

# Recognition of phylogenetically diverse pathogens through enzymatically amplified recruitment of RNF213

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**Transaction Report: Please note that the manuscript was transferred from another journal where it was originally reviewed. Since the original reviews are not subject to EMBO's transparent review process policy, they cannot be published.**

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Dear Dr. Randow,

Thank you for transferring your revised manuscript to EMBO reports. I now went through the manuscript, the referee reports from the assessment of the revised manuscript at the previous journal (outside EMBO press) and your point-by-point response. As you know, two referees are satisfied with the revisions and support publication of the study, whereas two referees remain critical, also indicating novelty concerns.

However, after looking through your point-by-point response, I have decided to invite a final revised manuscript that addresses the remaining referee points as indicated in your point-by-point response. Please also provide a detailed final point-by-point-response to these points.

When submitting your revised manuscript, please also carefully review the instructions that follow below.

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The accession numbers and database should be listed in a formal "Data Availability" section (placed after Materials & Methods) that follows the model below. This is now mandatory (like the COI statement). Please note that the Data Availability Section is restricted to new primary data that are part of this study. This section is mandatory. As indicated above, if no primary datasets have been deposited, please state this in this section

#### # Data availability

The datasets produced in this study are available in the following databases:

- RNA-Seq data: Gene Expression Omnibus GSE46843 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE46843>)
- [data type]: [name of the resource] [accession number/identifier/doi] ([URL or identifiers.org/DATABASE:ACCESSION])

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Moreover, I have these editorial requests:

6) We now request the publication of original source data with the aim of making primary data more accessible and transparent to the reader. Our source data coordinator will contact you to discuss which figure panels we would need source data for and will also provide you with helpful tips on how to upload and organize the files.

7) Our journal encourages inclusion of \*data citations in the reference list\* to directly cite datasets that were re-used and obtained from public databases. Data citations in the article text are distinct from normal bibliographical citations and should directly link to the database records from which the data can be accessed. In the main text, data citations are formatted as follows: "Data ref: Smith et al, 2001" or "Data ref: NCBI Sequence Read Archive PRJNA342805, 2017". In the Reference list, data citations must be labeled with "[DATASET]". A data reference must provide the database name, accession number/identifiers and a resolvable link to the landing page from which the data can be accessed at the end of the reference. Further instructions are available at: <http://www.embopress.org/page/journal/14693178/authorguide#referencesformat>

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9) Please add scale bars of similar style and thickness to microscopic images, using clearly visible black or white bars (depending on the background). Please place these in the lower right corner of the images themselves. Please do not write on or near the bars in the image but define the size in the respective figure legend.

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13) All Materials and Methods need to be described in the main text using our 'Structured Methods' format, which is required for all research articles. According to this format, the Materials and Methods section should include a Reagents and Tools Table (listing key reagents, experimental models, software, and relevant equipment and including their sources and relevant identifiers), uploaded as separate file, followed by a Methods and Protocols section in which we encourage the authors to

describe their methods using a step-by-step protocol format with bullet points, to facilitate the adoption of the methodologies across labs. More information on how to adhere to this format as well as downloadable templates (.doc) for the Reagents and Tools Table can be found in our author guidelines (section 'Structured Methods'):

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14) Please add up to five keywords and order the manuscript sections like this, using these names:

Title page - Abstract - Keywords - Introduction - Results - Discussion - Methods - Data availability section - Acknowledgements - Disclosure and Competing Interests Statement - References - Figure legends - Expanded View Figure legends

15) Please make sure that all the funding information is also entered into the online submission system and that it is complete and similar to the one in the acknowledgement section of the manuscript text file.

I look forward to seeing the final revised version of your manuscript when it is ready. Please let me know if you have questions regarding the revision.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Breiling  
Senior Editor  
EMBO Reports

**Point-by-point reply****Reviewer #1 (Remarks to the Author):**

The authors answered my questions thoroughly and I appreciate the work that they put into making a new Fig. 2.

We are pleased that Reviewer 1 is fully satisfied by how we addressed their questions.

## Reviewer #2 (Remarks to the Author):

Despite the addition of some new structural data, the revised manuscript and the authors' responses have not addressed my primary concerns regarding data integrity, approach, and novelty claims.

The reviewer feels that we have not addressed his/her "... concerns regarding data integrity, approach, and novelty claims."

