

MIT Open Access Articles

Subtype-specific genomic alterations define new targets for soft tissue sarcoma therapy

The MIT Faculty has made this article openly available. **Please share** how this access benefits you. Your story matters.

Citation: Jordi Barretina et al. "Subtype-specific genomic alterations define new targets for soft tissue sarcoma therapy" Nature Genetics 42, 715–721(2010).

As Published: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ng.619>

Publisher: Nature Publishing Group

Persistent URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/74034>

Version: Author's final manuscript: final author's manuscript post peer review, without publisher's formatting or copy editing

Terms of use: Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0



Published in final edited form as:

Nat Genet. 2010 August ; 42(8): 715–721. doi:10.1038/ng.619.

Subtype-specific genomic alterations define new targets for soft tissue sarcoma therapy

Jordi Barretina^{1,2,3,15}, Barry S. Taylor^{4,5,15}, Shantanu Banerji^{1,2,3}, Alexis H. Ramos^{1,2,3}, Mariana Lagos-Quintana⁶, Penelope L. DeCarolis⁶, Kinjal Shah^{1,3}, Nicholas D. Socci⁴, Barbara A. Weir^{1,2,3}, Alan Ho⁷, Derek Y. Chiang^{1,2,3}, Boris Reva⁴, Craig Mermel^{1,2,3}, Gad Getz³, Yevgenyi Antipin⁴, Rameen Beroukhi^{1,2,3}, John E. Major⁴, Charlie Hatton^{1,2}, Richard Nicoletti^{1,2}, Megan Hanna^{1,2}, Ted Sharpe³, Tim Fennell³, Kristian Cibulskis³, Robert C. Onofrio³, Tsuyoshi Saito^{8,9}, Neerav Shukla^{8,9}, Christopher Lau^{8,9}, Sven Nelander⁴, Serena Silver³, Carrie Sougnez³, Agnes Viale¹⁰, Wendy Winckler^{1,2,3}, Robert G. Maki¹¹, Levi A. Garraway^{1,2,3}, Alex Lash⁴, Heidi Greulich^{1,2,3}, David Root³, William R. Sellers¹², Gary K. Schwartz⁷, Cristina R. Antonescu⁸, Eric S. Lander³, Harold E. Varmus¹³, Marc Ladanyi^{8,9}, Chris Sander⁴, Matthew Meyerson^{1,2,3,14}, and Samuel Singer⁶

¹Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, 44 Binney Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA

²Center for Cancer Genome Discovery, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, 44 Binney Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA

³The Broad Institute of M.I.T. and Harvard, 7 Cambridge Center, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA

⁴Computational Biology Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA

⁵Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, NY 10065, USA

Users may view, print, copy, download and text and data- mine the content in such documents, for the purposes of academic research, subject always to the full Conditions of use: http://www.nature.com/authors/editorial_policies/license.html#terms

Corresponding Authors: Correspondence to: Chris Sander (sanderc@mskcc.org), Matthew Meyerson (matthew_meyerson@dfci.harvard.edu) or Samuel Singer (singers@mskcc.org).

¹⁵These authors contributed equally to this work.

These authors jointly directed this work: Matthew Meyerson and Samuel Singer

URLs

Sarcoma Genome Project (SGP) data portals, <http://www.broadinstitute.org/sarcoma/> and <http://cbio.mskcc.org/cancergenomics/sgp>; The RNAi Consortium shRNA library, <http://www.broadinstitute.org/rnai/trc/lib/>; UCSC Genome Browser, <http://genome.ucsc.edu/>; Database of Genomic Variants (DGV), <http://projects.tcag.ca/variation/>; GenePattern, <http://www.broadinstitute.org/genepattern/>; Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV), <http://www.broadinstitute.org/igv/>

Accession numbers

Study data is deposited in NCBI GEO under accession number GSE21124.

Author Contributions

Project conception: E.S.L., H.E.V., W.R.S., M.M., S. Singer. Study design and oversight by J.B., B.S.T., A.L., R.G.M., L.A.G., G.K.S., E.S.L., H.E.V., W.R.S., C.R.A., M.L., C. Sander, M.M., S. Singer. Sample selection and analyte processing was carried out by P.L.D., A.V., C.R.A., M.L., S. Singer. Sequencing and genotyping experiments were performed by J.B., A.H.R., K.S., C.H., R.N., M.H., T. Sharpe., T.F., K.C., R.C.O., C. Sougnez. W.W., H.G., T. Saito, N.S., C.L. RNA interference screen was performed by J.B., K.S., S. Silver, D.R. Validation experiments performed by S.B., M.L.Q., A.H., G.K.S. Statistical and bioinformatics analyses were performed by B.S.T., A.H.R., N.D.S., B.A.W., D.Y.C., B.R., C.M. G.G., Y.A., R.B., S.N., J.E.M. Analysis and interpretation of the results was carried out by J.B. and B.S.T. J.B., B.S.T., S.B., A.H.R., M.L., C.S., M.M., S. Singer drafted the manuscript. All authors contributed to critical review of the paper.

Author Information: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

⁶Sarcoma Biology Laboratory, Sarcoma Disease Management Program, Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10021, USA

⁷Laboratory of New Drug Development, Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA

⁸Department of Pathology, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA

⁹Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA

¹⁰Genomics Core Laboratory, Sloan-Kettering Institute, New York, NY 10065, USA

¹¹Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA

¹²Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research, 250 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA

¹³Program in Cancer Biology and Genetics, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA

¹⁴Departments of Pathology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA 02115, USA

Keywords

Sarcoma; DNA copy number; Sequencing; RNAi

Introductory Paragraph

Soft tissue sarcomas, which encompass approximately 10,700 diagnoses and 3800 deaths per year in the US¹, exhibit remarkable histologic diversity, with more than 50 recognized subtypes². However, knowledge of their genomic alterations is limited. We describe an integrative analysis of DNA sequence, copy number, and mRNA expression in 207 samples encompassing seven major subtypes. Frequently mutated genes included *TP53* (17% of pleomorphic liposarcomas), *NF1* (10.5% of myxofibrosarcomas and 8% of pleomorphic liposarcomas), and *PIK3CA* (18% of myxoid/round-cell liposarcomas). *PIK3CA* mutations in myxoid/round-cell liposarcomas were associated with AKT activation and poor clinical outcomes. In myxofibrosarcomas and pleomorphic liposarcomas, we found both point mutations and genomic deletions affecting the tumor suppressor *NF1*. Finally, we found that shRNA-based knockdown of several genes amplified in dedifferentiated liposarcoma, including *CDK4* and *YEATS4*, decreased cell proliferation. Our study yields a detailed map of molecular alterations across diverse sarcoma subtypes and provides potential subtype-specific targets for therapy.

