



Cite this: *Soft Matter*, 2022, 18, 1112

Towards an integrative understanding of cancer mechanobiology: calcium, YAP, and microRNA under biophysical forces

Chenyu Liang,^{†ab} Miao Huang,^{†ab} Tianqi Li,^{†bc} Lu Li,^{†bc} Hayley Sussman,^d Yao Dai,^{be} Dietmar W. Siemann,^{be} Mingyi Xie^{*bcf} and Xin Tang^{id*ab}

An increasing number of studies have demonstrated the significant roles of the interplay between microenvironmental mechanics in tissues and biochemical-genetic activities in resident tumor cells at different stages of tumor progression. Mediated by molecular mechano-sensors or -transducers, biomechanical cues in tissue microenvironments are transmitted into the tumor cells and regulate biochemical responses and gene expression through mechanotransduction processes. However, the molecular interplay between the mechanotransduction processes and intracellular biochemical signaling pathways remains elusive. This paper reviews the recent advances in understanding the crosstalk between biomechanical cues and three critical biochemical effectors during tumor progression: calcium ions (Ca^{2+}), yes-associated protein (YAP), and microRNAs (miRNAs). We address the molecular mechanisms underpinning the interplay between the mechanotransduction pathways and each of the three effectors. Furthermore, we discuss the functional interactions among the three effectors in the context of soft matter and mechanobiology. We conclude by proposing future directions on studying the tumor mechanobiology that can employ Ca^{2+} , YAP, and miRNAs as novel strategies for cancer mechanotherapeutics. This framework has the potential to bring insights into the development of novel next-generation cancer therapies to suppress and treat tumors.

Received 15th November 2021,
Accepted 19th January 2022

DOI: 10.1039/d1sm01618k

rsc.li/soft-matter-journal

1. Introduction

Cancer is the second leading cause of human death worldwide, accounting for 10 million deaths annually.¹ 90% of cancer deaths are the consequence of metastasis, the process of invasive tumor cells spreading from primary solid tumors to distant organs.^{2–6} The molecular mechanisms and parameters within primary tumors that regulate tumor progression and promote metastasis, however, are poorly understood. Such a knowledge gap in the understanding of tumor progression and prediction of metastasis onset is of serious concern. Increasingly studies from multiple disciplines, such as soft matter biophysics

and mechanobiology, have begun to demonstrate the significant influences of biophysical microenvironments and signaling on tumor initiation, progression, and metastasis (Fig. 1).^{7–18} These influences are realized *via* mechanochemical transduction or mechanotransduction—the process in which cells sense and transduce extracellular biophysical stimuli into intracellular biochemical signals that elicit coherent biochemical responses and gene expression.^{14–16,19–29} Advances in the understanding of mechanotransduction have led to the design and development of new classes of pharmaceuticals, drug testing and delivery systems, wearable therapeutic devices, and engineered tissues that leverage biomechanics or target mechanobiology pathways to enable innovative combinatorial therapeutics.^{30–39}

In this review, we focus on reporting the interplay between biomechanical signals and three important biochemical effectors during tumor progression: (1) calcium ions (Ca^{2+}), (2) yes-associated protein (YAP), and (3) microRNAs (miRNAs). Two other recent reviews discuss other types of biochemical effectors involved in cancer mechanobiology.^{7,31} During cancer progression, Ca^{2+} and YAP serve as critical signaling messengers to regulate gene-expression and cell functions, which are simultaneously modulated by miRNAs. However, how Ca^{2+} , YAP, and miRNA interact with each other to influence the

^a Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering (HWCoe), Gainesville, FL, 32611, USA. E-mail: xin.tang@ufl.edu

^b UF Health Cancer Center (UFHCC), Gainesville, FL, 32611, USA

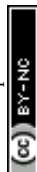
^c Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, College of Medicine (COM), Gainesville, FL, 32611, USA. E-mail: mingyi.xie@ufl.edu

^d Department of Radiation Oncology, COM, Gainesville, FL, 32611, USA

^e UF Genetics Institute (UFGI), University of Florida (UF), Gainesville, FL, 32611, USA

^f Department of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering (COE), University of Delaware (UD), Newark, DE, 19716, USA

[†] These authors contribute to the work equally.



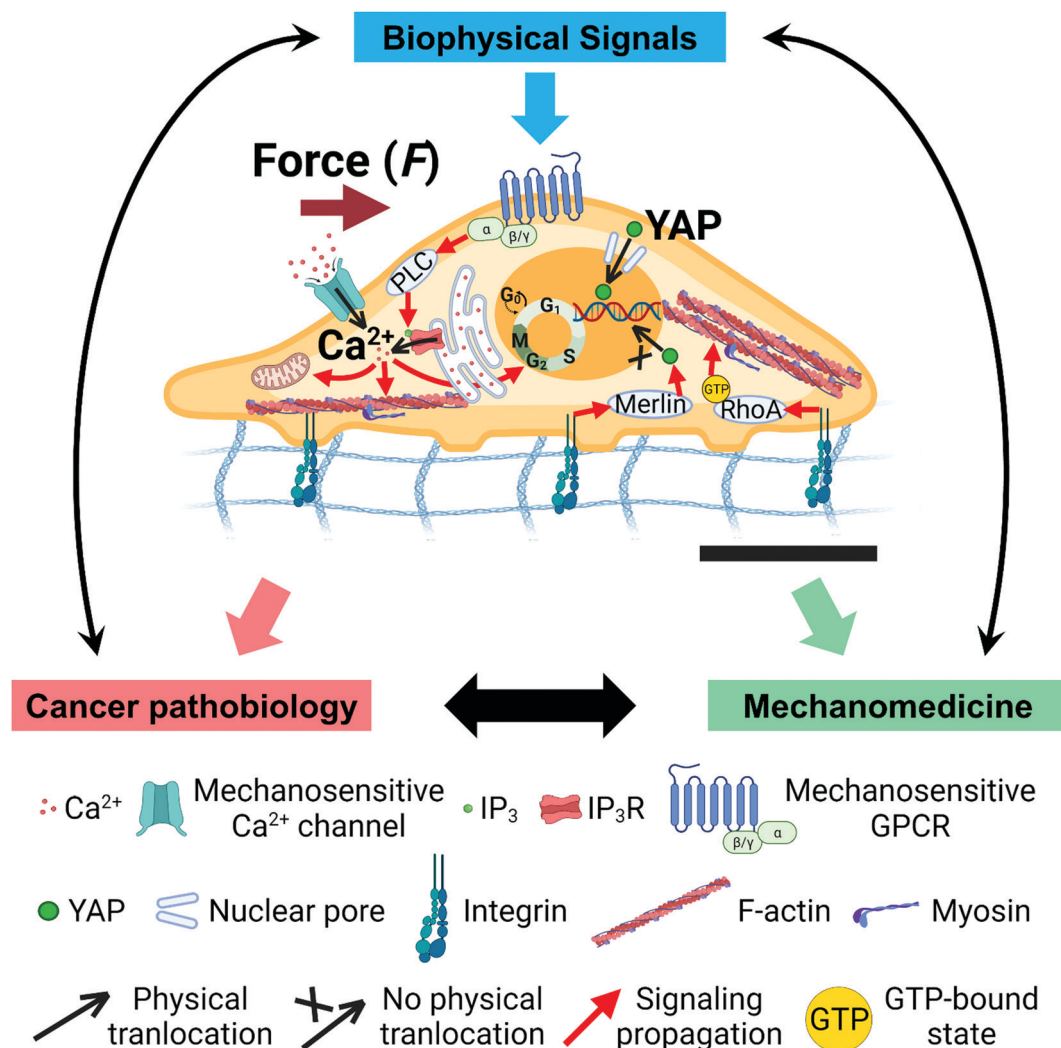


Fig. 1 Overarching scientific framework of cancer mechanobiology. Biophysical signals from extracellular microenvironments transmit into cells through the mechanotransduction processes, and induce changes in intracellular biomechanics, biochemistry, biophysics, and genetics to impact healthy cell physiology and cancer cell pathobiology. Understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms in cancer mechanobiology contributes to the design and development of novel cancer therapies. Representative mechano-regulated calcium and YAP signaling pathways are shown in the cell (center; the black scale bar represents 5 μm length).

activities of cancer cells remains incompletely understood. Further, the functional interplay between mechanical signals and these three effectors, as well as the underpinning molecular mechanisms, are still elusive.

The goal of this review is to synergistically report (1) the recent advances in the understanding of these three effectors and their crosstalk with mechanotransduction pathways during cancer development, and (2) the mechanistic insights from soft matter and mechanobiology perspectives into the orchestrated functions of these three effectors. First, we introduce and discuss the current findings that demonstrate how biophysical forces induce calcium signaling in cancer cells and the identified molecular mechanisms (Section 3). Second, we address the functional responses of YAP to biophysical signals and the roles of cell cytoskeleton and nucleus in YAP mechanosensing (Section 4). Third, we discuss the functional interactions of miRNAs with Ca²⁺ and YAP, and the crosstalk between miRNAs

and mechanical signaling in cancer (Section 5). We conclude by proposing promising future directions on the study of tumor mechanobiology using Ca²⁺, YAP, and miRNAs as potential targets, as well as novel strategies for cancer mechanotherapeutics (Section 6).

2. Mechanotransduction in cancer

All living cells and tissues in the human body experience biophysical forces from their micro- and macro-environments, including but not limited to tension, shear stress, compression, and fluid pressure.^{40–43} At the same time, cells actively generate and apply endogenous forces to their surroundings.^{31,41,44} The biophysical cues are sensed and transduced into intracellular biochemical and genetic signaling and further regulate specific cellular functions. This process is known as mechanochemical



transduction or mechanotransduction (Fig. 1).^{14–16,19–21,25–27} Mechanotransduction involves a great number of mechanosensors or mechanosensitive biomolecules, such as integrin, cadherin, Piezo 1/2, G-protein-coupled receptor (GPCR), YAP/transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif (TAZ), Wnt, mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK)/extracellular-signal-regulated kinase (ERK), and phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K)/protein kinase B (AKT), which experience conformational and functional changes under mechanical stimuli.^{19,45–49} For example, cytoskeleton, such as filamentous (F)-actin, microtubules (MTs), and intermediate filaments (IFs), and their associated motor proteins, such as myosin II, act as molecular connectors to transmit forces directly from the extracellular environment, through the membrane mechanosensors, into the nucleus.³¹ Unlike diffusion-based chemical signal propagation, this force/deformation-based mechanical signal transmission can modulate the nucleus and affect gene activation within milliseconds.^{50–53} Dysregulated mechanotransduction often results in diseases.^{54–58}

Emerging studies have demonstrated the functional roles of mechanical cues in tumor progression at different stages (Fig. 1).^{7,9,11–17,59–62} Several aspects of the biophysical micro-environment in tumors are dramatically altered compared to their healthy counterparts, such as tissue stiffness,⁶³ solid stress,⁶⁴ interstitial fluid pressure,⁶⁵ cell stiffness,^{66,67} cell contractility,^{68,69} and cell adhesion.^{70–72} These altered biophysical signals are transmitted into tumor cells *via* mechanotransduction and mediate cancer pathobiology. Understanding the molecular mechanisms of mechanotransduction in tumor development has inspired and enabled researchers to design and develop novel cancer therapies.^{40,73} In the following sections, we focus on three critical means of biochemical signaling in cancer: Ca^{2+} , YAP, and miRNAs, and address their functions and crosstalk.

Ca^{2+} is a universal and indispensable signaling ion used by all eukaryotes.^{74–77} In tumor cells, Ca^{2+} regulates cellular activities and impact tumor progression including proliferation, metabolism, migration, epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT), and apoptosis.^{78–82} Emerging studies have demonstrated that Ca^{2+} signaling in cancer cells is affected by various mechanical stimuli including cyclic stretch,⁸³ local membrane traction,⁸⁴ fluid shear,^{85,86} and compression.^{87,88} Because the force-regulated Ca^{2+} signals have critical roles in cancer progression, the understanding of their underlying molecular mechanisms can provide insights into the development of novel cancer therapies. However, how mechanical stimuli convert into and regulate Ca^{2+} signals *via* mechanotransduction pathways has not been systematically studied.

YAP is a protein that can bind to transcription factors in the nucleus to regulate cellular functions.^{89,90} In cancer, expression and nucleus accumulation of YAP regulate tumor cell initiation, proliferation, migration, stemness, and chemoresistance.^{91–94} YAP's nucleus/cytoplasm distribution is sensitive to mechanical stimuli that cells experience, such as substrate stiffness, cytoskeleton tension, nuclear deformation, and extracellular mechanical tension/compression.⁹⁵ However, how YAP responds to

mechanical stimuli at molecular levels is still being actively investigated.^{96–99} Importantly, YAP activation is necessary in tumor initiation of squamous cell carcinoma and uveal melanoma^{100,101} and promotes the dissemination of circulating tumor cells.¹⁰² Aberrant YAP expression in different cancer types and its regulatory roles on the cancer progression necessitate the mechanistic dissections of how mechanical cues regulate YAP activity, which in turn contribute to the development of YAP-targeted anti-cancer mechano-medicine.

miRNAs are small non-coding RNAs that regulate gene-expression post-transcriptionally.^{103,104} Increasing evidence has demonstrated that miRNAs participate in the modulation of cancer-related pathways, from which diverse miRNAs have been used as diagnostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets/agents in anti-cancer treatments.^{105,106} How miRNAs can be potentially exploited for targeting calcium signaling, YAP activities, and mechanotransduction in cancer therapy is now being actively studied.

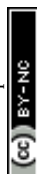
3. Calcium (Ca^{2+}) signals in cancer

3.1 Significance of Ca^{2+} signals in tumor initiation, development, and progression

Calcium signals have pivotal roles in regulating cancer progression at different stages: tumor initiation, growth, angiogenesis, metastasis, and colonization (Fig. 2 and Table 1).^{79,107,108}

During cancer initiation, altered calcium signals, due to aberrant expression and activities of Ca^{2+} channels/transporters, lead to abnormal cellular functions, such as defects in autophagy¹⁰⁹ and resistance to apoptosis.¹¹⁰ Because autophagy functions as a tumor suppressor,^{111–113} both uncontrolled increases and decreases of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} concentrations ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$) can cause defects in autophagy to break normal cellular homeostasis and favor cancerous phenotypes.¹⁰⁹ In addition, p53-deficient cells fail to induce mitochondrial Ca^{2+} overload *via* endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-mitochondrial Ca^{2+} signaling and become apoptosis-resistant.¹¹⁰ This selection advantage of p53-deficiency favors survival of damaged cells, potentially resulting in cancer initiation. Moreover, altered $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ that is mediated by a great number of Ca^{2+} channels and Ca^{2+} -binding proteins contributes to increased cancer cell stemness and tumorigenesis.^{114–119}

During tumor growth, increased expression and activities of Ca^{2+} channels in cancer cells raise $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ to levels above those of healthy cells, and lead to uncontrolled, elevated cell proliferation by regulating downstream effectors in multiple key stages of the cell cycle.^{79,84,120–122} In addition, intracellular calcium signaling regulates tumor growth by modulating cancer cell death, partly through autophagy or mitochondrial Ca^{2+} overload.^{123–127} During angiogenesis in solid tumors, calcium signals regulate the proliferation and migration of vascular endothelial cells. Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)- or basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF)-induced increases of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ activates proliferation of vascular endothelial cells in solid tumors.^{79,128} Both elevated and reduced Ca^{2+}



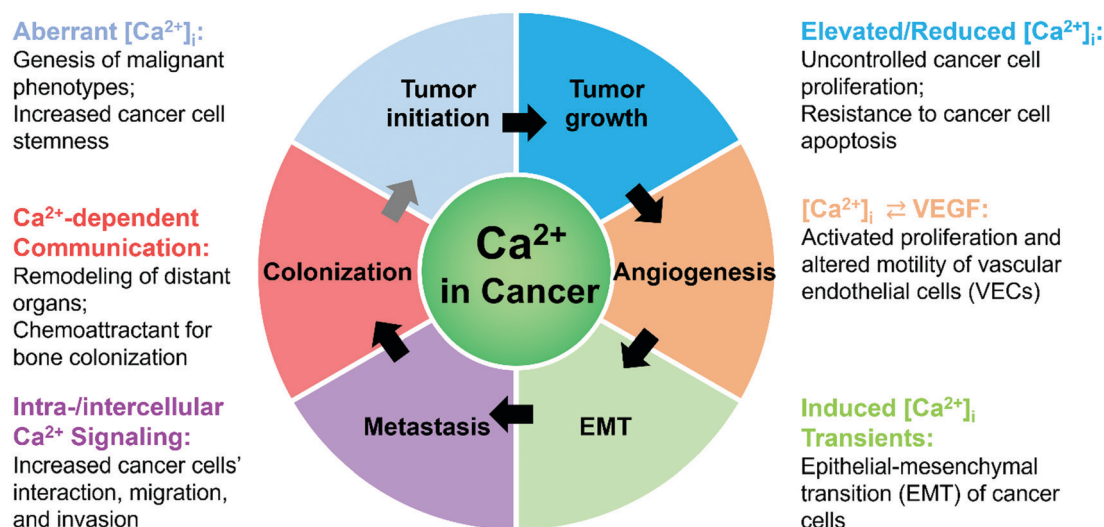


Fig. 2 Significance of calcium signals during cancer initiation, development, and progression.

influxes can enhance the migration of tumor-derived endothelial cells (TECs) compared to normal endothelial cells (NECs), which results in abnormal tumor vasculature.^{86,129,130}

EMT is the cellular process of acquiring mesenchymal features from epithelial cells, causing tumor cells to become invasive and metastatic.^{62,131,132} At the early stages of EMT and metastasis, calcium signals are required.^{133–135} During metastasis, diverse calcium signaling pathways are regulated by transient receptor potential (TRP) channels, inositol trisphosphate receptors (IP₃Rs)/ryanodine receptors (RyRs), voltage-gated calcium channels (VGCCs), and store-operated Ca²⁺ entry (SOCE).⁸¹ These pathways (1) modulate local [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} at distinct intracellular regions of cancer cells and (2) regulate Ca²⁺-dependent effectors for the formation or turnover of focal adhesions, thus facilitating migration.^{87,88,122,136–140} Calcium signaling including SOCE is proposed to remodel distant sites and facilitate the colonization of secondary tumors in new organs by assisting metastasized tumor cells to exploit growth factors embedded in the extracellular matrix (ECM).¹⁴¹ SOCE-enhanced secretion of VEGF and prostaglandins E₂ from primary tumors may mobilize angiogenesis at distant organs to form pre-metastatic niches. In addition, Ca²⁺ itself serves as a chemoattractant of tumor cells for bone colonization.^{142–145}

Readers are referred to Table 1 for the specific influence of altered Ca²⁺ signals on cancer development. Next, we will discuss how mechanical stimuli can influence and regulate [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} *via* the interplay between mechanotransduction and Ca²⁺ signaling pathways.

3.2 Intra-/inter-cellular calcium responses induced by mechanical stimuli

3.2.1 Microenvironmental stiffness. Increasing evidence demonstrates that the mechanical microenvironment mediates Ca²⁺ signaling in non-cancer cells (Fig. 3A), such as human mesenchymal stem cells (HMSCs),^{146,147} fibroblasts,¹⁴⁸ neutrophils,¹⁴⁹ myofibroblasts,¹⁵⁰ macrophages,¹⁵¹ and human neuronal

progenitor cells.¹⁵² HMSCs cultured on rigid dishes (Young's modulus: $E \sim 3$ GPa) have been observed to generate spontaneous [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} oscillations.¹⁴⁷ When the substrate stiffness is lowered to 1 kPa, the signal amplitudes and frequencies of the Ca²⁺ oscillations are reduced in a Ras homolog family member A (RhoA)/Rho-associated protein kinase (ROCK)-dependent manner. During the cell-matrix adhesion process, HMSCs on 40 kPa substrates show more [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} increase at detergent-resistant membrane (DRM) microdomains than those on 0.6 kPa substrates.¹⁴⁶ Focal adhesion kinase (FAK) and mechanosensitive transient receptor potential melastatin 7 (TRPM7) mediate this substrate-rigidity-dependent Ca²⁺ signal. In 2D-cultured mouse fibroblasts, a larger percentage of cells cultured on soft 690 Pa substrates show Ca²⁺ oscillations in response to adenosine-5'-triphosphate (ATP) than those on intermediate stiff 36 kPa substrates, through F-actin-mediated mechanotransduction.¹⁴⁸ Similar mechanobiological effects on cellular Ca²⁺ responses are observed in 3D-cultured mouse fibroblasts. Neutrophils show mechanical-microenvironment-dependent calcium spikes when adhered on the human umbilical vascular endothelial cell (HUVEC) monolayer that is pre-formed on stiffness-varied substrates.¹⁴⁹ On stiffer glass substrates ($E \sim 70$ GPa), HUVECs demonstrate a higher average cell stiffness of 13.10 kPa, leading to increased [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} and spike frequency in the neutrophils. The mechanism of this rigidity-enhanced calcium response is associated with selectin-induced β_2 -integrin activation and actin polymerization in cells. The stiffer substrates enhance the polymerization of F-actin that pushes the plasma membrane to increase membrane tension and open mechanosensitive Ca²⁺ channels. In myofibroblasts¹⁵⁰ and macrophages,¹⁵¹ stiffer matrices augment agonist-induced Ca²⁺ influx *via* mechanosensitive transient receptor potential vanilloid 4 (TRPV4) channels. Human neuronal progenitor cells cultured on stiffer substrates are more responsive to the activation of GPR68, which is a mechanosensitive GPCR and triggers ER Ca²⁺ release *via* the Gq-phospholipase C (PLC)-IP₃R pathway to regulate the Ca²⁺





Table 1 Significance of calcium signals in tumor progression

Impact on cancer	Specific Ca ²⁺ signal	Upstream	Downstream	Exact Influence	Cell type	In vitro/ vivo?	Ref.
Initiation	Increased [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt}	Ca ²⁺ influx via TRPV2	Dysregulation of the Wnt/β-catenin signaling pathway	Induced Ca ²⁺ influx inhibits stemness of cancer cells	Human bone osteosarcoma, breast, and colorectal adenocarcinoma	In vitro & in vivo	117
Growth	Elevated Ca ²⁺ current	Overexpressed L- and T-type Ca ²⁺ channels	AKT and ERK signaling pathways	Downregulation of Ca ²⁺ channels reduces the expression of stemness markers	Ovarian cancer stem cells	In vitro & in vivo	119
	IP ₃ R3-BK _{Ca} coupled Ca ²⁺ signaling	ATP-induced ER Ca ²⁺ release via IP ₃ R3	Activation of BK _{Ca} channel on plasma membrane	IP ₃ R3/BK _{Ca} silencing impairs ATP-increased cell proliferation (arrested in G0/G1 phase)	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro	121
	Spontaneous [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} oscillations; 80% cancer cells showing oscillation vs. 30% non-cancer cells	Increased expression and activity of Orai1	Downregulation of cdc2, Cyclin B1, and p27	KD of Orai1 inhibits cell proliferation, migration, invasion, and tumor growth	Human esophageal squamous cell carcinoma	In vitro & in vivo	122
	Elevated [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt}	Ca ²⁺ influx via Piezo1	Akt/mTOR pathway; activation of CDK4 and cyclin D1	Downregulation of Piezo1 suppresses cell proliferation and tumor growth	Human prostate cancer cells	In vitro & in vivo	84
	Decreased ATP-induced [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	IP ₃ R inhibition/silencing	Induced autophagy	IP ₃ R inhibition induces cell death and suppresses tumor growth	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro & in vivo	123
Angiogenesis	Reduced SOC current	Decreased Orai1 expression	Inhibited apoptosis-inducing pathways	Downregulation of Orai1 protects cells from apoptosis	Human prostate cancer cells	In vitro	124
	Enhanced ER-mitochondrial Ca ²⁺ signaling	p53 binding to SERCA ⇒ ER Ca ²⁺ overload ⇒ ER Ca ²⁺ release	Mitochondrial Ca ²⁺ overload ⇒ alteration of mitochondrial morphology	Tumor suppressor p53 induces apoptosis	Human colorectal, cervical, lung cancer cells	In vitro	125
	K-Ras ^{G13D} deletion-enhanced agonist-induced ER Ca ²⁺ release	Remodeled IP ₃ R expression and increased SERCA2b expression ⇒ increased ER Ca ²⁺ content	Increased mitochondrial Ca ²⁺ uptake	Deletion of K-Ras ^{G13D} sensitizes cells to apoptosis	Human colorectal cancer cells	In vitro	126
	Increased ER Ca ²⁺ release	BRCA1 binding to IP ₃ R ⇒ regulation of IP ₃ R function	Not through mitochondrial Ca ²⁺ overload	Tumor suppressor BRCA1 is recruited for apoptosis	Human cervical, ovarian cancer cells	In vitro	127
	Elevated [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt}	Triclosan ⇒ TRPA1	VEGF secretion	Triclosan stimulates epithelial cell proliferation	Human prostate cancer stromal cells	In vitro	128
EMT	Induced [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} transients	Ca ²⁺ influx via TRPV4	Migration-related signaling	TRPV4 activation enhances migration of endothelial cells	Tumor-derived endothelial cells from human breast carcinomas	In vitro	129
	Reduced [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	Decreased TRPV4 expression	High Rho activity	TRPV4 activation restores mechanosensitivity and inhibits migration of endothelial cells, and normalizes tumor vasculature	Tumor-derived endothelial cells from an adenocarcinoma mouse prostate model	In vitro & in vivo	130
	EGF/scratch-induced transient [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} increase (2-fold higher)/Ca ²⁺ wave	Ca ²⁺ influx via TRPM7 (mechanosensitive) and other Ca ²⁺ channels	STAT3 phosphorylation and vimentin expression; induction of Twist, N-cadherin, CD44/CD24	Ca ²⁺ signals are necessary for EGF/hypoxia-induced EMT (biomarkers)	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro	135
	Intracellular Ca ²⁺ elevation	Ca ²⁺ influx via acid-sensing ion channels	Upregulation of RhoA activity	Inhibition of Ca ²⁺ influx or intracellular Ca ²⁺ chelation suppresses induced EMT	Pancreatic cancer cells	In vitro & in vivo	133
	Increased SOCE	Activation of STIM	EMT-related signaling	STIM-mediated SOCE facilitates induced EMT	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro	134
Metastasis	Reduced [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	Low TRPM7 activity	Inactivated RhoA/myosin-II and IQGAP1-Cdc42		Human fibrosarcoma cells		136



