

**Depletion of eukaryotic initiation factor 5B (eIF5B) reprograms the cellular transcriptome and leads to activation of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress and c-Jun N-terminal Kinase (JNK).**

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**Abstract:** During the integrated stress response (ISR) global translation initiation is attenuated; however, non-canonical mechanisms allow for the continued translation of specific transcripts. Eukaryotic initiation factor 5B (eIF5B) has been shown to play a critical role in canonical translation as well as in non-canonical mechanisms involving internal ribosome entry site (IRES) and upstream open reading frame (uORF) elements. The uORF-mediated translation regulation of *activating transcription factor 4 (ATF4)* mRNA plays a pivotal role in the cellular ISR. Our recent study confirmed that eIF5B depletion removes uORF2-mediated repression of *ATF4* translation, which results in the upregulation of *Growth arrest and DNA damage-inducible protein 34 (GADD34)* transcription. Accordingly, we hypothesized that eIF5B depletion may reprogram the transcriptome profile of the cell. Here, we employed genome-wide transcriptional analysis on eIF5B-depleted cells. Further, we validate the up- and down-regulation of several transcripts from our RNA-seq data using RT-qPCR. We identified upregulated pathways including cellular response to endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress, and mucin-type O-glycan biosynthesis, as well as downregulated pathways of transcriptional misregulation in cancer, and T-cell receptor signaling. We also confirm that depletion of eIF5B leads to activation of the c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) arm of the mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway. This data suggests that depletion of eIF5B reprograms the cellular transcriptome and influences critical cellular processes such as ER stress and ISR.

## Introduction

Translation is a complex process involving at least twelve initiation factors and is tightly regulated—particularly at initiation, which is the rate-limiting step (Graber and Holcik 2007). Dysregulation of protein synthesis can result in diseases, including cancer. In response to stress conditions such as hypoxia, nutrient starvation, or endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress, one of four kinases are activated: PKR-like ER kinase (PERK), protein kinase double stranded RNA-dependent (PKR), heme-regulated inhibitor (HRI), and general control non-derepressible-2 (GCN2). Each of these kinases phosphorylate the alpha ( $\alpha$ ) subunit of eIF2 at serine 51 (Pakos-Zebrucka et al. 2016). This phosphorylation blocks the eIF2B-mediated exchange of GDP for GTP which consequently prevents the formation of the ternary complex (Starck et al. 2016). The ternary complex is required to deliver initiator-tRNA to the ribosomal complex to form the 43S pre-initiation complex. Thus,

global translation initiation is attenuated during stress conditions. However, specific transcripts involved in adaptation to stress, such as *activating transcription factor 4 (ATF4)*, are translated through non-canonical mechanisms under these conditions (Dey et al. 2010).

The cis-acting RNA elements, such as upstream open reading frames (uORFs) and internal ribosome entry sites (IRESs) often promote the translation of mRNAs involved in the stress response, cell cycle regulation, cell survival, and cell death (Calvo et al. 2009). IRES- and uORF-mediated translation mechanisms differ from canonical translation initiation in that they can operate under conditions of limited availability of ternary complex (Sharma et al. 2016). Importantly, however, these mechanisms still rely on the delivery of initiator-tRNA. In canonical translation initiation, delivery of initiator-tRNA is mediated by the ternary complex, consisting of eIF2–initiator-tRNA–GTP (Holcik and Sonenberg 2005). The eukaryotic homologue of bacterial IF2, which delivers initiator-tRNA<sup>fmet</sup> in bacteria, is eIF5B. The role of eIF5B in canonical translation initiation is to promote 60S ribosome subunit joining and pre-40S subunit proofreading (Sharma et al. 2016). However, eIF5B has been confirmed to directly interact with initiator-tRNA (Lee et al. 2014). Further, it has been shown that eIF5B can parallel eIF2's tRNA delivery role in the IRES-dependent translation of the mRNAs of *classical swine fever virus (CSFV)* and *hepatitis C virus (HCV)*, as well as the cellular mRNA encoding *X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis protein (XIAP)* (Pestova et al. 2008; Terenin et al. 2008; Thakor and Holcik 2012). Moreover, eIF5B was recently shown to deliver initiator-tRNA under hypoxic stress conditions (Ho et al. 2018), and we have shown that eIF5B regulates the translation of a group of IRES-containing mRNAs encoding anti-apoptotic and pro-survival proteins in U343 glioblastoma cells (Ross et al. 2019). We also recently determined that eIF5B represses the uORF-dependent translation of *ATF4*, which is a master transcription factor controlling the ISR pathway (Ross et al. 2018). Further, depletion of eIF5B derepressed the uORF2-mediated translation repression of *ATF4* mRNA (Ross et al. 2018). As a natural advancement of our previous study, we analyzed changes in the cellular transcriptome upon eIF5B depletion. Indeed, we show that silencing eIF5B by RNAi results in reprogramming of the cellular transcriptome, resulting in several significantly upregulated and downregulated pathways. RT-qPCR validates the top three upregulated and top three downregulated transcripts from the transcriptome analysis. The MAPK/JNK axis is activated upon depletion of eIF5B, and we specifically verify activation of JNK.

As JNK is one of the three major groups of MAP kinases—along with classical extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) and p38—we suggest that eIF5B depletion regulates the complex MAPK signaling pathway *via* JNK activation. Moreover, we also show that the depletion of eIF5B leads to the activation of ER stress as revealed by enhanced expression of CHOP, GADD34, and XBP1. Here we demonstrate that although eIF5B is a translation initiation factor it is indirectly involved in regulating cellular transcriptome. We also implicate eIF5B in regulating ER stress via modulating the expression of ER-stress related proteins.

## **Methods**

### *Cell culture and reagents*

HEK 293T cells were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). HEK 293T were propagated in Dulbecco's high modified Eagle's medium (DMEM; HyClone) with 4 mM L-glutamine, 4500 mg/L glucose, and 1 mM sodium pyruvate, supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Gibco) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco). Cells were incubated at 37 °C in a humidified incubator at 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. Cell lines were routinely tested for mycoplasma contamination with a PCR mycoplasma detection kit (ABM). Reverse transfections were carried out using Lipofectamine RNAiMAX (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Non-specific control siRNA (siC) was obtained from Qiagen. Stealth RNAi<sup>TM</sup> siRNAs targeting eIF5B (HSS114469/70/71) were obtained from Invitrogen.

### *RNA Isolation*

HEK 293T cells were seeded at 200,000 cells/well and reverse-transfected in 6-well plates. After 96 hours, RNA was isolated essentially as described (Faye et al. 2014) except that proteinase K treatment was replaced by incubation with 1% SDS at 65°C for 1 min, and hot acid phenol:chloroform (5:1; Ambion) was used to extract the RNA.

### *RNA-seq Data Analysis*

Data analysis and sequencing was performed using the Illumina NextSeq500 platform, with 75 bp single-end configuration. The Illumina TruSeq Stranded mRNA (polyA-selection) kit was used for library construction according to the manufacturer's instructions. The reference genome (Human

GRCh37 Ensembl) was downloaded from Illumina iGENOME, and base-calling and de-multiplexing were done using the Illumina CASAVA 1.9 pipeline.

Upon initial sequencing, the library quality control was conducted with FastQC 0.11.5. Reads (Supplemental Table S1 for number of reads) were then mapped to the human genome (Ensembl, GRCh37) using hisat2, version 2.0.5 (Kim et al. 2015). SAM files generated by hisat2 were converted to BAM, sorted, and indexed using samtools 1.7 (Czeh and Czopf 1991). Reads mapping to genes were counted using featureCounts, version 1.6.1 (Liao et al. 2014). Differentially expressed genes were detected using DESeq2 1.18.1 Bioconductor package (Love et al. 2014). Genes with adjusted p-values (Bonferroni-Hochberg adjustment for multiple comparisons) less than 0.05, and over a 2-fold change in magnitude, were selected as differentially expressed (430 upregulated and 216 downregulated). Over-represented gene ontology (GO) terms were detected using the function annotation module of the DAVID platform applying default parameters (Huang da et al. 2009a; Huang da et al. 2009b). GO analysis was conducted separately on up-, down-, and all differentially-expressed genes. Over-representation analysis of KEGG pathways was performed using the same platform with pathway data obtained from the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) (Kanehisa and Goto 2000). Similarly to GO analysis, over-represented pathways were detected separately for up-, down-, and all differentially-expressed genes.

### *RT-qPCR*

RT-qPCR was performed using RNA samples obtained from the independent set of transfection experiments and not from the RNA samples obtained for RNAseq experiments. RNA was isolated using a New England Biolabs Monarch Total RNA Miniprep kit, and cDNA was generated from equal volumes of RNA using the qScript cDNA synthesis kit (Quanta Biosciences). Quantitative PCR was performed in a CFX-96 real-time thermocycler (Bio-Rad) with PerfeCTa SYBR Green SuperMix (Quanta Biosciences) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Primers (Quantitect Primer Assays) were obtained from Qiagen (KLHDC7B, QT00208117; WFIKKN2, QT00213948; OLFML1, QT00074620; KCNJ10, QT00059031; SEZ6, QT01030232; SYT4, QT00003269). Negative controls without template DNA were run in duplicate. Each reaction was run in triplicate with the following cycle conditions: 1 cycle at 95°C for 3 min followed by 45 cycles of 95°C for 15

s, 55°C for 35 s, and 72°C for 1 min. A melting curve step was added to check the purity of the PCR product. This step consisted of a ramp of the temperature from 65 to 95°C at an increment of 0.5°C and a hold for 5 seconds at each step. Amplicons were quantified by the  $\Delta\Delta C_t$  method.

#### *Western blotting*

HEK 293T cells were seeded at 200,000 cells/well and reverse-transfected in 6-well plates. After 96 hours, cells were harvested in RIPA lysis buffer supplemented with protease inhibitors. Equal amounts of soluble protein (typically 20  $\mu$ g per well) were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes (GE healthcare). Individual proteins were detected by immunoblotting with the antibodies listed in Supplemental Table S4. Actin was detected using fluorescently labeled primary antibody (hFAB Rhodamine). All other primary antibodies were detected with anti-rabbit-HRP conjugate (Abcam) in an AI600 imager (GE) and densitometry performed using the AI600 analysis software.

