Mps1 Mediated Phosphorylation of Hsp90 Confers Renal Cell Carcinoma Sensitivity and Selectivity to Hsp90 Inhibitors

Highlights
- Mps1 phosphorylates a conserved threonine in Hsp90 and regulates its function
- Hsp90 phosphorylation by Mps1 is essential for the mitotic checkpoint
- Cdc14 phosphatase dephosphorylates Hsp90 and disrupts the Mps1-Hsp90 complex
- Mps1 phosphorylation of Hsp90 confers tumor selectivity to its inhibitors

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In Brief
The mitotic checkpoint kinase Mps1 is required for accurate chromosome segregation. Woodford et al. show that Mps1 is a client of the molecular chaperone Hsp90 and directly phosphorylates a conserved threonine residue in the N-domain of the chaperone. This phosphorylation regulates Hsp90 function and is essential for the mitotic checkpoint. Additionally, Mps1 phosphorylation of Hsp90 sensitizes cells to Hsp90 inhibitors, and elevated Mps1 levels confer tumor selectivity on Hsp90 drugs. The phosphatase Cdc14 dephosphorylates Hsp90 and disrupts its interaction with Mps1.

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Mps1 Mediated Phosphorylation of Hsp90 Confers Renal Cell Carcinoma Sensitivity and Selectivity to Hsp90 Inhibitors

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SUMMARY

The molecular chaperone Hsp90 protects deregulated signaling proteins that are vital for tumor growth and survival. Tumors generally display sensitivity and selectivity toward Hsp90 inhibitors; however, the molecular mechanism underlying this phenotype remains undefined. We report that the mitotic checkpoint kinase Mps1 phosphorylates a conserved threonine residue in the amino-domain of Hsp90. This, in turn, regulates chaperone function by reducing Hsp90 ATPase activity while fostering Hsp90 association with kinase clients, including Mps1. Phosphorylation of Hsp90 is also essential for the mitotic checkpoint because it confers Mps1 stability and activity. We identified Cdc14 as the phosphatase that dephosphorylates Hsp90 and disrupts its interaction with Mps1. This causes Mps1 degradation, thus providing a mechanism for its inactivation. Finally, Hsp90 phosphorylation sensitizes cells to its inhibitors, and elevated Mps1 levels confer renal cell carcinoma selectivity to Hsp90 drugs. Mps1 expression level can potentially serve as a predictive indicator of tumor response to Hsp90 inhibitors.

INTRODUCTION

Heat shock protein-90 (Hsp90) is an essential molecular chaperone in eukaryotes, and it is involved in the maturation, protection, and activation of a group of proteins referred to as “clients,” (see the website maintained by D. Picard; https://www.picard.ch/downloads/Hsp90interactors.pdf) (Picard, 2002; Röhl et al., 2013; Taipale et al., 2010). Hsp90 clients are enriched in signal transducers, including protein kinases and transcription factors. Hsp90 and a distinct set of co-chaperone proteins such as Cdc37 “hold” these clients in a stabilized state in which they can respond to activating signals (Röhl et al., 2013; Taipale et al., 2010). Hsp90 chaperone activity is coupled to its ATPase activity (Panaretou et al., 1998), which is tightly regulated by co-chaperone proteins and post-translational modifications (PTMs) such as phosphorylation, acetylation, ubiquitination, and SUMOylation (covered in detail in a recent review; Walton-Diaz et al., 2013).

Cancer cells rely on the Hsp90 chaperone machinery to protect an array of mutated and overexpressed oncoproteins from misfolding and degradation. Thus, Hsp90 is a critical facilitator of “oncogene addiction” and cancer cell survival. Emerging clinical data identify Hsp90 inhibition as a promising therapeutic strategy to treat cancer (Neckers and Trepel, 2014). Cancer cells appear to be particularly sensitive to Hsp90 inhibitors compared to non-transformed cells (Chiosis and Neckers, 2006), and Hsp90 inhibitors are retained by tumors in vivo far longer than...
in normal tissues (Kamal et al., 2003). However, the molecular basis of these phenomena remains undefined.

The mitotic checkpoint, or mitotic spindle assembly checkpoint prevents missegregation of chromosomes by arresting cells in metaphase until all chromosomes are properly aligned. The evolutionarily conserved dual specificity protein kinase, Mps1, is required for this process, as was recently reviewed in detail (Liu and Winey, 2012). High expression and PTM of Mps1 are involved in its activation, whereas the major route of Mps1 inactivation is degradation (Liu and Winey, 2012). Overexpression of Mps1 also causes abnormal chromosome segregation during mitosis, i.e., aneuploidy, a hallmark of cancers associated with high risk for tumorigenesis. (Kops et al., 2005; Musacchio and Salmon, 2007). High levels of Mps1 kinase are found in colon cancer tissues and several tumor cell lines such as U937, HeLa, HEY, OCC1, Bewo, T987, and SW480 (Ling et al., 2014; Yen and Kao, 2005).