Table 1 (continued)

Impact on cancer	Specific Ca ²⁺ signal	Upstream	Downstream	Exact Influence	Cell type	In vitro/ in vivo?	Ref.
Impact on cancer	[Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	Induced Ca ²⁺ influx via TRPV4	Accelerated actin dynamics and downregulated cytoskeleton-associated proteins at the cell cortex	Reduced TRPM7-mediated Ca ²⁺ influx inhibits shear flow sensing and facilitates intravasation	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro & in vivo	137
	[Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	Ca ²⁺ influx via Piezo1	Protrusions of apical actin and expression of MMP-9	Overexpression of TRPV4 increases cell invasiveness	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro & in vivo	88
	Sustained [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	Induced ER Ca ²⁺ release via IP ₃ R3	Migration-related signaling	Piezo1-mediated Ca ²⁺ influx enhances cell invasion and matrix degradation	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro	138
	Induced Ca ²⁺ responses	GPCR/RTK ⇒ PLC ⇒ IP ₃ R	Migration-related signaling	ATP-induced cell migration	Human glioblastoma cells	In vitro & in vivo	139
	[Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	ER Ca ²⁺ release via IP ₃ R	Promoted cortical actomyosin contractility	Caffeine inhibition of IP ₃ R blocks glioblastoma invasion and increased survival of mouse model	Human cervical carcinoma cells	In vitro	87
	Spontaneous [Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} oscillations; 80% cancer cells showing oscillation vs. 30% non-cancer cells	Increased expression and activity of Orai1	Increased expression of vimentin and Rac1; down-regulation of E-cadherin	Nuclear envelope tension induced ER Ca ²⁺ release facilitates cell transmigration through 3D matrix	Human esophageal squamous cell carcinoma	In vitro & in vivo	122
	Spontaneous periodic intracellular propagations of perimembrane Ca ²⁺ waves (freq = 3 times min ⁻¹)	Low voltage-activated T-type Ca ²⁺ channels and non-voltage-gated cation channels (on plasma membrane)	Migration-related signaling	KD of Orai1 inhibits cell proliferation, migration, invasion, and tumor growth	Human fibrosarcoma cells	In vitro	140
	[Ca ²⁺] _{cyt} elevation	Ca ²⁺ flow via gap junctions	Enriched NEAT and MEF2 activities	Block of Ca ²⁺ signals reduces cell motility and invasion	Human breast cancer cells	In vitro & in vivo	145
	Colonization			Ca ²⁺ flow from osteogenic cells to cancer cells facilitates bone colonization			

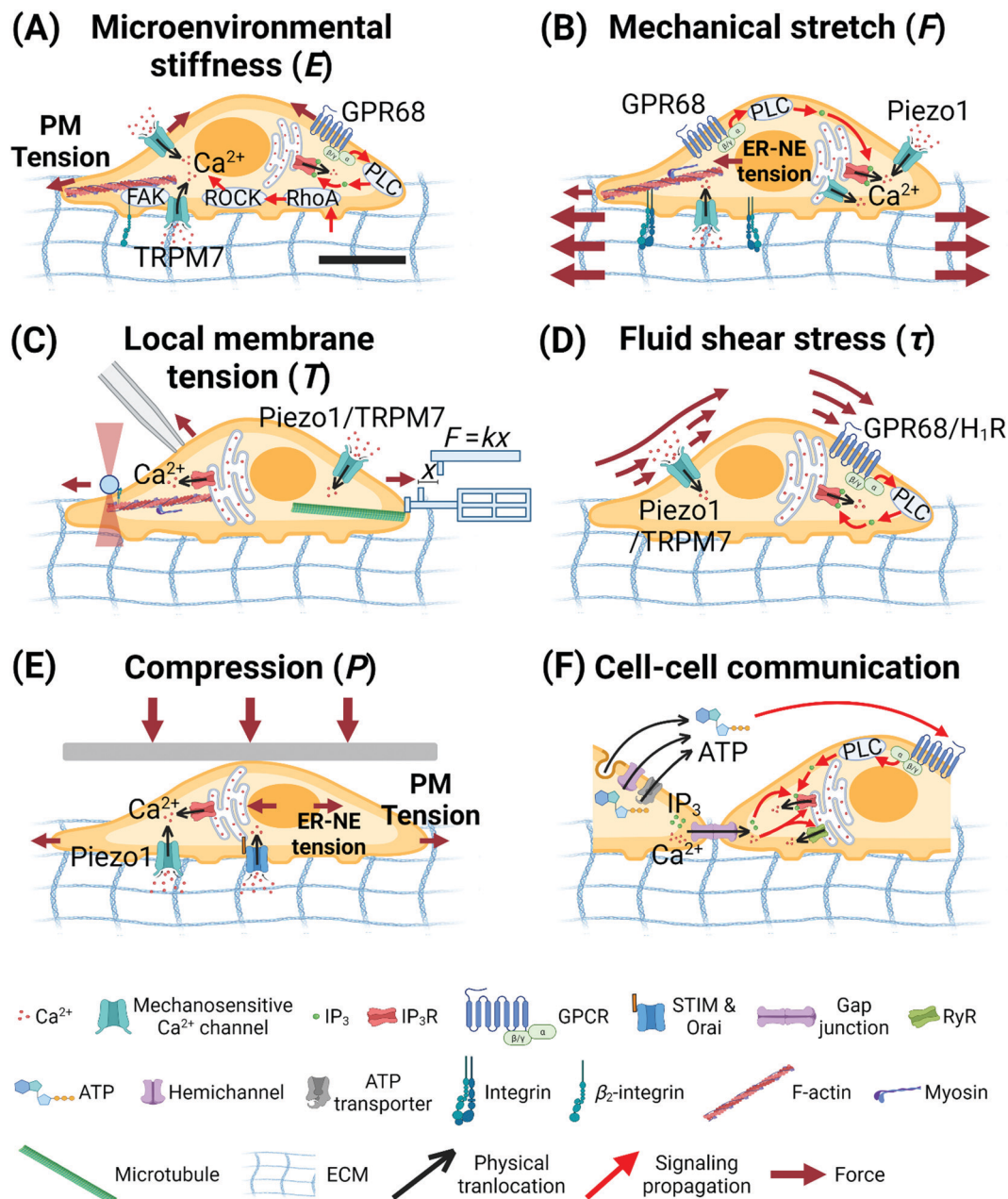


Fig. 3 Biophysical cues regulate calcium signaling. (A) Stiff substrates enhance intracellular calcium signaling via RhoA/ROCK pathway,¹⁴⁷ integrin/FAK/actin mechanotransduction,^{146,149} mechanosensitive ion channels,^{146,149–151} and mechanosensitive-GPR68-triggered Gq-PLC-IP₃R pathway.¹⁵² Soft substrates enhance calcium oscillations in mouse fibroblasts in an F-actin-dependent manner.¹⁴⁸ (B) Mechanical stretch from substrates enhances intracellular calcium signaling via actomyosin contraction,^{156,157} mechanosensitive ion channels,^{83,156,157} mechanosensitive GPR68,¹⁵² PLC-IP₃R signaling pathway,^{156,157} and ER-NE tension.¹⁵⁴ (C) Local membrane tension enhances intracellular calcium signaling via mechanosensitive ion channels^{84,158} and cytoskeletal-mechanotransduction-regulated-ER calcium release.¹⁵⁸ (D) Fluid shear stress enhances intracellular calcium signaling via mechanosensitive ion channels^{85,136} and mechanosensitive-GPCR-triggered Gq-PLC-IP₃R pathway.^{86,159} (E) Mechanical compression enhances intracellular calcium signaling via mechanosensitive ion channels,⁸⁸ ER-NE tension,⁸⁷ and SOCE.¹⁶² (F) Mechanical stimuli regulate the expression and function of connexin-based gap junctions^{178–180} and hemichannel-/exocytosis-regulated ATP release,^{181,183–189} which are major pathways for intercellular propagation of calcium waves. The scale bar in (A) represents 5 μ m length and applies to all other subfigures.

response.^{152,153} These data highlight that microenvironment mechanics critically regulates $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ through diverse Ca^{2+} signaling pathways.

3.2.2 Mechanical stretch from environments. Active mechanical stretch triggers intracellular Ca^{2+} signals in both

cancer⁸³ and non-cancer cells^{152,154–157} (Fig. 3B). In human breast cancer cells, cyclic stretch causes Ca^{2+} influx via Piezo1 channels in a strain amplitude- and frequency-dependent manner.⁸³

In HMSCs, prolonged stretch triggers intracellular Ca^{2+} oscillations.¹⁵⁶ This Ca^{2+} response is dependent on calcium



influx *via* mechanosensitive Ca^{2+} channels on the plasma membrane, as well as the cytoskeleton, actomyosin contractility, and PLC activity. In HUVECs, vibrational stretch triggered global (80%) and local (20%) intracellular Ca^{2+} responses.¹⁵⁷ The global $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase is regulated by mechanosensitive Ca^{2+} channels on the plasma membrane, PLC- IP_3 R signaling pathway, and the resultant ER Ca^{2+} release, as well as F-actin assembly and actomyosin contractility. In the monolayer of human epidermal stem/progenitor cells (EPCs), cyclic stretch induces intracellular Ca^{2+} flashes.¹⁵⁴ The underlying mechanism involves stretch-triggered nuclear deformation and ER-nuclear envelope (NE) tension, which causes Ca^{2+} release from the ER. Mechanically stretched human neuronal progenitor cells are more responsive to the activation of mechanosensitive GPR68 and show higher and faster elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ compared to unstretched cells.¹⁵² Meniscus fibrochondrocytes (MFCs) (1) within the native tissues, (2) on aligned nanofibrous scaffolds, and (3) on silicone membranes, all show a baseline level of intracellular Ca^{2+} oscillations.¹⁵⁵ Larger tensile deformation of all three types of substrates increases the population of cells that show intracellular Ca^{2+} oscillations, with the characteristics of a linear increase below 3% strain and a gradual plateau over 6%. The working mechanisms remain to be identified.

3.2.3 Local mechanical tension on cell membrane. Local membrane tension triggers intracellular Ca^{2+} signals in human prostate cancer cells⁸⁴ and HMSCs¹⁵⁸ (Fig. 3C). Mechanosensitive Piezo1 channels are highly expressed in human prostate cancer PC3 and DU145 cell lines and in human prostate malignant tumor tissues.⁸⁴ In DU145 cells, mechanical stimulation by heat-polished glass probes induces Ca^{2+} influx *via* Piezo1. Gene knockdown and pharmacological data reveal that these Piezo1-regulated intracellular Ca^{2+} signals are influential to cancer cell proliferation and migration *in vitro* and to prostate tumor growth *in vivo*.⁸⁴

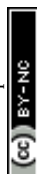
In HMSCs, laser-tweezer-induced tension at the plasma membrane triggers intracellular Ca^{2+} oscillations.¹⁵⁸ The underlying mechanisms involve (1) Ca^{2+} influx *via* mechanosensitive TRPM7 channels, which is dependent on passive cytoskeletal support of F-actin and microtubules, and (2) ER Ca^{2+} release, which is dependent on cytoskeletal structure, actomyosin contractility, and TRPM7 activity. These data reveal that cytoskeleton indeed transmits mechanical signals from cell membrane into intracellular organelles and regulate Ca^{2+} signaling pathways.¹⁵⁸

3.2.4 Fluid shear stress. Fluid shear stress induces intracellular Ca^{2+} signals in human cancer cells,^{85,86} HUVECs,¹⁵⁹ and normal human fibroblasts¹³⁶ (Fig. 3D). Fluid shear stress of 2.0 dyn cm^{-2} sensitizes human prostate cancer cells to tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL)-mediated apoptosis.⁸⁵ Piezo1 channels introduce calcium influx to activate apoptotic pathways and regulate the force-induced TRAIL sensitization. In human breast cancer cells, fluid shear stress of 2 Pa elevated $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ in a Ca^{2+} -store-dependent manner through the activation of mechanosensitive GPR68.⁸⁶ In HUVECs, shear stress induces calcium transients by activating mechanosensitive GPCR, H_1R .¹⁵⁹ Compared to normal fibroblasts,

human fibrosarcoma cells show reduced TRPM7 current in response to shear flow that is present in the vasculature, which facilitates cancer cell intravasation.¹³⁶ Overexpressing the mechanosensitive TRPM7 sensitizes cancer cells to shear flow and attenuates invasion out of the primary tumor, intravasation, and metastatic lesion formation. In contrast, human normal fibroblasts show shear-stress-triggered Ca^{2+} influx *via* TRPM7 and the downstream activation of RhoA/myosin-II and calmodulin/IQGAP1/Cdc42 pathways, which reverses the direction of cell migration to avoid shear flow.

3.2.5 Mechanical compression. In a solid tumor, intratumoral residual or solid stress builds up due to physical resistance from the surrounding healthy tissue against the outgrowth of tumor cells,⁶⁴ causing mechanical compression with magnitudes of 0.002–20 kPa.^{64,160,161} Compression induces intracellular Ca^{2+} signals in human cancer cells^{87,88} and zebrafish embryonic progenitor cells¹⁶² (Fig. 3E). In human breast cancer cells, vertical compressive stress at magnitudes of 400 Pa and 600 Pa induces Ca^{2+} influx *via* mechanosensitive Piezo1 channels, which enhances cancer cell invasion *via* invadopodia formation and matrix degradation.⁸⁸ In human cervical carcinoma cells, compressive stress causes nuclear deformation and ER-NE tension to trigger ER Ca^{2+} release *via* stretch-sensitive Ca^{2+} channels IP_3Rs .⁸⁷ The resultant elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ facilitates cancer cell transmigration through 3D collagen lattices and synthetic pores, which is attenuated by IP_3R antagonist 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2-APB) and Xestospongine C. In zebrafish embryonic progenitor cells, compression-induced nuclear deformation elevated intracellular Ca^{2+} concentrations, with a specific increase of Ca^{2+} in the nucleus.¹⁶² This specific Ca^{2+} signaling involves SOCE, which consists of ER Ca^{2+} sensor stromal interaction molecule (STIM) and Orai Ca^{2+} channels on plasma membrane.

3.2.6 Mechano-regulatory cell-cell communication by Ca^{2+} signaling. In cancer cells, the molecular mechanisms of intercellular Ca^{2+} wave (CW) propagation are mainly (1) gap-junction-based, involving internal transportation of Ca^{2+} /inositol trisphosphate (IP_3)^{163–165} and (2) paracrine-based, involving extracellular diffusion of ATP^{166–168} (Fig. 3F). Elevation of cytoplasmic concentration of Ca^{2+} or IP_3 results in diffusion of the ions/molecules into neighboring cells *via* gap junctions.¹⁶⁹ The diffused Ca^{2+} ions further activate IP_3Rs and RyRs on the ER membrane to trigger calcium-induced calcium release (CICR) signaling, while IP_3 opens only the IP_3R channel.¹⁵³ In MCF-7 human breast cancer cells, photo-excitation-induced cytosolic Ca^{2+} release triggers propagation of CWs in 2D-cultured contacted and non-contacted cells, as well as in 3D-cultured contacted cells.¹⁶³ The CW propagation in 2D-contacted cells requires the functional gap junctions. In HeLa cells, the transfer of IP_3 through connexin 43 (Cx43)-based gap junctions is required for intercellular communication of Ca^{2+} signals *via* tunneling membrane nanotubes, in the absence of paracrine transmission.¹⁶⁴ The photolysis of intracellular caged- IP_3 triggers the propagation of CWs in C6 glioma cells expressing Cx43 or Cx32, but not in gap-junction-deficient cells.¹⁶⁵



Intracellular ATP can be released to the extracellular milieu *via* (1) channels including hemichannels, maxi-anion channels and P2X7 receptors,^{169–172} (2) ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters,^{170,173,174} (3) exocytosis,^{169,170} and (4) lysis.^{170,174} ATP activates membrane (1) P2Y receptors and the downstream Gq-PLC-IP₃R pathway to induce Ca²⁺ release from the ER,^{175,176} and (2) P2X receptors to trigger the influx of extracellular cations including Ca²⁺.^{176,177} In lung and prostate cancer cells, the mechanical-injury-triggered propagation of CWs in cultured epithelial layers is ATP-dependent.¹⁶⁶ In non-contacted MCF-7 cells, the mechanically stimulated intercellular propagation of CWs involves extracellular ATP release.¹⁶⁷ In HeLa cells, mechanically induced intercellular CWs involve both connexin-based gap junctions and extracellular ATP in a convoluted manner.¹⁶⁸

The expression and function of connexin-hemichannel-formed gap junctions are responsive to mechanical stimuli, which further regulate intercellular communication.^{178–180} Certain connexins including Cx43 are sensitive to several types of mechanical stimuli, such as cyclic stretch, static tension, and shear stress. Moreover, ATP release can be stimulated by different types of mechanical stimuli including osmotic pressure, fluid shear stress, substrate stretch, compression, and injury.^{181,182} ATP-releasing connexin^{183,184} and pannexin¹⁸⁵ hemichannels are mechanosensitive and further induces intercellular Ca²⁺ signaling.^{186,187} In addition, mechanical stretch,¹⁸⁸ fluid shear stress,^{183,189} and injury¹⁸¹ induce exocytosis of ATP-containing vesicles in a Ca²⁺-dependent manner.

Overall, intra- and inter-cellular Ca²⁺ signaling can be triggered and enhanced by various types of mechanical stimuli, which have functional roles during tumor progression. We next review the current understanding of the molecular mechanisms of the mechano-regulated Ca²⁺ signaling pathways and the role of cytoskeletal proteins during this process.

3.3 Molecular mechanisms of the crosstalk between calcium signaling pathways and cytoskeletal proteins

3.3.1 [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} and cytoskeletal proteins. In cancer cells, diverse Ca²⁺ signaling pathways regulate cell migration and metastasis by directly and/or indirectly targeting cytoskeletal proteins and adhesion molecules.^{81,190} In HeLa cells, chelation of intracellular Ca²⁺ attenuates F-actin, increases filopodia formation, and reduces the size and number of focal adhesions.¹⁹¹ In prostate cancer cells that have high metastatic capacity, enhanced ATP-induced Ca²⁺ transients correlate with higher occurrences of actin proteins anchoring at focal adhesion sites, which is revealed by quantitative co-localization of the spatial distributions between actin and vinculin.¹⁹² In prostate cancer cells, inhibition of calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII), which is a transducer of Wnt/Ca²⁺ signaling, remodels actin cytoskeleton and increases the frequency and length of filopodia protrusions, leading to reduced cell motility for wound closure.¹⁹³

In non-cancer cells, the actin cytoskeleton and its associated proteins regulate Ca²⁺ signaling.^{194,195} Actin cytoskeleton¹⁹⁶

and cortical actin^{197,198} modulate Ca²⁺ flashes/waves during egg activation and fertilization.

3.3.2 Mechanosensitive ion channels and cytoskeletal proteins. In Section 3.2, we summarized how (1) mechanosensitive ion channels, such as Piezo1,^{83–85,88} TRPM7,^{136,146,158} and TRPV4,^{130,150,151} and (2) GPCRs, such as GPR68^{86,152} and H₁R,¹⁵⁹ can sense mechanical stimuli and trigger Ca²⁺ signaling. Reciprocally, Ca²⁺ signaling induced by mechanosensitive ion channels affects cytoskeleton remodeling.^{88,136,137,199,200} In MDA-MB-231 human breast cancer cells, Piezo1-regulated Ca²⁺ influx promotes the formation of cortical stress fibers and protrusions of apical actin.⁸⁸ In brain metastases of human breast cancer cells (MDA-MB-231-BrM2), mechanosensitive channel Piezo2 induces Ca²⁺ influx to activate RhoA, which further regulates the formation of actin cytoskeleton and the orientation of focal adhesions.²⁰⁰ In MB468 human breast cancer cells, transfected TRPV4 increases the average globular (G)- to F-actin ratio by 22% and reduces the phospho-Cofilin expression level by 1.45-fold.¹³⁷ In human fibroblasts, TRPM7-regulated Ca²⁺ influx activates myosin-II contractility *via* the RhoA/myosin-II pathway to modulate migration direction.¹³⁶

In MDA-MB-231 human breast cancer cells, cyclic mechanical stretch induces a higher level of Piezo1-mediated Ca²⁺ influx than that in MCF10A normal human breast cells.⁸³ In another study in MDA-MB-231 cells, Piezo1 is expressed in the cytoplasm including the plasma membrane, but in MCF10A cells, it is mainly expressed in the nuclear region, especially the nuclear envelope.^{201,202} This trait is likely to contribute to the different stretch-triggered Ca²⁺ responses between MDA-MB-231 cells and MCF10A cells. In the same study, expression of tropomyosin 2.1 (TPM2.1) is found in MCF10A cells but not in MDA-MB-231 cells, which is responsible for the different levels of stretch-induced Ca²⁺ influx in the two cell types.⁸³ The data indicate that TPM2.1 regulates the expression location of Piezo1 in human breast cancer and normal cells.

In TECs from human breast carcinomas (BTECs), arachidonic acid (AA) treatment triggers actin remodeling and increases TRPV4 expression on the plasma membrane.¹²⁹ Following pre-incubation of BTECs with AA, TRPV4 predominantly traffic from the cytoplasm to the cell membrane, demonstrating colocalization with the cortical actin in the cell periphery. In contrast, in the control untreated BTECs group, TRPV4 and actin mostly diffuse in the cytoplasm. The data indicate that the actin cytoskeleton interacts with TRPV4 channels and regulates the expression location of TRPV4 in BTECs.

3.3.3 IP₃R and cytoskeletal proteins. IP₃Rs are intracellular ligand-gated Ca²⁺-release channels, mainly expressed on the ER membrane.^{153,203,204} IP₃Rs have important roles in cancer by regulating cell autophagy, apoptosis, proliferation, migration, and invasion.^{203,205,206}

In cancer cells, IP₃Rs regulate cytoskeleton remodeling. In human breast cancer cells, IP₃R3 mediates intracellular Ca²⁺ signaling and remodels profilin cytoskeleton *via* the ARHGAP18/RhoA/mDia1/FAK pathway.²⁰⁷ IP₃R3 silencing causes oscillatory characteristics of [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} signals after ATP administration or wound formation and alters the localization



of F-actin and expression level of profilin. The remodeling of cytoskeletal proteins decreases cancer cell adhesion to collagen I-coated wells and induces rounded cell shape. However, how cytoskeletal proteins regulate IP₃Rs and the downstream Ca²⁺ signaling in cancer is less known. To the best of our knowledge, only one study specifically reported that KRAS-induced actin-interacting protein (KRAP) is involved in the modulation of IP₃R-regulated ER Ca²⁺ release in MCF7 breast cancer cells.²⁰⁸ Knockdown of KRAP attenuates the amplitude of ATP-induced Ca²⁺ release by 12–32% (peak response) in an ATP-concentration-dependent manner. KRAP is associated with IP₃Rs in HCT116 colon cancer and HeLa cervical cancer cells, as well as in mouse liver and pancreas tissues.²⁰⁸ However, how KRAP functions in the IP₃R-mediated Ca²⁺ signaling in those cancer cell lines and *in vivo* remains unclear.

In non-cancer cells, IP₃Rs are directly regulated by or interact with cytoskeletal proteins,²⁰⁹ including but not limited to F-actin,^{210,211} protein 4.1N,²¹² myosin II,^{213,214} ankyrins,^{215–219} and microtubules.²²⁰ This evidence suggests that IP₃Rs might be responsive to mechanical microenvironments *via* the cytoskeleton, and further influence the intracellular Ca²⁺ signaling. Indeed, in HMSCs, IP₃R-regulated ER Ca²⁺ release in response to optical tweezer traction is dependent on cytoskeletal structure and actomyosin contractility but not IP₃ level.¹⁵⁸ Moreover, in human cervical carcinoma cells, IP₃Rs release ER Ca²⁺ in response to ER-NE membrane tension, which further reinforces cortical actomyosin contractility to facilitate cancer cell transmigration through 3D collagen lattices and synthetic pores.⁸⁷ These data suggest that in cancer cells, mechanical stimuli hold the potential to activate IP₃Rs *via* cytoskeletal proteins and/or ER membrane tension to further induce Ca²⁺ signals.