Current knowledge of the key genomic aberrations in soft tissue sarcoma is limited to the most recurrent alterations or translocations. Subtypes with simple, near-diploid karyotypes bear few chromosomal rearrangements but have pathognomonic alterations: translocations in myxoid/round-cell liposarcoma (MRC) [t(12;16)(q13;p11), t(12;22)(q13;q12)] and synovial sarcomas (SS) [t(X;18)(p11;q11)]; activating mutations in *KIT* or *PDGFRA* in gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST)^{3,4}. The discovery of the latter mutations led to the clinical deployment of imatinib for the treatment of GIST⁵, providing a model for genotype-directed therapies in molecularly defined sarcoma subtypes. Conversely, sarcomas with complex karyotypes, including dedifferentiated and pleomorphic liposarcoma, leiomyosarcoma, and myxofibrosarcoma, have no known characteristic mutations or fusion genes, although abnormalities are frequently observed in the Rb, p53, and specific growth-factor signaling pathways⁶.

Recent large-scale analyses^{7–10} have established a standard for cancer genome studies, but soft tissue sarcomas have not yet been a focus of this type of effort. Given the urgent need for new treatments for the ~4000 patients who die each year in the US of soft tissue sarcoma¹, we sought to identify novel genomic alterations that could serve as therapeutic targets. Here, we describe complementary genome and functional genetic analyses of seven subtypes of high-grade soft tissue sarcoma (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1) to discover subtype-specific events. Several of our findings, detailed below, could have nearly immediate therapeutic implications.

To study the genomic alterations in sarcomas, we initially analyzed 47 tumor/normal DNA pairs encompassing six soft tissue sarcoma subtypes by sequencing 722 protein-coding and microRNA genes, followed by verifying discovered mutations with mass spectrometry-based genotyping (see Methods, Supplementary Figure 1A, and Supplementary Table 2). The results revealed 28 somatic non-synonymous coding point mutations and 9 somatic insertions/deletions (indels) involving 21 genes in total (Table 2 and Supplementary Figure 1B). No mutations were detected in microRNAs genes. We extended the analysis to an additional 160 tumors, where we genotyped each of the mutations found above and re-sequenced exons of *NF1* and *ERBB4* in pleomorphic liposarcoma and myxofibrosarcoma, *PIK3CA* and *KIT* in myxoid/round cell liposarcoma, and *CDHI* in dedifferentiated liposarcoma; this revealed nine additional mutations (Table 2 and Supplementary Table 3).

KIT was frequently mutated in GISTs and unexpectedly, in one myxoid/round cell liposarcoma sample (Supplementary Note). The next most frequently mutated genes observed within specific sarcoma subtypes were *PIK3CA*, in 18% of myxoid/round cell liposarcomas, *TP53* in 17% of pleomorphic liposarcomas (interestingly, the only subtype in which mutations of this gene were found), and *NF1* in 10.5% of myxofibrosarcomas and 8% of pleomorphic liposarcomas (Table 2 and Figure 1). Additional genes, including protein and lipid kinases, as well as known or candidate tumor suppressor genes, were found mutated in just one sample for each sarcoma subtype (Table 2, Figure 1, and Supplementary Note). Further studies will be needed to establish the functional impact of these mutations in sarcoma.

Below, we focus on three major specific genomic findings with therapeutic implications: point mutation and deletion of *NF1* in a subset of soft tissue sarcomas, point mutation of *PIK3CA* in myxoid/round cell liposarcoma, and the complex pattern of amplification of chromosome 12q in dedifferentiated liposarcoma.

Integrated analysis of DNA copy number, expression, and mutation data uncovered diverse alterations of the Neurofibromatosis type 1 gene (*NF1*) in several sarcoma subtypes. While germline and somatic inactivation of *NF1* is associated with malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors¹¹ and GISTs in Neurofibromatosis type 1 patients¹², no somatic *NF1* alterations have been reported in other sarcomas. We detected six point mutations and twelve genomic deletions encompassing the *NF1* locus, occurring in both myxofibrosarcoma and pleomorphic liposarcoma (Table 2 and Figure 1·2A–B; copy number analysis discussed further below). Two of the mutations, R304* and Q369*, were previously reported as germline mutations in patients with Neurofibromatosis type 1^{13,14}, while the other four mutations (three missense and one nonsense) have not been previously reported. In some tumors, biallelic inactivation was evident, with heterozygous point mutations accompanied by deletion of the wild-type allele and correspondingly reduced gene expression compared to normal adipose tissue¹⁵ in most cases (Figure 2B). Together, these data indicate a diverse pattern of *NF1* aberrations in myxofibrosarcomas and pleomorphic liposarcomas. These results complement recent reports of *NF1* alterations in lung cancers and glioblastomas^{7,8}.

PIK3CA, encoding the catalytic subunit of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K), had one of the highest somatic mutation frequencies among the genes in this analysis (Table 2). Nucleotide substitutions in *PIK3CA* were initially detected in 4 of 21 myxoid/round-cell liposarcomas (MRCs). We measured the frequency of point mutations in *PIK3CA* in this subtype by genotyping an independent cohort of 50 MRCs¹⁶ for 13 common sites of *PIK3CA* mutation, including those discovered in our initial sequencing; mutations were detected in 9 additional patients (in total, 13 of 71). The mutations were clustered in two domains, the helical domain (E542K and E545K) and the kinase domain (H1047L and H1047R) (Table 2); both these domains are also mutated in epithelial tumors¹⁷.

MRC patients whose tumors harbored mutations in *PIK3CA* had a shorter duration of disease-specific survival than did those with wildtype *PIK3CA* ($p=0.036$, log-rank test). Similar to observations in breast cancers¹⁸, patients with helical-domain *PIK3CA* mutations had worse outcomes than those with kinase-domain mutations (Figure 3A). However, this difference was not statistically significant given the small number of cases in our study.

As both helical- and kinase-domain *PIK3CA* mutants are believed to activate Akt, although through different mechanisms^{19–21}, we assessed Akt activation in MRC tumors harboring wildtype and mutated *PIK3CA*. Of note, only E545K helical-domain mutations were associated with increased Akt phosphorylation relative to wildtype, both at serine-473 and threonine-308 (TORC2 and PDK1 phosphorylation sites, respectively), and with increased phosphorylation of Akt substrates PRAS40 and S6 kinase (Figure 3B). Surprisingly, tumors with H1047R kinase-domain mutations did not have similar increases in Akt phosphorylation or activation (Figure 3B). However, H1047R-mutant tumors exhibited variably higher levels of PTEN, a negative regulator of PI3K activity, which may partly explain lower Akt activity. In addition, we detected a single MRC tumor with homozygous *PTEN* deletion and high Akt phosphorylation levels (data not shown). Further studies are needed to determine the relationship between activated PI3K signaling (resulting from *PIK3CA* mutations) and the pathognomonic t(12;16)(q13;p11) translocation in this subtype.

