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**The pan-HDAC inhibitor AR42 downregulates  
CD44 expression, a new circulating  
prognostic factor for multiple myeloma**

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## ABSTRACT

Multiple myeloma (MM) is a hematological malignancy of plasma cells (PCs) in the bone marrow. The interplay between MM-PCs and bone marrow microenvironment, including cell-cell contacts and release of pro-survival factors and extracellular vesicles (EV), promotes cancer cell survival and drug resistance. At first my research was focused on the characterization of the proteomic content of EVs secreted by MM cell lines. Among them, the glycoprotein CD44 is one of the most abundant proteins and has been already associated, both in vivo and in vitro, with lenalidomide and dexamethasone resistance in multiple myeloma. The analysis of serum samples from a cohort of 200 MM patients shows that circulating CD44 carried by MM-EVs correlates with ISS stage and  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin and constitutes a potential prognostic factor, thus providing the rationale to further explore novel molecular players associated with MM disease.

Despite multiple treatment options, MM is inevitably associated with drug resistance and poor outcomes. Histone deacetylase inhibitors (HDACi's) are promising novel chemotherapeutics under evaluation in clinical trials for the treatment of MM patients. Although in preclinical studies HDACi's have proven anti-myeloma activity, in the clinics single-agent HDACi treatments have been limited due to low tolerability. We believe that HDACi could constitute a valid support if used in combination with the MM state of care. In this thesis I show that a novel pan-HDACi AR42 downregulates CD44. Moreover, the CD44 downregulation is in part mediated by *miR-9-5p*, targeting insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 3 (IGF2BP3), which directly binds to CD44 mRNA and increases its stability. Importantly, we demonstrate that AR42 enhances anti-myeloma activity of lenalidomide in primary MM cells isolated from lenalidomide resistant patients and in MM mouse model. In conclusion, our observations suggest a potential novel combinatorial therapeutic approach modulating CD44 expression, which may help overcome lenalidomide resistance in myeloma patients.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACY-1215</b>	Ricolinostat - HDACi	<b>GFP</b>	Green fluorescent protein
<b>AML</b>	Acute myeloid leukemia	<b>GSK3<math>\beta</math></b>	Glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta
<b>ANXA2</b>	Annexin A2	<b>H</b>	Histone
<b>AR42</b>	HDACi	<b>H&amp;E</b>	Hematoxylin and eosin
<b>ARF</b>	Tumor suppressor ARF	<b>HA</b>	Hyaluronic Acid
<b><math>\beta</math>2M</b>	$\beta$ 2-microglobulin	<b>HAT</b>	Histone acetyltransferase
<b>Bcl-2</b>	Apoptosis regulator Bcl-2	<b>HCT</b>	Hematopoietic cell transplant.
<b>BM</b>	Bone marrow	<b>HDAC</b>	Histone deacetylase
<b>BMSC</b>	Bone marrow stromal cells	<b>HGF</b>	Hepatocyte Growth Factor
<b>CAM-DR</b>	Cell adhesion-mediated drug resistance	<b>HIF-1</b>	Hypoxia-inducible factor 1
<b>CCL2</b>	C-C motif chemokine 2	<b>Hsp</b>	Heat shock protein
<b>CDKN1A</b>	Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Inhibitor 1A	<b>Ig</b>	Immunoglobulin
<b>C.I.</b>	Combinatorial index	<b>IGF2BP</b>	Insulin grow factor 2 binding protein
<b>CLL</b>	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia	<b>IKB</b>	Nuclear factor of kappa light polypeptide gene enhancer in B-cells inhibitor
<b>Cryo-TEM</b>	Cryogenic transmission electron microscopy	<b>IL</b>	Interleukin
<b>CSCs</b>	Cancer stem cells	<b>ISS</b>	International Staging System
<b>CTCL</b>	Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma	<b>LBH589</b>	Panobinostat - HDACi
<b>CXCR4</b>	Chemokine (C-X-C Motif) Receptor 4	<b>LC-MS/MS</b>	Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry/mass spectrometry
<b>DLBCL</b>	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	<b>Len</b>	Lenalidomide
<b>DLS</b>	Dynamic Light Scattering	<b>Luc</b>	Luciferase
<b>DMSO</b>	Dimethyl sulfoxide	<b>MDR</b>	Multidrug resistance
<b>ECM</b>	Extracellular matrix	<b>MET</b>	Proto-Oncogene, Receptor Tyrosine Kinase
<b>EGFR</b>	Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor	<b>MGUS</b>	Monoclonal Gammopathy of Unknown Significance
<b>EMT</b>	Epithelial mesenchymal transition	<b>MM</b>	Multiple Myeloma
<b>EVs</b>	Extracellular vesicles	<b>MM-EVs</b>	Multiple myeloma-derived extracellular vesicles
<b>FDA</b>	Food and drug administration	<b>MMP9</b>	Matrix Metalloproteinase 9
<b>FK228</b>	Romidepsin - HDACi	<b>NF-<math>\kappa</math>B</b>	Nuclear factor $\kappa$ B
<b>FIH-1</b>	Factor inhibiting HIF-1	<b>NK</b>	Natural killer
<b>GAPDH</b>	Glyceraldehyde-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase	<b>NKG2D</b>	Natural-killer group 2, member D
<b>gDNA</b>	Genomic DNA	<b>OCs</b>	Osteoclasts
		<b>OS</b>	Overall Survival

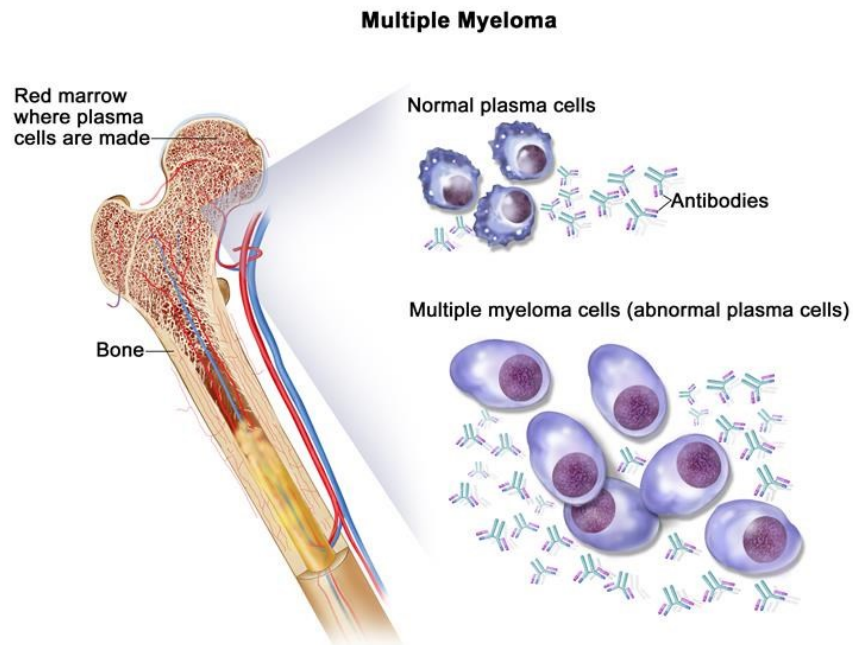
<b>p16</b>	Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A
<b>p53</b>	Tumor suppressor protein 53
<b>PBMCs</b>	Peripheral blood mononuclear cells
<b>PDX101</b>	Belinostat - HDACi
<b>PKM</b>	Pyruvate Kinase, Muscle
<b>PI</b>	Propidium iodide
<b>PTEN</b>	Phosphatase tensin homolog
<b>RF</b>	Tumor suppressor ARF
<b>RHAMM</b>	Hyaluronan-mediated motility receptor
<b>ROS</b>	Reactive oxygen species
<b>SAHA</b>	Vorinostat - HDACi
<b>SIRT1</b>	Sirtuin 1
<b>Scr</b>	Scramble
<b>SMM</b>	Smoldering MM
<b>SOC</b>	Standard of care
<b>TFs</b>	Transcription factors
<b>TGFβ</b>	Transforming growth factor β
<b>TLR7</b>	Toll-like receptor 7
<b>TME</b>	Tumor microenvironment
<b>TRAP5</b>	Tartrate Resistant Acid Phosphatase 5
<b>TrpC5</b>	Transient receptor potential cation channel subfamily C member 5
<b>TNF</b>	Tumor necrosis factor
<b>VCAM-1</b>	Vascular cell adhesion protein 1
<b>VEGF</b>	Vascular endothelial growth factor
<b>VLA-4</b>	Very late antigen 4
<b>3' UTR</b>	Three prime untranslated region
<b>ZNF224</b>	Zinc finger protein 224
<b>WT</b>	Wild type

# CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 MULTIPLE MYELOMA

### 1.1.1 Epidemiology

Multiple myeloma (MM) is a hematological malignancy of plasma cells in the bone marrow (Fig. 1) accounting for approximately 114,000 diagnoses, 0.8% of all cancer diagnoses and 80,000 deaths, 1.0% of all cancer related deaths, annually worldwide [1]. MM represent approximately 1.4% of all cancer diagnoses, more than 15% of all leukemia and lymphomas, and 1.8% of all cancer related deaths in the United States [2]. Men have a slightly higher risk for diagnosis and death from MM than women worldwide (1.2:1). Patients with MM have a 5 year overall survival (OS) rate of about 45% and a median survival of 3-4 years [1]. Even though various risk factors have been characterized, no specific cause for the initial development of MM has been identified. Nevertheless, the most established risk factors for MM development are age (median age of diagnosis is 69), male gender, African American race and a familiarity of the illness [3].



*Fig. 1 Multiple Myeloma*



### **1.1.2 Diagnosis, staging and treatment**

Multiple Myeloma is a heterogeneous disease, which frequently develops by progression of premalignant disorders called Monoclonal Gammopathy of Unknown Significance (MGUS) and Smoldering MM (SMM, asymptomatic MM) [4]. A MGUS diagnosis is determined by detection of less than 3 g/dL monoclonal protein in the serum, low level or absence of proteinuria, less than 10% of monoclonal plasma cells in the bone marrow and no evidence of end organ damage [5]. Estimates suggest around 3% of the population over the age of 50 have a symptomatic MGUS [6]. Three types of MGUS are recognized clinically, non-IgM, IgM, and light chain MGUS, each associated with unique end-stage diseases [7]. However, only a small subset (approximately 1% per year) of patients diagnosed with MGUS will develop active multiple myeloma [7].

SMM differs from MGUS for the presence of higher monoclonal protein content (>3 g/dL) in serum and/or higher concentration of monoclonal plasma cells in the bone marrow (10-60%) [8]. Patients diagnosed with SMM are more likely to develop active MM (approximately 10% per year compared to 1% in MGUS) due to the bone marrow contribution [4]. Symptoms of active multiple myeloma include anemia, bone pain, elevated creatinine, fatigue/weakness, hypercalcemia and weight loss [8]. Once diagnosed with active disease, MM patients are staged based on cytogenetic abnormalities to determine prognostic significance and treatment options. Patients diagnosed with active MM who do not receive effective therapy have a median survival of six months [9].

MM classification, the International Staging System (ISS, Table 1), is based on serological levels of two proteins,  $\beta_2$  microglobulin ( $\beta_2M$ ) and albumin. The median OS correlated with each ISS stage is (I) 62, (II) 44, and (III) 29 months [10]. Furthermore, beside the ISS, many factors and cytogenetic alterations have been evaluated to determine their prognostic value in MM [11]. Among them, the cytogenetic abnormality t(4;14)(p16;q32) is associated with more aggressive disease leading to shorter survival when treated with common chemotherapeutics [12-14]. Overall, the distinction between MGUS, SMM, active MM and ISS must be cautiously considered to determine prognosis and best therapy for each patient.

ISS STAGE	Prognostic factors	Median survival
I	$\beta 2M < 3.5\text{mg/L}$ - Albumin $\geq 3.5$ g/dL	5Y,2M
II	$5.5 < \beta 2M \leq 3.5\text{mg/L}$ - Albumin any level or $\beta 2M < 3.5\text{mg/L}$ - Albumin $< 3.5\text{g/L}$	3Y,8M
III	$\beta 2M \leq 5.5\text{mg/L}$ - Albumin any level	2Y,5M

**Table 1.** Multiple myeloma staging, main prognostic factors and median OS (Y=Years; M=Months)

In eligible MM patients, high dose chemotherapy followed by autologous hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) is the treatment option presenting the best event-free and OS, when compared to chemotherapy alone [15].

In intermediate and standard risk MM patients (meeting the criteria for HCT), the induction therapy before the transplant consists in low doses of lenalidomide plus dexamethasone. Lenalidomide is an immunomodulatory drug, while dexamethasone reduce the tumor burden and organ damage typically associated with MM [16]. After the induction therapy, hematopoietic stem cells are harvested from the peripheral blood of the patients, isolated and stored until reinfusion which follows preparative chemotherapeutics to eradicate the residual malignant cells [16]. Although this standard of care (SOC) prolongs event-free survival, autologous HCT is not curative and disease relapse is inevitable.

While Intermediate and Standard risk groups are the most common in MM, approximately 15% of MM patients have high risk disease [11]. High risk MM has been shown to have a more rapid progression following chemotherapy and HCT. Following HCT patients with high risk MM are placed on maintenance doses of therapeutics, commonly the proteasome inhibitor bortezomib, to suppress disease relapse. However in most cases, relapse occurs quickly [11].

The final subgroup of MM patients are those ineligible for autologous HCT due to age, hepatic, renal, pulmonary and cardiac function [17]. The treatment options for this group of patients rely heavily on combinatorial chemotherapeutics such as lenalidomide and dexamethasone, bortezomib, cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone [11,17], depending on the ability of the patient to tolerate the heavy side effects of the combinatorial therapy. Unfortunately, none of the reported therapeutic options are considerate curative.

### ***1.1.3 Pathogenesis and principal mediators of tumor progression***

The evolution from the pre-malignant condition to active MM status, requires the onset of additional cytogenetic rearrangements, microenvironmental protection and other mechanisms [18]. The MGUS status is assumed to be the result of unusual cytogenetic rearrangement due to an abnormal response to antigen with a subsequent cytogenetic defects occurring during the tumor progression. For example, in the germinal center, approximately 50% of pre-MGUS acquire aberrant immunoglobulin (Ig) heavy chain translocations at common oncogenic loci, such as the cyclin D1 gene on chromosome 11q13 [18,19]. This abnormality is observed in approximately 15-20% of tumors, conferring immortalization to these cells. Other commonly recurring oncogenic Ig translocations are found on chromosomes 6q21 (cyclin D3), 4p16 (fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 and MMSET domain), 16q23 (c-maf) and 20q11 (mafB) [19,20]. The remaining 50% of MGUS cases have no Ig heavy chain rearrangement but present multiple chromosomal trisomies [12]. Furthermore, nearly 40% of MM tumors were shown to have activating RAS mutations which is known to reduce the dependence of the MM cells for Interleukin-6 (IL6) mediating survival [21]. Many other mutations, translocations deletions and epigenetic mechanisms are essential to MM progression and development, regulating the expression of several key proteins such as tumor suppressors p53, p16, ARF and PTEN [18].

Beside the genetic changes well known to be involved in MM progression, also the bone marrow microenvironment plays a key role in MM development. The current hypothesis of MM pathogenesis suggests that initiating cytogenetic abnormalities, either Ig heavy chain translocation or hyperploidy, of oncogenes, such as cyclin D1, makes early pre-MGUS cells prone to microenvironmental stimuli ultimately leading to progression of disease [18,20,22].

The bone marrow microenvironment consists of many different cell types and elements, such as bone marrow stromal cells (BMSC), endothelial cells, osteoclasts, osteoblasts and extracellular matrix (ECM) proteins, actively contributing to the MM development. For example, MM cells have been shown to adhere to both BM-ECM proteins, such as Fibronectin (FN), and interact with BMSC via vascular cell adhesion protein 1 (VCAM-1) and very late antigen 4 (VLA-4), promoting the modulation of cytokine production [23,24]. Moreover, VLA-4 associations have been reported to increase BMSC secretion

of interleukin-6 (IL6), a key mediator of MM cell growth and survival, through nuclear factor  $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B) signaling [24,25]. In addition to cellular adhesion and other functions, bone marrow MM cells have been shown to secrete cytokines, such as transforming growth factor  $\beta$  (TGF $\beta$ ) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), to promote IL6 release from BMSC [26,27].

From the other side, the effect of bone marrow cells on MM growth and survival is primarily mediated through IL6 signaling [28]. IL6 has been shown to function both as an autocrine, secreted by MM cells, and a paracrine signal, secreted by BMSC and osteoblast cells [29]. Following receptor binding, IL6 initiates multiple signaling pathways, including MEK/MAPK, JAK/STAT and PI3K/Akt, which confer survival, resistance to apoptosis, promote migration and proliferation [30-32]. In addition to apoptotic evasion and survival, paracrine soluble factors and direct cell adhesion, have been shown to confer drug resistance to MM cells of the bone marrow [22,25,33-37]. For instance, the activation of signaling mediated by IL6 in MM cells has demonstrated to reduce dexamethasone induced apoptosis [38]. Additional mechanisms have been reported to be important in MM chemo-resistance, in particular the acquisition of genetic mutations of key apoptotic mediators, such as p53 [39].

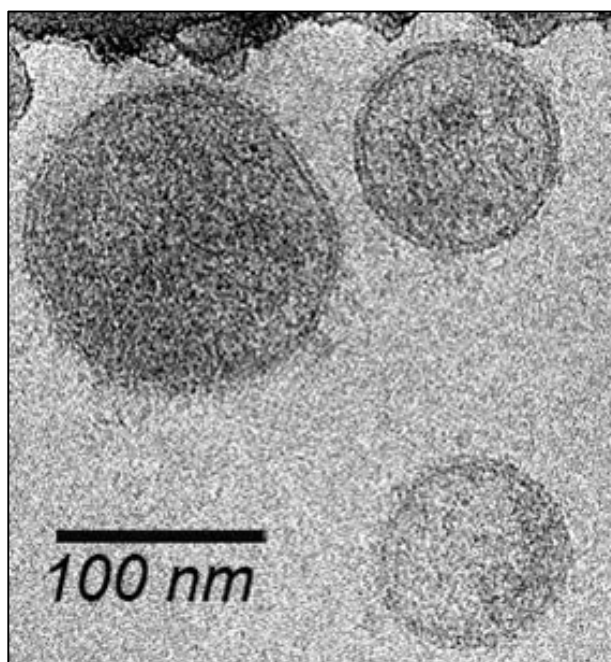
The preliminary data on the biological interactions of multiple myeloma with the bone marrow microenvironment has only begun paved the way to the development of novel targeted therapeutics. Further investigations into the microenvironmental interactions and communication between MM and BM cells are warranted to identify innovative therapeutic strategies and targets.

## **1.2 EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES (EVs)**

The biological importance of the EVs was unknown until a study published in 1981 [40] described the shedding of lipid microvesicles by normal and neoplastic cells. Since the exfoliated membrane vesicles contained proteins with enzymatic activities it was speculated that those kinds of vesicles may have some biological functions. For the following 15 years, research on extracellular vesicles (or exosomes) has been minimal. It was not until the discovery that B-lymphocytes also secreted exosomes carrying membrane-bound molecules essential for the adaptive immune response [41] that these molecules became major research focus. It is now well known that EVs are

produced by several kinds of cells, and are found in all physiological fluids, including blood, urine and saliva [42]. EVs can be classified in different subpopulations based on the cellular origins. The term “extracellular vesicles or exosomes” refer to vesicles created intracellularly in multivesicular compartments (endosomes) of the cells and secreted by fusion with the cellular membrane. In contrast, the microvesicles (and ectosomes) are shed from plasma membrane. Microvesicles, ectosomes and exosomes also differ in shape and size [43,44] and can have different lipids, proteins, DNA and, RNA cargo [45]. EVs can be defined by common characteristics, such as size (50–100 nm in diameter), morphology, enrichment of proteins and miRNAs. Exosomes (Fig. 2) also contain bioactive molecules that reflect the pathological state of the originated cells, thus providing an enriched source of biomarkers.

Originally supposed to be involved in removal of the cellular metabolites, EVs are nowadays recognized for their role in cell-cell communication by transporting proteins, lipids, mRNAs and microRNAs, and therefore contributing to the maintenance of normal physiology [46]. More in detail, EVs can participate in control of tissue repair, blood coagulation, inflammation, stem cells maintenance, or angiogenesis [46]. Moreover, they may also play a role in pathogenesis, such as the establishment of a pre-metastatic tumor niche and stimulation of tumor development and growth [47-49].



**Fig. 2** Extracellular vesicles by electron microscopy

### **1.2.1 Extracellular vesicles and cancer**

The interconnection between cancer and EVs has been recently investigated in several kinds of solid and soft tumors and many indicators suggesting that EVs may be involved in microenvironment remodeling, tumor progression and drug resistance mechanisms. The following examples indicate how EVs derived from cancer cells could mediate different effects depending on the mRNAs and proteins content. However the functional relevance of exosomal miRNAs and proteins are still areas of expanding research.

### **1.2.2 EVs and tumor microenvironment (TME)**

The constant interaction and signal exchange between malignant cells and microenvironment are essential for the tumor progression, survival, metastasis and chemoresistance, but the function of many elements still remains to be investigated. More recently, EVs have come up as an alternative way for cell-cell interaction in cancer. Their generation from cancer cells can discipline the surrounding environment to become a supportive niche for tumor growth and survival, reprogram the BM progenitors or intensify the metastatic diffusion [50,51]. EVs derived from cancer cells can alter the tumor microenvironment through multiple mechanisms.

In a remarkable study on breast cancer, Fong M et al. [52] demonstrated that *miR-122* enriched exosomes derived from breast cancer are transferred to normal niche cells, promoting the downregulation of the PKM gene (encoding the pyruvate kinase, involved in glycolysis) subsequently blocking the glucose metabolism and reprogramming the glucose metabolism in premetastatic niche to promote metastasis.

One of the most important element of the extracellular matrix is the Fibronectin (FN), which plays a significant role in cell adhesion, growth, migration and differentiation. Heat shock protein 90 (Hsp90) can directly bind the extracellular FN and promote its stabilization. It has been demonstrate that breast cancer derived EVs, enriched in Hsp90, can directly interact with the extracellular Fibronectin, thus supporting the cancer invasion [53].

In prostate cancer, large EVs (oncosomes, > 100 nm) secreted by amoeboid cells are enriched in *miR-200* family and *miR-125a*. *miR-200* is involved in epithelial mesenchymal transition (EMT) and amoeboid-mesenchymal transition, while *miR-125a* can suppress the macrophages growth in this type of cancer [54].

Furthermore, Bronisz et al [55] discovered that Glioblastoma (GBM) secretes EVs enriched in ANXA2, a pro-oncogenic factor and it's implicated in proliferation, invasion and angiogenesis [56]. Treatment of GBM with EVs enriched in *miR-1* (onco-suppressor) determine downregulation of intracellular and EVs-ANXA2, repression of the tumor growth, reduction of endothelial cell recruitment and neurovascularization. These results confirms the importance of GBM derived EVs, enriched in ANXA2, in the TME remodeling and tumor growth.

The EVs secretes by the cells of the microenvironment can also influence and modify the cancer phenotype. Different kinds of stromal cells are able to release EVs; for example, exosomes secreted from fibroblasts promote breast cancer cell migration via Wnt-PCP signaling [57] and NK cell-derived exosomes from human blood contain proteins that promote cytotoxicity of tumor cells [58]. Notably, NK cell-derived exosomes are not cytotoxic to resting-immune cells, suggesting that their specific cytolytic effects are exclusively directed to cancer cells. Finally, exosomes released from Dendritic Cells (DCs), defined dexosomes, have been investigated as potential cancer vaccine [59,60]. This is supported by preclinical melanoma models, whereby dexosome immunization induced CD8+ cytotoxic T cells and slower tumor growth [61].

### **1.2.3 EVs derived from cancer stimulate tumor growth and metastasis**

In aggressive melanoma, EVs derived from cancer cells promote tumor growth and metastasis in primary tumors and reprogrammed bone marrow-derived DCs to assume a pro-angiogenic phenotype [48], mechanism mediated by the inhibition of the receptor MET due to its direct interaction with the cancer derived EVs.

EVs generated by chronic myeloid leukemia cells contain BCR/ABL and the transfer of the oncoprotein to the normal neutrophils provoke a phenotypical change *in vivo* that improve the invasive and metastatic process [62].

As I mentioned before, *miR-200* has been also found enriched in EVs circulating in metastatic breast cancer and promotes metastasis [63]. Of note, circulating EVs containing *miR-200* not only increase the metastatic activity, but are also capable of transferring the metastatic phenotype from high metastatic to poorly metastatic human breast cancer cells.

As an alternative biological function of miRNAs carried by EVs, Fabbri et al. showed that exosomal miRNAs have the ability to activate Toll-like receptors, thus mediating a prometastatic inflammatory response [64]. A similar mechanism was found by We et al. [65], who have been able to demonstrate that miRNAs, such as *miR-21*, carried by circulating EVs derived from pancreatic and lung cancers, can directly interact with the Toll like receptor 7 (TLR7) of myoblasts. The interaction between *miR-21* and TLR7 triggers the downstream activation of JNK, which promotes apoptosis and cell death, finally inducing Cachexia on murine model.

#### **1.2.4 EVs confer chemoresistance and immuno-modulation**

Specific proteins contained in EVs have been shown to be very important in several mechanisms such as immune suppression and regulation.

Recently, studies conducted in lung cancer [66] and melanoma [67] showed a reduced sensitivity to cisplatin upon cellular treatment with cancer derived exosomes. Moreover, Ma et al. [68] unequivocally demonstrated that the extracellular vesicles containing TrpC5, secreted from chemoresistant breast cancer cells, are able to transmit chemoresistance behavior to the chemosensitive cells. Lundholm M et al. [69] discovered a sophisticated immune-escape mechanism in prostate cancer: EVs prostate cancer-derived and highly expressing NKG2D ligand, interact directly with NK and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, therefore blocking the NKG2D receptor and bypassing the cytotoxic activity. Furthermore, mesothelioma and myeloid leukemia derived EVs has been shown to facilitate inhibition of lymphocyte response to the survival cytokine interleukin-2 (IL-2), through a mechanism mediated by transforming growth factor  $\beta$ 1 (TGF- $\beta$ 1) expressed on EVs [70]. Additionally, vesicles from EBV-infected nasopharyngeal carcinoma cells induced apoptosis of CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cells via a galectin-9 pathway [71]. Another study reported that FasL can be expressed on melanoma tumor derived vesicles and induced apoptosis of activated T-cells [72].

These examples illustrate a variety of mechanisms in immunology and cancer biology, that can be influenced by proteins of enriched in EVs. As a result, further research into the identification, characterization and function of cellular derived EVs is encouraged to identify novel mechanisms and new therapeutic targets in neoplastic syndromes.



### **1.2.5 Biomarkers in cancer-derived EVs**

The use of exosomal miRNAs as biomarkers is very promising and there is a wealth of literature supporting their relevance [73].

So far, many groups have used proteomics to characterize the protein content of extracellular vesicles derived both *in vitro* and *in vivo* [74-84]. Recently the complete proteomic-miRNAs profile has been determined in EVs derived from different kinds of tumors, for example breast cancer [85] and esophageal cancer [86]. Interestingly, while the origin of the vesicles used in these studies varied greatly from saliva to cell lines, their content was extremely similar [78,87]. The three most commonly identified proteins were heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70),  $\beta$ -actin, and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) [78]. Overall, identified proteins in common are distributed into several categories including antigen presenting molecules, adhesion molecules, membrane transport and fusion molecules, cytoskeletal proteins, and others [78].

While RNA has been already demonstrated to have high potential for prognostic and predictive value in a host of diseases, protein content of extracellular vesicles may also yield significant functional consequences and prognostic capabilities. In addition to their function, the sole abundances of individual exosomal miRNA has been shown to correlate with disease status. For example, the miRNA profiles of ovarian cancer patients differ from those with a benign disease and specific miRNAs levels in the EVs were representative of the tumor cells themselves [88]. Tanaka et al. have shown that expression level of exosomal *miR-21* was higher in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients when compared to healthy controls suggesting the potential use of *miR-21* as a biomarker for the status of the disease [89]. Analogous results were obtained in lung cancer [90], where studies on the secreted EVs put in relation their content with the progression of the disease. Of note, Boeri et al [91] and Hu et al. [92] discovered in lung cancer respectively 9 and 4 miRNAs (Boeri et al.: *miR-221*, *miR-660*, *miR-484-5p*, *miR-28-3p*, *miR-197*, *miR-106a*, *miR-451*, *miR-140-5p*, *miR-16*; Hu et al.: *miR-486*, *miR-30d*, *miR-1*, *miR-499*) highly related to the cancer malignancy and poor prognosis. Lazaro-Ibenez et al. [93] demonstrated that EVs derived from serum of patients affected by prostate cancer contain higher concentration of double strand DNA fragments (gDNA) compared to healthy patients. Finally, another interesting study conducted in chronic liver disease [94] highlighted the enrichment of *miR-122* in

circulating EVs, despite its already known decreased level in the liver tissue of the patients.

### ***1.2.6 Extracellular Vesicles in multiple myeloma***

The constant and dynamic interaction between multiple myeloma (MM) and BM microenvironment is the key for tumor survival, growth, drug resistance, and pathogenesis [95,96]. In the past years, these kinds of interactions was attributed entirely to growth factors and cytokines such as IL6, VEGF and many others [25,97]. However, these well-known cellular messengers were not sufficient to completely explain the whole process.

Several researches has in part demonstrated the role of the extracellular vesicles (EVs) as mediators of the cell-cell communications in solid tumors but only recently MM-derived EVs have been characterized and suggested as promoters of tumor progression and potential mediators between MM and BM microenvironment. Despite recent studies have remarkably contributed to address the MM-EVs mechanism of production, interaction with the target cells and functions, many questions remain still unanswered.

### ***1.2.7 Production of EVs in MM***

The characterization of the intracellular molecules implicated in the EVs production process is extremely complicated. Thompson et al. [98] discovered that the edoglycosidase enzyme heparanase has an important role in regulating the production of MM-EVs and is able to dramatically increase their secretion. The heparanase not only plays a key role on the EVs production, but also modifies the quality of protein contents, enriching in syndecan-1, VEGF, HGF (proteins correlated with the aggressive tumor phenotype) and heparanase. They also provided the evidence that heparanase stimulates the exosomes production in other types of cancer such as in breast cancer, demonstrating the crucial role of this enzyme in the exosome biology. Interestingly, the qualitative and quantitative change of production of EVs due to the heparanase overexpression, and the consecutive treatment of tumor and normal cells increased the tumor cells spreading and the endothelial cells proliferation, key processes for tumor progression, metastasis and microenvironment alteration.

### **1.2.8 Role of MM-derived EVs on target cells**

MM-derived EVs have been demonstrated to have biological effects on other cell types, both malignant and normal in the bone marrow (BM) microenvironment (Fig. 3).

The bone disease induced by altered balance between osteoclasts (either pre -pOCs- or mature -OCs), and osteoblasts is one of the most frequent complication in multiple myeloma and is rarely arrested by chemotherapy. Of note, EVs secreted by MM cells specifically cause a phenotypical change in Osteoclasts [99]. The absorption of MM derived EVs by pre and mature OCs increases the expression of CXCR4 (supporting the cellular migration), induces the extra cellular secretion of MMP9 (proteases involved in the bone resorption activity), overexpresses the TRAP-positive multinucleate OCs (degrades the bone matrix phospho-proteins, influencing the bone resorption) and finally promotes the differentiation of pCOs cells by inhibiting the apoptotic mechanism (downregulation of activate caspase 3).

Recently, the overexpression of *miR-135b* has been related to the osteogenic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells derived from MM patients [100]. In an interesting study conducted by Umezu et al. [101] and supported by Fan G. [102], EVs isolated from MM patients were shown to be highly enriched in *miR-135b*. This miRNA is already known as tumor progression mediator in several kinds of solid tumors (colorectal cancer [103], osteosarcoma [104], lung cancer [105]). Beside the role in osteogenesis, treatment of endothelial cells under hypoxic conditions with MM-EVs overexpressing *miR-135b* induced the downregulation of FIH-1 (an inhibitor of the HIF-1 transactivation), eventually promoting the angiogenesis *in vivo*. The effect of EVs secreted by MM on angiogenesis was also reported by another research [106], where *in vitro* treatment of endothelial cells with MM derived exosomes promoted production and secretion of IL6 and VEGF, invasion, tube formation and *in vivo* vascularization.

To support the previously reported results on EVs and induction of angiogenesis in the BM microenvironment, a recent study by Arendt et al. demonstrated for the first time that MM-derived EVs were capable of stimulating the cellular proliferation through a mechanism mediated by CD147 [107]. Indeed, the internalization of MM exosomes enriched in CD147 enhances the upregulation of the mTOR-MAPK pathway in target cells, hence increasing the cell proliferation.

Finally, another study conducted on serum deprived EVs [108] proved the enhancement of the tube formation in endothelial cells treated with MM-EVs and highlighted the role the protein ZNF224 (Zinc finger protein 224), highly expressed in MM-EVs, on the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in target myeloma cells, thus promoting the cell proliferation.

### **1.2.9 Influence of the BM microenvironment-derived EVs on MM**

The BM microenvironment is an essential ally for the MM as it supports the tumor growth, survival, drug resistance and pathogenesis (Fig. 3). A recent and important study, developed by Roccaro et al. [109], clearly demonstrate for the first time that both BM microenvironment and MM cells produce transferable extracellular vesicles, suggesting a novel oncogenic mechanism mediated by EVs secreted by BM in MM. In this study, the interexchange of EVs between BM and MM cells was clearly demonstrated, leading to transfer of protein or regulation in miRNA expression. In particular, they found that EVs derived from normal and MM-BM cells have a different effect on MM cells, respectively reducing or increasing the MM proliferation rate. In fact the MM derived EVs showed higher level of CCL2 (C-C motif chemokine 2), IL6 and Fibronectin which play a crucial role in MM pathogenesis and tumor progression. Of note, the qualitative miRNA contents was also different. Indeed, *miR-15a* was one of the most downregulated miRNA in MM-EVs, as well as in the MM BM microenvironment cells and in EVs derived from BM of relapsed/refractory patients compared to the normal BM cells and derived EVs. Treatment of MM cells with EVs extracted from healthy bone marrow increased the *miR-15a* intracellular level and reduced the MM proliferation, supporting the tumor suppressor role of the *miR-15a* on MM and clearly indicating that MM growth, proliferation and dissemination are sustained by downregulation of the *miR-15a*. To support the protective role of miR-15a against MM, another study proved the evidence that in plasma of MM patients with a better outcome there were higher levels of circulating *miR-15a* and *miR-16* compared to severe MM patients [110].

Further, Wang et al. obtained significant results investigating the effect on MM of EVs derived from the tumor microenvironment [111]. They confirmed the role of extracellular vesicles derived from bone marrow stromal cells (EVs-BMSC) in transferring proteins

on target cells, supporting survival, proliferation and migration in MM. BM derived EVs internalized by MM cells mediated the upregulation of antiapoptotic Bcl-2 and downregulation of caspase 9 and 3, lastly promoting the cellular survival. Furthermore, they demonstrated the acquired drug resistance of MM cells upon BMSC-EVs uptake. In conclusion, the extracellular vesicles produced by the MM tumor microenvironment are able to transfer proteins, cytokines and modulate the miRNA expressions, inducing MM survival, proliferation, migration and eventually increasing the drug resistance.