#### *Statistical analyses for RT-qPCR and Western blots*

Unless otherwise specified, all quantitative data represent the mean  $\pm$  standard error on the mean (SEM) for at least 3 independent biological replicates. Statistical significance was determined by an unpaired, two-tailed t-test without assuming equal variance. The significance level was set at a p-value of 0.05. Data was analyzed using GraphPad Prism, version 7.

## **Results**

#### *eIF5B depletion results in transcriptome-wide changes in signaling pathways*

To investigate the impact of eIF5B upon the transcriptome, eIF5B was depleted from HEK 293T cells using siRNA (Figure 1A) and transcriptional profiles were analyzed by RNAseq. Depletion of eIF5B was confirmed to result in significant transcriptome-wide changes. The volcano plot (Figure 1B) shows significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) differentially expressed genes (DEGs) (in blue) upon eIF5B depletion. The heatmap (Figure 1C) shows all DEGs with an adjusted p-value  $< 0.05$  and log2 fold change over 1 between eIF5B-depleted and control HEK 293T samples (red, upregulated; green, downregulated). A complete list of genes with a significantly altered expression upon eIF5B depletion

is presented in Supplemental Table S1, S2 and S3. Analysis of biochemical pathways was performed and significantly upregulated and downregulated genes were sorted into biologically relevant signaling pathways (Table 1, Table 2, Supplemental Table S1, S2 & S3, and Supplemental Figure S1). Pathways that were significantly upregulated were mucin type O-glycan biosynthesis, neuroactive ligand-receptor interactions, protein processing in the ER (ISR genes; *growth arrest and DNA damage-inducible protein 34 (GADD34)* and *C/EBP homologous protein (CHOP)*), and the synaptic vesicle cycle (Table 1). Pathways that were significantly downregulated were transcriptional misregulation in cancer, and human T0Lymphotropic Virus Type 1 (HTLV-I) infection (Table 2).

#### *Validation of transcriptome profile*

Previously, we have shown that eIF5B depletion enhances the translation of *ATF4* mRNA and as a result the levels of *GADD34* mRNA and protein increases. (Ross et al. 2018) Here also we show that *GADD34* expression is enhanced in eIF5B-depleted HEK293T cells without an increase in *ATF4* mRNA (Supplemental Fig. 1 and Supplemental Table S1 & S2). To further validate the transcriptome analysis, we employed RT-qPCR to quantify the three most upregulated and three most downregulated genes upon eIF5B depletion. The three most upregulated transcripts observed in our transcriptome profile upon silencing eIF5B were *kelch domain containing 7B (KLHDC7B)* ( $2^{7.68}$ ), *seizure related 6 homolog (SEZ6)* ( $2^{7.39}$ ), and *synaptotagmin 4 (SYT4)* ( $2^{6.95}$ ) (Supplemental Table S1). The three most downregulated genes were *potassium voltage-gated channel subfamily J member 10 (KCNJ10)* ( $2^{-5.25}$ ), *WAP Follistatin/Kazal Immunoglobulin Kunitz and Netrin domain containing 2 (WFIKKN2)* ( $2^{-4.43}$ ), and *olfactomedin like 1 (OLFML1)* ( $2^{-4.18}$ ) (Supplemental Table S1). Following RT-qPCR analysis, we found that the six genes were significantly regulated as expected, ensuring the validity of our transcriptome data (Figure 2).

ER stress and JNK activation are closely linked with each other (Darling and Cook 2014; Raciti et al. 2012). We observed that several ER stress-related genes, such as *DDIT3*, *XBP*, and *GADD34* are differentially expressed in eIF5B-depleted cells (Supplemental Table S1). Moreover, we show here that genes involved in JNK/C-jun/AP-1 axis, such as *basic leucine zipper ATF-like transcription factor 3 (BATF3)*, *CD9*, *dickkopf-related protein 3 (DKK3)*, *platelet derived growth factor subunit A (PDGFA)*, and *ancient ubiquitous protein 1 (AUP1)*, are differentially expressed in eIF5B-depleted

cells (Table 3). Therefore, we hypothesized that JNK would be activated along with ER stress in eIF5B depleted cells. Indeed, eIF5B depletion in HEK 293T cells resulted in enhanced levels of phosphorylated JNK (~ 2-fold), despite a significant decrease in overall JNK levels (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). This confirms that, although less JNK is present in cells depleted of eIF5B, the JNK is being activated at higher levels. Despite enhanced levels of phosphorylated JNK, we observed modestly decreased levels of HSF1 and decreased levels of phosphorylated HSF1 (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). Additionally, we have observed upregulation of CHOP, GADD34, and XBP1 proteins in eIF5B-depleted cells (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). We have also observed decreased levels of BiP protein in eIF5B-depleted cells (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). This validates the changes we observed in transcriptome profile affected by the levels of eIF5B.

## Discussion

In this work, we confirm that the depletion of eIF5B leads to massive reprogramming of the cellular transcriptome, resulting in significant changes in multiple signaling pathways. We validate our transcriptome data by performing RT-qPCR on the top upregulated and downregulated transcripts (Figure 2). Additionally, we verified that the ER stress and JNK-arm of the MAPK signaling pathway are activated upon depletion of eIF5B. This work offers new insight into the potential role of eIF5B as a regulatory hub.

We observed that, upon eIF5B depletion, the cellular transcriptome was robustly reprogrammed (Figure 1). A number of pathways were shown to be significantly upregulated, specifically mucin-type O-glycan biosynthesis, neuroactive ligand-receptor interactions, protein processing in the ER, and the synaptic vesicle cycle (Table 1, Supplemental Figure 1). Pathways that were significantly downregulated were transcriptional misregulation in cancer, and T-cell receptor signaling (Table 2, Supplemental Figure 1).

Under stress conditions, phosphorylation of eIF2 $\alpha$  attenuates global translation (Holcik 2015), however the selective translation of mRNAs harbouring IRESs and uORFs—both of which have been shown to be regulated by eIF5B- is activated (Fitzgerald and Semler 2009; Thakor and Holcik 2012). We previously showed that eIF5B plays a role in uORF-mediated translational regulation of master transcription factor ATF4 (Ross et al. 2018). ATF4 has been implicated in



regulating the cellular transcriptome in multiple cell lines; specifically, in the presence of mitochondrial stress, ATF4 has been shown to coordinate cytoprotective genes and the cellular metabolism (Quiros et al. 2017). In addition, RNA-sequencing of mice with a liver-specific ATF4 deletion revealed that many genes require ATF4 for full expression during basal conditions (Fusakio et al. 2016). Moreover, ATF4 is required for the expression of 7.5% of genes regulated by ER stress, including those involved in amino acid metabolism and cholesterol metabolism (Fusakio et al. 2016). Assessing both ATF4-depleted and ATF4-overexpressing hippocampal neurons showed Sestrin 2 (Sesn2) as a positive regulatory target, which protects cells from oxidative and genotoxic stress from reactive oxygen species (ROS) and inhibits mTORC1 (Liu et al. 2018). These studies highlight the transcriptome-wide consequences of dysregulation of just one transcription factor.

Interestingly, we have previously demonstrated that eIF5B represses the translation of *ATF4* in HEK 293T cells, with minimal effects on the steady state mRNA levels of *ATF4* (Ross et al. 2018). The present study corroborates those findings, with transcriptome analysis showing no significant difference in *ATF4* transcript levels in eIF5B-depleted cells (Supplemental Figure 1). We have previously characterized GADD34 to be upregulated at both the RNA and protein level upon eIF5B-depletion (Ross et al. 2018). Here we additionally show that the transcript levels of *GADD34* (PPP1R15A) are significantly upregulated upon eIF5B depletion (Supplemental Figure 1). *GADD34* is a direct target of ATF4 that acts as a negative feedback loop in the ISR by dephosphorylating eIF2 $\alpha$  (Carroll et al. 2006). Our transcriptome data further shows *CHOP* to be upregulated upon eIF5B depletion (Supplemental Figure 1). CHOP is another transcription factor involved in the ISR that forms dimers with ATF4 when stress is prolonged, pushing cells towards apoptosis (Su and Kilberg 2008). It has been shown that the overexpression of CHOP promotes apoptosis, while cells deficient in CHOP become resistant to ER stress-induced apoptosis (Kim et al. 2008; Oyadomari and Mori 2004). Depletion of eIF5B removes the repression of *ATF4* translation and as a result, the transcription of *CHOP* and *GADD34* is enhanced.

We have observed that eIF5B-depleted cells expressed higher levels of CHOP and GADD34 (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2), likely due to enhanced translation of *ATF4* mRNA leading to enhanced ATF4 protein level. Surprisingly, BiP levels were significantly reduced in eIF5B-depleted HEK 293T cells (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). Interestingly, BiP expression is

regulated at the mRNA translation level via IRES element (Cho et al. 2007). It is possible that eIF5B regulates the IRES-mediated translation of BiP and thereby depletion of eIF5B may have resulted in the decreased levels of BiP. Enhanced CHOP levels and decreased BiP levels have been shown to activate lysosomal degradation of heat shock protein factor 1 (HSF1) (Kim et al. 2017). In fact, we have also observed enhanced levels of CHOP and decreased levels of BiP in eIF5B-depleted cells concurrent with modestly decreased levels of HSF1 (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). We have also observed decreased levels of phosphorylated HSF1 protein despite phosphorylation of JNK (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). Furthermore, the levels of XBP1 mRNA was enhanced in eIF5B-depleted cells (Supplemental Table 2). We also show that XBP1 proteins levels are also enhanced in eIF5B-depleted cells. This could have been due to the decrease levels of BiP in these cells. Decreased expression on BiP would derepress inositol requiring enzyme 1 (IRE1) and would in turn enhance the expression of XBP1. Enhanced XBP1 expression is clearly linked to ER stress (van Schadewijk et al. 2012). This validates the changes we observed in transcriptome profile affected by the levels of eIF5B. As ER stress is known to activate apoptosis (Lumley et al. 2017), collectively, these findings suggest that eIF5B depletion activates the pro-apoptotic ER stress in HEK 293T cells.