In addition to sequencing, we characterized the spectrum of genomic aberrations in soft tissue sarcoma with 250K single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays for somatic copy number alterations (SCNAs: $n=207$; Figure 1 and Supplementary Figure 2A) and loss-of-heterozygosity (LOH) ($n=200$; Supplementary Figure 2B) and with oligonucleotide gene expression arrays ($n=149$) (see Methods). The patterns of statistically significant SCNAs^{22,23} (Figure 1) revealed substantial differences between subtypes with simple and complex karyotypes (Figure 1). Myxoid/round-cell liposarcoma, synovial sarcoma, and GIST had relatively normal karyotypes compared to dedifferentiated and pleomorphic liposarcoma, leiomyosarcoma, and myxofibrosarcoma. In addition, only the four complex subtypes harbored significant copy-neutral LOH (Supplementary Figure 2B and Supplementary Table 4). These types exhibit varied levels of complexity: both dedifferentiated liposarcoma and leiomyosarcoma are less complex than pleomorphic liposarcoma and myxofibrosarcoma (Figure 1). The latter two subtypes were strikingly similar (Figure 1 and Supplementary Figure 2A), indicating they might appropriately be considered a single entity in a molecular classification, as previously suggested²⁴.

Our copy number profiling revealed both focal and broad regions of recurrent amplification (Supplementary Table 5). The alteration with the highest prevalence in any subtype was chromosome 12q amplification in dedifferentiated liposarcoma (~90%; Figure 1 and Figure 4A). As amplification is a common mechanism of oncogenic activation, we designed an RNA interference (RNAi) screen to help identify genes in amplified regions that are necessary for cancer cell proliferation in this subtype. We performed knockdown with short hairpin RNAs (shRNA) on 385 genes (Supplementary Table 2) in three dedifferentiated

liposarcoma cell lines (LPS141, DDLS8817, and FU-DDLS-1) with copy number profiles similar to those observed in primary tumors of this subtype. A total of 2,007 shRNA lentiviruses, a median of five per gene, were tested for their effects on cell proliferation after 5 days (see Methods).

Using a statistical method, RSA (see Methods, Supplementary Note, and ref. 25), we identified 99 genes whose knockdown significantly decreased cell growth in at least one cell line (nominal $p < 0.05$; Supplementary Table 6). For 91 of the 99 genes, two or more independent shRNAs had anti-proliferative activity, reducing the likelihood that our results are due to off-target effects. To determine whether the effect of gene knockdown on cell proliferation was specific for dedifferentiated liposarcoma, we compared our results to a pooled shRNA screen of ~9500 genes in 12 cancer cell lines of different types²⁶ which included 58 of the 99 genes whose knock-down reduced proliferation. Only one of the 58 genes, *PSMB4*, was identified as a common essential gene, for which depletion reduced cell proliferation in ≥ 8 of 12 cancer cell lines in the prior study²⁶.

27 of the 99 genes whose knockdown reduced proliferation were amplified in at least one of the three dedifferentiated liposarcoma cell lines used in our study (Supplementary Figure 3). Among these 27 genes, the most strongly overexpressed in dedifferentiated liposarcoma compared to normal fat¹⁵ was *CDK4*, a cell-cycle regulator and a known oncogene²⁷. We confirmed that sustained knockdown of *CDK4* (>10 days) inhibited proliferation when we assayed two of the three cell lines we screened (see Methods, Figure 4B). Furthermore, pharmacological inhibition of CDK4 in dedifferentiated liposarcoma cells with PD0332991, a selective CDK4/CDK6 inhibitor currently in clinical trials²⁸, induced G1 arrest in the same two cell lines (Figure 4C).

For *MDM2*, another oncogene found in focal 12q amplifications, knockdown did not significantly impair proliferation in our arrayed screen in any of the three cell lines tested. Nevertheless, proliferation was impaired by subsequent knockdown lasting more than a week when we assayed two of those three cell lines (Figure 4D). Interestingly, another gene whose knockdown reduced proliferation of cells in which it was amplified was *YEATS4* (*GAS41*), encoding a putative transcription factor that represses the p53 tumor suppressor network during normal cell proliferation²⁹. *YEATS4*, frequently co-amplified with *MDM2* (Figure 4A), was transcriptionally upregulated both in tumors relative to normal adipose tissue and in tumors with amplification compared to those copy-neutral for the locus (Supplementary Figure 3). Repeat shRNA experiments confirmed the effect of *YEATS4* knockdown seen in the arrayed screen (Figure 4E), consistent with the hypothesis that *YEATS4* and *MDM2* amplification may cooperatively repress the p53 network in dedifferentiated liposarcoma, as recently suggested³⁰. This finding may have consequences for Nutlin-based antagonism of the p53-MDM2 interaction^{15,31} in dedifferentiated liposarcomas. Our findings lend additional support for *YEATS4* serving as a likely key amplified gene in cancer, as recently suggested through a weight-of-evidence classification scheme proposed for identifying such amplified cancer genes³².

This dataset provides the most comprehensive database of sarcoma genome alterations to date, revealing genes and signaling pathways not previously associated with this group of diseases. The study results are available as a community resource that might further the biological understanding of sarcomas and, eventually, shed light on additional strategies to improve patient care. Some of our findings already have potential therapeutic implications. For instance, the *PIK3CA* mutations found in MRC constitute the first report of such mutations in a mesenchymal cancer. These mutations identify a subset of tumors that might respond to treatment with PI3K inhibitors currently in clinical trials³³. Our results also provide further rationale for use of CDK4 inhibitors in dedifferentiated liposarcoma and

suggest the use of mTOR inhibitors in NF1-deficient sarcomas, since loss of NF1 function appears to cause mTOR pathway activation³⁴. Finally, these data lend support for the clinical evaluation of agents targeting the p53/MDM2 interaction in dedifferentiated liposarcoma.

This work argues for the therapeutic importance of genomic alterations in sarcoma and encourages us to pursue next-generation sequencing strategies that will continue to define the landscape of genomic aberrations in these deadly diseases.

Methods

Methods and any associated references are available in the online version of the paper at <http://www.nature.com/naturegenetics/>.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

For advice and discussion, we thank W. Lin, J. Boehm, C. Johannessen, A. Bass, M. Garber, S. Finn, J. Fletcher, W.C. Hahn, T. Golub, and all the members of the Spanish Group for Research on Sarcomas (GEIS). We are grateful for the technical assistance and support of B. Blumenstail, L. Ziaugra and S. Gabriel of the Broad Genetic Analysis Platform; J. Baldwin of the Broad Sequencing Platform; J. Franklin, S. Mahan and K. Ardlie of the Broad Biological Samples Platform; and H. Le, P. Lizotte, B. Wong, A. Allen, A. Derr, C. Nguyen and J. Grenier of the Broad RNAi Platform. We thank L. Borsu for assistance with Sequenom assays at MSKCC. The MSKCC Sequenom facility is supported by the Anbinder Fund. We also thank the members of the MSKCC Genomics Core Laboratory and N.H. Moraco for clinical data support. J. Fletcher and J. Nishio provided the LPS141 and FU-DDLS-1 cell lines respectively. J.B. is a *Beatriu de Pinós* fellow of the *Departament d'Universitats, Recerca i Societat de la Informació de la Generalitat de Catalunya*. B.S.T is a fellow of the Geoffrey Beene Cancer Research Center at MSKCC. This work was supported in part by The Soft Tissue Sarcoma Program Project (P01 CA047179, S.S., M.L. and C.S.), The Kristen Ann Carr Fund, the Starr Foundation Cancer Consortium, and by a generous donation from Mr. Mortimer B. Zuckerman.