In the present study, we found that Mps1 is highly expressed in tumors from patients with renal cell carcinoma (RCC), including clear cell RCC (ccRCC), papillary type I and type II RCC, oncocytoma, and angiomyolipoma (AML), compared to adjacent normal tissue. Accumulation of the Hsp90 inhibitor ganetespib (GB) in tumors from RCC patients prompted us to ask whether Mps1-mediated phosphorylation and regulation of Hsp90 chaperone function is the molecular basis of tumor sensitivity and selectivity to Hsp90 inhibitors.

**RESULTS**

Mps1 Phosphorylates a Conserved Threonine Residue in the N-Domain of Yeast and Human Hsp90

Hsp90 is a post-translationally modified protein, (reviewed in Walton-Diaz et al., 2013). Here, we show the phosphorylation of T101 in the N-domain of yeast Hsp90 (yHsp90) and T101A-yHsp90 (T101A) in vitro. Bacterially expressed and purified yHsp90 and T101A-yHsp90 were used as substrates for yMps1. Threonine phosphorylation was detected by immunoblotting with pan-anti-phosphothreonine antibody. SE, short exposure; LE, long exposure.

See also Figures S1 and S2.
isolated from cell lysates using nickel-nitriiotriacetic acid (Ni-NTA) agarose and then treated with PreScission protease to isolate yHsp90 N-domains. This was confirmed by western blot analysis using anti-hexahistidine antibody. Using our previously established pan-anti-phosphothreonine antibody (Mollapour et al., 2011), we were able to observe the threonine phosphorylation of yHsp90 N-domain, and this signal was significantly reduced in T101A-yHsp90 mutant (Figure 1B). We have also previously shown the phosphorylation of T22 in the N-domain of hHsp90 (Mollapour et al., 2011). Mutation of both T22 and T101 to non-phosphorylatable alanine completely abolished the threonine phosphorylation of N-domain yHsp90 (Figure S1A). These data suggest that T22 and T101 are the only phospho-threonine sites in the yHsp90 N-domain.

Next, the corresponding T101 (i.e., T115) was mutated to alanine in hHsp90α-FLAG. This mutant also contained a PreScission site between the N-domain and the charged linker. This allowed us to transiently express and isolate the N-domain of hHsp90α from HEK293 cells and detect phosphorylation of the T115 site (Figure 1C). Previous work has shown that protein kinase C (PKC)γ targets T115 in hHsp90α (Lu et al., 2014). We showed that PKCγ phosphorylates hHsp90α or yHsp90 in vitro; however, we were unable to observe PKCγ-dependent phosphorylation of T115-hHsp90α or T101-yHsp90 (Figure S1B). Therefore, in an attempt to identify the kinase(s) targeting T101/ T115, we used the yeast deletion library for the non-essential kinases (110 strains) obtained from EUROSCARF (http://www.europcarf.de/search.php?name=Order) (Figures S2A and S2B; Table S1). The yeast essential kinases library (19 kinases) under the control of the GAL1-promoter was obtained from Dharmacon (http://dharmacon.gelifesciences.com/). These libraries were transformed with either WT yHsp90 or T101A mutant (containing the PreScission site), and then the levels of N-domain phosphorylation were assessed by western blot analysis (Figures S2C and S2D). We found that only overexpression of the essential protein kinase Mps1 causes an increase in the phosphorylation of T101-yHsp90 (Figure 1D). Next, we used purified recombinant yeast Mps1 (yMps1) in an in vitro kinase assay with bacterially expressed and purified WT yHsp90 and T101A mutant. Our data showed that yMps1 phosphorylates only the T101 in yHsp90 in vitro (Figure 1E). Since Mps1 is an evolutionarily conserved protein kinase (Abrieu et al., 2001), we used the purified human Mps1 (hMps1), also known as PYT/TTK in an in vitro kinase assay. hMps1 phosphorylates only the T115 residue in hHsp90α in vitro (Figure 1F).

T101/T115 Phosphomutants Affect Hsp90 ATPase Activity and Co-chaperone Binding

The chaperone activity of Hsp90 is coupled to its ability to bind and hydrolyze ATP (Panaretou et al., 1998). Therefore, we expressed and isolated yHsp90 and the phosphomutants from yeast and determined their ATPase activity, using a small-scale PiPer Phosphate Assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific) as previously described (Kamal et al., 2003) (see Experimental Procedures). T101A had a similar (80%) ATPase activity compared to the WT yHsp90, whereas the T101E-yHsp90 ATPase was reduced by 62% (Figure S3A). Next, we expressed and purified yHsp90 and hHsp90α from bacteria and phosphorylated them in vitro using recombinant yMps1 and hMps1, respectively (Figures S3B and S3C). The ATPase activity of the phosphorylated and non-phosphorylated Hsp90 proteins were determined using the aforementioned method. Consistent with our earlier result, Mps1-mediated phosphorylation of Hsp90 reduced the ATPase activity of yHsp90 by 69% and of hHsp90α by 59% (Figures 2A and 2B; Figures S3D–S3F).