3.3.4 PLC/PIP₂ and cytoskeletal proteins. PLC and phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP₂) act as upstream effectors in the Gq-PLC-IP₃R pathway to activate IP₃Rs and trigger ER Ca²⁺ release.^{153,203,204} In cancer cells, several members of the PLC family regulate the actin cytoskeleton.^{221–223} In gastric cancer cells, PLCD1 expression reduces actin protrusion at the leading edge and inactivates cytoskeletal reorganization regulator cofilin, resulting in rounded morphology and suppressed migration *in vitro* and inhibited metastasis *in vivo*.²²¹ In highly metastatic breast cancer cells, upregulated PLCβ1 cleaves PIP₂ at the plasma membrane to release inactivated cofilin and remodel actin cytoskeleton, therefore promoting cell migration and invasion.²²² In MDA-MB-231 cells, down-regulation of PLCγ1 impairs induced Rac1 activation and decreases actin-cytoskeleton-mediated membrane ruffles, inhibiting cell migration and invasion *in vitro* and lung metastasis *in vivo*.²²³ In non-cancer cells, PLC/IP₃R Ca²⁺ signaling is regulated by cytoskeletal proteins,^{197,224,225} such as F-actin^{197,224} and filamin.²²⁵

PIP₂, which produces IP₃ following PLC cleavage, regulates actin-binding proteins including talin, gelsolin, ERM proteins (ezrin/radixin/moesin), formin, and actin-related protein 2/3 (ARP2/3) to mediate actin cytoskeleton dynamics.^{226–228} A myriad of actin-binding proteins interact with PIP₂,²²⁹ including

ERM proteins and myosin I,²³⁰ talin,²²⁸ formins and ARP2/3,²²⁷ and Coronin 1A.²³¹

3.3.5 SOCE regulators and cytoskeletal proteins. In human prostate cancer epithelial LNCaP cells, calyculin A (CalA)-caused cortical F-actin polymerization attenuates thapsigargin (TG)-induced SOCE without altering the expression level of SOCE regulators: Orai1, STIM, and transient receptor potential canonical 1 (TRPC1).²³² The dissociation of F-actin by Cytochalasin D (CytD) restores TG-induced SOCE in neuroendocrine differentiated LNCaP cells. The same group also reported that in LNCaP cells, cortical actin polymerization by CalA or jasplakinolide prevents SOCE triggered by active IP₃-induced ER Ca²⁺ depletion, while depolymerizing actin by CytD shows no effect on IP₃-induced SOCE.²³³ However, TG-induced SOCE, by inhibiting sarco/endoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺ ATPase (SERCA) and passively depleting ER Ca²⁺, are not affected by either polymerization or depolymerization of cortical actin.

In summary, from our perspective, Ca²⁺ signals are instrumental at different stages of cancer progression. Various mechanical stimuli activate intra- and inter-cellular Ca²⁺ signaling pathways in cancer cells *via* mechanosensitive channels or through crosstalk with mechanotransduction pathways. Next, we introduce the functional roles and mechanisms of another mechanosensitive biochemical effector in cancer: YAP.

4. Yes-associated protein (YAP) in cancer

4.1 Significance of YAP in tumor progression

YAP (Yes-associated protein) and TAZ (Transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif) are two transcriptional co-activators in the Hippo pathway,^{234,235} and share ~60% similarity in protein sequences.²³⁶ Binding with transcription factors in the nucleus, including YAP-TEA domains (TEADs), runt-related transcription factors (RUNXs), and p73, *etc.*, YAP/TAZ regulate the transcription of genes including *CTGF*, *IGFBP3*, *ITGB2*, *BIRC5*, *GLI2*, and *AXL*, *etc.*,²³⁴ and regulate cell fates, functions (stemness, proliferation, apoptosis, migration, *etc.*), organ size, and homeostasis.^{234,237} Shuttling between nucleus and cytoplasm is an essential characteristic of YAP/TAZ because they only function when activated in the nucleus.⁹⁰ The aberrant expression and nuclear accumulation of YAP/TAZ correlate with different cancers and at diverse tumour stages.⁹⁰

Recent studies show that, in response to biophysical signals, YAP/TAZ regulate the behaviors of both cancer cells and cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) during tumor initiation, growth, and metastasis. For example, a stiff substrate (40 kPa) is needed when receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK)-Ras oncogenes transform normal cells into cancer cells through a YAP/TAZ-dependent mechano-transduction pathway.²³⁸ In CAFs, YAP activity is required to bridge biophysical signals from stretchable substrate and initiation of cytoskeleton remodeling, forming a self-reinforcing feed-forward loop.²³⁹ This important loop



maintains CAFs' phenotype and promotes tumor tissue stiffening, cancer cell growth, and invasion.²³⁹

In this review paper, we focus on the mechanobiology of YAP in cancer cells and their normal counterparts (Fig. 4). The fundamental biology of YAP/TAZ have recently been reviewed.^{90,94,234,240,241}

4.2 Biophysical stimuli induce YAP responses

In both healthy and cancer cells, YAP and TAZ proteins respond to a broad range of biophysical stimuli, such as ECM mechanics (substrate stiffness and its heterogeneous patterns; material-type; dimensionality; geometry; topology; fiber directionality; and surface porosity), cellular mechanical states (cell spreading area; focal adhesion area; cytoskeleton tension or prestress; nuclear deformation; and cell shape), cell density, and extracellular mechanical stimuli (stretch; compression; pressure; and shear). Instructed by these biophysical stimuli, YAP responds differentially, represented by its translocation between the cell nucleus (N) and the cytoplasm (C), and translates the biophysical information into cell-specific transcriptional programmes. However, upon receiving the same biophysical stimuli or being in the same mechanical state, normal cells and cancer cells show distinct responses. For example, in normal cells, most studies show a positive correlation between the YAP nucleus/cytoplasm (N/C) ratio and cell spread area; a more spread cell shows a higher concentration of YAP in the nucleus and hence a higher N/C ratio,^{96,98,242} resulting in a higher proliferation rate.⁹⁸ In contrast, in human breast cancer cells, YAP N/C ratio shows no notable correlation with cell spread area.²⁴³

Conventional studies suggest that, prevailing in the evolutionarily conserved Hippo pathway, YAP and TAZ are regulated by biochemical cues and function in the nucleus to regulate cell fate and tissue homeostasis.²³⁷ Importantly, recent studies show that, in addition to biochemical cues, biophysical cues can independently regulate YAP's translocation from the cytoplasm to the nucleus through either the Hippo-dependent or -independent pathway. In the Hippo pathway, YAP/TAZ are phosphorylated by mammalian Ste20-like kinases 1/2 (MST1/2) and large tumor suppressor 1/2 (LATS1/2) and bind with the 14-3-3 protein and are retained in the cytoplasm.²³⁴ In both normal and cancer cells, substrate stiffness can regulate intracellular distribution of YAP through Hippo-dependent mechanisms.^{244,245} In the Hippo-independent case, extracellular biophysical cues regulate YAP translocation and bypass the Hippo pathway. For example, in the YAP-mutant cells that do not have Hippo-pathway-required interactions between YAP and LATS 1/2, substrate stiffness enhances nuclear YAP activity.⁹⁸ Further, a study finds that modulation of biophysical cues can even dictate the Hippo pathway in regulating the YAP translocation.⁹⁸

Importantly, emerging evidence suggests that, among all the mechano-sensitive components that participate in the regulation of YAP translocation, the nucleus can serve as a previously under-appreciated mechano-sensor that directly reads and translates biophysical cues into biochemical activities that regulate YAP translocation.^{96,97,246} However, the detailed molecular

mechanism of how biophysical cues/states trigger, regulate, and maintain YAP translocation remains unclear at this time. Consequently, the potential mechanisms underpinning nuclear mechano-regulation remain an active area of research.

4.2.1 ECM stiffness. In normal cells, such as human mammary epithelial cells, mouse embryonic fibroblast cells, and NIH 3T3 cells, *etc.*, that are cultured on 2D/3D environments, YAP N/C ratio shows a monotonic and positive correlation with ECM stiffness,^{96,98} with one exception.²⁴⁶ On 2D substrates:

(1) In mammary epithelial cells and mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs), YAP N/C ratio positively correlates with substrate stiffness.^{96,98} Cytoskeleton tension is necessary for substrate stiffness to regulate the translocation of YAP.⁹⁸ The force-induced enlargement in nuclear pore size has been hypothesized to facilitate YAP nuclear translocation and is actively studied now.⁹⁶

(2) Recent research on NIH 3T3 cells shows no correlation between YAP N/C ratio and substrate stiffness.²⁴⁶ Instead, YAP N/C ratio positively correlates with cellular traction force and nuclear deformation.²⁴⁶ The data suggest that while nuclear translocation of YAP, in most normal cells, positively correlates with substrate stiffness, substrate stiffness often leads to changes in downstream cellular behaviors such as cell spread area, traction, and nuclear shapes. It is these changes that directly regulate YAP translocation, rather than the substrate stiffness itself. We hypothesize that, in this experiment, substrate stiffness does not necessarily determine contractility. Therefore, if YAP translocation is regulated by contractility, the YAP N/C ratio shows correlation with contractility instead of substrate stiffness. To decouple these behaviors and reveal the true mechanotransduction mechanisms underlying YAP translocation, more studies are required.

In 3D culture milieu, positive correlation is observed between YAP N/C ratio and environmental stiffness.^{247,248} Importantly, in human liver organoids, signaling of integrin-mediated Src family kinases (SFKs) promotes YAP activity on stiff (1.3 kPa *vs.* 0.3 kPa) 3D matrices.²⁴⁸ In contrast with 2D substrate findings, which suggest that YAP's response to extracellular biophysical stimuli necessitates cytoskeletal contractility,^{96,97,249} this alternative integrin-mediated SFK mechanism insinuates that YAP is not regulated through the conventional cytoskeletal tension or the downstream nuclear mechano-sensing in 3D substrates and *in vivo*. This possibility is supported by a recent finding which suggests that geometrical changes (including wrinkling) on nuclear envelopes in 2D/3D-cultured cells trigger diverse mechanisms to regulate YAP translocation.²⁴⁷

In this light, we hypothesize that a threshold of substrate stiffness may exist to determine the role of cytoskeletal tension in the regulation of YAP translocation. One recent report supports our hypothesis and shows that, in MEF cells, the unfolding of Talin by cytoskeletal tension and YAP nuclear translocation only occurs once substrate stiffness is larger than 5 kPa.²⁵⁰ Although the two results reported in human liver organoids²⁴⁸ and in MEF cells²⁵⁰ are obtained from different cell types on distinct 2D/3D substrates, we reason that the



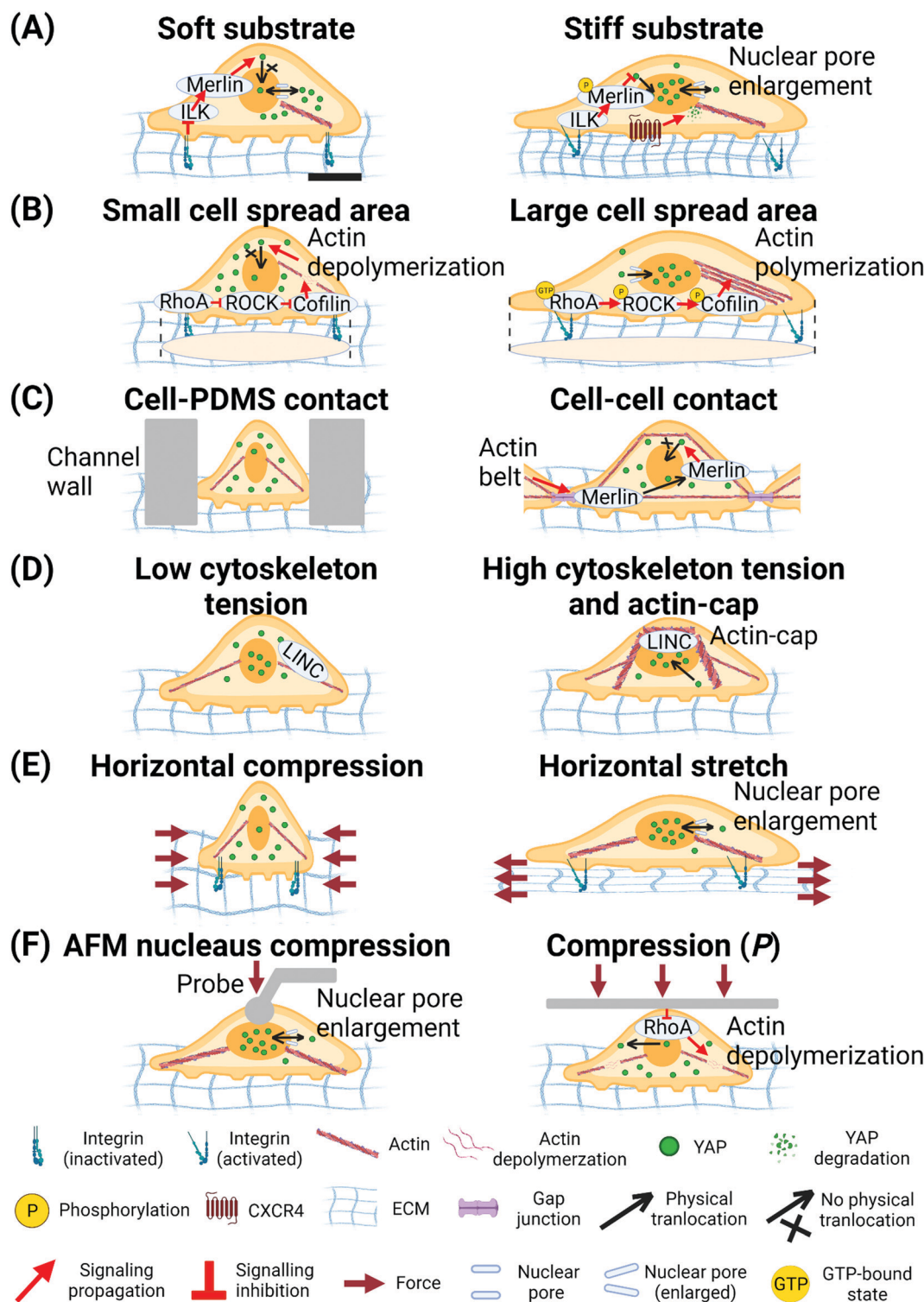


Fig. 4 Biophysical cues regulate YAP translocation. (A) Soft substrate inhibits nuclear translocation of YAP through ILK/Merlin signalling.²⁵⁴ Stiff substrate inhibits Merlin function and enlarges nuclear pore size to facilitate nuclear translocation of YAP.^{96,254} (B) Cell spread area mediates RhoA-ROCK-Cofilin signalling to regulate actin polymerization and tension and translocation of YAP.⁹⁸ (C) Cell-PDMS contact (confined micro-fluidic channel) induces compression on cells and inhibits nuclear translocation of YAP.²⁶⁵ Cell-cell contact increases actin belt tension and releases Merlin from gap junction to inhibit nuclear translocation of YAP.²⁵⁶ (D) LINC- complex-dependent actin-cap and peri-nuclear force facilitates nuclear translocation of YAP.²⁵⁷ (E) Horizontal compression of cells inhibits nuclear translocation of YAP. Horizontal stretching of cells enlarges nuclear pore size to facilitate nuclear translocation of YAP.⁹⁶ (F) Local compression of cell nucleus by AFM probe enlarges nuclear pore size to facilitate nuclear translocation of YAP.⁹⁶ Global compression of the cells by PDMS plate deactivates RhoA and triggers depolymerization of actin to inhibit nuclear translocation of YAP. The scale bar in (A) represents 5 μm length and applies to all other subfigures.



stiffness range within the organoid (1.3 kPa and 0.3 kPa) may not reach the hypothesized stiffness threshold (such as 5 kPa)²⁵⁰ to trigger the regulatory effects of cytoskeletal tension on YAP translocation. Our hypothesis can be evaluated by targeted disruption of the actin cytoskeleton, systematic characterization of YAP translocation, and real-time measurement of nuclear envelope geometry and tension in cells experiencing a range of environmental stiffness.

In certain cancer cell lines (pancreatic, brain, and liver), YAP N/C ratio is observed to show positive correlation with substrate stiffness,^{245,251–253} despite a few exceptions.^{99,254}

(1) Brain cancer cells (on 10%- and 3%-acrylamide polyacrylamide (PAA) gels) and pancreatic cancer cells (on 1, 4, and 25 kPa PAA gel) show higher nucleus YAP localization on stiffer substrates.^{252,253} Human liver cancer cells show higher nucleus YAP localization on stiffer PAA gels (1.1 kPa *vs.* 400 Pa).²⁴⁵ Mechanistically, agrin and integrin sense the stiffness signals and trigger YAP translocation through two subsequent mechanisms including (a) the formation of actin stress fibers and (b) the diminishment of the Merlin function (Note: Merlin retains YAP in the cytoplasm through activation of the Hippo-pathway).²⁴⁵ Although cellular traction is not measured in this study, the observed formation of actin stress fibers, induced by agrin stiffness-sensing and nuclear translocation of YAP, shows the regulatory role of cytoskeletal tension on YAP translocation. In liver cancer cells, increased substrate stiffness triggers the increase in the expression of mechano-transducer C-X-C Motif Chemokine Receptor 4 (CXCR4) and maintains the positive correlation between YAP N/C ratio and substrate stiffness.²⁵¹ These studies on liver cancer cells suggest that, even for the same cell type, multiple molecular pathways may co-regulate YAP translocation in response to ECM stiffness.

(2) Interestingly, in breast cancer cells, biphasic correlation is uncovered between YAP N/C ratio and substrate stiffness. YAP N/C ratio is lower than 1 on both soft (10 kPa) and stiff (57 kPa) PAA gel, while it is larger than 1 on intermediate stiff (38 kPa) PAA gel. Mechanistic studies suggest this translocation is regulated by Integrin Linked Kinase (ILK)/Merlin-controlled YAP nuclear transportation (Fig. 4A and Table 2).²⁵⁴ Specifically, ILK locates between integrin and actin and -mediates the phosphorylation of Merlin to regulate YAP translocation. Supported by a series of functional results, the study concludes that the biphasic correlation between ILK and substrate stiffness causes the highest YAP nuclear translocation on substrates of intermediate stiffness. The mechanism by which ILK expression level is regulated by substrate stiffness and causes the YAP translocation is now under investigation.

4.2.2 Cell volume and area. In normal cells, YAP N/C ratio is positively correlated with cell spread area and volume,^{96,98,242,255} despite one exception²⁴⁶ (Fig. 4B and Table 2). This inconsistency may occur because cell spread area and cell volume regulate diverse downstream cell behaviors such as traction and nuclear deformation,⁹⁶ and these downstream behaviors can influence YAP. To identify the ground-truth regulators of YAP translocation, these cell behaviors, along with cytoskeletal

tension and nuclear deformation, need to be investigated in a decoupled fashion.

In cancer cells, only one study has been conducted and shows no correlation between YAP N/C ratio and cell size.²⁴³ This study focused on single metastatic breast cancer cells (MDA-MB-231) and metastatic D3H2LN cells harvested from mouse lymph nodes in MDA-MB-231-injected mice.²⁴³ Further research on other cancer cell types needs to be conducted to verify if YAP is not correlated with cell area in all cancer cells.

4.2.3 Cell density. Regardless of the sizes of multicellular structures, YAP N/C ratio consistently shows negative correlation with cell density. Compared to single cells, the regulatory mechanism of YAP translocation in multicellular structures is different due to the existence of cell-cell contacts but is still related to cytoskeletal tension. In normal cells, YAP N/C ratio shows negative correlation with cell density, and more actin belts are observed in denser cells (Fig. 4C and Table 2).^{98,256} By manipulating the formation and tension of the actin belt, this study shows that, at high cell density, increased tension within the actin belt disassociates Merlin from adhesion junctions and facilitates YAP cytoplasmic retention in a Hippo-dependent way.²⁵⁶ In particular, this result indicates the importance of cortical actin structures in cell-cell contact, contrasting with the result suggesting that periphery actin structures have no regulatory effect on YAP translocation in single cells.²⁵⁷

In another study on brain cancer cell lines, the YAP N/C ratio is negatively correlated with cell density.²⁵³ Merlin expression shows a positive correlation with cell density, implying that cell density regulates YAP intracellular distribution through Hippo-dependent mechanisms in cancer cells. The potential roles of cytoskeletal structure and tension in cancer cells must be further investigated.

4.2.4 Cytoskeleton tension and cell contractility. The cytoskeleton consists of three main components: actin, microtubule and intermediate filaments.³¹ Actin filament is the main tension-bearing structure. Most research found a functional relationship between nuclear YAP accumulation and actin tension.^{96,97} Inferred by the cell traction, cytoskeletal tension is one of the essential downstream parameters regulated by substrate stiffness and cell spreading area. These four characters positively correlate with each other.^{15,258,259} In NIH 3T3 normal cells, cell traction positively correlates with YAP N/C ratio.²⁴⁶ In mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), reduced traction, which is induced by the inhibition of myosin II or ROCK, correlates with reduced YAP N/C ratio.⁹⁷ Shown in normal MEF cells, high substrate stiffness couples with high cell traction and high YAP N/C ratio.⁹⁶ Following depolymerizing actin by cytochalasin D, YAP N/C ratio shows no correlation with substrate stiffness.⁹⁶

In the same type of MEF cells, perinuclear traction force and actin-cap are observed for the first time. Disrupting the linker of nucleoskeleton and cytoskeleton (LINC) complex (a trans-membrane protein complex that locates on the nuclear envelope and connects the nuclear interior with the cytoskeleton) reduces perinuclear force, eliminates actin-cap formation, and shows the reduced YAP N/C ratio without influencing cell



Table 2 YAP translocation induced by mechanical stimulus

Mechanical stimulus	Normal/ cancer	Cell type	Relation with nuclear translocation	Proposed mechanism or related protein	Ref.
Substrate Stiffness	Normal	Mammary epithelial cells	Positive	F-Actin-capping/severing proteins Cofilin, CapZ, and Gelsolin	98
		MEF	Positive	Nuclear pore size increase	96
	Cancer	NIH 3T3 cells	No correlation	N/A	246
		Pancreatic cancer cell	Positive	N/A	252
		Liver cancer cell	Positive	Agrin/integrin mediated stiffness sensing and formation of stress fiber	245
		Liver cancer cell	Positive	CXCR4 mediated YAP cytoplasmic degradation	251
		Brain cancer cell, IOMM-Lee, (HKBMM)	Positive	Merlin mediated YAP cytoplasmic retention	253
		Tumor repopulating cells (ovarian cancer cell line A2780, human MCF-7 breast cancer cell line and murine melanoma cell line B16-F1)	Positive (but on different substrate type)	Cdc42-mediated F-actin and Lats1 interactions	406
		Breast cancer cell	Biphasic	ILK and Merlin mediated YAP cytoplasmic retention	254
				F-Actin-capping/severing proteins Cofilin, CapZ, and Gelsolin	
Cell area	Normal	Mammary epithelial cells	Positive	Rho/ROCK mediated actin polymerization	98
		MSC	Positive	Nuclear deformation	242
		NIH 3T3 cells	(> ~1000 μm^2) not related, (< ~1000 μm^2) YAP in cytoplasm		246
	Cancer	Breast cancer (MDA-MB-231)	No correlation	N/A	246
Cell traction	Normal	MEF	Positive	Nuclear pore size change	96
		NIH 3T3 cells	Positive (not decoupled with nucleus deformation)	Nuclear deformation	246
			No correlation (decoupled with nucleus deformation)	N/A	
		Mesenchymal Stem Cells	Positive (when decrease traction)	Nuclear deformation	97
Perinuclear Traction	Normal	MEF	Positive	Actin-cap	257
Peri-cell traction	Normal	MEF	No correlation	N/A	257
Fluid shear stress	Normal	normal cell (MDCKII)	Negative	Actin belt mediated Merlin	256
		zebrafish endothelial cells and human pulmonary artery endothelial cells	Positive	Cortical actin bundles release YAP from binding with angiotensin	260
Stretch	Cancer	Human prostate cancer cells	Positive	Polymerization of F-actin	261
	Normal	MEF	Positive (cyclic)	N/A	263
Compression		Mesenchymal stem cells	Positive	Nuclear deformation	97
	Cancer	cervical cancer cell	Negative	F actin depolymerization and RhoA deactivation	264
		Human fibrosarcoma HT1080	Negative	Ca ²⁺ dependent	266
		Osteosarcoma, U2OS	Negative	N/A	265
	Normal	MCF-10A	Negative	F actin depolymerization and RhoA deactivation	264
		MEF	Positive	Nuclear pore size increase	96

periphery traction (Fig. 4D and Table 2).²⁵⁷ This finding suggests that the perinuclear cytoskeletal tension and structure enable transmitting the force into the nucleus to regulate YAP translocation.

In the presence of cell–cell contact, the cortical actin tension regulates the translocation of YAP in a Hippo-dependent way. In normal MDCKII cells, increased actin belt tension (reflected by the amount of colocalized myosin-II and F-actin) negatively regulates the YAP N/C ratio by releasing Merlin from the adhesion junction to enhance the retention of YAP in the cytoplasm.²⁵⁶

Overall, in normal cells, YAP N/C ratio positively correlates with overall cell traction. However, the intracellular distribution of cytoskeletal tension, *i.e.*, in the perinuclear and cell periphery

regions, may have differential regulatory roles on YAP translocation. Additionally, cytoskeletal tension/structure and the LINC complex are needed for cells to sense extracellular biophysical stimuli and subsequently trigger YAP translocation. Third, nuclear deformation is positively correlated with YAP N/C ratio and traction force^{96,255} and needs to be decoupled from traction to determine if it is an independent regulatory effector. Fourth, unlike in normal cells, the correlation between cell traction and YAP translocation in cancer cells is still lacking.

4.2.5 Nuclear mechanics. In normal cells, the extent of nucleus deformation, *e.g.*, flattening, shows a positive correlation with cell overall traction, substrate stiffness, and YAP accumulation in the nucleus.^{96,97} In MEF cells, the disruption of the LINC complex—by blocking the interactions between



Nesprin located at the outer nuclear membrane, connecting the cytoskeleton with Sad1p-UNC-84 (SUN) proteins located at the inner nuclear membrane, and connecting Nesprin with the nucleoskeleton—does not affect cell traction force but reduces both nucleus deformation and YAP N/C ratio. It suggests that YAP translocation is regulated by nuclear mechano-sensing, potentially through geometrical change, membrane tension or potential mechano-sensing within the LINC complex, induced by the cytoskeletal tension. When the apical surface of the cell is compressed by atomic force microscopy (AFM) tips outside the nucleus (*i.e.*, only at the cytoplasm and not compressing the nucleus), cells show no nuclear deformation and YAP shows no nuclear translocation (Fig. 4F and Table 2). In contrast, when the apical surface above the cell nucleus is compressed by AFM tips following the cytoskeleton disruption, YAP shows nuclear translocation along with nuclear deformation.⁹⁶ This finding indicates that, in YAP regulation, the nucleus can function as a mechano-sensor independent of cytoskeletal tension and force transmission into the nucleus is necessary to trigger YAP translocation. Further, nuclear pore size shows a positive correlation with nuclear flattening and YAP nuclear translocation, raising the possibility that an increase in nuclear pore size—induced by nuclear flattening—is likely to regulate nuclear translocation of YAP.⁹⁶ However, in this study, nuclear deformation and the force that is transmitted into the nucleus are not decoupled.

