



(51) International Patent Classification:

G01N 33/68 (2006.01) A61K 31/7105 (2006.01)
A61K 38/02 (2006.01) C07H 21/02 (2006.01)
C07K 2/00 (2006.01) C12Q 1/68 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/SG2011/000293

(22) International Filing Date:

25 August 2011 (25.08.2011)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

201006302-2 30 August 2010 (30.08.2010) SG

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: TYROSINE-PHOSPHORYLATED WBP2, A NOVEL CANCER TARGET AND BIOMARKER

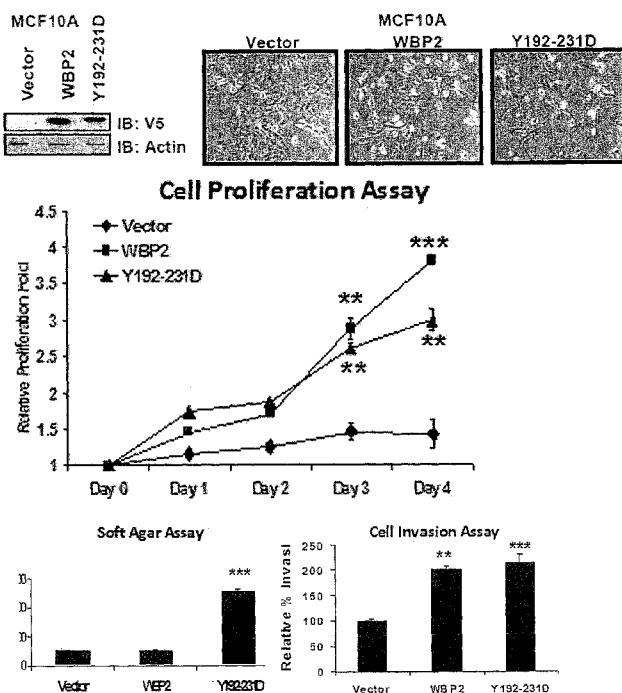


Figure 10

(57) Abstract: WW-binding protein 2 (WBP2) has been demonstrated in different studies to be a tyrosine kinase substrate, to activate ER α /PR transcription and to play a role in breast cancer. However, the role of WBP2 tyrosine phosphorylation in regulating ER function and breast cancer biology is unknown. Here, we established WBP2 as a tyrosine phosphorylation target of estrogen signaling via EGFR crosstalk. Using dominant negative, constitutively active mutants, RNAi and pharmacological studies, we demonstrated that phosphorylation of WBP2 at Tyr192 and Tyr231 could be regulated by c-Src and c-Yes kinases. We further showed that abrogating WBP2 phosphorylation impaired >60% of ER α reporter activity putatively by blocking nuclear entry of WBP2 and its interaction with ER α . Compared to vector control, overexpression of WBP2 and its phospho-mimic mutant in MCF7 resulted in larger tumors in mice, induced loss of cell-cell adhesion, enhanced cell proliferation, anchorage-independent growth, migration and invasion in both estrogen-dependent and -independent manner, events of which could be substantially abolished by overexpression of phosphorylation-defective mutant. Wnt/ β -catenin inhibitor FH535 blocked phospho-WBP2-mediated cancer cell growth more pronouncedly than tamoxifen and fulvestrant, in part by reducing the expression of ER α .

**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*
- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*