Our previous point-to-point reply tackled these concerns extensively. For example, regarding novelty we wrote:

"... Our manuscript provides the following novel insights:

- enzymatically driven cooperative recruitment of RNF213 enables sensing of evolutionarily distant pathogens
- a detailed kinetic analysis of RNF213 coat formation, providing time constants for coat initiation ( $T=27\pm 1\text{min}$ ) and coat expansion ( $5.0\pm 2.4\text{min}$ ) (new data in Fig.2C-F and supplementary). The difference in the time constant of coat initiation and the time required for coat expansion explains why coats on *T. gondii* vacuoles are initiated from a single focus; rarity of coat initiation and rapid coat completion limit the likelihood of more than one initiation event occurring per vacuole
- identification of a cluster of fast evolving residues near the N-terminus of RNF213, indicative of PRR function for RNF213
- a novel cryo-EM structure of human RNF213, revealing a carbohydrate-binding domain in the previously unresolved N-terminus that encompasses the aforementioned cluster of positively selected residues and strongly supports the proposed PRR function of RNF213 (new data in Fig.3)
- a cryo-EM structure and AlphaFold model of the RZ finger (new data in Fig.4C), supported by mutational analysis, offering mechanistic insight into the catalytic mechanism of the novel RZ-family class of E3 ligases."

Previous work had demonstrated that human RNF213 is essential for IFN $\gamma$ -activated cell-autonomous immunity to *Toxoplasma* in human cells. The previous version of this manuscript claimed that mouse Rnf213 was similarly important for host defense to *Toxoplasma* in mouse cells. These claims were based on the use of an Rnf213 KO cell line made in an immortalized mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) cell line. Due to the nature of Ko generation in immortalized MEFs, it is likely that the Rnf213 KO MEF cell line is clonal. It is well documented that clonal effects can result in artificial phenotypes. I pointed out in my original critique that the data presented by Crespillo Casado et al was surprising for the reasons briefly recaptured here: the original version of this paper claimed that Rnf213 KO MEFs were defective in controlling the replication of both type I and type II *Toxoplasma* strains. Importantly, type I Toxo is resistant to IFN $\gamma$ -mediated ubiquitination in mouse cells, and therefore the data presented by Crespillo Casado et al would have meant that Rnf213 would be exerting its anti-*Toxoplasma* activity independent of ubiquitination. In their rebuttal the authors now acknowledge that they cannot reproduce these findings in primary (non-clonal) Rnf213 KO MEFs and therefore it must be concluded that mouse Rnf213 – at the very least – is not essential for host defense to *Toxoplasma* – and mouse Rnf213 may very well not be sufficient either.

While I applaud the authors for removing their non-reproducible Toxoplasma restriction data from the revised manuscript, the revised manuscript continues to use these immortalized Rnf213 MEF KO cells, although the authors have now established that these cells are prone to generate artificial data – at least in Toxoplasma studies. In Fig.1F-G the paper continues to show data that would suggest that mouse Rnf213 promotes ubiquitination of the Toxoplasma parasitophorous vacuole (PV) in mouse cells. Again, these data – if reproducible – would be surprising because they would suggest that IFN $\gamma$ -induced PV ubiquitination does not lead to PV destruction. These data were again generated in the potentially clonal immortalized Rnf213 KO MEF cell line. As I stressed in my previous critique, it is essential to complement this single Rnf213 KO clonal cell line through ectopic expression of mouse Rnf213 to make sure that the phenotype is not an artifact. In their response the authors highlight the difficulties of working with the large sized ORF of Rnf213. While I appreciate the technical difficulties of these experiments, these experiments are doable and the authors themselves point out that they have done these types of experiments in the past when they complemented Rnf213 KO cells with ectopic RNF213 in Otten et al. (2021). Alternatively, the authors could use independent primary KO MEFs (generated from different embryos as biological variables) and proper co-isogenic WT controls. These types of experiments are essential to support the paper's claim that Rnf213 promotes Toxoplasma PV ubiquitination in mouse cells.

The reviewer is concerned about potential species-specific differences in the ability of human and murine RNF213 to restrict Toxoplasma, specifically whether murine RNF213 promotes Toxoplasma PV ubiquitination in mouse cells. While this is a valid question, our manuscript aims to address how RNF213 senses phylogenetically distant pathogens, not whether murine RNF213 is deployed against Toxoplasma as was previously reported for human RNF213.

During the previous round of revision, we therefore removed data on the genetic interaction of Toxoplasma with murine RNF213 from the manuscript. Due to an oversight Fig.1F/G were left in the manuscript, which (understandably) triggered further questions from Reviewer 2. We would like to apologize for the mistake and have now removed the panels as originally intended. Importantly, our conclusion that RNF213 senses phylogenetically distant pathogens through enzymatically amplified RNF213 recruitment remains entirely unaffected.