Next, we examined the interaction of several important regulatory Hsp90 co-chaperones with T101-yHsp90 and T115-Hsp90α phosphomutants. Lysates of yeast expressing WT yHsp90, T101A, or T101E were subjected to affinity pull-down with Ni-NTA agarose, and interacting co-chaperones were examined by western blot analysis. The interaction of both mutants with yAha1 was abolished, interaction with Cdc37p was significantly enhanced, and interaction with Sba1p was unchanged (Figure 2C). In contrast, association of Sba1p with T101A was lost, but its interaction with T101E was slightly enhanced compared to the WT yHsp90 (Figure 2D). We also obtained similar results with mammalian co-chaperones. HEK293 cells were transiently transfected with FLAG-hHsp90α or its T115A or T115E mutants. WT hHsp90α and its mutants interacted with p60Cdc37 with similar affinity, while the mutants bound slightly stronger to p50Cdc37 as compared to WT (Figure 2D). However, association of both mutants with human Aha1 (hAha1) was abolished, and T115A interaction with p23 was significantly reduced (Figure 2D). Taken together, our data suggest that phosphorylation of T101/T115 is a dynamic process that stabilizes N-domain dimerization and Sba1p association, which itself is known to slow the rate of ATP hydrolysis (Silligardi et al., 2004). It follows that dephosphorylation of T101/T115 is necessary to permit ATP hydrolysis.

Phosphorylation of T101/T115 Selectively Impacts the Chaperoning of Clients

The importance of the T101 residue on chaperone activity was first reported 20 years ago (Nathan and Lindquist, 1995). Here, we tested the ability of T101-yHsp90 phosphomutants to chaperone known endogenous clients in yeast. The mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) kinase Mpk1/Slt2 (an erk5 ortholog) is an Hsp90 client. Activation of this kinase with heat shock or caffeine stress strengthens its interaction with yHsp90 (Truman et al., 2006). Mpk1/Slt2 from heat-shocked yeast cells (39°C for 40 min) or yeast stressed with 10 mM caffeine interacts with yHsp90. These stresses activate the cell wall integrity pathway in yeast. However, interaction of Mpk1/Slt2 with T101A-yHsp90 was significantly reduced (Figure 3A). Conversely T101E-yHsp90 associated with Mpk1/Slt2, even in the absence of stress (Figure 3A). We observed similar data with another endogenous yeast Hsp90 client, active Ste11 kinase (Ste11ΔN), the ortholog of mammalian Raf-1 (Flom et al., 2008; Louvion et al., 1998). The non-phosphorylatable T101A was unable to interact with the active Ste11 kinase, while association of the phosphomimic T101E mutant with active Ste11 was slightly enhanced compared to wild-type Hsp90 (Figure 3B).

Next, we examined the impact of T101 phosphomutants on the chaperoning of two non-kinase clients. The mammalian glucocorticoid receptor (GR) is a well-characterized Hsp90 client that provides an Hsp90 functional assay in yeast (Pratt et al.,
WT yeast cells, as well as the T101A and T101E mutants, were transformed with plasmids constitutively expressing GR and a glucocorticoid-regulated lacZ reporter gene (Garabedian and Yamamoto, 1992). In this case, the GR activity was almost four times higher in the T101A mutant than in the WT cells; conversely, the phosphomimetic T101E mutant showed impaired GR activity (Figure 3C). Next, we tested the effect of T101 phosphorylation on heat shock factor-1 (Hsf1) transcriptional activity. Hsf1 is an Hsp90 client, and its interaction with this chaperone suppresses Hsf1 activity (Zou et al., 1998). Hsp90 inhibition, due to mutation or pharmacologic inhibition, leads to induction of Hsf1 activity in the absence of heat shock stress (Hjorth-Sørensen et al., 2001). Temperature sensitivity of the T101I mutant has been reported previously (Nathan and Lindquist, 1995). Here, we showed the phosphomutant T101E to be temperature sensitive (ts) at 30°C and T101A at 37°C (Figure 3D).

The heat shock response in the T101A mutant upon heat stress was 1.5-fold higher than in WT yeast cells but was 2-fold lower than in WT for the T101E mutant (Figure 3E). We observed similar results with T115-hHsp90x phosphomutants. HEK293 cells were transiently co-transfected with the Hsp90 kinase client, ErbB2, and one of the following constructs: WT hHsp90x–FLAG, T115A, or T115E mutants. While we were able to co-immunoprecipitate ErbB2 with the WT hHsp90x–FLAG, ErbB2 interaction with T115A was significantly reduced (Figure 3F). We obtained similar data with endogenous Cdk4 (another Hsp90 kinase client) (Figure 3F). Interaction of the phosphomimetic mutant T115E with both ErbB2 and Cdk4 was slightly increased (Figure 3F). Consistent with our observation in yeast, T115A-hHsp90x interaction with GR was significantly increased, whereas T115E-hHsp90x association with GR was completely abolished (Figure 3G). These data show that phosphorylation of T101/T115 increases the interaction with, and activity of, several kinase clients but inhibits the interaction/activity of the steroid hormone receptor GR.