### **1.2.10 Biomarkers in multiple myeloma-derived EVs**

Nowadays, one of the most complete *in vitro* study focused on the characterization of the protein contents in MM-derived EVs has been conducted by the group I've been part of at The Ohio State University [83]. We identified 583 total proteins isolated from EVs derived from 2 different kinds of MM cells; the secreted EVs, are mostly expressing a common pattern of proteins with minimum differences between different kinds of MM cell lines: antigen presenting molecules (MHC class I and class II), adhesion molecules (CD44, tetraspanins, integrins), membrane transport and fusion molecules (annexins, flotillin, Rab proteins), cytoskeletal proteins (actin, tubulin), and many others (pyruvate kinase, GAPDH, 14-3-3 proteins, Hsp70, Hsp90, elongation factor 1 $\alpha$ , histones H2B, H2A, and H4). These data support the hypothesis that MM extracellular vesicles have common protein profiles (with small sets of unique proteins depending on the parent cells of origin) and can potentially represent important diagnostic biomarkers upon validation on EVs isolated from MM patients. Among them, Hsp70 seems to be one of the most promising potential candidate.

Recently, Di Noto et al. [112] revealed that EVs isolated from serum of MM patients were strongly enriched in Hsp70 (accordingly with Harshman et al.) and in C-src, compared to EVs collected from MGUS and healthy patients.

Moreover, a remarkable study [113] discovered the presence of two different kinds of MM-EVs, one with Hsp70 expressed on the membrane and the other one with Hsp70 expressed only into the cytoplasm. The difference in Hsp70 localization reflected a different immune response mediated by NK and CD8<sup>+</sup> CTL. In particular, the MM-derived EVs expressing superficial Hsp70 were more capable of activating the immune response compared to the ones expressing only the cytosolic one, suggesting that EVs

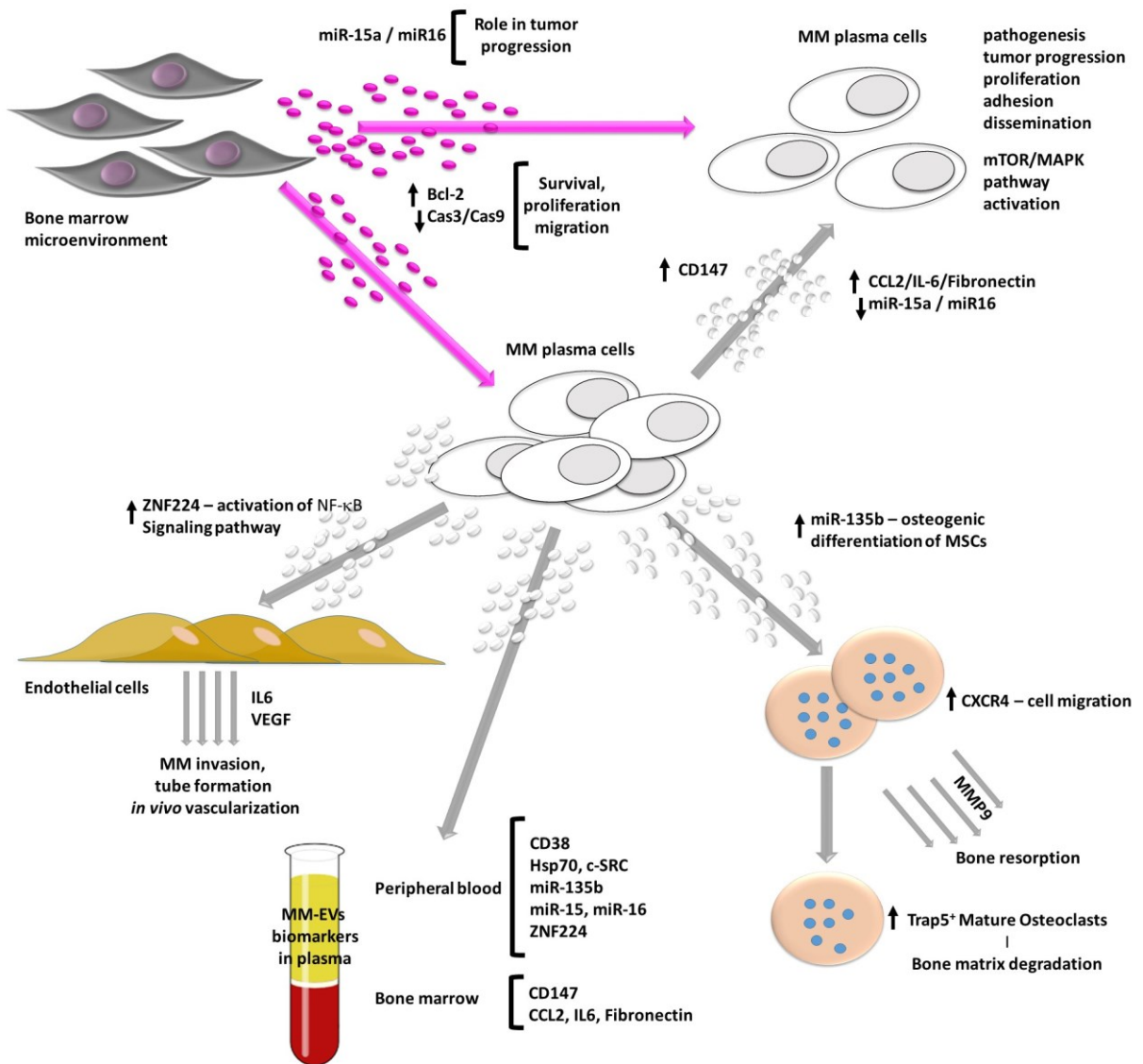
carrying Hsp70 on the membrane can be potentially used for the development of an anti-MM vaccine.

Furthermore, as expected in MM circulating EVs (isolated from peripheral blood samples of MM patients), the tumor related antigen CD38 is overexpressed and correlated with the International Staging System (ISS stage) [114].

As previously discussed, several studies revealed peculiar protein enrichments in MM-derived EVs and prove the relation between protein enrichments and biological effects to eventually support the tumor growth and drug resistance. For example, MM-EVs are also enriched in syndecan-1, VEGF and HGF [98], CD147 [107], ZNF224 [108], CCL2, IL6 and Fibronectin [109].

miRNAs have been involved in several diseases and miRNAs carried by EVs have been demonstrate to be able to drive the tumor progression. The pathogenic nature of the miRNAs and their capacity to be secreted into biological fluids through EVs, where they remain relatively stable, suggest miRNAs as promising biomarkers for diagnostic and therapeutic monitoring.

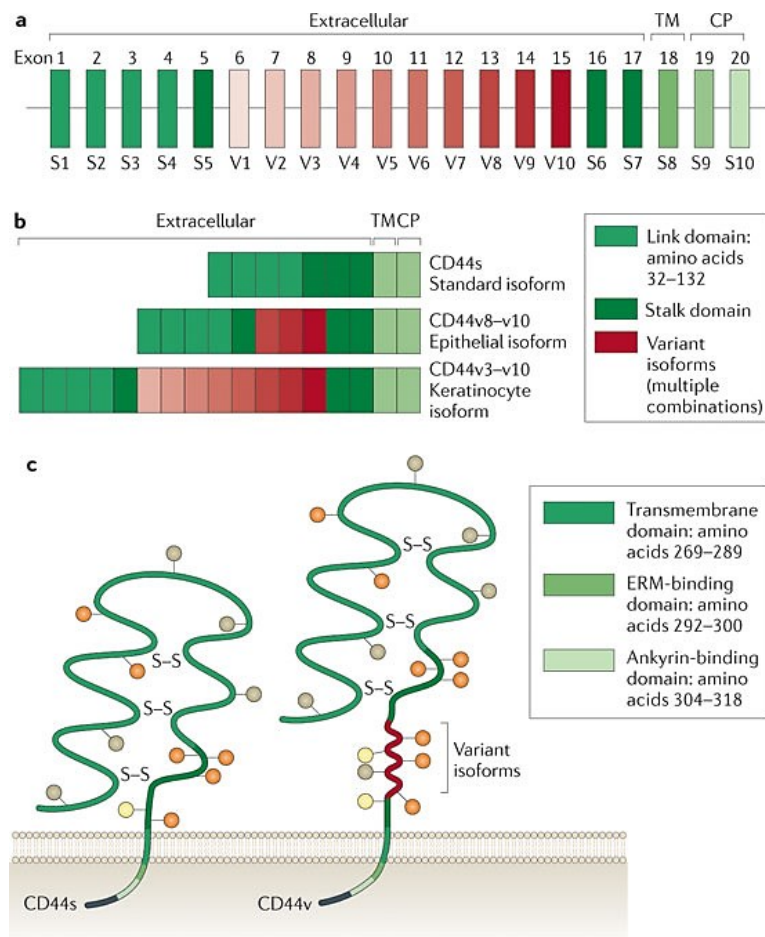
Only recently, few studies have demonstrated that miRNAs carried by EVs secreted by MM could have an effect on the tumor progression. As already discussed, EVs isolated from MM patients contains high levels of *miR-135b* [101] and low levels of the oncosopressor *miR-15a* [109]. The detection of higher level of circulating *miR-15a* and *miR-16* in MM patients have been instead associated to a better overall survival [110].



**Fig. 3** Multiple Myeloma-microenvironment crosstalk mediated by EVs

### 1.3 CD44

CD44 is a transmembrane glycoprotein of 742 aminoacids and the main role is the interaction with the hyaluronic acid (HA), one of the components of the extracellular matrix [115]. The CD44 gene is located on Chromosome 11p13 and contains 20 exons. The first five and the last five exons are constant; Exons 1-5 and Exons 15-19 encode the N-terminal (extracellular, interact with the Hyaluronic acid), and C-terminal (extracellular, transmembrane, and cytoplasmic) domains respectively, and share homologous domains among all the CD44 family members. On the contrary, the ten exons (Exons 5a-14, typically defined as v1-v10) located between these regions are subjected to alternative splicing, resulting in the generation of CD44 standard (CD44s) and several CD44 variants (CD44v). More than 20 isoforms have been described, with a size ranging from 85 to 230KDa [116] (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 4** CD44 structure and principal isoforms



CD44s is generally expressed on lymphohaematopoietic cells (CD44H). CD44 isoforms can be upregulated by T-lymphocytes and other leukocytes after immunological activation and the expression patterns are tissue specific: CD44 lacking v2-v10 is the most common form on hematopoietic cells while larger CD44 splice variants dominate on certain normal and neoplastic epithelia, activated lymphocytes and malignant lymphomas. A CD44 isoform consisting of the last three exon of the variable region (CD44V8-10) is preferentially expressed on epithelial cells, hence it is also called epithelial CD44 or CD44E. In contrast, CD44V3-10, the longest CD44 isoform that expresses eight exons of the variable region, has been observed in keratinocytes.

CD44 is a multifunctional receptor which plays a role in cell adhesion (cell-cell and cell-ECM interactions), cell traffic, lymph node homing, presentation of chemokines and growth factors, apoptosis, transmission of growth signals and signals mediating hematopoiesis.

CD44 is involved in the uptake and intracellular degradation of HA. Other CD44 ligands include ECM components such as collagen, Fibronectin, laminin, and chondroitin sulphate. ECM-unrelated ligands include mucosal addressin, serglycin, osteopontin, and the class II invariant chain.

### **1.3.1 Role of the CD44 in cancer**

CD44 belong to a huge family of cell adhesion molecules (CAMs) involved in the control of cell behavior by mediating direct interaction between cells or between cells and the extracellular matrix and are essential for preserving tissue integrity. Because of these functions they are frequently involved in tumor progression and survival. High levels of expression of CD44 have been observed in numerous cancer cell types and interactions between HA and CD44 have been shown to play essential roles in tumor cell growth, survival, migration, and metastasis. Indeed, introduction of an antisense construct against two of the three human enzymes responsible for HA synthesis, namely HAS2 and HAS3, inhibited invasion of these otherwise metastatic cells into matrigel. In addition, CD44 antibodies inhibiting the HA-CD44 interaction blocked invasion of these metastatic cells.

Furthermore, the use of HA oligosaccharides as competitors for HA-CD44 binding induce suppression of tumor cell growth *in vivo* by suppression of the

phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)/Akt pathway [117]. The CD44 silencing is associated to the loss of adhesiveness of human colon cancer cells to HA and reduce colony-forming ability and tumorigenicity in xenograft model [118]. CD44 also correlated with tumor recurrence after surgery removal [119], and has been proved to promote multidrug resistance (MDR) in cancer cells, which is a marker of therapeutic resistance. In a study conducted on breast cancer, antibodies targeting CD44 repressed tumor growth and prevented tumor relapse after chemotherapy-induced remission in an orthotopic xenograft *in vivo* model [120]. All of these results highlight the important roles of CD44 in cancer progression and relapse. Multidrug resistance (MDR) in Cancer stem cells (CSCs) is a key obstacle for an effective cancer therapy and can be partially attributed to the induction of survival/anti-apoptotic signals. An additional limitation to the efficacy of chemotherapy is rapid drug evacuation from cancer cells which is mediated by drug transporters and MDR genes. Recently, it has been demonstrated [121] that HA-CD44 interactions-induced association of Nanog and Stat-3 to stimulate Stat-3-dependent *MDR1* gene expression. Moreover, HA-CD44 interactions up-regulate multidrug resistance protein 2 in non-small cell lung cancer [122].

Additionally, several studies have highlighted the importance of the CD44 in CSC maintenance and self-renewal. In a remarkable study, a group of scientist has proved that the activation of GSK3 $\beta$  mediated by CD44 is necessary for the preservation of CSCs properties, and CSCs going through EMT are dependent on GSK3 $\beta$  activity for the development of the mesenchymal phenotype [123]. As already mentioned above, HA/CD44-mediated Nanog activation induced the expression of the CSCs regulators, for example Rex1 and Sox2, while CD44 silencing reduced the expression of stem cell markers, including Oct4, Nanog, and Sox2 [123]. Taken together, these data underline the role of HA and CD44 in CSC self-renewal, clonal formation, and chemotherapy resistance [121].

Furthermore, CD44 can mitigate the activation of c-Jun N-terminal kinase, and p53 signaling pathways, resulting in resistance to oxidative and cytotoxic agent-induced stress in glioblastoma cells [124], thus suggesting that CD44 can also maintain low levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and coordinate defensive mechanisms against ROS-mediated damage.

CD44 also plays a pivotal role in preserving the survival of many tumor cells by transmitting anti-apoptotic signals. CD44 and receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) have been shown to cooperate on promoting cell survival, and HA-CD44 interaction triggers the activation of Src and PI3K [125]. Cancer cells expressing CD44 and derived from colon carcinoma are associated with the alteration of pro (caspase 9 and 3) and anti (Bcl-2, Bcl-xL) apoptotic agents [126]. To further support this discovery, CD44 knockdown was followed by a reduction of expression of anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL and by an increase of expression of cleaved caspase 3, 8, 9 and Bax [127] in the same kind of tumor. Another example of association between high expression of CD44 and the inducement of anti-apoptotic agents, promoting survival, was found in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) cells, in fact CLL cells have been proved to overexpress CD44, and the CD44-HA binding activated the PI3K/Akt and MAPK pathways to induce the expression of anti-apoptotic proteins, thus promoting survival [128]. Also, several studies have demonstrated the activation of apoptosis resistance mechanisms via CD44 variant isoforms. For example, binding of CD44v6 to HGF-initiated c-Met is essential for the signaling that regulate MEK and Erk pathways [129].

CD44-expressing cancer cells can acquire the ability to escape the immune response. For instance, the CD44-HA interaction led to immune escape of lung cancer cells from killing mediated by cytotoxic T-lymphocytes [130]. Of note, Yasuda et al. proposed a mechanism by which the interactions between CD44 and HA reduced the vulnerability of cancer cells by suppressing Fas expression and inactivating the Fas/Fas mediated cytotoxicity. In squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck the CD44 positive cells repressed T-cell proliferation and efficiently induced regulatory T cells (Tregs) and myeloid-derived suppressor cells, thus confirming the immune-protective properties of CD44.

### ***1.3.2 Role of CD44 in TME-mediated drug-resistance and in multiple myeloma***

In multiple myeloma, the activity and expression of these adhesion molecules are controlled by intra and extracellular factors including enzymes, growth factors and microenvironmental conditions [131]. Several signaling pathways are influenced by adhesive interactions of multiple myeloma cells, and their consequences affect the survival, proliferation, migration, homing to the bone marrow microenvironment and in many cases induce drug-resistance phenotype. Therefore, the adhesive interactions of multiple myeloma cells are extremely important and may thus be potential therapeutic targets. So far, numerous studies are being developed to inhibit the activities of adhesion molecules in multiple myeloma cells, including small antagonist molecules and signal transduction inhibitors.

The BM stroma is a sophisticated microenvironment, containing cellular and non-cellular components. The BM solid part is constituted by extracellular matrix (ECM) components (e.g. fibronectin, hyaluronan, collagens) [132,133], different cell types (for example mesenchyme stromal cells, osteoclasts, adipocytes) and endothelium [134]. Of note, in MM patients the BM ECM could result altered compared to the normal BM, with a reduced quantity of fibronectin, collagen type-I, and increased levels of collagen type-IV [135].

BM stromal cells synthesize and integrate several types of macromolecules into the ECM, mostly glycosaminoglycans [136]. Among them, hyaluronan is a high molecular weight glycosaminoglycan composed of glucuronic acid and N-acetylglucosamine disaccharides [133,137]. Both stromal cells and hematopoietic progenitor cells are the producers of the main component of the hyaluronan [136,138]. The interactions of MM cells with hyaluronan is principally mediated by CD44 [139] and the receptor for hyaluronan mediated motility RHAMM (CD168), which was identified also in other types of B-cell malignancies [140,141]. The standard CD44 form is down-regulated in MM cells, while some splice variants are highly expressed by these cells [139]. Indeed, CD44 variants 3v, 4v, 6v or 10v were identified in MM cells, but not in normal individuals or in MGUS patients [142,143]. The variant CD44v6 is frequently expressed in high-risk MM, and its expression is associated with chromosome 13q (-), which is a risk factor in MM [144].

Tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase 1 (TIMP-1) induces the post-germinal center differentiation of lymphoid cells, which is associated with the up-regulation of several plasma cell-associated genes including CD44, indicating that extracellular factors may modulate the CD44 expression in MM cells [145]. IL6, the major MM related cytokine, strongly increases CD44 gene expression, modulates CD44 RNA alternative splicing, and promotes the over-expression of all CD44 variant exons in MM cells [146]. The interaction between cells and hyaluronan through CD44 and its splice variants triggers signaling pathways that impact on cell adhesion, migration, and protects MM cells from apoptosis [147,148]. Likewise, some of the activities of CD44 splice variants in MM cells can be addressed to their binding to stromal or endothelial cells, instead of interaction with hyaluronan and the ECM [149,150].

Notably, highly important is the drug-resistance mechanism caused by the MM adhesion to ECM defined “cell adhesion mediated drug resistance” (CAM-DR) which has been discovered recently in MM cells, and is now extended to other types of cancer, as part of environment-mediated drug resistance [151-154]. CAM-DR to a wide range of drugs (e.g. bortezomib, doxorubicin and dexamethasone) in MM cells can be induced by FN or BM stromal cells, and is regulated by integrins [151,152,155]. For example, it has been reported that adhesion of MM cells to FN up-regulates the levels of p27Kip1 which is important to maintain the drug-resistant phenotype, possibly due to its involvement in cell cycle regulation [152]. Activation of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway was found to be stimulated by adhesion to FN, and may be possibly associated with CAM-DR in MM [156]. CAM-DR is not connected with loss in drug-induced DNA damage, but more in protection from mitochondrial distress and caspase activation [157]. However, FN cannot defend MM cell lines from apoptosis triggered by Fas, hence demonstrating that the FN induce partial protection, not including all types of programmed cell death [158]. In MM cell lines, not only integrin-mediated adhesion but also hyaluronan binding with CD44 can confer resistance to dexamethasone [148]. Dexamethasone inhibit NF- $\kappa$ B through induction of I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$  inhibitory protein, which traps activated NF- $\kappa$ B in an inactive complex [159,160]. Different stimuli including TNF- $\alpha$  and IL6 trigger I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$  protein phosphorylation, resulting in their proteasome-mediated degradation, consequently allowing the release of active NF- $\kappa$ B and its nuclear translocation [161]. In an important study conduct by Ohwada et al. [148], the engagement of CD44 induced serine

phosphorylation and degradation of I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$  on CD44-high MM cells and myeloma cells overexpressing CD44 co-cultured with Dexamethasone and anti-CD44 mAb (IM7) did not exhibit I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$  up-regulation, indicating that CD44 engagement with IM7 inhibits the drug activity by inducing phosphorylation and subsequently degradation of I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$ .

It has been demonstrated that CD44 can be targeted by therapeutic antibodies. The CD44v6 variant, expressed by MM cells, can be inhibited by bivatuzumab, a humanized monoclonal antibody specific to this variant, in association with the potent anti-microtubule agent mertansine [144]. Unfortunately, phase-I clinical trials conducted in head and neck cancer and in metastatic breast cancer showed variable responses, with serious adverse side effects, indicating poor clinical importance of this drug [162,163]. Nevertheless, bivatuzumab was able to stabilize some of the severely pretreated metastatic breast cancer patients [109].

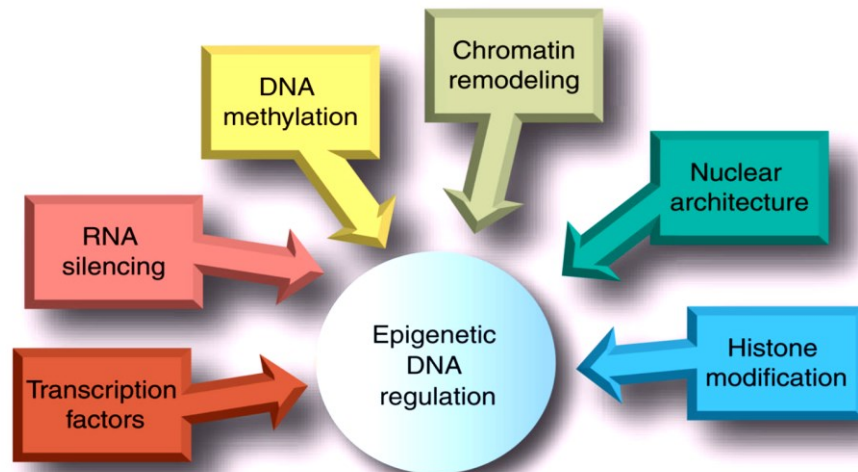
In summary, CD44 is an attractive therapeutic targets in MM due to several reasons:

- molecular structure and function in MM is well established;
- adhesive interactions CD44-HA protect MM cells (including minimal residual malignant cells) in their BM microenvironment;
- CD44 interactions have impact on important MM key functions such as tumor progression, proliferation, and cell adhesion mediated drug resistance.

Among the potential therapeutic strategies to incorporate anti-CD44 into MM treatment, one possibility consists in the integration of anti-adhesion substances into current Standard of care (SOC). Finally, a fruitful incorporation of anti-CD44 into the MM treatment may extend its use in other hematological malignancies.

## 1.4 HDAC inhibitors

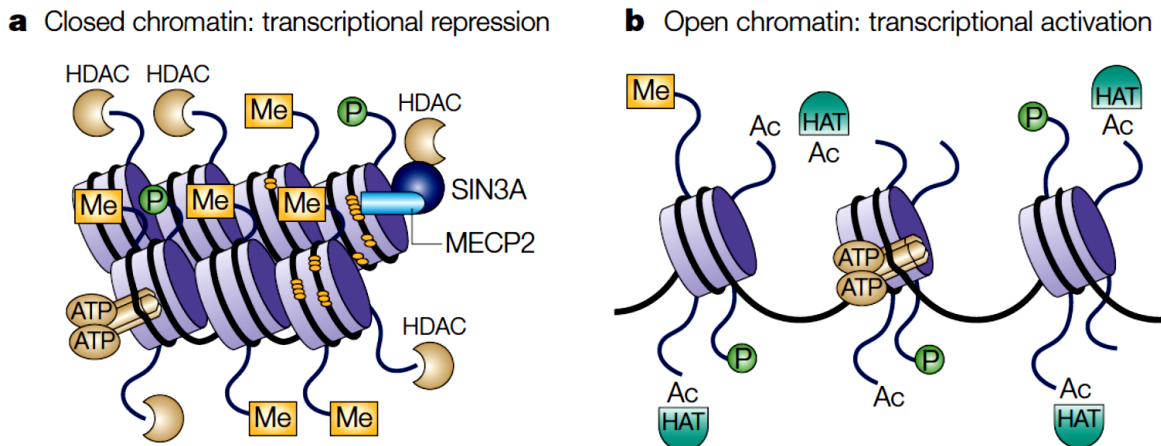
### 1.4.1 Chromatin remodeling and regulation of transcription mediated by Histone Acetyltransferase (HAT) and Histone Deacetylase (HDAC)



**Figure 5.** Factors influencing the epigenetic regulation of gene expression.

Chromatin consists of DNA and proteins confined into the nucleus of mammalian cells. To form chromatin, DNA is firmly condensed by being wrapped around nuclear proteins defined histones and nucleosome is a repetition of DNA-histone complexes (146 base pairs of double-stranded DNA wrapped around an octamer of two molecules each of the core histone proteins H2A, H2B, H4 and H4). The epigenetic DNA regulation is mediated by chromatin remodeling, consisting in the rearrangement of chromatin from a condensed state to a transcriptionally accessible open conformation, lately allowing transcription factors or other DNA binding proteins to access DNA and control the gene expression. In general, the condensed shape of the chromatin (heterochromatin) doesn't allow the DNA access to transcription factors and other DNA binding proteins for the gene expression. Instead, the relaxed conformation of the chromatin (euchromatin) allowed the molecular interaction between DNA and gene regulators, promoting the gene expression.

Among all the possible epigenetic modifications, acetylation/deacetylation (Fig. 6) and methylation/demethylation promote the structural rearrangement of the chromatin, thus resulting in transcriptional activation or repression [164,165].



**Figure 6.** Histone acetylation and deacetylation emerges as a central switch that allows inter conversion between permissive and repressive chromatin domains in terms of transcriptional competence.

Respectively, HATs and HDACs perform the reversible acetylation and deacetylation of the  $\epsilon$ -amino group of specific lysine residues. The acetylation precludes the formation of positive charges on the lysine amino group, and affects protein activity. HDACs, oppositely, repress the gene transcription through the deacetylation of nucleosomal histones, leading to chromosomal condensation and the exclusion of transcriptional activating complexes. Moreover, large HDAC-containing repressor complexes can exclude the binding to specific gene loci of activating molecules, including HATs, from interacting with TFs. Specific TFs are also targets of HDACs activity, decreasing their DNA-binding, inducing their degradation [166].

Thus, HATs and HDACs can regulate transcription: 1) modifying histone acetylation patterns, modulating chromatin structure and its accessibility to transcriptional regulatory proteins [167,168], and 2) acetylating consequently affecting the activity of molecules that directly regulate transcription, including different Transcription Factors (TFs) [169].



### **1.4.2 Classes of HDACs**

Human HDACs 18 isoforms are commonly divided into four classes based on homology to yeast: class I (HDAC1, 2, 3 and 8), class IIa (HDAC4, 5, 7, and 9), class IIb (6 and 10), class III (sirtuins; SIRT1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7), and class IV (HDAC11) [170,171]. HDAC classes vary in structure, substrate specificity, enzymatic activity, subcellular localization and tissue-specific expression.

The “typical” HDACs are the ones belonging to classes I, IIa, IIb, and IV, they have a conserved catalytic domain (~390 aminoacids) and a Zn-dependent deacetylase activity. Instead, members of the third class, sirtuins (~275 aminoacids), require NAD<sup>+</sup> for their enzymatic activity [172] and are unrelated to the catalytic domain of the typical HDACs [173,174]. Among the HDACs belonged to the class III, sirtuin 1 (SIRT1) cooperate in association with p53, and NF-κB, intermediaries in cellular stress mechanisms. At the mitochondrial level, well known is the role of sirtuins 3, 4 and 5 (SIRT3, 4, 5) in the regulation of mitochondrial function and respiration [175]. Notably, some sirtuins (SIRT4 and 6) don't deacetylase targets, but are capable of ADP-ribosyl-transferase activity and they are involved in DNA repair and metabolism.

Due to the differences in catalytic mechanisms, complete inhibition of HDAC activity is extremely difficult, and consequently, several HDAC inhibitors (HDACi) tested in cancer target the most common HDACs.

Other differences between HDAC classes are:

- Class I HDACs are ubiquitously expressed, with a prevalent nuclear localization.
- Class II HDACs are usually larger than class I, demonstrating tissue-specific expression patterns, can be primarily cytoplasmic and/or migrate between the cytoplasm and nucleus.
- Class III differ in their subcellular localization and interact with a wide variety of TFs and other primarily non-histone substrates [176]. The class III HDACs' activity is not inhibited by compounds such as vorinostat or trichostatin A (TSA), that inhibit class I and II HDACs.
- HDAC 11 is the only member of the class IV, has conserved residues in the catalytic core region shared by both class I and II enzymes [177], but it does not take part in any of the known HDAC complexes.

Both classes I and II have been found being part of big transcriptional repressing complexes, which are recruited and transported to the DNA by specific DNA-binding proteins. These large protein complexes play the important roles in HDAC localization and target specificity, can act as support to recruit DNA-binding proteins, and provide the cofactors required for HDAC function. Indeed, lack of these cofactors limits the activity of some recombinant HDACs [178].

Many transcription factors such as GATA3 and the p65 (a component of NF- $\kappa$ B involved in the regulation of DNA transcription), are also targets of post transcriptional modifications such as acetylation and deacetylation, which regulate their activity. In fact, the acetylation of specific lysine residues on p65 increases its DNA affinity and leads to transcriptional activation, without modifying the DNA binding [179-181]. Moreover, HDAC1 and HDAC2 deacetylate the acetylated forms of NF- $\kappa$ B and promote its binding to the inhibitor inside the nucleus, favoring the translocation of the inactive NF- $\kappa$ B/I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$  newborn complex into the cytoplasm [180]. Inhibition of these HDACs by TSA determined the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and also raised the expression of inflammatory-related genes, such as IL-8. Of note, differences in the phosphorylation status of p65 can modulate its interaction with either HDAC or HAT [181].

### ***1.4.3 HDAC inhibitors and implications in cancer***

HDAC inhibitors, categorized based partly on chemical structures and in part on target specificity, are also distributed into five groups: 1. hydroxyamic acids; 2. cyclic tetrapeptides; 3. benzamides; 4. ketones and 5. aliphatic acids. HDACi can have broad-based pan-HDACi inhibitory activity, class specificity, or even isozyme specificity.

The first evidence that changes in histone acetylation may support initial growth and development of cancer was presented in a study that demonstrated the complete loss of monoacetylation and trimethylation on histone H4 in malignant tumor cells [182]. Subsequently, several researches have confirmed the aberrant expression in human tumors of HDACs such as HDAC1, -5, and -7, thus suggesting their possible role as cancer-related biomarker [183]. It is reasonable to expect that HDACs could emerge as potential targets for therapy. In several kinds of tumors such as prostate [184], colorectal [185], breast [186], lung [187,188], liver [189], and gastric cancer [190], overexpression of peculiar HDACs correlated with important reductions in OS and

predicted poor patient outcome, independently from other common factors, for example kind of tumor or progression of the disease. The overexpression of HDACs has been associated to crucial events of tumorigenesis such as the epigenetic repression of the tumor suppressor gene CDKN1A [191] and other important genes encoding DNA damage repair enzymes such as BRCA1 and ATR [192]. In a wide range of tumors (colon, lung, and breast just to name a few), the downregulation of the HDACs expression promotes cell cycle arrest and apoptosis, unequivocally demonstrating the fundamental role of HDACs in tumor survival. For example, HDACs deacetylase p53 (tumor suppressor) thus reducing its transcription, while the activation of TFs SP1 and C/EBP, also due to HDAC activity, promotes the transcription of oncogenes belonging to the BCL2 family [193,194].

To summarize, treatment with HDACi increases the acetylation of histones on chromatin, thus increasing the gene expression, and the acetylation of non-histone proteins (TFs, NF- $\kappa$ B). In TFs, the increased level of acetylation can either increase or decrease their activity. So far, HDACi have been used in clinical trial as a treatment of several kinds of tumors. Among the multiple possible effects induced by treatment in different cancers, HDAC inhibition:

- Selectively modulates gene expression. One of the most common induced gene is the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21 (WAF1/CIP1) [195-197]; as opposite HDACi silence the expression of the androgen receptor (AR) [198].
- Promotes cell cycle arrest. Sub-lethal doses provoke G1 arrest, while high doses induces either G1 or G2+M arrests [196] due to p21 overexpression.
- Triggers the extrinsic apoptotic pathway, and the upregulation both death receptors (Apo-1, CD95) and TNF-associated pro-apoptotic ligands (for example TRAIL, Apo2-L) [199,200].
- Induces the intrinsic apoptotic pathway by stimulating the release of cytochrome-C and the activation of Caspase-9 [201].
- Promotes the autophagy-mediated cell death. The cell death, associated with the presence of autophagic vacuoles in the cytoplasm, was noted on HeLa cells upon treatment [202].

- Induces the accumulation of ROS. Several studies reported cell death upon HDACi treatment associated with a massive intracellular accumulation of ROS in cancer cells [203,204].
- Inactivates the chaperon Hsp90 [205]. Hsp90 is the responsible of the correct folding of hundreds of intracellular proteins, including some key player in cancer, such as EGFR in Glioma. The Hsp90 inhibition mediated by HDACi leads of the degradation of Hsp90 client proteins.
- Inhibits fundamental elements involved in angiogenesis, such as hypoxia inducible factors (HIF), and the pro-angiogenesis molecule VEGF [201,206].

Because of the uncountable effects of acetylation/deacetylation on gene expression and protein activity, it is well known that the influence of HDACi on tumor growth and survival is not mediated by single or a small number of targets. Moreover, the consequences of treatment with HDACi may vary between tumor types, within a specified tumor type, and even within a given tumor due to tumor heterogeneity.

From the clinical prospective, the genetic alterations driving the tumor of interest have very important role in determining the therapeutic outcome of HDACi treatment. In general, as already mentioned above, HDACi induces tumor cell apoptosis, growth arrest, senescence, differentiation, immunogenicity, and inhibit angiogenesis. Among them, the inducement of apoptosis is the most common effect [201]. Altered gene expression and the induction of apoptosis are strictly connected: histone hyper acetylation upregulates pro-apoptotic genes such as TNFSF10, TRAIL [207], and BMF. In tumor cells, BCL-2 family expression is one of the most modulated by the HDACi treatment to favor a pro-apoptotic expression pattern [201,208,209] and frequently, the apoptosis induced by HDAC inhibition is associated with the overexpression of pro-apoptotic BIM, PUMA, BAX, [201,210]. Mechanism and mediators that make cancer cells be more sensitive to the apoptosis mediated by HDACi compared to the normal cells, are still controversial. One possible reason could be the massive accumulation of ROS species due to the treatment with HDACi in cancer cells as compared to the healthy cellular controls [211]. Other researches showed that the HR23B gene expression regulation upon HDAC inhibition improved the tumor sensitivity to apoptosis, even though mediated by weak HDAC inhibitors. Moreover, little is known

about the mechanism that bring to the selective regulation of a subset of genes in cancer cells treated with HDACs, compared to matched normal cells. This subset of genes ultimately triggers tumor-specific apoptosis.