References

1. Jemal A, et al. Cancer statistics, 2009. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2009;59:225–249. [PubMed: 19474385]
2. Fletcher, C.; Unni, K.; Mertens, F., editors. *Pathology and Genetics of Tumors of Soft Tissue and Bone*. Lyon: International Agency for Research on Cancer Press; 2002. p. 427
3. Heinrich MC, et al. PDGFRA activating mutations in gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Science* 2003;299:708–710. [PubMed: 12522257]
4. Hirota S, et al. Gain-of-function mutations of c-kit in human gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *Science* 1998;279:577–580. [PubMed: 9438854]
5. Demetri GD, et al. Efficacy and safety of imatinib mesylate in advanced gastrointestinal stromal tumors. *N Engl J Med* 2002;347:472–480. [PubMed: 12181401]
6. van de Rijn M, Fletcher JA. Genetics of soft tissue tumors. *Annu Rev Pathol* 2006;1:435–466. [PubMed: 18039122]
7. Ding L, et al. Somatic mutations affect key pathways in lung adenocarcinoma. *Nature* 2008;455:1069–1075. [PubMed: 18948947]
8. Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network. Comprehensive genomic characterization defines human glioblastoma genes and core pathways. *Nature* 2008;455:1061–1068. [PubMed: 18772890]
9. Greenman C, et al. Patterns of somatic mutation in human cancer genomes. *Nature* 2007;446:153–158. [PubMed: 17344846]
10. Velculescu VE. Defining the blueprint of the cancer genome. *Carcinogenesis* 2008;29:1087–1091. [PubMed: 18495658]

11. King AA, Debaun MR, Riccardi VM, Gutmann DH. Malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors in neurofibromatosis 1. *Am J Med Genet* 2000;93:388–392. [PubMed: 10951462]
12. Maertens O, et al. Molecular pathogenesis of multiple gastrointestinal stromal tumors in NF1 patients. *Hum Mol Genet* 2006;15:1015–1023. [PubMed: 16461335]
13. Maertens O, et al. Comprehensive NF1 screening on cultured Schwann cells from neurofibromas. *Hum Mutat* 2006;27:1030–1040. [PubMed: 16941471]
14. Upadhyaya M, et al. Characterization of the somatic mutational spectrum of the neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) gene in neurofibromatosis patients with benign and malignant tumors. *Hum Mutat* 2004;23:134–146. [PubMed: 14722917]
15. Singer S, et al. Gene expression profiling of liposarcoma identifies distinct biological types/subtypes and potential therapeutic targets in well-differentiated and dedifferentiated liposarcoma. *Cancer Res* 2007;67:6626–6636. [PubMed: 17638873]
16. Antonescu CR, et al. Prognostic impact of P53 status, TLS-CHOP fusion transcript structure, and histological grade in myxoid liposarcoma: a molecular and clinicopathologic study of 82 cases. *Clin Cancer Res* 2001;7:3977–3987. [PubMed: 11751490]
17. Samuels Y, et al. High frequency of mutations of the PIK3CA gene in human cancers. *Science* 2004;304:554. [PubMed: 15016963]
18. Barbareschi M, et al. Different prognostic roles of mutations in the helical and kinase domains of the PIK3CA gene in breast carcinomas. *Clin Cancer Res* 2007;13:6064–6069. [PubMed: 17947469]
19. Huang CH, et al. The structure of a human p110alpha/p85alpha complex elucidates the effects of oncogenic PI3Kalpha mutations. *Science* 2007;318:1744–1748. [PubMed: 18079394]
20. Miled N, et al. Mechanism of two classes of cancer mutations in the phosphoinositide 3-kinase catalytic subunit. *Science* 2007;317:239–242. [PubMed: 17626883]
21. Yuan TL, Cantley LC. PI3K pathway alterations in cancer: variations on a theme. *Oncogene* 2008;27:5497–5510. [PubMed: 18794884]
22. Beroukhim R, et al. Assessing the significance of chromosomal aberrations in cancer: methodology and application to glioma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2007;104:20007–20012. [PubMed: 18077431]
23. Taylor BS, et al. Functional copy-number alterations in cancer. *PLoS ONE* 2008;3:e3179. [PubMed: 18784837]
24. Idbaih A, et al. Myxoid malignant fibrous histiocytoma and pleomorphic liposarcoma share very similar genomic imbalances. *Lab Invest* 2005;85:176–181. [PubMed: 15702084]
25. Konig R, et al. A probability-based approach for the analysis of large-scale RNAi screens. *Nat Methods* 2007;4:847–849. [PubMed: 17828270]
26. Luo B, et al. Highly parallel identification of essential genes in cancer cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2008;105:20380–20385. [PubMed: 19091943]
27. Futreal PA, et al. A census of human cancer genes. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2004;4:177–183. [PubMed: 14993899]
28. Malumbres M, Barbacid M. Cell cycle, CDKs and cancer: a changing paradigm. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2009;9:153–166. [PubMed: 19238148]
29. Park JH, Roeder RG. GAS41 is required for repression of the p53 tumor suppressor pathway during normal cellular proliferation. *Mol Cell Biol* 2006;26:4006–4016. [PubMed: 16705155]
30. Italiano A, et al. HMGA2 is the partner of MDM2 in well-differentiated and dedifferentiated liposarcomas whereas CDK4 belongs to a distinct inconsistent amplicon. *Int J Cancer* 2008;122:2233–2241. [PubMed: 18214854]
31. Muller CR, et al. Potential for treatment of liposarcomas with the MDM2 antagonist Nutlin-3A. *Int J Cancer* 2007;121:199–205. [PubMed: 17354236]
32. Santarius T, Shipley J, Brewer D, Stratton MR, Cooper CS. A census of amplified and overexpressed human cancer genes. *Nat Rev Cancer* 2010;10:59–64. [PubMed: 20029424]
33. Garcia-Echeverria C, Sellers WR. Drug discovery approaches targeting the PI3K/Akt pathway in cancer. *Oncogene* 2008;27:5511–5526. [PubMed: 18794885]

