APC/C^{Cdh1} and SCF^{Skp2}, respectively (Sakaue-Sawano et al., 2008). As expected, cells treated with palbociclib lost mAG1-geminin (1-110) protein expression over time due to APC/C^{Cdh1} activity while mCherry-Cdt1 (30-120) was stabilized, indicating G$_1$ arrest (**Figures S1A-S1B**). The addition of APC/C inhibitors in palbociclib-arrested cells rescued mAG1-geminin (1-110) levels (**Figures S1C-S1D**), confirming that this workflow stabilizes APC/C targets.

Using TMT-coupled quantitative proteomics, we identified and quantified relative abundances for ~8000 human proteins in G$_1$-arrested cells treated with or without APC/C inhibitors in biological triplicate (**Supplementary Table S1**). Notably, we detected 38 previously reported APC/C substrates in our dataset (**Figures 1C-1D; Supplementary Table S2).** Of these, 22 increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) under conditions of APC/C

inhibition. As an internal control, we detected a significant increase ($p = 3.2 \times 10^{-5}$) in the

abundance of peptides derived from the N-terminal 110 amino acids of geminin (GMNN).

These residues are shared with the mAG1-geminin (1-110) reporter expressed in this cell

line, confirming earlier fluorescence-based validation of our experimental system.

While the majority of the previously reported APC/C^{Cdh1} substrates that were

quantified in our G$_1$ proteomic experiment were stabilized following APC/C inhibition,

some remained constant. There are several possible explanations for this result. First, for

proteins that were identified based on a small number of peptides, inadequate

quantification may have resulted in inaccurate abundance assignments. Second, some

substrates may be APC/C^{Cdh1}-accessible only under conditions or in tissue types that

were not well modeled by the experimental parameters that we used. Third, some

proteins (e.g. FBXW5, ZC3HC1) (Klitzing et al., 2011; Puklowski et al., 2011) were

proposed to be APC/C^{Cdh1} substrates based on results obtained in Cdh1 overexpression

systems, indicating that APC/C^{Cdh1} activity may be sufficient but not necessary to control

their levels.

Of the 38 previously reported APC/C substrates that we identified, the median fold

change under APC/C inhibition compared to DMSO was 1.147. Based on this, to identify

new APC/C substrates, we screened for proteins that: (1) had a fold change ≥1.147 under

APC/C inhibition, (2) were identified and quantified based on >1 peptide, and (3) had a *p*-

value < 0.05 across the three biological replicates measured in this experiment. This

narrowed our analysis to a subset of 204 proteins (**Supplementary Table S3**). Because

the APC/C recognizes substrates based on D-box motifs (RxxL or the extended motif

RxxLxxxxN) and KEN-box motifs (KEN), we used the SLiMSearch (Short Linear Motif

Search) degron prediction tool(Davey and Morgan, 2016; Krystkowiak and Davey, 2017)

to scan this 204-protein subset for proteins that contain these sequences. In order to

classify a putative D- or KEN-box sequence as a probable physiological degron, we

applied the following restrictions on the SLiMSearch (Krystkowiak and Davey, 2017)

parameters: (1) similarity score ≥ 0.75; (2) consensus similarity is medium or high; (3)

disorder score ≥ 0.4; (4) the putative degron must be intracellular and exist on a non-

secreted protein. These cutoffs were determined based on those met by previously

validated APC/C substrates (including those not identified in our dataset) and by the

physical restriction that APC/C activity occurs within the cell. Based on these thresholds,

our analysis identified 26 proteins as potential D- and KEN-box containing APC/C^{Cdh1}

substrates (**Table 1, Figure 1D**). Of these 26 proteins, 11 have previously been reported

as direct APC/C substrates, validating internally that this analysis was useful for

identifying APC/C substrates.

IRS2 levels are controlled by Cdh1 in a proteasome-dependent manner

Examining our 26-protein putative substrate list, we focused our attention on

IRS2—one of two major adaptors that promotes signaling through the insulin and insulin-

like growth factor 1 receptors (IR/IGF1R). Using conditions identical to those under which

the proteomics experiment was conducted, we validated that IRS2 was upregulated at

the protein level under APC/C inhibition in G_1-arrested RPE1 cells by immunoblot (**Figure**

2A). Seeking to further validate this result in a distinct physiological context, we asked

whether APC/C inhibition in terminally differentiated C_2C_{12} myotubes also increases IRS2

protein abundance. C_2C_{12} myoblasts easily differentiate into multinucleated myotubes

following serum withdrawal and supplementation with growth factors (**Figures S2A-S2B**).

To validate that the APC/C is active in this system, we transfected C_2C_{12} myoblasts with

a model APC/C substrate (N-terminal fragment of cyclin B1 fused to EGFP; NT-CycB-

GFP), allowed cells to differentiate into myotubes, and found that APC/C inhibition

stabilized NT-CycB-GFP (**Figure S2C**). Similarly, we found that acute APC/C inhibition in

myotubes also resulted in an accumulation of IRS2 protein (**Figure 2B**), thereby validating

this finding from our G_1 experiment in RPE1 cells in an independent system.

To exclude the possibility that the change in IRS2 abundance that we observed

following APC/C inhibition was due to off-target effects of the small molecule APC/C

inhibitors, we depleted Cdh1 using RNAi to block APC/C^{Cdh1} activity in RPE1, C_2C_{12}, and

HeLa cells. In all three cell lines, we found that Cdh1 knockdown caused an accumulation

of endogenous IRS2 compared to control-transfected cells (**Figure 2C-2E**).

We next sought to confirm that the increase in IRS2 protein observed under APC/C

inhibition was due to impaired targeting of IRS2 to the proteasome. To test this, we

arrested RPE1 cells in G_1 using palbociclib and acutely treated them with APC/C inhibitors

and/or a proteasome inhibitor (MG132) for 8 hours. This experiment revealed that APC/C

inhibition or proteasome inhibition each resulted in an accumulation of IRS2 (**Figure 2F**).

Notably, co-inhibition of the APC/C and the proteasome did not result in additional

stabilization of IRS2, indicating that the increase in IRS2 we observed under APC/C

inhibition was solely a consequence of its impaired ubiquitination and proteasomal

degradation.

IRS2 levels and phosphorylation fluctuate in a cell-cycle dependent manner

To test whether IRS2 levels fluctuate during the cell cycle as expected for an

APC/C substrate, we synchronized HeLa cells in early S-phase by double thymidine block

and tracked IRS2 protein abundance leading into mitotic entry by immunoblot (**Figure**

3A). As is typical for known APC/C substrates, IRS2 levels correlated with cyclin B1

abundance and APC3 phosphorylation. To assess IRS2 levels at mitotic exit, we

thymidine-nocodazole synchronized HeLa cells, released them into prometaphase, and

tracked IRS2's abundance through mitotic exit (**Figure 3B**). Again, IRS2 protein

abundance correlated with cyclin B1 levels and APC3 phosphorylation. The same

behavior was observed in RPE1 cells that were synchronized in late G_2 by RO3306

treatment (Cdk1 inhibition) and tracked over the course of progression through M-phase

and into G_1 (**Figure 3C**). Based on these data, we conclude that IRS2 protein levels

fluctuate in a cell cycle dependent manner that is consistent with other known APC/C

substrates.

In agreement with previous reports of mitotic phosphorylation of IRS2 by Plk1

(Chen et al., 2015), our cell cycle analysis experiments revealed that IRS2 displays a

marked electrophoretic mobility shift consistent with mitotic phosphorylation. This may

owe, at least in part, to Cdk1 activity given that HeLa cells released from a double

thymidine block into Cdk1 inhibitor RO3306 did not display an observable shift in IRS2

mobility as compared to those released into control (DMSO) treatment (**Figure S3**). IRS2

abundance still peaked normally at this time point in the presence of RO3306, suggesting

that the increase in IRS2 abundance was not dependent on Cdk1 activity. Together, these

results support previous findings (Chen et al., 2015) that IRS2 is subject to cell-cycle

dependent phosphorylation and that its abundance peaks in M-phase and falls in early

G_1 in multiple cell lines.

