nurix

Leader in Targeted Protein Modulation

Deploying Affinity Selection Mass Spectrometry (ASMS) for Rapid and Flexible Hit Confirmation of DNA-Encoded Library (DEL) Screening in Targeted Protein Modulation (TPM)

Daniel Medina-Cleghorn 3rd Annual Edelris ASMS Symposium May 31, 2023

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Nurix Drugs Engage Ligases for the Treatment of Cancer Targeted Protein Modulation: TPM = TPD + TPE

> A Powerful Cellular System

Harness ligases to decrease specific protein levels

Targeted Protein Degradation (TPD)

Ubiquitin is ligated to target proteins to tag them for degradation by the proteasome Targeted Protein Elevation (TPE)

Inhibit ligases to increase specific protein levels

What Is Targeted-Protein Degradation (TPD)? Harnessing the ubiquitin proteosome system to degrade a protein of interest (POI)



Why DNA Encoded Libraries? – Advantages for TPM

- Affinity-based ligand discovery is the ideal approach to enable TPD
 - Affinity-based screening is MoA agnostic for E3 ligases we can identify ligands for TPD and inhibitors for TPE from the same screen
- DNA attachment provides initial handle for bifunctional molecule synthesis
- Combinatorial design enables rapid hit follow up and optimization



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Hit Expansion Library





Hit Confirmation

Custom Scaffold-Based DELs Enable Nurix To Identify Binders to Challenging Protein Surfaces

Nurix DEL Collection Nurix scaffold designs Scaffold Libraries Proving >5 billion unique structures **Essential for Delivering Ligands** show high pocket Includes proprietary, 3D complex, for "Undruggable" Targets (sole complementarity custom scaffolds source of hits for 75% of these targets) Covalent Three-dimensional 5% Scaffold 20% design **DNA Barcode** Branched Linear 43% 32%

Our proprietary scaffold DELs provide unique geometry and high sp3 character, allowing molecules to achieve optimal pocket fit

Nurix's Analysis & Follow Up Pipeline Is Designed To Access Broad Chemical Space



On-DNA Hit Resynthesis Translates DEL Screening Output for Rapid Hit Confirmation

- DEL barcode describes the recipe to build a molecule
 - Cycle 1 BB
 - Cycle 2 BB
 - Cycle 3 BB
 - Library ID



- On-DNA hit resynthesis (HR) applies the encoded library chemistry & BBs on a minimal piece of double-stranded DNA
 - Maintains synthetic fidelity to the original selected DEL hit
 - Parallelized process batches resynthesis by <u>chemistry</u> rather than by <u>compound</u>

Each On-DNA HR Generates A Pool of Potential Binders



Co-synthesized species

- Selected binder(s) may be multiple species described by the DEL barcode
- ASMS can identify the specific binder(s) within the on-DNA HR mixture

Final mixture

DEL Cheminformatics Is Key for on-DNA HR & ASMS Analysis



ASMS is Ideal for Confirming DEL-Identified Ligase Binders

- Highly Flexible Assay
 - Not limited by target protein structure/function
 - Identify multiple binding sites simultaneously
 - Modality agnostic
 - Ideal for early hit discovery of poorly characterized targets (e.g. E3 ligases)
- Direct Readout
 - No labeling of compound or protein required
 - Direct detection & ID of binder by LC-MS
 - Ideal for complex pools and mixtures
- Complementary to DEL
 - Affinity-based DEL screening requires a MoA-agnostic assay



Nurix's Hit Validation Approach Utilizes ASMS to Survey Chemical Space Inside and Outside the DEL Collection