To decouple the roles of nuclear deformation and cytoskeletal tension in YAP regulation under stretching, another study employed two drugs with distinct functions: ML7 and Y27632. ML7 is an inhibitor of myosin-II b and reduces the cytoskeletal tension but keeps the stress fibers and nuclear deformation. In the cells under cyclic stretching treated by ML7, YAP shows nuclear translocation. In contrast, Y27632 is an inhibitor of ROCK and eliminates the cytoskeletal tension as well as nuclear deformation. Cells treated by Y27632 under cyclic stretching show no YAP translocation into the nucleus.⁹⁷ These results indicate that cytoskeletal contractility is not necessary in regulating YAP translocation. Instead, the force sensed by the nucleus is required to regulate YAP translocation. A recent study corroborates this indication. The study changes the nuclear stiffness through an up-regulation of Lamin A expression and observes that YAP N/C ratio correlates with nuclear deformation but not traction force.²⁴⁶ These results suggest that YAP translocation is regulated by nuclear deformation but not necessarily by the force transmitted through the LINC complex. However, Lamin A not only affects nuclear stiffness but also serves as the structural component that is downstream of the LINC complex and might affect the potential nuclear mechano-sensing through this route. Hence, how nuclear mechano-sensing regulates YAP translocation at the precise molecular level needs to be further investigated.

To address this question, we propose three potential approaches. First, one can achieve similar nuclear deformation in cells by different force transmission methods including stretching and compression and measuring the corresponding difference in YAP translocation. If the nuclear geometry

regulates YAP translocation, then the YAP N/C ratio should be similar in cells that experience similar nuclear deformation regardless of the types of forces applied. Second, we can disrupt the cytoskeleton and directly apply force on the nucleus through either the LINC complex or other protein complexes, potentially with magnetic beads, followed by observing the differential relationship between YAP translocation and nuclear deformation. If force transmission through the LINC complex regulates YAP translocation, then the YAP N/C ratio should increase noticeably when forces are applied *via* the LINC complex but not *via* other protein complexes. Third, one can maintain the level of nuclear deformation without interfering with the nuclear force transmission using methods such as keeping Lamin A expression constant and stretching cells to increase the force transmitted into the nucleus through the LINC complex. If the nuclear deformation regulates YAP translocation, the YAP N/C ratio should remain stationary regardless of the magnitude of force transmitted into the nucleus. These strategies enable the decoupling of nuclear deformation from the force transmitted into the nucleus (through and not through LINC) and bring us closer to the discovery of the molecular underpins in YAP translocation.

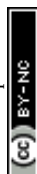
Next, we discuss how YAP translocation responds to actively applied extracellular force.

4.2.6 Fluid shear stress. Fluid shear stress induces nuclear translocation of YAP in both normal and cancer cells but through different mechanisms (Table 2).^{260,261} In zebrafish endothelial cells and human pulmonary artery endothelial cells, shear stress (15 dynes cm⁻² for 10 min) facilitates the formation of cortical actin bundles and release YAP from binding with angiomotin to trigger the nuclear translocation of YAP, independent of Hippo pathway.²⁶⁰ In this process, nuclear mechano-sensing is not required. In human prostate cancer cells, shear stress (0.05 dyne cm² for 6 h) facilitates the polymerization of F-actin through ROCK–LIMK–cofilin signaling and triggers the nuclear translocation of YAP.²⁶¹ In hepatocellular carcinomas, fluid shear stress (1.4 dyne cm² for 2–8 h) triggers the nuclear YAP translocation in a F-actin-dependent way.²⁶² Whether nuclear mechano-sensing and cortical actin tension are involved in this mechanism remains unclear.

4.2.7 Tension and compression forces. In Section 4.2.4, we show that the cytoskeleton tension transmits into the nucleus to regulate YAP translocation. In parallel, external forces that are actively applied on cells also regulate YAP translocation, in two potential ways: (1) activate mechano-sensors on the cell membrane to trigger downstream YAP-related signaling; and (2) trigger nuclear mechano-sensing.

In normal cells, both static and cyclic stretching trigger nuclear translocation of YAP (Fig. 4E and Table 2).^{97,98,263} In MEFs, static stretching of the cell monolayer induces increased YAP N/C ratio.⁹⁸ In MSCs, when the cytoskeletal contractility is inhibited by ML7 but the actin stress fibers are maintained, cyclic stretching can cause nuclear deformation and YAP nuclear translocation.⁹⁷

Active compression on cells does not cause a universal trend on the regulation of YAP translocation. Compression force



(1.5 nN), applied by AFM tips on the normal and cytoskeleton-disrupted MEF cells at the apical surface above the nucleus, triggers YAP nuclear translocation.⁹⁶ In both HeLa (cervical cancer cell line) and MCF-10A (normal mammary epithelial cell line), compression (24 Pa) applied by a polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) sheet causes F-actin depolymerization and YAP translocation into the cytoplasm (Fig. 4F).²⁶⁴ Similar to preceding research, deformations of the cell and the nucleus are not quantified in this study. In the osteosarcoma line, cells under narrow confinement from micro-fluidic devices show YAP cytoplasm translocation. However, the cells on the line patterns (width range: 5–50 μm) without confinement show no YAP translocation, even with large nucleus aspect ratio.²⁶⁵ This result implies that (1) the aspect ratio of the nucleus does not regulate YAP translocation, and (2) the real regulatory parameter of YAP translocation is influenced by force transmitted into the nucleus, instead of nuclear geometry. Compression on human fibrosarcoma cells inhibits RhoA activity through TRPV4 mediated Ca^{2+} currents and cause the cytoplasmic translocation of YAP.²⁶⁶

4.3 Summary of YAP mechano-transduction

The key understandings of the roles of YAP in mechano-transduction and the direct regulators of YAP are:

- (1) YAP acts as a mechano-transducer that transmits the extra- and intra-cellular biophysical cues into the cell nucleus and regulates cell functions through binding with transcription factors.
- (2) YAP itself is unlikely to be a direct mechano-sensor that senses the biophysical cues. The mechano-sensors, such as integrin and potentially the cell nucleus, convert biophysical cues into chemical signals that are transmitted by YAP activation.
- (3) Mechanistically, the mechano-regulation of YAP is believed to be mainly through the F-actin cytoskeletal tension and nuclear envelope mechanics.
- (4) The nucleus is a promising mechano-sensor that can directly sense the biophysical signals.

How the nucleus senses the force and regulates YAP is being actively studied. Elosegui-Artola proposes that the size changes in nuclear pores, induced by nucleus flattening, regulate YAP translocation.⁹⁶ However, because of the challenges in manipulating the size of nuclear pores in a controlled manner, this hypothesis is still under active investigation. In line with the finding that the nucleus is a direct mechano-sensor, we hypothesize that the combination of the LINC complex and nucleoskeleton may function as an alternative route to transmit force and regulate YAP. Our hypothesis is supported by a recent study that shows that, in the nucleus isolated out of the cell body, force transmission through the LINC complex and non-specific bindings into the nucleus triggers distinct changes in nuclear stiffness. Since the size changes in nuclear pores are unlikely to affect nuclear stiffness, we hypothesize that certain other mechano-sensitive underpins within the LINC complex and nucleoskeleton may respond to the force transmitted into the nucleus and alter nuclear mechanical states.

If the mechanisms of mechano-transduction through YAP are clear, it offers new opportunities to develop mechano-medicine for cancer treatment because of the important role of YAP in maintaining mechanical homeostasis.⁹⁴ We propose:

- (1) To reduce the possibility of tumor initiation in stiffened tissue, we can inhibit the stiffness sensing in normal cells through YAP translocation since YAP is required for RTK-Ras oncogenes to transform normal cells into tumor cells on stiff ECM.²³⁸ If the mechano-transduction through YAP is inhibited in normal cells within fibrosis tissue, which has higher stiffness and higher possibility for tumor initiation, the transformation of normal cells can be suppressed.
- (2) To reduce tumor tissue stiffness and cancer cell extravasation, we can inhibit YAP-mediated mechano-transduction in CAFs because YAP activity is required for CAFs-dependent matrix stiffening, cell invasion, and angiogenesis.²³⁹

5. MicroRNA in cancer

5.1 miRNA biogenesis

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are ~ 22 nucleotide (nt) RNA, first discovered in *Caenorhabditis elegans* in 1993.²⁶⁷ Under most conditions, miRNAs interact with the 3' untranslated region (UTR) of target messenger RNAs (mRNAs) to cause mRNA deadenylation and decapping as well as to attenuate the translational output.^{268,269} In addition, multiple reports have demonstrated the capability of miRNAs to target protein-coding sequences (CDS) and 5' UTR.^{270–272} The miRNA biogenesis can be classified into canonical and non-canonical pathways.

In the canonical pathway, miRNAs are transcribed by RNA polymerase II (Pol II) (Fig. 5A). The Pol II-transcribed primary (pri-) miRNAs are capped and polyadenylated, harboring one or multiple hairpin structure(s), which contain the miRNA sequence.^{273,274} Processing of the pri-miRNAs is carried out in the nucleus by a heterotrimeric complex, Microprocessor, comprised of one molecule of the RNase III enzyme Drosha and two molecules of DGCR8 critical region 8 (DGCR8; named Pasha in flies and nematodes).^{275–280} Drosha possesses two RNase III domains that each cleaves one strand of the stem in the pri-miRNA hairpin, which liberates a 60 nt to 70 nt stem-loop called a precursor (pre-) miRNA with a characteristic 3' hydroxyl group (OH), overhangs of 2 nts, and a 5' phosphate (P). The generated pre-miRNAs are exported to the cytoplasm by an exportin 5 (XPO5)/RanGTP complex and processed by another RNase III enzyme Dicer.²⁸¹ As an endonuclease with two RNase III domains, Dicer functions in concert with *trans*-activation-responsive RNA-binding protein (named TRBP in mammals and Loquacious in flies).²⁸² In this process, Dicer releases a dsRNA that is ~ 22 base-pairs long from the stem of the pre-miRNA to the cleavage site contiguous to the apical loop and creates a mature miRNA duplex that interacts with the Argonaute (AGO) proteins.^{283,284} Afterwards, the AGO unwinds the RNA duplex and promotes the expulsion of the passenger strand to form the mature RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC).²⁸⁵ Depending on the origin from the hairpin arms,



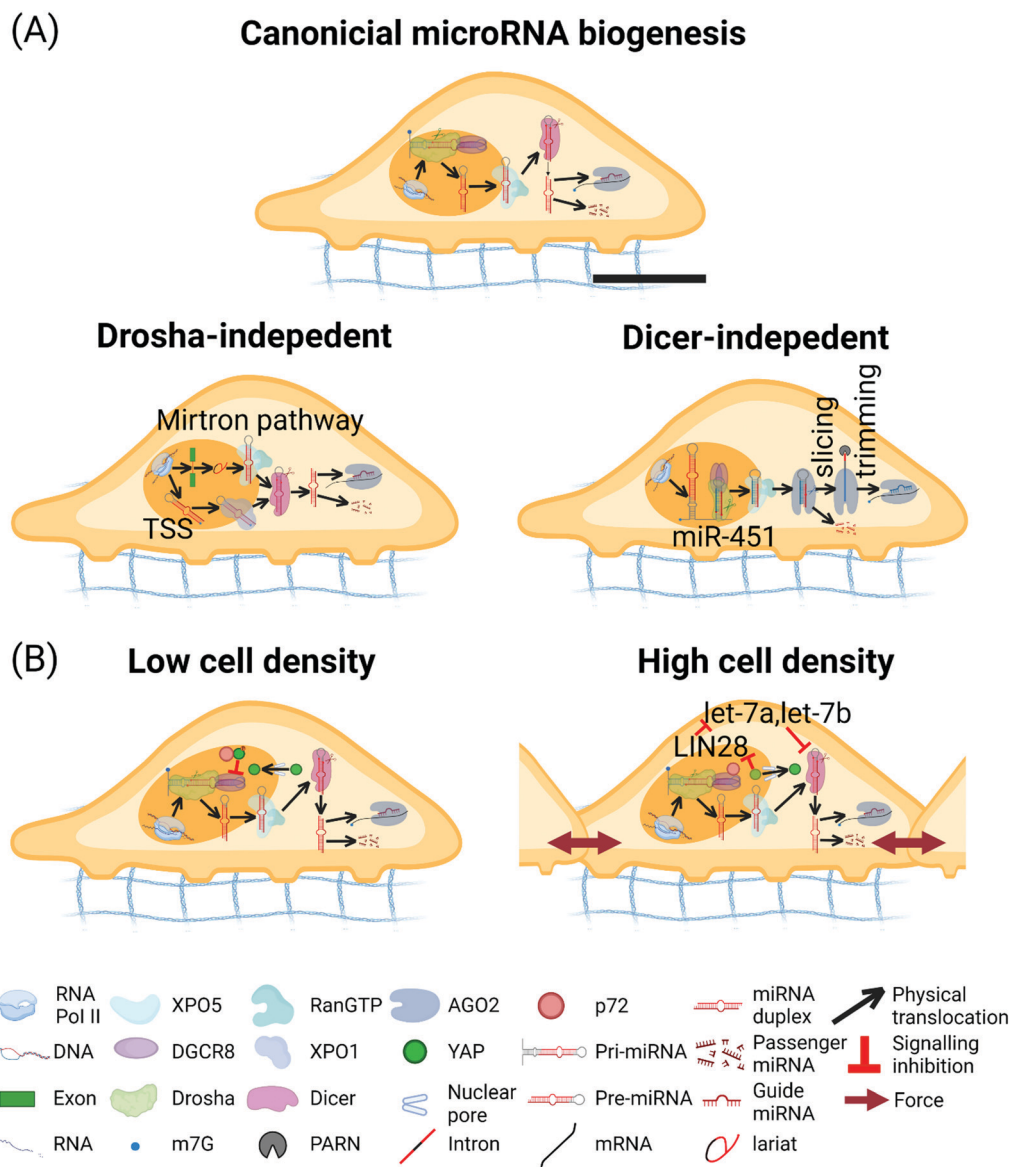
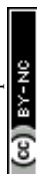


Fig. 5 miRNA biogenesis pathway. (A) Canonical miRNA biogenesis pathway. In the nucleus, primary (pri-) miRNAs are transcribed by Pol II and then processed by the Microprocessor complex containing one Drosha and two DGCR8 to form pre-miRNAs.²⁷³ Pre-miRNAs are exported to the cytoplasm by the complex of XPO5/RanGTP. Subsequently, pre-miRNAs are cleaved by Dicer to form ~22 nucleotides miRNA duplex. miRNA guide strand is then loaded into the AGO to form the RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC), the passenger strand is degraded. Drosha-independent miRNA biogenesis pathways. In the mirtron pathway, pre-miRNAs are spliced and debranched from the intron region of transcript, which bypass Drosha processing. After that, the intron-derived pre-miRNAs access the canonical miRNA pathway.^{293–295} In the transcription start site (TSS) miRNA biogenesis pathway, the 5' end of the pre-miRNA hairpin intermediate contains an 7-methylguanosine (m⁷G)-Cap and the 5' end of the pre-miRNA hairpin generated by transcription initiation directly, and the 3' end generated by transcription termination. The Capped pre-miRNAs are exported by XPO1 protein and bypass Drosha processing. The 3p-capped miRNA is loaded onto the AGO complex, but the 5p-capped miRNA is degraded.²⁹⁶ Biogenesis of miR-451. pri-miR-451 is cleaved by the Microprocessor complex and bypass Dicer. Pre-miR-451 is directly loaded into AGO2, which cleaves the 3p arm of the hairpin. Poly-A specific ribonuclease (PARN) further trims the 5p arm to form miR-451.²⁹² (B) Hippo-YAP signaling pathway affects the miRNA biogenesis. At low cell densities, activated YAP stays in the nucleus, sequestering p72 from Microprocessor and disrupting the miRNA biogenesis.³⁸⁰ At higher cell density, translocation of nuclear YAP/TAZ into cytoplasm inhibits LIN28, upregulates let-7a and let-7b, and represses the Dicer levels.³⁸¹ The scale bar in (A) represents 5 μm length and applies to all other subfigures.

the mature miRNA is designated as either the 5p or the 3p miRNA. The initiated RISC then identifies a specific mRNA sequence by complementary base-pairing, resulting in translation inhibition and/or RNA degradation.²⁸⁶

Numerous non-canonical miRNA biogenesis pathways have been identified.²⁸⁷ These pathways take advantage of distinct combinations of the proteins engaged in the canonical pathway, namely Drosha, Dicer, XPO5, and AGO. Readers are referred to



recent in-depth reviews for more information about non-canonical miRNA biogenesis pathways.^{288–300}

5.2 Significance of miRNA regulation in cancer

During the last decade, convincing evidence has clarified that miRNA expression is dysregulated in human malignancies through diverse mechanisms, including miRNA biogenesis defect, miRNA gene mutation, and dysregulated transcriptional control or epigenetic modification of miRNA genes.³⁰¹

5.2.1 miRNA biogenesis defect. As introduced above, miRNA biogenesis involves delicate processing by several enzymes and regulatory proteins, including Drosha, DGCR8, XPO5, Dicer and AGO.³⁰² Therefore, mutation or abnormal expression of any factor of the miRNA biogenesis machinery could trigger an aberrant expression of miRNAs.³⁰³

Microprocessor cleavage of the pri-miRNA is the initial processing step during miRNA biogenesis. Single-nucleotide substitution/deletion of the Microprocessor components Drosha and DGCR8 (15% of 534 Wilms tumors) is associated with diminished expression of mature let-7a and miR-200 family members.³⁰⁴

Considering the vital role of XPO5 in the nuclear export of pre-miRNAs, it is not surprising that downregulation of XPO5 causes decreased cellular proliferation, attenuated invasion, arrest of G1/S cell-cycle, and downregulation of pivotal oncogenic miRNAs (e.g., miR-21, miR-10b, miR-27, miR-182 and miR-155) in colorectal cancer (CRC) cells.³⁰⁵ Another example of dysregulation of XPO5 in cancer is that phosphorylation of XPO5 by hyper-activated ERK can repress the recruiting and exporting of pre-miRNA, which globally suppress miRNA biogenesis in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).³⁰⁶

Universal downregulation of miRNAs due to defective processing by Dicer is rising as a prevalent hallmark of cancer.³⁰⁷ In the *DICER1* gene, somatic ‘hotspot’ mutations at the four catalytic residues in the RNase IIIb domain (D1709, E1705, E1813, D1810) and one catalytic residue in the RNase IIIa domain (G1809) were identified in ovarian sex cord-stromal tumors, pediatric tumors and endometrial tumors.^{308–310} Likewise, 15 RNase IIIb hotspot in uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma (UCEC) cases show down-regulation of specific 5p miRNAs.³¹¹

AGO2, the only slicing protein in the AGO family that cleave miRNA duplexes, plays a vital role in the accumulation of mature miRNAs.³¹² Acetylation, a novel post-translational modification (PTM) of AGO2, boosts cancer progression by specifically affecting miR-19b levels.³¹³ Additionally, the AGO2 expression levels in HCC specimens are significantly higher in comparison to adjacent non-tumor liver.³¹⁴

5.2.2 miRNA gene mutation. Abnormal miRNA expression in malignant cells can derive from the alteration of miRNA in the genomic location and/or genomic copy number (amplification, deletion, or translocation).³¹⁵ The first known miRNA gene locus change is the deletion of miR-15a/16-1 cluster at chromosome 13q14, which is usually detected in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).³¹⁶ Loss of miR-143/145 expression is often observed in pancreatic cancers with KRAS mutations,

and restoration of these miRNAs eliminates tumorigenesis.³¹⁷ Myeloid-specific miR-146a deletion promotes colonic inflammation and cancer.³¹⁸ Mechanistically, miR-146a is pivotal for preventing colitis and colitis-associated CRC through targeting TNF receptor associated factor 6 (*TRAF6*), an IL-17R signaling intermediate, to restrict intestinal epithelial cells (IEC) responsiveness to IL-17.

Amplification of miRNA genomic loci also exists. The miR-17–92 cluster is amplified in a variety of tumors, which resulted in the upregulation of the miRNAs, thus stimulating tumor development.³¹⁹ Overexpression of miR-21, because of the amplification in 17q23–25, causes low expression of the tumor suppressor gene, phosphatase and tensin homolog (*PTEN*), in ovarian cancer.³²⁰ In fact, the upregulation of miR-21 has been revealed in numerous cancers, which has an effect in boosting drug resistance of cancer cells.³²¹ Due to amplification of 3q26.2, a cancer-associated miRNA, miR-569, contributes to ovarian and breast cancer cell survival and proliferation.³²²

A high-resolution array-based assay in 227 specimens detected DNA copy number alterations in genomic loci consist of miRNA genes in ovarian cancer (37.1%), breast cancer (72.8%), and melanoma (85.9%).³²³ Genome-wide investigations revealed that 98 of 186 (52.5%) miRNA genes are in cancer-associated genomic regions or in fragile sites.³²⁴ In summary, abnormal miRNA expression in cancer cells could develop from the amplification or deletion of individual genomic regions containing the miRNA genes.

5.2.3 Dysregulated transcriptional control of miRNA genes. miRNA expression is closely regulated by several vital transcription factors, including *MYC* and *p53*. The activation of oncogenic transcription factor *MYC* widely affects miRNA down-regulation.³²⁵ *MYC* regulates the transcription of miR-17–92 cluster, which in turn maintains a tumor state by inhibiting chromatin regulatory genes *Sin3b*, *Hbp1*, *Suv420h1*, *Btg1*, and the apoptosis regulator *Bim*.³²⁶ Also, *MYC* inhibits the activity of miRNA cluster let-7a-1–let-7d promoter by binding to the non-canonical E-box 3 downstream of the transcription initiation sites, while it strengthens promoter activity by binding to the canonical E-box 2 upstream of the transcription initiation sites.³²⁷ Moreover, *MYC* represses the miR-15a, miR-16, miR-29a, miR-30, miR-122, miR-148a, and miR-363 by binding to their promoter in different cancer cells.^{328–331}

In addition, the *MYC*-miRNA feedback loop is indispensable for the development of HCC. miR-122 indirectly suppresses *MYC* expression by targeting *Tfdp2* and *E2f1*. Furthermore, miR-148 directly targets the 3′ UTR of *MYC* and inhibits *MYC*, while miR-363 directly targets the 3′ UTR of ubiquitin-specific protease 28 (*USP28*) and indirectly destabilizes *MYC*.³³⁰

Another example is how *p53* regulates miRNA abundance to exert its tumor suppressive activity.³³² *p53* is one of the most ubiquitous tumor suppressors, whose mutation is detected in approximately 50% of human cancers.³³³ *p53* can induce the upregulation of miR-34a to prompt apoptosis, cell-cycle arrest and cell senescence through associating with the promoter of the miR-34a gene.³³⁴ As a feedback loop, miR-34a inhibits *p53* expression by targeting sirtuin 1 (*SIRT1*), which is a negative



regulator of *p53* via deacetylation.³³⁵ Further, the miR-34 family inhibits tumor growth and progression by targeting regulatory factors including cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 (*CDK4/6*), cyclin E2, and anti-apoptotic protein B-cell lymphoma 2 (*BCL2*), which are engaged in cell proliferation, the cell cycle, EMT, metastasis, and stemness.³³⁶ More studies revealed that *p53* regulates the expression of a range of miRNAs, such as miR-605, miR-1246, miR-143 and miR-107, to perform its function.^{337–339}

Overall, *MYC* and *p53*, two of the most comprehensively studied transcription factors, regulate miRNA expression. Other transcription factors and miRNA co-regulatory networks, such as *E2Fs*/miR-17/20 and *PITX3*/miR-133b, have been discovered in multiple tumors.³⁴⁰

5.2.4 Dysregulated epigenetic modification of miRNA genes. Dysregulated epigenetic modifications include changes in genomic DNA methylation, as well as histone methylation and acetylation.³⁴¹ miRNAs inhibit epigenetic modification enzymes involved in epigenetic regulation and construct a triangle regulation “epi-miR-epi” feedback loop.³⁴² For example, the increased expression of EZH2 in patients with serine peptidase inhibitor, Kazal type-1 (SPINK1)-positive prostate cancer results in the epigenetic silencing of miRNA-338-5p/-421. In contrast, the exogenous expression of miRNA-338-5p/-421 in SPINK1-positive cells eliminates carcinogenic properties and exhibits lower tumor burden and distant metastasis.³⁴³

Compared with healthy individuals, the methylation level of the nine CpGs of the miR-223 promoter was significantly lower in atherosclerotic cerebral infarction (ACI) patients but higher in carotid atherosclerotic patients.³⁴⁴ A total of seventeen miRNAs were upregulated higher than 3-fold after simultaneous treatment with DNA methylation and histone acetylation inhibitors. miR-127, one of 17 miRNAs located within a CpG island, is highly induced after treatment. Consistently, miR-127 is lowly expressed in the malignant cells, indicating that it is subject to epigenetic silencing.³⁴⁵ Further, decreased expression of miR-152/-137 and miR-34b/c is associated with DNA hypermethylation in endometrial, lung and gastric cells, respectively.^{346–349} The above evidence spotlights the intricate interpretation between miRNAs and the epigenetic architecture, revealing that abnormal DNA methylation and histone

acetylation of miRNA genes can serve as biomarkers for cancer diagnosis and therapeutics.³⁵⁰

5.3 Mechanosensitive miRNA in cancers

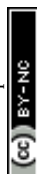
Multiple mechanosensitive miRNAs (mechanomiRs) have been identified by miRNA microarray screening of either longitudinally or transversely stretched diaphragms from mice.³⁵¹ Over the past few years, an increasing number of miRNAs have been reported to interact reciprocally with ECM proteins and regulate mechanotransduction *via* distinct mechanisms.³⁵² miRNAs play a role in ECM regulation by directly targeting mRNAs that encode ECM proteins or by indirectly regulating the expression of genes that modulate the synthesis/degradation of ECM proteins (Table 3). Interestingly, different miRNAs from the miR-17–92 cluster are involved in both regulatory mechanisms.