Interestingly, transcriptional misregulation in cancer was significantly affected by the depletion of eIF5B (Table 2, Supplemental Figure 1). Several key transcription factors of *E26 transformation-specific (ETS) variant transcription factor 1 (ETV1)*, *ETV5*, and *homeobox A10 (HOXA10)* were downregulated upon eIF5B depletion (Supplemental Figure 1). HOX family proteins are frequently deregulated in cancer, and they encode transcription factors involved in cell growth and identity, as well as cell-cell and cell-extracellular matrix interactions (Abate-Shen 2002; Carrera et al. 2015). In head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC), 18 HOX genes including *HOXA10* had higher expression levels in pre-malignant and cancerous tissue as compared to normal tissue (Darda et al. 2015). However the role of HOX proteins is not fully understood. *HOXA10* overexpression promotes the progression of endometrial cancer (Guo et al. 2018; Yoshida et al. 2006), yet the inhibition of *HOXA10* is associated with breast cancer tumorigenesis (Chu et al. 2004). Though the mechanism is not fully understood, it has been shown that *HOXA10* can mediate signaling through p53 and p21 activation, as well as cKit and signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) repression to inhibit testicular cell proliferation (Chen et al. 2018). *HOXA10* has been shown to increase

temozolomide resistance in glioblastoma, (Kim et al. 2014) and to regulate G1 phase arrest (Zhang et al. 2014), showing its critical role in cell proliferation and division. In addition to HOX proteins, ETS proteins are also highly correlated to cancer progression. The ETS family transcription factors have a PEA3 subgroup (ETV1, ETV4, ETV5) that are activated by Ras/ MAPK signaling (Laudet et al. 1999). Overexpression of ETV1 and ETV4 is linked to prostate cancer (Tomlins et al. 2007; Vitari et al. 2011), and drives an oncogenic program in gastrointestinal stromal tumors (Chi et al. 2010). The downregulation of HOXA10, ETV1, and ETV5 upon eIF5B depletion, further supports the role of eIF5B in critical signaling pathways through its regulation of master transcription factors.

T-cell receptor signaling was shown to be downregulated upon eIF5B depletion (Table 2, Supplemental Figure 1), including specific target interleukin-1 receptor (IL1R). IL-1 is a master regulator of inflammation controlling innate immune responses (Dinarello 2009). Two members of the IL-1 family: IL-1 $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$ , are cytokines that both signal through IL1R (Dinarello 2009; Gabay et al. 2010). In the tumor microenvironment, tumor-associated macrophages, glioblastoma cells themselves, and non-enoplastic brain cells are able to produce active IL-1 $\beta$  (Kennedy et al. 2013; Stanimirovic et al. 2001; Yamanaka et al. 1994). IL-1 $\beta$  activation has been shown to promote hypoxia-induced death in glioblastoma through inhibition of hypoxia-inducible factor 1 (HIF1) activity (Sun et al. 2014). Dexamethasone which treats development of glioblastoma-associated cerebral oedema, inhibits the production of IL-1 cytokines, suggesting IL-1 inhibition as a therapeutic (Herting et al. 2019). It has been suggested that the IL-1 induced tumor secretome, can modulate the glioma and tumor microenvironment including tumor cell survival, invasion, tumor angiogenesis, and anti-tumor immunity (Tarassishin et al. 2014).

Mucin-type O-glycan biosynthesis was shown to be upregulated upon eIF5B depletion (Table 1, Supplemental Figure 1). Mucin-type O-glycosylation is the initial addition of a N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) sugar to the hydroxyl group of serine or threonine residues. Mucin-type O-glycans are found on many cell surface and secreted proteins, and function to coordinate recognition, adhesion, and communication between cells (Tran and Ten Hagen 2013). Mucin-type O-glycosylation is controlled by a family of approximately 20 homologous genes encoding UDP-GalNAc:polypeptide Gal NAc transferases (GALNTs) (Guzman-Aranguez and Argueso 2010). GALNTs are differentially expressed in malignant tissue as compared to normal tissue, suggesting a

role for O-glycosylation in cancer. GALNT3 promotes the growth of pancreatic cancer cells, while mutations in GALNT12 that encode a nonfunctional enzyme are associated with colon cancer development (Guda et al. 2009; Taniuchi et al. 2011). An assessment of 14 GALNTs found that GALNT9 gene expression was correlated to better clinical outcome in neuroblastoma patients (Berois et al. 2013). Genetic ablation of various GALNTs in mice has caused defective angiogenesis, fatal brain hemorrhages, and additional consequences (An et al. 2007; Stone et al. 2009; Xia et al. 2004). Though the full mechanisms of GALNTs and O-glycosylation is not fully understood in cancer, our data that eIF5B effects mucin-type O-glycan biosynthesis, suggests a further role for eIF5B in critical cell processes.

Our transcriptome data suggests that certain genes involved in MAPK signaling are differentially expressed in eIF5B-depleted cells (Table 3), and we confirmed an increase in phosphorylation of JNK in eIF5B depleted cells (Figure 3 and Supplemental Figure S2). Furthermore, we also observed that certain target genes of JNK/c-Jun/AP-1 are differentially expressed in eIF5B-depleted cells (Table 3). A recent study determined select proteins, including beta-arrestin-1 (ARRB1), isoform tau-A or tau, APK-activated protein kinase 2 (MAPKAPK2), S6 kinase alpha-3 (RPS6KA3), MAPK1, MAPK3, MAPK12, and MAPK14 to be downregulated significantly upon eIF5B depletion (Jiang et al. 2016). We did not observe significant up- or down-regulation for the transcripts corresponding to those proteins, but we did observe upregulation of select transcripts involved in MAPK signaling (Table 3). Notably, in contrast to our transient knockdown of eIF5B—which reproducibly achieved approximately ~90% eIF5B silencing—the study by Jiang et al. (2016) used the CRISPR/Cas9 method to maintain an approximately 50% knockdown. We suggest that the significant difference in eIF5B levels between the two studies contributed to the deviation in observed pathways affected, including MAPK. Additionally, our transient transfection is more likely to reflect short-term and direct changes of eIF5B-depletion, while Jiang et al. (2016) used chronic, long-term eIF5B depletion, which could reveal more indirect consequences. Jiang et al. (2016) observed that ~50% eIF5B depletion results in both decreased ROS and a prolonged S-phase. These opposing observations suggest that the variation in knockdown efficiency and/or methodology between Jiang et al. (2016) and the present study is important and results in significantly different physiological outcomes. Based

on these observations, we conclude that eIF5B depletion results in activation of at least the JNK-arm of the MAPK pathway.

For the first time we have implicated eIF5B in the pro-apoptotic ER stress and also demonstrated that although eIF5B is a translation initiation factor, it has an indirect role in regulating the transcriptome of the cell. Our finding that eIF5B depletion results in upregulated MAPK signaling—specifically, JNK-phosphorylation—suggests that eIF5B may influence many cellular pathways, including proliferation, apoptosis, and the cell cycle. eIF5B might thus represent an important regulatory hub, potentially offering novel insights into cellular biology in health and disease.

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## Tables:

**Table 1**

Name		Log2 Fold Change	ENSEMBL GENE ID	Species
has:00512 Mucin type O-Glycan biosynthesis				
<i>ST3GAL1</i>	ST3 beta-galactoside alpha-2,3-sialyltransferase 1	1.647635	ENSG00000008513	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>GALNT8</i>	polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 8	2.653729	ENSG00000130035	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>GALNT14</i>	polypeptide N-acetylgalactosaminyltransferase 14	2.055928	ENSG00000158089	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
has:04080 Neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction				
<i>GRIK3</i>	glutamate ionotropic receptor kainate type subunit 3	4.990015989	ENSG00000163873	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>P2RX1</i>	purinergic receptor P2X 1	4.798947295	ENSG00000108405	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>GRM4</i>	glutamate metabotropic receptor 4	5.646421068	ENSG00000124493	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CHRN2</i>	cholinergic receptor nicotinic beta 2 subunit	5.171089524	ENSG00000160716	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>DRD2</i>	dopamine receptor D2	3.88159386	ENSG00000149295	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>HRH3</i>	histamine receptor H3	4.963651756	ENSG00000101180	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CHRNA4</i>	cholinergic receptor nicotinic alpha 4 subunit	2.219764154	ENSG00000101204	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>GABBR2</i>	gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 2	2.512753405	ENSG00000136928	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>GRIK3</i>	glutamate ionotropic receptor kainate type subunit 3	4.990015989	ENSG00000163873	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
has:04141 Protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum				
<i>GANAB</i>	glucosidase II alpha subunit	2.414058365	ENSG00000089597	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>PARK2</i>	parkin RBR E3 ubiquitin protein ligase	3.399428902	ENSG00000185345	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>PPP1R15A</i>	protein phosphatase 1 regulatory subunit 15A	2.604650462	ENSG00000087074	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>XBP1</i>	X-box binding protein 1	1.74970712	ENSG00000100219	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>DDIT3</i>	DNA damage inducible transcript 3	3.042748774	ENSG00000175197	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>HYOU1</i>	hypoxia up-regulated 1	1.685701269	ENSG00000149428	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>RAD23A</i>	RAD23 homolog A, nucleotide excision repair protein	2.055191193	ENSG00000179262	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
has:04721 Synaptic vesicle cycle				
<i>UNC13A</i>	unc-13 homolog A	2.034621777	ENSG00000130477	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CPLX1</i>	complexin 1	2.926850953	ENSG00000168993	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CPLX2</i>	complexin 2	6.546761306	ENSG00000145920	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>ATP6V0D2</i>	ATPase H+ transporting V0 subunit d2	2.583641031	ENSG00000147614	<i>Homo sapiens</i>

**Table 1.** Significantly up-regulated genes upon eIF5B depletion in HEK 293T cells. Transcriptome analysis was performed on 3 biological replicates and the data were sorted *via* GOSTATS pathway analysis.