Phosphorylation of T101/T115 Is Essential for Mps1 Activity and Mitotic Checkpoint

Previous work has suggested that co-chaperones Cdc37 and Sti1 are involved in the chaperoning of yMps1 (Schutz et al., 1997). We evaluated whether Mps1 is an Hsp90 client and also examined the impact of T101/T115 phosphorylation on the chaperoning of Mps1 itself. Treating the yeast cells with 40 μM GB, an Hsp90 inhibitor, led to degradation of the endogenously Myc-epitope-tagged yMps1 protein (Figure 4A). This phenomenon was reversed by pre-treating the yeast cells with the proteasome inhibitor MG132 (Figure 4B). We next evaluated yMps1 protein stability in Hsp90-T101 phosphomutants by cycloheximide (CHX) chase analysis and found that yMps1-Myc was markedly stable in WT and T101E yeast cells. Conversely, yMps1-Myc expressed in the non-phosphorylatable T101A mutant background was undetectable after 60-min treatment with cycloheximide (Figure 4C).
Next, we examined the interaction of yMps1 with the T101 phosphomutants. The interaction of the non-phosphorylatable T101A mutant with yMps1-Myc was completely abrogated. In contrast, the interaction between T101E and yMps1-Myc was stronger than the interaction between WT yHsp90 and yMps1 (Figure 4D). We obtained similar results with the WT hHsp90 and the T115 phosphomutants. The T115A mutant was unable to bind to hMps1, whereas the phosphomimetic T115E associated more strongly than WT hHsp90 with hMps1 (Figure 4E).

Our data suggest a model in which Mps1-mediated phosphorylation of T101/T115 enhances its interaction with Hsp90, possibly increasing Mps1 kinase activity.

To test these hypotheses, we isolated Mps1-Myc from yeast expressing WT yHsp90 and T101 phosphomutants and used pan-phospho-threonine antibody to examine the autophosphorylation/activity of yMps1. Threonine phosphorylation of yMps1 was detected in WT yeast cells and was increased in the T101E mutant. However, yMps1 phosphorylation was significantly reduced in the T101A mutant (Figure 4F). Our data suggest that yMps1 activation and phosphorylation of T101-yHsp90 facilitates the interaction of yMps1 with yHsp90, which, in turn, is important for maintaining yMps1 kinase activity.

We decided to test this model further by determining whether the T101E yeast cells experience mitotic arrest. Previous work has shown that overexpression of yMps1 causes cell cycle arrest at G2 but with morphologically normal spindles (Hardwick et al., 1996). Here, we examined yeast cells expressing WT yHsp90, T101A, or T101E mutants for any cell cycle defect and discovered that T101E yeast were arrested in G2 (Figure 4G). Next, we overexpressed yMps1-GST under the GAL1-promoter in WT or T101A mutant yeast. Cells were grown on media containing raffinose in order to suppress the GAL1-promoter and then shifted to galactose-containing media to induce the GAL1-promoter. In agreement with previous reports (Hardwick et al., 1996), overexpression of yMps1 arrested WT cells in G2, but it had no effect in T101A mutant yeast (Figure 4H). Mps1 kinase is essential for the mitotic checkpoint (also known as the spindle checkpoint); therefore, Mps1 deletion is lethal in yeast.
The ts mps1-1 mutant is viable at the permissive temperature (25°C). We synchronized the WT, mps1-1, and T101A-yHsp90 yeast cells in G1, with an α-factor at 25°C. The cells were then released in medium containing the microtubule poison nocodazole, a known activator of the mitotic checkpoint, for a further incubation of 4 hr at either 25°C or 37°C. WT, mps1-1, and T101A cells were arrested with large buds in nocodazole-containing medium at 25°C (Figure 4I). In contrast, after 4 hr in medium containing nocodazole at 37°C, T101A mutants, like mps1-1 yeast, had multiple-budded cells (Figure 4I). Taken together, our data suggest that Mps1 phosphorylation of T101-yHsp90 is essential for its kinase activity and also for mitotic arrest.

**Quantitative Proteomic Analysis of Phosphorylated Hsp90**

Our data have shown that phosphorylation of T101 promotes Hsp90 interaction with certain client proteins. In order to quantitatively identify the global interactome of Hsp90 as the result of T101 phosphorylation, we purified the T101A and T101E-yHsp90-His6 interactomes and compared them by isotope-coded liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS; Figure 5A). Based on high-confidence peptide matches, 474 yHsp90 partners were identified (Table S2). Gene Ontology (GO) analysis of these interactors revealed “response to stress” and “protein dephosphorylation” as the most enriched categories for increased association and “cytoplasmic translation” and “protein dephosphorylation” as the most enriched categories for increased association.