Fibronectin (Fn) is a glycoprotein found in the ECM and the generation of active Fn fibers is required for collagen I matrix assembly. The ECM network is initially constructed by depositing Fn fibers, followed by collagen I fibers, which preferentially interact with the relaxed Fn in the ECM.^{353,354} miR-17, a member of miR-17–92 cluster, represses the expression of Fn which leads to reduced cell adhesion, migration, and proliferation.³⁵⁵ In addition, miR-143 can directly target the 3′ UTR of Fn type III domain containing 3A (FNDC3A) and repress its expression level. Therefore, upregulated miR-143 facilitates liver tumor cell invasion and metastasis, as local liver and distant lung metastasis were significantly reduced when miR-143 expression was suppressed.^{356,357} Another example is let-7e-5p, a member of the let-7 family, reported as mechanomiR, showing more than 1.5-fold downregulation in atrophic skeletal muscle; dysregulation of let-7e-5p may trigger muscle fibrosis by targeting the ECM proteins: Col1a1, Col1a2, Col3a1, Col24a1, Col27a1, Itga1, Itga4, Scd1, and Thbs1.³⁵¹

The miR-17–92 cluster can form an autoregulatory feedback loop with E2F transcription factors, thereby suppressing the expression of many tumor-associated proteins.³⁵⁸ Induced by increased stiffness in human and mouse tissue, miR-18a from the mi-17–92 cluster, leading to reduced levels of the tumor suppressor *PTEN* by base-pairing with the 3′ UTR of *PTEN*.³⁵⁹ Increased ECM stiffness could modulate *PTEN* suppression by

Table 3 Functions of miRNA in regulating mechanotransduction, mechano-memory, YAP, and calcium signaling

	microRNA	Function	Ref.
Mechanotransduction	miR-17	Repress the expression of fibronectin	355
	miR-143	Target the 3′ UTR of fibronectin type III domain	357
	let-7e-5p	Trigger muscle fibrosis by targeting the ECM proteins: Col1a1, Col1a2, Col3a1, Col24a1, Col27a1, Itga1, Itga4, Scd1, and Thbs1	351
	miR-18a	Suppress <i>PTEN</i> <i>via</i> β -catenin stimulation of MYC-driven miR-18a and HOXA9	359
Calcium signaling targeting	miR-34a	Decreased Ca^{2+} influx	364
	miR-195	Regulate mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake by downregulating MICU1	375
	miR-27a	Downregulate the ER-located Ca^{2+} transporter CACNA2D3	369
	miR-28	Downregulate TRPM7	371
	miR-25	Downregulate MCU	374
Mechano-memory, crosstalk with YAP	miR-21	Function as a mechanical memory keeper in myofibroblast activation and fibrogenesis	392
	let-7a and let-7b	Downregulated let-7a and 7b expression rescues the miRNA biogenesis defects observed following TAZ/YAP knockdown	381
	miR-130a	Promote YAP-induced tumorigenesis and liver enlargement	386
	miR-130b	Target the MST1 and SAV1 resulting in Hippo signaling pathway inactivation	387



directly suppressing *PTEN* via β -catenin stimulation of MYC-driven miR-18a and by indirectly reducing *PTEN* through the levels of homeobox A9 (HOXA9) regulation.³⁵⁹ In breast cancer, HOXA9 directly binds to the *PTEN* promoter to regulate its expression and inhibit the malignancy.^{359,360} *PTEN* loss in stromal fibroblasts promotes ECM deposition and alignment independently from cancer cells' presence, and this reorganization regulates cancer cell behavior.³⁶¹ Therefore, stromal matrix stiffness controls cellular ECM deposition through the regulation of miRNA expression.

Furthermore, 122 miRNA families with their 73 mRNA targets which encode cytoskeleton-actin-matrix (CAM) proteins were identified in endothelial cells.³⁶² The miRNA-CAM mRNA regulatory network is demonstrated to counteract the effects of ECM stiffness and promote mechanical stability of tissues.³⁶²

5.4 Molecular mechanism of the crosstalk between miRNA and Ca^{2+} signaling

In Section 3, we discussed that the intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling links to almost every cancer hallmark. Emerging studies have illustrated that miRNAs play a crucial role in regulating intracellular Ca^{2+} dynamics through the SOCE pathway, calcineurin/NFAT signaling, and Ca^{2+} ion channels (Table 3).

In T cells, SOCE is the central pathway to modulate cellular activation, proliferation, apoptosis, and migration.³⁶³ In the human Jurkat T cell line, miR-34a overexpression significantly reduces calcium influx through targeting SOCE-related genes (*ITPR1*, *ITPR3*, *CALM3*, *ATP2A2* and *ATP2A3*) and calcineurin/NFAT signaling related genes (*RCAN1*, *PPP3R1* and *NFATC4*).³⁶⁴

miR-27a is involved in different regulatory functions in different types of cancer, and is upregulated in breast cancer,³⁶⁵ ovarian cancer,³⁶⁶ and prostate cancer.³⁶⁷ In breast carcinoma, ER-located Ca^{2+} transporter *CACNA2D3* is frequently methylated and contributes to metastasis.³⁶⁸ In *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) infected peripheral blood mononuclear cells, miR-27a is abundantly expressed and contributes to autophagy inhibition through down-regulating ER Ca^{2+} signaling by directly targeting *CACNA2D3*.³⁶⁹ Thus, the study of miR-27a targeting *CACNA2D3* in cancer metastasis may support the development of anti-metastasis therapeutic approaches.

TRPM7 forms a constitutively active Ca^{2+} permeable channel, which regulates diverse cellular processes in healthy and tumor cells.³⁷⁰ In glioblastomas, in addition to TRPM7's critical roles in regulating cell migration and invasion, an upregulated miR-28-5p expression results in a significant decrease in glioma cell proliferation and migration.^{371,372} Rap1b was reported to be a target of miR-28-5p and its expression level was down-regulated. Therefore, it was demonstrated that TRPM7 targeting Rap1b signaling to suppress glioma cells' proliferation and invasion by upregulating miR-28-5p expression.³⁷¹

It is widely accepted that Ca^{2+} entry into the mitochondria is mediated by the activity of the mitochondrial calcium uniporter (MCU) complex, composed of the pore-forming subunit of the MCU channel together with several regulatory proteins. Abnormal changes in the expression of one or more members of the MCU complex have been associated with cancer-related

phenotypes in HCC, breast cancer, colon cancer and pancreatic cancer.³⁷³ Oncogenic miR-25 is highly expressed in prostate and colon cancer. miR-25 induces the downregulation of MCU with subsequent decreases in mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake and reductions in the apoptotic process of prostate and colon cancer. Importantly, miR-25-dependent reduction of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} can be rescued by miR-25 inhibitor.³⁷⁴ In ovarian cancer, miR-195 contributes to regulating mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake in response to cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentration by repressing the mitochondrial calcium uptake 1 protein (MICU1).³⁷⁵ Therefore, miRNAs play crucial roles in modulating intracellular Ca^{2+} signals in different cancer stages and types. Overall, the interplay between miRNAs and Ca^{2+} signaling in tumor microenvironments will offer novel therapeutic targets for the progress of targeted metastasis.

5.5 Molecular mechanism of the crosstalk between miRNAs and YAP

During metastasis, the disseminating cancer cells experience alterations in the microenvironment of cell-cell and cell-matrix stiffness.³⁷⁶ These different mechanical cues can be remembered by cells for long- or short-term periods, influencing the tumor cell phenotype in cancer progression.³⁷⁷ The Hippo pathway regulates cell proliferation, apoptosis, and stemness in response to a wide range of extracellular and intracellular signals.³⁷⁸ YAP/TAZ have been investigated in cancer and stem cells as mechanosensors in response to mechanical stimulation.³⁷⁹ Metastatic tumor cells retain their "mechanical memory" to acclimate to a new surface with a different stiffness during migration. The tumor cells containing YAP translocation-dependent mechanical memory would lose the memory when YAP is depleted. Without YAP, cells migrate through the soft surface in the same way as through the stiff substrate. However, the roles of miRNAs in mechano-memory are poorly understood. Specifically, there exists a knowledge gap between miRNAs and Hippo-YAP/TAZ pathways in human malignancies.

Dysregulation of the Hippo-YAP signaling pathway underlies various solid tumors, and misregulation of miRNAs is a common feature in human cancers. Recent advances show that the Hippo-YAP signaling pathway affects the miRNA biogenesis by regulating the Microprocessor-interacting protein p72 and Dicer expression in a cell-density-dependent manner. At higher cell density, YAP translocates from the nucleus into the cytoplasm, thereby allowing p72 to bind to the Microprocessor in the nucleus and leading to efficient miRNA biogenesis.³⁸⁰ In contrast, at low cell densities, YAP stays in the nucleus and is activated, thereby sequestering p72 from the Microprocessor and disrupting the miRNA biogenesis.³⁸⁰ Cell-density induced translocation of nuclear YAP/TAZ represses the Dicer levels.³⁸¹ When nuclear YAP/TAZ are lost, levels of LIN28, a regulator of let-7a/b, is reduced. Lower LIN28 leads to let-7a and let-7b miRNAs accumulation, which down-regulates Dicer, resulting in decreased processing of pre-miRNA to mature miRNA (miR-23a, miR-22, miR-221, miR-24 and miR-21). Consistently, inhibition of let-7 rescues the miRNA biogenesis defects observed following YAP/TAZ knockdown (Fig. 5B and Table 3).³⁸¹



The miR-130 family members, miR-130a and miR-130b, are located in chromosomes 11 and 22, respectively. Both miR-130a and miR-130b can mediate Hippo-YAP signaling in different cancers. Aberrant expression of miR-130a is observed in several types of cancer.^{382–385} miR-130a is significantly down-regulated in HCC.³⁸⁴ Conversely, miR-130a promotes YAP-induced liver tumorigenesis and liver enlargement in mice.³⁸⁶ miR-130a can be induced as a direct target of the TEAD transcription complex, and the loss of endogenous YAP/TAZ substantially represses the pri- and mature miR-130a level. Also, miR-130a could effectively target VGLL4, an inhibitor of YAP. Therefore, aberrant YAP activation alone is enough to lead to liver tumorigenesis in a normal tissue microenvironment. The inhibition of miR-130a reversed liver size enlargement induced by Hippo pathway inactivation and blocked YAP-induced tumorigenesis.³⁸⁶

miR-130b, another member of the miR-130 family, induces the glioblastoma cancer stem cell phenotype through the regulation of the YAP/TAZ signaling pathway.³⁸⁷ In the Hippo pathway, YAP/TAZ are phosphorylated and activated by kinase MST1/2 and LATS1/2 in mammals.³⁸⁸ In addition, MST1/2 can bind to and phosphorylate the adaptor protein SAV1 and form MST1/2-SAV1 interaction to phosphorylate LATS1/2.³⁸⁹ miR-130b is overexpressed in human glioblastoma and directly targets the MST1 and SAV1, resulting in the inactivation of the Hippo signaling pathway.³⁸⁷ Hence, understanding the role of miR-130b in glioblastoma pathogenesis may shed light on novel therapeutic strategies.

miR-21 is overexpressed in most tumor types and acts as an oncogene by targeting many tumor suppressor genes related to proliferation, apoptosis, and invasion.^{390,391} It has been demonstrated that miR-21 functions as a long-term mechanical memory keeper against different environmental mechanics, while YAP/TAZ primarily respond to acute changes of substrate mechanical cues in MSCs' migration.³⁹² In addition to MSCs, pancreatic cancer cells also commonly migrate through tissues of different stiffnesses during metastasis. Liver is the major metastatic site of pancreatic cancer. Metastatic niche in a softer environment presents a higher intrinsic resistance to gemcitabine monotherapy, a standard first-line treatment for patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.^{393,394} In pancreatic cancer, YAP nuclear translocation and miR-21 expression mediate the mechanical memory in response to altered environmental stiffness.³⁹³ Meanwhile, environmental stiffness can influence the gemcitabine chemoresistance of soft-primed pancreatic cancer cells. These findings could shed light on how the regulation of miRNA expression affects tumor metastasis in patients, while miR-21 serve as a potential therapeutic target in metastatic tumor cells.

6. Conclusions and Outlook

In the past few decades, studies show that biophysical signals can regulate biochemical signaling in normal cells and cancer cells. Specifically, in response to biophysical inputs, (1) calcium-related ion channels and transporters mediate calcium signaling

and interact with cytoskeletal proteins to regulate cellular function; (2) the mechanotransduction carried out by the cytoskeleton and nucleus mediate the YAP shuttling to trigger changes in the transcription of downstream genes, affecting cellular functions; (3) calcium signals trigger changes in cytoskeleton force to interact with YAP signaling; (4) the expression level of miRNAs can either change in response to ECM mechanics or directly regulate the gene expression of ECM proteins; (5) miRNAs target the gene expression of calcium-related transporters/channels to regulate calcium dynamics; and (6) modulated by cell density, the interactions between nuclear YAP and Microprocessors regulate the maturation of diverse miRNAs, mediating cell behaviors.

Despite the significant advances in the understanding of mechanotransduction related to Ca^{2+} , YAP, and miRNAs, several important questions are unanswered and being actively studied: (1) What are the direct mechano-sensor and molecular mechanism responsible for biophysical-signal-induced calcium and YAP signaling? (2) How does miRNA mediate mechanotransduction? (3) miRNA degradation can be induced by some target RNAs through a pathway called target-directed miRNA degradation (TDMD). Does mechanotransduction influence the target RNA expression levels and induce miRNA degradation through TDMD?

Most importantly, further mechanobiological studies, leveraging the *in vivo* imaging,^{395–399} CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing,^{400–402} and data science,^{29,403–405} could facilitate elucidating the roles and mechanisms of Ca^{2+} /YAP/miRNA within mechanotransduction *in vivo* and empower the development of mechanomedicine for combinatorial cancer therapeutics.

7. Terminology of mechanics

Force (or load, F): physical interaction between two objects. It causes an object with mass (m) to accelerate (a), obeying the Newton's 2nd law $F = ma$.

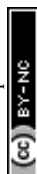
Stress (σ or τ): the internal force (F) per unit area (A) in continuum medium. It includes normal stress (σ) and shear stress (τ), σ or $\tau = F/A$. For normal stress (tension and compression), the direction of force is perpendicular to the surface of area. For shear stress, the direction of force is parallel to the surface of area.

Strain (ε or γ): the change in length (Δl) of an object with respect to the initial length (l). It includes normal strain (ε) and shear strain (γ), ε or $\gamma = \Delta l/l$. For normal strain, the directions of Δl (elongation is positive and shortening is negative) and l are in parallel. For shear strain, the directions of Δl and l are perpendicular to each other. No rigid body rotation is included.

Tension (T): outward force (F) in the direction normal to the surface per unit area (A) that causes a positive normal stress and strain, $T = F/A$.

Compression (or pressure, P): inward force (F) in the direction normal to the surface per unit area (A) that causes a negative normal stress and strain, $P = F/A$.

Stiffness (k): the elastic resistance offered by an object to deformation (Δl) under an applied force (F), $k = F/\Delta l$.



Elastic modulus: a measure of the stiffness of an elastic object under an applied stress, defined as the slope of its stress-strain curve in the elastic deformation region. It includes Young's modulus (E) and Shear modulus (G), $E = 2G(1 + \nu)$, where ν is the Poisson's ratio.

Young's modulus (E): the ratio of tensile/compressive stress (σ) to normal strain (ϵ) in the linear elastic region of a material, $E = \sigma/\epsilon$.

Shear modulus (G): the ratio of shear stress (τ) to shear strain (γ) of an elastic material, $G = \tau/\gamma$.

Cell traction (or traction force): the force per unit area exerted by the cell on substrates.

Cell contractility: the capability of a cell to contract the microenvironment. It can be evaluated by traction.

Adhesion: the molecular attraction force in the area of contact between dissimilar particles or objects that tend to cling to each other.

Porosity (ϕ): the fraction of the void volume (V_V) over the total volume (V_T) in a material, $\phi = V_V/V_T$.

Nomenclature

ARP2/3	Actin-related protein 2/3
ATP	Adenosine-5'-triphosphate
ABC	ATP-binding cassette
AA	Arachidonic acid
AGO	Argonaute
ACI	Atherosclerotic cerebral infarction
AFM	Atomic force microscopy
BFGF	Basic fibroblast growth factor
<i>BCL2</i>	B-cell lymphoma 2
BRCA1	Breast and ovarian cancer susceptibility protein 1
Ca^{2+}	Calcium ion
CW	Ca^{2+} wave
CaMKII	Calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II
CICR	Calcium-induced calcium release
CalA	Calyculin A
CAF	Cancer-associated fibroblast
CLL	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
CDS	Coding sequences
CRC	Colorectal cancer
Cx	Connexin
CXCR4	C-X-C Motif Chemokine Receptor 4
CDK4/6	Cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6
CytD	Cytochalasin D
$[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$	Cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} concentration
CAM	Cytoskeleton-actin-matrix
DRM	Detergent-resistant membrane
DGCR8	Digeorge critical region 8
ER	Endoplasmic reticulum
EGF	Epidermal growth factor
EPC	Epidermal stem/progenitor cell
EMT	Epithelial-mesenchymal transition

XPO	Exportin
ECM	Extracellular matrix
ERK	Extracellular-signal-regulated kinase
Fn	Fibronectin
FNDC3A	Fibronectin type III domain containing 3A
F-actin	Filamentous-actin
FAK	Focal adhesion kinase
G-actin	Globular-actin
GPCR	G-protein-coupled receptor
HCC	Hepatocellular carcinoma
HOXA9	Homeobox A9
HMSC	Human mesenchymal stem cell
HUVEC	Human umbilical vascular endothelial cell
OH	Hydroxyl group
IP_3	Inositol trisphosphate
IP_3R	Inositol trisphosphate receptor
ILK	Integrin-linked kinase
IF	Intermediate filament
IEC	Intestinal epithelial cell
KRAP	KRAS-induced actin-interacting protein
LATS1/2	Large tumor suppressor 1/2
LINC	Linker of nucleoskeleton and cytoskeleton
LIMK	Lin11, Isl-1 and Mec-3 kinase
MST1/2	Mammalian Ste20-like kinases 1/2
MMP-9	Matrix metalloproteinase 9
MFC	Meniscus fibrochondrocyte
MSC	Mesenchymal stem cell
mRNA	Messenger RNA
miRNA	MicroRNA
mechanomiR	Mechanosensitive miRNA
MT	Microtubule
MCU	Mitochondrial calcium uniporter
MICU1	Mitochondrial calcium uptake 1 protein
MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
MEF	Mouse embryonic fibroblast
<i>Mtb</i>	Mycobacterium tuberculosis
NEC	Normal endothelial cell
NE	Nuclear envelope
nt	Nucleotide
<i>PTEN</i>	Phosphatase and tensin homolog
P	Phosphate
PI3K	Phosphoinositide 3-kinase
PLC	Phospholipase C
PAA	Polyacrylamide
PARN	Poly-A specific ribonuclease
PDMS	Polydimethylsiloxane
Pol II	Polymerase II
PTM	Post-translational modification
pre-miRNA	Precursor miRNA
pri-miRNA	Primary miRNA
AKT	Protein kinase B
RhoA	Ras homolog family member A
ROCK	Rho-associated protein kinase
RTK	Receptor tyrosine kinase
RISC	RNA-induced silencing complex
RUNX	Runt-related transcription factor



RyR	Ryanodine receptor
SUN	Sad1p-UNC-84
SERCA	Sarco/endoplasmic reticulum Ca ²⁺ ATPase
SPINK1	Serine peptidase inhibitor, Kazal type-1
SIRT1	Sirtuin 1
SFK	Src family kinase
SOCE	Store-operated Ca ²⁺ entry
STIM	Stromal interaction molecule
TDMD	Target-directed miRNA degradation
TG	Thapsigargin
TAZ	Transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif
TSS	Transcription start site
TRP	Transient receptor potential
TRPA	Transient receptor potential ankyrin
TRPC	Transient receptor potential canonical
TRPM	Transient receptor potential melastatin
TRPV	Transient receptor potential vanilloid
TPM	Tropomyosin
TEC	Tumor-derived endothelial cell
BTEC	TEC from human breast carcinomas
TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
TRAF6	TNF receptor associated factor 6
TRAIL	TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand
USP28	Ubiquitin-specific protease 28
UTR	Untranslated region
UCEC	Uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma
VEGF	Vascular endothelial growth factor
VGCC	Voltage-gated calcium channel
YAP	Yes-associated protein
TEAD	YAP-TEA domain
2-APB	2-Aminoethoxydiphenyl borate
m ⁷ G	7-methylguanosine

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely apologize for not being able to cite all relevant works due to space constraints. This project is funded by UF Gatorade Award Start-up Package (X. T.) and Cancer Pilot Award from UFHCC (X. T. and D. S.). We genuinely appreciate the invaluable discussions with Dr Jonathan Licht (UFHCC), Dr Michael Sheetz (The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston), Dr Bo Zeng (Southwest Medical University, China), Dr Youhua Tan (Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China), Dr Marin Schwartz (Yale University), and Dr Sanjay Kumar (University of California at Berkeley). We are grateful for the effective supports from all members of Tang's, Xie's, and Siemann's laboratories and all staff members of the MAE&UFHCC, UF.

Notes and references

- 1 H. Sung, J. Ferlay, R. L. Siegel, M. Laversanne, I. Soerjomataram and A. Jemal, *et al.*, Global Cancer Statistics 2020: GLOBOCAN Estimates of Incidence and Mortality Worldwide for 36 Cancers in 185 Countries, *CA Cancer J. Clin.*, 2021, **71**(3), 209–249.
- 2 American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts & Figures*, American Cancer Society, Atlanta, 2021, <https://www.cancer.org/research/cancer-facts-statistics/all-cancer-facts-figures/cancer-facts-figures-2021.html>.
- 3 M. Tanaka, S. S. Dykes and D. W. Siemann, Inhibition of the Axl pathway impairs breast and prostate cancer metastasis to the bones and bone remodeling, *Clin. Exp. Metastasis*, 2021, **38**(3), 321–335.
- 4 D. Hanahan and R. Weinberg, Hallmarks of Cancer: The Next Generation, *Cell*, 2011, **144**, 646–674.
- 5 C. L. Chaffer and R. A. Weinberg, A perspective on cancer cell metastasis, *Science*, 2011, **331**, 1559–1564.
- 6 A. Chambers, A. Groom and I. MacDonald, Metastasis: dissemination and growth of cancer cells in metastatic sites, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2002, **2**, 563–572.
- 7 H. T. Nia, L. L. Munn and R. K. Jain, Physical traits of cancer, *Science*, 2020, (6516), 370.
- 8 A. S. G. van Oosten, X. Chen, L. K. Chin, K. Cruz, A. E. Patteson and K. Pogoda, *et al.*, Emergence of tissue-like mechanics from fibrous networks confined by close-packed cells, *Nature*, 2019, **573**(7772), 96–101.
- 9 X. Tang, T. Kuhlenschmidt, J. Zhou, P. Bell, F. Wang and M. Kuhlenschmidt, *et al.*, Mechanical force affects expression of an in vitro metastasis-like phenotype in HCT-8 cells, *Biophys. J.*, 2010, **99**(8), 2460–2469.
- 10 M. J. Paszek, N. Zahir, K. R. Johnson, J. N. Lakins, G. I. Rozenberg and A. Gefen, *et al.*, Tensional homeostasis and the malignant phenotype, *Cancer Cell*, 2005, **8**(3), 241–254.
- 11 A. Sontheimer-Phelps, B. A. Hassell and D. E. Ingber, Modelling cancer in microfluidic human organs-on-chips, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2019, **19**, 65–81.
- 12 B. A. Hassell, G. Goyal, E. Lee, A. Sontheimer-Phelps, O. Levy and C. S. Chen, *et al.*, Human organ chip models recapitulate orthotopic lung cancer growth, therapeutic responses, and tumor dormancy in vitro, *Cell Rep.*, 2017, **21**(2), 508–516.
- 13 C. R. Pfeifer, C. M. Alvey, J. Irianto and D. E. Discher, Genome variation across cancers scales with tissue stiffness—An invasion-mutation mechanism and implications for immune cell infiltration, *Curr. Opin. Syst. Biol.*, 2017, **2**, 103–114.
- 14 L. Chin, Y. Xia, D. Discher and P. Janmey, Mechanotransduction in cancer, *Curr. Opin. Chem. Eng.*, 2016, **11**, 77–84.
- 15 X. Tang, T. B. Kuhlenschmidt, Q. Li, S. Ali, S. Lezmi and H. Chen, *et al.*, A mechanically-induced colon cancer cell population shows increased metastatic potential, *Mol. Cancer*, 2014, **13**(1), 1–15.
- 16 Y. Tan, A. Tajik, J. Chen, Q. Jia, F. Chowdhury and L. Wang, *et al.*, Matrix softness regulates plasticity of