- a) DEL screening hits encoded in the library are chosen for off-DNA HR of the predicted compound, on-DNA HR of the mixture, or solid support resynthesis of the predicted compound
- b) DEL data fed into a Machine Learning (ML) model predicts chemotypes of interest and searches commercially available compounds based on the hits selected from the library

| | Follow up | Source | Quantity | ASMS format | Hit Confirmation |
|--------|------------------|---|----------|-------------|------------------------------|
| | Off-DNA | DEL → Discrete hit synthesis | 10's | Pooled | ASMS + biophysics/biochem |
| | On-DNA | DEL → Parallel Single Hit Syntheses | 100's | Individual | ASMS |
| | Solid phase | DEL → Solid Phase Syntheses | 100's | Individual | ASMS + biophysics/biochem |
| ทมทั้ง | Machine Learning | DEL \rightarrow ML \rightarrow Vendor catalogs | 1000's | Pooled | ASMS + biophysics/biochem |













On-DNA ASMS Hit Confirmation & Follow Up

• ASMS hit confirmation scored by % RBA (relative binding affinity)

% RBA = (Protein Selected – No Protein Control) x 100 Reference Injection

- Hits with RBA score > 1% prioritized for follow up
- RBA score is a binary hit/no hit metric: RBA ≠ affinity
 - Useful for triage & rank ordering
- Active species from ASMS-confirmed hits are then resynthesized for testing in more quantitative assays

On-DNA Hit Resynthesis ASMS Triage + ID: Hits > 1% RBA Resynthesize active species **Biochemical**/ biophysical assays

on-DNA ASMS Confirms DEL Hits & Features

- Hits selected from a DEL screen against Ligase 1 were chosen as singletons (individual hits) or from a feature
- DEL "features" are hits with similar BBs in the same position
 - Validating multiple hits in a feature supports SAR



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- Each pool contains a variable mixture of species and proportions
 - The DEL-encoded predicted product may not always be the species in greatest proportion



on-DNA ASMS Confirms DEL Hits & Features

- Predicted 3-cycle products detected & confirmed in ASMS
- Singleton hits A & C do not have overlapping SAR
- Feature 1 hits D-F confirmed, indicating changes at BB3 are tolerated
- Selection of related hits validates the DEL feature and informs SAR for downstream prioritization



- DEL hits from three structurally distinct features selected against Ligase 2 were chosen for on-DNA HR
- Each on-DNA HR generates a pool of species, replicating the mixture generated in the DEL screen
 - Predicted 3-cycle compound & 2-cycle truncate species all share the same DEL barcode



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- In Features A and B only 2-cycle truncates were highly selected, suggesting the truncates bound in the DEL screen
- In Feature C, both predicted and 2-cycle truncates were confirmed, supporting the feature and ID'ing the ligands



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- In Feature C, both predicted and 2-cycle truncates were confirmed, supporting the feature and ID'ing the ligands

 Predicted hits from Feature C was discretely resynthesized and confirmed in orthogonal assays

| Hit ID | On-DNA ASMS RBA | Off-DNA Biochem. EC ₅₀ |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| HR13-PRED | 31% | 0.5 μM |

- Ligase 3 DEL hits were discretely resynthesized as purified off-DNA compounds
- ASMS analysis of purified hit showed no enrichment (RBA < 1%)



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- ASMS analysis of purified hit showed no enrichment (RBA < 1%)
- Orthogonal probe displacement assay confirmed hit with IC $_{50}$ < 2 μM
- Ligand-bound crystal structure was solved and revealed a byproduct bound to the protein



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- Chemists identified a minor byproduct in the sample
- Reanalyzed ASMS data confirmed the byproduct was the active species
 - Resynthesized byproduct reported 0.18 µM IC₅₀ by probe displacement
 - DEL hit encoded as predicted compound, yet the byproduct was the best binder in the screen
- Algorithmic Predictor now includes structures for variant species in purified, off-DNA hits



Conclusions

- Nurix's affinity-based DEL screening approach is a powerful hit discovery platform for targeted protein modulation
- ASMS's versatility as an affinity-driven method makes it the ideal next step for confirming novel DEL-derived chemical matter
- Combining on-DNA hit resynthesis and ASMS allows rapid and comprehensive ID & validation
 of DEL hits at the feature and individual hit levels
- Incorporating ASMS technology into Nurix's DEL discovery platform allows us to generate, ID, and advance a greater number of hits more efficiently