34. Johannessen CM, et al. The NF1 tumor suppressor critically regulates TSC2 and mTOR. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2005;102:8573–8578. [PubMed: 15937108]
35. Dutt A, et al. Drug-sensitive FGFR2 mutations in endometrial carcinoma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2008;105:8713–8717. [PubMed: 18552176]
36. Gordon D, Abajian C, Green P. Consed: a graphical tool for sequence finishing. *Genome Res* 1998;8:195–202. [PubMed: 9521923]
37. Nickerson DA, Tobe VO, Taylor SL. PolyPhred: automating the detection and genotyping of single nucleotide substitutions using fluorescence-based resequencing. *Nucleic Acids Res* 1997;25:2745–2751. [PubMed: 9207020]
38. Zhang J, et al. SNPdetector: a software tool for sensitive and accurate SNP detection. *PLoS Comput Biol* 2005;1:e53. [PubMed: 16261194]
39. Major JE. Genomic mutation consequence calculator. *Bioinformatics* 2007;23:3091–3092. [PubMed: 17599934]
40. Thomas RK, et al. High-throughput oncogene mutation profiling in human cancer. *Nat Genet* 2007;39:347–351. [PubMed: 17293865]
41. Irizarry RA, et al. Exploration, normalization, and summaries of high density oligonucleotide array probe level data. *Biostatistics* 2003;4:249–264. [PubMed: 12925520]
42. Reich M, et al. GenePattern 2.0. *Nat Genet* 2006;38:500–501. [PubMed: 16642009]
43. Iafrate AJ, et al. Detection of large-scale variation in the human genome. *Nat Genet* 2004;36:949–951. [PubMed: 15286789]
44. Lin M, et al. dChipSNP: significance curve and clustering of SNP-array-based loss-of-heterozygosity data. *Bioinformatics* 2004;20:1233–1240. [PubMed: 14871870]
45. Ambrosini G, et al. Sorafenib inhibits growth and mitogen-activated protein kinase signaling in malignant peripheral nerve sheath cells. *Mol Cancer Ther* 2008;7:890–896. [PubMed: 18413802]
46. Ambrosini G, et al. Mouse double minute antagonist Nutlin-3a enhances chemotherapy-induced apoptosis in cancer cells with mutant p53 by activating E2F1. *Oncogene* 2007;26:3473–3481. [PubMed: 17146434]
47. Nishio J, et al. Establishment of a novel human dedifferentiated liposarcoma cell line, FU-DDLS-1: conventional and molecular cytogenetic characterization. *Int J Oncol* 2003;22:535–542. [PubMed: 12579306]
48. Moffat J, et al. A lentiviral RNAi library for human and mouse genes applied to an arrayed viral high-content screen. *Cell* 2006;124:1283–1298. [PubMed: 16564017]
49. Malo N, Hanley JA, Cerquozzi S, Pelletier J, Nadon R. Statistical practice in high-throughput screening data analysis. *Nat Biotechnol* 2006;24:167–175. [PubMed: 16465162]
50. Smyth GK. Linear models and empirical bayes methods for assessing differential expression in microarray experiments. *Stat Appl Genet Mol Biol* 2004;3 Article3.
51. Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y. Controlling the False Discovery Rate: A Practical and Powerful Approach to Multiple Testing. *J Roy Stat Soc, Ser B* 1995;57:289–300.

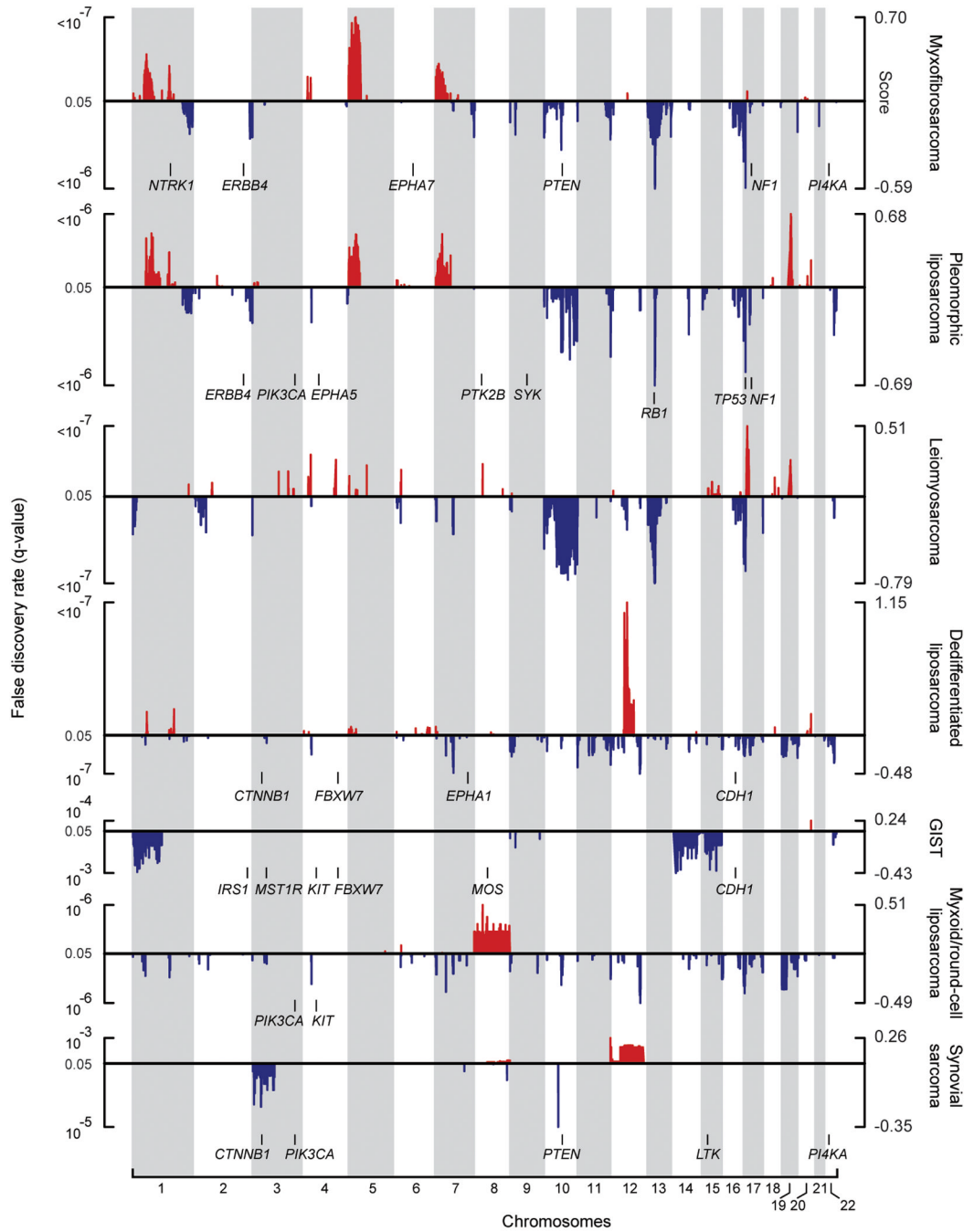


Figure 1. Nucleotide and copy number alterations in soft-tissue sarcoma subtypes

The statistical significance of genomic aberrations for each subtype is shown. RAE q-values [left axis; for visualization, q-values ≤ 0.05 are considered significant, corresponding false discovery rate (FDR) $\leq 5\%$] and scores (right axis) for gains and amplifications (red) and losses and deletions (blue) are plotted across the genome (chromosomes indicated at bottom). Genes harboring somatic nucleotide alterations in this study are indicated in each subtype in which they were discovered (Table 2).