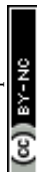
- tumour-repopulating cells via H3K9 demethylation and Sox2 expression, *Nat. Commun.*, 2014, **5**(1), 1–12.
- 17 M. W. Pickup, J. K. Mouw and V. M. Weaver, The extracellular matrix modulates the hallmarks of cancer, *EMBO Rep.*, 2014, **15**(12), 1243–1253.
 - 18 J. Liu, Y. Tan, H. Zhang, Y. Zhang, P. Xu and J. Chen, *et al.*, Soft fibrin gels promote selection and growth of tumorigenic cells, *Nat. Mater.*, 2012, **11**(8), 734–741.
 - 19 N. Wang, Review of cellular mechanotransduction, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.*, 2017, **50**, 233002.
 - 20 C. DuFort, M. Paszek and V. Weaver, Balancing forces: architectural control of mechanotransduction, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2011, **12**, 308–319.
 - 21 C. P. Johnson, H. Y. Tang, C. Carag, D. W. Speicher and D. E. Discher, Forced unfolding of proteins within cells, *Science*, 2007, **317**(5838), 663–666.
 - 22 K. Amar, F. Wei, J. Chen and N. Wang, Effects of forces on chromatin, *APL Bioeng.*, 2021, **5**, 041503.
 - 23 S. Nemecek and K. A. Kilian, Materials control of the epigenetics underlying cell plasticity, *Nat. Rev. Mater.*, 2021, **6**, 69–83.
 - 24 V. D. Tran and S. Kumar, Transduction of cell and matrix geometric cues by the actin cytoskeleton, *Curr. Opin. Cell Biol.*, 2021, **68**, 64–71.
 - 25 P. A. Janmey, D. A. Fletcher, C. A. Reinhart-king, P. A. Janmey, D. A. Fletcher and C. A. Reinhart-king, Stiffness Sensing by Cells, *Physiol. Rev.*, 2020, **100**(2), 695–724.
 - 26 O. Chaudhuri, J. Cooper-White, P. A. Janmey, D. J. Mooney and V. B. Shenoy, Effects of extracellular matrix viscoelasticity on cellular behaviour, *Nature*, 2020, **584**, 535–546.
 - 27 H. H. Yu and J. A. Zallen, Abl and Cdc42 mediate mechanotransduction at tricellular junctions, *Science*, 2020, **370**(6520), eaba5528.
 - 28 T. P. Lele, R. B. Dickinson and G. G. Gundersen, Mechanical principles of nuclear shaping and positioning, *J. Cell Biol.*, 2018, **217**, 3330–3342.
 - 29 D. E. Discher, L. Smith, S. Cho, M. Colasurdo, A. J. García and S. Safran, Matrix Mechanosensing: From Scaling Concepts in Omics Data to Mechanisms in the Nucleus, Regeneration, and Cancer, *Annu. Rev. Biophys.*, 2017, **46**, 295–315.
 - 30 A. Singh, A. Tijore, F. Margadant, C. Simpson, D. Chitkara and B. C. Low, *et al.*, Enhanced tumor cell killing by ultrasound after microtubule depolymerization, *Bioeng Trans. Med.*, 2021, **6**(3), e10233.
 - 31 F. Chowdhury, B. Huang and N. Wang, Cytoskeletal prestress: the cellular hallmark in mechanobiology and mechanomedicine, *Cytoskeleton*, 2021, **78**, 249–276.
 - 32 M. J. Mitchell, M. M. Billingsley, R. M. Haley, M. E. Wechsler, N. A. Peppas and R. Langer, Engineering precision nanoparticles for drug delivery, *Nat. Rev. Drug Discovery*, 2021, **20**, 101–124.
 - 33 B. Abar, A. Alonso-Calleja, A. Kelly, C. Kelly, K. Gall and J. L. West, 3D printing of high-strength, porous, elastomeric structures to promote tissue integration of implants, *J. Biomed. Mater. Res., Part A*, 2021, **109**(1), 54–63.
 - 34 A. Herland, B. M. Maoz, D. Das, M. R. Somayaji, R. Prantil-Baun and R. Novak, *et al.*, Quantitative prediction of human pharmacokinetic responses to drugs via fluidically coupled vascularized organ chips, *Nat. Biomed. Eng.*, 2020, **4**(4), 421–436.
 - 35 R. Lanza, R. Langer, J. Vacanti and A. Atala, *Principles of Tissue Engineering*. Vol. 53, Elsevier Inc. 2020.
 - 36 J. Guck, Some thoughts on the future of cell mechanics, *Biophys. Rev.*, 2019, **11**, 667–670.
 - 37 K. Naruse, Mechanomedicine, *Biophys. Rev.*, 2018, **10**(5), 1257–1262.
 - 38 J. M. Northcott, I. S. Dean, J. K. Mouw and V. M. Weaver, Feeling Stress: The Mechanics of Cancer Progression and Aggression, *Front. Cell Dev. Biol.*, 2018, **6**, 17.
 - 39 J. Ma, Y. Zhang, K. Tang, H. Zhang, X. Yin and Y. Li, *et al.*, Reversing drug resistance of soft tumor-repopulating cells by tumor cell-derived chemotherapeutic microparticles, *Cell Res.*, 2016, **26**(6), 713–727.
 - 40 S. W. Wong, S. Lenzini and J. W. Shin, Perspective: biophysical regulation of cancerous and normal blood cell lineages in hematopoietic malignancies, *APL Bioeng.*, 2018, **2**, 031802.
 - 41 K. H. Vining and D. J. Mooney, Mechanical forces direct stem cell behaviour in development and regeneration, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2017, **18**, 728–742.
 - 42 B. Martinac, Mechanosensitive ion channels: molecules of mechanotransduction, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2004, **117**(Pt 12), 2449–2460.
 - 43 D. E. Ingber, Mechanical signaling and the cellular response to extracellular matrix in angiogenesis and cardiovascular physiology, *Circ. Res.*, 2002, **91**, 877–887.
 - 44 W. J. Polacheck and C. S. Chen, Measuring cell-generated forces: a guide to the available tools, *Nat. Methods*, 2016, **13**, 415–423.
 - 45 M. Sheetz, A tale of two states: normal and transformed, with and without rigidity sensing, *Annu. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol.*, 2019, **35**, 169–190.
 - 46 T. J. Kirby and J. Lammerding, Emerging views of the nucleus as a cellular mechanosensor, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2018, **20**, 373–381.
 - 47 S. Murthy, A. Dubin and A. Papatoutian, Piezos thrive under pressure: mechanically activated ion channels in health and disease, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2017, **18**, 771–783.
 - 48 R. Janoštiak, A. C. Pataki, J. Brábek and D. Rösel, Mechanosensors in integrin signaling: the emerging role of p130Cas, *Eur. J. Cell Biol.*, 2014, **93**, 445–454.
 - 49 S. Chien, Mechanotransduction and endothelial cell homeostasis: the wisdom of the cell, *Am. J. Physiol.: Heart Circ. Physiol.*, 2007, **H1209–H1224**.
 - 50 F. Martino, A. R. Perestrelo, V. Vinarský, S. Pagliari and G. Forte, Cellular mechanotransduction: from tension to function, *Front. Physiol.*, 2018, **9**, 824.
 - 51 Z. Shi, Z. T. Graber, T. Baumgart, H. A. Stone and A. E. Cohen, Cell Membranes Resist Flow, *Cell*, 2018, **175**(7), 1769–1779.



- 52 P. A. Janmey and R. T. Miller, Mechanisms of mechanical signaling in development and disease, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2011, **124**, 9–18.
- 53 N. Wang, J. D. Tytell and D. E. Ingber, Mechanotransduction at a distance: mechanically coupling the extracellular matrix with the nucleus, *Nat. Rev. Cell Biol.*, 2009, **10**(1), 75–82.
- 54 I. Muhamed, F. Chowdhury and V. Maruthamuthu, Biophysical tools to study cellular mechanotransduction, *Bioengineering*, 2017, **4**(1), 12.
- 55 T. Marin, B. Gongol, Z. Chen, B. Woo, S. Subramaniam and S. Chien, *et al.*, Mechanosensitive microRNAs - Role in endothelial responses to shear stress and redox state, *Free Radical Biol. Med.*, 2013, **64**, 61–68.
- 56 W. Sun, Li YS Julie, H Da Huang, J. Y. J. Shyy and S. Chien, MicroRNA: a master regulator of cellular processes for bioengineering systems, *Annu. Rev. Biomed. Eng.*, 2010, **12**, 1–27.
- 57 D. E. Jaalouk and J. Lammerding, Mechanotransduction gone awry, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2009, **10**, 63–73.
- 58 M. A. Wozniak and C. S. Chen, Mechanotransduction in development: a growing role for contractility, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2009, **10**, 34–43.
- 59 J. Jin, K. Tang, Y. Xin, T. Zhang and Y. Tan, Hemodynamic shear flow regulates biophysical characteristics and functions of circulating breast tumor cells reminiscent of brain metastasis, *Soft Matter*, 2018, **14**(47), 9528–9533.
- 60 J. Liu, Y. Tan, H. Zhang, Y. Zhang, P. Xu and J. Chen, *et al.*, Soft fibrin gels promote selection and growth of tumorigenic cells, *Nat. Mater.*, 2012, **11**(8), 734–741.
- 61 Y. Wei and J. L.-S. Au, Role of tumour microenvironment in chemoresistance. *Integration/Interaction of Oncologic Growth*. Springer, 2005. pp. 285–321.
- 62 Y. Xin, K. Li, M. Yang and Y. Tan, Fluid shear stress induces emt of circulating tumor cells via jnk signaling in favor of their survival during hematogenous dissemination, *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 2020, **21**(21), 1–16.
- 63 J. Riegler, Y. Labyed, S. Rosenzweig, V. Javinal, A. Castiglioni and C. X. Dominguez, *et al.*, Tumor elastography and its association with collagen and the tumor microenvironment, *Clin. Cancer Res.*, 2018, **24**(18), 4455–4467.
- 64 T. Stylianopoulos, J. D. Martin, V. P. Chauhan, S. R. Jain, B. Diop-Frimpong and N. Bardeesy, *et al.*, Causes, consequences, and remedies for growth-induced solid stress in murine and human tumors, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2012, **109**(38), 15101–15108.
- 65 S. J. Lunt, A. Fyles, R. P. Hill and M. Milosevic, Interstitial fluid pressure in tumors: therapeutic barrier and biomarker of angiogenesis, *Future Oncol.*, 2008, **4**(6), 793–802.
- 66 M. Lekka, K. Pogoda, J. Gostek, O. Klymenko, S. Prauzner-Bechcicki and J. Wiltowska-Zuber, *et al.*, Cancer cell recognition - Mechanical phenotype, *Micron*, 2012, **43**(12), 1259–1266, DOI: 10.1016/j.micron.2012.01.019.
- 67 S. E. Cross, Y.-S. Jin, J. Rao and J. K. Gimzewski, Nano-mechanical analysis of cells from cancer patients, *Nat. Nanotechnol.*, 2007, **2**(12), 780–783.
- 68 D. B. Agus, J. F. Alexander, W. Arap, S. Ashili, J. E. Aslan and R. H. Austin, *et al.*, A physical sciences network characterization of non-tumorigenic and metastatic cells, *Sci. Rep.*, 2013, **3**, 1449.
- 69 C. M. Kraning-Rush, J. P. Califano and C. A. Reinhart-King, Cellular traction stresses increase with increasing metastatic potential, *PLoS One*, 2012, **7**(2), e32572.
- 70 C. Alibert, B. Goud and J.-B. Manneville, Are cancer cells really softer than normal cells?, *Biol. Cell.*, 2017, **109**(5), 167–189.
- 71 K. A. Paschos, D. Canovas and N. C. Bird, The role of cell adhesion molecules in the progression of colorectal cancer and the development of liver metastasis, *Cell Signalling*, 2009, **21**(5), 665–674.
- 72 U. Cavallaro and G. Christofori, Cell adhesion in tumor invasion and metastasis: loss of the glue is not enough, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 2001, **1552**(1), 39–45.
- 73 M. C. Lampi and C. A. Reinhart-King, Targeting extracellular matrix stiffness to attenuate disease: from molecular mechanisms to clinical trials, *Sci. Transl. Med.*, 2018, **10**(422), eaao0475.
- 74 H. Ren, X. Zhao, W. Li, J. Hussain, G. Qi and S. Liu, Calcium Signaling in Plant Programmed Cell Death, *Cells*, 2021, **10**(5), 1089.
- 75 A. F. T. Arnsten, D. Datta and M. Wang, The genie in the bottle-magnified calcium signaling in dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, *Mol. Psychiatry*, 2021, **26**(8), 3684–3700.
- 76 R. Peruzzo, R. Costa, M. Bachmann, L. Leanza and I. Szabò, Mitochondrial metabolism, contact sites and cellular calcium signaling: implications for tumorigenesis, *Cancers*, 2020, **12**(9), 2574.
- 77 D. E. Schäffer, L. M. Iyer, A. M. Burroughs and L. Aravind, Functional Innovation in the Evolution of the Calcium-Dependent System of the Eukaryotic Endoplasmic Reticulum, *Front. Genet.*, 2020, **11**, 34.
- 78 M. Trebak and J. P. Kinet, Calcium signalling in T cells, *Nat. Rev. Immunol.*, 2019, **19**, 154–169.
- 79 M. M. Xu, A. Seas, M. Kiyani, K. S. Y. Ji and H. N. Bell, A temporal examination of calcium signaling in cancer-from tumorigenesis, to immune evasion, and metastasis, *Cell Biosci.*, 2018, **8**(1), 1–9, DOI: 10.1186/s13578-018-0223-5.
- 80 M. Bittremieux, J. B. Parys, P. Pinton and G. Bultynck, ER functions of oncogenes and tumor suppressors: modulators of intracellular Ca²⁺ signaling, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Mol. Cell Res.*, 2016, **1863**, 1364–1378.
- 81 N. Prevarskaya, R. Skryma and Y. Shuba, Calcium in tumour metastasis: new roles for known actors, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2011, **11**(8), 609–618.
- 82 M. J. Berridge, P. Lipp and M. D. Bootman, The versatility and universality of calcium signalling, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2000, **1**, 11–21.
- 83 A. Tijore, M. Yao, Y. H. Wang, A. Hariharan, Y. Nematbakhsh and B. Lee Doss, *et al.*, Selective killing of transformed cells by mechanical stretch, *Biomaterials*, 2021, 275.



- 84 Y. Han, C. Liu, D. Zhang, H. Men, L. Huo and Q. Geng, *et al.*, Mechanosensitive ion channel Piezo1 promotes prostate cancer development through the activation of the Akt/mTOR pathway and acceleration of cell cycle, *Int. J. Oncol.*, 2019, **55**(3), 629–644.
- 85 J. M. Hope, M. Lopez-Cavestany, W. Wang, C. A. Reinhart-King and M. R. King, Activation of Piezo1 sensitizes cells to TRAIL-mediated apoptosis through mitochondrial outer membrane permeability, *Cell Death Dis.*, 2019, **10**(11), 836–837.
- 86 J. Xu, J. Mathur, E. Vessi  res, S. Hammack, K. Nonomura and J. Favre, *et al.*, GPR68 Senses Flow and Is Essential for Vascular Physiology, *Cell*, 2018, **173**(3), 762–775.
- 87 A. J. Lomakin, C. J. Cattin, D. Cuvelier, Z. Alraies, M. Molina and G. P. F. Nader, *et al.*, The nucleus acts as a ruler tailoring cell responses to spatial constraints, *Science*, 2020, (6514), 370.
- 88 M. Luo, K. K. Y. Ho, Z. Tong, L. Deng and A. P. Liu, Compressive Stress Enhances Invasive Phenotype of Cancer Cells via Piezo1 Activation, *bioRxiv*, 2019, 513218.
- 89 K. Zhang, H. X. Qi, Z. M. Hu, Y. N. Chang, Z. M. Shi and X. H. Han, *et al.*, YAP and TAZ Take Center Stage in Cancer, *Biochemistry*, 2015, **54**(43), 6555–6566.
- 90 S. Piccolo, S. Dupont and M. Cordenonsi, The biology of YAP/TAZ: hippo signaling and beyond, *Physiol. Rev.*, 2014, **94**(4), 1287–1312.
- 91 B. J. Thompson, YAP/TAZ: Drivers of Tumor Growth, Metastasis, and Resistance to Therapy, *BioEssays*, 2020, **42**, 1900162.
- 92 F. Zanconato, M. Cordenonsi and S. Piccolo, YAP and TAZ: a signalling hub of the tumour microenvironment, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2019, **19**, 454–464.
- 93 X. Zhang, H. Zhao, Y. Li, D. Xia, L. Yang and Y. Ma, *et al.*, The role of YAP/TAZ activity in cancer metabolic reprogramming, *Molecular Cancer*, 2018, **17**, 134.
- 94 F. Zanconato, M. Cordenonsi and S. Piccolo, YAP/TAZ at the Roots of Cancer, *Cancer Cell*, 2016, **29**(6), 783–803.
- 95 T. Panciera, L. Azzolin, M. Cordenonsi and S. Piccolo, Mechanobiology of YAP and TAZ in physiology and disease, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2017, **18**(12), 758–770, DOI: 10.1038/nrm.2017.87.
- 96 A. Elozegui-Artola, I. Andreu, A. E. M. Beedle, A. Lezamiz, M. Uroz and A. J. Kosmalska, *et al.*, Force Triggers YAP Nuclear Entry by Regulating Transport across Nuclear Pores, *Cell*, 2017, **171**(6), 1397–1410.e14.
- 97 T. P. Driscoll, B. D. Cosgrove, S. J. Heo, Z. E. Shurden and R. L. Mauck, Cytoskeletal to Nuclear Strain Transfer Regulates YAP Signaling in Mesenchymal Stem Cells, *Biophys. J.*, 2015, **108**(12), 2783–2793.
- 98 M. Aragona, T. Panciera, A. Manfrin, S. Giullitti, F. Michielin and N. Elvassore, *et al.*, A mechanical checkpoint controls multicellular growth through YAP/TAZ regulation by actin-processing factors, *Cell*, 2013, **154**(5), 1047–1059.
- 99 Q. Luo, J. Zhang, G. Lin, M. Huang, M. Tanaka and S. Lepler, *et al.*, Automatic Multi-functional Integration Program (AMFIP) towards All-optical Mechanobiology Interrogation, *BioRxiv*, 2021, 1–22, DOI: 10.1101/2021.03.31.437936.
- 100 F. X. Yu, J. Luo, J. S. Mo, G. Liu, Y. C. Kim and Z. Meng, *et al.*, Mutant Gq/11 promote uveal melanoma tumorigenesis by activating YAP, *Cancer Cell*, 2014, **25**(6), 822–830.
- 101 K. Schlegelmilch, M. Mohseni, O. Kirak, J. Pruszk, J. R. Rodriguez and D. Zhou, *et al.*, Yap1 acts downstream of α -catenin to control epidermal proliferation, *Cell*, 2011, **144**(5), 782–795.
- 102 D. C. Benjamin, J. H. Kang, B. Hamza, E. M. King, J. M. Lamar and S. R. Manalis, *et al.*, YAP enhances tumor cell dissemination by promoting intravascular motility and reentry into systemic circulation, *Cancer Res.*, 2020, **80**(18), 3867–3879.
- 103 T. X. Lu and M. E. Rothenberg, MicroRNA, *J. Allergy Clin. Immunol.*, 2018, **141**(4), 1202–1207.
- 104 M. Ha and V. N. Kim, Regulation of microRNA biogenesis, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2014, **15**, 509–524.
- 105 M. Acunzo, G. Romano, D. Wernicke and C. M. Croce, MicroRNA and cancer - A brief overview, *Adv. Biol. Regulation.*, 2015, **57**, 1–9.
- 106 M. D. Jansson and A. H. Lund, MicroRNA and cancer. 6, *Molecular Oncology*, No longer published by Elsevier, 2012, pp. 590–610.
- 107 S. J. Roberts-Thomson, S. B. Chalmers and G. R. Monteith, The calcium-signaling toolkit in cancer: remodeling and targeting, *Cold Spring Harbor Perspect. Biol.*, 2019, **11**(8), 1–20.
- 108 G. R. Monteith, N. Prevarskaya and S. J. Roberts-Thomson, The calcium-cancer signalling nexus, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2017, **17**(6), 367–380, DOI: 10.1038/nrc.2017.18.
- 109 A. Kondratskyi, M. Yassine, K. Kondratska, R. Skryma, C. Slomianny and N. Prevarskaya, Calcium-permeable ion channels in control of autophagy and cancer, *Front. Physiol.*, 2013, **4**(October), 1–12.
- 110 M. Bittremieux and G. Bultynck, p53 and Ca^{2+} signaling from the endoplasmic reticulum: partners in anti-cancer therapies, *Oncoscience*, 2015, **2**(3), 233–238.
- 111 E. White, Deconvoluting the context-dependent role for autophagy in cancer, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2012, **12**, 401–410.
- 112 Z. J. Yang, C. E. Chee, S. Huang and F. A. Sinicrope, The role of autophagy in cancer: therapeutic implications, *Mol. Cancer Ther.*, 2011, **10**, 1533–1541.
- 113 D. Gozuacik and A. Kimchi, Autophagy as a cell death and tumor suppressor mechanism, *Oncogene*, 2004, **23**, 2891–2906.
- 114 D. O'Reilly and P. Buchanan, Calcium channels and cancer stem cells, *Cell Calcium*, 2019, **81**, 21–28.
- 115 E. Terri  , V. Coronas and B. Constantin, Role of the calcium toolkit in cancer stem cells, *Cell Calcium*, 2019, **80**, 141–151.
- 116 A. H. L. Bong and G. R. Monteith, Calcium signaling and the therapeutic targeting of cancer cells, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Mol. Cell Res.*, 2018, **1865**(11), 1786–1794, DOI: 10.1016/j.bbamcr.2018.05.015.



- 117 Y. Yu, X. Yang, S. Reghu, S. C. Kaul, R. Wadhwa and E. Miyako, Photothermogenetic inhibition of cancer stemness by near-infrared-light-activatable nanocomplexes, *Nat. Commun.*, 2020, **11**, 4117.
- 118 R. Wei, W. W. Zhu, G. Y. Yu, X. Wang, C. Gao and X. Zhou, *et al.*, S100 calcium-binding protein A9 from tumor-associated macrophage enhances cancer stem cell-like properties of hepatocellular carcinoma, *Int. J. Cancer*, 2021, **148**(5), 1233–1244.
- 119 H. Lee, J. W. Kim, D. K. Kim, D. K. Choi, S. Lee and J. H. Yu, *et al.*, Calcium channels as novel therapeutic targets for ovarian cancer stem cells, *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 2020, **21**(7), 2327.
- 120 H. L. Roderick and S. J. Cook, Ca^{2+} signalling checkpoints in cancer: remodelling Ca^{2+} for cancer cell proliferation and survival, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2008, **8**(5), 361–375.
- 121 A. Mound, L. Rodat-Despoix, S. Bougarn, H. Ouadid-Ahidouch and F. Matifat, Molecular interaction and functional coupling between type 3 inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor and BKCa channel stimulate breast cancer cell proliferation, *Eur. J. Cancer*, 2013, **49**(17), 3738–3751.
- 122 H. Zhu, H. Zhang, F. Jin, M. Fang, M. Huang and C. S. Yang, *et al.*, Elevated Orai1 expression mediates tumor-promoting intracellular Ca^{2+} oscillations in human esophageal squamous cell carcinoma, *Oncotarget*, 2014, **5**(11), 3455–3471.
- 123 A. Singh, M. Chagtoo, S. Tiwari, N. George, B. Chakravarti and S. Khan, *et al.*, Inhibition of Inositol 1,4,5-Trisphosphate Receptor Induce Breast Cancer Cell Death Through Deregulated Autophagy and Cellular Bioenergetics, *J. Cell. Biochem.*, 2017, **118**(8), 2333–2346.
- 124 M. Flourakis, V. Lehen'kyi, B. Beck, M. Raphaël, M. Vandenberghe and F. V. Abeele, *et al.*, Orai1 contributes to the establishment of an apoptosis-resistant phenotype in prostate cancer cells, *Cell Death Dis.*, 2010, **1**(9), e75.
- 125 C. Giorgi, M. Bonora, G. Sorrentino, S. Missiroli, F. Poletti and J. M. Suski, *et al.*, P53 at the endoplasmic reticulum regulates apoptosis in a Ca^{2+} -dependent manner, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2015, **112**(6), 1779–1784.
- 126 C. Pierro, S. J. Cook, T. C. F. Foets, M. D. Bootman and H. L. Roderick, Oncogenic K-Ras suppresses IP3-dependent Ca^{2+} release through remodelling of the isoform composition of IP3Rs and ER luminal Ca^{2+} levels in colorectal cancer cell lines, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2014, **127**(7), 1607–1619.
- 127 S. C. Hedgepeth, M. I. Garcia, L. E. Wagner, A. M. Rodriguez, S. V. Chintapalli and R. R. Snyder, *et al.*, The BRCA1 tumor suppressor binds to inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors to stimulate apoptotic calcium release, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2015, **290**(11), 7304–7313.
- 128 S. Derouiche, P. Mariot, M. Warnier, E. Vancauwenberghe, G. Bidaux and P. Gosset, *et al.*, Activation of TRPA1 channel by antibacterial agent triclosan induces vegf secretion in human prostate cancer stromal cells, *Cancer Prev. Res.*, 2017, **10**(3), 177–187.
- 129 A. Fiorio Pla, H. L. Ong, K. T. Cheng, A. Brossa, B. Bussolati and T. Lockwich, *et al.*, TRPV4 mediates tumor-derived endothelial cell migration via arachidonic acid-activated actin remodeling, *Oncogene*, 2012, **31**(2), 200–212.
- 130 R. K. Adapala, R. J. Thoppil, K. Ghosh, H. C. Cappelli, A. C. Dudley and S. Paruchuri, *et al.*, Activation of mechanosensitive ion channel TRPV4 normalizes tumor vasculature and improves cancer therapy, *Oncogene*, 2016, **35**(3), 314–322.
- 131 D. Ribatti, R. Tamma and T. Annese, Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition in Cancer: A Historical Overview, *Translational Oncology*, 2020, **13**, 100773.
- 132 T. Brabletz, R. Kalluri, M. A. Nieto and R. A. Weinberg, EMT in cancer, *Nat. Rev.*, 2018, **18**(2), 128–134.
- 133 S. Zhu, H. Y. Zhou, S. C. Deng, S. J. Deng, C. He and X. Li, *et al.*, Asic1 and asic3 contribute to acidity-induced emt of pancreatic cancer through activating Ca^{2+} /RhoA pathway, *Cell Death Dis.*, 2017, **8**(5), e2806.
- 134 S. Zhang, Y. Miao, X. Zheng, Y. Gong, J. Zhang and F. Zou, *et al.*, STIM1 and STIM2 differently regulate endogenous Ca^{2+} entry and promote TGF- β -induced EMT in breast cancer cells, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2017, **488**(1), 74–80.
- 135 F. M. Davis, I. Azimi, R. A. Faville, A. A. Peters, K. Jalink and J. W. Putney, *et al.*, Induction of epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in breast cancer cells is calcium signal dependent, *Oncogene*, 2014, **33**(18), 2307–2316.
- 136 C. L. Yankaskas, K. Bera, K. Stoletov, S. A. Serra, J. Carrillo-Garcia and S. Tuntithavornwat, *et al.*, The fluid shear stress sensor TRPM7 regulates tumor cell intravasation, *Sci. Adv.*, 2021, **7**(28), eabh3457.
- 137 W. H. Lee, L. Y. Choong, N. N. Mon, S. Lu, Q. Lin and B. Pang, *et al.*, TRPV4 regulates breast cancer cell extravasation, stiffness and actin cortex, *Sci. Rep.*, 2016, **6**, 27903.
- 138 A. Mound, A. Vautrin-Glabik, A. Foulon, B. Botia, F. Hague and J. B. Parys, *et al.*, Downregulation of type 3 inositol (1,4,5)-trisphosphate receptor decreases breast cancer cell migration through an oscillatory Ca^{2+} signal, *Oncotarget*, 2017, **8**(42), 72324–72341.
- 139 S. S. Kang, K. S. Han, B. M. Ku, Y. K. Lee, J. Hong and H. Y. Shin, *et al.*, Caffeine-mediated inhibition of calcium release channel inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor subtype 3 blocks glioblastoma invasion and extends survival, *Cancer Res.*, 2010, **70**(3), 1173–1183.
- 140 J.-B. Huang, A. L. Kindzelskii, A. J. Clark and H. R. Petty, Identification of Channels Promoting Calcium Spikes and Waves in HT1080 Tumor Cells, *Cancer Res.*, 2004, **64**, 2482–2489.
- 141 P. Mo and S. Yang, The store-operated calcium channels in cancer metastasis: from cell migration, invasion to metastatic colonization, *Front. Biosci.*, 2018, **23**(7), 1241–1256.
- 142 S. Das, P. Clézardin, S. Kamel, M. Brazier and R. Mentaverri, The CaSR in Pathogenesis of Breast Cancer: A New Target for Early Stage Bone Metastases, *Front. Oncology*, 2020, **10**, 69.
- 143 T. Yoneda and T. Hiraga, Crosstalk between cancer cells and bone microenvironment in bone metastasis, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2005, **328**, 679–687.