The authors state in the rebuttal that because mouse and human RNF213 are quite homologous to each other, expression of human RNF213 in mouse cells is a sound approach. Yet, at the same time the authors claim (without any experimental evidence) that protein sequence variation in human RNF213 relative to other primate and monkey RNF213 orthologous is functionally important. I don't think you can have it both ways.

Because human RNF213 complements LPS ubiquitination in mouse Rnf213 KO cells (Otten et al.), the authors argue in their rebuttal that therefore "the evolutionary distance between humans and mice has not affected core RNF213 function." Of course, this logic is flawed. Just because LPS recognition is conserved between mouse and human RNF213 it does not mean that every other function of this very large multi-functional protein is conserved, especially considering that some residues

in RNF213 are under strong positive selection which implies changes in function. As argued in my initial critique, there is no compelling reason to work with human RNF213 in mouse cells yet many reasons why this flawed approach may result in artificial results.

Notwithstanding positive selection in 59 of the 5241 aligned residues (Fig.3A), RNF213 is a well conserved protein, as is evident from the negative selection scores for most residues (Appendix Table EV1) and the striking structural similarities between human and murine RNF213 (Ahel eLife 2020, this study Fig.3). We have shown experimentally that human RNF213 complements the murine RNF213<sup>-/-</sup> MEFs used here regarding the ubiquitylation of Gram-negative bacteria (Otten Nature 2021) and Gram-positive bacteria (this study, Fig.1D, 4E).

Regarding the use of human RNF213 in murine cells, and as explained in our previous point-to-point reply, the enormous size of the RNF213 (with a cDNA larger than our mitochondrial genome!) poses significant practical challenges, which deterred us from generating murine copies of already existing human constructs. Expressing genes from phylogenetic distant species is a frequently used method to reveal functional conservation. In our case, expressing human RNF213 in murine cells is merely a practical approach to a technical difficulty.

To what degree the findings reported in this paper are novel is up to debate. However, I would argue that the novelty of the findings should be reflected in the title of the paper. The current title of the paper is 'Recognition of phylogenetically diverse pathogens through enzymatically amplified recruitment of RNF213.' The title therefore re-states what has already been reported by several previous publications: previous work had already reported that RNF213 can recognize phylogenetically diverse pathogens (Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria, protozoan pathogens, and viruses); and previous work has also already shown that recognition of these pathogens requires enzymatic activity of RNF213. The title should be changed and reflect (a) novel finding(s) of the study.

The reviewer incorrectly states that previous publication have shown that RNF213 "... recognizes phylogenetically distant pathogens", while instead it was only reported that RNF213 restricts a multitude of pathogens. The question whether RNF213 directly recognizes phylogenetic different pathogens or merely acts downstream of specific receptors has not been asked, yet is at the center of this manuscript.

The novelty of our manuscript therefore comes from addressing the question posed in the abstract "...How the E3 ubiquitin ligase RNF213 can respond to phylogenetically distant pathogens, including Gram-negative Salmonella, Gram-positive Listeria, and eukaryotic Toxoplasma, remains unknown."

Along the same lines, the claim made in the rebuttal that "enzymatically driven cooperative recruitment of RNF213 enables sensing of evolutionarily distant pathogens" is a novel finding is at the very least a vast exaggeration. First of all it has already been shown that RNF213 senses many phylogenetically diverse pathogens: the protozoan Toxoplasma (PMID: 38376248, PMID: 38147552, PMID: 36154443); Gram positive Listeria in the cytosol (PMID: 34599178, PMID:

34804992), gram-positive in a vacuole (PMID: 38147552), viruses (PMID: 33420513, PMID: 34599178, PMID: 36917666, ), gram-negative in the cytosol (PMID: 34012115), Gram-negative in a vacuoles (PMID: 36084633).

The reviewer again claims that previous publication have shown RNF213 ‘...senses phylogenetically diverse pathogens.’ This statement is not correct because previous publications have merely shown restriction by RNF213 without addressing how pathogens are detected, i.e. whether RNF213 is a pattern recognition receptor of unprecedentedly broad reactivity or acts as an effector molecule downstream of hypothetical pattern recognition receptors.

It has also already been shown that sensing requires RNF213 enzymatic activity in the case of Toxoplasma (PMID: 38147552) and gram-negatives (PMID: 34012115 – this group’s own work). Time-lapse microscopy data (which is the only data underlying the claim of ‘cooperative recruitment’) similar to what is shown in Fig.2 of this manuscript has also already been reported (see figure 6 of PMID: 38147552). And time lapse microscopy for RNF213 binding to cytosolic Salmonella was also already published by this group and similar conclusions were already made – to quote from Otten et al (PMID: 34012115) “Instant structured illumination microscopy (iSIM) revealed that RNF213 recruitment started focally and subsequently spread around the bacterium, indicating cooperative behaviour (Video1, Fig.4c).” Just calling the same thing ‘cooperarative recruitment’ instead of ‘ cooperative behaviour’ doesn’t make it novel. Yes, the current study provides a more detailed analysis of the video microscopy data but does not reveal fundamentally novel insights.