(Abrieu et al., 2001). The ts mps1-1 mutant is viable at the permissive temperature (25°C). We synchronized the WT, mps1-1, and T101A-yHsp90 yeast cells in G1, with an α-factor at 25°C. The cells were then released in medium containing the microtubule poison nocodazole, a known activator of the mitotic checkpoint, for a further incubation of 4 hr at either 25°C or 37°C. WT, mps1-1, and T101A cells were arrested with large buds in nocodazole-containing medium at 25°C (Figure 4I). In contrast, after 4 hr in medium containing nocodazole at 37°C, T101A mutants, like mps1-1 yeast, had multiple-budded cells (Figure 4I). Taken together, our data suggest that Mps1 phosphorylation of T101-yHsp90 is essential for its kinase activity and also for mitotic arrest.

**Figure 4. Mps1-Mediated phosphorylation of Hsp90 is Essential for Mitotic Arrest**

(A) WT yHsp90-His6 yeast cells with endogenously Myc-epitope-tagged yMps1 were treated with 40 μM GB for indicated time points in liquid YPDA media. The stability of yMps1-Myc was assessed by immunoblotting.

(B) WT yHsp90-His6 yeast cells with endogenous yMps1-Myc were treated with either 40 μM GB for 24 hr or 50 mM proteasome inhibitor MG132 for 24 hr. Cells were also pretreated with MG132 1 hr prior to treatment with GB.

(C) Yeast cells expressing yHsp90-His6 (WT), T101A, and T101E with endogenous yMps1-Myc were treated with 100 μg/ml CHX. yHsp90-His6 and yMps1-Myc proteins were detected by immunoblotting at the indicated times. Data were also quantified and presented as bar charts. Error bars represent SD. OD, optical density.

(D) Yeast with yHsp90-His6 (WT), T101A-yHsp90-His6 (T101A), and T101E-yHsp90-His6 (T101E) mutants with endogenous yMps1-Myc were used to isolate yHsp90-His6 by Ni-NTA, and interaction of yMps1 was examined by immunoblotting. Empty plasmid was used as a control (C).

(E) HEK293 cells were transfected with empty plasmid (C), hHsp90α-FLAG (WT), T115A-hHsp90α-FLAG (T115A), or T115E-hHsp90α-FLAG (T115E). Hsp90-FLAG was immunoprecipitated (IP) with anti-FLAG M2 affinity gel, and interaction of human Mps1 was examined by immunoblotting.

(F) yMps1-Myc was isolated from yeast cells expressing yHsp90-His6 (WT), T101A-yHsp90-His6 (T101A), and T101E-yHsp90-His6 (T101E) mutants with endogenous yMps1-Myc by Ni-NTA, and yMps1 activity was examined by immunoblotting using pan-phospho-threonine antibody.

(G) Flow cytometry analysis of yHsp90-His6 (WT), T101A-yHsp90-His6 (T101A), and T101E-yHsp90-His6 (T101E) mutants grown in liquid YPD or medium containing 20 μg/ml nocodazole for 4 hr at either 25°C or 37°C. 100 cells were scored for large buds (L), multiply budded (M), and unbudded (U). Cells were scored from three independent experiments.

All data represent mean ± SD. **p < 0.005.
as the most enriched category for dissociation (Figure 5B). Next, we analyzed individual proteins that were associated or dissociated with yHsp90 as the result of T101 phosphorylation. A large number of ribosomal proteins involved in “transcription/translation” were dissociated from yHsp90; surprisingly, there was no change in protein interactions involved in “chromatin regulation” (Figure 5C). We also discovered that T101 phosphorylation enhanced yHsp90 interaction with Cdc55, but it enhanced dissociation from Cdc14, grouped under the “cell cycle” node (Figure 5C). Cdc55 phosphatase promotes mitotic entry (Healy et al., 1991; Wang and Burke, 1997), whereas Cdc14 phosphatase is required for mitotic exit (Bremmer et al., 2012; Mocciaro and Schiebel, 2010).