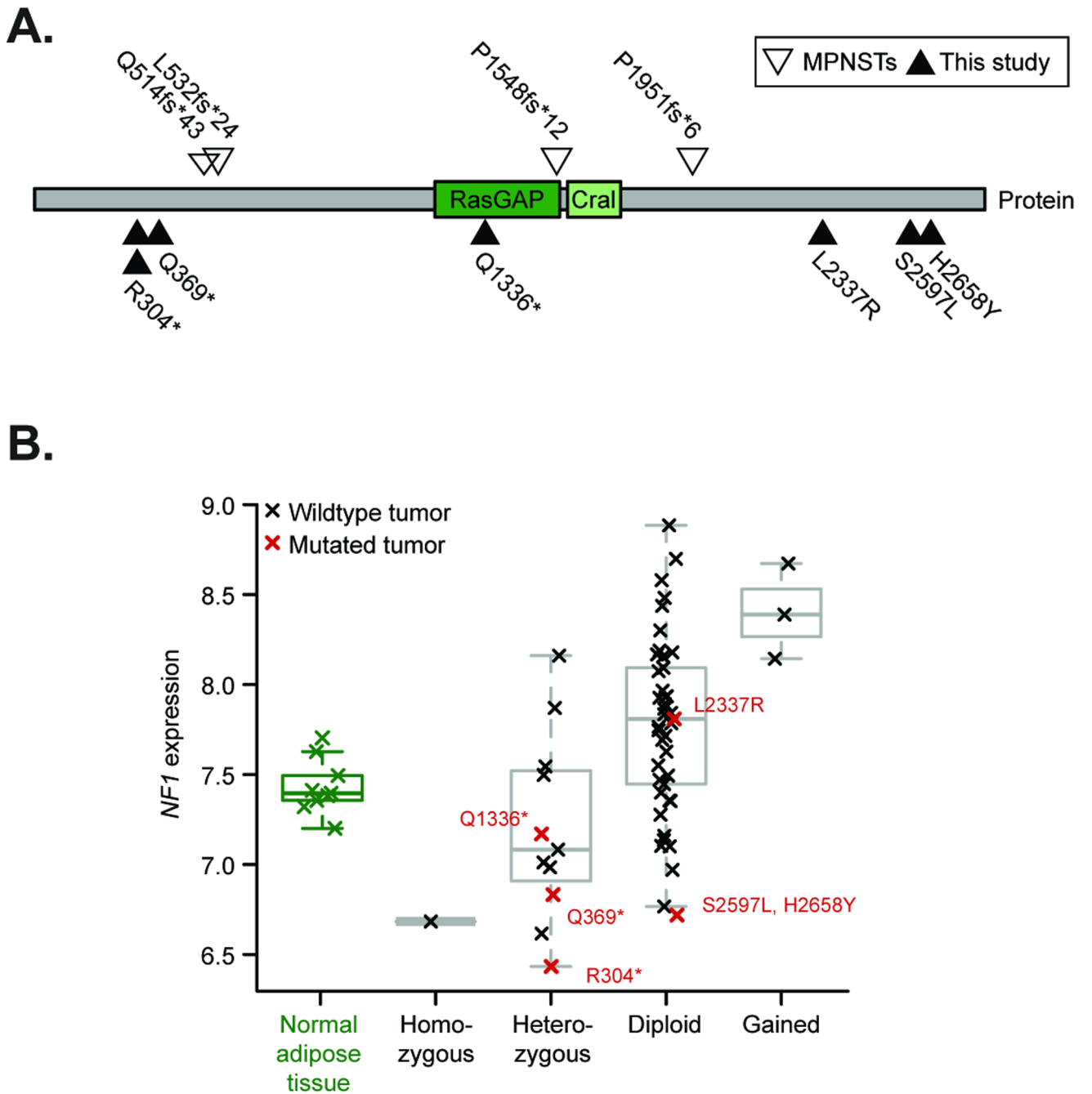


Figure 2. *NF1* alterations in karyotypically complex sarcomas

A. Somatic mutations in the *NF1* protein in myxofibrosarcoma and pleomorphic liposarcoma (black triangles) and the position of the RasGAP and Cral domains (dark and light green respectively) are juxtaposed to known mutations in malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNSTs; open triangles). **B.** Transcript expression according to copy number and sequence status in myxofibrosarcoma and pleomorphic liposarcoma compared to normal adipose tissue samples (black/red and green respectively, \log_2 expression from Affymetrix array profiling data; p -value= 1.94×10^{-5} , ANOVA; mutated tumors are indicated). One of the two R304* mutant tumors lacked expression data.