- 144 U. Harjes, A source of calcium, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2019, **19**, 3.
- 145 H. Wang, L. Tian, J. Liu, A. Goldstein, I. Bado and W. Zhang, *et al.*, The Osteogenic Niche Is a Calcium Reservoir of Bone Micrometastases and Confers Unexpected Therapeutic Vulnerability, *Cancer Cell*, 2018, **34**(5), 823–839.
- 146 T. J. Kim, L. Lei, J. Seong, J. S. Suh, Y. K. Jang and S. H. Jung, *et al.*, Matrix Rigidity-Dependent Regulation of Ca^{2+} at Plasma Membrane Microdomains by FAK Visualized by Fluorescence Resonance Energy Transfer, *Adv. Sci.*, 2019, **6**(4), 1801290.
- 147 T. J. Kim, J. Seong, M. Ouyang, J. Sun, S. Lu and P. H. Jun, *et al.*, Substrate rigidity regulates Ca^{2+} oscillation via RhoA pathway in stem cells, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 2008, **218**(2), 285–293.
- 148 J. Lembong, B. Sabass, B. Sun, M. E. Rogers and H. A. Stone, Mechanics regulates ATP-stimulated collective calcium response in fibroblast cells, *J. R. Soc., Interface*, 2015, **12**, 20150140.
- 149 Y. Xu, D. Huang, S. Lü, M. Long and Y. Zhang, Mechanical features of endothelium regulate cell adhesive molecule-induced calcium response in neutrophils, *APL Bioeng.*, 2019, **3**(1), 016104, DOI: 10.1063/1.5045115.
- 150 S. O. Rahaman, L. M. Grove, S. Paruchuri, B. D. Southern, S. Abraham and K. A. Niese, *et al.*, TRPV4 mediates myofibroblast differentiation and pulmonary fibrosis in mice, *J. Clin. Invest.*, 2014, **124**(12), 5225–5238.
- 151 R. G. Scheraga, S. Abraham, K. A. Niese, B. D. Southern, L. M. Grove and R. D. Hite, *et al.*, TRPV4 Mechanosensitive Ion Channel Regulates Lipopolysaccharide-Stimulated Macrophage Phagocytosis, *J. Immunol.*, 2016, **196**(1), 428–436.
- 152 W. C. Wei, F. Bianchi, Y. K. Wang, M. J. Tang, H. Ye and M. D. Glitsch, Coincidence Detection of Membrane Stretch and Extracellular pH by the Proton-Sensing Receptor OGR1 (GPR68), *Curr. Biol.*, 2018, **28**(23), 3815–3823.
- 153 N. E. Karagas and K. Venkatachalam, Roles for the Endoplasmic Reticulum in Regulation of Neuronal Calcium Homeostasis, *Cells*, 2019, **8**(10), 1232.
- 154 M. M. Nava, Y. A. Miroshnikova, L. C. Biggs, D. B. Whitefield, F. Metge and J. Boucas, *et al.*, Heterochromatin-Driven Nuclear Softening Protects the Genome against Mechanical Stress-Induced Damage, *Cell*, 2020, **181**(4), 800–817.
- 155 W. M. Han, S. J. Heo, T. P. Driscoll, M. E. Boggs, R. L. Duncan and R. L. Mauck, *et al.*, Impact of cellular microenvironment and mechanical perturbation on calcium signalling in meniscus fibrochondrocytes, *Eur. Cells Mater.*, 2014, **27**, 321–331.
- 156 T. J. Kim, J. Sun, S. Lu, Y. X. Qi and Y. Wang, Prolonged mechanical stretch initiates intracellular calcium oscillations in human mesenchymal stem cells, *PLoS One*, 2014, **9**(10), e109378.
- 157 W. S. Nishitani, T. A. Saif and Y. Wang, Calcium signaling in live cells on elastic gels under mechanical vibration at subcellular levels, *PLoS One*, 2011, **6**(10), e26181.
- 158 T. J. Kim, C. Joo, J. Seong, R. Vafabakhsh, E. L. Botvinick and M. W. Berns, *et al.*, Distinct mechanisms regulating mechanical force-induced Ca^{2+} signals at the plasma membrane and the ER in human MSCs, *eLife*, 2015, **4**, e04876.
- 159 S. Erdogmus, U. Storch, L. Danner, J. Becker, M. Winter and N. Ziegler, *et al.*, Helix 8 is the essential structural motif of mechanosensitive GPCRs, *Nat. Commun.*, 2019, **10**, 5784.
- 160 G. Seano, H. T. Nia, K. E. Emblem, M. Datta, J. Ren and S. Krishnan, *et al.*, Solid stress in brain tumours causes neuronal loss and neurological dysfunction and can be reversed by lithium, *Nat. Biomed. Eng.*, 2019, **3**(3), 230–245.
- 161 M. E. Fernandez-Sanchez, S. Barbier, J. Whitehead, G. Bealle, A. Michel and H. Latorre-Ossa, *et al.*, Mechanical induction of the tumorigenic beta-catenin pathway by tumour growth pressure, *Nature*, 2015, **523**(7558), 92–95.
- 162 V. Venturini, F. Pezzano, F. C. Castro, H. M. Häkkinen, S. Jiménez-Delgado and M. Colomer-Rosell, *et al.*, The nucleus measures shape changes for cellular proprioception to control dynamic cell behavior, *Science*, 2020, (6514), 370.
- 163 D. Zhu, L. Feng, N. Feliu, A. H. Guse and W. J. Parak, Stimulation of Local Cytosolic Calcium Release by Photo-thermal Heating for Studying Intra- and Intercellular Calcium Waves, *Adv. Mater.*, 2021, **33**(24), 2008261.
- 164 J. T. Lock, I. Parker and I. F. Smith, Communication of Ca^{2+} signals via tunneling membrane nanotubes is mediated by transmission of inositol trisphosphate through gap junctions, *Cell Calcium*, 2016, **60**(4), 266–272.
- 165 T. Fry, J. H. Evans and M. J. Sanderson, Propagation of intercellular calcium waves in C6 glioma cells transfected with connexins 43 or 32, *Microsc. Res. Tech.*, 2001, **52**(3), 289–300.
- 166 G. J. Block, G. D. DiMattia and D. J. Prockop, Stanniocalcin-1 Regulates Extracellular ATP-Induced Calcium Waves in Human Epithelial Cancer Cells by Stimulating ATP Release from Bystander Cells, *PLoS One*, 2010, **5**(4), 1–11.
- 167 W. Zhang, W. T. Couldwell, H. Song, T. Takano, J. H. C. Lin and M. Nedergaard, Tamoxifen-induced enhancement of calcium signaling in glioma and MCF-7 breast cancer cells, *Cancer Res.*, 2000, **60**(19), 5395–5400.
- 168 K. Paemeleire, P. E. M. Martin, S. L. Coleman, K. E. Fogarty, W. A. Carrington and L. Leybaert, *et al.*, Intercellular calcium waves in HeLa cells expressing GFP-labeled connexin 43, 32, or 26, *Mol. Biol. Cell*, 2000, **11**(5), 1815–1827.
- 169 L. Leybaert and M. J. Sanderson, Intercellular Ca^{2+} waves: mechanisms and function, *Physiol. Rev.*, 2012, **92**(3), 1359–1392.
- 170 E. Beamer, M. Kuchukulla, D. Boison and T. Engel, ATP and adenosine—Two players in the control of seizures and epilepsy development, *Prog. Neurobiol.*, 2021, **204**, 102105.
- 171 A. Taruno, ATP release channels, *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 2018, **19**, 808.



- 172 E. F. Diezmos, P. P. Bertrand and L. Liu, Purinergic signaling in gut inflammation: the role of connexins and pannexins, *Front. Neurosci.*, 2016, **10**, 311.
- 173 S. Kojima, Y. Ohshima, H. Nakatsukasa and M. Tsukimoto, Role of ATP as a key signaling molecule mediating radiation-induced biological effects, *Dose-Response*, 2017, **15**(1), 1559325817690638.
- 174 R. Z. Sabirov and Y. Okada, ATP release via anion channels, *Purinergic Signalling*, 2005, **1**, 311–328.
- 175 I. von Kügelgen, Molecular pharmacology of P2Y receptor subtypes, *Adv. Biochem. Pharmacol.*, 2021, **187**, 114361.
- 176 G. Burnstock, Purinergic signalling: from discovery to current developments, *Exp. Physiol.*, 2014, **99**(1), 16–34.
- 177 R. A. North, Molecular physiology of P2X receptors, *Physiol. Rev.*, 2002, **82**, 1013–1067.
- 178 A. Salameh and S. Dhein, Effects of mechanical forces and stretch on intercellular gap junction coupling, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Biomembr.*, 2013, **1828**, 147–156.
- 179 J. E. Saffitz and A. G. Kléber, Effects of Mechanical Forces and Mediators of Hypertrophy on Remodeling of Gap Junctions in the Heart, *Circ. Res.*, 2004, **94**, 585–591.
- 180 P. P. Cherian, B. Cheng, S. Gu, E. Sprague, L. F. Bonewald and J. X. Jiang, Effects of Mechanical Strain on the Function of Gap Junctions in Osteocytes are Mediated through the Prostaglandin EP2 Receptor, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2003, **278**, 44.
- 181 N. Mikolajewicz, A. Mohammed, M. Morris and S. V. Komarova, Mechanically stimulated ATP release from mammalian cells: systematic review and meta-analysis, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2018, **131**(22), jcs223354.
- 182 G. Burnstock and G. E. Knight, Cell culture: complications due to mechanical release of ATP and activation of purinoceptors, *Cell Tissue Res.*, 2017, **370**, 1–11.
- 183 D. C. Genetos, C. J. Kephart, Y. Zhang, C. E. Yellowley and H. J. Donahue, Oscillating fluid flow activation of gap junction hemichannels induces ATP release from MLO-Y4 osteocytes, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 2007, **212**(1), 207–214.
- 184 L. Bao, F. Sachs and G. Dahl, Connexins are mechanosensitive, *Am. J. Physiol.: Cell Physiol.*, 2004, **287**(5), C1389–C1395.
- 185 L. Bao, S. Locovei and G. Dahl, Pannexin membrane channels are mechanosensitive conduits for ATP, *FEBS Lett.*, 2004, **572**(1–3), 65–68.
- 186 K. Diem, M. Fauler, G. Fois, A. Hellmann, N. Winokurov and S. Schumacher, *et al.*, Mechanical stretch activates piezo1 in caveolae of alveolar type I cells to trigger ATP release and paracrine stimulation of surfactant secretion from alveolar type II cells, *FASEB J.*, 2020, **34**(9), 12785–12804.
- 187 H. Takada, K. Furuya and M. Sokabe, Mechanosensitive ATP release from hemichannels and Ca²⁺ influx through TRPC6 accelerate wound closure in keratinocytes, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2014, **127**(19), 4159–4171.
- 188 N. Takahara, S. Ito, K. Furuya, K. Naruse, H. Aso and M. Kondo, *et al.*, Real-time imaging of ATP release induced by mechanical stretch in human airway smooth muscle cells, *Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol.*, 2014, **51**(6), 772–782.
- 189 K. Woo, A. K. Dutta, V. Patel, C. Kresge and A. P. Feranchak, Fluid flow induces mechanosensitive ATP release, calcium signalling and Cl-Transport in biliary epithelial cells through a PKC ζ -dependent pathway, *J. Physiol.*, 2008, **586**(11), 2779–2798.
- 190 F. C. Tsai, G. H. Kuo, S. W. Chang and P. J. Tsai, Ca²⁺ signaling in cytoskeletal reorganization, cell migration, and cancer metastasis, *BioMed Res. Int.*, 2015, **2015**, 409245.
- 191 F. Li, N. Abuarab and A. Sivaprasadarao, Reciprocal regulation of actin cytoskeleton remodelling and cell migration by Ca²⁺ and Zn²⁺: role of TRPM2 channels, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2016, **129**(10), 2016–2029.
- 192 L. Bastatas, D. Martinez-Marin, J. Matthews, J. Hashem, Y. J. Lee and S. Sennoune, *et al.*, AFM nano-mechanics and calcium dynamics of prostate cancer cells with distinct metastatic potential, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Gen. Subj.*, 2012, **1820**(7), 1111–1120.
- 193 Q. Wang, A. J. Symes, C. A. Kane, A. Freeman, J. Nariculam and P. Munson, *et al.*, A novel role for Wnt/Ca²⁺ signaling in actin cytoskeleton remodeling and cell motility in prostate cancer, *PLoS One*, 2010, **5**(5), e10456.
- 194 L. Santella, N. Limatola, F. Vasilev and J. T. Chun, Maturation and fertilization of echinoderm eggs: role of actin cytoskeleton dynamics, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2018, **506**(2), 361–371.
- 195 K. Lange and J. Gartzke, F-actin-based Ca signaling - A critical comparison with the current concept of Ca signaling, *J. Cell. Physiol.*, 2006, **209**, 270–287.
- 196 A. H. York-Andersen, R. M. Parton, C. J. Bi, C. L. Bromley, I. Davis and T. T. Weil, A single and rapid calcium wave at egg activation in *Drosophila*, *Biol. Open.*, 2015, **4**(4), 553–560.
- 197 K. Kyojuka, J. T. Chun, A. Puppo, G. Gragnaniello, E. Garante and L. Santella, Actin cytoskeleton modulates calcium signaling during maturation of starfish oocytes, *Dev. Biol.*, 2008, **320**(2), 426–435.
- 198 A. Puppo, J. T. Chun, G. Gragnaniello, E. Garante and L. Santella, Alteration of the cortical actin cytoskeleton deregulates Ca²⁺ signaling, monospermic fertilization, and sperm entry, *PLoS One*, 2008, **3**(10), e3588.
- 199 X. Chen, S. Wanggou, A. Bodalia, M. Zhu, W. Dong and J. J. Fan, *et al.*, A feedforward mechanism mediated by mechanosensitive ion channel PIEZO1 and tissue mechanics promotes glioma aggression, *Neuron*, 2018, **100**(4), 799–815.e7.
- 200 C. Pardo-Pastor, F. Rubio-Moscardo, M. Vogel-Gonzalez, S. A. Serra, A. Afthinos and S. Mrkonjic, *et al.*, Piezo2 channel regulates RhoA and actin cytoskeleton to promote cell mechanobiological responses, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2018, **115**(8), 1925–1930.
- 201 A. Tijore, F. Margadant, M. Yao, A. Hariharan, C. A. Z. Chew and S. Powell, *et al.*, Ultrasound-mediated mechanical forces selectively kill tumor cells, *bioRxiv*, 2020, DOI: 10.1101/2020.10.09.332726.
- 202 S. A. Gudipaty, J. Lindblom, P. D. Loftus, M. J. Redd, K. Edes and C. F. Davey, *et al.*, Mechanical stretch triggers



- rapid epithelial cell division through Piezo1, *Nature*, 2017, **543**(7643), 118–121.
- 203 M. J. Berridge, The inositol trisphosphate/calcium signaling pathway in health and disease, *Physiol. Rev.*, 2016, **96**(4), 1261–1296.
 - 204 D. E. Clapham, Calcium Signaling, *Cell*, 2007, **131**(6), 1047–1058.
 - 205 J. B. Parys, G. Bultynck and T. Vervliet, IP3 Receptor Biology and Endoplasmic Reticulum Calcium Dynamics in Cancer, *Prog. Mol. Subcell. Biol.*, 2021, **59**, 215–237.
 - 206 M. Bittremieux, R. M. La Rovere, H. Akl, C. Martines, K. Welkenhuyzen and K. Dubron, *et al.*, Constitutive IP 3 signaling underlies the sensitivity of B-cell cancers to the Bcl-2/IP 3 receptor disruptor BIRD-2, *Cell Death Differ.*, 2019, **26**(3), 531–547.
 - 207 A. Vautrin-Glabik, B. Botia, P. Kischel, H. Ouadid-Ahidouch and L. Rodat-Despoix, IP3R3 silencing induced actin cytoskeletal reorganization through ARHGAP18/RhoA/mDia1/FAK pathway in breast cancer cell lines, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Mol. Cell Res.*, 2018, **1865**(7), 945–958.
 - 208 T. Fujimoto, T. Machida, T. Tsunoda, K. Doi, T. Ota and M. Kuroki, *et al.*, KRAS-induced actin-interacting protein regulates inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate-receptor-mediated calcium release, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2011, **408**(2), 214–217.
 - 209 D. L. Prole and C. W. Taylor, Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors and their protein partners as signalling hubs, *J. Physiology*, 2016, **594**, 2849–2866.
 - 210 K. Fukatsu, H. Bannai, T. Inoue and K. Mikoshiba, Lateral diffusion of inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor type 1 in Purkinje cells is regulated by calcium and actin filaments, *J. Neurochem.*, 2010, **114**(6), 1720–1733.
 - 211 M. R. Turvey, K. E. Fogarty and P. Thorn, Inositol (1,4,5)-trisphosphate receptor links to filamentous actin are important for generating local Ca²⁺ signals in pancreatic acinar cells, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2005, **118**(5), 971–980.
 - 212 K. Fukatsu, H. Bannai, S. Zhang, H. Nakamura, T. Inoue and K. Mikoshiba, Lateral diffusion of inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor type 1 is regulated by actin filaments and 4.1 N in neuronal dendrites, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2004, **279**(47), 48976–48982.
 - 213 M. C. Hours and L. Mery, The N-terminal domain of the type 1 Ins(1,4,5)P3 receptor stably expressed in MDCK cells interacts with myosin IIA and alters epithelial cell morphology, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2010, **123**(9), 1449–1459.
 - 214 D. S. Walker, S. Ly, K. C. Lockwood and H. A. Baylis, A direct interaction between IP3 receptors and myosin II regulates IP3 signaling in *C. elegans*, *Curr. Biol.*, 2002, **12**(11), 951–956.
 - 215 M. M. El Refaey and P. J. Mohler, Ankyrins and spectrins in cardiovascular biology and disease, *Front. Physiol.*, 2017, **8**, 852.
 - 216 P. J. Mohler, J. Q. Davis, L. H. Davis, J. A. Hoffman, P. Michael and V. Bennett, Inositol 1,4,5-Trisphosphate Receptor Localization and Stability in Neonatal Cardiomyocytes Requires Interaction with Ankyrin-B, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2004, **279**(13), 12980–12987.
 - 217 L. Y. W. Bourguignon and H. Jin, Identification of the ankyrin-binding domain of the mouse T-lymphoma cell inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP3) receptor and its role in the regulation of IP3-mediated internal Ca²⁺ release, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1995, **270**(13), 7257–7260.
 - 218 L. Y. W. Bourguignon, H. Jin, N. Iida, N. R. Brandt and Z. She Hui, The involvement of ankyrin in the regulation of inositol 1,4,5- trisphosphate receptor-mediated internal Ca²⁺ release from Ca²⁺ storage vesicles in mouse T-lymphoma cells, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1993, **268**(10), 7290–7297.
 - 219 S. K. Joseph and S. Samanta, Detergent solubility of the inositol trisphosphate receptor in rat brain membranes. Evidence for association of the receptor with ankyrin, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1993, **268**(9), 6477–6486.
 - 220 É. Béliveau and G. Guillemette, Microfilament and microtubule assembly is required for the propagation of inositol trisphosphate receptor-induced Ca²⁺ waves in bovine aortic endothelial cells, *J. Cell. Biochem.*, 2009, **106**(2), 344–352.
 - 221 X. T. Hu, F. B. Zhang, Y. C. Fan, X. S. Shu, A. H. Y. Wong and W. Zhou, *et al.*, Phospholipase c delta 1 is a novel 3p22.3 tumor suppressor involved in cytoskeleton organization, with its epigenetic silencing correlated with high-stage gastric cancer, *Oncogene*, 2009, **28**(26), 2466–2475.
 - 222 C. A. Sengelaub, K. Navrazhina, J. B. Ross, N. Halberg and S. F. Tavazoie, PTPRN 2 and PLC β1 promote metastatic breast cancer cell migration through PI (4,5)P 2-dependent actin remodeling, *EMBO J.*, 2016, **35**(1), 62–76.
 - 223 G. Sala, F. Dituri, C. Raimondi, S. Previdi, T. Maffucci and M. Mazzeletti, *et al.*, Phospholipase Cγ1 is required for metastasis development and progression, *Cancer Res.*, 2008, **68**(24), 10187–10196.
 - 224 F. Vasilev, N. Limatola, D. R. Park, U. H. Kim, L. Santella and J. T. Chun, Disassembly of subplasmalemmal actin filaments induces cytosolic Ca²⁺ increases in astrocytes, *Cell. Physiol. Biochem.*, 2018, **48**(5), 2011–2034.
 - 225 I. Kovacevic, J. M. Orozco and E. J. Cram, Filamin and Phospholipase C-ε Are Required for Calcium Signaling in the *Caenorhabditis elegans* Spermatheca, *PLoS Genet.*, 2013, **9**(5), e1003510.
 - 226 O. Fatunmbi, R. P. Bradley, S. K. Kandy, R. Bucki, P. A. Janmey and R. Radhakrishnan, A multiscale biophysical model for the recruitment of actin nucleating proteins at the membrane interface, *Soft Matter*, 2020, **16**(21), 4941–4954.
 - 227 R. Bucki, Y. H. Wang, C. Yang, S. K. Kandy, O. Fatunmbi and R. Bradley, *et al.*, Lateral distribution of phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate in membranes regulates formin- and ARP2/3-mediated actin nucleation, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2019, **294**(12), 4704–4722.
 - 228 P. A. Janmey, R. Bucki and R. Radhakrishnan, Regulation of actin assembly by PI(4,5)P2 and other inositol phospholipids: an update on possible mechanisms, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2018, **506**, 307–314.