**Table 2**

Name		Log2 Fold Change	ENSEMBL GENE ID	Species
has:05202 Transcriptional Misregulation in Cancer				
<i>ETV5</i>	ETS variant 5	-2.154098145	ENSG00000244405	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>MAF</i>	MAF bZIP transcription factor	-1.44832678	ENSG00000178573	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CDKN2C</i>	cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor 2C	-1.301358154	ENSG00000123080	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>ETV1</i>	ETS variant 1	-2.727531685	ENSG00000006468	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>HOXA10</i>	homeobox A10	-1.763867776	ENSG00000253293	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
has:05166 HTLV-I Infection				
<i>EGR1</i>	early growth response 1	-2.14323631	ENSG00000120738	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>TP53INP1</i>	tumor protein p53 inducible nuclear protein 1	-2.365233867	ENSG00000164938	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>HLA-DMB</i>	major histocompatibility complex, class II, DM beta	-1.906033177	ENSG00000242574	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CDKN2C</i>	cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor 2C	-1.301358154	ENSG00000123080	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>IL1R1</i>	interleukin 1 receptor type 1	-2.600867502	ENSG00000115594	<i>Homo sapiens</i>

**Table 2.** Significantly down-regulated genes upon eIF5B depletion in HEK 293T cells. Transcriptome analysis was performed on 3 biological replicates and the data were sorted *via* Gostats pathway analysis.

**Table 3**

Examples of Genes involved in MAPK				
Name		Log2 Fold Change	ENSEMBL Gene ID	Species
<i>DDIT3</i>	DNA damage inducible transcript 3	3.042749	ENSG00000175197	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>FGFR4</i>	Fibroblast growth factor receptor 4	2.313778	ENSG00000160867	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>PDGFA</i>	Platelet derived growth factor subunit A	2.056486	ENSG00000197461	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>RASGRF2</i>	Ras protein specific guanine nucleotide releasing factor 2	1.739305	ENSG00000113319	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>FGF21</i>	Fibroblast growth factor 21	4.092756	ENSG00000105550	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>MAPK15</i>	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 15	2.231672	ENSG00000181085	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>MAP2K6</i>	Mitogen-activated protein kinase 6	-2.54435	ENSG00000108984	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>VGF</i>	VGF nerve growth factor inducible	2.564835	ENSG00000128564	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
Examples of Genes involved in JNK/C-Jun/AP-1 axis				
<i>BATF3</i>	Basic leucine zipper ATF-like transcription factor 3	2.306892	ENSG00000123685	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>CD9</i>	CD9 molecule	-2.5409	ENSG00000010278	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>DKK3</i>	Dickkopf WNT signaling pathway inhibitor 3	-1.66459	ENSG00000050165	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
<i>AUP1</i>	AUP1	2.280739	ENSG00000115307	<i>Homo sapiens</i>

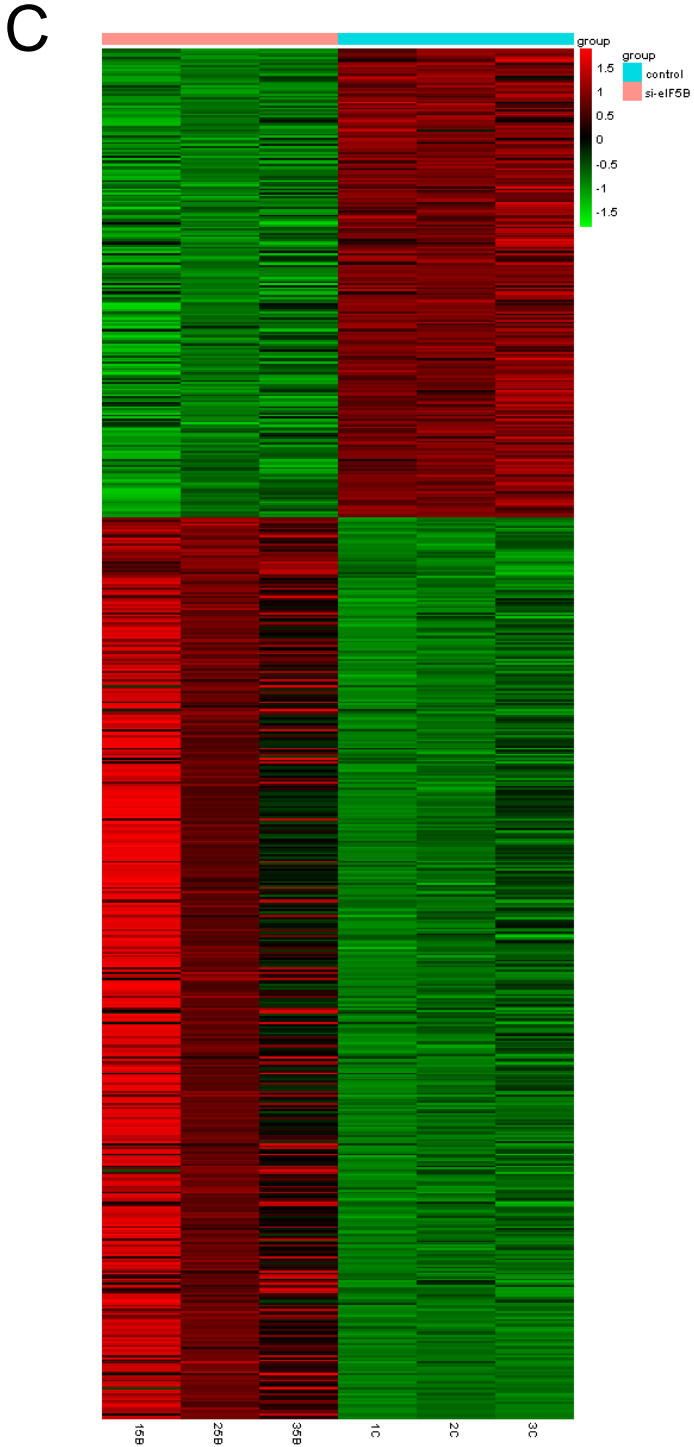
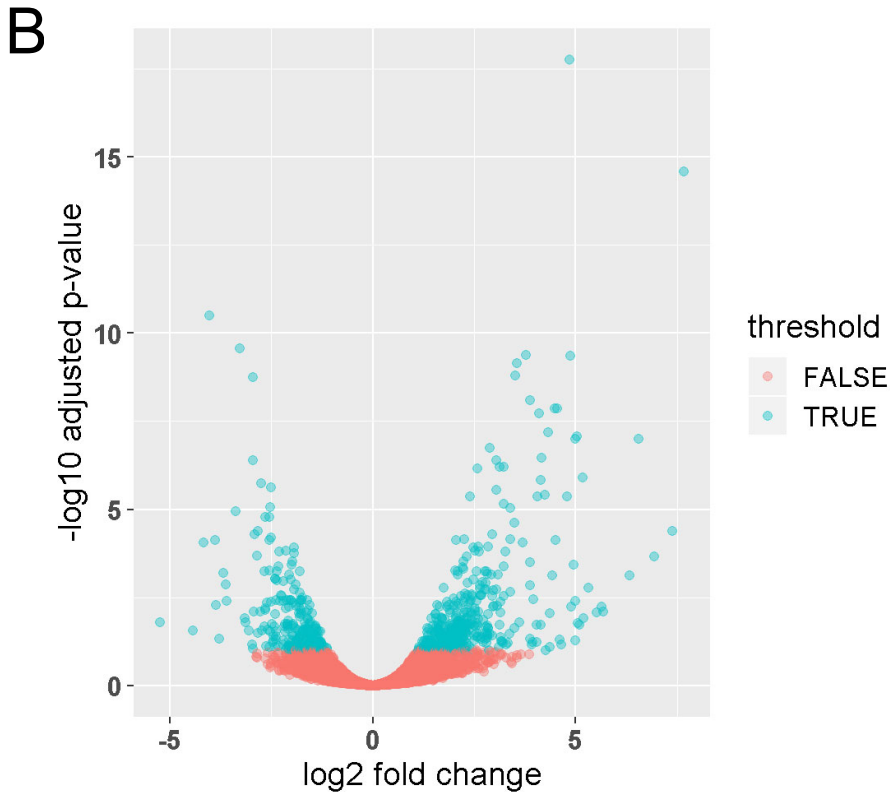
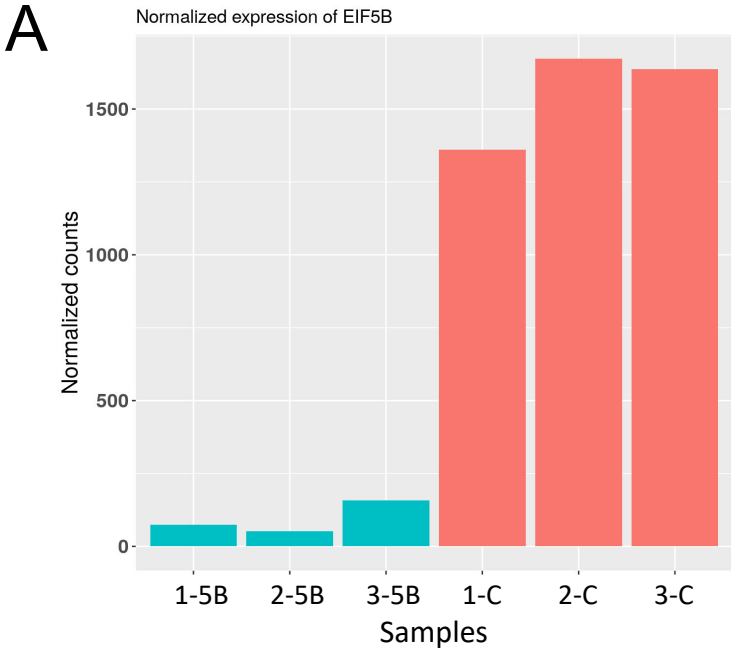
**Table 3.** Differentially express genes that are involved in MAPK and JNK pathways in eIF5B-depleted cells.