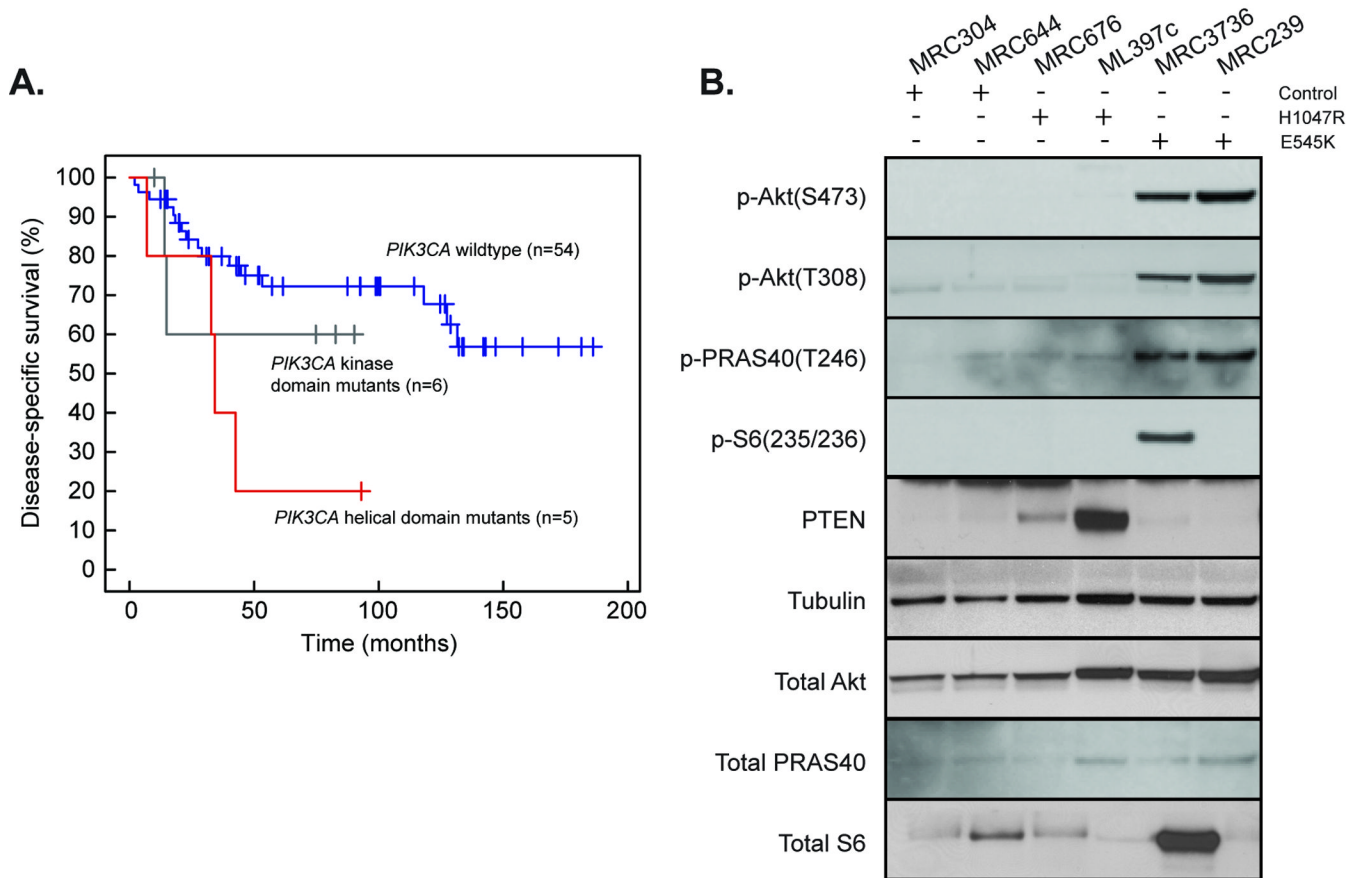


Figure 3. Different effect of helical and kinase domain *PIK3CA* mutations on PI3K pathway activation and survival in myxoid/round-cell liposarcoma

A. Survival for patients with tumors that harbor helical-domain mutations (red) versus kinase-domain mutations (grey), and wildtype *PIK3CA* (blue). The analysis includes the 65 patients for whom outcome information was available. Patients with mutations in either the helical or the kinase domain had a shorter disease-specific survival compared to those with wildtype *PIK3CA* (p-value = 0.0363, log-rank test). The difference in disease-specific survival between patients with helical-domain mutant tumors and those with wildtype *PIK3CA* tumors was significant (p-value=0.013, log-rank test). **B.** Western blots of myxoid/round-cell liposarcoma tumor lysates comparing the phosphorylation levels of Akt, PRAS40, and S6 kinase, as well as their protein levels, in patients with wild-type *PIK3CA* or with mutations in *PIK3CA* helical or kinase domains.

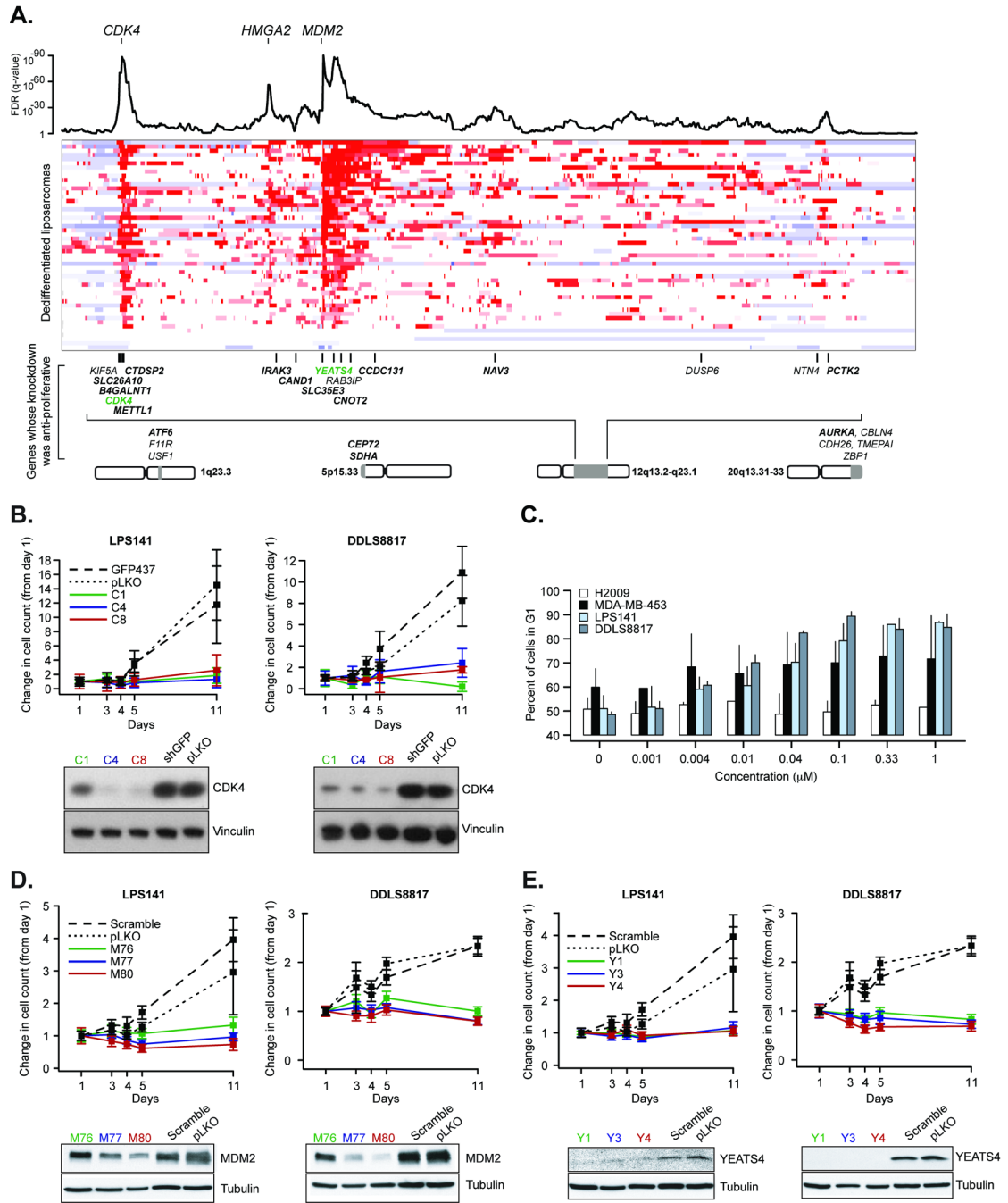


Figure 4. Genes whose knockdown is anti-proliferative in dedifferentiated liposarcoma and the consequences of *CDK4*, *MDM2* and *YEATS4* knockdown in dedifferentiated liposarcoma (A) Integrated profile of statistically significant genomic gains/amplifications as assessed by both RAE and GISTIC (combined as described in Methods; FDR, false-discovery rate) is followed by a heatmap of copy number segmentation on 12q13.2-q32.1 in 50 patient samples of dedifferentiated liposarcomas (red is amplification, blue is deletion, each row indicates one tumor sample). Below is the position of genes from our screen encoded by this region of 12q whose knockdown is anti-proliferative in dedifferentiated liposarcoma. Bold gene symbols indicate those whose amplification produced over-expression of its transcript or those over-expressed in tumor relative to normal adipose tissue. Genes in green are

highlighted in panels B–C and E. Alternative genomic regions encoding genes not on 12q whose knockdown is anti-proliferative are also included. **(B)** Effect of three validated shRNAs targeting *CDK4* on the proliferation of two cell lines, LPS141 and DDLS8817, at various time points (x-axis) with negative controls (pLKO empty vector and GFP473). Below are western blots showing the effect of shRNAs on levels of CDK4 protein (as indicated). **(C)** G1 arrest induced in LPS141 and DDLS8817 cell lines by treatment with the CDK4/CDK6 inhibitor PD0332991. MDA-MB-435 (Rb-positive) and H2009 (Rb-negative) were included as sensitive and insensitive controls. Error bars are s.d. of replicate measurements. **(D–E)** As in panel (B), effect on proliferation of three shRNAs targeting MDM2 (panel D) and YEATS4 (panel E) (negative controls: pLKO empty vector and scrambled shRNA) where each targeting shRNA resulted in reduced protein levels (at bottom). Error bars are propagated error from the ratio of mean and s.d. of measurements/replicates to time 0.