In Otten et al (Nature 2021) we reported on the cooperative recruitment of RNF213 to Salmonella. Subsequently it became clear that other phylogenetically distant pathogens are also restricted by RNF213 (many references in our manuscript), suggesting that if RNF213 was a PRR, it would be of unprecedentedly broad reactivity. An urgent need therefore exists to investigate how phylogenetically distant pathogens might be recognized by one single receptor. Answering this question requires comparison of multiple pathogens side-by-side, which is what we have done in this study and which has never been done before. The reviewer’s suggestion that we merely renamed ‘cooperative behaviour’ into ‘cooperative recruitment’ is therefore incorrect. Instead we propose that recognition of all pathogens under study by RNF213 occurs in two steps, a rate-limiting initiation step that is not diffusion controlled and subsequent cooperative incorporation of further RNF213 molecules for multi-directional growth of the coat, for which we provide a detailed quantitative analysis.

I am not saying that everything reported in the current manuscript is already known. However, as stated in my previous critique of the paper, the genuinely novel finding of the original version of paper – in my view - is the identification of signatures of positive selection in human RNF213. While this is an exciting starting point for further exploration, the paper lacks any experimental evidence demonstrating that any of these signatures are functionally important. This type of functional analysis is typically expected of a high impact paper in this field. The revisions do not provide any new data demonstrating functional relevance and therefore the computational analysis on its own is only an incremental advance.

We disagree with the reviewer's opinion on novelty. Although not all questions have been answered, progress has been made. While the reviewer claims that the identification of positive selection in RNF213 is the only novel finding, we think that the following points are novel (and worth reporting):

- enzymatically driven cooperative recruitment of RNF213 enables sensing of evolutionarily distant pathogens
- a detailed kinetic analysis of RNF213 coat formation, providing time constants for coat initiation ( $T=27\pm 1\text{min}$ ) and coat expansion ( $5.0\pm 2.4\text{min}$ ) (new data in Fig.2C-F and supplementary). The difference in the time constant of coat initiation and the time required for coat expansion explains why coats on *T. gondii* vacuoles are initiated from a single focus; rarity of coat initiation and rapid coat completion limit the likelihood of more than one initiation event occurring per vacuole
- identification of a cluster of fast evolving residues near the N-terminus of RNF213, indicative of PRR function for RNF213
- a novel cryo-EM structure of human RNF213, revealing a carbohydrate-binding domain in the previously unresolved N-terminus that encompasses the aforementioned cluster of positively selected residues and strongly supports the proposed PRR function of RNF213 (new data in Fig.3)
- a cryo-EM structure and AlphaFold model of the RZ finger (new data in Fig.4C), supported by mutational analysis, offering mechanistic insight into the catalytic mechanism of the novel RZ-family class of E3 ligases.

Similarly, new data incorporated into the revised manuscript reveals the presence of a domain with structural similarity to the CMB20 carbohydrate-binding module of a fungal glucosamylase. This is an intriguing observation. However, the paper does not validate that the CMB20-like domain in RNF213 has any carbohydrate-binding activity or identifies any ligand – microbial or otherwise. The conclusions drawn by the authors are not substantiated by any experimental follow-up studies

With the possible exception of LPS, no ligand for RNF213 has been identified so far in any study and for any pathogen. Identifying the CBM20 domain in RNF213 as a hotspot of positive selection (and therefore likely receptor domain) should hence be considered significant progress.

please provide the sequence of the Rnf213 KO allele in MEFs. What was the sgRNA used to make the KO? Is it possible splice variants are still being expressed that may have functional effects?

The MEFs used here carry frameshifts in exon 31. If exon skipping occurs, multiple exons (i.e. exons 31-35) would need to be skipped to maintain an open reading frame. We therefore consider the existence of functional splice variants unlikely.

An additional comments regarding the authors' response:

- The authors argue that they cannot monitor restriction of *Toxoplasma* by DOX-inducible RNF213 because the experiments last for 10 – 15 days and DOX over this timeframe causes toxicity. However, RNF213 mediated host defense can be assessed by quantifying parasites per vacuole by IF at 24 hours post infection (see PMID: 36154443). Therefore, using their DOX-inducible constructs to assess anti-parasitic effects is doable.