## Figure legends

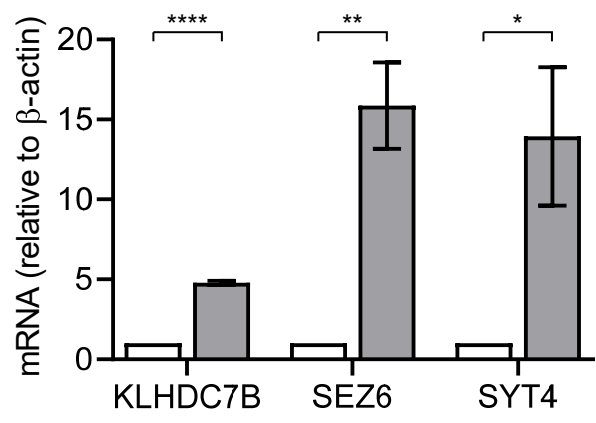
**Figure 1.** (A) Normalized expression of eIF5B in control (C) and eIF5B-depleted (5B) HEK 293T samples; numbers (1, 2 and 3) indicate independent biological replicates. (B) Volcano plot confirming significantly upregulated (right) and downregulated (left) transcripts, where blue denotes a significant change ( $p < 0.05$ ). (C) Heatmap showing the differentially-expressed genes upon eIF5B depletion. Red and green indicate up-regulation and down-regulation, respectively, upon eIF5B depletion.

**Figure 2.** Validation of RNA-seq results. Total RNA was purified from an independent set of control and eIF5B-depleted cells and subjected to RT-qPCR. Steady-state levels of the transcripts expected—based on the transcriptome profile—to be most up-regulated (A) or down-regulated (B) upon eIF5B depletion were quantified. Data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM for 3 independent biological replicates. \*,  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*,  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*,  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*\*\*,  $p < 0.0001$ .

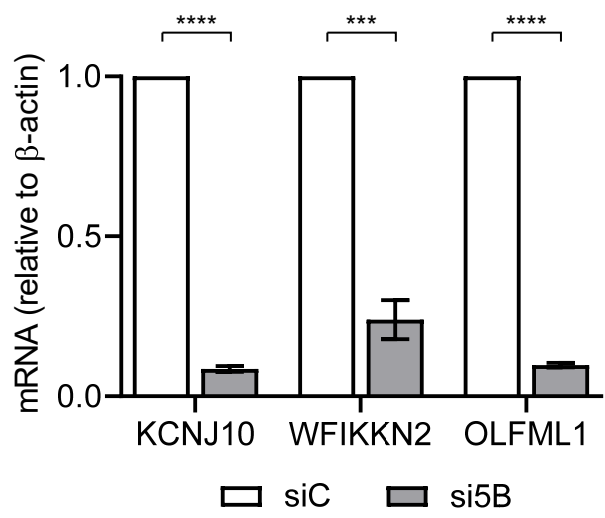
**Figure 3.** Depletion of eIF5B leads to activation of ER stress and increased levels of the phosphorylated JNK protein in HEK 293T cells. HEK 293T cells were transfected with a non-specific control siRNA (siC) or an eIF5B-specific siRNA pool (si5B) and resolved by SDS-PAGE before performing immunoblotting. (A) Representative immunoblots probing for eIF5B, total JNK (P54 and P46), phospho-JNK (P54 and P46), HSF1, phospho-HSF1, BIP, CHOP, GADD34, XBP1 and  $\beta$ -actin (internal control). (B-K) Quantitation of these proteins, all normalized to  $\beta$ -actin. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM for 3 independent biological replicates. \*\*,  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*\*,  $p < 0.0001$ .

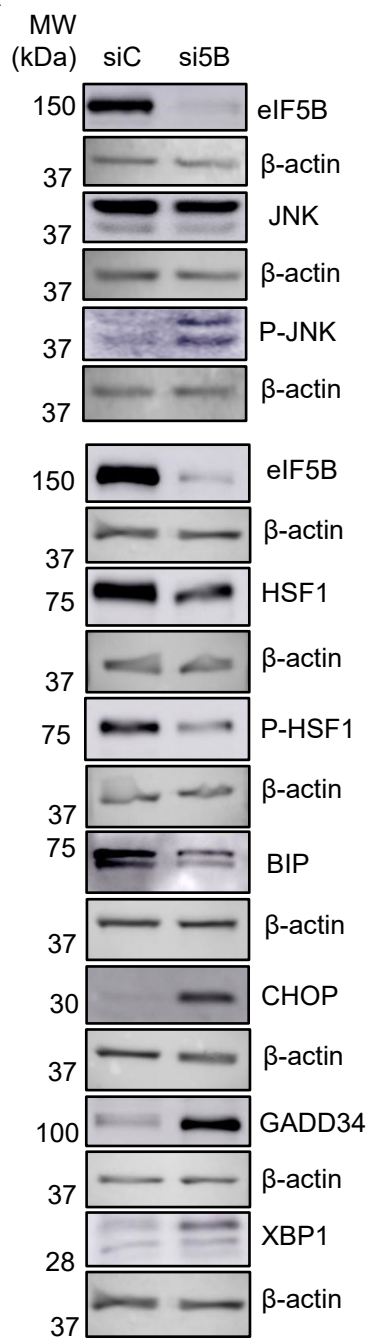
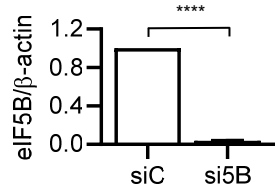
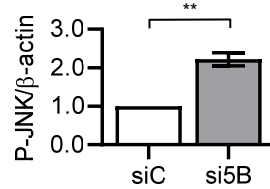
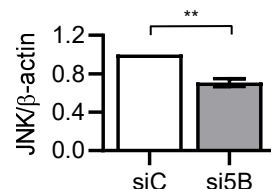
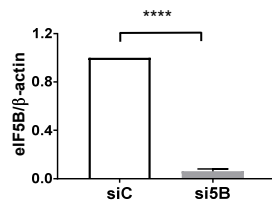
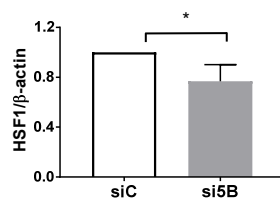
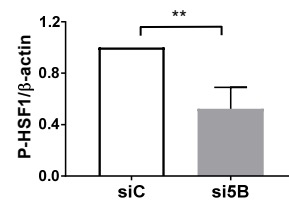
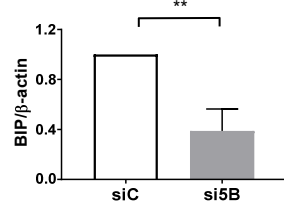
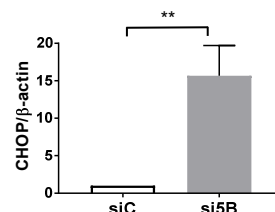
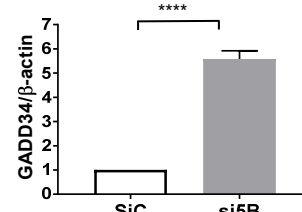
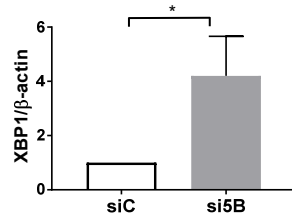


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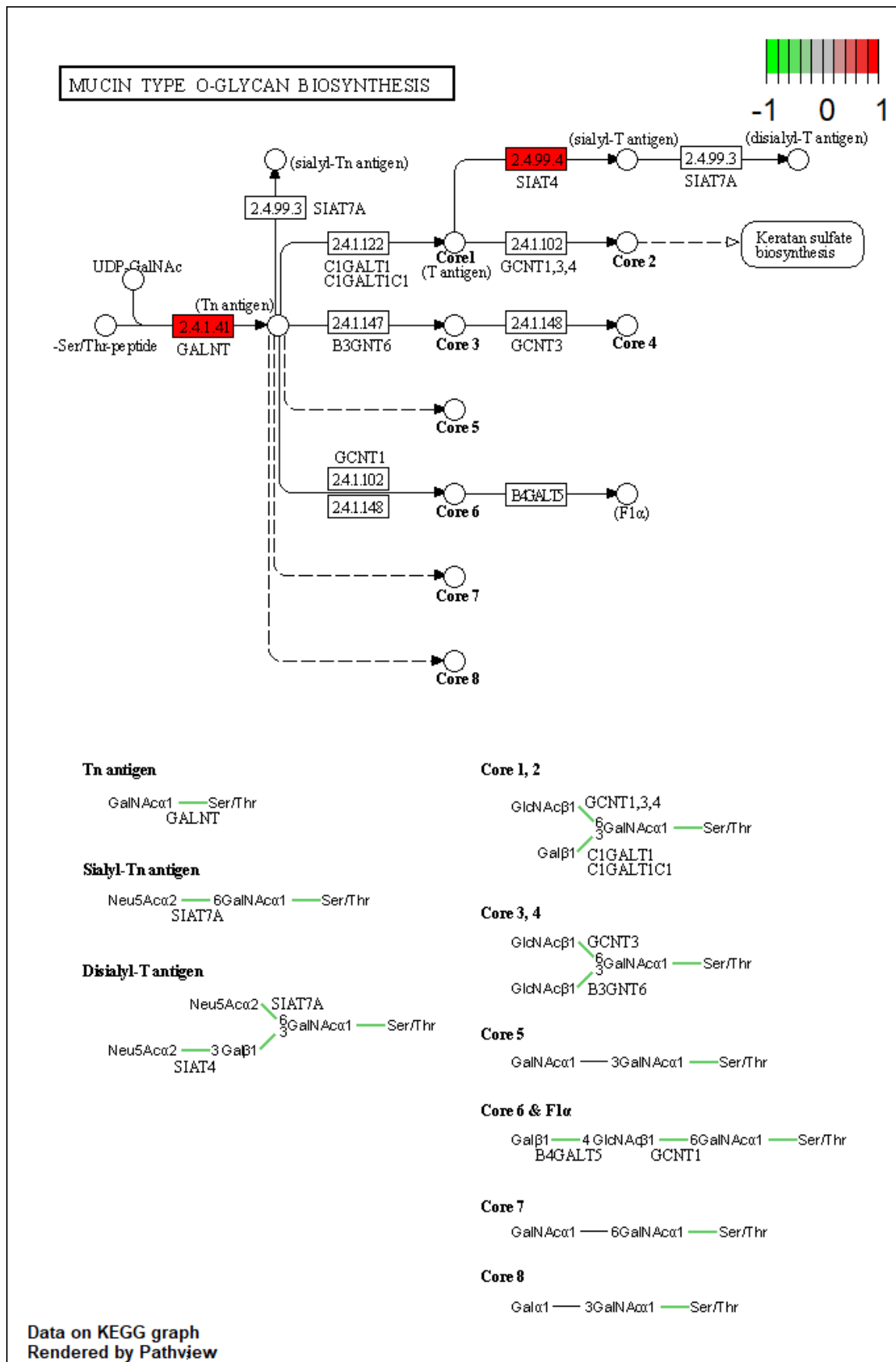