Cdh1 control of IRS2 degradation depends on an IRS2 D-box motif

Based on its SLiMSearch prediction, IRS2 contains four minimal D-box motifs

(RxxL), one extended D-box motif (RxxLxxxxN) and no KEN-box motifs. Of the four

minimal D-box motifs, none bear strong consensus similarity to previously validated D-

box motifs, and one exists in a highly structured region of the protein (Krystkowiak and

Davey, 2017). Because of its high SLiMSearch parameter scores (**Table 1**), we focused

our efforts on determining whether the extended D-box motif located in the C-terminal

third of IRS2 is required for its APC/C^{Cdh1} dependent stability. IRS2's extended D-box

(amino acids 972-980 in human IRS2) is highly conserved in placental mammals despite

overall divergence in much of the C-terminus (**Figure 4A**), suggesting that this sequence

likely has a conserved function.

To test whether IRS2's full D-box is relevant for its Cdh1-dependent degradation,

we generated a mutant IRS2 construct bearing an R972A mutation (ΔD), which was

expected to abrogate its function as a D-box (Glotzer et al., 1991). Using RPE1 cells

stably expressing C-terminally HA-tagged IRS2-WT or IRS2-ΔD, we found that APC/C

inhibition following G_1 arrest caused accumulation of IRS2-WT but not IRS2-ΔD (**Figure**

4B). The degree of accumulation of the WT protein depended on the dose of APC/C

inhibitors used (**Figure S4A**). We were moreover able to repeat this result in terminally

differentiated C_2C_{12} myotubes that stably expressed doxycycline-inducible, C-terminally

HA-tagged IRS2-WT or IRS2-ΔD constructs that were treated with APC/C inhibitors

(**Figure 4C**).

To further validate the Cdh1-dependence of IRS2's D-box motif, we asked whether

Cdh1 knockdown by siRNA could stabilize the IRS2-ΔD protein. Using asynchronous

RPE1 cells stably expressing C-terminally HA-tagged IRS2-WT and IRS2-ΔD, we found

that Cdh1 knockdown by siRNA caused an accumulation of IRS2-WT relative to control-

transfected cells but not IRS2-ΔD (**Figure 4D**). This result was repeated in HeLa cells

stably expressing N-terminally FLAG-HA-tagged IRS2-WT and IRS2-ΔD constructs

subject to the same conditions (**Figure 4E**).

The stable cell lines described above express tagged IRS2 variants at low levels

comparable to the endogenous protein (**Figure S4B**), making it unlikely that the observed

effects were protein overexpression artifacts. Notably, IRS1 (the other primary adaptor

protein for the IGF1R and IR) shares 75% sequence homology with IRS2's N-terminus
and 35% homology with its C-terminus (Sun et al., 1995) but does not share the D-box
motif found in IRS2's C-terminus (**Figure 4F**). In keeping with our hypothesis that Cdh1-
mediated control of IRS2 is D-box dependent, IRS1 levels did not increase in G_1-arrested
RPE1 cells treated with APC/C inhibitors as measured by either mass spectrometry
(**Figure 4G**) or immunoblot (**Figure 4H**). Furthermore, while it did display a change in
electrophoretic mobility compatible with mitotic phosphorylation, unlike IRS2, it did not
decrease in abundance at mitotic exit in RPE1 cells (**Figure 4I**). Taken together, the
findings described above indicate that APC/C^{Cdh1} controls IRS2 levels in manner that is
dependent upon its C-terminal D-box motif.
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IRS2 is required for normal expression of many proteins involved in mitosis
Many reported APC/C^{Cdh1} substrates (including several of those identified in our
initial proteomics screen) are required for normal cell cycle progression. Because
IR/IGF1R transduction promotes a variety of transcriptional programs (Copps and White,
2012), we hypothesized that IRS2 might promote the expression of proteins involved in
cell cycle control. To investigate this, we generated two IRS2 knockout RPE1 cell lines
using CRISPR/Cas9 (**Figure 5A)**, henceforth referred to as ΔIRS2-A and ΔIRS2-B. Using
these cells, we again employed TMT-coupled quantitative proteomics. The proteomes of
wild-type, ΔIRS2-A, and ΔIRS2-B cell lines were analyzed in biological triplicate, and
relative abundances were ascertained based on TMT reporter ion signal-to-noise values.
Hierarchical clustering indicated that the proteomes of the two knockout cell lines
analyzed were more similar to each other than either knockout cell line was to wild-type
(**Figure S5A**), indicating that deletion of IRS2 produced similar effects in both cell lines.
In order to exclude aberrancies that may have accrued during the CRISPR process or as
a result of clonal expansion, we focused the scope of our analysis to proteins that
changed significantly ($p < 0.05$) by more than 20% in both IRS2 knockout clones relative
to the WT cell line (**Figures 5B-5C**). We found 239 proteins that decreased by >20% in
both IRS2 knockout lines relative to the wild type line and 300 proteins that increased by
>20% (**Figures 5B-5C, S5B**).

We conducted gene enrichment analysis of the proteins that increased (**Figure S5C**) or decreased (**Figure 5D**) by >20% in both knockout cell lines relative to wild type cells. Of the 239 proteins that were depleted by >20% in both knockout cell lines, we found a statistical over-representation of proteins participating in metabolic processes characteristic of IR signal transduction. Notably, we also found an over-representation of proteins involved in mitotic cell cycle regulation in this subset (**Figure 5D**). This suite of proteins included regulators of mitotic entry and exit as well as several factors involved in spindle assembly (**Figure 5E**). Consistent with the fact that strong depletion of most critical cell cycle regulators renders cells inviable, most of the observed changes in cell cycle-related genes were relatively modest (**Figure S5D**). Based on these data, we conclude that IRS2 is important for promoting the expression of a suite of proteins involved in orchestrating the mitotic cell cycle, and deletion of IRS2 stunts their expression in RPE1 cells.

IRS2 expression promotes a functional spindle assembly checkpoint

        Because many of the factors that were depleted in IRS2 knockout cell lines are known to be involved in regulating spindle assembly and mitotic exit, we asked whether IRS2 knockout cell lines display phenotypic differences from wild-type cells in terms of spindle assembly checkpoint function. Using a high content nuclear imaging assay to measure mitotic fraction based on DAPI staining intensity (Sackton et al., 2014), we asked whether IRS2 knockout cell lines display mitotic arrest differences compared to wild-type cells when treated with spindle poisons. Wild-type cells treated with nocodazole (a microtubule destabilizing agent) arrested in mitosis in a dose-dependent manner, whereas both IRS2 knockout cell lines displayed depressed mitotic arrest (**Figure 6A, Figure S6A**). This was also true to a lesser extent in the presence of S-trityl-L-cysteine (STLC), an Eg5 inhibitor (**Figure 6A**).

        Using time lapse video microscopy, we found that untreated IRS2 knockout cell lines had no significant alteration in mitotic duration compared to wild-type cells (**Figure S6B**). In contrast, both IRS2 knockout cell lines had a significantly shorter mitotic duration compared to wild-type cells ($p < 0.0001$ in both cases) when treated with 300 nM nocodazole (**Figure 6B**). Importantly, wild-type cells expressing mAG1-geminin (1-101)—

an APC/C^{Cdc20} substrate that is stabilized by the spindle assembly checkpoint (Clijsters

et al., 2013)— display an accumulation of mAG1 fluorescence early in mitotic arrest,

consistent with checkpoint-mediated blockade of APC/C^{Cdc20}. In contrast, both IRS2

knockout cell lines display depressed mAG1 accumulation, consistent with higher

APC/C^{Cdc20} activity due to a weakened checkpoint (**Figure 6C**). This phenotype, along

with the shorter mitotic duration and lower mitotic fraction in the presence of spindle

poisons, is consistent with cells bearing a defective mitotic spindle assembly checkpoint.

Based on these data, we conclude that IRS2 promotes a functional spindle assembly

checkpoint in RPE1 cells.