Of note, it has been reported the development of chemoresistance in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) upon HDACi treatment due to the concomitant overexpression of the anti-apoptotic genes Bcl-2 and BCL-X<sub>L</sub>, a tumor response to the cellular stress induced by the treatment.; another example of developed chemoresistance in lymphoma associated with HDAC inhibition is due to the overexpression of the antioxidant thioredoxin, and CHK1 (member of the DNA damage repair family) [212].

In soft tumors, a conspicuous number of HDACi have been approved for clinical trials so far. The first HDAC inhibitors “FDA approved” had been the pan-HDACi vorinostat (SAHA, oral medication), and the class I HDACi romidepsin (administered intravenously). Vorinostat is effective in the treatment of cutaneous T- cell Lymphoma (CTCL), with favorable response rates, while belinostat has been used for relapsed and refractory peripheral T-cell lymphomas [213]. In CTCL cell lines, vorinostat induced hyper acetylation of all histones, resulting in the upregulation of gene expression (up to 22% of all genes resulted to be altered by the treatment upon few hours of treatment) and subsequent inhibition of the MAPK pathway, generation of cell cycle dysregulation due to the inhibition of several cyclins [201,209], induction of apoptosis and arrest of proliferation [196,214].

One limitation in the use of HDACi in cancer is the role of HDACs in normal immune cell function; shutting down the HDAC activity leads to the increment of apoptosis in cancer cells, but simultaneously provokes the suppression of the immune responses required for anti-cancer therapy [215].

#### ***1.4.4 HDAC inhibitors in multiple myeloma***

The epigenetic modulation, that is the modification of gene expression without alteration of DNA sequences, is essential in the pathogenesis and development of MM [216]. In general, epigenetic modifications are categorized into 2 main subgroups: DNA methylation and histone modification, which regulate several oncogenes and tumor-suppressor genes. Consequently, therapies targeting epigenetic modifications are under continuous development in several kinds of soft and solid cancers.

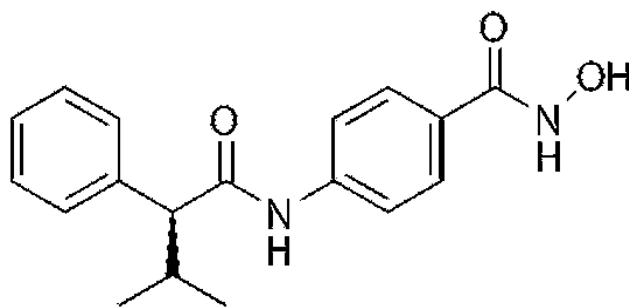
Abnormal DNA methylation of specific genes is well known to be responsible for their altered expression and association with tumor development and progression in multiple myeloma [217,218]. Nonetheless, the mechanism that leads to the increased DNA methylation in MM compared to normal plasmacells, still remains unclear and all the efforts focused on developing successful therapeutic strategies against DNA methylation in MM have been useless so far. On the contrary, histone modifications have been well described in MM, and HDACi have been already tested in the pathology, revealing promising preclinical results. For instance, class I and II pan-HDACi such as vorinostat (SAHA) [219], panobinostat (LBH589) [220,221], and belinostat (PXD101) [222] have already demonstrated antitumor efficacy in MM. It has been also shown *in vitro* that a class I HDACi, romidepsin (FK228) [223], also stimulates apoptosis in MM. Even though nonselective HDACi used in combination with bortezomib have demonstrated some efficacy, the OS advantage of the combination compared to the bortezomib alone was less than 1 month, with concomitant development of toxic side effects including fatigue, diarrhea, and thrombocytopenia [224]. Remarkably, LBH589, (FDA approved drug) used in combination with dexamethasone in MM has shown an increase of 4 months of OS compared to the SOC (bortezomib/dexamethasone) [225]. However, adverse side effects induced by HDACi still constitute a great obstacle for their use and for this reason, novel pan- and selective HDAC inhibitors are constantly under development.

Recently, the scientific interest has been focused on HDAC6, which has a critical role in aggresome formation, a mechanism of degradation of ubiquitinated proteins in lysosomes. First of all, HDAC6 binds unfolded ubiquitinated proteins to dynein motility complexes, then it is responsible for the transport of those proteins to the aggresome. The recent development of the HDAC6-specific inhibitor and its preclinical use in combination with bortezomib demonstrated the total arrest of degradation of ubiquitinated protein in proteasomes and lysosomes. Of note, the HDAC6i tubacin and bortezomib showed synergistic inducement of cytotoxicity in MM in association with a substantial accumulation of polyubiquitinated proteins, a clear hallmark of cellular stress [226]. Due to this important effect, a novel selective HDAC6 inhibitor, ricolinostat (ACY-1215), has been quickly developed for clinical therapy. So far, it has shown

synergistic anti-MM activities with both bortezomib and lenalidomide in preclinical settings [227], and phase I/II clinical trials in MM are ongoing [228,229].

Additionally, the use of the second generation proteasome inhibitor carfilzomib in combination with HDAC6i demonstrated an improved *in vitro* cytotoxicity in MM as compared to bortezomib alone, thus prompting the development of clinical trials with this combination in MM [230].

Recently, a novel orally bioavailable class I/II, phenylbutyrate-based pan-HDAC inhibitor ( $C_{18}H_{20}N_2O_3$ , M.W. 312.36), AR42 (Fig. 7) has been developed by The Ohio State University, licensed to Arno Therapeutics and showed a better anti-proliferative effect in cancer compared to the vorinostat (SAHA), either *in vitro* or *in vivo* [231] in several kinds of cancer [232,233], such as CLL, AML, schwannoma, meningioma, and it's a potential effective anti-cancer agent in hematological malignancies. AR42 is also able to inhibit STAT3 activation whether or not of IL6-activation signals are present, consequently promoting apoptosis and MM death. Some histone-independent activity has also been reported for AR42. A phase I clinical trial is actually ongoing for the characterization of side effects and best dose calibration of AR42 in advanced or relapsed MM, CLL or Lymphoma patients at The Ohio State University.



**Fig. 7.** AR42 chemical structure.

## CHAPTER 2. AIMS OF THE THESIS

Based on the most recent published data, Multiple Myeloma is not considered an incurable form of cancer anymore. However, according to the statistics reported by the American NCI agency, updated at the 2015, only 46.6% of MM patients survive within 5 year with 26.000 new cases (1.6% of all cancer cases) and 11.240 deaths (1.9% of all cancer deaths) yearly. Indeed, severe MM patients still have an unfavorable prognosis and more than 50% of the newly diagnosed cases die before 5 years. Currently, none of the reported therapeutic options are considerable totally curative in Multiple Myeloma and a better characterization of the tumor biology is mandatory to define novel therapeutic targets, and ultimately improve overall survival and outcome. The first point I decided to address in this thesis was the *in vitro* characterization of the protein contents of Extracellular Vesicles secreted by Multiple Myeloma cells. The purpose was to better understand one of the most unexplored mediator of biological messages exchanged among MM cells, and between cancer cells and surrounding environment.

Afterwards, my aim was to identify *in vivo* novel circulating MM biomarkers to improve the diagnosis and eventually design a better therapeutic strategy.

Finally, the last objective of the thesis was the *in vitro* and *in vivo* characterization of a novel pan-HDAC inhibitor and its therapeutic role in combination with Lenalidomide.

My goal was to develop a new strategy to potentially overcome drug resistance mechanisms, which are associated with the interaction between adhesive molecules expressed by Multiple Myeloma and the extracellular matrix of the bone marrow microenvironment.



# CHAPTER 3. METHODS

## ***3.1 Cell lines and transfection***

The following human cell lines have been used and obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; Manassas, VA), or courtesy of Dr M. Kuehl (National Cancer Institute, MD): MM.1S, MM.1R, NCI-H929, KMS18, RPMI-8226, U266, EJM, LP1, OPM2, TBI, ARH77, L363 (Multiple Myeloma cell lines), HeLa (CCL-2, Adenocarcinoma) and HS-5, HS-27A (human marrow stromal cells).

MM cell lines were cultured in RPMI-1640 (Sigma; St. Luis, MO) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Sigma). HeLa (CCL-2) and human marrow stromal cells were maintained in DMEM with 10% FBS. MM.1S-GFP<sup>+</sup>/Luc<sup>+</sup> cells have been maintained in RPMI-1640, 10% FBS and 800ng/ml of Geneticin (G418, Sigma). All the cell lines have been grown at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

Bone marrow aspirates were obtained from patients after appropriate informed consent. Primary myeloma cells isolated from the BM were classified as Lenalidomide refractory if the patient had disease progression during or within 60 days of receiving a Len-containing regimen. All primary MM samples, including newly diagnosed and Lenalidomide refractory were obtained through the Multiple Myeloma Registry and Leukemia Tissue bank at the Ohio State University.

Transfections: one million MM.1S, U266 and L363 were transfected by electroporation using the Nucleofector 4D system (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland). A specific optimized electroporation protocol and a determined nucleofector solution was used for each cell type. Cells were grown in T75 flasks, trypsinized, and collected via centrifugation (1200 × rpm, 6m). Cells were then resuspended in the nucleofector solution at 10<sup>6</sup> cells/100µl, mixed with 1–10µg DNA (1µg/µl CAT), and transferred to a cuvette. For all transfected cell lines, SF Nucleofector 4D solution was used, with program DS-137 for MM.1S cells, DN-100 for U266, and DS-100 for L363. Following electroporation, cells were immediately transferred into 6 well plates in pre-warmed medium supplemented with 10% FBS. HeLa cells were transiently transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 (ThermoFisher Scientific, Wilmington, DE), following the manufacturer' protocol.

### ***3.2 Isolation of Extracellular Vesicles (EVs)***

Before the EVs isolation, MM cells were kept in serum-deprived culture conditions for 48h (starvation). Starved cells and media were centrifuged at 300 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Supernatant was transferred and centrifuged at 2000 x g for 20 minutes at 4°C. Supernatant was harvested and vacuum ultracentrifuged at 10,000 x g for 30 minutes at 4°C (these initial steps were necessary to deplete the samples from cells and debris). Supernatant was collected and ultracentrifuged at 100,000 x g for 70 minutes at 4°C with vacuum. The resulting supernatant was discarded, and EVs pellets were resuspended in cold sterile PBS for the cellular treatments, frozen and stored at -80°C for mass spectrometry investigations. Serum samples collected from MM patients and Healthy donor were processed in the same way.

### ***3.3 Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)***

ELISA was conducted as described by the manufacturers: CD44 Elisa kit was provided by Abcam (Cambridge, MA), IL6 kit by R&D Systems (Minneapolis, MN).

For the CD44 determination on human samples, serum was diluted 1:40 in Standard Diluent Buffer and 100µl of each sample were plated in duplicate in a 96-well plate.

For the CD44 evaluation on the animal model, blood from xenografted mice (0.6 ml/kg) was collected by retro-orbital bleeding and serum samples were obtained by centrifugation at 1500 x g for 10 minutes. Subsequently, samples were diluted as described above.

For the IL6 measurement, 100µl of HS-5 or HS-27A supernatant was collected 24h after EVs treatment, depleted by cellular debris and seeded in duplicate in 96-well plates. Standard and 1x control solution were added to the appropriate wells and incubated for 1 hour. The plate was washed, biotinylated anti-CD44 or anti-IL6 was added to each well and plate was incubated for 30 minutes. The plate was washed again and 100µl 1x Streptavidin-HRP solution was added into each well, allowed to stand for 30 minutes and washed one more time. Chromogenic TMB substrate (100µl) was added to each well and incubated in the dark for 15 minutes. Finally, 100µl/well of Stop Reagent was added and absorbance was read on a spectrophotometer at 450 nm. All incubations were conducted at room temperature.

### **3.4 Proliferation assay**

Cell proliferation was assessed using the WST-1 cell proliferation assay (Roche, Indianapolis, IN). 5,000 cells/well were seeded in triplicate for each treatment or control into a 96 flat bottom well plate (Corning, New York, NY) and incubated at 37°C overnight before the treatment. After treatment, the plate was incubated for 72 hours, in a final volume of 100 µl/well. The cellular proliferation, compared to untreated control, was determined by addition of 10 µl/well of WST-1 reagent, following 30 minutes of incubation at 37°C. At the end of the incubation period, the formazan dye formed was quantitated at 450 nm with a scanning multi-well spectrophotometer Infinite (Tecan, Morrisville, NC). The measured absorbance directly correlated with the number of viable cells.

### **3.5 RNA extraction and analysis**

RNA extraction: total RNA was prepared using TRIzol (Invitrogen) and purified using RNA Clean-Up and Concentration Kit (Norgene Biotek corp., Thorold, ON Canada), accordingly with the manufacturer's guidelines. The RNA quantity and purity were measured by Nanodrop (ThermoFisher Scientific).

qRT-PCR: mRNA and *miRNA* were quantified with quantitative reverse-transcription PCR (qRT-PCR) using TaqMan probe sets (Life Technologies), accordingly to the manufacturer's instructions. The following probes were used: *hsa-miR-9-5p*, *hsa-mir-9-1*, *hsa-miR-9-2*, *hsa-mir-9-3*, CD44, IGF2BP3. All reactions were performed in triplicate, simultaneous quantification of small endogenous nuclear RNU44 or RNU48 was used as a reference for miRNA assay data normalization, and simultaneous quantification of OAZ1 or GAPDH mRNAs was used as a reference for mRNA and pri-miRNA assay data normalization. The comparative cycle threshold (Ct) method for relative quantification of gene and miRNA expression (User Bulletin #2; Applied Biosystems) was used to determine miRNA, pri-miRNA, or mRNA expression levels.

Microarray: the analyses were performed by the Genomic shared resource at The Ohio State University. The RNA samples were analyzed by GeneChip® Human Genome U133 (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA). The probe sets represented in the chip is designed for the screening of approximately 47,000 transcripts. The sequences from which these probe sets were derived were selected from GenBank®, dbEST, and RefSeq. The sequence clusters were created from the UniGene database (Build 133, April 20, 2001) and then refined by analysis and comparison with a number of other publicly available databases, including the Washington University EST trace repository and the University of California, Santa Cruz Golden-Path human genome database (April 2001 release). Nanostring arrays: the analysis was performed by the Genomic shared resource at The Ohio State University. The RNA samples were analyzed by nCounter GX Human Immunology Kit, or nCounter Human microRNA Kit, as recommended by the manufacturer (NanoString Technologies, Inc.).

A total of 511 immunology related genes and 800 microRNAs were profiled. The nanostring Counter GX Human Immunology Kit is a comprehensive set of 511 human genes (and 15 internal reference genes) known to be differentially expressed in immunology. The gene list was compiled from the Gene Ontology Consortium List of Immunologically Important Genes (GO-LIIG) with additional input from experts in the field of immunology. All genes with a priority score of 8 or higher in the GO-LIIG are included in the panel. A panel of experts designated additional genes (with priority scores lower than 8) for inclusion in the panel based on their relevance in addressing key research questions.

The NanoString miRNA panel detects 664 endogenous miRNAs (with 654 probes), 82 putative viral miRNAs from nine viruses including HIV-1, five housekeeping transcripts [(actin beta (NM\_001101.2), beta-2 microglobulin (NM\_004048.2), GAPDH (NM\_002046.3), RPL19 (NM\_000981.3), and RPLP0 (NM\_001002.3)], six positive and eight negative controls (proprietary spike-in controls). Unlike traditional hybridization microarrays, NanoString does not associate targets with spatial coordinates; instead, the system generates copy numbers of target-specific molecular barcodes attached to detection probes, theoretically eliminating position-dependent effects.

Raw data, which are proportional to copy number, were log-transformed and normalized by the quartile method after application of a manufacturer-supplied

correction factor for several miRNAs. Data were filtered to exclude relatively invariant features (IQR = 0.5) and features below the detection threshold (defined for each sample by a cutoff corresponding to approximately twice standard deviation of negative control probes plus the mean of them) in at least half of the samples. P values were used to rank miRNAs of interest, and correction for multiple comparisons was done by the Benjamini-Hochberg method [234].

### **3.6 Western blotting**

Cells were harvested by centrifugation, washed with PBS and lysed using buffer composed of 50mM Tris (pH 7.5), 150mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1.0% NP-40, 0.1% SDS, supplemented with protease and phosphatase inhibitors. Protein concentrations were estimated by Bradford assay and equivalent quantities of the lysates were resolved on 4-20% Tris-HCl SDS-PAGE TGX gels (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). Proteins were transferred to nitrocellulose membranes and stained for acetyl-histone H3 (Millipore, Billerica, MA), acetyl-histone H4 (Millipore), IGF2BP1 (IMP-1, Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA), IGF2BP3 (IMP-3, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX), CD44 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), Drosha (Cell Signaling Technology), CD9 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), Lamin B1 (Abcam),  $\beta_2$ -Microglobulin (Abcam) or glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH, Cell Signaling Technology), followed by anti-mouse, or anti-rabbit IgG-HRP (GE Healthcare, Pittsburgh, PA). Signals were developed using Pierce ECL Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and X-ray films (BioExpress, Kaysville, UT).

### **3.7 Flow cytometry**

MM.1S, MM.1R, U266, H929, RPMI-8226, KMS11, LP1, EJM MM cell lines, and three PBMCs samples collected from healthy donors were analyzed for apoptosis by Annexin-V/Propidium Iodide flow cytometry according to the manufacturer's protocol (Clonetechn, Mountain View, CA).

MM.1S, MM.1R, U266, H929, L363, OPM2, ARH77, TBI, RPMI8226, KMS11, KMS18, LP1, and EJM MM cell lines were analyzed for the CD44 expression, using an anti-human CD44-FITC antibody (BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA).

Cells were harvested and washed 2 times in PBS before performing the staining (15 minutes for apoptosis kit, 30 minutes for CD44 staining). All the staining were performed in the dark at room temperature. At the end of the staining, cells were resuspended in PBS and acquired at the FC500 flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA).

For the multiparametric analysis, the bone marrow samples harvested from 8 MM patients were stained with CD38-PE (BD Bioscience), CD138-APC (BD Bioscience), CD44-FITC (BD Bioscience) or AnnexinV-FITC (Clonetechn) for 30 minutes, washed with PBS and immediately analyzed with Gallios flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter).

Subsequent analysis was conducted using FlowJo vX.0.7 (Tree Star Inc., Ashland, OR).

The size distribution analysis of the EVs was performed on a Nanosight NS300 (Malvern Instruments Ltd., Malvern, UK): two separate vesicle preparations for each cell line and single MM patient and healthy donor preparations were analyzed five times each. Batch capture was conducted on a sCMOS camera with variable shutter length and frame rate, 1000 shutter setting and 400 camera gain. Computational analysis was evaluated on the Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis Software (Malvern Instruments Ltd.).

### **3.8 DNA constructs and Luciferase reporter assay**

Human CD44 promoter-luciferase reporter gene (CD44P pGL3, Fig. 8A) [235] was obtained from Addgene (Plasmid 19122; Addgene, Cambridge, MA).

The 3'UTR of CD44 was PCR amplified using the following primers: (Forward) 5'-gctagcCACCTACACCATTATCTTG -3' and 5'-gctagcAATTCTTGGTGTGTTATG-3'

(engineered NheI sites are in lower case). The products were cloned into XbaI site downstream from the luciferase gene in pGL3-control vector (Fig. 8A; Promega).

To generate IGF2BP3 luciferase reporter constructs, the 3'UTR was amplified by PCR using primers:

(Forward) 5'-TCTTTGGTTATCTAGCTGTATGA-3'

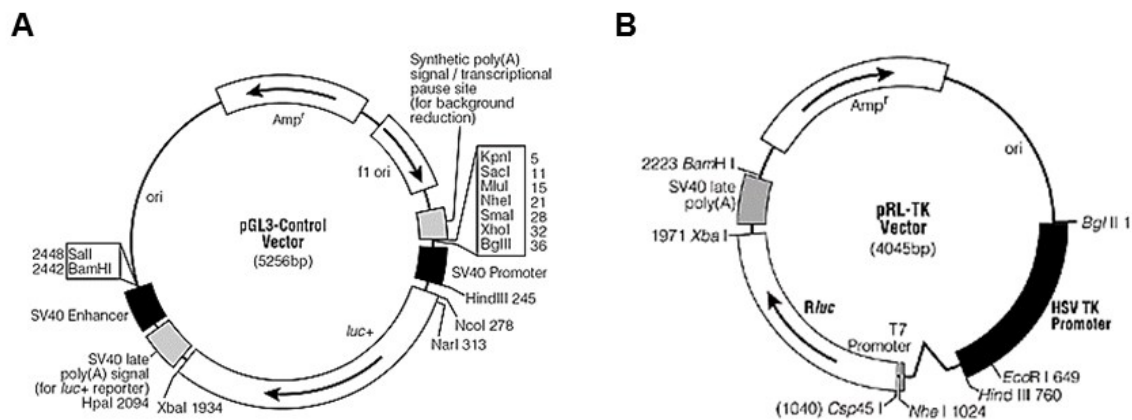
(Reverse) 5'-TCTTTGGTTATCTAGCTGTATGA-3'

The product was cloned into XbaI site of pGL3-control vector (Promega). Mutations in the *miR-9-5p* binding site of the IGF2BP3 3'UTR were introduced by the QuikChange Mutagenesis Kit (Stratagene) using the following primers:

(Forward) 5'-CAGAGGCAGATGCCAAACGGGGTACAGATTGCTTAACC-3'

(Reverse) 5'-GGTTAAGCAATCTGTACCCCGTTTGGCATCTGCCTCTG-3'.

Luciferase assay: HeLa cells were transfected with 500ng of 3'UTR-pGL3-control plasmid and 50ng of Renilla luciferase expression construct (pRL-TK; Promega), Fig. 8B, using Lipofectamine 2000 (ThermoFisher Scientific). After 24hrs cells were lysed and tested by Dual Luciferase Assay (Promega), according to the manufacturer's instructions. MM.1S, U266 and L363 cells were transfected by nucleofection with 1.8µg of pGL3-based luciferase vector and 200ng of pRL-TK, harvested 24 hours later and assayed as above.



**Fig.8. Expression plasmids used in Luciferase reporter gene assays** A) pGL3 plasmid used with Multiple Myeloma and HeLa cells for the expression of CD44 or IGF2BP3 promoter regions. B) pRL-TK plasmid for the Renilla luciferase expression.

### **3.9 Cryo-Transmission Electron Microscopy (Cryo-TEM) and Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS)**

Vesicles derived from the MM.1S and U266 cell lines were prepared for cryo-TEM within a Controlled Environment Vitrification System at 25°C and 100% relative humidity. A 10µl suspension of vesicles was applied onto glow discharged Lacey Formvar/Carbon 200 Mesh copper grids (Ted Pella, Inc., Redding, CA), blotted and plunged into ethane. Vitrified grids were transferred to a Gatan cryo-sample holder and visualized by a FEI Tecnai G2 Spirit electron microscope (FEI, Hillsboro, OR). The microscope was operated at 120 kV under low dose conditions to minimize radiation damage to the samples. The total electron dose was held between 10 and 100 e-/Å<sup>2</sup>. Images were captured on a 4k x 4k Gatan Ultrascan CCD camera (Pleasanton, CA) at 4,800x, 18,000x and 30,000x magnification. Size distributions were obtained from images using the NIS Element Imaging Software (Nikon, Melville, NY).

Relative vesicle size distributions of the MM.1S and U266 derived vesicles were measured using a BI-200SM Laser Light Scattering Goniometer (Brookhaven Instruments, Holtsville, NY). 1ml of vesicles were equilibrated at room temperature and eventually diluted to 10-200 kilocounts/sec. DLS measurements were made using a 633 nm laser. Vesicle translational diffusion coefficients were converted to apparent hydrodynamic diameters using the Stokes-Einstein Relation. The relative size distributions were obtained using the CONTIN algorithm.

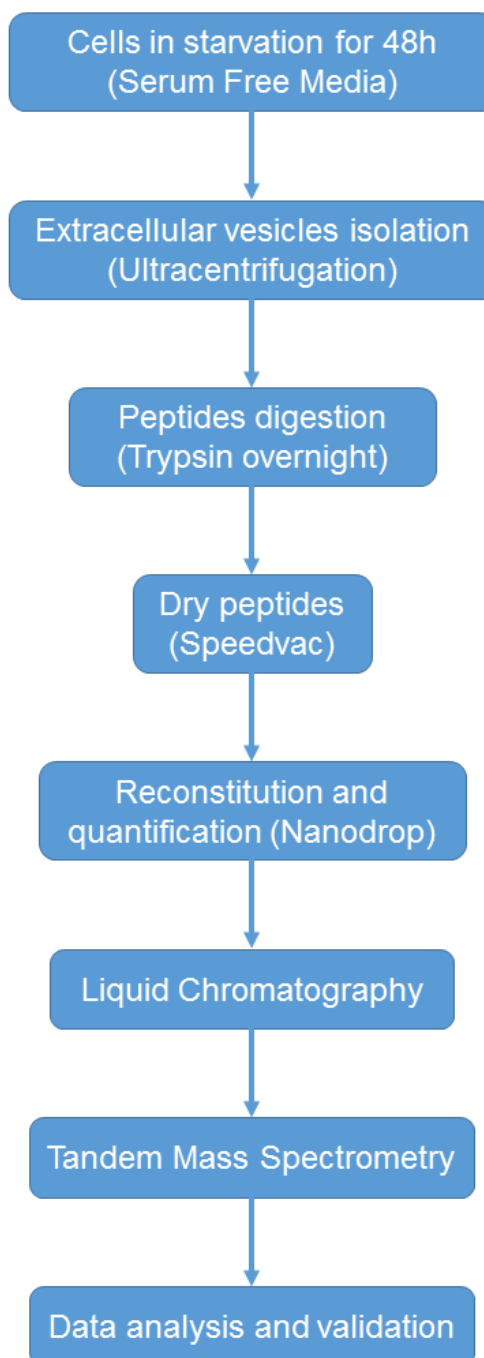
### **3.10 Proteomic Analysis**

Preparation of Samples for Mass Spectrometry: vesicle isolations (in triplicate, secreted from 100 million of MM cells) or 48 hours serum starved cell pellets (100.000 MM cells) were resuspended in 50mM ammonium bicarbonate (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) supplemented with 0.5% Rapigest SF surfactant (Waters, Milford, MA). 800ng of sequencing grade modified trypsin (Promega, Madison, WI) was added to each sample and incubated overnight (>16h) at 37°C. The reaction was stopped and Rapigest was precipitated by addition of 98% formic acid to 30% v/v. Samples were incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes, centrifuged 3 times at 21,000g and the supernatant removed after each



centrifugation. Peptides were speedvacuumed to dryness and resuspended in 20 $\mu$ L of 2% acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid. Final peptide concentrations were measured by 280nm absorbance using a Nanodrop ND-1000 spectrometer.

Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS): 1-2 $\mu$ g of peptides were loaded for RP-HPLC separation on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 capillary/nano HPLC (Dionex, Sunnyvale, CA) and mass analyzed by a ThermoFisher LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer (ThermoFisher, Waltham, MA). The LTQ Orbitrap XL was fitted with a micro/nanospray ionization source (Michrom Bioresources Inc, Auburn, CA). HPLC separations were carried out at a flow rate of 2 $\mu$ L/min on a 0.2 mm x 150 mm C18 column (5 $\mu$ m, 300 $\text{\AA}$ , Michrom Bioresources Inc., Auburn, CA). Mobile phases were HPLC water and acetonitrile each supplemented with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid. Top 5 data dependent mode was utilized, on the mass spectrometer, in positive ion mode with dynamic exclusion of: repeat count=3, repeat duration=30.00, exclusion list size=500, exclusion duration=350 s and exclusion mass width of  $\pm 1.50m/z$ . Protein identifications were obtained using the MassMatrix search engine and the UniprotKB complete H. sapiens proteome (updated at 18Sep12).



**Fig. 9. EV analysis flowchart**

Cytoskeletal, epidermal and cuticle keratin identifications were considered as contaminant proteins and removed from the analysis. The false discovery rate (FDR) was estimated using the reversed sequences of the target database. The parsing of protein identifications and spectral counts was conducted from each data file and combined using a Python application. Protein matches were retained based on an FDR threshold of 0.05%, 2 unique peptide matches and a decoy cutoff of 2 for each protein identification returned.

### **3.11 Animal experiments**

Tumor implantation: animal experiments were performed according to The OSU institutional guidelines. To generate MM xenograft model,  $10^7$  viable MM.1S cells were injected subcutaneously into the right flank of twelve 5-week-old female nude mice (Foxn1nu/Foxn1nu; Charles River, Burlington, MA). The tumor size was measured once a week using a caliper, and the volume was calculated in cubed millimeters ( $\text{mm}^3$ ), using the formula  $L \times W^2 / 2$ . At 3 weeks after injection, a group of 8 mice with comparable tumor size ( $250 \pm 60 \text{mm}^3$ ) were randomly divided into two groups, using 4 mice for each treatment. Mice were treated with intra-peritoneal injection of AR42 (25mg/kg) or DMSO (8% in PBS) once a day on Monday and Wednesday. The day after the second treatment, when the tumor sizes between the 2 different groups were comparable, blood from mice was collected by retro-orbital bleeding and the mice were sacrificed for IHC analysis.

For studies involving AR42 in combination with Lenalidomide, MM.1S-GFP<sup>+</sup>/Luc<sup>+</sup> stable line was harvested during logarithmic growth phase, washed with PBS and injected intravenously into NOD-SCID nude mice ( $5 \times 10^6$  cells in 0.2ml/mouse) under general anesthesia (isoflurane, 2-4% to effect). Beginning at 7 days post-injection, mice were monitored every day for the appearance of tumors by fluorescence using *In Vivo* Imaging System (IVIS). On day 15, when the engraftment reached approximately  $\geq 2 \times 10^6$  photons/sec/cm<sup>2</sup>/sr mice with similar tumor burden were divided into different groups of treatments. Intraperitoneal injections with vehicle control (8% DMSO in PBS), AR42 (25mg/kg; Mon-Tue-Fri) and Lenalidomide (50mg/kg, daily) were administered by intraperitoneal injection under general anesthesia (isoflurane, 2-4% to effect).

Treatments continued for 3 weeks, and ended when the control group showed sign of disease, including paralysis and extreme weight lost, or when tumor mass was equivalent to 10% of body weight.

Detection of tumor progression by bioluminescence imaging: mice were injected with 75mg/kg Luciferin (Xenogen), and tumor growth was detected by bioluminescence 10 minutes after the injection. The home-built bioluminescence system used an electron multiplying charge-coupled device (Andor Technology Limited) with an exposure time of 30 seconds and an electron multiplication gain of 500 voltage gain x 200, 5-by-5 binning, and with background subtraction. Images were analyzed using ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health).

Immunohistochemistry: Xenograft tumor samples were fixed in 10% neutral-buffered formalin embedded in paraffin, and sectioned at 4 $\mu$ m. Slides were then placed in a 60°C oven for 1 hour, cooled, deparaffinized, and rehydrated by passing slides through xylene, a series of graded ethanol solutions, and ending with water. All slides were placed for 5 minutes in a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution to block the endogenous peroxidase. Antigen retrieval was performed by heat induced epitope retrieval (HIER), in a citric acid solution, pH 6.1, for 25 minutes at 96°C followed by cooling down for 15 minutes. Slides were placed on a Dako Autostainer and sections were treated with primary antibodies for human CD138 and CD44 followed by biotinylated secondary antibodies and the DAB chromogen.

### **3.12 Statistical analysis**

All preclinical data were obtained from at least three independent experiments and are expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD). Comparisons between groups were performed using two-tailed t-tests, and comparisons between multiple groups were performed using 1-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). For evaluate the *in vitro* combinatorial therapy, the Chou-Talalay method was used to calculate combination indices (CI). Mouse data were evaluated by ANOVA, and synergy between AR42 and Lenalidomide was tested by interaction contrast. For AnnexinV and CD44 level in primary patients geometric mean values were analyzed by using mixed effect model, incorporating repeated measures for each patient's sample. For the AnnexinV experiment, p-values were adjusted by Holm's method to control the family wise error rate at 0.05.

Overall survival on patients was defined as the time from study enrollment to the time of death. Patients who did not die during the study follow up were censored at the end of study follow up or the date of last follow up. The assumption of proportional hazards was assessed through tests of the Schoenfeld residuals with no violations observed. All reported p-values are two-sided and analyses were performed using the statistical program Stata (StataCorp, College Station, TX).

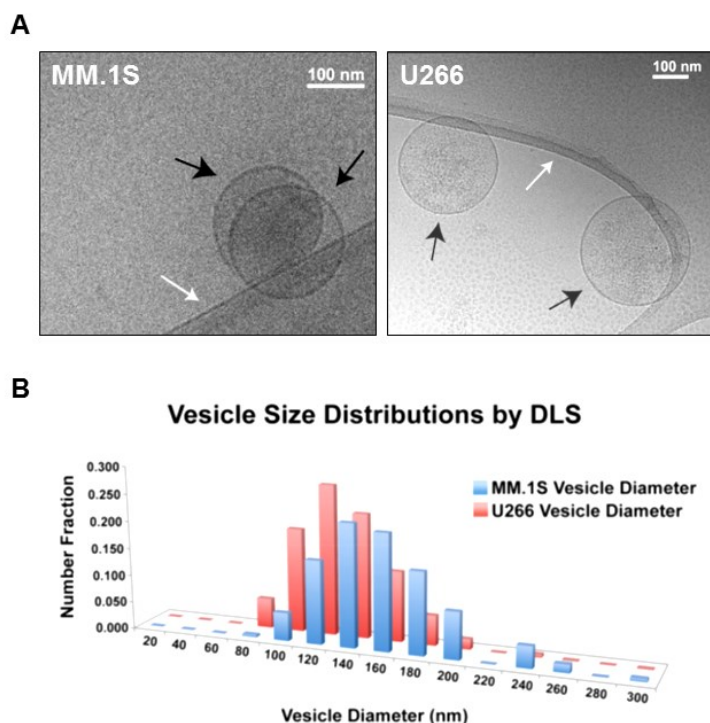
Computational Annotations, Clustering and Bioinformatics: Venn diagrams were created using the BioVenn web application. Clustering analysis and visualization was performed using open source software Cluster 3.0 and Java Tree View. Bioinformatics annotations of gene ontology for identified proteins were searched against the PANTHER Classification System.