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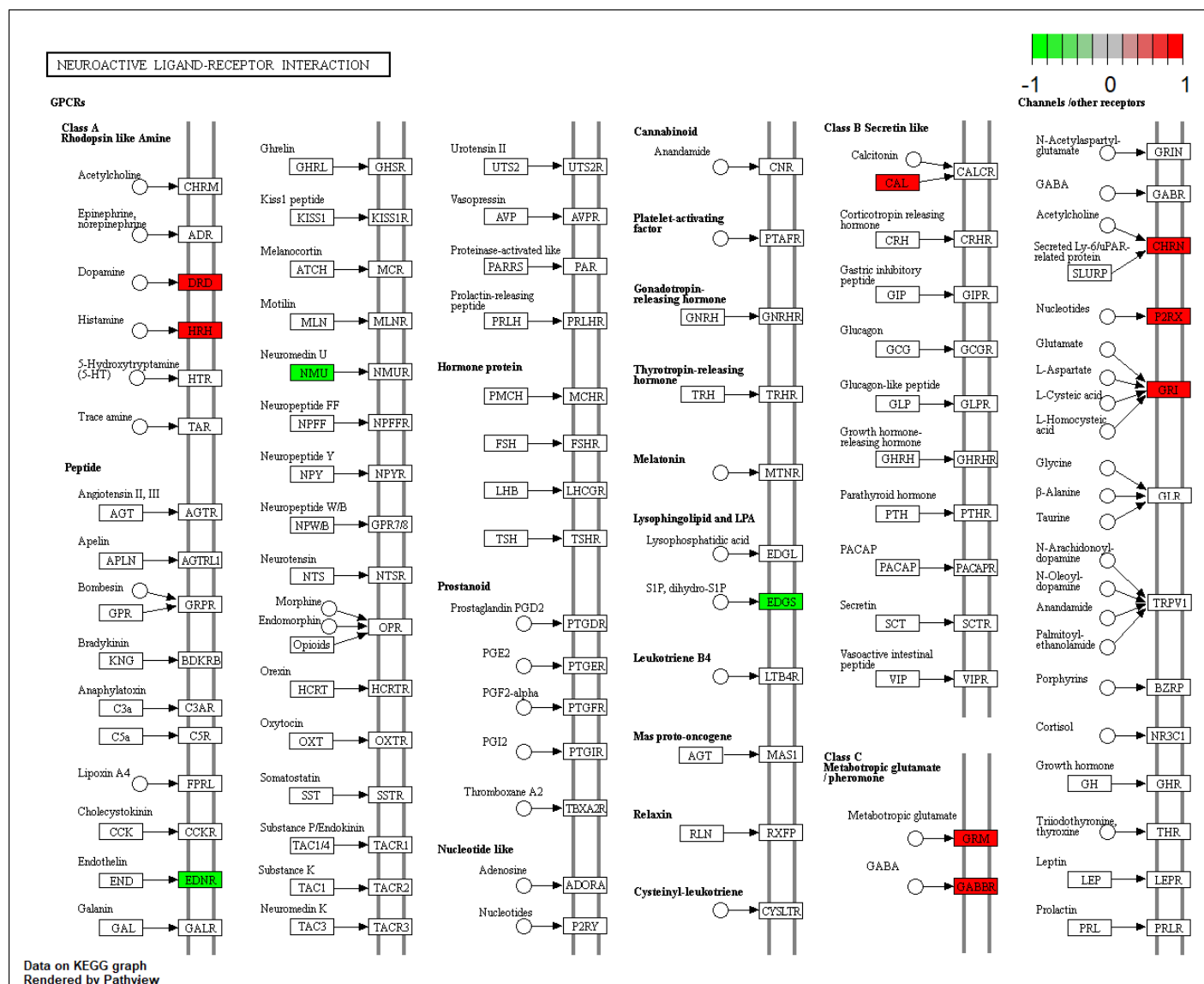
**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****I****J****K**