Discussion

Based on the results of an unbiased proteomic screen, we provide evidence that

IRS2, a critical mediator of IR/IGF1R signaling, is a direct APC/C^{Cdh1} substrate. We

demonstrate that IRS2 is stabilized by APC/C inhibition and Cdh1 knockdown in multiple

cell types and that this depends on IRS2's C-terminal D-box motif. In contrast, we find

that IRS1, a closely related IRS2 paralog that lacks a D-box, is not subject to regulation

by the APC/C. Taken together, these results show that APC/C activity directly controls

IRS2 levels in a D-box dependent manner.

We identified a high-mobility form of IRS2 that accumulates under APC/C

inhibition, likely corresponding to a difference in phosphorylation given that IRS2 has

~150 annotated threonine, serine, and tyrosine phosphorylation sites (Hornbeck et al.,

2015). This suggests that IRS2's APC/C-dependent stability could be regulated by

phosphorylation, possibly at sites near or within the D-box, which is an intriguing topic for

future study. Consistent with this, IRS2 phosphorylation is known to impact its stability in

other contexts, including following prolonged exposure to insulin or following mTOR

activation (Copps and White, 2012). Furthermore, there is a strong precedent for

phospho-regulation of APC/C degrons modulating substrate stability under specific

conditions (Holt, 2012; Mailand and Diffley, 2005; Wang et al., 2001).

Many APC/C substrates are involved in cell cycle regulation, and previous studies

have suggested a relationship between IRS2 and cell cycle progression. IRS2 can

stimulate cell cycle entry via Cdk4 activation (Chirivella et al., 2017) and is important for

sustaining proliferation in 32D myeloid cells and pancreatic β cells (Folli et al., 2011; Wu

et al., 2009).　Based on these findings and our identification of IRS2 as an APC/C

substrate, we further investigated the role of IRS2 in regulating cell division. Proteomic

analyses of RPE1 cells lacking IRS2 reveal lower expression of well-characterized cell

cycle proteins compared to wild-type cells. Because these proteins are involved in critical

processes like cytokinesis, DNA replication, cell cycle transitions, and spindle assembly,

we investigated whether IRS2 knockout cell lines display cell cycle progression defects.

We find that cells lacking IRS2 have an impaired ability to arrest following spindle

assembly checkpoint activation in M-phase, thereby implicating IRS2 in promoting a

functional spindle assembly checkpoint.

Despite the well-established importance of sustained IRS2 levels in many tissue

types, little is known about what factors regulate its turnover. While several distinct

ubiquitin ligases control IRS1 stability (Fbxw8, Cbl-b, Fbxo40, SOCS1/3, MG53, and

others) (Nakao et al., 2009; Rui et al., 2002; Shi et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2008; Yi et al.,

2013), only SOCS1/3 have been implicated in the ubiquitin mediated proteolysis of IRS2

(Rui et al., 2002) until now. Thus, our work establishes APC/C^{Cdh1} as the first known

ubiquitin ligase that targets IRS2 but not IRS1. Furthermore, our results suggest that

APC/C^{Cdh1}-mediated IRS2 degradation is relevant in broad biological contexts since we

were able to demonstrate this mechanism of regulation in multiple cell lines.

Over the past several years, a number of connections between growth factor

signaling and APC/C-mediated regulation have emerged. SKIL/SnoN, an APC/C

substrate involved in TGFβ signaling, implicates APC/C activity in modulating the

expression of TGFβ target genes (Wan et al., 2001).　Another APC/C substrate, CUEDC2,

controls the stability of the progesterone receptor (Zhang et al., 2007). Regarding

IR/IGF1R signaling, connections to APC/C-mediated regulation have been more opaque.

Multiple reports have shown that Cdh1 interacts with PTEN, a phosphatase that

antagonizes signal transduction through the IR pathway by dephosphorylating

phosphoinositide-3,4,5-triphosphate (PIP$_3$) (Choi et al., 2014; Song et al., 2011). Others

have demonstrated that components of the mitotic checkpoint complex (which inhibit

APC/C^{Cdc20}) potentiates IR signaling via IR endocytosis (Choi et al., 2019; Choi et al.,

2016). Despite these links, there have been no reports of direct APC/C substrates that
are involved in IR signaling until now.

Based on the data presented here, we propose a model (**Figure 7**) in which IRS2's
APC/C-mediated degradation in G_1 serves to limit IRS2-dependent signaling during G_1.
Upon APC/C inactivation at the G_1/S boundary, IRS2 is able to accumulate and stimulate
signaling required for normal progression through the latter stages of the cell cycle,
including the expression of proteins required for mitotic spindle checkpoint function. This
model is consistent with previous studies that implicate IRS2 in promoting the expression
of cell cycle-related genes, including mitotic cyclins (A and B) in mouse granulosa cells
(Lei et al., 2018). Furthermore, IR signal transduction promotes the expression of Plk1 (a
mitotic kinase) and CENP-A (a centromere protein) in β cells through a mechanism that
appears to depend on IRS2 rather than IRS1 (Folli et al., 2011; Shirakawa et al., 2017).

Our findings suggest that APC/C^{Cdh1} modulates IRS2-dependent signaling but not
IRS1-dependent pathways. In IRS2-deficient mice with consequent type 2 diabetes, some
have attributed the reduced β cell mass to a failure of β cells to re-enter the cell cycle
following division (Folli et al., 2011). Our findings that APC/C^{Cdh1} inhibition stabilizes IRS2
and that IRS2 promotes the expression of cell cycle regulatory proteins, coupled with data
from others showing that IRS2 can stimulate cell cycle entry (Chirivella et al., 2017),
suggest that APC/C^{Cdh1} inhibition may represent a possible approach for stimulating
proliferation in quiescent β cells via the stabilization of IRS2.

Acknowledgements
We thank the ICCB-Longwood Screening Facility at Harvard Medical School for
assistance with high content imaging assays and the Nikon Imaging Facility at Harvard
Medical School for assistance with time lapse and fluorescence microscopy. We thank
Kyle Copps, Pere Puigserver, and Christine Vogel for feedback on the manuscript. This
work was funded by NIH grant 1R35GM127032 to R.W.K.

Author Contributions
S.M. designed, performed, and analyzed all experiments aimed at identifying new APC/C
substrates in RPE1 cells. S.M. performed all experiments characterizing IRS2 as an

APC/C substrate. S.M. generated all recombinant cell lines used in this study and the

IRS2 CRISPR knockout cell lines. S.M. characterized mitotic arrest defects in IRS2

CRISPR knockout cell lines using time lapse microscopy and high-content imaging

assays. S.M. prepared all samples for mass spectrometry with assistance from Q.Y.

Q.Y. and S.P.G. performed mass spectrometry analysis of G_1 RPE1 cells treated with

APC/C inhibitors and IRS2 CRISPR knockout cell lines. Q.Y. and S.P.G. provided

reagents.

R.W.K. assisted with experimental design and data analysis.

S.M. and R.W.K. conceived of the project and wrote the manuscript with input from both

other authors.

Declaration of Interests

The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Main Figure Legends

Figure 1: *High resolution chemical proteomics reveals proteins whose abundances are*

APC/C regulated.

(A) Workflow for the chemical proteomics experiment described in this study.

Asynchronous RPE1 cells were arrested in 1 μM palbociclib (a Cdk4/6 inhibitor) for

20 hours, at which point they were acutely treated with either DMSO or a combination

of 6 μM proTAME + 50 μM apcin (referred to as "APC/C inhibitors" or APCi). Cells

were then collected at time 0 (t_0, the time of drug addition) or 8 hours after drug

addition and were harvested for TMT-based proteomic identification and

quantification. Samples were analyzed in biological triplicate within a 10-plex TMT

label set, with the 10th channel used as a bridge.

(B) Asynchronous RPE1 cells were treated with either DMSO or 1 μM palbociclib for 20

hours. Cells were harvested, and lysates were analyzed by immunoblot for the

indicated proteins.