This comment refers back to old data no longer present in the manuscript.

**Reviewer #3 (Remarks to the Author):**

I very much appreciate the authors' efforts to address my comments experimentally. The novel data, in particular the quantitative data on RNF213 coat formation on *T.gondii* vacuoles and the cryoEM structure of human RNF213 with CBM20 domain, significantly strengthen the manuscript which can now be accepted for publication. As a final remark: you might want to mention the new cryoEM structure explicitly in the abstract. Congratulations on the outstanding work - Francis Impens.

We are delighted that Reviewer 3 supports publication of our manuscript, which he/she considers significantly strengthened through the inclusion of the newly solved cryo-EM structure of human RNF213 and the addition of quantitative data on RNF213 coat formation.

#### **Reviewer #4 (Remarks to the Author):**

The revised manuscript presents two major updates: 1) quantitative analysis of RNF213 targeting and amplifying on the Toxoplasma vacuole-containing member (new Figure 2 C-F); 2) cryo-EM data on human RNF213 revealing a CBM domain in the N-terminus.

We are happy that the newly added quantitative analysis of RNF213 coat formation and the newly added high-resolution cryo-EM structure of RNF213 leading to the discovery of the previously unknown CBM20 domain in RNF213 are recognized by Reviewer 4 as 'major updates'.

While the current version of the manuscript resolves some of my previous concerns, there are still major issues that must be addressed, rendering it unsuitable for publication in its present form. Detailed comments are listed below:

1. Although the authors have determined the structure of human RNF213 and identified the CBM domain in the previously unresolved N-terminus region, their argument that RNF213 acts as a bona fide PRR serving as a bona fide PRR because of the positive selection in the CBM domain is too speculated and requires experimental evidence.

We agree with the reviewer that strong circumstantial evidence from evolutionary analysis does not provide direct proof of RNF213 serving PRR function. We therefore avoided any overstatements in our manuscript by merely concluding that our data are '...consistent with' RNF213 serving as a PRR.

Is there any prior study that suggests CBM is involved in pathogen recognition?

We thank the reviewer for asking about the CBM20 domain. We now realize that we may not have sufficiently explained why strong positive selection in a carbohydrate binding domain adds to the likelihood of RNF213 serving PRR function: a) pathogen detection through carbohydrate binding domains is a well-established concept and of particular appeal in the otherwise carbohydrate-devoid cytosol and b) the notorious diversity of microbial carbohydrates fits well with the pronounced positive selection observed in the CBM20 domain of RNF213.

In addition, since the truncation of the entire N-terminus (N586) leads to aggregation, it suggests CBM domain may serve as a signal anchor for correct trafficking of RNF213 or maintaining the oligomerization status of RNF213 rather than substrate binding. To support the current conclusion, experiments with point mutations in the CBM domain need to be carried out.

To address the reviewers request, we mutated residues in the CBM20 domain likely involved in carbohydrate recognition (F391, F401, W413, H421, Y422, Y462). However, we observed that mutant proteins were still able to detect pathogens (new data, Appendix Fig.S1), an ambiguous result that, unfortunately, neither proves nor refutes a role of the CBM20 domain in pathogen recognition. Further studies on the role of the CBM20 domain will be needed to establish its precise function.

2. Based on the authors' responses to all reviewers, it appears that the focus of this manuscript is on RNF213-mediated pathogen recognition, which has led to the omission of the Toxoplasma plaque assay data. Nonetheless, if the authors assert that RNF213 is a bona fide PRR, it remains unclear how exactly RNF213 recognizes the evolutionally distinct pathogens. Moreover, new Figures 2C to 2F indicate that the initiation of RNF213 recruitment and the amplification of the coating signal are two separate molecular events. Since the experiments examining RNF213 mutations were all conducted at a single time point, it is difficult to determine if these mutants have defects in pathogen recognition or in the amplification of RNF213 coating signal.

We thank the reviewer for the above succinct summary. Initiation of RNF213 recruitment and the enzymatic amplification of the RNF213 coat are indeed two separate events – the former relies on rate-limiting initiation events, while the latter requires the cooperative incorporation of further RNF213 molecules. However, as can be concluded from the kinetic analysis of RNF213 recruitment to Toxoplasma (Fig.2), defects in either pathogen recognition or subsequent incorporation of RNF213 monomers into the coat will result in the absence of RNF213 coats. We therefore think that the reviewer's suggestion of analyzing multiple time points with established methodology is unlikely to provide further mechanistic insights

Minor comments:

1. I have come to realize that the cells used in this study express RNF213 under doxycycline-induced conditions. Given this, performing all experiments on IFN $\gamma$ -stimulated cells is misleading. Since IFN $\gamma$  is known to induce the expression of RNF213 in human cells, as shown in PMID 36154443 and PMID38147552, the effect of IFN $\gamma$  induction is not evident in this study (although the current work mainly carried out in murine fibroblasts). So, I suggest removing all data related to IFN $\gamma$ -stimulated cells from this manuscript.