**Cdc14 Dephosphorylates T101 and Disrupts yMps1-yHsp90 Complex**

To determine whether either Cdc55 or Cdc14 is involved in the dephosphorylation of T101, we overexpressed glutathione S-transferase (GST)-epitope-tagged Cdc55 and Cdc14 under a galactose-inducible promoter (GAL1-promoter) in yeast with either WT yHsp90-His6 or T101A mutant. After inducing CDC55-GST or CDC14-GST expression by growing the cells on medium containing galactose for 2 hr, we detected both proteins by western blot analysis using anti-GST antibody (Figures 6A and 6B). Next, we examined the phosphorylation status of T101 in the N-domain of yHsp90 using the PreScission cleavage procedure (Mollapour et al., 2011). Overexpression of Cdc55 did not change the threonine phosphorylation of N-domain yHsp90, whereas overexpression of Cdc14 reduced the threonine phosphorylation of the N-domain (Figures 6A and 6B). To investigate whether Cdc14 directly targets T101, we used bacterially expressed and purified WT yHsp90-His6 and T101A mutant bound to Ni-NTA agarose. We also overexpressed and purified GAL1-yMPS1-MYC from yeast by immunoprecipitation. Purified yMps1-Myc was salt-striped with 0.5 M NaCl to disrupt co-immunoprecipitated proteins. We found that yMps1 phosphorylates only T101 in yHsp90 (Figure 6C). Our in vitro data also showed that T101A-yHsp90 mutant did not form a complex with yMps1. This result suggests that yMps1 only targets T101, and this is essential for yHsp90-yMps1 complex formation (Figure 6C). These data are in agreement with our in vivo findings (Figure 4D). Next, we incubated the phosphorylated T101-yHsp90 with immunoprecipitated and salt-stripped Cdc14-GST from yeast. This phosphatase had the ability to dephosphorylate T101 and then form a strong complex with dephosphorylated yHsp90.
proteins from cell lysates using Ni-NTA agarose beads. The endogenous Cdc14 interaction with yHsp90 was assessed by immunoblotting using anti-Cdc14 antibody (Figure 6D). Cdc14 interacted with the WT yHsp90, and this association was significantly enhanced with the non-phosphorylatable T101A mutant (Figure 6D). Conversely, the phosphomimetic T101E mutant did not associate with the Cdc14-GST. Our data suggest that phosphorylation/dephosphorylation of T101-Hsp90 may be part of the regulation of the cell cycle. We validated this point by synchronizing yeast cells in G1 using an α-factor and then releasing in media containing nocodazole in order to arrest the cells in mitosis (early anaphase) (Figure 6E). Conversely, yeast cells were also arrested in mitosis and then released in media with an α-factor. Cell cycle status was examined every 15 min. Next, we isolated the N-domain yHsp90-His6 by using the PreScission protease cleavage and monitored the phosphorylation of T101 by western blot analysis. Our earlier data have shown that T22 and T101 are the only phospho-threonine sites in the yHsp90 N-domain (Figure S1A). Since T22 phosphorylation does not change at different stages of the cell cycle (Mollapour et al., 2011), we concluded that the change in the threonine phosphorylation of N-domain yHsp90 is because of the modification of T101. Our data show that T101 is not phosphorylated in G1, and as cells undergo mitosis, the levels of T101 phosphorylation increases significantly (Figure 6F). This is consistent with yMps1 increase in mitosis and absence of the phosphatase Cdc14 from G1 to mitosis (Figure 6F). Next, we examined T101 phosphorylation in cells exiting mitosis and entering G1. As yeast cells exit mitosis, the yMps1 level decreases, coinciding with an increase in the Cdc14 (Figure 6F).

Taken together, our findings suggest that yMps1 phosphorylates T101-yHsp90, and this is essential for the mitotic checkpoint (Figure 6G). The Cdc14 phosphatase, in turn, dephosphorylates T101 and dissociates yHsp90-yMps1 complex, leading to its inactivation.
Elevated hMps1 Levels in RCC Confer Selectivity to Hsp90 Inhibitors

Although Hsp90 is highly expressed in most cells, Hsp90 inhibitors selectively kill cancer cells compared to normal cells. We observed that the T101E phosphomimetic yeast mutant is sensitive to the pharmacologic Hsp90 inhibitors geldanamycin and radicicol, as well as to the clinically evaluated Hsp90 inhibitors SNX2112 and GB (Figure 7A; Figure S4A). Overexpression of yMps1 in yeast also conferred sensitivity to both SNX2112 and GB (Figure 7B). This sensitivity was not observed in the T101A mutant, suggesting that yMps1-mediated phosphorylation of T101 is essential for the drug sensitivity. We further validated this finding by transiently overexpressing hMps1-FLAG in HEK293 cells (Figure 7C), and consequently enhancing WT hMps1 level (red fluorescent) binding to biotinylated-GB (Figure 7D). These data suggest that hyperphosphorylation of T101 or T115, as the result of overactive Mps1, sensitizes yeast and mammalian cells to Hsp90 inhibitors.

Hsp90 inhibitors selectively accumulate in cancer cells compared to normal cells. Therefore, we tested for possible overexpression of Mps1 in tumors that could account for this observation. We used tumors and adjacent normal tissues from patients with RCC. Based on histopathology, RCCs are classified into multiple types. We used tumors from patients with ccRCC, papillary type I and type II RCCs, oncocytoma, and AML (Figure S4B). Within 15 min of removal of tumors, by radical or partial nephrectomy, human RCC tumors were dissected into 3-mm³ pieces that were cultured in medium containing 10 μM NMS-P715 (Mps1 inhibitor) for 24 hr. Tissues were then incubated with 0.5 μM BODIPY fluorophore-conjugated GB (STA-12-9455; GB-Green-FL) for an additional 6 hr. Tissues were fixed and immunostained for either Hsp90 (hHsp90-Red FL), or Mps1 (hMps1-Red FL). DNA was stained with DAPI for immunofluorescence analysis. See also Figure S4.
However, hMps1 levels were significantly reduced in the NMS-P715-treated tumors (Figures 7E–7J).