# CHAPTER 4. RESULTS

## 4.1 EVs isolation from MM cell lines and proteomic characterization

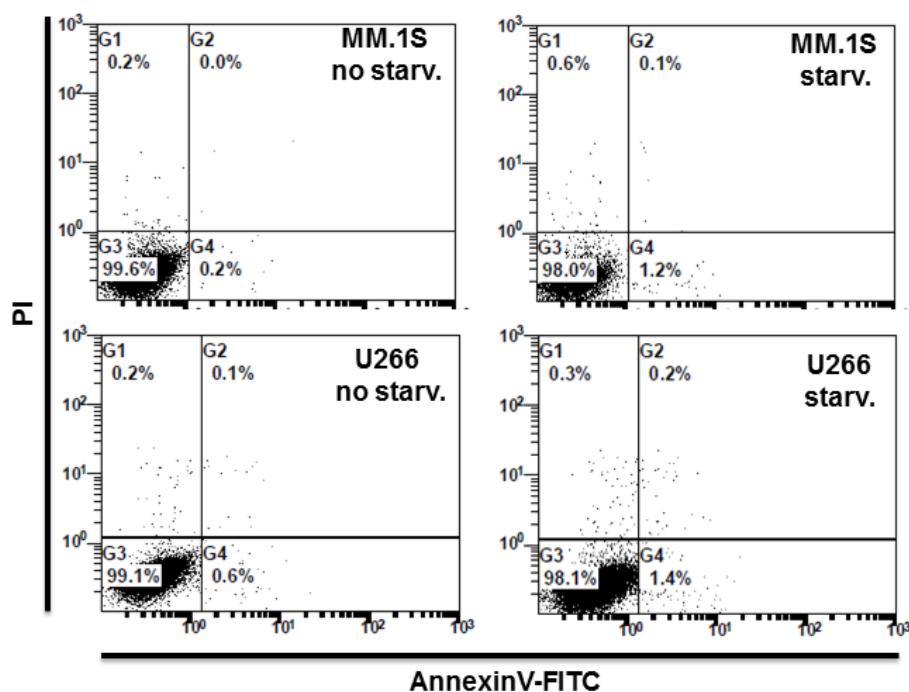
The initial set of experiments of this project was focused on the characterization of size and protein contents of Extracellular Vesicles (EVs) isolated from 2 different kinds of Multiple Myeloma cell lines, MM.1S and U266, which share similar malignant potential but grow in adhesion and suspension respectively. At the electron microscope (Cryo-TEM, Fig. 10A), the morphology of EVs derived from these kinds of cells appeared spherical in shape with a single lipid bilayer, and hydrodynamic diameters with ranging from 50 to 200 nm.

Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) microscopy was performed to assess the size distributions of the enriched vesicles. The DLS analysis of the U266-derived vesicles showed a monomodal distribution of diameters ranging from 80 to 200 nm (average diameter of 138 nm), while the MM.1S vesicle diameters were larger, ranging from 100 to 200 nm (average diameter of 177 nm) with a small population of even larger vesicles with diameters between 240 and 260 nm (Fig. 10B).



**Fig.10. Morphology and size distribution of MM derived EVs.** A) Cryo-TEM of EVs isolated by ultracentrifugation from MM.1S and U266 MM cells. B) Size distribution of EVs determined by DLS.

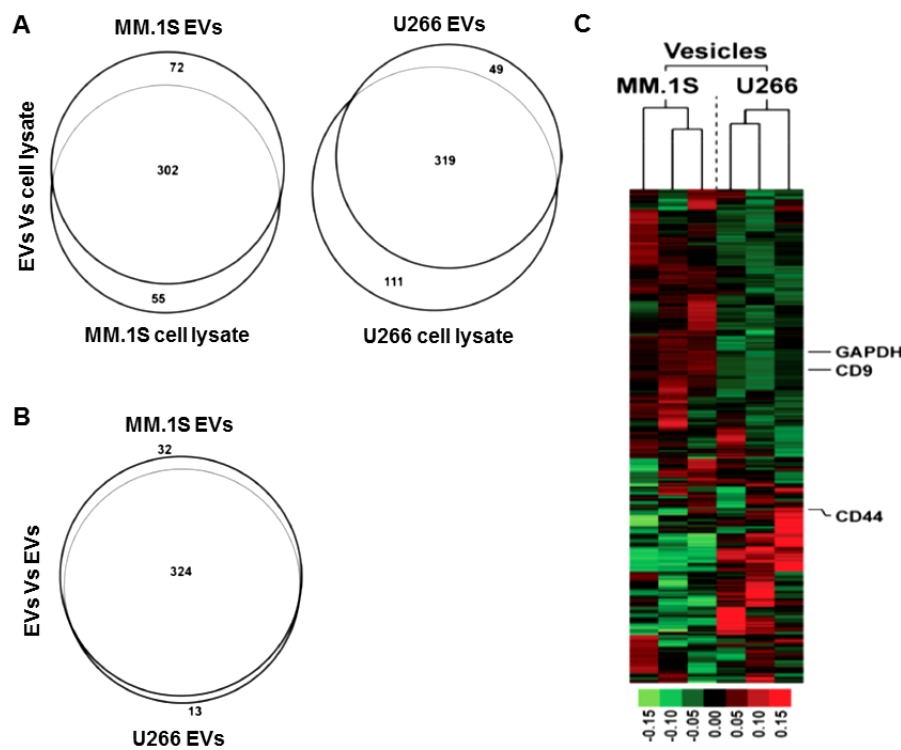
These results indicated that EVs secreted by the two different MM cell lines have comparable size distribution and shape. At that time we were not sure about the quality of the EVs collected due to the method of isolation by ultracentrifugation, and I wanted to determine if the vesicles visualized through the electronic microscope were effectively Extracellular Vesicles or in part contaminated with apoptotic bodies (harvested due to the similarity in shape and mass). To address the possibility of apoptotic bodies' contamination, I subsequently analyzed by flow cytometry the apoptosis status of the serum-starved MM cells before and after EVs collection and the result, showed in Fig. 11, clearly indicated no sign of apoptosis in the parental cells (more than 98% of cells were negative for AnnexinV/Propidium Iodide staining), confirming that the majority of the vesicles were derived from non-apoptotic cells.



**Fig.11. Level of apoptosis in EVs-parental MM cells.** AnnexinV and Propidium Iodide expression by flow cytometry analysis in MM.1S (above) and U266 (below) in normal (no starv.) and in starved (starv, before EVs collection) conditions.

To analyze the entire proteomic contents of MM cells and their derived EVs, we proceeded to perform a proteomic characterization by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). All the information related to the LC-

MS/MS results for the vesicles and cell lysates can be found in the APPENDIX, page 105. A database search of the LC-MS/MS for each kinds of vesicles (from three independent replicates) generated the identification of 374 and 368 proteins for MM.1S and U266, respectively. Moreover, the proteomic analysis of the entire MM.1S and U266 proteome (cell lysates and EVs together) produced 429 and 479 protein identifications. The Venn diagrams (Fig. 12A) show the overlap of identical proteins between the cell-derived vesicles and their global lysates. Although the majority were identified as common proteins, few distinctive proteins were observed in cell line derived EVs (24%, 72 for MM.1S, and 15%, 49 for U266) and in cellular lysates (18%, 55 for MM.1S, and 35%, 111 for U266). Indeed, numerous recent papers indicates a similarity between protein contents in EVs and parental cells [78,236]. To assess the differences between the MM-EVs collected from the two cell lines, we compared the quantity of the carried proteins. The diagram in Fig. 12B shows 324 common proteins, 32 (10%) specific to the MM.1S vesicles and 13 (4%) distinctive of U266. Among the 324 common proteins, 125 showed a different enrichment between EVs derived from U266 and MM.1S, as indicated by the clustering analysis on Fig. 12C.



**Fig. 12. Differences in protein contents in between MM cells and secreted EVs.**  
 A) B) Venn graphic representation of the protein distribution between A) cells and secreted EVs, or B) U266 Vs MM.1S EVs.  
 C) Hierarchical clustering of proteins differentially expressed between EVs secreted by MM.1S and U266.

One of the possible explanations for these differences can be attributed to the different amount of the same kind of proteins in the different parental cells that secreted the EVs, MM.1S and U266.

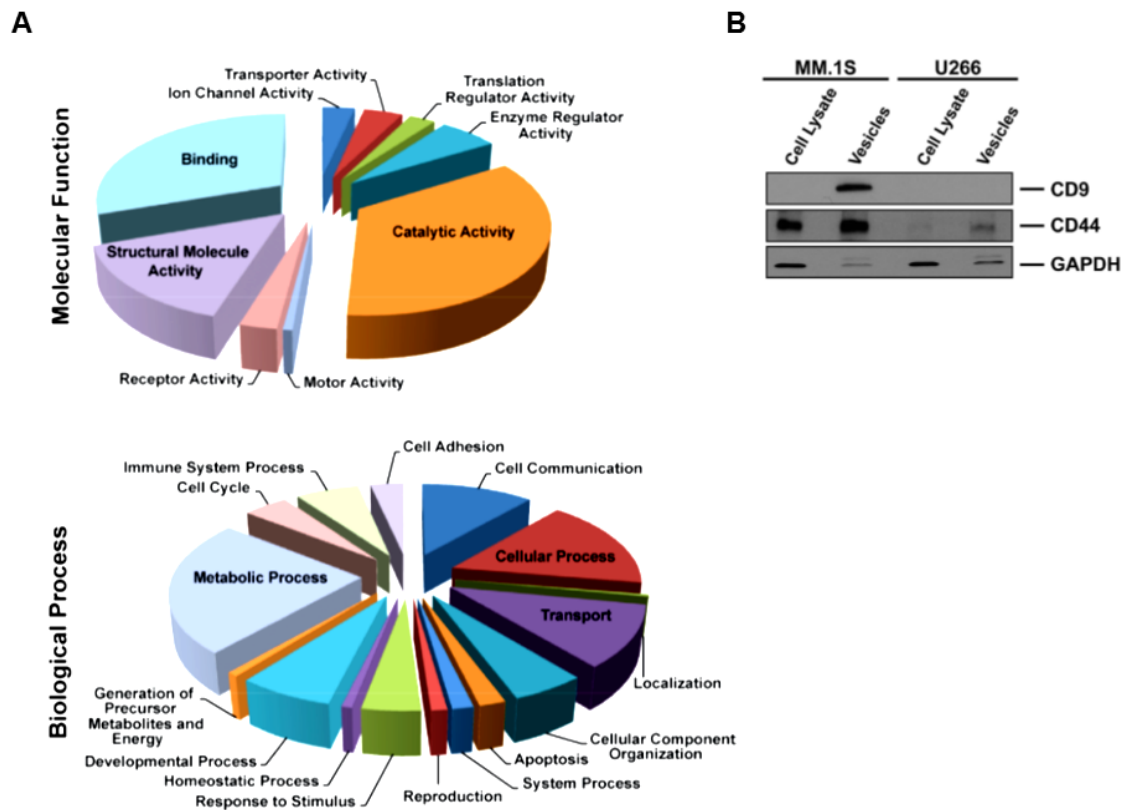
Interestingly, some of the proteins carried by the EVs resulted enriched compared the cells of origin, such as CD44 and CD9 (Fig. 12C).

Of note, the obtained data set was in agreement with the previously published protein database from the same MM cell lines and with recent proteomic studies on EVs [45,78,236]. Overall, excluding some exceptions, what we found into the EVs was mostly representative of the protein contents, either qualitative or quantitative, into the different kinds of MM cells of origin.

I focused my attention on proteins that were enriched in the MM-EVs compared to the protein set derived from the cells of origin (Appendix). Using the bioinformatics tool “PANTHER” we analyzed the protein distribution based on the gene ontological classification. To simplify, the results have been divided in molecular functions (Fig. 13A, above) and biological processes (Fig. 13A, below). Our data indicated a wide range of molecular processes and biological functions, but the majority of the discovered proteins were involved in catalytic activity and metabolic processes and they were the most variable in terms of quantity between the different kinds of EVs, suggesting a possible correlation with the characteristics of parental cell lines that produced and secreted them.

Finally, to corroborate the results obtained by mass spectrometry, I validated by western blotting the enrichment of CD9 in EVs secreted by MM.1S compared to the cells of origin, the CD44 and GAPDH enrichment in both kinds of MM-EVs compared to the MM cells contents. Overall, the western blotting confirmed the differences documented in the LC-MS/MS analysis, including differential protein abundances within EVs-EVs and EVs-cells (Fig. 13B).

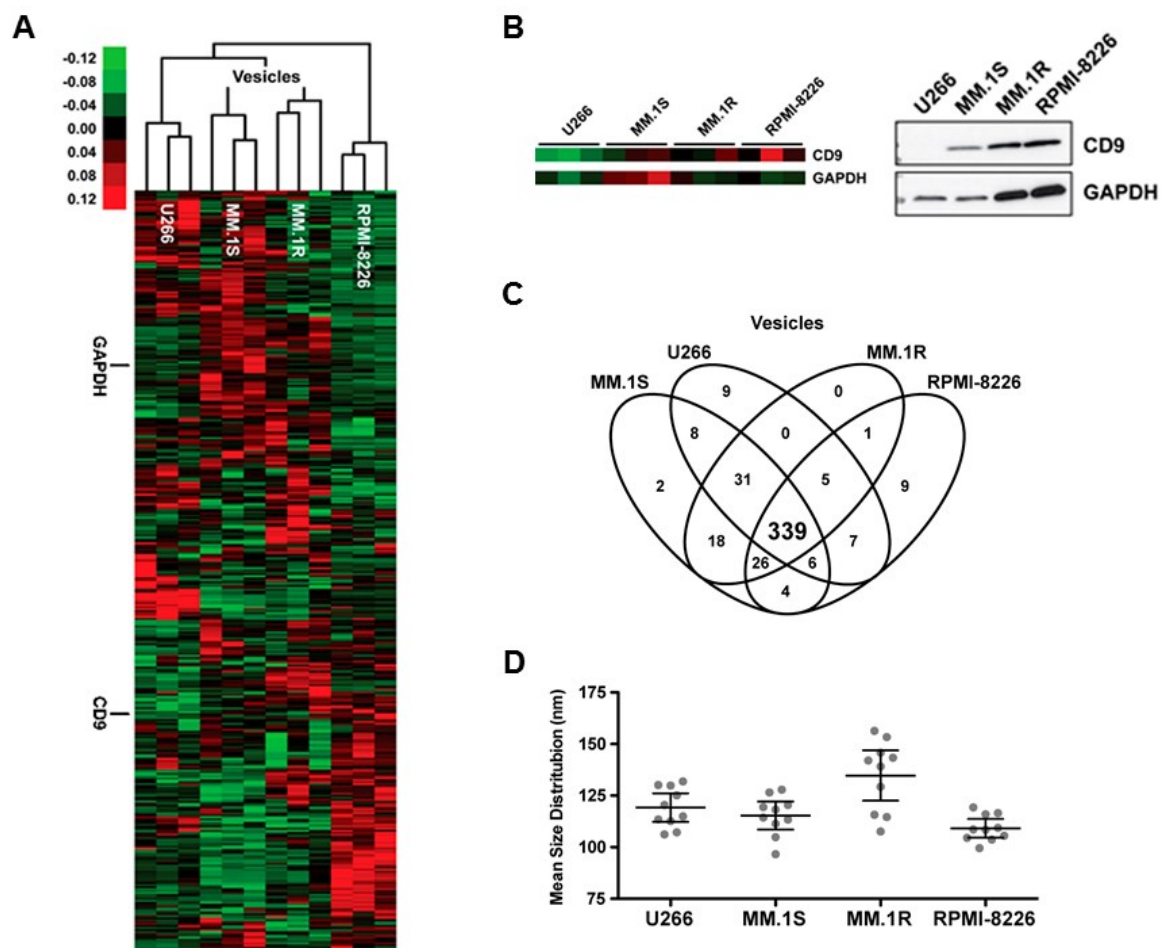




**Fig. 13. Protein differentially expressed between EVs and EVs-cells, A) Pie chart of the PANTHER analysis shows differences in molecular function (above) and involvement in biological processes (below) in MM.1S-EVs Vs U266-EVs. B) Differential expression of CD9, CD44, GAPDH between EVs and parental cells determined by western blotting.**

Furthermore, to characterize the differences in vesicles size and protein contents, the study has been extended to the comparison of the mass spectrometry results obtained from 2 additional MM cell lines, MM.1R and RPMI8226 (Fig. 14). Altogether, the four parental cell types were dissimilar in terms of growth rate, *in vitro* adhesion and resistance to Dexamethasone. Indeed, MM.1R grows in adhesion as well as MM.1S, while U266 and RPMI8226 in suspension. Notably, regarding the resistance to the treatment with Dexamethasone, MM.1R is the most resistant, MM.1S and U266 are moderately sensitive, and RPMI8226 is very sensitive. The results showed: a similarity in EVs size (even if MM.1R are more heterogeneous and bigger in size, and RPMI8226 has the lower size) (Fig. 14D), a cohort of 339 common proteins (Fig. 14C) expressed in all different kinds of MM-EVs with few peculiar exemptions (complete data set

available in the supplementary material of paper # 1 at the paragraph LIST OF PUBLICATIONS DURING THE PhD), and the hierarchical clustering clearly indicated quantitative differences in expression of common proteins such as the CD9 and GAPDH (Fig. 14A and B).

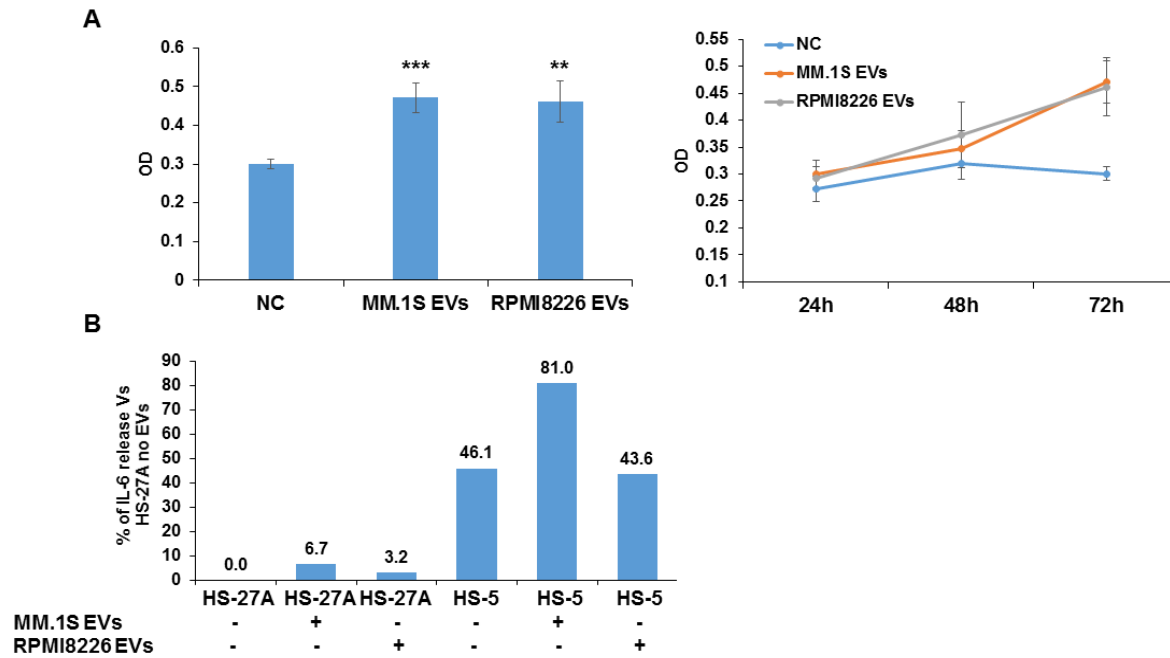


**Fig. 14. Differences in protein contents between cell lines and in vitro secreted MM-EVs.** A) Hierarchical clustering of proteins differentially expressed between EVs secreted from U266, MM.1S, MM.1R, and RPMI8226. B) Western blotting analysis of the CD9 and GAPDH expression in MM-EVs. C) Venn graphic representation of the protein distribution among all the secreted MM-EVs. D) Nanosight analysis of the size distribution of U266, MM.1S, MM.1R, and RPMI8226 EVs.

## **4.2 The *in vitro* activity of the MM-EVs on MM and BM cells**

Numerous studies have already demonstrated the biological effect of the EVs on the target cells in different kinds of solid and soft tumors [51-72]. It is also well known the supportive effect of the tumor microenvironment on the Multiple myeloma through the IL6 release (necessary for the tumor growth, drug resistance and survival) [25,95-97], and the crosstalk mediated by EVs may have effect on both MM and BM cells. First of all, to assess the *in vitro* biological consequence of secreted Multiple Myeloma-EVs, I evaluated their effect on proliferation in MM.1S cells performing a WST-1 assay. Briefly, cells were seeded in a 96 well plate and treated the following day with fresh isolated EVs derived from MM.1S or RPMI8226 cells with a 1:50 ratio (cells:EVs). The increase of proliferation was visible after 48h, with the maximum effect achieved upon 72h of treatment with both kinds of EVs (Fig. 15A), as compared to the untreated control ( $p=0.0002$  for MM.1S EVs,  $p=0.0011$  for RPMI8226 EVs).

To assess if the MM-EVs were able to induce BM cell lines to release IL6, I treated HS-5 and HS-27A (derived from human bone marrow/stroma, morphologically classified as fibroblasts) with EVs isolated from MM.1S and RPMI8226 for 24h (1:50 ratio). The major difference between the two BM-derived cell lines is the secretion of cytokines, which is very low in HS-27A, and normal in HS-5. After 24h of incubation, the supernatant was recovered, depleted of cellular debris and used to quantify the release of IL6 by Elisa. The data, normalized on the basal IL6 production by the untreated HS-27A, showed an increase of IL6 secretion upon treatment of HS-5 with MM.1S EVs and no effect was observed with the RPMI8226-derived EVs (Fig. 15B), compared to the untreated control. This important result demonstrates the capacity of MM-EVs of stimulating proliferation on MM cells, and selectively promoting IL6 release in BM cells (depending on the nature of MM parental cells). Of note, MM.1S-EVs showed the ability to promote proliferation and to stimulate the IL6 release, whereas RPMI8226 were able to promote the MM proliferation but had no effect on cytokines production and secretion in BM cells. Our data further confirm that qualitative differences in proteins carried by MM-EVs may be used for screening of circulating MM biomarkers and have different impact on the target cells.

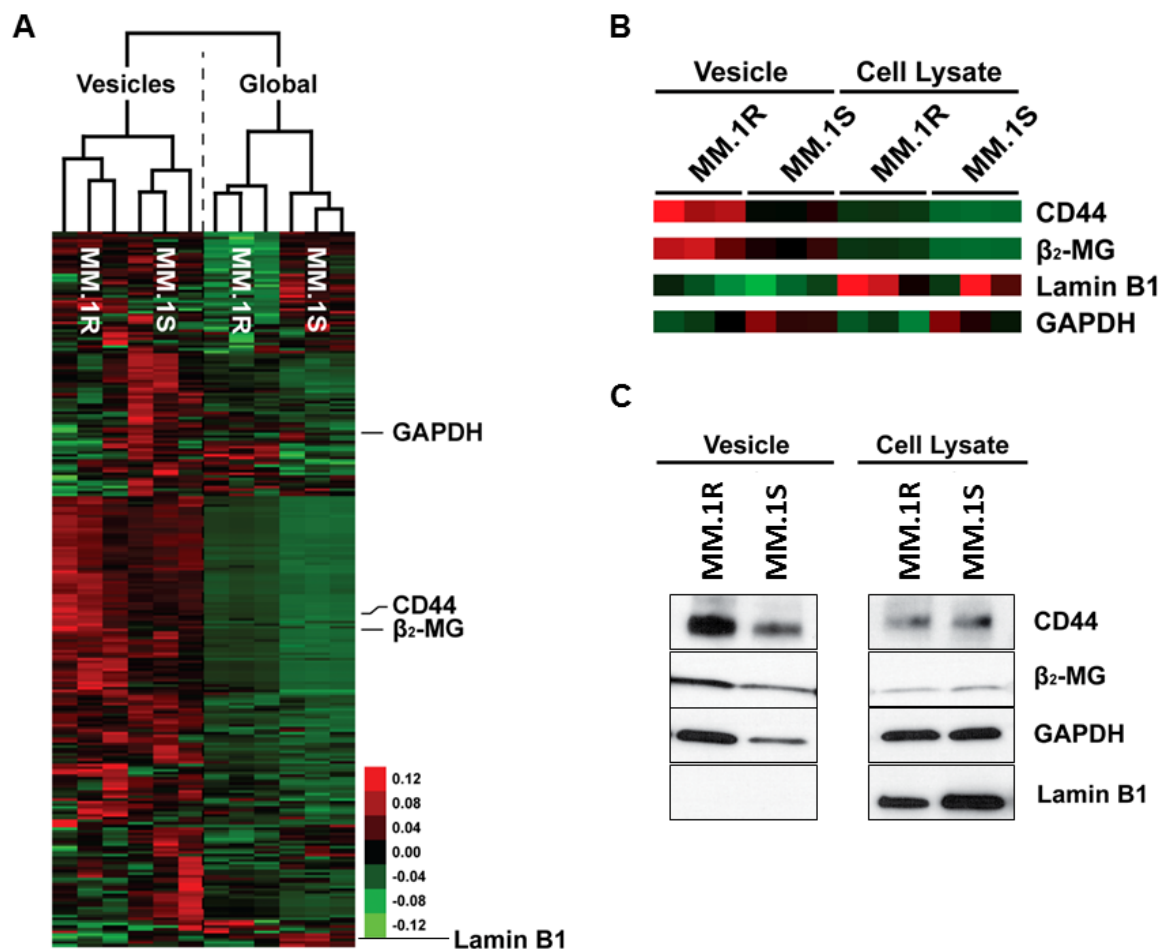


**Fig. 15. MM-EVs effect on MM and BM cells.** A) WST-1 assay on MM.1S cells treated for 72h (left) or for 24,48 and 72h (right) with MM.1S and RPMI8226-derived EVs, ratio cells-EVs 1:50.  $p=0.0002$  for MM.1S cells treated with MM.1S EVs for 72h,  $p=0.0011$  for MM.1S treated with RPMI8226 EVs for 72h. B) Quantitation by Elisa of IL6 secreted by HS-27A and HS-5 cells upon 24h of treatment with MM.1S or RPMI8226 EVs. Ratio cells-EVs 1:50. Data are expressed in % of secreted IL6 normalized to the amount of IL6 released by untreated HS-27A cells (baseline).

### 4.3 Potential association between CD44 enrichment in EVs and drug resistance in MM

One of the peculiar characteristics related to the MM cells is the resistance to the treatment with Dexamethasone. For example, MM.1R and MM.1S are resistant and sensitive to the treatment with this chemotherapeutic agent, respectively. Using a proteomic approach to the one already described, we tried to investigate if the difference in drug resistance was in some way influencing also the protein contents of the extracellular vesicles. Fig. 16A and B display the clustering of proteins differentially expressed between EVs secreted by MM.1S and MM.1R. Among them, two of the most enriched protein carried by MM.1R-EVs compared to MM.1S-EVs were the transmembrane glycoprotein CD44 and the prognostic factor  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin. Interestingly, no differences were measured in the CD44 protein levels in the lysates

coming from both MM.1S and MM.1R, also confirmed by immunoblotting analysis as shown in Fig. 16C. To further corroborate these results, differences in GAPDH contents and absence of Lamin B1 was established in EVs compared to the parental cells, as confirmed by the western blotting (Fig. 16C). Notably, CD44 is an adhesion molecule that interacts with the hyaluronic acid in the extracellular matrix and it has been already associated with drug resistance in several kinds of tumors [148,151-155,157,237].



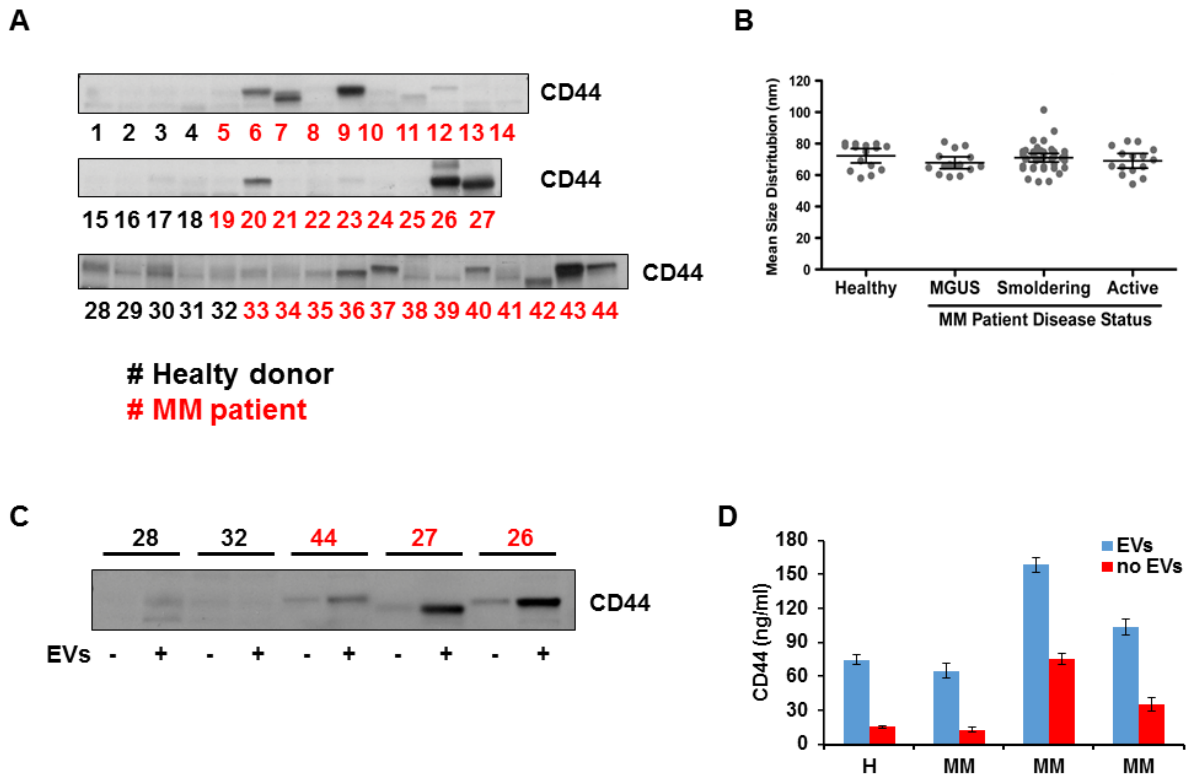
**Fig. 16. Comparison between protein cargo in MM.1R and MM.1S EVs.** A) B) Hierarchical clustering of proteins differentially expressed between MM.1S and MM.1R EVs and cells. B) Western blotting analysis of the CD44,  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin ( $\beta_2$ -MG), GAPDH and Lamin B1 expression in MM-EVs.

#### **4.4 Circulating CD44 as new prognostic factor in MM**

Evidences of the role of CD44 in drug resistance mechanisms convinced us to investigate the EVs circulating in peripheral blood of newly diagnosed MM patients. More than 300 serum samples collected from newly diagnosed MM patients were available under IRB protocols at The Ohio State University, and I first checked the CD44 status in 31 of these samples and in 13 healthy donors by immunoblotting. The blots in Fig. 17A showed variability in protein contents and the expression of different CD44 variants patient-dependent. Overall, the CD44 expression in MM patients was higher than healthy donors. Of note, only the MM patients carried different CD44 isoforms, confirming the presence of variants related to the gene-aberrant splicing as already demonstrated in several tumors [238]. Using the nanosight technology, a novel flow cytometry application principally dedicated to the measurement of size and concentration of micro and nanoparticles in liquids, we tried to determine if there were differences in EVs size between healthy donors (H) and patients (MM), who were divided in MGUS, SMM, and Active MM (Fig. 17B). Interestingly, the EVs size were homogeneous in dimensions across all the different kinds of patients, around 75nm, but smaller compared to the *in vitro* study previously done on MM continuous cell lines (Fig. 14D).

To determine whether CD44 circulating in the peripheral blood was preferentially carried by EVs or not, I depleted the EVs from 2 healthy and 3 MM serum samples already tested and performed a CD44 western blotting. As shown in Fig. 17C, the EVs depletion induced a strong reduction of circulating CD44. Furthermore, to validate what previously discovered, I measured the quantity of CD44 by Elisa in the same kind of samples before and after EVs depletion and, as shown in Fig. 17D, the downregulation of the circulating CD44 upon vesicles-depletion was confirmed. Of note, the CD44 was not completely removed after EVs depletion. In my opinion, the residual CD44 after EVs depletion could be ascribed to the limits of the EVs isolation technique in high concentrated and dense biological fluids such as serum samples.

Based on these results, we decided to evaluate the potential implication of CD44 as a MM circulating biomarker. I measured CD44 levels on serum samples collected from a large cohort of newly diagnosed MM patients who were uniformly treated, and subsequently I matched the circulating CD44 levels with clinical data.

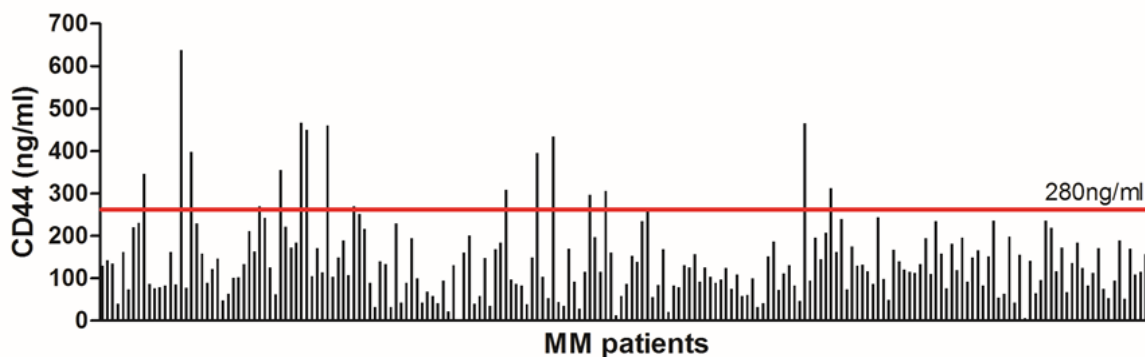


**Fig. 17. Circulating CD44 in MM and Healthy donors.** A) Western blotting analysis of the CD44 expression in 13 healthy (Black) and 31 MM patients (Red) serum samples. B) Determination of EVs size in Heathy, MGUS, SMM and Active MM patients by nanosight technology. C) Immunoblotting assay of CD44 expression in serum samples collected from 2 healthy donors (Black) and 3 MM patients (red) before and after EVs depletion. D) CD44 quantitation by Elisa of 1 healthy donor (#28) and 3 MM (#44, 27, 26) patient samples before and after EVs depletion.

The quantification of the circulating CD44 was then preformed in 202 newly diagnosed MM serum samples and 13 healthy controls (data not shown). The results (Fig. 18) showed a high variability of circulating CD44 in MM patients, with no visible trend as compared to the analyzed 13 healthy controls. Also, the differences in average of CD44 levels between MM patients (143.0 ng/ml) and healthy donor (166.8 ng/ml) was deficient in statistical significance. However, MM patients showed a wider range of CD44 levels (6.43-637.51ng/ml) as compared to the range of the normal controls (235.69-122.32 ng/ml).