IFN $\gamma$  is known to affect cells in many aspects, not only by controlling RNF213 levels. Regarding the results reported here, there seems to be a misunderstanding – most experiments were not performed in the presence of IFN $\gamma$  (for example, those in Fig.2, 3, 4, or 5), while experiments involving IFN $\gamma$  (Fig.1B, E) also contain conditions without cytokine treatment to enable direct comparison.

2. Figure 2D, please clarify whether a synchronized invasion assay was performed (see PMID 20435700 as an example). If not, the observed difference in RNF213 coat formation among individual parasites could be attributed to variations in the timing of parasite invasion. The time frame for Toxoplasma to invade host cells can range from 10 minutes to 2 hours after the parasites are introduced to the cells.

Synchronized spin infections were performed. To further clarify the method, the section "Life-cell microscopy" in Materials & Methods has been updated. We thank the reviewer for pointing out the ambiguity in the previous version of our manuscript.

2. Figure 3A and 3B appear identical, with the only difference being the CBM labeled in Figure 3B. It would be nice to combine them into one figure.

3.

We deliberately created two cartoons as the panels have distinct purposes. Fig3A displays sites of positive selection, mapped onto the domain structure of RNF213 as it was known before our study, thus highlighting the need for further structural analysis. Fig3B is supposed to guide the reader in understanding Fig.3C-G.

Dear Dr. Randow,

Thank you for the submission of your further revised manuscript to our editorial offices. I now went through your final p-b-p-response and the revised manuscript and consider the remaining points of referees #2 and #4 as adequately addressed.

Before we can proceed with formal acceptance, I have these final editorial requests:

Moreover, I have these editorial requests:

- Please add the word 'Abstract' above the abstract.
- Please make sure that the number "n" for how many independent experiments were performed, their nature (biological versus technical replicates), the bars and error bars (e.g. SEM, SD) and the test used to calculate p-values is indicated in the respective figure legends. Please also check that all the p-values are explained in the legend, and that these fit to those shown in the figure. Please provide statistical testing where applicable. Please avoid the phrase 'independent experiment', but clearly state if these were biological or technical replicates. Please also indicate (e.g. with n.s.) if testing was performed, but the differences are not significant. In case  $n=2$ , please show the data as separate datapoints without error bars and statistics. See also: <http://www.embopress.org/page/journal/14693178/authorguide#statisticalanalysis>

If  $n < 5$ , please show single datapoints for diagrams. Could statistics also be provided for the diagrams in panels 1B and 1E? Moreover:

- Please show the stats for all diagrams as in panel 1B (with a line indicating which datasets have been tested).
- Please provide exact p values in the legends of figures 1d; 3h-j; 4a-b, d-f.
- Please note that in figure 3i; there is a mismatch between the annotated p values in the figure legend and the annotated p values in the figure file that should be corrected.
- Please note that information related to n is missing in the legend of figure 2e.
- Please define the error bars in the legends of figures 2e.
- Please add scale bars of similar style and thickness to all microscopic images (main, EV and Appendix figures), using clearly visible black or white bars (depending on the background). Please place these in the lower right corner of the images themselves. Please do not write on or near the bars in the image but define the size in the respective figure legend. Presently, several scale bars are too thin or have text nearby. Moreover, the scale bar in figure EV 1a needs to be defined in the legend. Please also add scale bars to the magnification boxes in Figs. 1, EV1 and EV4.
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- Per journal policy, we do not allow 'results not shown', which is stated in the manuscript (page 28). All data referred to in the paper should be displayed in the main or Expanded View figures, or an Appendix. Thus, please add these data (or change the text accordingly if these data are not central to the study). See: <https://www.embopress.org/page/journal/14693178/authorguide#unpublisheddata>
- Please provide the Appendix as pdf file.
- Please make sure that the Appendix Tables are called out as 'Appendix Table Sx'. There are callouts for "Table Sx" in the manuscript text (page 29). Please check.
- Please provide the legends for Dataset EV1 as a readme text file ZIPed together with the Fasta file.
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- Please remove the instructions and examples from the reagents and tools table.
- Please provide a final Data Availability Section (that should only mention externally deposited datasets) with specific URLs

(direct links) for the EMD 19653 - 19659 and PDB 8S24 datasets. Please make sure these are public and accessible latest upon publication of the manuscript.