We further validated these data by examining the affinity of hHsp90 from the normal and tumor tissues for binding to biotinylated-GB. We discovered that the hHsp90 from tumors had a higher affinity for biotinylated-GB compared to the adjacent normal tissues (Figures 8 A–8F). Tumors treated with the hMps1 inhibitor NMS-P715 reduced the binding of hHsp90 to biotinylated-GB (Figures 8A–8G). Taken together, our data suggest that overexpression of Mps1 can account for tumor sensitivity and tumor selectivity of Hsp90 inhibitors (Figure 8H).

**DISCUSSION**

In this study, we documented the phosphorylation of a single conserved threonine residue in the N-domain of both yeast (T101) and mammalian (T115) Hsp90. Previous work has shown that T101I has a higher affinity for biotinylated-GB compared to the adjacent normal tissues (Figures 8A–8F). Tumors treated with the hMps1 inhibitor NMS-P715 reduced the binding of hHsp90 to biotinylated-GB (Figures 8A–8G). Taken together, our data suggest that overexpression of Mps1 can account for tumor sensitivity and tumor selectivity of Hsp90 inhibitors (Figure 8H).

Phosphorylation of Hsp90 also enhanced binding and chaperoning of several kinase clients while reducing the activity of the non-kinase client GR.

Figure 8. Overexpression of Mps1 in RCC Increases Hsp90 Binding to GB
(A–F) ccRCC (A), papillary type I (B and C), papillary type II (D), oncocytoma (E), and AML (F) tissues were cultured in medium with 10 μM NMS-P715 (Mps1 inhibitor) or without drug for 24 hr. After protein lysate preparation, Hsp90 binding to GB was assessed by biotinylated-GB and immunoblotting.

(G) Hsp90 in samples (A–F) was detected by immunoblotting using anti-Hsp90-antibody.

(H) Overexpression and hyperactivity of Mps1 in kidney tumor compared to the adjacent normal tissue confer cancer cell selectivity and sensitivity to Hsp90 inhibitor GB.

Phosphorylation of Hsp90 also enhanced binding and chaperoning of several kinase clients while reducing the activity of the non-kinase client GR.

Recent work has shown that PKCγ phosphorylates T115-hHsp90z (Lu et al., 2014). We were unable to verify these results using both yeast and human Hsp90 proteins in an in vitro kinase assay. We were also unable to show yeast PKC1-mediated phosphorylation of T101 in yeast overexpressing PKC1.

We screened the yeast non-essential kinase deletion as well as essential kinase overexpression libraries and identified yMps1 as the kinase targeting T101-yHsp90. yMps1 is an evolutionarily conserved dual-specificity protein kinase required for (1) duplication of centrosomes in metazoans or spindle pole body (SPB) in yeast and (2) the mitotic spindle assembly checkpoint (also known as the mitotic checkpoint) (Liu and Winey, 2012). However, its primary cellular substrate has remained elusive. Previous work has demonstrated that yMps1 activity requires the co-chaperone Cdc37 (Schutz et al., 1997). yMps1 is essential in eukaryotic cells, and it was shown that both conditional and
non-conditional alleles ofcdc37 are lethal in combination with the mps1-1 ts mutant in yeast (Schutz et al., 1997). Winey’s lab has also reported that mutations in YHSP90 and in the co-chaperones YDJ1 and STT1 display synthetic lethality with the mps1-1 mutation (Jones et al., 1999). Our data show that Mps1 is a bona fide Hsp90 client, and its phosphorylation of T101-yHsp90 and T115-hHsp90x is required for mitotic arrest. Our data also show that yMps1 does not stably interact with the non-phosphorylatable T101A-yHsp90 mutant, suggesting that yMps1-mediated phosphorylation stabilizes interaction of this kinase with Hsp90. It is noteworthy that our proteomic data did not identify yMps1 interaction with T101E-yHsp90. This might be because of the low abundance of yMps1 kinase in cells (Liu and Winey, 2012). Our quantitative proteomic analysis, however, identified the Cdc14 phosphatase responsible for dephosphorylation of T101. Our data suggest a regulatory paradigm in which Mps1 phosphorylation of Hsp90 leads to formation of a strong complex between these two proteins and, consequently, causes mitotic arrest. The Cdc14 phosphatase dephosphorylates T101 and disrupts the Mps1-Hsp90 complex. This leads to the degradation of Mps1. We posit that this process is vital for mitotic exit, since Cdc14 phosphatase activity is essential for this step.

Mps1 kinase activity is essential for spindle checkpoint signaling (Hardwick et al., 1996). Overexpression of Mps1 is coupled to an increase in its kinase activity and it causes abnormal chromosome segregation during mitosis, i.e., aneuploidy, a hallmark of cancers associated with high risk for tumorigenesis. (Kops et al., 2005; Musacchio and Salmon, 2007). We found that overexpression of yMps1 made yeast cells sensitive to Hsp90 inhibitors, and this phenotype depends on the phosphorylation of T101. Also, overexpression of hMps1 in mammalian cells increased their binding to GB.