Matching the results on CD44 with the clinical data of the patients, the circulating CD44 in serum isolated from the peripheral blood, for the majority carried by the EVs, correlated with the ISS stage ( $p=0.0049$ ), the percentage of bone marrow plasmacells

( $p=0.038$ ), and 2 prognostic factors:  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin ( $p=0.0136$ ) and creatinine ( $p < 0.0001$ ) [239].



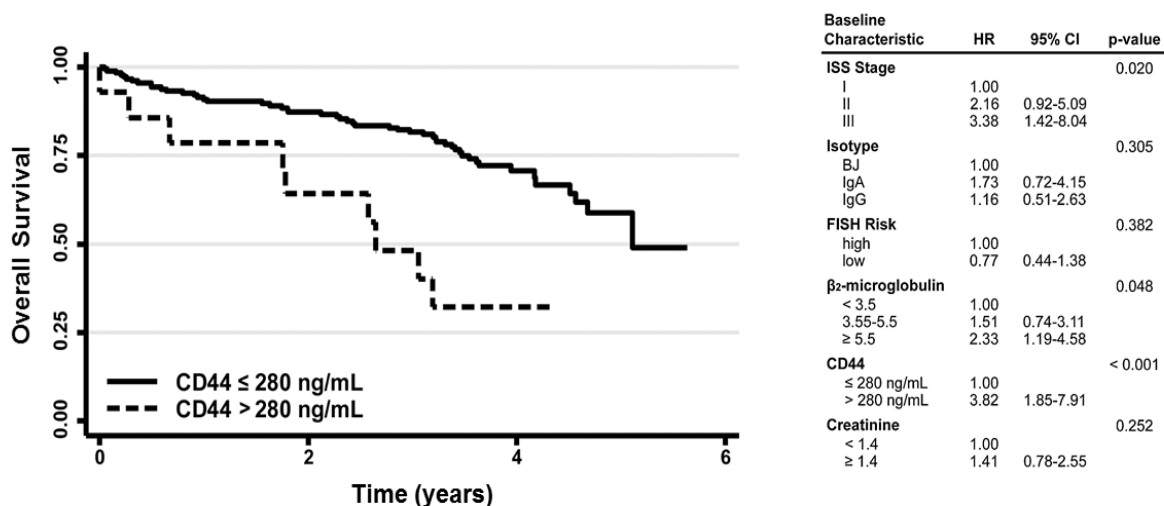
	ISS Stage	$\beta_2$ -microglobulin	Creatinin	% BM plasmacells
Number of XY Pairs	163	170	202	161
p value (two-tailed)	0.0049	0.0136	<0.0001	0.038
p value summary	**	*	***	*

**Fig. 18. Circulating CD44 in peripheral blood of newly diagnosed Multiple Myeloma patients.** Above) measurement of CD44 in plasma samples collected from 202 MM newly diagnosed patients. Below) statistical correlations between circulating CD44 and clinical data.

Outcome prediction is mostly based on the International Staging System (ISS) and the presence of specific fluorescent *in-situ* hybridization abnormalities. However, additional biomarkers are necessary for a better estimation. To address this question, we extended the measurement of the serum CD44 levels to a larger cohort of newly diagnosed 233 patients who were uniformly treated and followed, correlating serum CD44 levels with clinical outcome to test their prognostic impact in a multivariate model [240]. We classified these patients in two groups, with higher (or equal) and lower than 280ng/ml CD44 levels. Among the newly diagnosed patients analyzed in a multivariate model for CD44, 87 died during the follow up with a five-year overall survival of 56.6% (95% CI: 44.8%-66.8%). Moreover, an increased risk of death was associated with augmented ISS stage, elevated  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin and high CD44 levels in serum. Additionally, the risk of death increased significantly when CD44 was greater than the maximum value of 280ng/mL after adjusting for age and stage (ratio: 3.00, 95% CI: 1.36-6.45). (Fig. 19). These data indicate the potential of MM-EVs as biomarkers cargo,



the role of the circulating CD44 as a new prognostic factor in MM and its importance for tumor survival.

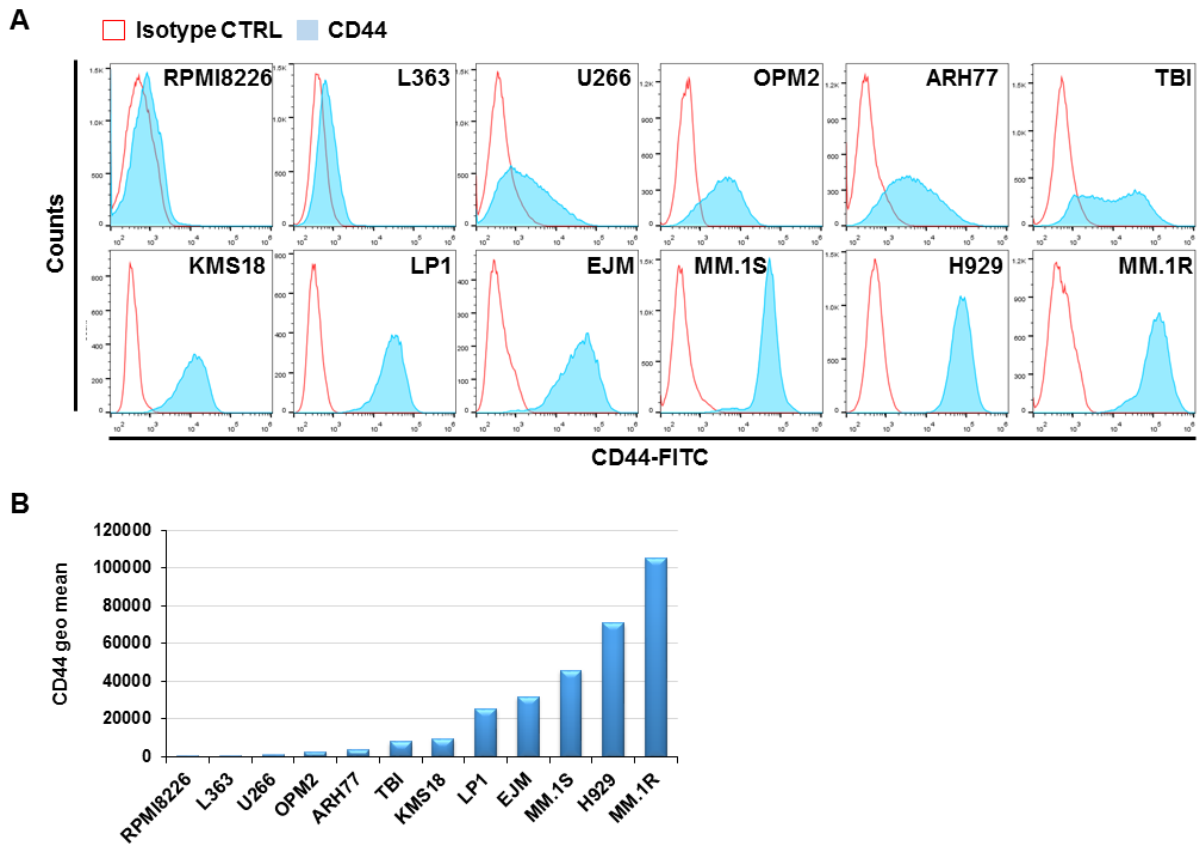


**Fig. 19. Circulating CD44 and Overall Survival in MM.** Kaplan and Meyer representation of the OS in MM patients shared between low (<280ng/ml) and high (≥280ng/ml) circulating CD44. Table represent the statistical multivariate analysis for the overall survival.

#### 4.5 In vitro CD44 expression in MM

To support the importance of the CD44 in Multiple Myeloma, in 2014 Bjorklund et al. published a paper where the strong association between Dexamethasone-Lenalidomide resistance and CD44 expression in MM has been clearly demonstrated for the first time [241].

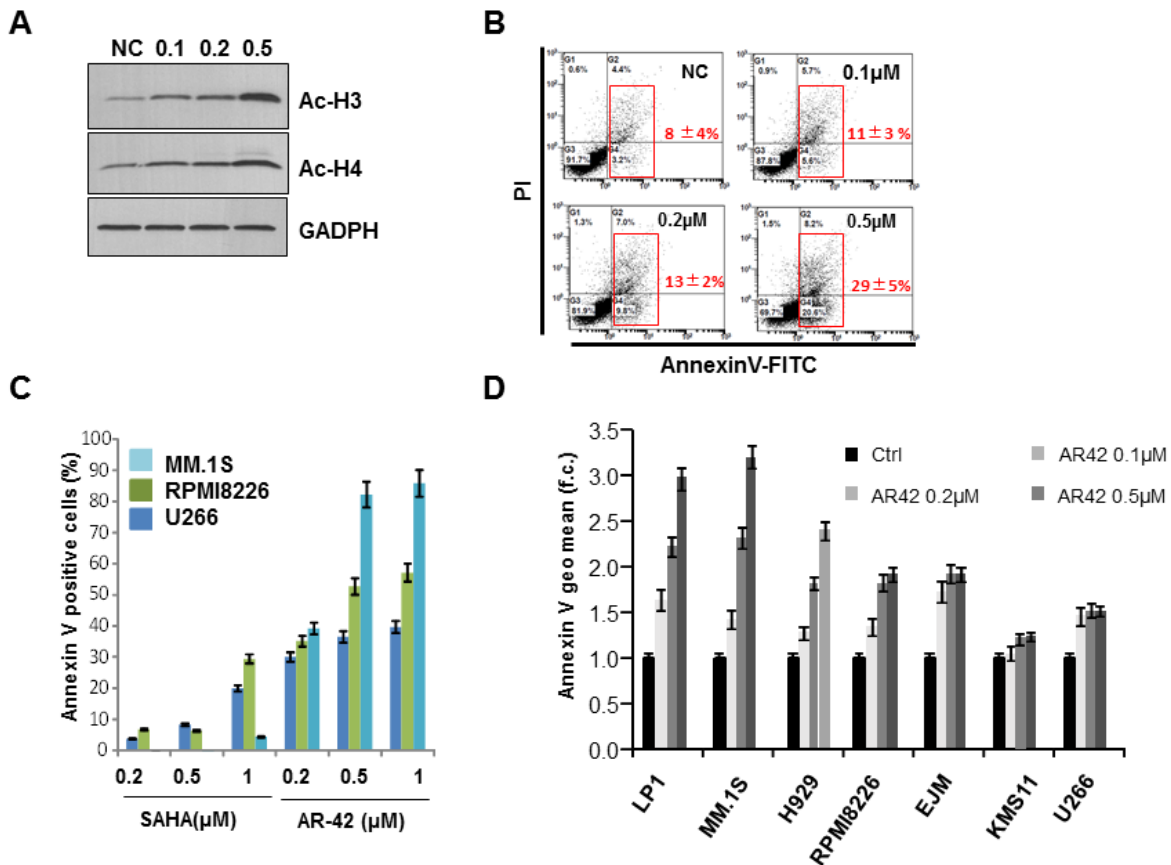
In preparation to the investigation of drugs combination for improving the drug resistance sensitivity in MM, I screened by flow cytometry the CD44 expression on the surface of twelve MM cell lines. The results showed a heterogeneous CD44 expression between different cell lines (Fig. 20). In particular, RPMI8226 and L363 have only traces of superficial CD44 while MM.1S, H929 and MM.1R were the cell lines showing the highest expression of CD44. Notably, the majority of the MM cell lines tested are sensitive to Dexamethasone, and MM.1R, which is the most resistant is also the one with the highest CD44 expression.



**Fig. 20. CD44 expression in MM cell lines.** A) Flow cytometry analysis of the CD44 expression in 12 different MM cell lines. B) CD44 geo mean normalized by the isotype control.

#### 4.6 HDACi AR42 promotes histone acetylation and apoptosis in MM

To test *in vitro* the efficacy of the pan-HDAC inhibitor AR42 in Multiple Myeloma, I used sub lethal and clinically achievable concentrations of AR42 (0.1-0.2 $\mu$ M for up to 24h) to study the changes in Histone acetylation and the apoptosis inducement in MM.1S cells. Under these conditions, hyperacetylation of histones 3 and 4 was detected (Fig. 21A), but apoptosis after 24h of treatment (measured by AnnexinV-PI staining and flow cytometry) was not relevant (Fig. 21B). The experiment was then repeated on several MM cells lines with different concentrations of AR42 and 48 hour of incubation. As already reported for other cancers, including B-cell malignancies [242], an *in vitro* apoptotic activity was observed in MM cells treated with AR42 (as compared to SAHA) after 48h of treatment (Figure 21C) and the amount of apoptosis in other MM cell lines showed a dose dependent apoptotic activity after 48h of treatment (Fig. 21D).



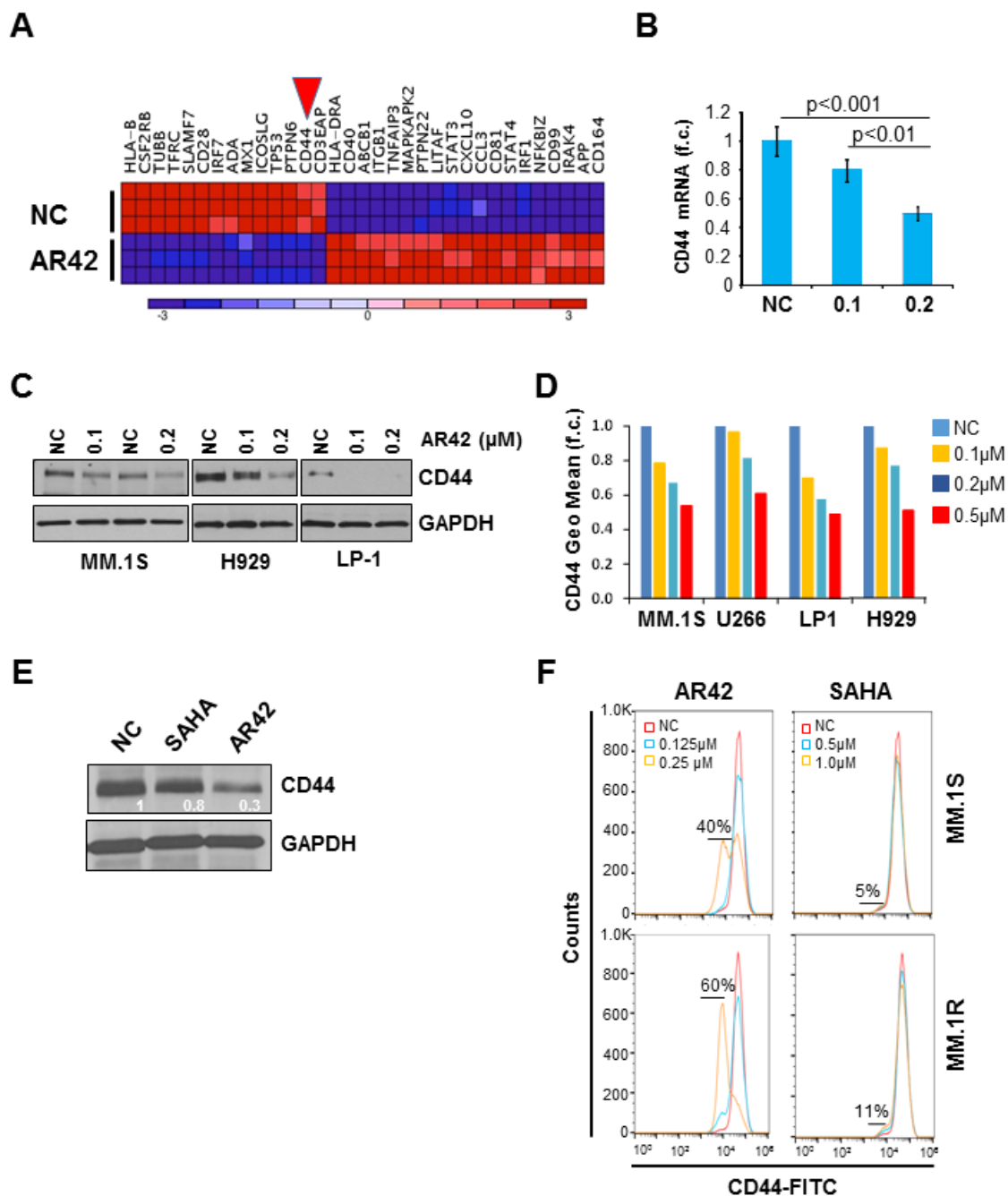
**Fig. 21. AR42 induces Histone hyper-acetylation and apoptosis in MM.** A) Acetylated H3 and H4 protein form assessed by western blotting in MM.1S cells after 24h of treatment with AR42. GAPDH was used as loading control. B) AnnexinV-PI measure by flow cytometry on MM.1S cells treated with AR42 for 24h. C) Percentage of MM cells positive to AnnexinV after treatment with AR42 for 48h. D) AnnexinV expression assessed by flow cytometry in different MM cell lines after 48h of AR42 treatment as indicated. Data are expressed as fold change compared to the untreated control.

#### 4.7 In vitro and in vivo CD44 downregulation by HDACi AR42 in Multiple Myeloma

Based on the strong immunomodulatory activity associated with classical pan-HDACi [243], we investigated if AR42 treatment was also able to alter immunology-related gene networks in MM cells. The expression of 511 human genes was analyzed in MM.1S cells after 24h of treatment with AR42, using nCounter technology. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis identified two distinct branches corresponding to treated and untreated cells (Fig. 22), and the expression of several immunology-related genes were strongly altered by AR42 (genes with altered expression after AR42 treatment and p value <0.0001 are listed in Table 2).

Interestingly, CD44 was one of the most significantly downregulated gene upon treatment ( $p < 0.001$ ). As already discussed, we decided to focus our investigation on the regulation of the CD44 expression based on its involvement in cell adhesion mediated drug resistance (CAM-DR) [151,244,245], in particular to Lenalidomide [241] in MM. The result obtained with nCounter was validated by q-RT-PCR, confirming that CD44 mRNA levels were significantly downregulated by AR42 in a dose-dependent manner as compared to vehicle control (DMSO) (figure 22B). The downregulation of CD44 was also demonstrated by Western blotting (Fig. 22C) and flow cytometry (Fig. 22D) in different MM cell lines with detectable CD44 levels. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 22E and F, we found that AR42 has a stronger capacity to downregulate CD44 as compared to Vorinostat (SAHA, first pan-HDACi FDA approved), when the drugs were used at comparable  $IC_{50}$  concentrations (AR42  $0.2\mu\text{M}$ , SAHA  $1.0\mu\text{M}$ ).

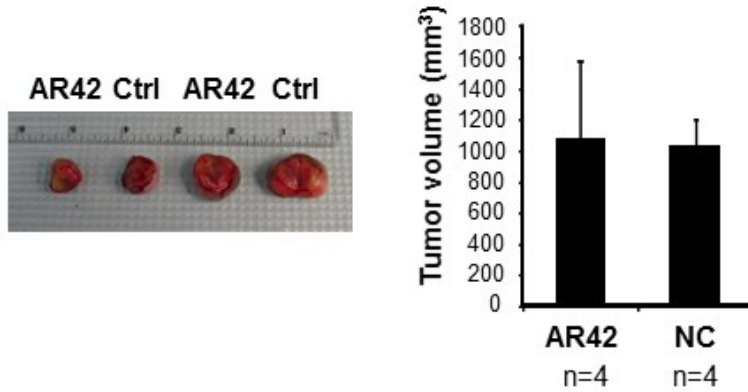
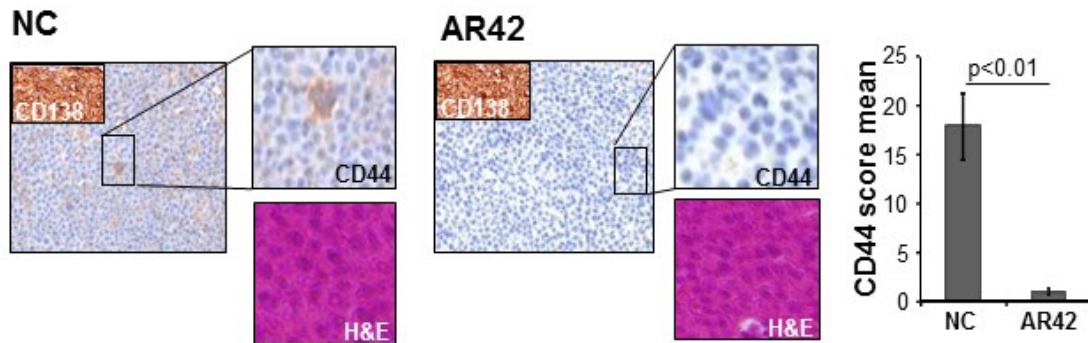
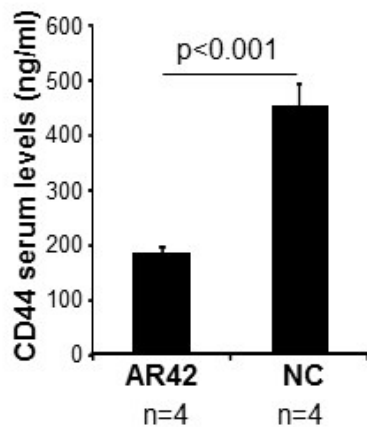
To investigate if the AR42 treatment could affect CD44 expression *in vivo*, our group has created a xenograft MM mouse model by subcutaneous injection of  $1 \times 10^7$  MM.1S viable cells into the right flank of 12 NOD-SCID mice. After three weeks, 8 mice that developed a tumor of comparable size ( $250 \pm 60 \text{ mm}^3$ ) were selected and randomly divided into 2 groups. One group of mice ( $n=4$ ) was intra-peritoneally injected with  $25\text{mg/kg}$  AR42, while the second group ( $n=4$ ) was treated in the same way with vehicle control (8% DMSO in PBS, NC). The treatment was performed twice within one week (on Monday and Wednesday). As AR42 efficacy in cancer has been previously reported in preclinical mouse studies [242], to avoid tumor size reduction, mice were euthanized 2 days after the second injection. At this stage the tumors, still comparable in size between experimental animal groups (Fig. 23A), were excised and used for CD44 immunohistochemistry (IHC) analysis, while the serum was collected and used for CD44 ELISA assays. IHC of tumor sections revealed that the mice treated with AR42 exhibited lower CD44 staining compared with the control group (Fig. 23B) and the circulating CD44 measured in serum samples reduced after AR42 treatment (Fig. 23C). Taken together, these data demonstrate that AR42 induces CD44 downregulation in MM either *in vitro* or *in vivo*.



**Fig. 22. AR42 induces CD44 downregulation in vitro in MM.** A) Dendrogram of the unsupervised Hierarchical clustering analysis of nCounter® GX Human Immunology assays in MM.1S cells treated with 0.1  $\mu$ M AR42 for 24h. B) CD44 mRNA expression measured by qRT-PCR in RNA from MM.1S cells treated for 24h with 0.1 or 0.2  $\mu$ M AR42. C) CD44 protein expression in MM.1S, H929, and LP1 cells treated with AR42 at 0.1 and 0.2  $\mu$ M for 24h. D) CD44 downregulation analyzed by flow cytometry in MM cell lines after 0.1, 0.2, and 0.5  $\mu$ M AR42 treatment for 48h. Data are expressed as geo mean fold change compared to the untreated control. E) CD44 expression evaluated by immunoblotting in MM.1S cells treated with 1  $\mu$ M SAHA or 0.2  $\mu$ M AR42 for 48h. White numbers indicate fold change of the densitometric analysis of the CD44 expression compared to the untreated control (NC). F) CD44 expression measured by flow cytometry in MM.1S and MM.1R cell lines after treatment with 0.125, 0.25  $\mu$ M AR42 or 0.5, 1  $\mu$ M SAHA for 48h. C) E) GAPDH was used as a loading control.

<b>Gene ID</b>	<b>log2_Fold Change AR-42 vs. Ctrl</b>
<b>IRF7</b>	<b>-4.15</b>
<b>CD3EAP</b>	<b>-3.60</b>
<b>ICOSLG</b>	<b>-2.09</b>
<b>TFRC</b>	<b>-1.12</b>
<b>MX1</b>	<b>-1.04</b>
<b>CSF2RB</b>	<b>-1.02</b>
<b>PTPN6</b>	<b>-0.93</b>
<b>ADA</b>	<b>-0.75</b>
<b>TUBB</b>	<b>-0.73</b>
<b>TP53</b>	<b>-0.63</b>
<b>SLAMF7</b>	<b>-0.60</b>
<b>CD44</b>	<b>-0.50</b>
<b>CD28</b>	<b>-0.38</b>
<b>HLA-B</b>	<b>-0.10</b>
<b>HLA-DRA</b>	<b>0.14</b>
<b>APP</b>	<b>0.17</b>
<b>CD164</b>	<b>0.33</b>
<b>CD99</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>IRF1</b>	<b>0.51</b>
<b>STAT3</b>	<b>0.53</b>
<b>TNFAIP3</b>	<b>0.60</b>
<b>LITAF</b>	<b>0.64</b>
<b>ITGB1</b>	<b>0.79</b>
<b>MAPKAPK2</b>	<b>0.85</b>
<b>IRAK4</b>	<b>0.89</b>
<b>CCL3</b>	<b>1.19</b>
<b>NFKBIZ</b>	<b>1.43</b>
<b>STAT4</b>	<b>1.95</b>
<b>PTPN22</b>	<b>2.20</b>
<b>CD40</b>	<b>2.32</b>
<b>CXCL10</b>	<b>2.49</b>
<b>CD81</b>	<b>5.44</b>
<b>ABCB1</b>	<b>5.57</b>

**Table 2. Immunology-related genes differentially expressed in MM.1S cells after AR-42 treatment.** Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis of nCounter® GX Human Immunology assays on MM.1S cells treated with AR42 0.1µM for 24h. Data are represented as immunology-related gene-expression fold change over control with p value <0.0001.

**A****B****C**

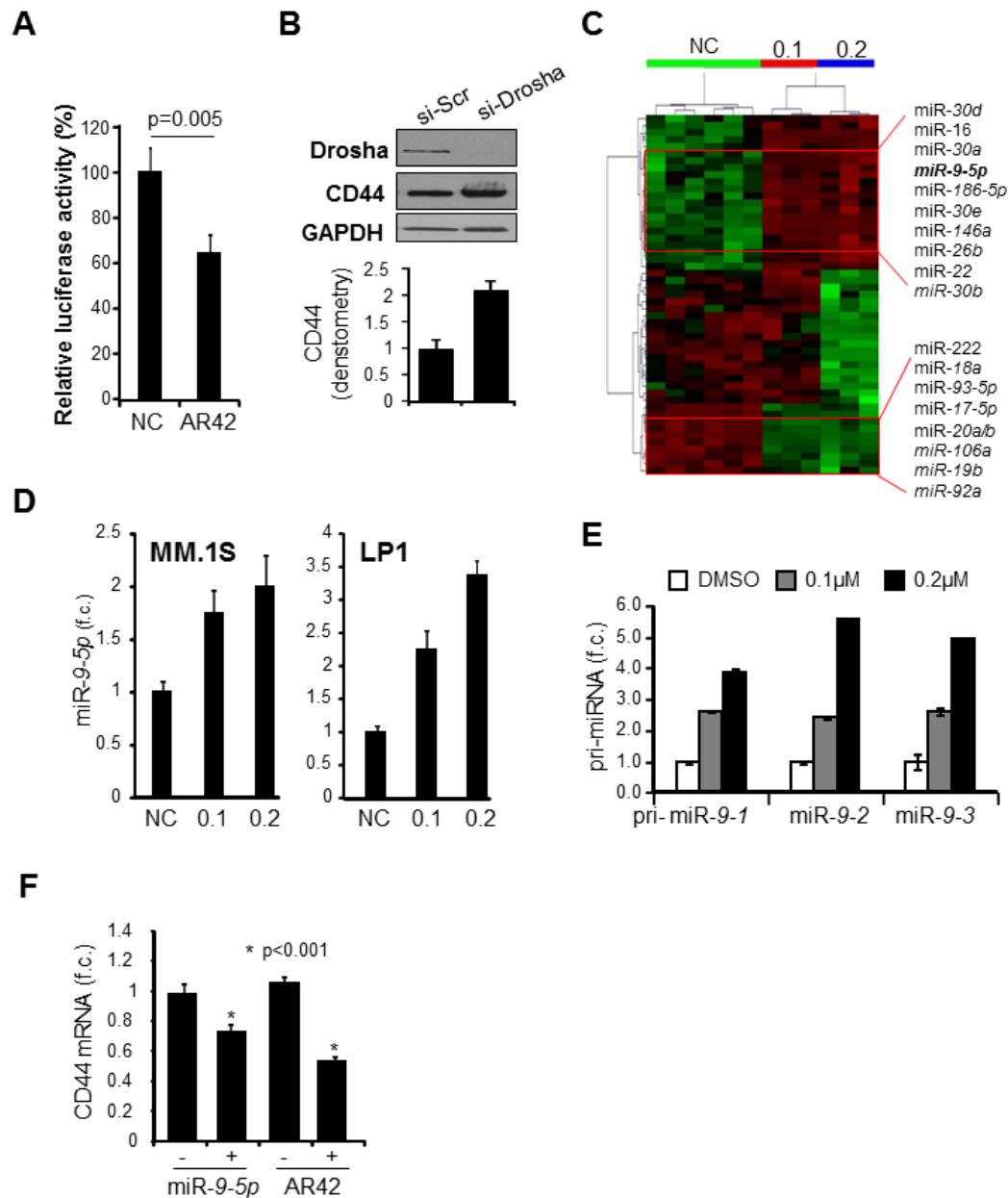
**Fig. 23. AR42 downregulates CD44 in vivo.** A) 4 mice/group with comparable subcutaneous tumor size ( $250 \pm 60$  mm<sup>3</sup>) were treated 2 times (every 48h) with 25mg/kg AR42 or DMSO by IP injection: after 2 days tumors were collected and measured. B) CD44, CD138 and H&E staining of tumor sections after AR42 or vehicle treatment. On the right side CD44 score based on the brown intensity. C) Circulating CD44 measurement in serum sample collected from mice after AR42 or vehicle treatment.

#### **4.8 AR42 induces CD44 downregulation through miR-9-5p and IGF2BP3**

We hypothesized that AR42 could transcriptionally activate the promoter(s) of miRNAs that regulate CD44 expression. To address that, we used a reporter construct in which the 3' untranslated region (UTR) of CD44 (1.3 kb) was cloned downstream of the SV40 promoter-driven luciferase gene and we transiently transfected the resulting reporter plasmid into MM.1S cells. Additionally, an empty reporter construct was used (EV) as negative control (NC). We demonstrated that incubation with 0.2 $\mu$ M AR42 for 24 hours promoted nearly 35% of decrease in luciferase activity, as compared with untreated controls (figure 24A). Since RNA ribonuclease Drosha is extremely important and necessary during the initial steps of microRNA processing [246], we tested the effect of Drosha knock-down on CD44 expression using specific siRNA. CD44 protein expression augmented almost 2-fold when the microprocessor protein Drosha was silenced in MM cells (figure 24B). Therefore, these results support the hypothesis that the CD44 downregulation induced by AR42 is mediated by CD44 3'UTR and it may involve upregulation of microRNA(s).

To identify the miRNAs potentially influenced by the AR42 treatment in MM, we performed a full-spectrum analysis of miRNA levels using NanoString technology [247] with a set of probes to test the expression of more than 800 human miRNAs. The array analysis of global miRNA expression was performed on RNA from MM.1S cells grown in the presence or absence of AR42 at different concentrations (0.1 and 0.2 $\mu$ M) for 24 hours. Data were then used to generate an unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis that produced a dendrogram of segregated miRNAs based on treatment and dose (figure 24C). We found that 45 miRNAs were significantly differentially expressed between AR42 treated and untreated cells, and between them, 25 were downregulated more than 2-fold and 20 were upregulated (Table 3). Since we were interested in defining the mechanism by which AR42 was able to reduce CD44 expression via microRNA(s), we focused our attention on the miRs upregulated by the treatment. Stem-loop qRT-PCR (qRT-PCR) analyses on RNA isolated from various MM cell lines (MM.1S and LP1) revealed that *miR-9-5p* was significantly upregulated in a dose-dependent manner (figure 24D).





**Fig. 24. AR42 treatment induce miR-9-5p upregulation.** A) Luciferase gene reported assay in MM.1S cells transiently transfected with pGL3-CD44 3'UTR construct and treated with 0.2μM AR42 for 24h, or vehicle (NC). B) RNA silencing for Drosha (si-Drosha) in MM.1S cells for 48h. Drosha and CD44 expression has been assessed by immunoblotting. GAPDH was used as loading control. C) Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis of miRNA expression in MM.1S cells treated with 0.1 and 0.2μM AR42 for 24h using NanoString technology. Indicated are a selection of most up- (upper) and down- (lower) regulated miRNAs. D) miR-9-5p expression by qRT-PCR in MM.1S and LP1 cells after treatment with AR42 (μM) for 24h. E) qRT-PCR of pri-miR-9-1, 9-2, 9-3 after AR42 treatment (μM) for 24h on MM.1S cells. F) U266 cells transfected with miR-9-5p, or negative control miR precursor, for 48h and the expression of CD44 mRNA assessed by qRT-PCR. U266 treated for 48h with 0.2μM AR42, or negative control were also included.

Human *miR-9-5p* is encoded by three distinct genomic loci, primary (*pri*) -*miR-9-1* on chromosome 1 (q22), *pri-miR-9-2* on chromosome 5 (q14.3), and *pri-miR-9-3* on chromosome 15 (q26.1). First of all I wanted to assess if there was a specific locus accountable for *miR-9-5p* up-regulation in response to AR42. Quantitative RT-PCR showed dose dependent changes in all primary transcripts of *miR-9-5p* in MM.1S cells treated with AR42, compared to the untreated control, indicating that all *pri-miR-9* loci contribute to the increase of *miR-9-5p* expression after AR42 treatment in MM cells (Fig. 24E). Based on these findings, we hypothesized that AR42 might regulate the CD44 expression through the upregulation of *miR-9-5p*. To address this question we performed a bioinformatic search throughout the most common target prediction algorithms (Target Scan [248], Pictar [249], and miRDB) to determine the presence of *miR-9-5p* binding site(s) in CD44 3'UTR, but there were no evidences supporting the targeting. Also, none of the microRNAs upregulated by AR42 identified in our NanoString assay were predicted to bind to CD44 3'UTR. Consequently, we considered that *miR-9-5p* might downregulate CD44 expression in an indirect manner. To test this hypothesis, we transiently transfected U266 cells with *miR-9-5p* precursor, or scramble control, and measured CD44 mRNA expression by qRT-PCR after 48 hours. Figure 24F shows that in U266 cells transfected with *miR-9-5p* the CD44 mRNA expression was around 30% lower than the control. Although the downregulation was modest, it was statistically significant with a p value <0.001. As positive control, cells treated with AR42 0.2 $\mu$ M for 48 hours showed a significant reduction of CD44 mRNA expression, compared to the untreated control.

Subsequently, we tested the hypothesis that CD44 downregulation induced by AR42 might involve other molecules such as RNA-binding proteins. In fact, it has been previously reported that CD44 mRNA stability can be regulated by the RNA-binding proteins IGF2BP1 and IGF2BP3 [250] and their expression is strongly related to CD44 levels in other forms of cancer [251].

Despite the preliminary studies on RNA binding proteins and CD44, using the STRING<sub>10</sub> bioinformatic tool (browser for known and predicted protein-protein Interactions) we found that CD44 strongly interacts with IGF2BP3 (Fig. 25A), but there were no evidences of interaction with IGF2BP1.