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- a short, two-sentence summary of the manuscript (not more than 35 words).
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I look forward to seeing the final revised version of your manuscript when it is ready. Please let me know if you have questions regarding the revision.

Best,

Achim Breiling  
Senior Editor  
EMBO Reports

The authors have addressed all minor editorial requests.

Dr. Felix Randow  
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Francis Crick Avenue  
Cambridge CB2 0QH  
United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Randow,

I am very pleased to accept your manuscript for publication in the next available issue of EMBO reports. Thank you for your contribution to our journal.

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Yours sincerely,

Achim Breiling  
Senior Editor  
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Reporting Checklist for Life Science Articles (updated January

This checklist is adapted from Materials Design Analysis Reporting (MDAR) Checklist for Authors. MDAR establishes a minimum set of requirements in transparent reporting in the life sciences (see Statement of Task: [10.31222/osf.io/9sm4x](#)). Please follow the journal's guidelines in preparing your

**Please note that a copy of this checklist will be published alongside your article.**

Abridged guidelines for figures

1. Data

The data shown in figures should satisfy the following conditions:

- the data were obtained and processed according to the field's best practice and are presented to reflect the results of the experiments in an accurate and unbiased manner.
- ideally, figure panels should include only measurements that are directly comparable to each other and obtained with the same assay.
- plots include clearly labeled error bars for independent experiments and sample sizes. Unless justified, error bars should not be shown for technical
- if n<5, the individual data points from each experiment should be plotted. Any statistical test employed should be justified.
- Source Data should be included to report the data underlying figures according to the guidelines set out in the authorship guidelines on Data

2. Captions

Each figure caption should contain the following information, for each panel where they are relevant:

- a specification of the experimental system investigated (eg cell line, species name).
- the assay(s) and method(s) used to carry out the reported observations and measurements.
- an explicit mention of the biological and chemical entity(ies) that are being measured.
- an explicit mention of the biological and chemical entity(ies) that are altered/varied/perturbed in a controlled manner.
- the exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a number, not a range;
- a description of the sample collection allowing the reader to understand whether the samples represent technical or biological replicates (including how many animals, litters, cultures, etc.).
- a statement of how many times the experiment shown was independently replicated in the laboratory.
- definitions of statistical methods and measures:
  - common tests, such as t-test (please specify whether paired vs. unpaired), simple  $\chi^2$  tests, Wilcoxon and Mann-Whitney tests, can be unambiguously identified by name only, but more complex techniques should be described in the methods section;
  - are tests one-sided or two-sided?
  - are there adjustments for multiple comparisons?
  - exact statistical test results, e.g., P values = x but not P values < x;
  - definition of 'center values' as median or average;
  - definition of error bars as s.d. or s.e.m.

Please complete ALL of the questions below.

Select "Not Applicable" only when the requested information is not relevant for your study.

Materials

| Newly Created Materials                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New materials and reagents need to be available; do any restrictions apply?                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                     | Data Availability Section                                                                                                               |
| Antibodies                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| For <b>antibodies</b> provide the following information:<br>- Commercial antibodies: RRID (if possible) or supplier name, catalogue number and or/clone number<br>- Non-commercial: RRID or citation                        | Yes                                     | Reagents and Tools Table                                                                                                                |
| DNA and RNA sequences                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| <b>Short novel DNA or RNA including primers, probes:</b> provide the sequences.                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                     | Reagents and Tools Table                                                                                                                |
| Cell materials                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| <b>Cell lines:</b> Provide species information, strain. Provide accession number in repository <b>OR</b> supplier name, catalog number, clone number, and <b>OR</b> RRID.                                                   | Yes                                     | Reagents and Tools Table                                                                                                                |
| <b>Primary cultures:</b> Provide species, strain, sex of origin, genetic modification status.                                                                                                                               | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Report if the cell lines were recently <b>authenticated</b> (e.g., by STR profiling) and tested for mycoplasma contamination.                                                                                               | Yes                                     | Materials and Methods                                                                                                                   |
| Experimental animals                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| <b>Laboratory animals or Model organisms:</b> Provide species, strain, sex, age, genetic modification status. Provide accession number in repository <b>OR</b> supplier name, catalog number, clone number, <b>OR</b> RRID. | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Animal observed in or captured from the field:</b> Provide species, sex, and age where possible.                                                                                                                         | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Please detail <b>housing and husbandry conditions</b> .                                                                                                                                                                     | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Plants and microbes                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| <b>Plants:</b> provide species and strain, ecotype and cultivar where relevant, unique accession number if available, and source (including location for collected wild specimens).                                         | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Microbes:</b> provide species and strain, unique accession number if available, and source.                                                                                                                              | Yes                                     | Reagents and Tools Table                                                                                                                |
| Human research participants                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| If collected and within the bounds of privacy constraints report on age, sex and gender or ethnicity for all study participants.                                                                                            | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Core facilities                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
| If your work benefited from core facilities, was their service mentioned in the acknowledgments section?                                                                                                                    | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |

Design

| Study protocol                                                                                                                                                           | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| If study protocol has been <b>pre-registered</b> , provide DOI in the <b>manuscript</b> . For clinical trials, provide the trial registration number <b>OR</b> cite DOI. | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Report the <b>clinical trial registration number</b> (at ClinicalTrials.gov or equivalent), where applicable.                                                            | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |

| Laboratory protocol                                                                                     | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Provide DOI OR other citation details if <b>external detailed step-by-step protocols</b> are available. | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |

| Experimental study design and statistics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
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| Include a statement about <b>sample size</b> estimate even if no statistical methods were used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes                                     | Materials and Methds                                                                                                                    |
| Were any steps taken to minimize the effects of subjective bias when allocating animals/samples to treatment (e.g. <b>randomization procedure</b> )? If yes, have they been described?                                                                                                                                                     | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Include a statement about <b>blinding</b> even if no blinding was done.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes                                     | Materials and Methds                                                                                                                    |
| Describe <b>inclusion/exclusion criteria</b> if samples or animals were excluded from the analysis. Were the criteria pre-established?                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| If sample or data points were omitted from analysis, report if this was due to attrition or intentional exclusion and provide justification.                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                         |                                                                                                                                         |
| For every figure, are <b>statistical tests</b> justified as appropriate? Do the data meet the assumptions of the tests (e.g., normal distribution)? Describe any methods used to assess it. Is there an estimate of variation within each group of data? Is the variance similar between the groups that are being statistically compared? | Yes                                     | Legends                                                                                                                                 |

| Sample definition and in-laboratory replication                                                  | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
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| In the figure legends: state number of times the experiment was <b>replicated</b> in laboratory. | Yes                                     | Legends                                                                                                                                 |
| In the figure legends: define whether data describe <b>technical or biological replicates</b> .  | Yes                                     | Legends                                                                                                                                 |

#### Ethics

| Ethics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Studies involving <b>human participants</b> : Include a statement confirming that <b>informed consent</b> was obtained from all subjects and that the experiments conformed to the principles set out in the WMA Declaration of Helsinki and the Department of Health and Human Services Belmont Report. | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Studies involving <b>human participants</b> : For publication of <b>patient photos</b> , include a statement confirming that consent to publish was obtained.                                                                                                                                            | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| Studies involving experimental <b>animals</b> : State details of <b>authority granting ethics approval</b> (IRB or equivalent committee(s), provide reference number for approval. Include a statement of compliance with ethical regulations.                                                           | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
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| Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
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| If you used a select agent, is the security level of the lab appropriate and reported in the manuscript?                                                                                                                                              | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| If a study is subject to dual use research of concern regulations, is the name of the <b>authority granting approval and reference number</b> for the regulatory approval provided in the manuscript?                                                 | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |

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The MDAR framework recommends adoption of discipline-specific guidelines, established and endorsed through community initiatives. Journals have their own policy about requiring specific guidelines and recommendations to complement MDAR.

| Adherence to community standards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| State if relevant guidelines or checklists (e.g., <b>ICMJE, MIBBI, ARRIVE, PRISMA</b> ) have been followed or provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| For <b>tumor marker prognostic studies</b> , we recommend that you follow the <b>REMARK</b> reporting guidelines (see link list at top right). See author guidelines, under 'Reporting Guidelines'. Please confirm you have followed these guidelines.                                                                        | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
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#### Data Availability

| Data availability                                                                                                                                                                                 | Information included in the manuscript? | In which section is the information available?<br>(Reagents and Tools Table, Materials and Methods, Figures, Data Availability Section) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Have <b>primary datasets</b> been deposited according to the journal's guidelines (see 'Data Deposition' section) and the respective accession numbers provided in the Data Availability Section? | Yes                                     | Data Availability Section                                                                                                               |
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| Are <b>computational models</b> that are central and integral to a study available without restrictions in a machine-readable form? Were the relevant accession numbers or links provided?        | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |
| If publicly available data were reused, provide the respective <b>data citations in the reference list</b> .                                                                                      | Not Applicable                          |                                                                                                                                         |