(C) Previously reported APC/C substrates that were identified in this study are plotted with
their observed fold change in the APC/C inhibitor treated sample (APCi) relative to
the DMSO treated sample. Error bars represent the standard deviation (SD) between
the three biological replicates measured by MS. Asterisks indicate an abundance
increase over control that is statistically significant (* : $p < 0.05$; ** : $p < 0.01$; *** : p
< 0.001 ; **** : $p < 0.0001$)
(D) Volcano plot highlighting all published APC/C substrates identified in this study (blue)
as well as proteins that (1) contain a high probability D- and/or KEN-box (D-box =
green, KEN-box = pink, D- and KEN-boxes = purple), (2) increase ≥1.147-fold under
APC inhibition, (3) were identified by >1 peptide, and (4) have a p-value < 0.05.
442
Figure 2: *IRS2 levels are controlled by Cdh1 in a proteasome-dependent manner*
(A) Cells were treated identically to what is described in **Figure 1A**, and IRS2 abundance
was measured by immunoblot.
(B) C_2C_{12} myoblasts (Day 0) were induced to differentiate through serum withdrawal and
supplementation with insulin, transferrin, and selenium (ITS). After three days of
differentiation, myotubes were acutely treated with either DMSO or APC/C inhibitors
(of 6 µM proTAME + 50 µM apcin). After eight hours of drug treatment, myotubes were
collected and IRS2 levels from all samples were analyzed by immunoblotting.
(C)–(E) Asynchronous RPE1 (*C*), C_2C_{12} (*D*), and HeLa (*E*) cells were transfected with
either a control or Cdh1-directed siRNA for 24 hours. siRNAs were washed out of cell
culture media, and cells were allowed to grow for an additional 24 hours prior to
collection and analysis of IRS2 and Cdh1 levels in lysate by immunoblot.
(F) RPE1 cells were arrested in G_1 with 1 µM palbociclib for 20 hours. Following G_1
arrest, cells were treated with DMSO, APC/C inhibitors (6 µM proTAME + 50 µM
apcin), MG132 (10 µM), or a combination of APC/C inhibitors and MG132 for an
additional 8 hours. Cells were harvested, and lysates were analyzed by immunoblot
for IRS2 abundance.
460
Figure 3: *IRS2 levels and phosphorylation fluctuate in a cell-cycle dependent manner*

(A) HeLa cells were synchronized by double thymidine block and released into S-phase.
Time points were taken every two hours for 14 hours. Lysates were harvested and
analyzed by immunoblotting for IRS2 and cell cycle markers (APC3 phosphorylation
and cyclin B1).

(B) HeLa cells were synchronized by thymidine-nocodazole block and released into
prometaphase. Mitotic cells were collected by mitotic shake-off and re-plated. Time
points were taken every two hours as cells exited M-phase. Lysates were harvested
and analyzed by immunoblotting for IRS2 and cell cycle markers (APC3
phosphorylation and cyclin B1).

(C) RPE1 cells were synchronized in prometaphase by 7.5 µM RO3306 treatment. After
18 hours, cells were switched to fresh media and were allowed to enter mitosis (~35
minutes following drug removal). At mitotic entry, cells were collected by mitotic shake-
off and were re-plated (0 hr). Time points were taken as cells exited M-phase and
entered G_1. Lysates were harvested and analyzed by immunoblotting for IRS2 and
cell cycle markers (APC3 phosphorylation and cyclin B1).

Figure 4: *Cdh1's ability to control IRS2 levels depends on a C-terminal D-box motif*

(A) (*top*) Schematic depicting IRS2's protein domain structure. PH = pleckstrin homology
domain, PTB = phosphotyrosine binding domain, KRLB = kinase regulatory-loop
binding region. IRS2's C-terminal full D-box motif is highlighted in red. (*bottom*)
Comparison of IRS2's D-box conservation among placental mammals.

(B) RPE1 cells stably expressing lentivirus-derived, doxycycline-inducible, C-terminally
HA-tagged IRS2 constructs were arrested in G_1 with 1 µM palbociclib for 20 hours.
Following arrest, samples were either collected or DMSO or APC inhibitors (6 µM
proTAME + 50 µM apcin) were added for an additional 8 hours. Quantification of
immunoblots shown at right: HA levels were normalized to a loading control and are
plotted relative to DMSO levels. Error bars = mean ± SEM. * : p=0.0187; ns : p=0.816

(C) C_2C_{12} myoblasts stably expressing lentivirus-derived, doxycycline-inducible, C-
terminally HA-tagged IRS2 constructs were grown to confluence and switched to low
serum media supplemented with ITS (differentiation media, DM) and doxycycline.
Cells were allowed to differentiate into myotubes for three days (with media

refreshment every 24 hours), at which point (0 hr) either DMSO or APC/C inhibitors (6

µM proTAME + 50 µM apcin) for an additional 8 hours in the presence of doxycycline.

Quantification of immunoblots shown at right: HA levels were normalized to a loading

control and are plotted relative to DMSO levels. Error bars = mean ± SEM. * :

p=0.0118; ns : p=0.910.

(D) Asynchronous RPE1 cells stably expressing lentivirus-derived, doxycycline-inducible

C-terminally HA-tagged IRS2 constructs were transfected with a non-targeting

(control) siRNA or an siRNA directed against Cdh1 for 24 hours. Quantification of

immunoblots shown at right: HA levels were normalized to a loading control and are

plotted relative to DMSO levels. Error bars = mean ± SEM. * : p=0.0132; ns : p=0.963.

(E) Asynchronous HeLa cells stably expressing lentivirus-derived, N-terminally FLAG-HA

tagged IRS2 constructs were transfected with a non-targeting (control) siRNA or an

siRNA directed against Cdh1 for 24 hours. Quantification of immunoblots shown at

right: HA levels were normalized to a loading control and are plotted relative to DMSO

levels. Error bars = mean ± SEM. * : p=0.0131; ns : p=0.803.

(F) Comparison of the Hs IRS2 D-box sequence with the aligned area on Hs IRS1.

(G) MS-quantified IRS1 and IRS2 abundance in G_1 APC inhibitor proteomics. IRS1

abundance was quantified based on 5 peptides (4 unique) in 3 biological replicates;

IRS2 was quantified based on 3 peptides (all unique) in 3 biological replicates.

(H) RPE1 cells were subject to the same conditions described in Figure 1A, and cell

lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting for IRS1 abundance

(I) RPE1 cells were synchronized in late G_2 with 7.5 µM RO3306 for 18 hours. Cells

were released into fresh media and allowed to enter mitosis (~35 min post-drug

removal) and were collected by mitotic shake-off. Mitotic cells were re-plated and

collected at the indicated time points. Cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting

for IRS1 abundance.

Figure 5: *IRS2 knockout cell lines are defective in mitotic cell cycle-related protein*

expression.

(A) WT, ΔIRS2-1, and ΔIRS2-2 cell line lysates were analyzed for IRS2 expression by

immunoblotting.

(B-C) Volcano plots comparing proteomes of ∆IRS2 cell lines with WT cell line. Proteins

that significantly decrease > 20% (p-value<0.05) in both cell lines compared to wild-

type are shown in purple; proteins that significantly increase > 20% (p-value<0.05) in

both cell lines compared to WT are shown in green.

(D) Gene ontology (GO) term enrichment of proteins that decrease in both ∆IRS2 cell lines

relative to WT cells.

(E) Heat map depicting cell cycle-related protein abundance changes between ∆IRS2 cell

lines and WT cells.

Figure 6: *IRS2 expression promotes a functional spindle assembly checkpoint.*

(A) Mitotic fractional analysis for RPE1 wild type (WT) and IRS2 KO cell lines treated with

the indicated doses of nocodazole and S-trityl L-cysteine (STLC) for 18 hours. Mitotic

fraction measurements were made using a high content fixed cell imaging assay

based on DAPI intensity of stained nuclei. Error bars = mean ± SD.

(B) Asynchronous RPE1 wild type (WT) or IRS2 KO cell lines were treated with 300 nM

nocodazole and imaged every five minutes by widefield time lapse microscopy for 36

hours. Each point represents an individual cell's mitotic duration, measured as the

time from nuclear envelope breakdown (NEB) to division, slippage, or cell death. Error

bars = mean± SD. *p*-values were calculated by one-way ANOVA. **** = *p*<0.0001. ns

= not statistically significant.