High levels of hMps1 kinase are found in colon cancer tissues and several tumor cell lines such as U937, HeLa, HEY, OCC1, Bewo, T987, and SW480 (Ling et al., 2014; Yang and Kao, 2009). Here, we observed high levels of hMps1 in different kidney tumours (ccRCC, AML, oncocytoma, papillary type 1 and type 2 RCCs) compared to the adjacent normal tissue. We also found that the Hsp90 inhibitor GB selectively accumulates in these tumor specimens. However, pharmacologic inhibition of hMps1 prevented the accumulation of GB in the tumor tissue, suggesting that high expression/activity of hMps1 may be characteristic of some cancers and can potentially serve as a predictive indicator of tumor response to Hsp90 inhibitors.

**Experimental Procedures**

**Yeast Strains, Plasmids, and Growth Media**

Yeast strain p300 (MATa, trp1-289, leu2-3, -112; his3-200, ura3-52, ade2-101, lys2-801, hsc82KANMX4, hsp82KANMX4) was used in this study (Panaretou et al., 1999). Plasmids were constructed as described previously (Mollapour et al., 2011). Yeast strains were constructed using the pRS424 plasmid as the template. The EUROSCAFF collection of haploid non-essential kinase deletions in BY4741 (MATa; Δhis3-Δ1; leu2-Δ0; met15-Δ0; ura3-Δ0) background (http://www.euroscarf.de/search.php?name=Order) was used to screen for T101 phosphorylation (Table SI). The yeast essential kinases library under the control of GAL1 promoter was obtained from Dr. Winey (http://drwaney.gelifesciences.com/). Detailed procedures, a list of primers (Table S3), and media conditions for both yeast and mammalian cells are provided in the Supplemental Information.

**Protein Extraction, Isolation, PreScission Protease Cleavage, and Immunoblotting**

Preparation and analysis of total protein lysate by western blot was described previously (Mollapour et al., 2010). A detailed method for protein precipitations, cleavage by PreScission protease, and detection by western blotting and assays for Hsp90 client binding and activity for both yeast and mammalian systems are presented in the Supplemental Information.

**Interactome Analysis of Phosphorylation of T101-yHsp90 by Mass Spectrometry**

Yeast cells expressing T101A-yHsp90-His6, T101A or T101E-yHsp90-His6 (T101E) as the sole yHsp90 protein were grown to mid-log phase. T101A and T101E interactomes were purified using Ni-NTA agarose, separated by SDS-PAGE, and subjected to proteomic analysis. Briefly, gel slices were subjected to in-gel proteolysis; tryptic peptides were purified, differentially labeled by carboxyl-terminal 18O exchange, and analyzed via LC-MS/MS as described in the Supplemental Information.

**In Vitro Kinase Assay**

Yeast Hsp90 and the mutant T101A were N-terminally His6-tagged using the pSETA plasmid. They were then expressed in bacteria, and 2 mg of protein extracts were incubated with 50 μl of Ni-NTA agarose. yMps1-Myc and Cdc14-GST were expressed and purified from yeast. These proteins were also salt-stripped with 0.5 M NaCl prior to addition to the in vitro reaction as previously described (Mollapour et al., 2010).

**Flow Cytometric Analysis**

Flow cytometric analysis was performed as described previously (Mollapour et al., 2010). A detailed procedure is found in the Supplemental Information.

**Isothermal Titration Calorimetry and Kd Determinations**

Isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) and diffusion constant (Kd) determinations were performed as described previously (Prodromou et al., 2000). Additional information can be found in the Supplemental Information.

**Hsp90 ATPase Activity In Vivo**

Yeast Hsp90-His6, and the T101A and T101E mutants were isolated, and their ATPase activity was measured as previously described (Kamal et al., 2003), with exceptions detailed in the Supplemental Information.

**Ex Vivo Culture and Analysis of Human RCC Tumors**

Tumor tissues of the patients with conventional RCC were obtained with written informed consent from the Department of Urology at SUNY (State University of New York) Upstate Medical University. Patients had no history of hereditary Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease.

At the time of radical or partial nephrectomy, which was done with <15 min of renal ischemia, RCC tumors were dissected into 3- to 5-mm³ pieces and cultured on a presoaked gelatin sponge (Johnson & Johnson) in 24-well plates containing 2 ml RPMI-1640 with 10% FBS, antibiotic/antimycotic solution, with or without 10 μM NMS-P715. Tissues were cultured at 37°C for 24 hr, followed by the addition of 100 nM fluorescently labeled GB (STA-12-9455; FL-GB) and further incubation at 37°C for 6 hr.

Using an ex vivo method as previously described (Kedar et al., 1983), approximately 10⁷ cells were isolated from the RCC solid tumor analysis by flow cytometry and western blot.

**Statistical Analysis**

Data were analyzed with Student’s t test. Asterisks in figures indicate significant differences (p < 0.05). Error bars represent the SD for three independent experiments.

**Accession Numbers**

The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium (Vizcaino et al., 2014) and are available under accession number PRIDE: PXD001969.
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, four figures, and three tables and can be found with this article online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2015.12.084.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS


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