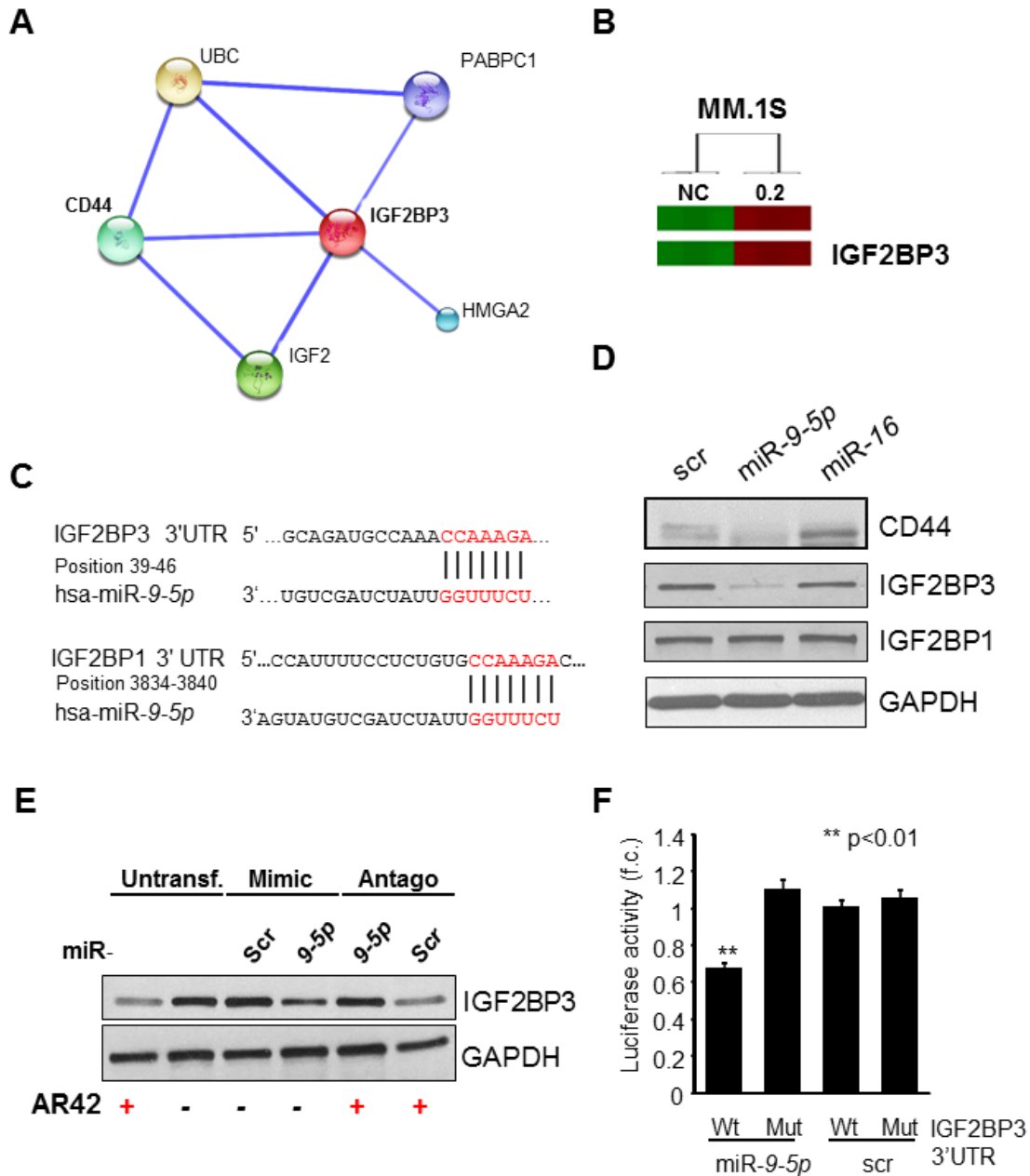
<i>microRNA_ID</i>	<i>0.1μM vs. NC</i>	<i>Adjusted p-values (0.1μM vs. NC)</i>	<i>0.2μM vs. NC</i>	<i>Adjusted p-values (0.2μM vs. NC)</i>
<i>hsa-miR-1973</i>	11.45	1.13E-04	4.87	1.41E-04
<i>hsa-miR-342-3p</i>	9.74	1.75E-03	9.08	1.20E-04
<i>hsa-miR-4516</i>	8.09	1.94E-03	9.30	6.48E-05
<i>hsa-miR-4284</i>	7.29	2.20E-02	2.96	4.25E-02
<i>hsa-miR-664-3p</i>	6.06	6.53E-03	8.00	1.48E-04
<i>hsa-miR-4485</i>	5.92	2.18E-02	4.49	4.99E-03
<i>hsa-miR-30a-5p</i>	5.46	1.49E-02	4.65	1.91E-03
<i>hsa-miR-575</i>	5.28	1.51E-02	5.28	1.09E-03
<i>hsa-miR-22-3p</i>	5.22	9.03E-04	4.98	5.73E-05
<i>hsa-miR-494</i>	4.44	1.51E-02	5.22	5.08E-04
<i>hsa-miR-630</i>	4.19	1.64E-04	2.58	1.93E-04
<i>hsa-miR-30d-5p</i>	3.65	1.43E-03	2.83	3.98E-04
<i>hsa-miR-146a-5p</i>	2.70	1.13E-04	2.83	3.18E-06
<i>hsa-miR-26b-5p</i>	2.67	1.28E-05	2.73	2.42E-07
<i>hsa-miR-320e</i>	2.58	2.14E-02	2.14	6.35E-03
<i>hsa-miR-361-3p</i>	2.43	4.27E-03	2.67	1.31E-04
<i>hsa-miR-30e-5p</i>	2.27	1.30E-03	2.12	1.32E-04
<i>hsa-miR-186-5p</i>	1.95	1.30E-02	2.58	6.35E-05
<i>hsa-miR-9-5p</i>	1.82	4.93E-02	2.00	1.84E-03
<i>hsa-miR-30b-5p</i>	1.68	3.43E-03	1.43	2.84E-03
<i>hsa-miR-548aa</i>	0.46	1.09E-02	1.52	2.75E-02
<i>hsa-miR-1244</i>	0.45	3.45E-02	1.25	3.08E-01
<i>hsa-miR-93-5p</i>	0.44	1.12E-04	0.39	1.16E-06
<i>hsa-miR-19b-3p</i>	0.44	7.53E-05	0.49	6.25E-06
<i>hsa-miR-20a-5p+20b-5p</i>	0.41	1.13E-04	0.45	1.16E-05
<i>hsa-miR-200c-3p</i>	0.40	3.26E-03	0.91	5.73E-01
<i>hsa-miR-365a-3p</i>	0.39	3.26E-03	0.94	7.27E-01
<i>hsa-miR-301a-3p</i>	0.36	2.72E-04	0.49	2.04E-04
<i>hsa-miR-18a-5p</i>	0.36	7.75E-05	0.47	2.91E-05
<i>hsa-miR-644a</i>	0.35	2.58E-02	1.59	1.01E-01
<i>hsa-miR-548ah-5p</i>	0.33	3.06E-02	2.32	1.21E-02
<i>hsa-miR-106a-5p+17-5p</i>	0.33	5.10E-07	0.36	3.46E-08
<i>hsa-miR-423-3p</i>	0.33	1.51E-02	1.20	4.64E-01
<i>hsa-miR-92a-3p</i>	0.28	2.03E-04	0.33	2.77E-05
<i>hsa-miR-4455</i>	0.27	3.07E-02	1.18	6.35E-01

<i>hsa-miR-223-3p</i>	0.24	2.66E-02	1.22	5.83E-01
<i>hsa-miR-335-5p</i>	0.24	2.12E-02	1.57	2.05E-01
<i>hsa-miR-4454</i>	0.23	2.82E-02	0.78	5.24E-01
<i>hsa-miR-720</i>	0.21	3.45E-02	0.74	4.66E-01
<i>hsa-miR-193b-3p</i>	0.20	3.40E-04	1.43	1.07E-01
<i>hsa-miR-450a-5p</i>	0.18	3.26E-03	0.93	8.17E-01
<i>hsa-miR-411-5p</i>	0.17	5.84E-04	1.46	1.35E-01
<i>hsa-miR-221-3p</i>	0.13	2.76E-04	0.53	3.16E-02
<i>hsa-miR-3676-3p</i>	0.07	1.69E-05	0.60	3.89E-02
<i>hsa-miR-126-3p</i>	0.07	2.10E-07	0.30	3.77E-06

**Table 3. mRNAs deregulated by AR42 treatment in MM cell lines.** Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis of mRNAs expression in MM.1S after 24h of treatment with 0.1 and 0.2 $\mu$ M compared to control cells treated with DMSO.

To support the String<sub>10</sub> prediction, a microarray with a human genome U133 GeneChip was run on MM.1S samples treated with AR42 0.2 $\mu$ M for 48 hours. After bioinformatic analysis, 7903 gene expressions resulted significantly altered ( $p < 0.05$ ) after AR42 treatment. Among the most significant genes differentially expressed (4701 genes with  $p < 0.0001$ , 1792 upregulated and 2678 downregulated), the downregulation of IGF2BP3 was confirmed (Fig. 25B) but no evidence of changes in IGB2BP1 gene expression was observed. Although there were no proof on the involvement of IGF2BP1, we decided to include it in our further investigations.

To evaluate if *miR-9-5p* could perhaps target both RNA binding proteins, we used Targetscan [248], Pictar [249], and RNA22 [252] web tools and we identified a highly conserved consensus sequence for *miR-9-5p* in the 3'UTR of IGF2BP3, and a lower target score site in the 3'UTR of IGF2BP1 (Fig. 25C). Transient expression of *miR-9-5p* precursor into L363 cells was used to validate the capacity of *miR-9-5p* to target the two RNA binding proteins, as compared to miR-16 precursor used as control (upregulated after AR42 treatment in MM.1S cells). Western blotting analysis of CD44, IGF2BP1 and IGF2BP3 expression indicated that *miR-9-5p* successfully targeted CD44 and IGF2BP3 but not IGF2BP1, while *miR-16* had no influence on the investigated protein expressions, as showed in Figure 25D.



**Fig. 25. miR-9-5p targets IGF2BP3, the main CD44-RNA stabilizer.** A) Image generated by the STRING<sub>10</sub> analysis of the functional interaction network between CD44 and IGF2BP3. B) Human 2.0ST microarray conducted on MM.1S samples after 48h of treatment with AR42 0.2 $\mu$ M and IGF2BP3 heatmap.  $p < 0.0001$ . C) IGF2BP3 and IGF2BP1 3'UTR contains seed sequence for miR-9-5p (indicated in red). D) Transient expression of miR-Scr, -9-5p or -16 in L363 cells and immunoblotting analysis of the CD44, IGF2BP3 and IGF2BP1 expression after 48h. E) Transient expression of mimic miR-Scr and miR-9-5p or anti-miR-Scr and anti-miR-9-5p in L363 cells and IGF2BP3 expression by western blotting after treatment with AR42. D) E) GAPDH was used as loading control. F) Luciferase gene reporter assay in HeLa cells transiently cotransfected with Wt or mutant pGL3-IGF2BP3 3'UTR construct and mimic miR-9-5p or mimic miR-Scr. Luciferase assay was performed 24h later and the results are expressed as fold change of Wt construct co-transfected with miR-Scr.

To validate if the overexpression of *miR-9-5p* due to the AR42 treatment was leading to IGF2BP3 downregulation, we proceeded with the analysis of the IGF2BP3 expression in L363 cells after ectopic overexpression of mimic and *antago miR-9-5p* or *miR-Scr* (as control) and AR42 treatment. We found that L363 MM cells treated with AR42 (0.2 $\mu$ M) displayed lower level of IGF2BP3 [Figure 25E (line 1-2)] and *miR-9-5p* RNA mimic decreased IGF2BP3 compared to the control sequences [Figure 25E (line 3-4)]. Moreover, knockdown of *miR-9-5p* by *anti-miR-9-5p* after 24 hours of AR42 treatment increased the level of IGF2BP3 protein as compared to anti-scramble sequence (AS-Scr) and untransfected control (untransf.) [Figure 25E (lines 5-6)]. Data were further corroborated with Luciferase reporter assay. A portion of the IGF2BP3 3'UTR containing either the wild type (Wt) or mutated (Mut) *miR-9-5p* seed sequence was cloned into a pGL3-control luciferase vector. A significantly reduction of Luciferase activity was obtained only with the Wt 3' UTR in the presence of *mir-9-5p* (Fig. 25F), showing the high specificity of *miR-9-5p* for the targeting of the IGF2BP3 gene. Hence, our data showed unequivocally that IGF2BP3 was the direct target of *miR-9-5p*, and the downregulation of IGF2BP3 induced CD44 mRNA instability and subsequent degradation.

#### **4.9 AR42 sensitize MM to Lenalidomide in vitro**

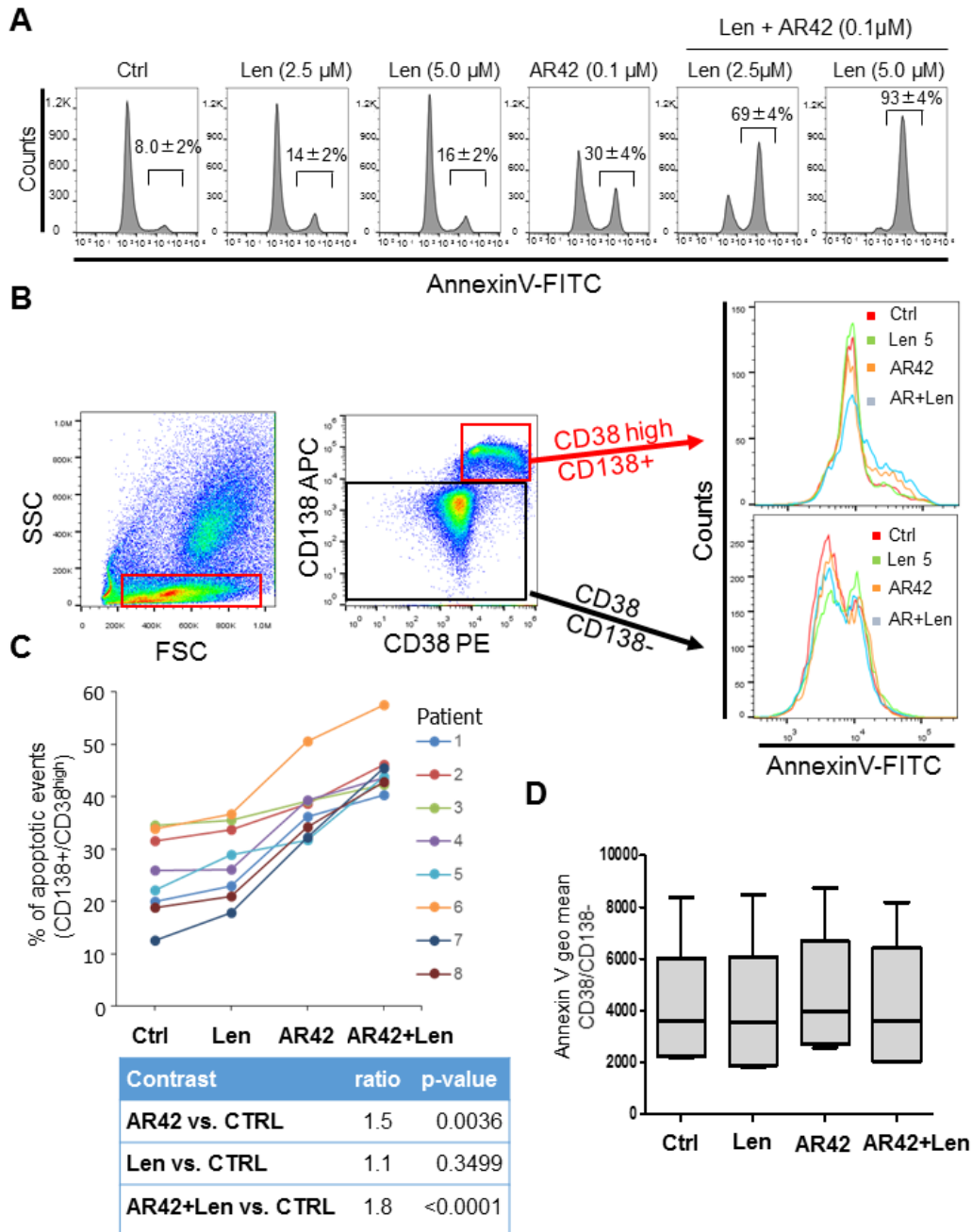
Lenalidomide (Revlimid) is an immunomodulatory drug highly effective on MM [253] and other kinds of solid and hematological malignancies. *In vitro* Lenalidomide is able to induce apoptosis in cancer, to inhibit the bone marrow support mediated by the stromal cells and the angiogenesis. Moreover, in a recent milestone publication it has been also demonstrated the Revlimid ability to specifically promote the ubiquitination, mediated by ubiquitin E3 ligase Cereblon (CRBN) and degradation of the transcription factors Ikaros (IKZF1) and Ailos (IKZF3), two of the most important mediators of the proliferation in MM [254].

As stated before, CD44 has been associated to Lenalidomide-resistance mechanism in Multiple Myeloma [241]. Due to the capacity of the pan-HDACi AR42 to downregulate the expression of this important adhesion molecule (Fig. 22-25), we hypothesized that AR42 could also reduce the resistance to Lenalidomide in MM. To determine the combinatorial index between Lenalidomide and AR42, MM.1S cells were treated with

AR42 (0.1 or 0.2 $\mu$ M) in combination with different concentrations of Lenalidomide (Len 2.5 or 5 $\mu$ M) and the cell death rate of every combination was used for the determination of the combinatorial index (CI) with the Chou-Talalay method [255]. The obtained CI<1 indicated the synergism between the two drugs (Table 4) in killing the MM cells. Consequently, we decided to analyze the inducement of apoptosis in MM.1S cells after treatment with Lenalidomide, AR42 or the two drugs together (Fig. 26A). The combinatorial use of the two drugs increased apoptosis respectively of 4.9-fold (0.1 $\mu$ M AR42 and 2.5 $\mu$ M Lenalidomide) and 5.8-fold (0.1 $\mu$ M AR42 and 5 $\mu$ M Lenalidomide) after 48 hours of treatment with a boost every 24 hours, compared to the Lenalidomide alone (2.5 and 5 $\mu$ M). Based on the promising results on MM.1S, we focused our attention on the BM microenvironment, and bone marrow samples collected from 5 Lenalidomide-refractory (#1, 2, 3, 4, and 7) and 3 newly diagnosed MM patients (# 5, 6, and 8) were treated with 0.2 $\mu$ M AR42, 5 $\mu$ M Lenalidomide or with the combination of both drugs for 48 hours. After treatment, the samples were analyzed with a multiparametric flow analysis (illustrated in Fig. 26B). The results, showed in Figure 24C, substantially confirmed a synergistic effect on apoptosis inducement of the combination treatment rather than single agents on the subpopulation CD38<sup>high</sup>-CD138<sup>+</sup> with statistical significance (p value <0.0001) in the combined drugs compared to the untreated samples (Fig. 26C). Notably, the BM subpopulation CD38-CD138<sup>-</sup> treated in the same way did not show any significant difference (Fig. 26D), to indicate the specificity of the treatment restricted to the BM subpopulation containing the majority of the MM plasmacells.

CI	AR42 ( $\mu$ M)	Len ( $\mu$ M)
<b>0.52</b>	0.1	2.5
<b>0.45</b>	0.1	5.0
<b>0.48</b>	0.2	2.5
<b>0.43</b>	0.2	5.0

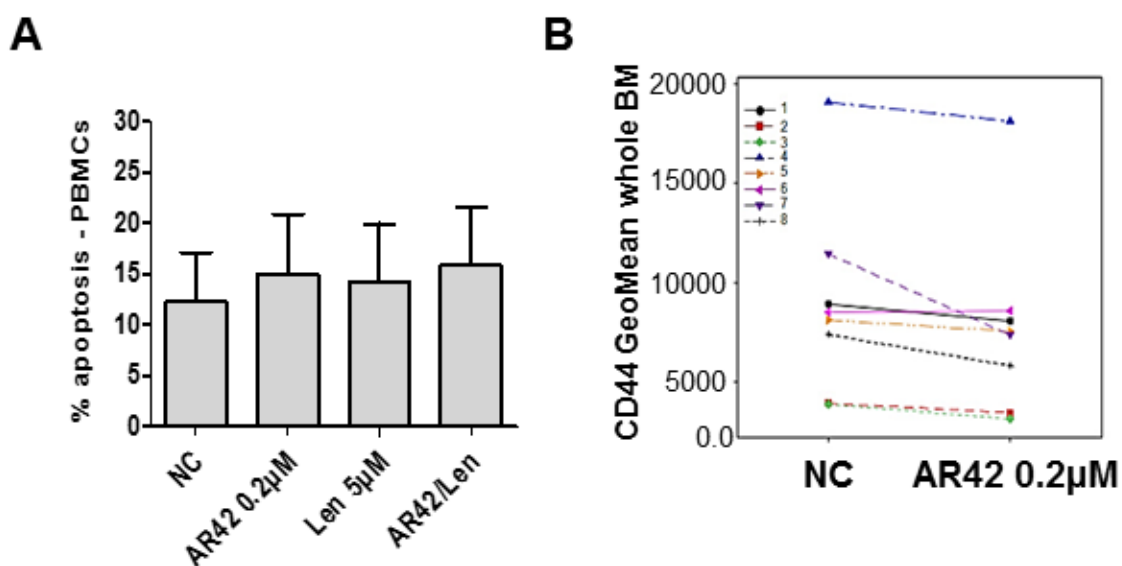
**Table 4. Combinatorial index.** WST-1 assay on MM.1S cells treated with the AR42, Lenalidomide (Len) or the combination of both drugs for 48h. The measure of the combinatorial index was determined using the Chou-Talalay method.



**Fig. 26. In vitro synergistic effect of AR42 in combination with Lenalidomide in MM.** A) AnnexinV expression by flow cytometry in MM.1S cells treated two times (every 24 hours), with Len (2.5 or 5.0 $\mu$ M), AR42 (0.1 $\mu$ M), or combination Len+AR42, as indicated. Values represent the average percentages of positive events  $\pm$  SD. B) Scheme of analysis on BM samples by Flow Cytometry. BM cells from 8 MM patients were treated with vehicle control (Ctrl), 5 $\mu$ M Len, 0.25 $\mu$ M AR42, or the combination of both drugs for 48h. The percentage of apoptotic events were assessed into 2 subpopulations: CD38<sup>high</sup>/CD138<sup>+</sup> (MM plasmacells) and CD38/CD138<sup>-</sup>. C) AnnexinV induction in CD38<sup>high</sup>/CD138<sup>+</sup> MM cells treated as described in (B). Data are expressed as % of AnnexinV positive events. D) Flow Cytometry evaluation of apoptosis in CD38/CD138<sup>-</sup> BM population from the same MM patients, as in (C). Data are expressed as AnnexinV geo mean.



Additionally, PBMCs collected from 3 healthy donors in the same experimental conditions did not show any significant induction of apoptosis, as shown in figure 27A. Finally, part of the whole BM samples were also analyzed for the CD44 expression by Flow Cytometry after 24 hours of AR42 treatment and the downregulation of CD44 was confirmed (Fig. 27B).



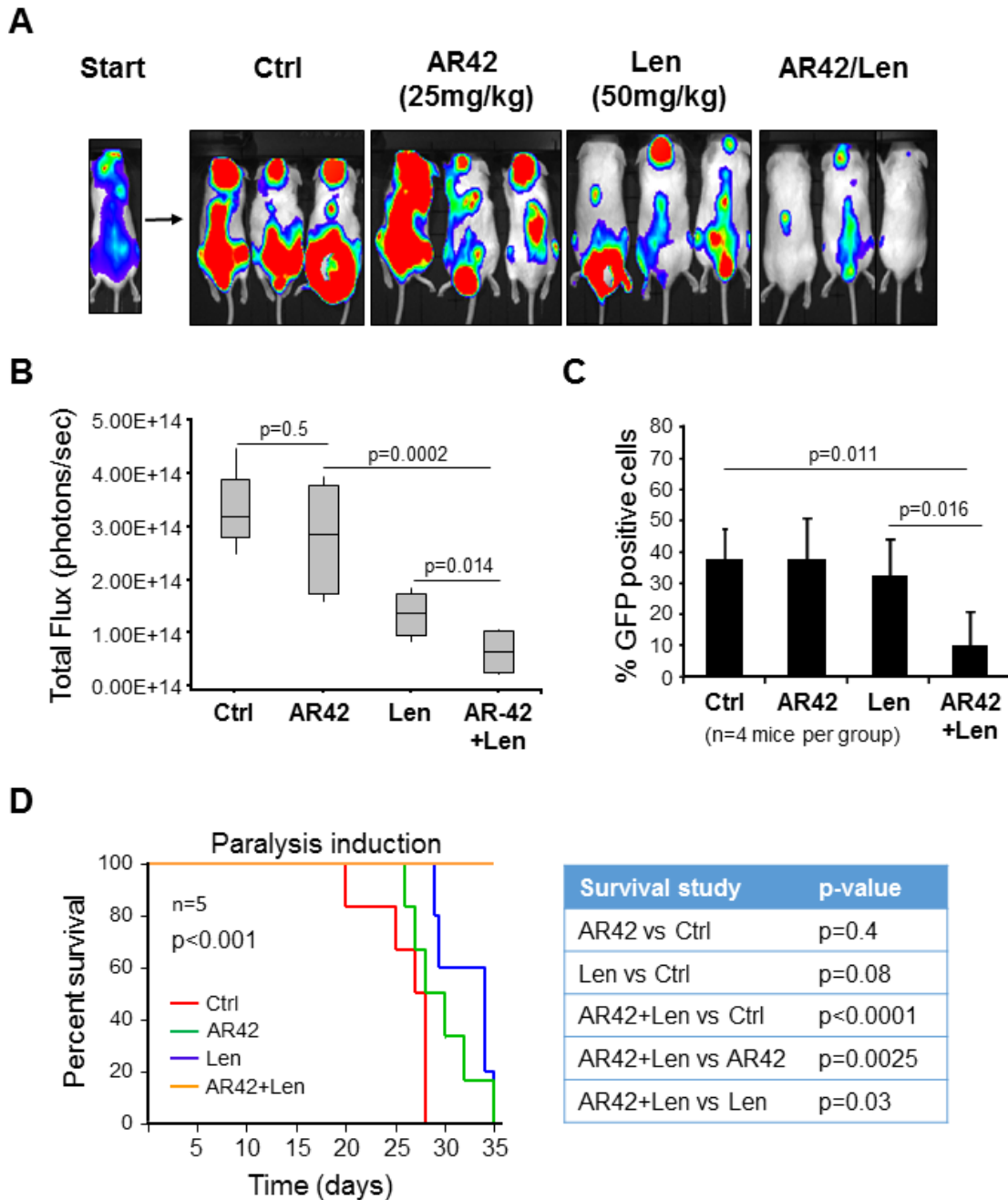
**Fig. 27. Effect of AR42 in combination with Lenalidomide in Healthy and MM patients.** A) AnnexinV expression by flow cytometry in PBMCs collected from 3 healthy donors treated two times (every 24 hours), with Len (2.5 or 5.0µM), AR42 (0.1µM), or combination Len+AR42, as indicated. Values represent the average of percentages of positive events  $\pm$  SD. B) Flow Cytometry analysis of the CD44 downregulation in whole BM collected from 8 MM patients (previously analyzed for apoptosis) treated for 24h with 0.2µM AR42. Results are expressed in CD44 Geo mean.

#### 4.10 AR42 sensitizes MM to Lenalidomide in vivo

To validate the *in vitro* efficacy of the combinatorial therapy on Multiple Myeloma, we decided to move to an *in vivo* MM mouse model. In synthesis, NOD-SCID mice (n=40) were intravenously injected with  $5 \times 10^6$  MM.1S-GFP<sup>+</sup>/Luc<sup>+</sup> cells. After three weeks, mice with comparable tumor size were identified and distributed into 4 groups (5 animal/group): AR42, Lenalidomide, AR42/Len, and vehicle control (8% DMSO in PBS; VE).

To reduce the toxicity and mimic the clinical protocol (AR42 is in a Phase I clinical trial involving MM patients), mice were treated with Len (50mg/kg) or Vehicle (VE) by intraperitoneal injections daily, and AR42 (25mg/kg) or VE 3 times per week, for 3 weeks. Following the treatments, tumors appeared to be significantly shrunk or almost suppressed in all AR42/Len treated mice compared to the untreated control or single drugs (Fig. 28A and B). The amount of malignant plasma cells infiltrating the BM was measured by flow cytometry using a human anti-CD138 antibody. Data showed that the amount of malignant PCs were greatly reduced in the animals treated with the combination of AR42 and Lenalidomide, compared with the control group and the animals treated with the single drugs (Fig. 28C). Finally, to support our hypothesis, the survival study performed on 5 animals per group of treatment indicated a better survival (graph in Fig. 28D) with statistical significance (table in Fig, 28D) in those animals treated with the combination of AR42 and Lenalidomide compared to all the other treatments. Notably, the group of animals that benefited from the most effective pharmacological treatment, the combination AR42/Lenalidomide, were healthy with no sign of paralysis at the end of the study (Fig. 28D).

Taken together, the data from the *in vivo* study clearly demonstrated the AR42 ability to improve Multiple Myeloma sensitivity to the Lenalidomide, suggesting the use of drug combination AR42/Lenalidomide as a novel promising therapeutic strategy to overcome the MM drug-resistance especially in the bone marrow microenvironment.



**Fig. 28. In vivo synergistic effect of AR42 in combination with Lenalidomide in MM.** A) NOD-SCID mice engrafted with  $5 \times 10^6$  MM.1S-GFP<sup>+</sup>/Luc<sup>+</sup> cells and treated for 3 weeks with vehicle control (Ctrl), AR42 three times/week, Lenalidomide (Len) daily, or AR42/Len combination. Representative luminescence images are shown. B) The evaluation of the tumor progression in vivo has been assessed by Luminescence quantitation, data are expressed as average of tumor intensity/group. C) Flow cytometry analysis of the GFP intensity expressed by the MM cells in BM samples collected from the animals. Data expressed as percentage of GFP<sup>+</sup>-MM cells in the BM sample. D) Kaplan-Meier representative curves of the in vivo survival study; p values between different treatments are indicated in the table on the right side.

## CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS

Given the poor outcome of MM, it is critical to intensify the efforts for defining molecular mechanisms of MM pathogenesis in order to find novel and more effective therapeutic strategies to treat this disease. Recently, beside the classical and well investigated inter-cellular interactions such as integrins and cytokines, cell-to-cell communication via extracellular vesicles, microvesicles, or exosomes has been widely recognized. A growing body of evidence points to EVs as possible prognostic biomarkers and potential therapeutics.

The primary purpose of this study was the characterization of multiple myeloma-derived extracellular vesicles (EVs) in terms of size, protein contents and activity. All the MM-EVs analyzed, isolated either *in vitro* from different cell lines or *in vivo* from patients, appeared as a single, monodisperse population of vesicles, with a comparable size. The MM.1S vesicles were somewhat larger (average diameter of 177 nm) and had a slightly broader size distribution (standard deviation of 6.2 nm) compared to the U266 vesicles (average diameter of 138 nm and a standard deviation of 5.6 nm). Using the nanosight technology, we confirmed these results and we were also able to evaluate the size of circulating EVs in peripheral blood samples collected from healthy donors, and patients diagnosed for MGUS, SMM and active Multiple Myeloma. Likewise to the results obtained *in vitro*, in these set of samples the EVs size were very similar, but smaller compared to what obtained from the MM cell lines (the average of size was around 75nm).

Of extremely interest was the content of the Extracellular Vesicles secreted by MM. We made a complete proteomic analysis of the *in vitro* EVs and we found 356 different proteins in MM.1S-EVs and 337 in U266-EVs. The overlap of these data revealed 324 common proteins, 32 contained exclusively in MM.1S EVs and 13 in U266 EVs. The analysis of the common proteins carried by the two different kinds of MM-EVs indicated that the majority of them were involved in catalytic activity, structural activity, binding and metabolic processes. Based on these data, we hypothesized that the protein cargo carried by the EVs could have activity and biological effects on cellular targets. I showed

in this thesis that MM-EVs can promote MM proliferation and IL6 release in bone marrow stromal fibroblasts. IL6 is one of the most important cytokine for MM growth and survival in the BM microenvironment [28-32], suggesting one more time the supportive role of the tumor microenvironment in cancer. Moreover, we identified a cohort of enriched proteins in MM-EVs compared to the parent cells. Among them, we decided to focus our investigations on CD44, which was overexpressed in EVs. CD44 is an adhesion molecule already known for its fundamental role in keeping the cancer cells anchored to the extracellular matrix of the tumor microenvironment through the binding with Hyaluronic acid (HA) [116] and it has been largely associated to drug resistance mechanisms (CAM-DR) in several kinds of solid tumors [119-121]. One of the most important results were the demonstration of the strong presence of circulating CD44 in MM patients and the indication that CD44 was carried essentially by the circulating EVs. Remarkably, I also determined that CD44 levels were correlated with ISS stage and with the prognostic factor  $\beta$ 2-microglobulin, thus proving that CD44 is a biomarker and a prognostic factor in MM. Of note, by selecting a cutoff of 280ng/ml, patients with CD44 levels lower than the cutoff showed a better overall survival than patients with higher CD44 levels. The importance of CD44 expression for drug resistance in MM has been highlighted in the past by the demonstration that CD44/HA interaction resulted in protecting dexamethasone-induced apoptosis [148] and recently, Bjorklund et al. [241] showed in myeloma the important role of the CD44 in resistance to Lenalidomide. Therefore, the adhesive interactions of multiple myeloma cells are important potential therapeutic targets. CD44 surface expression in several MM cell lines was extremely variable, but it is important to underline that the cell line most resistant to dexamethasone, MM.1R, was the one expressing the major number of CD44 molecules on the surface. These data prompted us to investigate deeply the mechanism of drug resistance mediated by CD44 and try to find an effecting strategy to overcome this resistance. AR42 is a novel pan-HDACi inhibitor that shows better capacity to induce apoptosis in MM cells compared to the FDA approved pan-HDACi vorinostat (SAHA). Despite the AR42 demonstrated efficacy in MM, treatment of MM patients with the therapeutic dose of AR42 as unique treatment is responsible for heavy side effects such as fatigue, diarrhea, and thrombocytopenia, which clearly constitute a limitation for its clinical use.

MM cells treated with sub lethal doses of AR42 and then subjected to nanostring analysis, showed a clear downregulation of CD44. We then hypothesized that CD44 downregulation was directly mediated by *miR-9-5p* upregulation (which was one of the most upregulated miRNA upon treatment), but we were not able to confirm this hypothesis. Although bioinformatics analysis of the predicted *miR-9-5p* targets indicated IGF2BP3 and IGF2BP1 as potential targets, microarray analysis of the MM cells after AR42 treatment showed that IGF2BP3 was the only one of the two RNA binding proteins to be highly downregulated, with statistical significance, after treatment. This RNA binding protein has a seed sequence complementary to *miR-9-5p* and it is a strong partner of the CD44, essentially serving as mRNA stabilizer.