Table 1

Summary of clinical and pathologic information for 207 soft-tissue sarcoma patients

Characteristic	Value
No. of patients	207
Age [mean±SD (range)]	56±16 (7–84)
Gender (%) †	
Female	102 (50.2)
Male	101 (49.8)
Tumor size §	
0–5 cm	35 (17.4)
5–10 cm	65 (32.3)
10–15 cm	43 (21.4)
>15 cm	58 (28.9)
Primary site (%) †	
Retro-intrabdominal	60 (29.6)
Visceral	
Gastrointestinal	23 (11.3)
Genitourinary	4 (2)
Gynecological	1 (0.5)
Thoracic	12 (5.9)
Extremity	93 (45.8)
Trunk	8 (3.9)
Head and Neck	2 (1)
Stage at time of sample procurement ‡	
Primary	139 (68.8)
Local recurrence	29 (14.4)
Distant recurrence	34 (16.8)
Histology	
Dedifferentiated liposarcoma	50 (24.2)
Myxoid/round cell liposarcoma	21 (10.1)
Pleomorphic liposarcoma	24 (11.6)
Leiomyosarcoma	27 (13)
Gastrointestinal stromal tumor	
Epithelioid	4 (1.9)
Spindle	11 (5.3)
Mixed or unspecified	7 (3.4)
Myxofibrosarcoma	
Myxofibrosarcoma	35 (16.9)
Pleomorphic MFH	3 (1.5)
Synovial sarcoma //	
Monophasic	19 (9.2)

Characteristic	Value
Biphasic	4 (1.9)
Median follow-up (months)	35.65
Time to distant recurrence (months)	15.7
Co-morbidities	57 (27.5)

// One synovial sarcoma not specified

Data available for §201, †203, and ‡202 patients respectively

Table 2

Mutations identified in soft tissue sarcoma

Gene	No. of mut. ^a	Subtype	Tumor ID	Cases affected (%) ^b	mRNA	Protein
<i>CDHI</i>	2	DDLPS	PT7DD	2	712A>AG	N238D
		GIST	PT61GT	4.5	1849G>AG	A617T ^e
<i>CTNNB1</i>	2	DDLPS	PT18DD	2	122C>CT	T411 ^d
		Synovial	PT19SSYN	4	95A>AT	D32V ^d
<i>EPHA1</i>	1	DDLPS	PT10DD	2	634G>GA	A212T
<i>EPHA5</i>	1	Pleomorphic	PT182PL	4.2	2386A>AG	Y796H
<i>EPHA7</i>	1	MYXF	PT106MF	2.6	1649C>CT	S550N
<i>ERBB4</i>	2	MYXF	PT130MF	2.6	3437A>AT	D11146V
		Pleomorphic	PT167PL	4.2	1558A>AT	C520S
<i>FBXW7</i>	2	DDLPS	PT38DD	2	338_342delTTCATC>TC	E113fs
		GIST	PT58GT	4.5	563G>GT	C188F
<i>IRS1</i>	1	GIST	PT61GT	4.5	3406C>CT	E1136K
<i>KIT</i>	6	GIST	PT57GT	23	1727T>CT	L576P ^d
		GIST	PT63GT		1961T>CT	V654A ^d
		GIST	PT61GT		1667_1674delAGTGGAAAG>AG	Q556fs
		GIST	PT60GT		1667_1687del ^c	Q556_L563>Q
		GIST	PT59GT		1670_1675delIGGAAAG	W557_V559>Fe
		MRC	PT149MRC	4.8	2334G>CG	K778N
<i>LTK</i>	1	Synovial	PT190SYN	4	2243_2244delITT>T	C748fs
<i>MOS</i>	1	GIST	PT61GT	4.5	898A>AG	S300P
<i>MST1R</i>	1	GIST	PT60GT	4.5	1229G>AG	P410L
<i>NFI</i>	7	MYXF	PT104MF	10.5	7972C>CT	H2658Y
		MYXF	PT104MF		7790C>CT	S2597L
		MYXF	PT127MF		910C>T	R304 ^{*d}
		MYXF	PT134MF		910C>T	R304 ^{*d}
		MYXF	PT102MF		7010T>TG	L2337R

Gene	No. of mut. ^a	Subtype	Tumor ID	Cases affected (%) ^b	mRNA	Protein
		Pleomorphic	PT176PL	8.3	1105C>CT	Q369 ^{sd}
		Pleomorphic	PT179PL		4006C>CT	Q1336 [*]
<i>NTRK1</i>	1	MYXF	PT101MF	2.6	2338C>CT	R780W
<i>PI4KA</i>	2	MYXF	PT137MF	2.6	4081_4088delTCTTAATCT>TCT	1361fs
		Synovial	PT203SYN	4	4081_4088delTCTTAATCT>TCT	1361fs
<i>PIK3CA</i>	6	MRC	PT143MRC	18	1633G>AG	E545K ^e
		MRC	PT149MRC		1633G>AG	E545K ^e
		MRC	PT138MRC		3140A>AG	H1047R ^e
		MRC	PT158MRC		3140A>AG	H1047R ^e
		Pleomorphic	PT173PL	4.2	1660delC	H554fs
		Synovial	PT195SYN	4	1659delT	S553fs
<i>PTEN</i>	2	MYXF	PT100MF	2.6	G>CG	Splice site
		Synovial	PT206SYN	4	106G>AA	G36R ^e
<i>PTK2B</i>	1	Pleomorphic	PT163PL	4.2	G>AG	Splice site
<i>RBI</i>	1	Pleomorphic	PT167PL	4.2	1818T>TA	Y606 ^{se}
<i>SYK</i>	1	Pleomorphic	PT163PL	4.2	52G>AA	G18S
<i>TP53</i>	4	Pleomorphic	PT163PL	16.7	404C>AA	C135F ^e
		Pleomorphic	PT169PL		464G>AA	T155I
		Pleomorphic	PT173PL		C>CT	Splice site
		Pleomorphic	PT164PL		C>TT	Splice site

DDLPS, dedifferentiated liposarcoma; GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumor; MRC, myxoid/round-cell liposarcoma; MYXF, myxofibrosarcoma.

^aNumber of nonsynonymous or splice site mutations detected in either primary sequencing or extended genotyping.

^bPercentage of cases by subtype.

^cReference allele: GTGGAAGGTTGTTGAGGAGAT.

Mutations previously identified in ^d soft-tissue sarcoma or in any ^e cancer type (COSMIC; <http://www.sanger.ac.uk/genetics/CGP/cosmic/>).