(C) Asynchronous RPE1 wild type (WT) or IRS2 KO cell lines expressing mAG1-

geminin(1-110) were treated as in (C). mAG1 fluorescence intensity was measured

from nuclear envelope breakdown (NEB) until division, slippage, or cell death (n=10

for all three cell lines). Error bars = mean ± SEM. Fluorescence intensity was

background subtracted and normalized to intensity at NEB.

Figure 7: Model for IRS2's role in cell cycle control. IRS2 is targeted for proteasomal

degradation by APC/C^{Cdh1} during G$_1$. When APC/C is inactivated at the G$_1$/S boundary,

IRS2 protein accumulates, potentially allowing it to stimulate the expression of cell cycle-

related proteins either through IR-mediated action (Shirakawa et al., 2017) or through

another receptor tyrosine kinase. Some of the proteins that are expressed through this

pathway may be required for a robust spindle assembly checkpoint, which directly inhibits

APC/C^{Cdc20} during M-phase.

Tables

Table 1: 26 proteins containing high-probability D- and KEN-boxes as identified from G$_1$

APC/C inhibitor proteomics.

Gene Symbol	Fold Change	KEN box	D box	Similarity score(s) [a]	Consensus similarity [b]	Disorder Score [c]	Citation [d]
TK1	3.6	Y		0.97	High	0.53	(Ke et al., 2005)
CKAP2	3.2	Y	Y	0.95 ; 0.81	High ; Medium	0.62 ; 0.49	(Seki and Fang, 2007)
KIF11	2.4	Y	Y	0.97 ; 0.84	High ; High	0.57 ; 0.52	(Eguren et al., 2014)
GMNN [e]	2.2	Y	Y	0.80 ; 0.81	Low ; Medium	0.61 ; 0.66	(McGarry and Kirschner, 1998)
TACC3	1.9	Y (2)		0.94/0.90	High/High	0.54/0.49	(Jeng et al., 2009)
TOP2A	1.8	Y		0.86	High	0.44	(Eguren et al., 2014)
MKI67	1.5	Y (2)		0.89/0.86	High/High	0.45/0.48	
CUEDC2	1.4	Y		0.99	High	0.71	(Zhang et al., 2013)
IRS2	1.3		Y	0.87	High	0.68	
GPBP1	1.3	Y		0.81	Medium	0.61	
BUB1B	1.2	Y (2)	Y (2)	0.92/0.85 ; 0.83/0.86	High/Medium ; High/High	0.47/0.64 ; 0.47/0.49	(Choi et al., 2009)
UHRF2	1.2	Y		0.88	High	0.61	
PBXIP1	1.2		Y	0.83	Medium	0.42	(Khumukcham et al., 2019)
DCBLD1	1.2		Y	0.86	High	0.56	
KIF23	1.2	Y		0.87	High	0.45	(Singh et al., 2014)
ULK1	1.2		Y	0.85	High	0.58	
NAA38	1.2		Y	0.82	Medium	0.44	
LRP10	1.2		Y	0.82	Medium	0.49	
PNPLA8	1.2	Y		0.92	High	0.61	
CEP120	1.2		Y	0.84	High	0.42	
DIAPH3 [f]	1.2		Y	0.84	High	0.56	(DeWard and Alberts, 2009)
KDM2A	1.2	Y		0.94	High	0.66	
PRPF38B	1.2	Y		0.92	High	0.44	
DLGAP5	1.2	Y		0.89	High	0.6	(Song and Rape, 2010)
KDM3A	1.2	Y	Y	0.95 ; 0.81	High ; Medium	0.59 ; 0.48	
ANKRD11	1.2		Y	0.86	High	0.53	

Features of the putative degron(s) found in each protein are annotated, including (a) the
SLiMSearch similarity score to other validated degrons, (b) the similarity of the
surrounding consensus sequence to other validated degrons, (c) the disorder score for
the region of the protein in which the degron is located, and (d) the citation of the
publication that reports the protein as an APC/C substrate, where applicable. (e) We
cannot delineate whether the geminin peptides identified here derive from the FUCCI
reporter or the endogenous protein. (f) While DIAPH3/mDia2 has been shown to be
ubiquitinated in a cell cycle dependent manner and was suggested as an APC/C
substrate, there is no direct cell-based or biochemical evidence for this. Previously
reported substrates are shown in bold.

STAR Methods

Cell Culture and Synchronization

All cell lines used in this work (HeLa, C_2C_{12}, hTERT-RPE1-FUCCI, HEK293T) were
cultured in a humidified incubator at 37ºC in the presence of 5% CO_2. HeLa, hTERT-
RPE1 and C_2C_{12} cells were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), and
hTERT-RPE1 cells were modified with FUCCI constructs(Sakaue-Sawano et al., 2008)
with the permission of the RIKEN Institute. HeLa cells were grown in DMEM with 10%
FBS. Proliferating C_2C_{12} myoblasts were grown in DMEM with 15% FBS, whereas
differentiated myotubes were cultured in differentiation media, consisting of DMEM with
2% horse serum and 1x insulin, transferrin, selenium (ITS) Premix Universal Culture
Supplement (Corning, 354350). hTERT-RPE1-FUCCI cells were grown in DMEM/F12
with 10% FBS supplemented with 0.01 mg/ml hygromycin B (Corning, 30-240-CR).
HEK293T cells used for lentivirus generation were a gift from Wade Harper and were
cultured in DMEM with 10% FBS. All cell lines tested were negative for mycoplasma
contamination (Lonza LT07-218).

HeLa cells were synchronized by double thymidine block by treating with 2 mM thymidine
for 18 hours, releasing for 8 hours, and re-treating with 2 mM thymidine for 19 hours.
HeLa cells synchronized by thymidine-nocodazole block were treated with 2 mM
thymidine for 20 hours, released for 8 hours, then treated with 300-330 nM nocodazole

for 15 hours. Mitotic cells were collected by shake-off and re-plated in drug-free media for

cell cycle time course experiments.

RPE1 cells were synchronized by RO3306 treatment by treating with 7.5 µM RO3306 for

18 hours before releasing into fresh media for 30-40 minutes, after which cells were

collected by mitotic shake-off and re-plated for cell cycle time course experiments. For G_1

arrest experiments, RPE1 cells were treated with 1 µM palbociclib for 20 hours.

To differentiate C_2C_{12} myoblasts into myotubes, cells were grown to confluence and

washed 2x in DMEM with 2% horse serum before switching to differentiation media. Cells

were incubated for 72 hours, with media changes every 24-36 hours. Differentiation into

myotubes was confirmed visually as well as by immunoblotting for MyoD, a myogenic

marker.

Immunoblotting

Cell extracts were prepared in lysis buffer (10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM

EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM NaF, 1 mM PMSF, 20 mM $Na_4P_2O_7$, 2 mM NA_3VO_4, 1% Triton

X-100, 10% glycerol, 0.1% SDS, and 0.5% deoxycholate) supplemented with Pierce

protease inhibitor tablets (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A32963) and Pierce phosphatase

inhibitor tablets (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A32957). Pellets were incubated in lysis buffer

on ice for 30 minutes with vortexing and were centrifuged at 13,000rpm for 10 minutes to

clear the lysate. Protein concentrations were determined using a bicinchoninic acid (BCA)

assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 23225). Supernatants were re-suspended in NuPAGE

LDS sample buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, NP0008) supplemented with 100 mM

dithiothreitol (DTT) and boiled at 100ºC for 5 minutes. Equal masses of lysates were

separated by SDS-PAGE using either 4-12% Bis Tris gels or 3-8% Tris acetate gels

(Thermo Fisher Scientific). All IRS2 immunoblots were separated on 3-8% Tris acetate

gels with the exception of those shown in **Figures 5A** and **S4B**, which were separated on

4-12% Bis Tris gels.   Proteins were transferred to polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF)

membranes (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 88518).

Membranes were blocked in 5% non-fat dry milk in Tris-buffered saline with 0.1% Tween

(TBS-T) before incubating with primary antibodies overnight at 4ºC with agitation.

Membranes were probed with secondary antibodies dissolved in 5% milk in TBS-T for 1-

2 hours at room temperature before developing with an Amersham 600RGB imaging

system. Quantification of immunoblots was done using ImageJ (Schneider et al., 2012).