We proved that IGF2BP3 (but not IGF2BP1) was targeted by *miR-9-5p*, also demonstrating for the first time that treatment with AR42 provoked *miR-9-5p* upregulation, triggering a mechanism that ultimately led to IGF2BP3 degradation. The absence of the IGF2BP3 increased CD44 mRNA instability and further induced its degradation. Two possible strategies may be utilized to include anti-adhesion agents into MM therapeutic treatment. The first is the incorporation of anti-adhesion substances into current treatment protocols, based on their ability to enhance the chemosensitivity of MM cells, while targeting minimal residual MM cells by combinations of anti-adhesion molecules and anti-MM drugs is the basis of the second therapeutic approach. The discovery of the AR42 biological therapeutic mechanism, which involves the downregulation of the adhesion molecule CD44, suggested the evaluation of AR42 in combination with Lenalidomide to overcome the CD44-mediated drug resistance in MM and to increase the tumor death. *In vitro*, the combination AR42/Lenalidomide showed a synergistic effect with a reduction of MM proliferation and an enhanced inducement of apoptosis as compared to the apoptosis levels obtained with the single agents. Additionally, in bone marrow samples collected from 8 Multiple Myeloma patients, the CD38/CD138<sup>+</sup> subpopulation showed higher level of apoptosis than the rest of the BM populations after AR42 treatment, to reinforce the specific anti-tumor activity against MM plasmacells. Also, AR42 treatment showed CD44 downregulation in MM-BM samples. These results were corroborated by our *in vivo* MM mouse xenograft model, in which AR42 treatment induced the CD44 downregulation in subcutaneous MM tumor mass. Furthermore, the combination

AR42/Lenalidomide on MM mouse model induced tumor shrink and better overall survival, compared to the single agents.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that Extracellular Vesicles secreted by Multiple Myeloma cells had biological activity on promoting the proliferation of MM cells, and the IL6 release from bone marrow stromal cells. Both effects are fundamental for the tumor growth and survival. Additionally, MM-EVs were enriched in CD44, an adhesion molecule highly expressed in MM cells resistant to the drug treatment. Remarkably, we discovered that the circulating CD44 was an important prognostic factor and MM patients carrying high levels of CD44 had a negative prognosis and adverse overall survival.

Treating the MM cells with sub lethal doses of AR42 allowed us to discover a therapeutic mechanism that led to the CD44 downregulation through *miR-9-5p* upregulation, IGF2BP3 downregulation, CD44 mRNA instability and degradation.

Finally, the use of AR42 in combination with Lenalidomide improved the multiple myeloma drug sensitivity either *in vitro* or *in vivo*, induced *in vivo* tumor reduction and a more favorable survival.

Data obtained in this thesis might support the therapeutic potential of the incorporation of anti-adhesion molecules into the clinical standard of care. Successful results in MM may pave the way to their use in other hematological malignancies, as well as other types of cancer, and open up new treatment directions focused on cellular adhesion.

## CHAPTER 6. PUBLICATIONS DURING THE PhD

*Part of the introduction, results, methods and conclusions of this thesis have been inspired or quoted verbatim from the following articles*

1. Harshman S.W.\*, **Canella A.** \*, Ciarlariello P.D., Agarwal K., Branson O.E., Rocci A., Cordero H., Phelps M.A., Hade E.M., Dubovsky J.A., Palumbo A., Rosko A., Byrd J.C., Hofmeister C.C., Benson D.M., Paulaitis M.E., Freitas M.A.‡, Pichiorri F.‡ *Proteomic Characterization of Circulating Extracellular Vesicles Identifies Novel Serum Myeloma Associated Markers*. J. Proteomics. 2016 Jan 13. [Epub ahead of print]. Accepted in Dec. 2015. doi: 10.1016/j.jprot.2015.12.016.

**\* These authors contributed equally to this work.**

2. **Canella A.**, Harshman S.W., Radomska H.S., Freitas M. and Pichiorri F. *The potential diagnostic power of extracellular vesicle analysis for multiple myeloma*. Expert Review of Molecular Diagnostics. 2015 Dec 15; DOI: 10.1586/14737159.2016.1132627. Epub 2016 Jan 28.

3. **Canella A.\***, Cordero Nieves H.\*, Sborov D.W., Cascione L., Radomska H.S., Smith E., Stiff A., Consiglio J., Caserta E., Rizzotto L., Zanasi N., Volinia S., Kaur B., Mo X., Byrd J.C., Efebera Y.A., Hofmeister C.C. and Pichiorri F. *HDAC inhibitor AR-42 decreases CD44 expression and sensitizes myeloma cells to lenalidomide*. Oncotarget. 2015 Oct 13;6(31):31134-50.

**\* These authors contributed equally to this work.**

4. Harshman S.W.\*, **Canella, A.\***, Ciarlariello, P.D., Rocci A., Agarwal K., Smith E.M., Talabere T., Efebera Y.A., Hofmeister C.C., Benson Jr. D.M., Paulaitis M.E., Freitas M. and Pichiorri F. *Characterization of Multiple Myeloma Vesicles by Label-Free Relative Quantitation*. Proteomics. 2013. 13. 3013-3029.

**\* These authors contributed equally to this work.**



***The following articles are the result of collaboration with other projects or scientific groups, and they are not part of this thesis***

5. Stiff A, Caserta E, Sborov DW, Nuovo GJ, Mo X, Schlotter SY, **Canella A**, Smith E, Badway J, Old M, Jaime-Ramirez AC, Yan P, Benson DM Jr, Byrd JC, Baiocchi R, Kaur B, Hofmeister CC, Pichiorri F. *Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors Enhance the Therapeutic Potential of Reovirus in Multiple Myeloma*. *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*. 2016 Jan 25. pii: molcanther.0240.2015. [Epub ahead of print]

6. He, W. A.\*, Calore, F.\*, Londhe, P., **Canella, A.**, Guttridge D.C., and Croce, C.M. *Microvesicles containing miRNAs Promote Muscle Cell Death in Cancer Cachexia via TLR7*. *PNAS*. 2014. Mar 25;111(12):4525-9.

7. Manfrini M., Di Bona C., **Canella A.**, Lucarelli E., D'Agostino A., Barbanti-Brodano G., Pellati A. and Tognon M. *Mesenchymal stem cells from patients to assay bone graft substitutes*. *Journal of Cellular Physiology*. 2013. Jun;228(6):1229-37.

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# APPENDIX

Uniprot Accession	MM1.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			logFC	U266 Vesicle Spectral Count			Statistics		
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue		Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue
P84077	11	8	2	12	12	18	0.89653	10.54203	0.07428	-	33	32	32	-0.46668	11.61439	0.15909
P27824	14	19	8	45	53	44	1.23841	11.90030	0.00000	-	11	0	0	-1.47141	9.50308	0.01524
P14324	3	4	10	0	0	0	-6.40544	8.48645	0.00000	-	7	4	4	-5.82613	8.39380	0.00018
P55327	1	0	0	2	1	3	2.14854	8.39344	0.03604	-	7	4	5	2.51805	8.88016	0.00089
Q8H0U4	6	5	7	5	10	9	-0.07488	9.82157	0.87927	-	13	2	2	-0.62321	9.48703	0.33162
Q15233	2	9	7	19	22	24	1.29317	10.76477	0.00052	-	6	0	0	-1.94275	7.20855	0.22536
P30086	5	0	8	7	11	11	-0.01348	10.06987	1.00000	-	6	3	6	0.32604	9.26798	0.72859
Q13501	0	0	0	5	0	6	6.02149	8.64045	0.00003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P35637	4	2	2	9	5	13	0.87009	9.60291	0.13706	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q14764	1	3	1	0	0	1	-2.55376	6.98109	0.12586	-	16	5	14	2.36817	11.87795	0.00000
P18621	0	6	0	6	5	0	1.08768	9.03773	0.09560	-	0	3	0	0.41077	7.73129	0.75956
Q00610	17	14	22	38	45	43	0.69757	11.87290	0.00567	-	76	86	84	0.44239	13.37439	0.07628
P04439	6	5	6	11	9	9	0.21843	9.91849	0.76831	-	43	37	37	0.64687	12.42018	0.01666
P48368	6	6	5	6	5	23	0.48342	10.25101	0.28919	-	5	4	5	0.20485	9.11007	0.85380
P07737	39	39	43	19	18	24	-1.53321	11.91834	0.00000	-	38	27	33	-0.07481	11.78774	0.86077
P14317	9	8	5	1	2	2	-2.67176	9.15401	0.00003	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q43169	0	0	0	1	1	5	5.48422	8.09362	0.00101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q13576	0	1	0	2	2	0	1.28711	6.71094	0.62549	-	2	2	9	0.14866	9.36393	1.00000
P43307	3	3	0	3	7	3	0.55041	8.64254	0.48330	-	0	5	3	-4.16256	9.29495	0.00001
P11021	69	72	74	236	201	224	1.06993	14.13926	0.00000	-	0	0	15	7.56121	9.76863	0.00000
P26010	7	4	5	0	0	0	-6.31904	8.39875	0.00001	-	0	0	0	-	-	-
Q8V6B6	0	0	0	8	10	9	6.52166	9.14631	0.00000	-	16	7	10	0.80765	10.66802	0.04982
P51572	2	3	3	8	8	13	1.28687	9.60213	0.02589	-	3	1	4	0.01556	8.21771	1.00000
P05386	3	8	8	10	10	6	-0.09610	9.88759	0.88209	-	11	10	11	-	-	-
P0CV98	0	0	0	17	18	21	7.56617	10.19473	0.00000	-	0	0	0	-0.75280	9.92080	0.13013
Q8TC79	6	2	3	0	0	0	-5.78666	7.85714	0.00026	-	0	0	0	5.84196	8.00365	0.00035
P43243	8	8	7	11	6	9	-0.01894	9.85492	1.00000	-	0	0	0	-	-	-
Q43390	8	11	7	24	23	17	0.74535	10.88393	0.02694	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q89252	4	5	6	8	7	8	0.06612	9.64316	1.00000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P08211	43	41	44	37	30	38	-0.83364	12.27030	0.00006	-	30	27	36	-8.34408	10.89128	0.00000
Q15651	7	8	7	3	3	9	-1.08717	9.60695	0.03576	-	47	50	45	-0.83367	12.03167	0.06522
Q9BSJ8	0	0	0	23	21	27	1.00899	10.96029	0.00274	-	20	25	25	-0.54390	11.00805	0.14403
Q16543	0	0	0	6	6	10	7.61654	10.24525	0.00000	-	10	11	15	0.89976	10.84696	0.02203
P62269	15	13	14	3	3	8	2.78968	8.97743	0.00093	-	0	0	0	6.06075	8.27663	0.00010
P55209	10	10	4	11	7	15	-2.11130	10.20921	0.00000	-	8	3	5	-0.10741	9.15739	0.85380
P15163	6	5	0	0	0	0	-0.08946	10.22836	0.89576	-	6	10	15	-0.43092	9.98805	0.42923
P43480	2	3	4	8	6	9	-6.40544	8.48639	0.00000	-	18	19	18	-1.74738	10.44809	0.00028
P40227	9	8	17	19	17	30	0.79031	9.39395	0.20491	-	6	4	3	-1.22598	8.48703	0.22707
Q60361	9	12	21	13	19	17	0.40515	11.03680	0.23730	-	4	9	5	0.57961	9.68936	0.36327
Q00839	27	28	31	27	25	32	-0.58193	11.81025	0.01607	-	10	11	16	-0.60256	10.18131	0.21897
P30510	4	5	3	11	12	10	0.89849	9.88503	0.06981	-	6	6	6	1.05668	9.94597	0.03315
P17987	2	2	3	21	18	27	2.65261	10.57732	0.00000	-	46	37	37	-0.47439	11.91664	0.13558
P31942	0	0	0	3	2	13	-0.75969	10.96933	0.01638	-	2	2	2	0.16085	7.86666	1.00000
P41260	0	0	1	12	5	12	5.11534	7.71582	0.00400	-	57	32	32	1.01835	12.69672	0.00009
P06576	30	45	30	90	79	90	4.51636	9.74732	0.00000	-	5	2	1	-0.23762	8.10445	1.00000
P30456	6	5	6	6	6	6	0.75176	12.89111	0.00003	-	0	0	0	1.87292	7.41204	0.18892
P41219	8	7	10	13	16	14	-0.46072	9.52564	0.50446	-	34	30	24	0.05097	11.80235	0.90812
P22482	9	12	9	18	25	19	0.49480	10.91628	0.14873	-	10	7	6	-3.83182	8.97495	0.00024
Q60506	19	20	12	14	17	13	-0.75969	10.96933	0.01638	-	0	0	0	1.87292	7.41168	0.18892
P60174	4	7	9	6	6	3	-1.68939	9.25644	0.00566	-	2	2	2	-5.16323	7.72016	0.00460
Q75915	6	5	4	6	11	9	0.24088	9.75213	0.64022	-	0	0	0	0.68395	7.86763	0.55920
Q8S14	3	0	0	0	0	0	-6.12898	8.20558	0.00003	-	5	2	3	-	-	-
P29350	7	7	3	0	0	5	-6.40544	8.48630	0.00000	-	1	1	1	3.67739	8.12028	0.00247
P43362	0	0	0	3	4	5	5.37143	7.97846	0.00201	-	3	3	3	-1.05945	11.25266	0.00254
										-	28	27	32	-	-	-
										-	6	6	9	-	-	-
										-	3	4	10	-	-	-
										-	0	0	0	-	-	-

Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			logFC	logCPM	PValue							
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue										
O03135	4	2	0	1	1	0	-1.46145	7.56618	0.18098	7	4	2	2	3	3	0.09714	8.65267	1.00000	
O14240	9	7	8	14	12	13	0.14956	10.37224	0.80202	O14240	6	4	2	2	3	3	0.01574	8.79662	1.00000
P08936	7	9	15	6	6	17	-0.41327	10.41923	0.33124	P08936	40	19	26	26	13	30	-0.76537	11.31762	0.03688
P10316	6	5	9	9	9	9	0.11642	9.85462	1.00000	P10316	35	36	34	34	30	25	0.19215	12.01463	0.53301
P62258	12	13	16	9	9	14	-0.90102	10.58893	0.01132	P62258	28	27	38	38	21	17	-0.22461	11.64875	0.53108
O60234	5	5	0	0	0	0	-6.22714	8.30537	0.00002	P14174	9	10	8	8	6	6	-0.00179	9.96310	1.00000
P14174	6	6	6	6	6	10	-0.25699	9.71773	0.64022	P04080	17	18	20	20	2	0	-3.28290	10.25696	0.00000
O13838	5	5	2	2	5	4	-0.66096	8.91988	0.40843	P83731	2	2	2	2	0	0	-4.45266	8.98753	0.06547
P04080	18	17	24	1	0	3	-4.33392	10.38424	0.00000	P36776	0	3	0	0	3	0	0.39823	6.89440	1.00000
P83731	1	1	1	5	6	6	1.88338	8.71540	0.03186	P50502	0	0	3	2	0	0	4.61371	6.73397	0.06547
P36776	1	3	0	16	22	12	3.03133	10.14410	0.00000	O00560	0	4	12	9	0	17	0.24415	9.97558	0.69662
P50502	0	0	0	4	2	4	5.11534	7.71594	0.00400	P10599	19	15	16	16	1	8	-1.29374	10.41146	0.00457
P10599	14	13	15	7	5	9	-1.53636	10.37831	0.00007	P10114	11	6	5	5	0	3	-0.84332	9.35213	0.23113
Q8V4L1	17	18	7	20	22	22	0.05773	11.12271	0.92449	Q8TNN7	31	27	28	28	20	20	-0.08792	11.59583	0.84744
Q8TNN7	4	4	3	6	6	6	0.15806	9.25304	0.85191	P52209	5	5	6	6	1	0	-3.31602	8.48346	0.00139
Q8M684	1	4	2	6	6	5	0.71419	8.97931	0.40643	P23528	33	41	50	50	24	22	-0.25561	12.05069	0.38232
P52209	4	7	11	5	5	4	-1.18471	9.56793	0.02158	O00410	8	9	8	8	0	0	-6.46080	9.03293	0.00000
O75526	10	5	0	0	0	0	-6.48696	8.56906	0.00000	Q8WU08	9	6	5	5	0	0	-1.42596	8.71294	0.00034
P23528	15	17	20	23	23	19	0.01661	11.40616	1.00000	P62158	15	18	14	14	12	18	0.08551	10.79943	0.92550
O00410	2	3	0	0	0	1	-0.27432	7.85476	1.00000	P10809	10	10	3	3	5	1	-0.66553	8.64709	0.49877
P23246	8	9	4	27	24	23	1.25937	10.95950	0.00028	O00161	1	3	0	0	9	5	3.24825	9.51875	0.00000
P23246	1	0	0	4	4	8	3.37730	8.64085	0.00247	Q7U136	52	42	43	43	45	31	-0.11205	12.25061	0.67790
P25205	2	2	0	6	6	7	1.22995	9.14641	0.07800	P63218	9	6	6	6	3	3	-0.77709	9.30717	0.29612
P21796	18	18	9	30	38	38	0.68394	11.62801	0.01081	P19397	2	5	6	6	0	8	0.30954	9.05799	0.70636
Q8WU08	25	23	21	0	0	0	-8.41362	10.51800	0.00000	O14242	12	10	6	6	0	4	0.16661	10.19142	0.81065
Q8WU08	14	14	0	0	0	0	-7.51820	9.61242	0.00000	P62805	81	95	75	75	76	63	-0.06468	13.14785	0.75762
P35613	0	1	0	3	3	3	2.40053	7.71614	0.03962	Q86QV6	21	20	24	24	21	15	-0.06735	11.19883	0.87663
P08133	24	32	33	36	30	42	-0.26684	12.02023	0.25301	P40925	8	12	19	19	2	3	-1.82693	9.94426	0.00119
P62158	11	15	10	9	9	7	-1.18563	10.28217	0.00321	P62913	4	6	6	6	8	4	0.23463	9.31640	0.86486
P39019	4	7	3	7	3	3	-0.42580	9.03965	0.69246	P33908	140	179	207	207	148	145	0.15702	14.33241	0.47723
P10809	67	82	58	125	145	106	0.31115	13.57535	0.03096	P68032	140	179	207	207	148	145	0.15702	14.33241	0.47723
P05204	9	12	13	6	6	12	-1.04301	10.25668	0.00896	P07948	3	0	1	1	1	1	2.05504	8.50157	0.01637
Q7U136	49	58	64	74	73	71	-0.19909	13.00318	0.23647	P01834	0	0	0	0	34	36	8.74279	10.96572	0.00000
P14136	0	0	0	9	10	9	6.57376	9.19870	0.00000	P16189	33	26	29	29	23	23	0.03769	11.68600	0.90221
O14242	3	3	0	3	0	0	-1.46145	7.56621	0.34536	P16189	33	26	29	29	23	23	0.03769	11.68600	0.90221
P62805	77	77	90	210	221	189	0.79520	14.12692	0.00000	Q01518	19	18	29	29	3	6	-2.13241	10.64104	0.00001
Q86QV6	32	39	30	90	94	63	0.73932	12.82754	0.00004	Q562R1	51	64	78	78	52	52	0.13313	12.86955	0.62184
P40925	10	13	16	6	6	2	-1.73011	10.20830	0.00004	Q8V624	6	10	10	10	5	6	-0.79804	9.60779	0.11579
P62913	3	3	3	3	3	3	-0.68381	8.64404	0.36230	P00338	43	51	67	67	39	29	-0.18517	12.46102	0.53660
P68032	92	95	112	93	91	96	-0.64384	13.59012	0.00001	P09651	16	16	20	20	20	5	-0.19634	10.70462	0.69697
P42765	0	0	0	9	10	5	6.35389	8.97704	0.00001	P54652	26	28	36	36	27	23	0.24237	11.81966	0.42271
P34887	4	13	5	26	24	22	1.15351	10.94454	0.00886										
P16189	6	5	6	6	6	6	-0.46072	9.52564	0.50446										
O00148	6	6	1	5	3	4	-0.65222	9.04019	0.42816										
Q01518	5	7	9	10	5	8	-0.41379	9.85606	0.45785										
Q562R1	28	30	37	44	36	38	-0.23634	12.13337	0.30196										
Q8V624	3	3	0	7	5	5	1.08768	9.03778	0.09560										
P00338	26	21	35	27	39	30	-0.32137	11.81436	0.17493										
P09651	28	41	27	43	59	57	0.17789	12.38655	0.41090										
P54652	26	28	24	37	39	54	0.18684	12.09319	0.42898										

Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			logFC	logCPM	PValue
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue			
O8H8H3	6	7	8	0	0	0	-5.70705	8.79206	0.00000	-	-	-
P26583	14	17	16	0	0	0	-7.86166	9.95962	0.00000	-	-	-
P29682	13	16	14	0	0	2	-4.78295	8.99567	0.00000	-	-	-
P35580	5	3	0	2	2	7	-0.08794	8.64311	1.00000	0	0	0
P62937	60	49	74	73	74	77	-0.25771	13.06997	0.12149	25	49	53
P61247	3	3	2	2	2	7	-0.08794	8.64312	1.00000	6	6	6
P61313	3	5	5	0	7	8	-0.33728	9.20276	0.57512	5	9	11
P48047	4	4	3	10	5	6	0.37710	9.39489	0.60046	-	-	-
P30450	6	5	6	9	9	9	0.11642	9.85452	1.00000	38	33	37
P46783	3	1	5	7	7	7	0.79031	9.39401	0.20491	3	2	2
P07900	34	36	48	62	69	86	0.32873	12.77761	0.07725	56	50	53
O8P0S9	0	1	2	8	11	9	2.58351	9.34611	0.00020	-	-	-
O80884	3	0	2	4	4	7	1.00618	8.71610	0.16871	-	-	-
P07237	38	51	44	113	116	100	0.75609	13.23264	0.00000	8	1	3
P13804	0	0	0	8	6	3	5.86364	8.48061	0.00007	-	-	-
O8U080	8	7	6	3	0	0	-3.23469	8.98444	0.00001	7	2	1
P62820	5	5	8	6	10	6	-0.25689	9.71789	0.64022	15	7	2
P53999	16	24	18	7	14	13	-1.31268	10.92542	0.00003	5	3	3
P16401	1	8	3	13	12	12	1.06216	10.00725	0.02815	4	6	4
P04350	39	27	36	48	63	59	0.19539	12.48538	0.33625	61	62	42
Q29963	4	4	3	14	15	13	1.36701	10.11968	0.00304	50	39	32
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	10
Q7Z406	3	2	3	5	2	5	-0.22166	8.56546	0.81562	-	-	-
P30447	6	5	6	3	9	9	0.11642	9.85452	1.00000	8	11	13
P16190	7	5	6	9	9	9	0.02490	9.88717	1.00000	3	6	8
Q16836	7	14	9	7	12	11	-0.54519	10.30380	0.16307	67	65	66
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	29	35
P68905	15	0	5	0	0	0	-6.63735	8.72172	0.00000	0	0	0
P45880	3	3	4	8	14	13	1.24089	9.88406	0.02121	21	24	24
P52566	19	16	22	0	0	0	-8.13888	10.24012	0.00000	0	0	0
Q13765	3	3	4	3	3	6	-0.28035	8.85503	0.83302	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
P46940	3	7	5	9	12	11	0.53738	9.94833	0.30923	0	13	19
P30040	3	4	3	36	33	31	2.89637	11.15214	0.00000	20	20	28
Q15365	4	4	1	11	10	12	1.30565	9.79480	0.01602	-	-	-
P26038	29	29	21	39	49	48	0.23345	12.14054	0.29538	198	198	208
Q13509	29	26	31	49	57	59	0.38958	12.36187	0.07364	48	42	33
P49257	1	5	0	0	0	0	-4.93381	6.98142	0.01584	-	-	-
P04844	9	18	11	10	10	12	-0.79196	10.52766	0.03597	-	-	-
P31939	10	16	7	13	8	15	-0.42113	10.50540	0.28553	7	5	5
O8U1V4	6	4	5	10	7	8	0.18494	9.71703	0.75233	17	11	16
P02768	12	10	3	0	0	0	-5.95638	9.04433	0.00000	24	0	0
P32119	11	14	18	4	4	6	-2.14509	10.23507	0.00000	17	20	15
P00403	4	4	0	15	9	9	1.47151	9.75020	0.00565	-	-	-
P04222	1	2	0	0	8	9	2.48776	9.25015	0.00059	27	19	14
Q95365	0	0	0	12	14	12	7.01035	9.63788	0.00000	31	24	25
P04075	50	45	65	67	59	84	-0.15715	12.92876	0.37262	42	46	43
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	54	43
P32969	1	2	0	9	7	3	2.04124	8.05293	0.07236	11	6	6
P09382	2	3	3	13	13	13	1.63517	9.88353	0.00328	0	0	0
P07195	47	39	45	3	5	11	-3.31502	11.64714	0.00000	9	10	11
Q13813	8	4	3	3	3	2	-4.23335	8.92097	0.02371	51	50	44
P11233	0	0	0	1	4	0	-1.45638	6.71652	0.12549	12	16	13
P0CG48	255	300	273	443	381	447	0.06857	15.42794	0.47144	6	9	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	270	279	282
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	10	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
P08107	6	8	9	14	17	22	0.65007	10.64027	0.10877	0	1	3

Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			logFC	logCPM	PValue
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue			
Q65604	7	7	6	9	5	6	-0.34469	9.82257	0.54802	-0.0133	11.93033	1.00000
P62191	0	3	2	7	7	6	1.26454	8.91740	0.08040	0.01504	7.21359	1.00000
Q14103	9	16	8	11	13	6	-0.69181	10.37519	0.08303	-0.15076	9.05024	1.00000
P06753	3	6	10	3	3	10	-0.78639	9.52603	0.18040	-0.84332	9.35276	0.16224
P09493	0	3	3	5	4	4	-0.13153	8.78774	1.00000	0.86327	10.61491	0.03444
P53675	3	0	0	3	3	3	4.80378	7.39418	0.01584	0.70302	8.73382	0.40603
P30479	0	0	0	13	16	13	7.15367	9.78171	0.00000	0.69069	11.05394	0.05709
Q3ZCM7	12	13	11	23	17	17	0.11268	10.33366	0.83878	0.52321	12.37988	0.05821
P16689	15	11	18	12	12	16	-0.83396	10.72131	0.07663	-0.11760	11.06444	0.80520
Q8UKY7	6	6	6	0	0	2	-3.53599	8.72066	0.00001	-0.23958	11.39228	0.87125
P61586	3	1	2	4	1	9	0.65502	8.71638	0.50627	-0.05950	10.88094	0.92880
P50990	4	2	4	5	5	9	0.36972	9.25258	0.57512	-0.89929	10.30031	0.05856
P18085	2	3	0	4	5	9	1.26454	8.91708	0.08040	3.41937	7.87394	0.00780
Q07020	8	7	9	6	6	8	-1.03433	9.75525	0.29262	-0.37370	10.67036	0.37639
										2.83480	8.91851	0.00145
										-0.21238	8.78227	0.00001
										-2.50559	7.72424	0.04311
										7.82297	10.04312	0.00000
										0.22143	11.01113	0.55424
										-1.94275	7.20903	0.22536
										-2.81288	10.94564	0.00000
P22102	4	3	1	8	1	5	0.25183	8.85413	0.83302	-	-	-
Q66KP4	18	10	25	22	22	29	-0.39322	11.20556	0.17103	-	-	-
P51891	12	18	8	18	21	15	-0.04248	10.91906	1.00000	-	-	-
Q09028	6	3	3	2	0	2	-2.05648	8.39734	0.01321	-	-	-
Q8UBV2	2	3	2	4	8	2	0.43939	8.78711	0.69581	-	-	-
P13639	46	61	64	30	39	43	-1.15906	12.55661	0.00000	-	-	-
P16615	0	0	0	24	0	17	7.73525	10.36424	0.00000	-	-	-
P36578	3	9	3	6	13	11	0.44515	9.88559	0.36710	-	-	-
Q58FF3	7	10	9	9	9	11	-0.38865	10.17787	0.42703	-	-	-
P06744	8	11	15	18	22	30	0.48967	11.09260	0.14580	-	-	-
Q92841	5	0	5	16	8	9	0.40306	10.03846	0.39913	-	-	-
P62995	0	2	0	7	4	6	2.42335	8.64128	0.07788	-	-	-
Q66830	29	28	28	18	19	1	-1.12212	11.55429	0.00001	-	-	-
Q92930	2	1	3	3	3	1	-0.31531	8.09616	1.00000	-	-	-
Q02878	17	19	11	8	14	8	-1.18937	10.66732	0.00087	-	-	-
P61088	8	10	9	0	0	2	-4.11588	9.25855	0.00000	-	-	-
P26373	4	1	4	6	6	6	0.51854	9.20194	0.44811	-	-	-
P18463	0	0	0	12	14	12	7.01035	9.63788	0.00000	-	-	-
P14625	69	84	76	80	79	81	-0.48148	13.27956	0.00210	-	-	-
										-	-	-
Q06323	6	10	11	7	4	9	-0.97217	9.95263	0.03187	-	-	-
P35268	2	2	5	0	0	2	-2.55198	7.86532	0.01200	-	-	-
Q8UBS4	0	0	0	8	13	2	6.29326	8.91581	0.00002	-	-	-
P31949	6	4	6	2	0	0	-3.36807	8.58851	0.00008	-	-	-
Q12906	2	4	3	8	12	10	1.16934	9.67819	0.04970	-	-	-
P30512	6	5	6	6	6	6	-0.46072	9.52564	0.50446	-	-	-
P10314	6	5	6	6	6	6	-0.31106	9.60956	0.62185	-	-	-
O75390	0	0	0	8	9	8	6.41208	9.03562	0.00001	-	-	-
Q09160	3	2	3	3	3	3	-0.36904	8.48321	0.63100	-	-	-
Q9P2J5	3	6	2	9	8	10	7.3519	9.64181	0.19308	-	-	-
P52565	12	9	9	3	2	2	-2.41369	9.64846	0.00001	-	-	-
O75947	0	3	0	17	21	21	3.61132	10.29481	0.00000	-	-	-
Q86EP5	0	0	0	5	3	2	5.11534	7.71588	0.00400	-	-	-
Q89497	7	17	15	14	13	8	-0.70109	10.08004	0.05282	-	-	-
										-	-	-
P05534	6	5	6	9	9	9	0.11642	9.85452	1.00000	-	-	-

Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			MM.1S Vesicle Spectral Count			U266 Vesicle Spectral Count			Statistics		
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue
P61006	1	1	2	5	6	2	0.80403	8.56469	0.33502	13	15	6	7	5	2	-0.83931	9.98174	0.08080
P12956	25	27	30	24	28	35	-0.46293	11.80024	0.05738	2	4	4	4	4	0	-0.54952	8.31094	0.61970
P30466	0	0	0	9	11	9	6.62387	9.24917	0.00000	49	42	43	37	46	38	0.28338	12.41319	0.31209
P30484	3	3	3	12	14	12	1.50739	9.94643	0.00416	57	47	48	40	47	38	0.14874	12.52660	0.57857
P60660	6	11	10	4	6	12	-0.83658	10.01209	0.04781	5	8	3	0	0	2	-2.48855	8.56950	0.01637
P01893	3	2	3	9	9	9	1.18466	9.52250	0.03705	P00660	16	17	18	18	18	0.19884	11.05437	0.61941
P09874	32	25	33	0	5	5	-4.17746	11.01257	0.00000	P01893	37	30	31	30	35	0.43006	12.03981	0.13831
Q12765	0	0	0	7	11	10	6.57376	9.19852	0.00000	P09874	7	8	12	1	0	-4.06051	9.19602	0.00003
P08238	82	88	100	80	78	103	-0.59803	13.46236	0.00005	P08238	98	88	94	78	85	0.04487	13.35954	0.90122
P61981	22	16	13	7	9	22	-0.96867	10.87554	0.00274	P61981	29	22	21	16	16	-0.12870	11.59366	0.69897
P27348	15	18	12	11	14	23	-0.45416	10.93635	0.15834	P27348	19	18	27	21	15	0.21163	11.30756	0.60637
P35606	0	0	0	1	2	10	5.48422	8.09348	0.00101	P27348	10	14	13	0	0	-7.02107	9.59766	0.00000
P23487	1	2	7	0	0	0	-5.65177	7.71943	0.00101	P27701	10	14	13	0	0	-	-	-
P24534	11	9	12	3	6	2	-2.06092	9.82676	0.00002	P24534	3	3	7	0	0	-5.53242	8.09754	0.00066
Q99623	6	7	4	11	4	5	0.00664	9.78789	1.00000	P61224	24	35	22	23	18	-0.07563	11.51727	0.84131
P61224	0	0	0	18	13	11	7.15367	9.78214	0.00000	P61224	24	35	22	23	18	-	-	-
P00505	0	0	0	7	8	4	6.02149	8.64066	0.00003	Q94832	3	1	5	0	0	-5.01570	7.56927	0.00888
P61604	27	27	27	25	27	24	-0.63958	11.69574	0.01217	P05023	87	58	49	48	66	0.26551	12.94196	0.27088
P56134	0	3	4	4	6	9	0.87205	9.09426	0.23334	P53096	4	4	5	7	10	1.29681	9.63359	0.02329
P63241	10	15	18	9	9	15	-0.92541	10.64721	0.00718	Q9BZQ8	7	0	1	6	5	1.97799	9.42056	0.00079
Q9Y3Z3	3	12	7	0	0	0	-6.77354	8.85919	0.00000	P28838	9	0	3	0	0	-5.41954	7.97930	0.00125
P13797	2	3	3	3	3	3	-0.68381	8.64409	0.36230	P63241	14	13	14	0	3	-2.30719	9.93962	0.00012
P30044	8	9	11	17	13	15	0.13390	10.58483	0.81676	P13797	8	4	8	4	3	-0.82989	8.98489	0.23409
O13423	1	2	0	8	3	3	2.14143	8.91683	0.00759	P30044	6	0	11	3	0	-1.99658	8.71682	0.02474
P00558	31	30	34	56	63	102	0.66723	12.68790	0.00660	P00558	54	58	75	38	35	-0.36023	12.60009	0.17966
P62424	2	2	3	3	5	3	0.43939	8.78728	0.66581	P62424	4	4	6	3	4	-0.05316	8.99207	1.00000
P52272	10	12	5	33	34	34	1.31831	11.39454	0.00002	P0C0S8	57	58	67	33	26	-0.46107	12.51730	0.09078
P30483	0	0	0	10	13	11	6.76452	9.39071	0.00000	P30483	39	33	38	35	43	0.39037	12.18114	0.18175
P61769	0	0	0	10	11	9	6.76452	9.39071	0.00000	P61769	14	9	10	9	11	0.38383	10.43606	0.38599
P06748	27	26	28	28	62	62	0.63275	12.43741	0.00200	P06748	28	18	17	25	14	-0.15307	11.11134	0.68492
Q00571	1	0	0	12	13	8	4.24108	9.47852	0.00000	P18465	53	44	42	37	46	0.14482	12.39353	0.63840
P18465	3	3	3	9	11	9	1.12091	9.64101	0.68841	P63104	31	26	33	28	28	0.29600	11.84646	0.33625
P63104	28	28	27	29	21	36	-0.49700	11.80085	0.04063	Q6Y7A7	7	0	0	4	0	0.91814	8.49473	0.35127
P30049	6	5	4	3	3	4	-1.11179	9.04085	0.07800	P19338	17	18	20	11	5	-1.33865	10.53407	0.00242
P42167	6	5	8	7	8	9	-0.21022	9.82212	0.76403	P19338	17	18	20	11	5	-	-	-
P19338	17	28	23	46	51	112	0.48058	12.08364	0.03899	P16070	36	24	30	26	24	0.46194	11.92163	0.10395
P14314	3	5	2	32	30	30	2.61191	11.04333	0.00000	P15531	17	20	13	10	12	-0.40268	10.68479	0.32144
P55084	0	0	0	4	4	7	5.68637	8.29993	0.00026	O43707	40	36	44	31	40	0.22421	12.22360	0.45551
P16070	3	3	3	0	2	2	-2.55198	7.89527	0.01200	P50395	27	27	23	23	12	-0.63449	11.71931	0.03724
P15531	6	6	17	3	2	5	-2.14912	9.75797	0.00001	Q8Y3L5	11	7	5	0	6	-0.75798	9.44360	0.24844
O43707	1	3	0	6	1	2	0.59570	8.09550	0.58270	P22314	18	14	10	13	2	-1.04377	10.22328	0.01971
P50395	11	10	10	10	14	18	-0.14532	10.56548	0.81676	P22314	18	14	10	13	2	-	-	-
P22314	24	20	28	21	9	15	-1.22231	11.27458	0.00002	P27105	0	0	0	0	0	6.49563	8.67566	0.00000
Q00325	2	3	3	4	12	8	1.01689	9.39329	0.10204	Q71D13	0	0	0	3	7	-	-	-
Q71D13	61	69	54	117	113	82	0.21195	13.34613	0.16574	Q71D13	37	34	20	14	22	-0.78793	11.40338	0.01785
P49588	0	4	6	6	5	11	1.54978	9.14784	0.01543	P49588	16	5	1	2	3	-1.66489	9.14582	0.02079
P01892	6	5	6	6	6	6	-0.46072	9.52564	0.50446	P01892	30	29	26	29	18	0.23050	11.72613	0.50966
P01854	0	0	0	10	14	20	7.22032	9.84811	0.00000	O00289	2	4	4	0	0	-	-	-
O00289	2	1	4	4	3	3	-0.03410	8.48295	1.00000	P62263	21	36	32	14	27	0.08444	11.73033	0.81101
P62263	7	7	6	8	9	10	-0.11549	9.95016	0.88473	P62263	4	3	0	1	4	-0.05210	7.96024	1.00000
P16188	6	5	6	9	9	9	0.11642	9.85452	1.00000	P16188	50	40	43	29	32	-0.02416	12.25451	1.00000