A

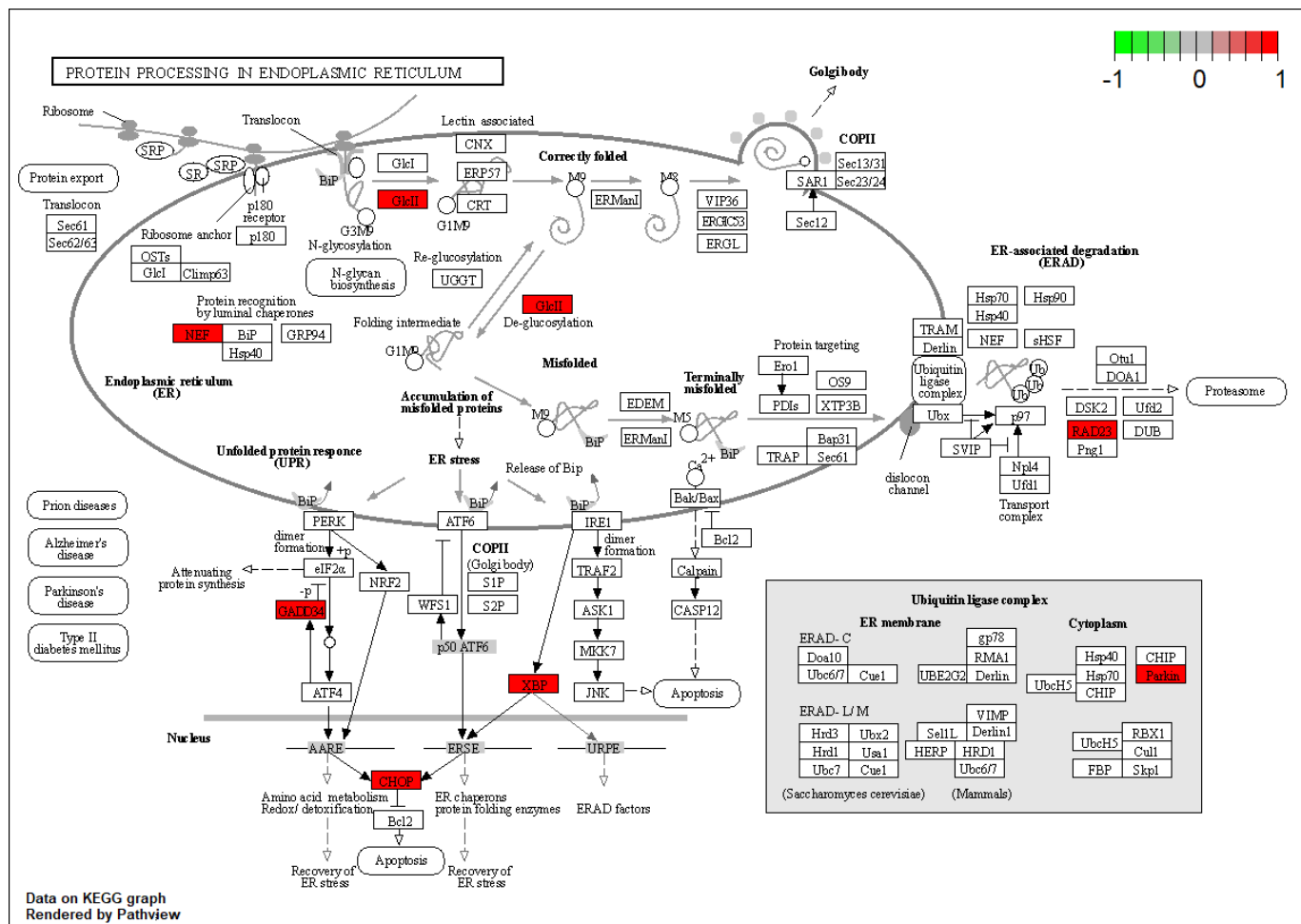




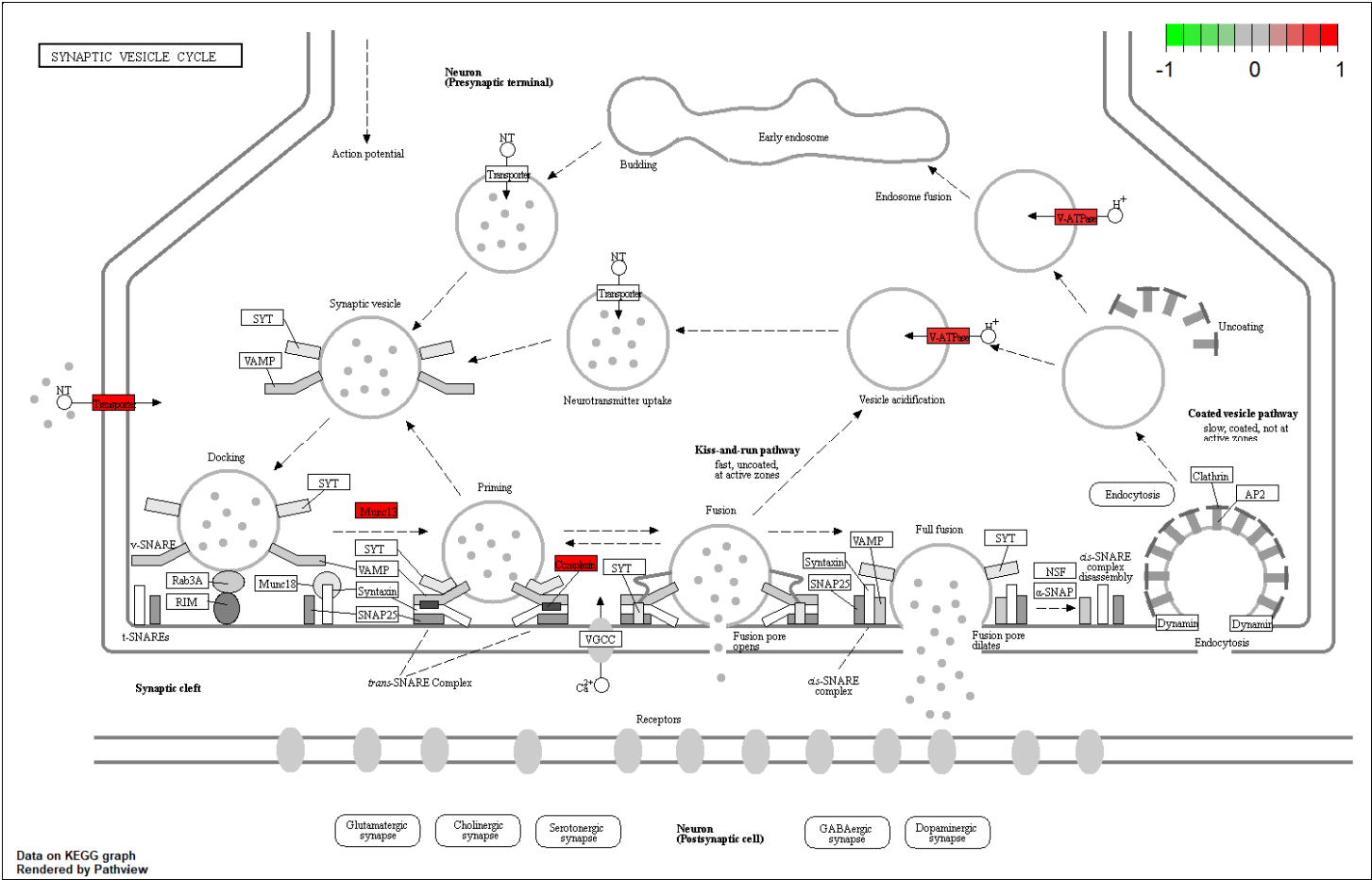
B



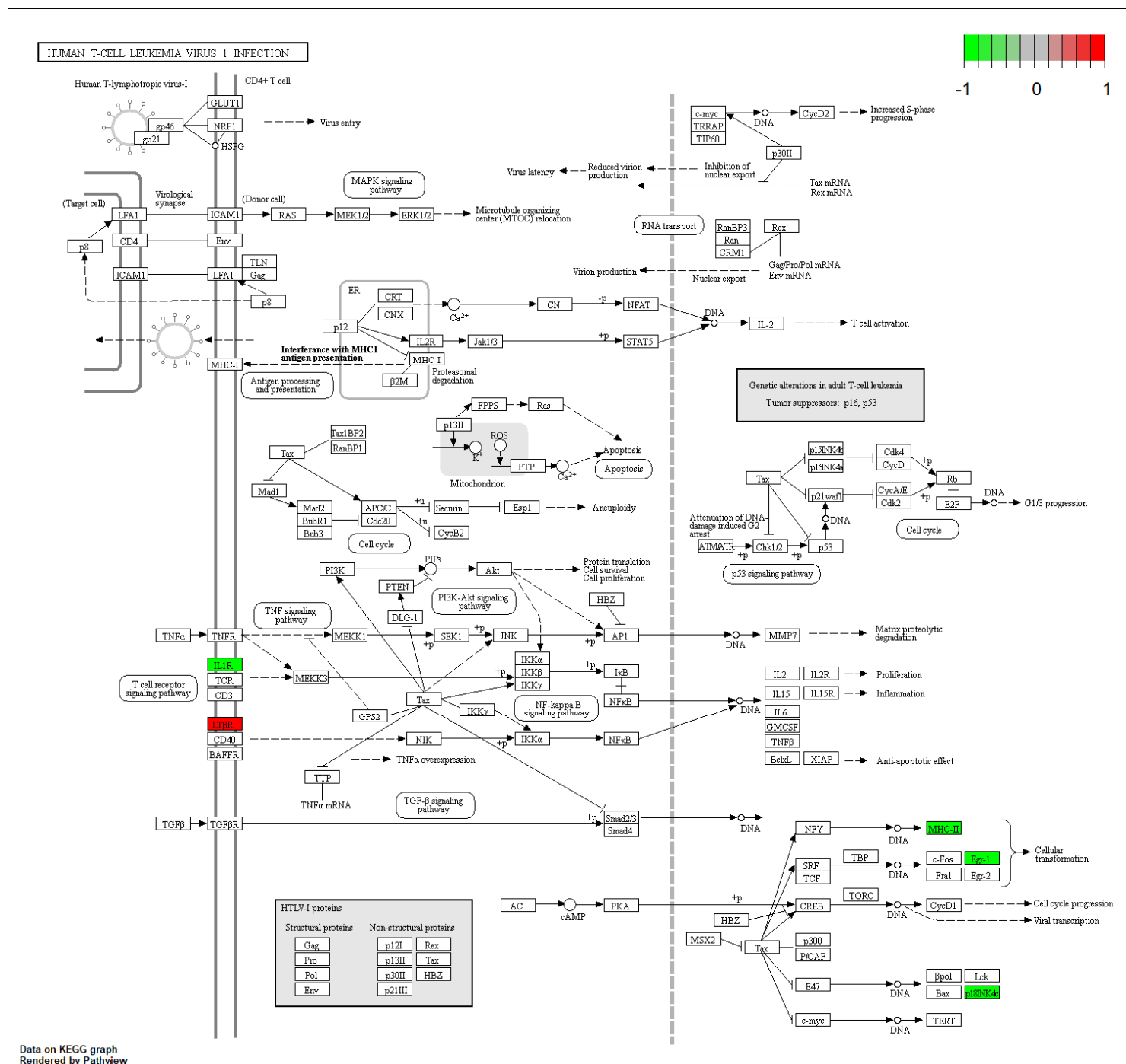
C



D



Data on KEGG graph  
Rendered by Pathview



F

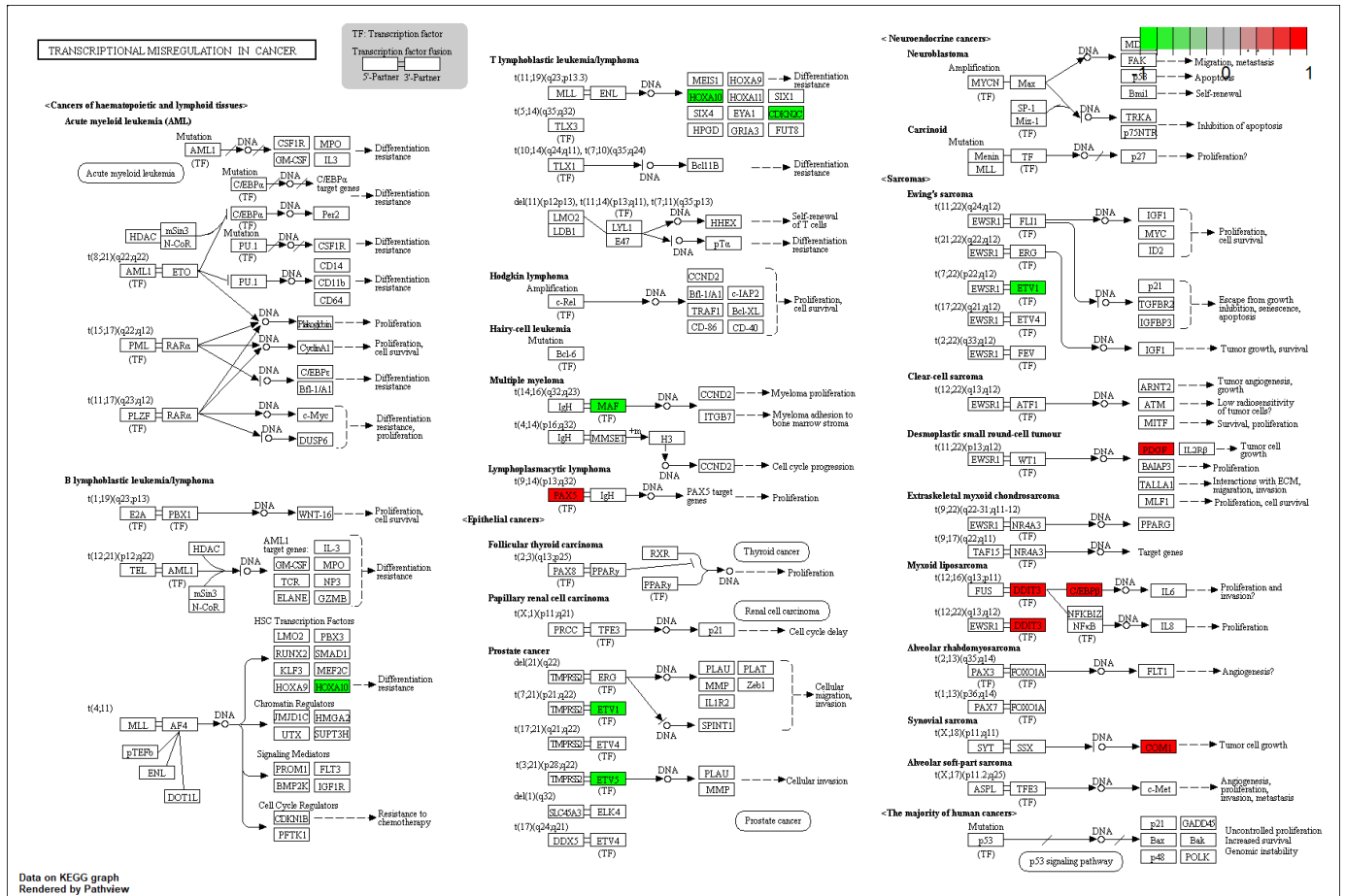
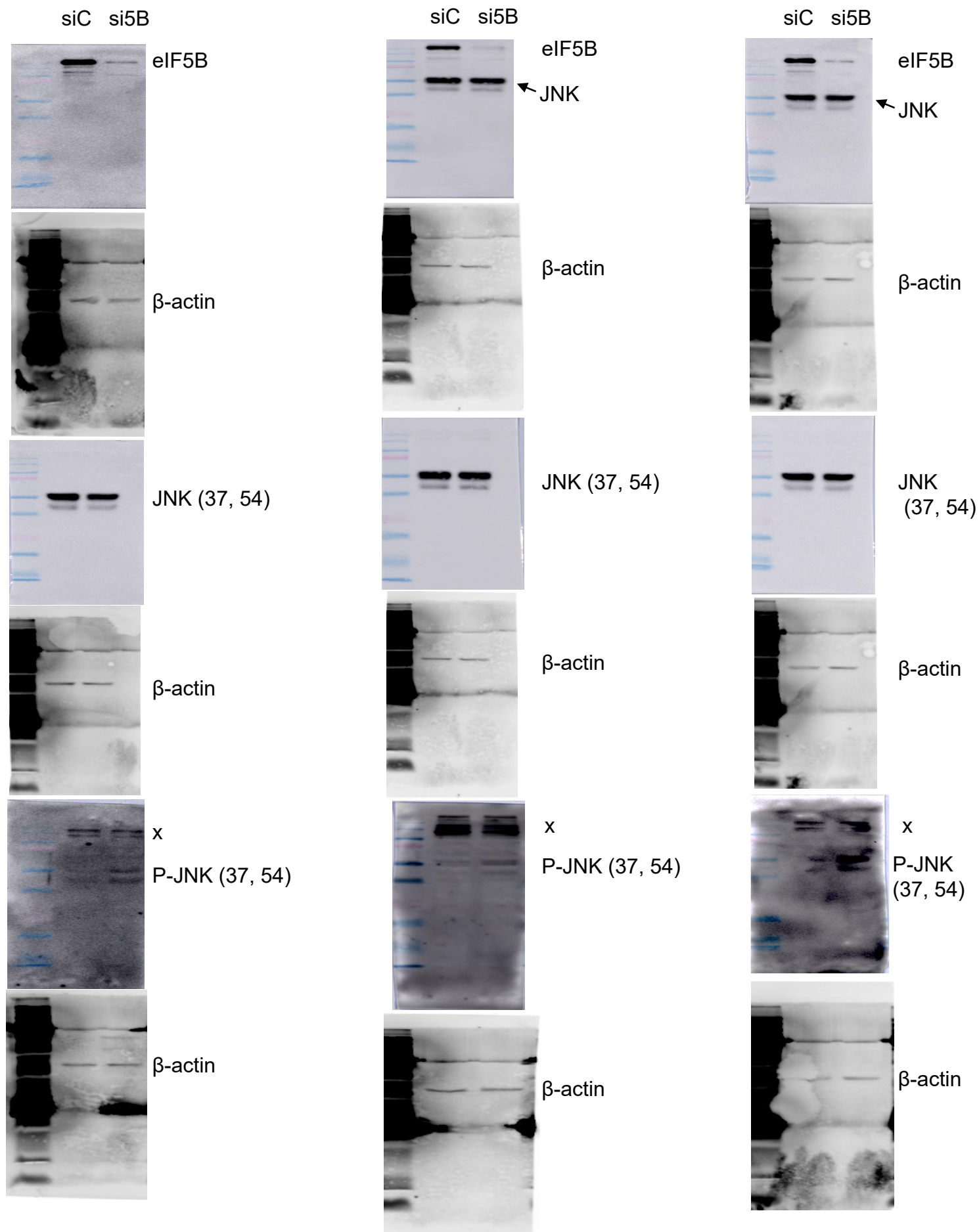
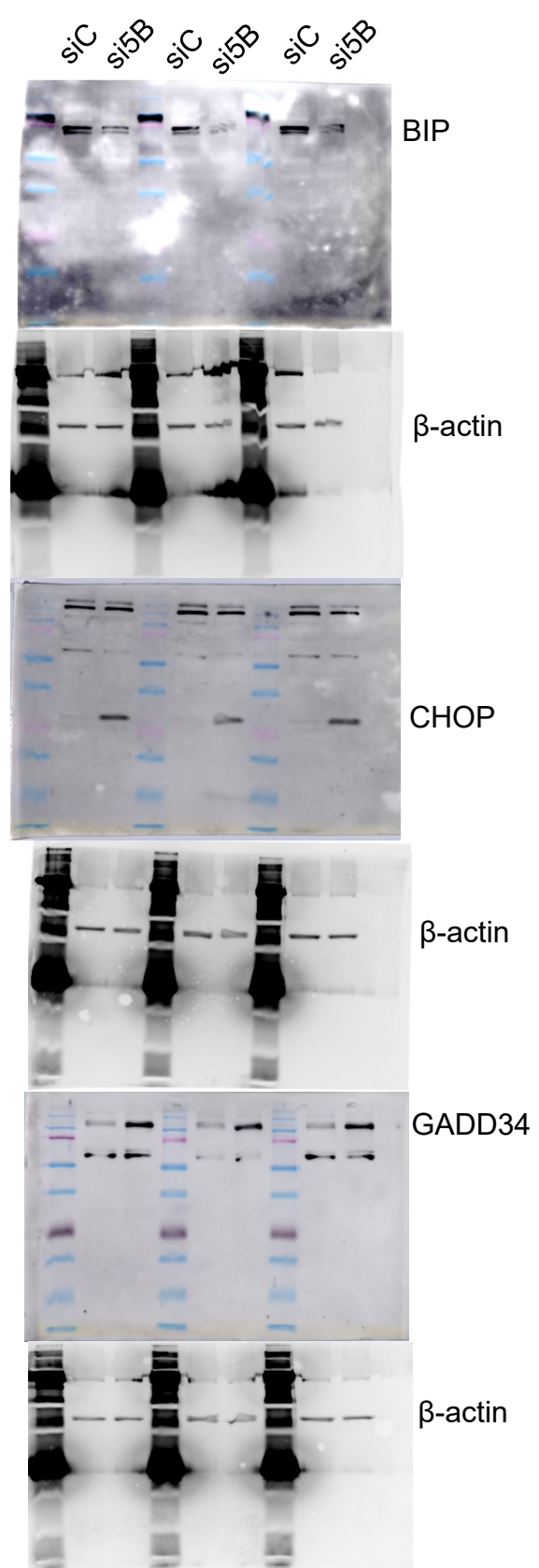
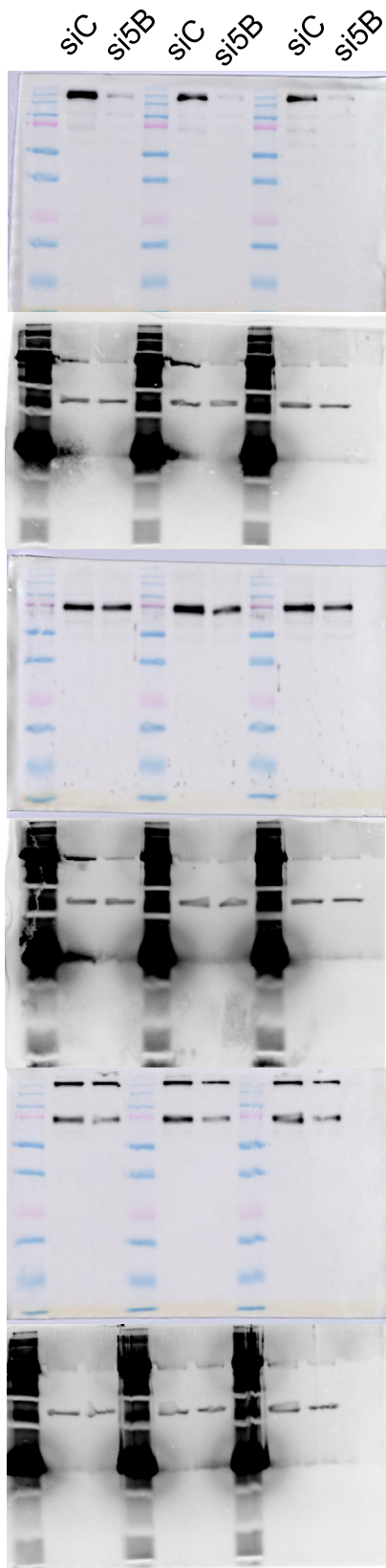
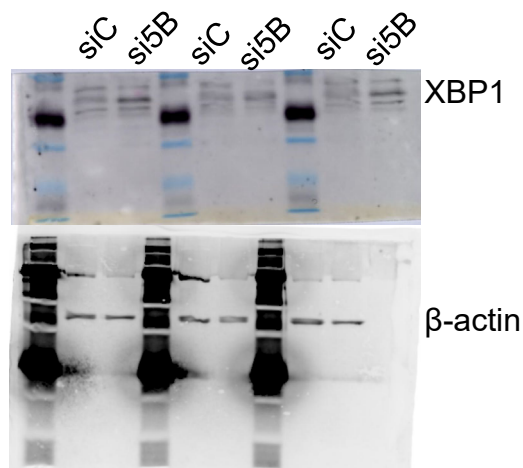


Figure S1. Significantly upregulated (A-D) and downregulated (E-F) KEGG pathways upon eIF5B depletion.







**Figure S2.** Depletion of eIF5B leads to activation of ER stress and increased levels of the phosphorylated JNK protein in HEK 293T cells. HEK 293T cells were transfected with a non-specific control siRNA (siC) or an eIF5B-specific siRNA pool (si5B) and resolved by SDS-PAGE before performing immunoblotting. Original, full-length biological triplicate Western blots for eIF5B, total JNK (P54 and P46), phospho-JNK (P54 and P46), HSF1, phospho-HSF1, BIP, CHOP, GADD34, XBP1 and  $\beta$ -actin (internal control). Representative images were cropped and shown in Figure 3. Note that total two of the JNK blots were re-probed with anti-eIF5B antibody; the JNK bands are indicated with an arrow. Note also that, for P-JNK, a cross-reactive species (x) was observed for all replicates, the levels of which appeared to match those of  $\beta$ -actin.



**List of antibodies used:**

<b>Protein</b>	<b>Antibody Company</b>	<b>Antibody Catalogue #</b>
eIF5B	Protein Tech	13527-1-AP
JNK	Cell Signaling Tech	9252
P-JNK	Cell Signaling Tech	9251
HSF1	Enzo	ADI-SPA-901
P-HSF1	Invitrogen	PA5-101018
BIP	Protein Tech	11587-1-AP
CHOP	Protein Tech	15204-1-AP
GADD34	Protein Tech	10449-1-AP
XBP1	Protein Tech	24168-1-AP
Actin (hFAB Rhodamine)	BioRad	12004163
Secondary antibody: Goat anti-rabbit-HRP Conjugate	Abcam	Ab97051