Antibodies

The following commercially available primary antibodies were used for immunoblotting:

anti-IRS2 (Cell Signaling Technologies, 4502) 1:750; anti-Cdh1/Fzr1 (Sigma Aldrich,

CC43) 1:500; anti-APC3 (BD Transduction Laboratories, 610455) 1:500; anti-cyclin B1

(Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-752) 1:500; anti-Cdc20 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-

8358) 1:500; anti-HA-peroxidase (Sigma Aldrich), 1:1500; anti-cyclin A2 (Santa Cruz

Biotechnology, sc-596) 1:500; anti-IRS1 (Cell Signaling Technologies, 2382) 1:750; anti-

MyoD1 (Cell Signaling Technologies, 13812) 1:750; anti-GAPDH (Abcam, ab8245)

1:2000; anti-α tubulin (Abcam, ab7291 and Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-8035) 1:1000

for both; anti-vinculin (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-73614) 1:2000. Secondary

antibodies used: anti-rabbit IgG-HRP (GE Healthcare, NA934) and anti-mouse IgG- HRP

(GE Healthcare, NA931V), both at 1:3000 dilutions.

Compounds

The following chemicals were used: palbociclib (LC Laboratories, P-7722), proTAME

(Boston Biochem, I-440), MG132 (474790, Calbiochem), S-trityl L-cysteine (STLC, Alfa

Aesar, L14384), thymidine (Sigma Aldrich, T9250), nocodazole (Sigma Aldrich, 31430-

18-9), RO3306 (AdipoGen Life Sciences, AGCR13515M), doxycycline hyclate (Sigma

Aldrich, D9891). Apcin was custom synthesized by Sundia MediTech Company (Lot

#A0218-10069-031) using methods described previously (Sackton et al., 2014). All

compounds were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), with the exception of thymidine

and doxycycline, which were dissolved in Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline (DPBS,

Corning, 21-030-CV). Dissolved compounds were stored at -20°C prior to use.

CRISPR/Cas9 mediated gene editing

A TrueGuide crRNA directed against exon 1 of Hs IRS2's coding region (target DNA

sequence: 5'- TCG AGA GCG ATC ACC CGT TT -3', Assay ID number:

CRISPR850215_CR, Thermo Fisher Scientific) was annealed to the TrueGuide tracrRNA

(Thermo Fisher Scientific, A35507) according to manufacturer protocol. hTERT RPE1-

FUCCI cells were co-transfected with TrueCut Cas9 protein v2 (Thermo Fisher Scientific,

A36496) and the annealed tracrRNA:crRNA complex using the Lipofectamine

CRISPRMAX Cas9 Transfection reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific, CMAX00003)

according to manufacturer protocol. Transfected cells were incubated for two days before

switching to fresh media and expanding. Single cell clones were isolated using the limiting

dilution method in a 96-well format, and clonal cell lines were expanded before screening

for knockouts by immunoblotting.

Site directed mutagenesis

R777-E111 Hs.IRS2 and R777-E111 Hs.IRS2-nostop were gifts from Dominic Espositio

(Addgene plasmid #70395 and #70396, respectively). Both of these plasmids encode

codon optimized sequences for IRS2, with and without a stop codon respectively. R972A

mutations were introduced into the aforementioned IRS2 clones using the Q5 Site-

Directed Mutagenesis Kit (New England BioLabs) with the primers 5' - AGA TTA TAT

GAA TAA GTC CAC TGT CAG ATT ATA TG - 3' and 5' - GAC AGT GGA CTT GCC TGG

CGA GAG TCT GAA CT - 3' according to the manufacturer's protocol. For N-terminally

FLAG-HA-tagged constructs, the insert from R77-E111 Hs.IRS2 (WT or ΔD) was cloned

into the pHAGE-FLAG-HA-NTAP vector (a gift from Wade Harper) using the Gateway LR

Clonase II system (Invitrogen). For doxycycline-inducible, C-terminally HA-tagged

constructs, the insert from R77-E111 Hs.IRS2-nostop (WT or ΔD) was cloned into

pINDUCER20 (a gift from Stephen Elledge, Addgene plasmid #44012) using the Gateway

LR Clonase II system (Invitrogen). The ΔD mutation was verified both before and after

Gateway cloning by Sanger sequencing.

Lentivirus construction

To construct lentiviruses, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with pPAX2, pMD2, and

either pINDUCER-20-IRS2 or pHAGE-FLAG-HA-NTAP-IRS2 in a 4:2:1 DNA ratio using

Lipofectamine 3000 (Invitrogen, L3000001) according to manufacturer's instructions.

pPAX2 and pMD2 were gifts from Wade Harper. 24 hours after transfection, HEK293T

cells were switched to fresh media (DMEM + 10% FBS). 48 hours after transfection

lentiviruses were harvested by clearing debris by centrifugation at 960xg for 5 minutes

and filtering through 0.45 µm SFCA filters. Lentiviruses were either used immediately or

flash frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80ºC for later use.

Stable cell line construction

To generate stable cell lines, plated HeLa, RPE1, or C$_2$C$_{12}$ cells were incubated with

lentiviruses and 2 µg/ml protamine sulfate. 24 hours after viral infection, cells were

switched to fresh media. 48 hours after viral infection, antibiotics were introduced. For

lentiviruses derived from pINDUCER20, geneticin (Invitrogen, 10131027) was used at a

concentration of 750 µg/ml for both RPE1 and C$_2$C$_{12}$ for 6-7 days. For lentiviruses derived

from pHAGE-FLAG-HA-NTAP, puromycin (Sigma Aldrich, P8833) was used at a

concentration of 0.5 µg/ml for 3 days. Antibiotic-selected populations of cells were

expanded and used for further experiments without clonal selection.

Small interfering RNAs (siRNAs)

Cells were transfected using RNAiMax (Invitrogen, 13778100) according to

manufacturer's instructions with the following siRNAs: siGENOME Non-Targeting Control

siRNA #5 (D-001210-05, Dharmacon); ON-TARGETplus Human FZR1 siRNA (J-015377-

08, Dharmacon), 25 nM; SMARTpool ON-TARGETplus Mouse Fzr1 siRNA (L-065289-

01-0005), 25 nM. Cells were treated with siRNAs for 24 hours for all experiments. For

experiments involving subsequent compound treatment, cells were switched to fresh

media prior to the addition of compounds.

Plasmid transfection

C$_2$C$_{12}$ myoblasts were transfected with a plasmid containing the N-terminal 88 amino

acids of human cyclin B1 fused to EGFP using Lipofectamine 3000 (Invitrogen,

L3000001) with the P3000 reagent according to manufacturer's instructions. Growth

media was refreshed to remove transfection reagents 24 hours post-transfection, and

cells were switched to differentiation media for an additional 3 days.

Time lapse and fluorescence microscopy

Cells were plated in a 24-well coverslip-bottom plate (Greiner BioOne, 662892). After 24

hours, cells were treated with the indicated compounds and were imaged immediately

afterwards. Plates were inserted into a covered cage microscope incubator (OkoLab) with

temperature and humidity control at 37ºC and 5% CO_2 and mounted on a motorized

microscope stage (Prior ProScan III). All images were collected on a Nikon Ti motorized

inverted microscope equipped with a 20x/0.75 NA Plan Apo objective lens and the Perfect

Focus system. mCherry fluorescence was excited with a Lumencor Spectra-X using a

555/25 excitation filter and a 605/52 emission filter (Chroma). mAG1 fluorescence was

excited using a 490/20 excitation filter and a 525/36 emission filter (Chroma). Both

configurations used a Sedat Quad dichroic (Chroma). Images were acquired with a

Hamamatsu Orca-R2 or Hamamatsu Flash 4.0 V2 controlled with Nikon Elements image

acquisition software. Three fields of view were collected per condition, and phase contrast

and/or fluorescence images were captured at 5- to 8-minute intervals (depending upon

the experiment) for 24-48 hours.

Videos were analyzed using ImageJ. Mitotic duration was defined as the time from

nuclear envelope breakdown (NEB) until division, death (cytoplasmic blebbing), or mitotic

slippage. mAG1 and mCherry intensities were quantified manually by measuring the

maximum intensity of signal for each cell in a given frame across multiple time points. For

experiments analyzing fluorescence intensity during G_1 arrest, measurements were made

for all cells in a frame for each time point.