Uniprot Accession	MM-1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			logFC	logCPM	PValue			
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue						
P84085	4	6	4	8	9	9	0.16428	9.60423	0.86948	15	22	16	-0.48628	10.74191	0.24930
P35749	5	5	4	5	5	5	-0.03459	9.48275	1.00000	5	5	21	-0.27690	10.26318	0.63887
Q05639	44	50	52	37	48	48	-0.73816	12.50410	0.00012	37	36	37	0.09250	12.03660	0.79741
P05141	13	11	13	13	13	11	-0.58524	10.58782	0.10877	31	31	30	-0.30997	11.59922	0.36639
Q8IUE6	19	24	20	67	59	49	0.92206	12.28014	0.00003	39	27	27	0.23119	11.85763	0.43056
P10321	3	2	3	11	12	10	1.47151	9.74996	0.01093	31	31	30	-0.29634	8.40392	0.81070
Q13011	2	0	0	7	7	4	2.78968	8.97767	0.00069	6	4	7	3.40199	8.56660	0.00334
O14879	3	3	3	6	5	3	0.08588	8.91885	1.00000	4	4	0	-3.48312	8.64109	0.00044
A6IHL2	0	2	1	6	3	5	1.60657	8.46124	0.07835	4	4	7	0.40199	8.41032	0.81070
P25787	0	0	0	3	0	4	4.61950	7.20143	0.03156	2	4	2	-3.48312	8.64109	0.00044
P83363	51	59	64	74	73	4	-0.22415	13.01477	0.18869	53	42	43	-0.12252	12.25618	0.64555
Q13748	44	46	52	58	56	59	-0.26438	12.68989	0.14934	44	38	36	0.09370	12.04392	0.75716
P48643	3	6	13	12	13	17	0.92653	10.22528	0.04378	12	8	6	0.05208	9.92899	1.00000
P30480	0	0	0	13	12	16	7.34505	9.97352	0.00000	58	45	52	0.39280	12.68099	0.13389
P29401	4	3	3	0	0	9	-1.44877	9.25588	0.01716	42	34	44	-5.33223	11.27271	0.00000
P07205	12	13	11	11	10	11	-0.45136	10.62571	0.28949	9	11	15	0.25416	10.45801	0.59182
Q43852	5	4	3	3	29	35	2.51779	11.27658	0.00000	17	17	21	-7.58934	10.15209	0.00000
Q15181	7	8	7	8	4	4	-1.52448	9.44274	0.00325	31	29	28	-2.09614	9.20416	0.00422
Q8BY50	4	6	3	0	0	0	-6.02365	8.09843	0.00007	17	17	0	0.3229	10.07752	1.00000
Q58FF6	10	9	10	8	12	12	-0.44634	10.25485	0.29815	12	8	9	-0.06277	11.82328	0.90890
P30505	4	4	3	9	9	10	0.78710	9.67902	0.19308	38	30	32	0.39823	6.99266	1.00000
P30085	3	4	4	1	6	6	-0.77459	8.98134	0.31127	1	0	2	-	-	-
P09429	7	8	8	22	0	0	-7.51620	9.61272	0.00000	5	14	5	-	-	-
P01891	6	5	6	9	9	9	0.11642	9.85452	1.00000	31	29	28	-	-	-
Q75844	2	3	1	3	7	4	0.65502	8.71636	0.36230	31	29	28	-	-	-
P31946	26	26	23	10	19	19	-1.56140	11.21214	0.00000	24	18	22	-	-	-
Q14011	1	3	0	13	10	10	2.43625	6.90107	0.00023	24	18	22	-	-	-
P04406	75	97	115	78	56	91	-0.89892	13.41707	0.00000	114	106	133	-	-	-
P24752	7	7	7	9	10	10	-0.16934	9.91921	0.78931	62	56	83	-	-	-
P13796	42	33	51	26	26	38	-1.03267	12.16242	0.00000	62	56	83	-	-	-
Q13310	7	8	5	3	5	6	-1.04852	9.48476	0.06039	31	29	28	-	-	-
P12004	2	2	13	0	0	0	-6.40544	8.48655	0.00000	46	44	46	-	-	-
P10319	4	5	3	9	9	9	0.71385	9.75122	0.20531	46	44	46	-	-	-
P13667	35	34	48	19	22	25	-1.37167	11.92488	0.00000	46	44	46	-	-	-
P53674	5	6	4	0	0	0	-6.22714	8.30533	0.00002	4	3	5	-	-	-
P51665	3	2	0	0	0	0	-4.69019	6.71628	0.03156	7	5	0	-	-	-
P08066	0	0	3	2	3	3	0.82353	7.85422	0.59030	7	5	7	-	-	-
P35579	62	68	54	32	44	51	-1.08277	12.69259	0.00000	39	39	39	-	-	-
P20073	0	3	1	4	3	3	0.74309	8.20208	0.58270	7	7	7	-	-	-
P08670	68	82	48	181	196	192	0.97253	13.95090	0.00000	44	36	38	-	-	-
P08756	13	7	13	13	21	25	-0.46956	11.03674	0.16777	35	22	21	-	-	-
Q04843	11	14	4	16	9	3	-0.59514	10.23076	0.19289	44	44	44	-	-	-
Q069X5	5	7	1	9	5	5	-0.00215	9.39547	1.00000	35	22	21	-	-	-
P23526	10	6	8	7	16	16	-0.13345	10.20283	0.79138	44	36	38	-	-	-
P62829	6	5	3	5	3	3	-0.87992	9.04065	0.17226	35	22	21	-	-	-
P18464	4	5	3	12	14	12	1.10033	10.03628	0.02046	35	22	21	-	-	-
P07954	15	22	19	17	15	12	-0.89311	11.04458	0.00360	44	36	38	-	-	-
P52907	4	0	0	0	0	1	-2.24583	6.71795	0.21967	44	36	38	-	-	-
P30685	4	5	3	12	14	12	1.10033	10.03628	0.02046	44	36	38	-	-	-
P39748	4	4	10	4	5	5	-0.89813	9.39714	0.11391	44	36	38	-	-	-
Q722X7	0	7	0	9	12	9	6.80654	9.43511	0.00000	44	36	38	-	-	-
P18124	12	0	7	8	12	6	-0.90278	9.98350	0.04781	44	36	38	-	-	-
P06733	37	43	69	111	103	143	0.71017	13.36297	0.00000	83	81	113	-	-	-
Q89714	7	6	4	5	10	6	-0.24168	9.64369	0.74582	83	81	113	-	-	-
Q6FH13	56	77	55	157	153	111	0.61287	13.63184	0.00002	49	49	57	-	-	-

Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			MM.1S Vesicle Spectral Count			U266 Vesicle Spectral Count			Statistics		
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue
P15311	9	8	23	22	27	18	1.22000	10.92877	0.00054	58	96	116	102	107	156	0.86540	13.78323	0.00016
P22392	-	12	11	14	11	18	-0.51275	10.80733	0.13896	27	28	25	13	13	6	-0.88638	11.19287	0.01099
Q16629	4	5	7	7	9	12	0.25472	9.85392	0.76403	25	32	20	9	21	21	-0.16257	11.40775	0.67452
P62979	31	36	55	51	45	55	0.04478	12.36638	0.85921	29	30	31	27	29	35	1.06658	8.10953	0.28138
P54819	5	8	2	1	0	2	-3.36473	9.10013	0.00000	12	4	4	0	4	4	-1.51968	8.71610	0.72330
O14950	4	6	6	3	6	6	-0.10030	9.09565	1.00000	6	12	14	9	7	11	0.19449	10.29780	0.73312
Q15084	26	33	66	62	63	66	0.55098	12.51715	0.00585	7	7	0	11	7	0	1.40282	9.16873	0.02722
P06899	42	45	187	171	187	162	1.41694	13.71372	0.00000	52	49	43	54	31	14	-0.10919	12.32313	0.65626
P05455	5	5	4	3	2	4	-1.25918	8.98212	0.04499	23	16	10	4	14	14	-0.18242	10.74408	0.70162
Q699H8	7	5	2	6	4	2	-1.19289	9.35206	0.05250	10	3	2	2	0	0	-1.21241	8.78881	0.13230
P62266	4	3	6	5	5	6	-0.44941	9.35044	0.47762	0	5	4	3	2	0	-0.40198	8.21405	0.79718
Q04826	0	0	13	16	16	13	7.15367	9.78171	0.00000	45	32	44	41	50	37	0.51127	12.38524	0.06505
P09622	0	0	6	6	3	0	4.96796	7.56427	0.00796	46	48	56	5	0	0	-4.41833	11.81356	0.00000
P56072	28	23	30	34	22	35	-0.38064	11.82567	0.12879	45	39	43	37	43	32	0.24931	12.31673	0.39893
P03989	0	0	9	11	13	9	6.80851	9.43512	0.00000	48	30	9	7	8	8	-0.19786	10.05587	0.70354
P26640	6	2	0	0	0	0	-6.70705	8.79197	0.00000	37	27	28	20	20	23	-0.11476	11.68118	0.80586
Q29865	1	1	10	11	12	10	2.82825	9.56121	0.00002	18	22	16	9	16	21	0.14665	11.08906	0.68492
O75083	5	4	0	0	5	5	-1.86727	8.56706	0.01995	5	3	3	3	3	0	-	-	-
P38646	20	24	70	60	70	54	0.82235	12.39006	0.00010	5	3	0	9	13	18	2.70988	10.02853	0.00000
P01744	0	0	6	6	9	6	6.29326	8.91548	0.00002	6	4	4	3	3	4	-0.05316	8.99233	1.00000
O00567	5	8	6	6	8	6	-0.39258	9.64407	0.51647	6	4	4	3	3	0	-	-	-
P38542	5	3	5	12	6	6	0.44437	9.68016	0.42346	16	9	12	8	6	0	-0.96032	10.06271	0.04900
P26599	9	16	4	26	26	31	0.96248	11.19684	0.00178	69	54	71	54	48	45	0.03087	12.82238	0.89264
P68104	67	68	92	91	95	92	-0.09597	13.30769	0.54753	6	5	6	6	6	6	-	-	-
O12905	4	4	16	12	17	16	1.74958	10.14551	0.00038	6	5	3	3	3	3	-	-	-
Q9Y6R5	0	0	2	2	2	4	5.58883	8.20095	0.00051	6	5	8	11	11	6	0.97987	9.97342	0.04800
AGNL28	3	3	4	2	0	6	-0.96917	8.39432	0.30416	11	5	4	0	0	0	-6.14296	8.71182	0.00001
P13010	22	19	36	32	32	36	0.21086	11.70644	0.44429	11	5	4	3	3	0	-1.50403	8.30714	0.19380
P17661	13	11	10	25	24	27	0.60783	11.17319	0.04801	30	25	23	26	30	27	0.51919	11.75562	0.08581
P23396	12	14	23	19	19	24	0.10193	11.14948	0.77833	14	16	16	12	16	9	-0.08883	10.89656	0.85918
P50991	3	1	6	3	3	6	0.99917	8.39432	0.30416	2	3	2	2	4	3	0.41959	8.57959	0.82200
O75955	0	0	2	4	3	2	4.96796	7.56405	0.00796	7	7	3	11	8	1	1.03641	9.45763	0.10361
P27797	36	37	73	80	79	73	0.47470	12.82286	0.00849	2	0	0	3	0	0	0.92153	6.73009	1.00000
P62847	5	0	4	6	6	4	0.27477	9.03901	0.84008	2	4	0	0	0	0	-4.45286	6.98841	0.06547
O43143	0	0	7	5	6	7	5.94472	8.56257	0.00007	6	3	8	0	0	0	-5.91209	8.48048	0.00010
Q9Y281	4	5	10	11	9	10	0.26685	9.94935	0.66350	16	19	19	9	11	5	-0.67529	10.69802	0.09341
Q08211	5	4	18	15	15	17	1.37994	10.36846	0.00189	2	0	1	0	8	0	1.75224	7.86914	0.11768
Q6DN03	5	5	22	23	23	22	1.71596	10.74645	0.00002	3	4	1	7	2	2	0.86728	8.66114	0.38020
P14550	4	4	0	3	0	0	-5.78668	7.85706	0.00026	64	57	72	60	53	59	0.26460	12.93529	0.26161
P11142	50	64	85	63	60	85	-0.23263	12.94968	0.19234	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
O75396	0	0	4	3	3	4	5.11534	7.71576	0.00400	3	4	5	10	2	1	0.53596	9.05510	0.45033
P14866	10	11	20	17	19	20	0.44754	10.78543	0.19353	3	4	5	5	2	1	-	-	-
P62249	0	0	2	11	15	10	3.49267	9.63862	0.00000	2	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Q07021	0	0	4	1	10	4	0.75256	8.78632	0.26632	2	2	8	5	13	19	2.02981	10.05382	0.00006
P59988	5	5	0	3	3	0	-6.22714	8.30537	0.00002	20	11	11	11	2	3	-2.20441	9.98782	0.00018
P31947	7	7	9	3	3	9	-1.02068	9.65725	0.04870	40	39	40	39	39	31	0.36953	12.22018	0.19086
Q31612	3	2	10	11	12	10	1.47151	9.74996	0.01039	13	15	21	14	19	16	0.18701	11.15259	0.57967
P13747	1	0	6	6	6	6	5.94472	8.56288	0.00007	22	15	21	6	0	0	4.86689	6.99873	0.03350
P46778	1	0	1	2	1	6	1.52767	7.85375	0.22825	2	2	8	5	5	2	-	-	-
Q8N023	0	0	14	6	6	14	7.22032	9.84932	0.00000	20	12	25	18	27	29	0.80461	11.46555	0.01376
P05362	0	0	0	3	3	0	4.40586	6.97955	0.06291	50	41	46	19	27	24	-0.53623	12.08242	0.07543
P07355	14	22	14	5	10	14	-1.32668	10.70461	0.00011	16	14	13	3	6	4	-1.28063	10.19170	0.00873
P61158	2	3	0	0	0	0	-5.33700	7.39700	0.00400	6	6	0	0	0	0	-5.01570	7.56899	0.00888
P33241	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	3	9	15	37	4.65011	10.47363	0.00000

Uniprot Accession	MM1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			MM1S Vesicle Spectral Count			U266 Vesicle Spectral Count			Statistics		
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	log <sub>2</sub> FC	log <sub>2</sub> CPM	PValue	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	log <sub>2</sub> FC	log <sub>2</sub> CPM	PValue
	7	6	5	2	2	5	-1.20370	9.09756	0.05431	14	9	7	0	1	0	-4.21059	9.33857	0.00001
P17858	3	6	5	2	2	5	-1.20370	9.09756	0.05431	14	9	7	0	1	0	-4.21059	9.33857	0.00001
O43175	0	0	0	4	4	0	4.96796	7.56419	0.00796	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P40926	35	29	33	46	40	42	-0.14926	12.21147	0.53185	0	0	0	6	0	0	4.86689	6.99873	0.03350
Q8UNM6	4	7	6	6	6	6	-0.07892	9.34957	1.00000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q96E39	6	3	3	3	3	5	-0.97808	9.09721	0.12538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O15637	7	8	0	6	3	3	-0.85571	9.15169	0.25197	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P38023	2	0	0	3	8	4	0.34937	8.91816	0.83302	1	2	6	3	3	0	-0.14880	8.31261	1.00000
O00764	2	3	1	0	0	4	-0.33381	6.86150	0.01584	13	16	14	0	0	0	-7.23633	9.80475	0.00000
Q01534	0	0	16	14	17	17	7.31486	9.94334	0.00000	0	0	0	3	6	2	5.71871	7.87748	0.00066
Q89798	7	9	8	6	7	7	-0.80359	9.85683	0.10093	3	0	3	3	10	8	2.18563	9.17870	0.00114
P25705	38	56	33	73	59	57	0.02385	12.69926	0.87664	0	0	0	6	0	0	4.86689	6.99873	0.03350
Q8UNMX0	0	1	0	4	8	10	3.66254	8.91561	0.00024	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
P48735	26	19	18	0	0	0	-8.28278	10.38564	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P11940	4	3	2	5	5	4	0.18341	8.86014	1.00000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q03516	0	0	0	5	0	1	4.40586	6.97367	0.06291	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P30101	20	17	22	18	17	17	-0.72861	11.19468	0.01339	12	9	6	9	15	13	0.87874	10.42274	0.04955
Q8NBS9	45	41	52	124	105	105	0.85655	13.35644	0.00000	7	3	8	24	4	0	1.05688	9.94057	0.04335
P67936	3	3	0	3	3	6	-0.13153	8.78769	1.00000	6	2	9	9	9	7	0.97562	9.81026	0.06515
Q8HB71	4	0	0	0	0	2	-0.51773	7.39567	0.72728	12	6	10	2	4	0	-1.75565	9.47674	0.00599
P40938	26	28	12	33	29	20	-0.23573	11.60717	0.43105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P31040	1	3	3	6	6	8	0.75738	9.20142	0.25197	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q16891	2	2	0	9	4	6	2.04124	8.85285	0.07236	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P34931	11	11	12	28	27	35	0.85088	11.34000	0.00449	14	9	16	10	10	13	0.18884	10.58208	0.68194
P62081	19	16	16	23	23	22	-0.24376	11.23006	0.46797	14	6	3	0	9	0	-0.90665	9.39339	0.12235
P35232	14	11	6	13	13	6	-0.85239	10.20543	0.03646	14	6	3	0	9	0	-	-	-
Q89832	2	0	3	6	12	15	2.47348	9.94498	0.00001	3	3	6	0	4	0	-1.11310	8.40068	0.19380
P30041	9	20	14	12	5	17	-0.88272	10.66586	0.01056	13	11	21	10	17	20	0.49124	10.94507	0.16632
O60814	47	47	48	179	200	168	1.39470	13.79033	0.00000	54	51	47	58	34	16	-0.96177	12.42239	0.80074
Q14568	-	-	-	16	15	20	0.86787	10.52133	0.03054	0	0	0	7	7	6	3.64452	8.95319	0.00000
Q13200	3	4	2	3	2	4	-1.59616	9.20516	0.00873	15	16	12	14	13	7	0.09176	10.67486	0.92183
P62244	2	3	1	3	4	9	0.84391	8.85341	0.38660	3	3	0	1	1	1	-0.52289	6.99069	1.00000
P0C055	32	43	34	73	78	54	0.36103	12.68513	0.05245	8	8	9	12	0	0	-6.67266	9.24433	0.00000
P61978	28	26	27	35	26	26	-0.29879	11.73787	0.23036	16	18	20	17	17	11	0.16728	11.04025	0.67695
P50213	3	0	0	5	4	5	0.90864	8.64230	0.24067	7	3	0	3	2	0	-0.54852	8.30834	0.61970
P30481	0	0	0	10	13	9	6.76462	9.38081	0.00000	29	27	27	29	34	25	0.51405	11.84151	0.10004
P36656	3	1	0	6	6	4	1.40547	8.71891	0.06520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P62826	11	13	12	9	12	9	-0.80660	10.44286	0.03054	13	9	11	6	8	6	-0.28853	10.13009	0.61595
Q88FG0	6	6	9	7	6	19	0.05746	10.12266	1.00000	12	7	3	6	7	2	-0.11976	9.61220	0.87798
P62753	4	3	7	9	10	11	0.54331	9.85343	0.28654	8	7	10	16	12	7	0.90886	10.32735	0.04095
P62841	0	1	2	0	6	1	0.63824	7.71674	0.75471	5	5	0	0	0	0	0.41077	7.72749	0.75956
Q86V61	0	0	0	0	10	8	5.94472	8.56216	0.00007	5	7	9	4	3	0	-0.77709	9.30639	0.21302
P37837	1	3	9	0	0	0	-0.02365	8.09858	0.00007	1	6	12	0	0	0	2.70232	7.22087	0.07552
P57737	1	2	3	0	1	0	-2.80738	7.20378	0.07103	2	6	6	0	3	0	1.61974	7.21792	0.29826
P00387	0	0	0	8	8	15	6.71914	9.34484	0.00000	14	6	12	3	3	7	-6.46080	9.03208	0.00000
P13929	8	13	11	29	26	25	0.76848	11.19844	0.01467	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.61512	9.72260	0.37785
P47155	5	6	0	0	0	0	-6.31904	8.39871	0.00001	0	0	1	11	12	12	5.20508	9.61280	0.00000
P63244	19	20	18	13	14	16	-0.95148	11.04462	0.00188	21	15	21	16	10	12	-0.15300	10.97406	0.73017
P16402	48	54	30	52	61	45	-0.28979	12.57955	0.04442	14	8	5	4	9	0	-0.61512	9.71718	0.29585
P68366	33	47	41	40	50	49	-0.34893	12.42199	0.08459	6	8	7	0	0	0	-6.21238	8.78450	0.00001
P23284	39	44	46	37	48	47	-0.51553	12.43003	0.00635	0	0	0	5	5	1	1.13109	8.41241	0.22707
Q7KZF4	2	3	4	3	4	1	-1.64842	8.09723	0.05850	32	29	30	27	20	9	-0.26836	11.59562	0.39937
P0CW22	2	5	9	2	8	10	0.20282	9.82112	0.75839	0	0	0	3	8	4	2.64157	8.59156	0.00116
P30613	2	3	9	2	9	10	1.47442	9.56254	0.00981	4	4	3	4	0	0	-5.29707	7.85813	0.00240
Q8N1K5	2	1	2	3	3	4	0.43516	8.30182	0.79148	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.63902	8.50548	0.03808
P22695	7	16	2	0	0	0	-6.95638	9.04409	0.00000	6	2	1	1	8	1	0.56825	8.65479	0.66180



Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Vesicle Spectral Count			U266 Vesicle Spectral Count			Statistics		
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue		Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue			
P37802	5	6	2	0	0	0	-6.02365	8.09842	0.00007	P00441	7	10	10	1.61597	10.74449	0.00006			
P07108	9	16	17	0	0	0	-7.70013	9.79632	0.00000	P07108	10	11	12	-0.33123	10.15562	0.53528			
P63000	4	3	3	0	0	0	-5.65177	7.71937	0.00101	P63000	10	10	10	-0.66035	9.85865	0.20402			
P16152	0	0	4	4	5	4	5.48422	8.09388	0.00101	P16152	0	0	3	-1.94646	9.63856	0.00266			
Q8N0Y7	8	8	7	4	5	4	-1.09537	9.68338	0.04102	Q8N0Y7	11	9	6	5.84196	8.00264	0.00035			
P29566	0	0	13	12	12	12	6.97217	9.59964	0.00000	P29566	24	18	27	-0.06888	10.21420	1.00000			
P22626	43	30	31	68	76	68	4.83719	12.69675	0.01043	P22626	37	13	8	0.82781	11.75533	0.00730			
Q04917	11	11	3	3	3	3	-1.48253	9.85834	0.00191	Q04917	11	12	14	-0.07724	10.38525	0.91132			
P46782	6	0	2	5	5	5	0.14722	8.78760	1.00000	P46782	0	0	0	1.56493	7.73580	0.23858			
P81160	11	9	7	0	3	2	-2.91017	9.40012	0.00000	P81160	4	3	0	-5.01570	7.56975	0.00888			
P16949	6	3	5	7	7	7	2.83111	9.68001	0.63137	P16949	18	15	25	-3.35913	10.32901	0.00000			
P14618	31	34	39	238	221	249	2.21528	14.00638	0.00000	P14618	2	2	0	-2.40736	9.77623	0.00006			
P62701	6	9	3	7	7	7	-0.19370	9.75322	0.75839	P62701	56	67	116	1.35583	13.58490	0.00000			
P61026	2	2	2	6	6	4	1.08768	9.03778	0.15481	P61026	5	6	3	-0.67479	9.64836	0.22450			
O43681	0	0	0	3	3	3	5.58883	8.20045	0.00051	O43681	7	6	6	0.68380	9.45448	0.33162			
P05388	7	10	7	14	13	10	-0.04677	10.25307	1.00000	P05388	14	12	14	-0.36424	10.37528	0.36729			
P49755	3	3	3	4	11	13	0.90913	9.48076	0.11391	P49755	0	0	0	4.61371	6.75432	0.06547			
P09972	3	8	12	14	12	10	0.09587	10.27791	0.89762	P09972	6	2	2	0.42071	8.73260	0.52284			
P30508	7	7	6	14	15	13	0.51632	10.34782	0.25424	P30508	5	8	8	0.49257	9.84021	0.40482			
P68371	56	45	51	76	92	81	0.16220	13.03994	0.36703	P68371	53	43	42	-0.12252	12.26186	0.71475			
P52597	8	7	4	12	10	15	0.48006	10.20131	0.34934	P52597	80	77	64	-0.32286	12.85035	0.19255			
Q07955	9	5	2	5	3	3	-0.94762	9.20440	0.13976	Q07955	3	3	3	-0.14680	8.31330	1.00000			
P30048	4	8	6	6	10	3	-0.32319	9.68162	0.52768	P30048	5	1	5	-5.29707	7.85646	0.00240			
O14974	4	6	3	6	9	11	0.44437	9.67944	0.42346	O14974	51	53	53	-0.45310	12.31283	0.11687			
Q658J3	63	53	65	39	57	50	-1.07046	12.67455	0.00000	Q658J3	7	5	5	0.11468	13.63465	0.65872			
P49773	3	4	0	3	4	5	0.22198	8.64286	0.81562	P49773	86	115	129	-6.72110	9.29190	0.00000			
P12236	5	4	4	11	7	5	0.26961	9.56505	0.73878	P12236	10	9	11	-	-	-			
P46926	1	0	5	0	0	0	-4.93381	6.98164	0.01584	P46926	5	1	5	-	-	-			
P09104	9	13	8	26	23	22	0.68848	11.05004	0.02973	P09104	5	5	5	-	-	-			
Q89729	1	1	1	3	3	2	1.36349	7.71656	0.34536	Q89729	28	20	23	-	-	-			
P16104	32	39	30	82	90	62	0.66141	12.77379	0.00036	P16104	16	16	16	-	-	-			
O12907	4	4	0	9	7	3	1.64923	8.91721	0.02763	O12907	3	0	0	-	-	-			
P51571	9	8	5	8	8	6	-0.48028	9.88862	0.37829	P51571	38	38	39	-	-	-			
P30489	1	3	0	0	0	7	1.98164	9.20007	0.00437	P30489	27	27	27	-	-	-			
P31150	1	3	3	7	12	12	1.56969	9.64003	0.00656	P31150	21	22	22	-	-	-			
P31943	9	7	3	11	8	5	-0.21022	9.82243	0.76403	P31943	15	15	15	-	-	-			
O14697	2	2	0	0	54	46	4.64849	11.68015	0.00000	O14697	16	16	16	-	-	-			
Q07000	4	4	3	11	12	12	1.10600	9.91619	0.02459	Q07000	11	12	22	-	-	-			
Q8UKM9	2	0	2	6	6	6	1.57247	8.85309	0.04271	Q8UKM9	3	3	3	-	-	-			
P04233	4	5	0	0	0	0	-5.50295	7.58705	0.00201	P04233	6	6	6	-	-	-			
P17066	4	5	3	4	6	9	0.11148	9.34904	1.00000	P17066	4	4	10	-	-	-			
P84103	7	8	9	6	9	9	-0.67333	9.85675	0.18035	P84103	6	4	5	-	-	-			
B8A064	11	10	15	19	22	18	0.16218	10.96450	0.68746	B8A064	103	57	88	-	-	-			
O15144	0	0	1	1	2	6	0.59570	8.09500	0.77530	O15144	7	5	0	-	-	-			
P46781	6	9	6	4	0	4	-0.84341	9.64507	0.11263	P46781	7	7	2	-	-	-			
P17174	0	4	2	3	0	3	-0.52795	7.98065	0.77530	P17174	6	3	2	-	-	-			
P29353	17	18	20	51	47	29	0.65571	11.89821	0.00632	P29353	9	16	13	-	-	-			
P05387	8	9	7	12	7	9	-0.32420	10.09698	0.49577	P05387	13	11	5	-	-	-			
P20700	8	15	3	6	7	4	-1.14888	9.82439	0.01506	P20700	10	10	10	-	-	-			
Q01105	13	15	15	4	3	21	-1.16015	10.54926	0.00168	Q01105	5	3	0	-	-	-			
P60953	4	0	7	6	5	0	0.30772	9.34903	0.58836	P60953	16	8	12	-	-	-			
O16555	6	9	8	0	0	0	-0.89797	8.98529	0.00000	O16555	20	13	17	-	-	-			
P16880	8	11	8	13	13	12	-0.05620	10.41793	0.90268	P16880	6	8	13	-	-	-			
P16403	45	54	29	57	51	51	-0.09830	12.63992	0.63365	P16403	0	0	5	-	-	-			
P51149	0	2	1	28	23	23	4.02448	10.68855	0.00000	P51149	10	8	11	-	-	-			

Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Global Spectral Count			U266 Global Spectral Count			Statistics			Uniprot Accession	MM.1S Vesicle Spectral Count			U266 Vesicle Spectral Count			Statistics		
	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue		Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Replicate 3	logFC	logCPM	PValue
P62241	5	6	5	3	8	7	-0.37432	9.48330	0.61158	P62241	8	7	8	5	3	-0.36643	9.57265	0.53210	
P07910	13	14	9	36	36	32	0.97685	11.51801	0.00043	P07910	3	0	0	3	0	1.09644	7.40832	0.46077	
P50914	4	3	3	3	4	4	-0.40271	8.78812	0.66581	P50914	3	3	4	3	0	-0.29634	8.40461	0.81070	
P40429	3	2	3	2	3	5	-0.22166	8.56538	0.81562	P40429	3	4	2	0	0	-0.01570	7.57057	0.00888	
P31146	15	12	15	2	1	4	-3.08163	10.01777	0.00000	P31146	17	30	26	28	36	0.73093	11.78887	0.01988	
Q13151	2	3	3	9	6	9	1.01689	9.39364	0.10204	P31350	9	7	9	0	0	-6.46080	9.03178	0.00000	
Q92820	0	0	0	4	5	3	5.37143	7.97859	0.00201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Q04837	3	6	4	0	11	0	-0.77459	8.98121	0.31127	Q13885	61	57	58	37	30	-0.32724	12.52339	0.23057	
Q13885	39	39	42	55	67	59	0.04321	12.62634	0.63129	P10909	10	6	4	0	0	-6.14296	8.71258	0.00001	
P62917	5	3	6	1	3	5	-1.16102	8.92041	0.09560	P08865	14	18	10	5	7	-0.86557	10.27883	0.05856	
P08865	8	9	7	8	10	13	-0.17883	10.17702	0.68870	Q58FF8	21	16	19	18	11	0.14665	11.08101	0.74390	
Q58FF8	9	7	13	10	12	15	-0.19673	10.44042	0.62744	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
P30042	4	3	2	5	6	8	0.51854	9.20172	0.44611	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
P42224	0	0	0	5	6	6	5.86364	8.48030	0.00007	P02786	39	9	14	10	14	-0.43324	10.97487	0.29996	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Q32P51	15	9	17	10	8	-0.59926	10.32478	0.20025	
Q32P51	13	26	11	32	41	38	0.59890	11.72070	0.02134	P30486	45	36	42	44	37	0.51000	12.40917	0.06299	
P30486	0	0	0	9	11	9	6.62387	9.24917	0.00000	P30492	54	45	44	44	41	-0.02822	12.35340	0.93043	
P30492	3	3	3	9	11	9	1.12091	9.64101	0.06841	P0CG04	76	36	36	5	3	-3.93428	11.79252	0.00000	
P0CG04	6	4	7	19	22	18	1.23563	10.63969	0.00166	Q58FF7	32	32	26	23	8	-0.38696	11.53283	0.23098	
Q58FF7	26	28	28	30	29	38	-0.30647	11.88200	0.20020	Q8N257	43	39	36	42	10	-0.20303	11.99560	0.46002	
Q8N257	40	43	43	140	156	137	1.22894	13.49593	0.00000	P43361	0	0	0	1	3	4.61371	6.73431	0.03350	
P43361	0	0	0	0	1	8	4.96796	7.56357	0.00796	P63261	234	288	323	200	206	-0.04846	14.91467	0.83581	
P63261	121	125	149	131	128	135	-0.55299	14.03782	0.00002	P08754	17	20	17	13	20	0.28958	11.10558	0.41968	
Q92945	3	5	4	1	1	2	-2.05548	8.39719	0.01321	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Q9Y536	9	3	8	9	6	9	-0.28346	9.85574	0.65623	P30046	7	9	8	3	5	-0.66387	9.53051	0.26487	