TMT mass spectrometry sample preparation

Cells were cultured as described in biological triplicate. Cells pellets were re-suspended

in urea lysis buffer: 8M urea, 200 mM EPPS pH 8.0, Pierce protease inhibitor tablets

(Thermo Fisher Scientific, A32963), and Pierce phosphatase inhibitor tablets (Thermo

Fisher Scientific, A32957). Lysates were passed through a 21-gauge needle 20 times,

and protein concentrations were measured by BCA assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific). 100

µg of protein were reduced with 5 mM tris-2-carboxyethyl-phosphine (TCEP) at room

temperature for 15 minutes, alkylated with 10 mM iodoacetamide at room temperature for

30 minutes in the dark, and were further reduced with 15 mM DTT for 15 minutes at room

temperature. Proteins were precipitated using a methanol/chloroform extraction. Pelleted

proteins were resuspended in 100 µL 200 mM EPPS, pH 8.0. LysC (Wako, 125-05061)

was added at a 1:50 enzyme:protein ratio, and samples were incubated overnight at room

temperature with agitation. Following overnight incubation, trypsin (Promega, V5111) was

added at a 1:100 enzyme:protein ratio, and samples were incubated for an additional 6

hours at 37ºC. Tryptic digestion was halted by the addition of acetonitrile (ACN). Tandem

mass tag (TMT) isobaric reagents (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 90406) were dissolved in

anhydrous ACN to a final concentration of 20 mg/mL, of which a unique TMT label was

added at a 2:1 label:peptide ratio. Peptides were incubated at room temperature for one

hour with vortexing after 30 minutes. TMT labeling reactions were quenched by the

addition of 10 µL of 5% hydroxylamine. Equal amounts of each sample were combined

at a 1:1 ratio across all channels and lyophilized by vacuum centrifugation. Samples were

re-suspended in 1% formic acid (FA)/99% water and were desalted using a 50 mg 1cc

SepPak C18 cartridge (Waters, WAT054955) under vacuum. Peptides were eluted with

70% ACN/1% FA and lyophilized to dryness by vacuum centrifugation. The combined

peptides were fractionated with basic pH reversed-phase (BPRP) HPLC, collected in a

96-well format and consolidated to a final of 24 fractions, out of which only alternating

fractions (a total of 12) were analyzed (Navarrete-Perea et al., 2018). Each fraction was

desalted via StageTip, lyophilized to dryness by vacuum centrifugation, and reconstituted

in 5% ACN/5% FA for LC-MS/MS processing.

TMT mass spectrometry analysis

Data for the G_1 APC inhibition experiment were collected on an Orbitrap Fusion mass

spectrometer coupled to a Proxeon EASY-nLC 1000 liquid chromatography (LC) pump

(Thermo Fisher Scientific), whereas data for IRS2 knockout cell line analysis were

collected on an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos mass spectrometer coupled to a Proxeon EASY-

nLC 1200 liquid chromatography (LC) pump. The 100 µm capillary column was packed

with 30 cm of Accucore 150 resin (2.6 µm, 150Å; Thermo Fisher Scientific). Mobile phases were 5% ACN, 0.125% FA (Buffer A) and 95% ACN, 0.125% FA (Buffer B). Peptides from G_1 APC inhibition experiment were separated using a 2.5 h gradient from 4% to 26% Buffer B and analyzed with a SPS-MS3 method (McAlister et al., 2014). Peptides from IRS2 knockout cell line analysis were separated using a 2 h gradient from 4% to 30% Buffer B and analyzed with a real-time search strategy (Erickson et al., 2019; Schweppe et al., 2019).

Raw data were converted to mzXML format using a modified version of RawFileReader and searched against a human protein target-decoy database. Searches were performed with a 50 ppm precursor mass tolerance, 0.9 Da fragment mass tolerance, trypsin digest with up to 2 missed cleavages. Allowed modifications include cysteine carboxyamidomethylation (+57.02146), static TMT on lysine and peptide N-temini (+229.16293) and up to 3 variable methionine oxidation (+15.99491). Peptide spectral matches were filtered with a linear discriminant analysis (LDA) method to a 1% FDR (Huttlin et al., 2010) and a protein-level FDR of 1% was also implemented (Savitski et al., 2015). For peptide quantification, we extracted the TMT signal-to-noise and column normalized each channel to correct for equal protein loading. Peptide spectral matches with summed signal-to-noise less than 100 were excluded from final result. Lastly, each protein was scaled such that the summed signal-to-noise for that protein across all channels equals 100, thereby generating a relative abundance (RA) measurement.

High content mitotic fraction assay

Asynchronous hTERT RPE1-FUCCI wild-type or IRS2 KO cell lines were plated in a black, clear-bottom 96-well plate (Corning, 3606). Plates were sealed with breathable white rayon sealing tape (Nunc, 241205) to prevent evaporation following plating and during all subsequent incubations. In experiments involving RNAi, cells were treated with siRNAs for 24 hours. Cells were switched to fresh media, and compounds were added at the indicated concentrations for an additional 18 hours. Following compound treatment, cells were fixed and stained directly without additional washing steps (to avoid the loss of loosely attached mitotic cells) with 10% formalin, 0.33 µg/mL Hoechst 33342, and 0.1%

Triton X-100 in DPBS. Plates were sealed with aluminum tape (Nunc, 276014) and were

incubated for 45 minutes room temperature in the dark before imaging. All experimental

conditions were represented in triplicate on the same plate. Plates were imaged using an

ImageXpress Micro high-content microscope (Molecular Devices) equipped with a 10x

objective lens. Four images were acquired per well, yielding a total of 12 images per

conditions. Images were processed automatically in ImageJ to identify and count nuclei

as well as measure their maximum fluorescence intensity. ImageJ output files were

pooled, and cumulative frequency curves for the maximum intensity of the cell population

in each condition were computed using MATLAB. An intensity threshold was set based

on the intensity of mitotic cells in control (DMSO-treated) wells to delineate interphase

cells from mitotic cells. The fraction of mitotic cells was calculated as the fraction of cells

above the set intensity threshold in MATLAB(Sackton et al., 2014).

Statistical analyses

For experiments regarding the stability of IRS2-WT and IRS2-ΔD, *p*-values were

calculated by two-way ANOVA. For fluorescence microscopy experiments that quantify

mAG1 intensity in response to drug treatment over time, *p*-values were calculated by two-

way ANOVA. For microscopy experiments that quantify mitotic duration following

nocodazole treatment, *p*-values were calculated by one-way ANOVA. For proteomics

data, *p*-values were calculated using a two-tailed, unpaired Student's t-test. For time

lapse microscopy data, *p*-values were calculated by one-way ANOVA. Gene enrichment

was calculated using the AmiGO 2 search tool (Carbon et al., 2009). Error bars indicate

standard deviation (SD) or standard error of the mean (SEM) where indicated.

Materials Availability

All mass spectrometry raw files will be available through the PRIDE archive upon

publication. All other data are available in the associated supplementary data files.

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to the

Lead Contact, Randy King (randy_king@hms.harvard.edu).

Supplemental Information Legends

Figure S1: *Related to Figure 1*

(A) Asynchronous RPE1 cells were treated with 1 µM palbociclib and imaged by

fluorescence time lapse microscopy for 20 hours. Frames at 0, 10, and 20 hours are

shown.

(B) From the experiment shown in Figure S1B, FITC intensity was quantified at 0 hours

(time of drug addition) and 20 hours. Each point represents the maximum FITC

intensity of an individual cell at the given time point. ns : not significant ; **** :

$p<0.0001$.

(C) Asynchronous RPE1 cells were treated with 1 µM palbociclib for 20 hours. Following

G_1 arrest, cells were treated with either DMSO or APC inhibitors (6 µM proTAME + 50

µM apcin) and imaged by fluorescence widefield time lapse microscopy for an

additional eight hours.

(D) Quantification of the experiment shown in S1D, as explained in S1B. Error bars = SD

among all of the cells quantified for each condition. ns: not significant ; **** : $p<0.0001$.

Figure S2: *Related to Figure 2B*

(A) Asynchronous C_2C_{12} myoblasts and 3-day differentiated C_2C_{12} myotubes were lysed

and MyoD levels were measured by immunoblotting.

(B) Phase-contrast images of asynchronous (Day 0) C_2C_{12} myoblasts and 3-day

differentiated C_2C_{12} myotubes.

(C) Asynchronous C_2C_{12} myoblasts were transfected with a plasmid coding for the N-

terminal fragment of cyclin B1 (amino acids 1-88) fused to EGFP for 24 hours.

Following transfection, cells were switched to low-serum differentiation media

containing ITS for three days with media refreshment every 24 hours. After 3 days,

myotubes were acutely treated with either DMSO or APC inhibitors (6 µM proTAME +

50 µM apcin) for an additional 8 hours. Myotubes were then harvested, and lysates

were analyzed for transgene expression by immunoblot.

Figure S3: *Related to Figure 3*

(D) HeLa cells were synchronized by double thymidine block and released into S-phase

either in the presence of DMSO or 5 µM RO3306. Cells were harvested at the

indicated time points for analysis of the given protein abundances and phosphorylation

patterns in lysate by immunoblot.

Figure S4: *Related to Figure 4*

(A) *(left)* RPE1 cells stably expressing lentivirus generated, C-terminally HA-tagged IRS2

wild type (WT) and R972A (ΔD) constructs were arrested in G_1 with 1 µM palbociclib

for 20 hours. Cells were then acutely treated with either DMSO or the indicated dose

range of APC inhibitors for an additional 8 hours. Cells were then harvested, and

lysate was analyzed for HA expression by immunoblot. The lane denoted t_0 indicates

a sample that was collected at the time of drug addition. (*right*) The experiment shown

at left was repeated three times, and HA intensity was quantified. Plot shows HA

intensity normalized to a loading control (either GAPDH or Ponceau) and to the DMSO

condition. Error bars = mean ± SEM.

(B) *(top)* Asynchronous RPE1 cells expressing doxycycline-inducible, C-terminally HA

tagged IRS2 variants were treated with a dose range of doxycycline. HA and IRS2

expression levels were analyzed by immunoblotting cell lysates. Red = doxycycline

dose used for all experiments. (*bottom*) Asynchronous C_2C_{12} cells expressing

doxycycline-inducible, C-terminally HA tagged IRS2 variants were treated with a dose

range of doxycycline. HA and IRS2 expression levels were analyzed by

immunoblotting cell lysates. Red = doxycycline dose used for all experiments.

Figure S5: *Related to Figure 5*

(A) Hierarchical clustering for the nine conditions analyzed by TMT-coupled quantitative

mass spectrometry in wild type and ΔIRS2 cell lines.

(B) Venn diagrams depicting proteins that (*left*) decrease significantly >20% relative to

WT cells in both ΔIRS2 cell lines and (*right*) increase significantly >20% relative to WT

in both ΔIRS2 cell lines.

(C) Gene ontology (GO) term enrichment of proteins that increase in both ΔIRS2 cell lines

relative to WT cells.

(D) Fraction abundance of cell-cycle related proteins shown in Figure 5D depleted in
ΔIRS2 cell lines relative to WT cells. ΔIRS2-1 median abundance = 0.70 ; ΔIRS2-2
median abundance = 0.66.

Figure S6: *Related to Figure 6*

(A) Representative frames from high-content nuclear imaging experiment for mitotic
fraction based on DAPI intensity. Asynchronous RPE1 WT or IRS2 KO cell lines were
treated with 900 nM nocodazole for 18 hours before fixing and DAPI staining.

(B) Asynchronous RPE1 WT or IRS2 KO cell lines were imaged every five minutes by
widefield time lapse microscopy for 36 hours. Each point represents an individual cell's
mitotic duration, measured as the time from nuclear envelope breakdown (NEB) to
division, slippage, or cell death. Error bars = mean ± SD. *p*-values were calculated
using one-way ANOVA. ns = not statistically significant.

Figure S7: *Related to Figures 1-3*

Extended immunoblots from Figures 1, 2, and 3

Figure S8: *Related to Figures 4-5*

Extended immunoblots from Figures 4 and 5.

Table S1: APC inhibition in G_1 proteomics

Table S2: Reported APC/C substrates identified by proteomics

Table S3: 204 protein subset

Table S4: IRS2 knockout cell proteomics

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1118

1119

1120

1121

1122

1123

Figure 1

Figure 2

A

0   8   8   Time since APCi addition (hr)

      +   APCi

IRS2

GAPDH

G_1 arrested
RPE1

B

0   3   3   Time since serum withdrawal (d)

      +   APCi

IRS2

tubulin

C_2C_{12}

C

Control   Cdh1   siRNA

IRS2

Cdh1

GAPDH

RPE1

D

Control   Cdh1   siRNA

IRS2

Cdh1

GAPDH

C_2C_{12}

E

Control   Cdh1   siRNA

IRS2

Cdh1

vinculin

HeLa

F

    +   +   MG132

       +   +   APCi

IRS2

GAPDH

G_1 arrested RPE1

Figure 3

A
Time since thymidine release (hr)
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14

IRS2
APC3
APC3 (enhanced contrast)
Cyclin B1
GAPDH

HeLa

B
Time since nocodazole release (hr)
0 2 4 6

IRS2
APC3
Cyclin B1
GAPDH

HeLa

C
Time since mitotic entry (hr)
0 0.5 1 1.5 2 3

IRS2
APC3
Cyclin B1
GAPDH

RPE1

Figure 4

A

	16	144	194	298		591		796	972	980	

PH | PTB | KRLB — Human IRS2

1 1338

```
Homo sapien      968 SSDSRQRSPLSDYMNLDFSSPKSPKPGAPSGHP 1000
Mus musculus     958 SSDSRQRSPLSDYMNLDFSSPKSPKPSTRSGDT 990
Rattus norvegus  961 SSDSRQRSPLSDYMNLDFSSPKSPKPSTRSGDT 993

Gallus gallus    863 ---GQRRSPLSDYMNIDFSSQSPSQSGTV---S 895
```

R S P L S D Y M N   IRS2 D-box

R X X L X X X X N   D-box consensus

B

G₁ arrested RPE1

C

C₂C₁₂ myotubes + doxycycline

D

RPE1

E

HeLa

F

```
Human IRS2  965 TSSDSRQRSPLSDYMNLDFSSPKSPKPGAPSGHPVG 1000
Human IRS1  928 QPAPREEETGTEEYMKMDLGPGRRAAWQESTGVEMG 963
```

G

H

G₁ arrested RPE1

Time since APCi addition (hr): 0 8 8
IRS1
GAPDH

I

Time since mitotic entry (hr): 0 0.5 1 2 4
IRS1
Cdc20
Cyclin B1
GAPDH

RPE1

Figure 5

A

ΔIRS2
WT A B

IRS2

vinculin

B

-log₁₀(p-value)

log₂ (ΔIRS2-A : WT)

p = 0.01
p = 0.05

● Increase in both clones
● Decrease in both clones

C

-log₁₀(p-value)

log₂ (ΔIRS2-B : WT)

p = 0.01
p = 0.05

D

organic substance metabolic process
primary metabolic process
cellular metabolic process
mitotic cell cycle process

−log₁₀(p-value)

E

		WT	ΔIRS2-A	ΔIRS2-B
Cytokinesis	CIT			
	ANK3			
	RAB35			
	RACGAP1			
DNA replication	*GMNN			
	BLM			
	POLE2			
G₁/S	CDK4			
	CDKN2A			
G₂/M	TAOK3			
	HMGA2			
	CDCA3			
Mitotic exit	PPP1R12A			
	ANKLE2			
Spindle assembly	KNTC1			
	RAN			
	CETN2			
	CLIP1			
	ZWILCH			
Other	PHLDA1			
	CNOT8			
	PTPN11			
	TNKS1BP1			
	NES			
	EP300			
	SDCCAG8			

-3 -2 -1 0
log₂(FC rel. to WT)

Figure 6

A

B

C

Figure 7