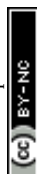
- 229 B. Catimel, C. Schieber, M. Condrón, H. Patsiouras, L. Connolly and J. Catimel, *et al.*, The PI(3,5)P2 and PI(4,5)P2 interactomes, *J. Proteome Res.*, 2008, **7**(12), 5295–5313.
- 230 K. Tsujita and T. Itoh, Phosphoinositides in the regulation of actin cortex and cell migration, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Mol. Cell Biol. Lipids*, 2015, **1851**, 824–831.
- 231 K. Tsujita, T. Itoh, A. Kondo, M. Oyama, H. Kozuka-Hata and Y. Irino, *et al.*, Proteome of acidic phospholipid-binding proteins: spatial and temporal regulation of coronin 1A by phosphoinositides, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2010, **285**(9), 6781–6789.
- 232 K. Vanoverberghe, V. Lehen'kyi, S. Thébault, M. Raphaël, F. Vanden Abeele and C. Slomianny, *et al.*, Cytoskeleton Reorganization as an Alternative Mechanism of Store-Operated Calcium Entry Control in Neuroendocrine-Differentiated Cells, *PLoS One*, 2012, **7**(9), e45615.
- 233 A. F. Vanden, L. Lemonnier, S. Thébault, G. Lepage, J. B. Parys and Y. Shuba, *et al.*, Two types of store-operated Ca²⁺ channels with different activation modes and molecular origin in LNCaP human prostate cancer epithelial cells, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2004, **279**(29), 30326–30337.
- 234 W. Hong and K. L. Guan, The YAP and TAZ transcription co-activators: key downstream effectors of the mammalian Hippo pathway, *Semin. Cell Dev. Biol.*, 2012, **23**(7), 785–793, DOI: 10.1016/j.semcdb.2012.05.004.
- 235 M. Sudol, Yes-Associated Protein (YAP65) is a proline-rich phosphoprotein that binds to the SH3 domain of the Yes proto-oncogene product, *Oncogene*, 1994, **9**(8), 2145–2152.
- 236 F. Kanai, P. A. Marignani, D. Sarbassova, R. Yagi, R. A. Hall and M. Donowitz, *et al.*, TAZ: a novel transcriptional co-activator regulated by interactions with 14-3-3 and PDZ domain proteins, *EMBO J.*, 2000, **19**(24), 6778–6791.
- 237 F. X. Yu and K. L. Guan, The Hippo pathway: regulators and regulations, *Genes Dev.*, 2013, **27**, 355–371.
- 238 T. Panciera, A. Citron, D. Di Biagio, G. Battilana, A. Gandin and S. Giullitti, *et al.*, Reprogramming normal cells into tumour precursors requires ECM stiffness and oncogene-mediated changes of cell mechanical properties, *Nat. Mater.*, 2020, 1–10.
- 239 F. Calvo, N. Ege, A. Grande-Garcia, S. Hooper, R. P. Jenkins and S. I. Chaudhry, *et al.*, Mechanotransduction and YAP-dependent matrix remodelling is required for the generation and maintenance of cancer-associated fibroblasts, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2013, **15**(6), 637–646.
- 240 T. Morioishi, C. G. Hansen and K. L. Guan, The emerging roles of YAP and TAZ in cancer, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2015, **15**(2), 73–79.
- 241 B. Zhao, L. Li, Q. Lei and K. L. Guan, The Hippo-YAP pathway in organ size control and tumorigenesis: an updated version, *Genes Dev.*, 2010, **24**, 862–874.
- 242 G. Nardone, J. Oliver-De La Cruz, J. Vrbsky, C. Martini, J. Pribyl and P. Skladal, *et al.*, YAP regulates cell mechanics by controlling focal adhesion assembly, *Nat. Commun.*, 2017, **8**(1), 15321.
- 243 J. E. Sero and C. Bakal, Multiparametric Analysis of Cell Shape Demonstrates that β -PIX Directly Couples YAP Activation to Extracellular Matrix Adhesion, *Cell Syst.*, 2017, **4**(1), 84–96.
- 244 Z. Meng, Y. Qiu, K. C. Lin, A. Kumar, J. K. Placone and C. Fang, *et al.*, RAP2 mediates mechanoresponses of the Hippo pathway, *Nature*, 2018, **560**(7720), 655–660.
- 245 S. Chakraborty, K. Njah, A. V. Pobbati, Y. B. Lim, A. Raju and M. Lakshmanan, *et al.*, Agrin as a Mechanotransduction Signal Regulating YAP through the Hippo Pathway, *Cell Rep.*, 2017, **18**(10), 2464–2479.
- 246 N. Koushki, A. Ghaghe, L. K. Srivastava, C. Sitaras, H. Yoshie and C. Molter, *et al.*, Lamin A redistribution mediated by nuclear deformation determines dynamic localization of YAP, *BioRxiv*, 2020, DOI: 10.1101/2020.03.19.998708.
- 247 B. D. Cosgrove, C. Loebel, T. P. Driscoll, T. K. Tsinman, E. N. Dai and S. J. Heo, *et al.*, Nuclear envelope wrinkling predicts mesenchymal progenitor cell mechano-response in 2D and 3D microenvironments, *Biomaterials*, 2021, 270.
- 248 G. Sorrentino, S. Rezakhani, E. Yildiz, S. Nuciforo, M. H. Heim and M. P. Lutolf, *et al.*, Mechano-modulatory synthetic niches for liver organoid derivation, *Nat. Commun.*, 2020, **11**(1), 1–10.
- 249 S. Dupont, L. Morsut, M. Aragona, E. Enzo, S. Giullitti and M. Cordenonsi, *et al.*, Role of YAP/TAZ in mechanotransduction, *Nature*, 2011, **474**(7350), 179–183.
- 250 A. Elosegui-Artola, R. Oria, Y. Chen, A. Kosmalska, C. Perez-Gonzalez and N. Castro, *et al.*, Mechanical regulation of a molecular clutch defines force transmission and transduction in response to matrix rigidity, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2016, **18**(5), 540–548.
- 251 N. Yang, T. Chen, L. Wang, R. Liu, Y. Niu and L. Sun, *et al.*, CXCR4 mediates matrix stiffness-induced downregulation of UBTD1 driving hepatocellular carcinoma progression via YAP signaling pathway, *Theranostics*, 2020, **10**(13), 5790.
- 252 A. J. Rice, E. Cortes, D. Lachowski, B. C. H. Cheung, S. A. Karim and J. P. Morton, *et al.*, Matrix stiffness induces epithelial-mesenchymal transition and promotes chemoresistance in pancreatic cancer cells, *Oncogenesis*, 2017, **6**(7), e352.
- 253 K. Tanahashi, A. Natsume, F. Ohka, K. Motomura, A. Alim and I. Tanaka, *et al.*, Activation of Yes-Associated Protein in Low-Grade Meningiomas Is Regulated by Merlin, Cell Density, and Extracellular Matrix Stiffness, *J. Neuropathol. Exp. Neurol.*, 2015, **74**(7), 704–709.
- 254 X. Qin, X. Lv, P. Li, R. Yang, Q. Xia and Y. Chen, *et al.*, Matrix stiffness modulates ILK-mediated YAP activation to control the drug resistance of breast cancer cells, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, Mol. Basis Dis.*, 2020, **1866**(3), 165625.
- 255 N. Perez Gonzalez, J. Tao, N. D. Rochman, D. Vig, E. Chiu and D. Wirtz, *et al.*, Cell tension and mechanical regulation of cell volume, *Mol. Biol. Cell*, 2018, **29**(21), 0–0213.
- 256 K. T. Furukawa, K. Yamashita, N. Sakurai and S. Ohno, The Epithelial Circumferential Actin Belt Regulates YAP/TAZ through Nucleocytoplasmic Shuttling of Merlin, *Cell Rep.*, 2017, **20**(6), 1435–1447.



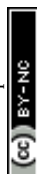
- 257 J. Y. Shiu, L. Aires, Z. Lin and V. Vogel, Nanopillar force measurements reveal actin-cap-mediated YAP mechanotransduction, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2018, **20**(3), 262–271.
- 258 J. Lee, A. Abdeen, X. Tang, T. Saif and K. Kilian, Geometric guidance of integrin mediated traction stress during stem cell differentiation, *Biomaterials*, 2015, **69**, 174–183.
- 259 J. P. Califano and C. A. Reinhart-King, Substrate stiffness and cell area predict cellular traction stresses in single cells and cells in contact, *Cell. Mol. Bioeng.*, 2010, **3**(1), 68–75.
- 260 H. Nakajima, K. Yamamoto, S. Agarwala, K. Terai, H. Fukui and S. Fukuhara, *et al.*, Flow-Dependent Endothelial YAP Regulation Contributes to Vessel Maintenance, *Dev. Cell*, 2017, **40**(6), 523–536.e6.
- 261 H. J. Lee, M. F. Diaz, K. M. Price, J. A. Ozuna, S. Zhang and E. M. Sevick-Muraca, *et al.*, Fluid shear stress activates YAP1 to promote cancer cell motility, *Nat. Commun.*, 2017, **8**, 14122.
- 262 H. Yu, J. He, G. Su, Y. Wang, F. Fang and W. Yang, *et al.*, Fluid shear stress activates YAP to promote epithelial-mesenchymal transition in hepatocellular carcinoma, *Mol. Oncol.*, 2021, **15**(11), 3164–3183.
- 263 Y. Cui, F. M. Hameed, B. Yang, K. Lee, C. Q. Pan and S. Park, *et al.*, Cyclic stretching of soft substrates induces spreading and growth, *Nat. Commun.*, 2015, **6**, 1–8.
- 264 J. Gao, L. He, L. Zhou, Y. Jing, F. Wang and Y. Shi, *et al.*, Mechanical force regulation of YAP by F-actin and GPCR revealed by super-resolution imaging, *Nanoscale*, 2020, **12**(4), 2703–2714.
- 265 C. Rianna, M. Radmacher and S. Kumar, Direct evidence that tumor cells soften when navigating confined spaces, *Mol. Biol. Cell*, 2020, **31**(16), 1726–1734.
- 266 L. He, J. Tao, D. Maity, F. Si, Y. Wu and T. Wu, *et al.*, Role of membrane-tension gated Ca^{2+} flux in cell mechanosensation, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2018, **131**(4), jcs208470.
- 267 R. C. Lee, R. L. Feinbaum and V. Ambros, The *C. elegans* heterochronic gene *lin-4* encodes small RNAs with antisense complementarity to *lin-14*, *Cell*, 1993, **75**(5), 843–854.
- 268 A. Eulalio, E. Huntzinger, T. Nishihara, J. Rehwinkel, M. Fauser and E. Izaurralde, Deadenylation is a widespread effect of miRNA regulation, *RNA*, 2009, **15**(1), 21–32.
- 269 I. Behm-Ansmant, J. Rehwinkel, T. Doerks, A. Stark, P. Bork and E. Izaurralde, mRNA degradation by miRNAs and GW182 requires both CCR4:NOT deadenylase and DCP1:DCP2 decapping complexes, *Genes Dev.*, 2006, **20**(14), 1885–1898.
- 270 J. Zhang, W. Zhou, Y. Liu, T. Liu, C. Li and L. Wang, Oncogenic role of microRNA-532-5p in human colorectal cancer via targeting of the 5'UTR of RUNX3, *Oncol. Lett.*, 2018, **15**(5), 7215–7220.
- 271 K. Zhang, X. Zhang, Z. Cai, J. Zhou, R. Cao and Y. Zhao, *et al.*, A novel class of microRNA-recognition elements that function only within open reading frames, *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.*, 2018, **25**(11), 1019–1027.
- 272 A. Helwak and D. Tollervey, Mapping the miRNA interactome by cross-linking ligation and sequencing of hybrids (CLASH), *Nat. Protoc.*, 2014, **9**(3), 711–728.
- 273 Y. Lee, M. Kim, J. Han, K. H. Yeom, S. Lee and S. H. Baek, *et al.*, MicroRNA genes are transcribed by RNA polymerase II, *EMBO J.*, 2004, **23**(20), 4051–4060.
- 274 S. P. Kabekkodu, V. Shukla, V. K. Varghese, J. D'Souza, S. Chakrabarty and K. Satyamoorthy, Clustered miRNAs and their role in biological functions and diseases, *Biol. Rev.*, 2018, **93**(4), 1955–1986.
- 275 S. Kim, M. R. Park, C. Choi, J. B. Kim and C. Cha, Synergistic control of mechanics and microarchitecture of 3D bioactive hydrogel platform to promote the regenerative potential of engineered hepatic tissue, *Biomaterials*, 2021, **270**, 120688, DOI: 10.1016/j.biomaterials.2021.120688.
- 276 K. Kim, T. Duc Nguyen, S. Li and T. Anh Nguyen, SRSF3 recruits DROSHA to the basal junction of primary microRNAs, *RNA*, 2018, **24**(7), 892–898.
- 277 E. Dardenne, M. PolayEspinoza, L. Fattet, S. Germann, M. P. Lambert and H. Neil, *et al.*, RNA Helicases DDX5 and DDX17 Dynamically Orchestrate Transcription, miRNA, and Splicing Programs in Cell Differentiation, *Cell Rep.*, 2014, **7**(6), 1900–1913.
- 278 A. M. Denli, B. B. J. Tops, R. H. A. Plasterk, R. F. Ketting and G. J. Hannon, Processing of primary microRNAs by the Microprocessor complex, *Nature*, 2004, **432**(7014), 231–235.
- 279 M. Landthaler, A. Yalcin and T. Tuschl, The human DiGeorge syndrome critical region gene 8 and its D. melanogaster homolog are required for miRNA biogenesis, *Curr. Biol.*, 2004, **14**(23), 2162–2167.
- 280 C. R. Alarcón, H. Lee, H. Goodarzi, N. Halberg and S. F. Tavazoie, N6-methyladenosine marks primary microRNAs for processing, *Nature*, 2015, **519**(7544), 482–485.
- 281 M. T. Bohnsack, K. Czapinski and D. Görlich, Exportin 5 is a RanGTP-dependent dsRNA-binding protein that mediates nuclear export of pre-miRNAs, *RNA*, 2004, **10**(2), 185–191.
- 282 T. P. Chendrimada, R. I. Gregory, E. Kumaraswamy, J. Norman, N. Cooch and K. Nishikura, *et al.*, TRBP recruits the Dicer complex to Ago2 for microRNA processing and gene silencing, *Nature*, 2005, **436**(7051), 740–744.
- 283 J. E. Park, I. Heo, Y. Tian, D. K. Simanshu, H. Chang and D. Jee, *et al.*, Dicer recognizes the 5' end of RNA for efficient and accurate processing, *Nature*, 2011, **475**(7355), 201–205.
- 284 S. Iwasaki, M. Kobayashi, M. Yoda, Y. Sakaguchi, S. Katsuma and T. Suzuki, *et al.*, Hsc70/Hsp90 chaperone machinery mediates ATP-dependent RISC loading of small RNA duplexes, *Mol. Cell*, 2010, **39**(2), 292–299.
- 285 R. W. Carthew and E. J. Sontheimer, Origins and Mechanisms of miRNAs and siRNAs, *Cell*, 2009, **136**, 642–655.
- 286 M. H. Jo, S. Shin, S. R. Jung, E. Kim, J. J. Song and S. Hohng, Human Argonaute 2 Has Diverse Reaction Pathways on Target RNAs, *Mol. Cell*, 2015, **59**(1), 117–124.
- 287 T. Treiber, N. Treiber and G. Meister, Regulation of microRNA biogenesis and its crosstalk with other cellular pathways, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2019, **20**, 5–20.
- 288 M. Xie and J. A. Steitz, Versatile microRNA biogenesis in animals and their viruses, *RNA Biol.*, 2014, **11**, 673–681.



- 289 S. K. Pong and M. Gullerova, Noncanonical functions of microRNA pathway enzymes – Drosha, DGCR8, Dicer and Ago proteins, *FEBS Lett.*, 2018, **592**, 2973–2986.
- 290 D. Cifuentes, H. Xue, D. W. Taylor, H. Patnode, Y. Mishima and S. Cheloufi, *et al.*, A novel miRNA processing pathway independent of dicer requires argonaute2 catalytic activity, *Science*, 2010, **328**(5986), 1694–1698.
- 291 S. Yang, T. Maurin, N. Robine, K. D. Rasmussen, K. L. Jeffrey and R. Chandwani, *et al.*, Conserved vertebrate mir-451 provides a platform for Dicer-independent, Ago2-mediated microRNA biogenesis, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2010, **107**(34), 15163–15168.
- 292 M. Yoda, D. Cifuentes, N. Izumi, Y. Sakaguchi, T. Suzuki and A. J. Giraldez, *et al.*, Poly(A)-specific ribonuclease mediates 3'-end trimming of argonaute2-cleaved precursor microRNAs, *Cell Rep.*, 2013, **5**(3), 715–726.
- 293 E. Berezikov, W. J. Chung, J. Willis, E. Cuppen and E. C. Lai, Mammalian Mirtron Genes, *Mol. Cell*, 2007, **28**(2), 328–336.
- 294 K. Okamura, J. W. Hagen, H. Duan, D. M. Tyler and E. C. Lai, The Mirtron Pathway Generates microRNA-Class Regulatory RNAs in Drosophila, *Cell*, 2007, **130**(1), 89–100.
- 295 J. G. Ruby, C. H. Jan and D. P. Bartel, Intronic microRNA precursors that bypass Drosha processing, *Nature*, 2007, **448**(7149), 83–86.
- 296 M. Xie, M. Li, A. Vilborg, N. Lee, M. D. Shu and V. Yartseva, *et al.*, Mammalian 5'-capped microRNA precursors that generate a single microRNA, *Cell*, 2013, **155**(7), 1568–1580.
- 297 N. Lemus-Diaz, R. R. Ferreira, K. E. Bohnsack, J. Gruber and M. T. Bohnsack, The human box C/D snoRNA U3 is a miRNA source and miR-U3 regulates expression of sortin nexin 27, *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 2020, **48**(14), 8074–8089.
- 298 E. S. Martens-Uzunova, M. Olvedy and G. Jenster, Beyond microRNA - Novel RNAs derived from small non-coding RNA and their implication in cancer, *Cancer Lett.*, 2013, **340**, 201–211.
- 299 D. Stribling, Y. Lei, C. M. Guardia, L. Li, C. J. Fields and P. Nowialis, *et al.*, A noncanonical microRNA derived from the snaR-A noncoding RNA targets a metastasis inhibitor, *RNA*, 2021, **27**(6), 694–709.
- 300 S. Cheloufi, C. O. Dos Santos, M. M. W. Chong and G. J. Hannon, A dicer-independent miRNA biogenesis pathway that requires Ago catalysis, *Nature*, 2010, **465**(7298), 584–589.
- 301 W. Si, J. Shen, H. Zheng and W. Fan, The role and mechanisms of action of microRNAs in cancer drug resistance, *Clin. Epigenet.*, 2019, **11**, 1–24.
- 302 J. Bråte, R. S. Neumann, B. Fromm, A. A. B. Haraldsen, J. E. Tarver and H. Suga, *et al.*, Unicellular Origin of the Animal MicroRNA Machinery, *Curr. Biol.*, 2018, **28**(20), 3288–3295.
- 303 R. Kian, S. Moradi and S. Ghorbian, Role of components of MicroRNA machinery in carcinogenesis, *Exp. Oncol.*, 2018, **40**, 2–9.
- 304 A. L. Walz, A. Ooms, S. Gadd, D. S. Gerhard, M. A. Smith and J. M. GuidryAuvil, *et al.*, Recurrent DGCR8, DROSHA, and SIX Homeodomain Mutations in Favorable Histology Wilms Tumors, *Cancer Cell*, 2015, **27**(2), 286–297.
- 305 K. Shigeyasu, Y. Okugawa, S. Toden, C. R. Boland and A. Goel, Exportin-5 Functions as an oncogene and a potential therapeutic target in colorectal cancer, *Clin. Cancer Res.*, 2017, **23**(5), 1312–1322.
- 306 H. L. Sun, R. Cui, J. K. Zhou, K. Teng, Y. H. Hsiao and K. Nakanishi, *et al.*, ERK Activation Globally Downregulates miRNAs through Phosphorylating Exportin-5, *Cancer Cell*, 2016, **30**(5), 723–736.
- 307 J. Ramírez-Moya, L. Wert-Lamas, G. Riesco-Eizaguirre and P. Santisteban, Impaired microRNA processing by DICER1 downregulation endows thyroid cancer with increased aggressiveness, *Oncogene*, 2019, **38**(27), 5486–5499.
- 308 A. M. Caroleo, M. A. De Ioris, L. Boccuto, I. Alessi, G. Del Baldo and A. Cacchione, *et al.*, DICER1 Syndrome and Cancer Predisposition: From a Rare Pediatric Tumor to Lifetime Risk, *Front. Oncology*, 2021, **10**, 2989.
- 309 T. Goulvent, I. Ray-Coquard, S. Borel, V. Haddad, M. Devouassoux-Shisheboran and M. C. Vacher-Lavenu, *et al.*, DICER1 and FOXL2 mutations in ovarian sex cord-stromal tumours: a GINECO Group study, *Histopathology*, 2016, **68**(2), 279–285.
- 310 J. Chen, Y. Wang, M. K. McMonechy, M. S. Anglesio, W. Yang and J. Senz, *et al.*, Recurrent DICER1 hotspot mutations in endometrial tumours and their impact on microRNA biogenesis, *J. Pathol.*, 2015, **237**(2), 215–225.
- 311 J. Vedanayagam, W. K. Chatila, B. A. Aksoy, S. Majumdar, A. J. Skanderup and E. Demir, *et al.*, Cancer-associated mutations in DICER1 RNase IIIa and IIIb domains exert similar effects on miRNA biogenesis, *Nat. Commun.*, 2019, **10**(1), 1–14.
- 312 M. M. Janas, B. Wang, A. S. Harris, M. Aguiar, J. M. Shaffer and Y. V. B. K. Subrahmanyam, *et al.*, Alternative RISC assembly: binding and repression of microRNA-mRNA duplexes by human Ago proteins, *RNA*, 2012, **18**(11), 2041–2055.
- 313 H. Zhang, Y. Wang, J. Dou, Y. Guo, J. He and L. Li, *et al.*, Acetylation of AGO2 promotes cancer progression by increasing oncogenic miR-19b biogenesis, *Oncogene*, 2019, **38**(9), 1410–1431.
- 314 N. Cheng, Y. Li and Z. G. Han, Argonaute2 promotes tumor metastasis by way of up-regulating focal adhesion kinase expression in hepatocellular carcinoma, *Hepatology*, 2013, **57**(5), 1906–1918.
- 315 Z. A. Syeda, S. S. S. Langden, C. Munkhzul, M. Lee and S. J. Song, Regulatory mechanism of microRNA expression in cancer, *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, 2020, **21**, 1723.
- 316 G. A. Calin, C. D. Dumitru, M. Shimizu, R. Bichi, S. Zupo and E. Noch, *et al.*, Frequent deletions and down-regulation of micro-RNA genes miR15 and miR16 at 13q14 in chronic lymphocytic leukemia, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2002, **99**(24), 15524–15529.
- 317 O. A. Kent, R. R. Chivukula, M. Mullendore, E. A. Wentzel, G. Feldmann and K. H. Lee, *et al.*, Repression of the miR-143/145 cluster by oncogenic Ras initiates a tumor-promoting feed-forward pathway, *Genes Dev.*, 2010, **24**(24), 2754–2759.



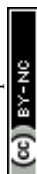
- 318 L. P. Garo, A. K. Ajay, M. Fujiwara, G. Gabriely, R. Raheja and C. Kuhn, *et al.*, MicroRNA-146a limits tumorigenic inflammation in colorectal cancer, *Nat. Commun.*, 2021, **12**(1), 1–16.
- 319 V. Olive, I. Jiang and L. He, Mir-17-92, a cluster of miRNAs in the midst of the cancer network, *Int. J. Biochem. Cell Biol.*, 2010, **42**(8), 1348–1354.
- 320 Y. Hirata, N. Murai, N. Yanaihara, M. Saito, M. Saito and M. Urashima, *et al.*, MicroRNA-21 is a candidate driver gene for 17q23-25 amplification in ovarian clear cell carcinoma, *BMC Cancer*, 2014, **14**(1), 1–10.
- 321 S. R. Pfeffer, C. H. Yang and L. M. Pfeffer, The Role of MIR-21 in Cancer, *Drug Dev. Res.*, 2015, **76**(6), 270–277.
- 322 P. Chaluvally-Raghavan, F. Zhang, S. Pradeep, M. P. Hamilton, X. Zhao and R. Rupaimoole, *et al.*, Copy Number Gain of hsa-miR-569 at 3q26.2 Leads to Loss of TP53INP1 and Aggressiveness of Epithelial Cancers, *Cancer Cell*, 2014, **26**(6), 863–879.
- 323 L. Zhang, J. Huang, N. Yang, J. Greshock, M. S. Megraw and A. Giannakakis, *et al.*, microRNAs exhibit high frequency genomic alterations in human cancer, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2006, **103**(24), 9136–9141.
- 324 G. A. Calin, C. Sevignani, C. D. Dumitru, T. Hyslop, E. Noch and S. Yendamuri, *et al.*, Human microRNA genes are frequently located at fragile sites and genomic regions involved in cancers, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.*, 2004, **101**(9), 2999–3004.
- 325 T. C. Chang, D. Yu, Y. S. Lee, E. A. Wentzel, D. E. Arking and K. M. West, *et al.*, Widespread microRNA repression by Myc contributes to tumorigenesis, *Nat. Genet.*, 2008, **40**(1), 43–50.
- 326 Y. Li, P. S. Choi, S. C. Casey, D. L. Dill and D. W. Felsher, MYC through miR-17-92 suppresses specific target genes to maintain survival, autonomous proliferation, and a Neoplastic state, *Cancer Cell*, 2014, **26**(2), 262–272.
- 327 Z. Wang, S. Lin, J. J. Li, Z. Xu, H. Yao and X. Zhu, *et al.*, MYC protein inhibits transcription of the MicroRNA cluster MC-let-7a-1-let-7d via noncanonical E-box, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2011, **286**(46), 39703–39714.
- 328 S. Dey, J. J. Kwon, S. Liu, G. A. Hodge, S. Taleb and T. A. Zimmers, *et al.*, MiR-29a is repressed by MYC in pancreatic cancer and its restoration drives tumor-suppressive effects via downregulation of LOXL2, *Mol. Cancer Res.*, 2020, **18**(2), 311–323.
- 329 B. Wang, S. H. Hsu, X. Wang, H. Kutay, H. K. Bid and J. Yu, *et al.*, Reciprocal regulation of microRNA-122 and c-Myc in hepatocellular cancer: role of E2F1 and transcription factor dimerization partner 2, *Hepatology*, 2014, **59**(2), 311–323.
- 330 H. Han, D. Sun, W. Li, H. Shen, Y. Zhu and C. Li, *et al.*, A c-Myc-MicroRNA functional feedback loop affects hepatocarcinogenesis, *Hepatology*, 2013, **57**(6), 2378–2389.
- 331 X. Zhang, X. Chen, J. Lin, T. Lwin, G. Wright and L. C. Moscinski, *et al.*, Myc represses miR-15a/miR-16-1 expression through recruitment of HDAC3 in mantle cell and other non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphomas, *Oncogene*, 2012, **31**(24), 3002–3008.
- 332 J. Sargolzaei, T. Etemadi and A. Alyasin, The P53/microRNA network: a potential tumor suppressor with a role in anticancer therapy, *Pharmacol. Res.*, 2020, **160**, 105179.
- 333 J. Liu, C. Zhang, W. Hu and Z. Feng, Tumor suppressor p53 and its mutants in cancer metabolism, *Cancer Lett.*, 2015, **356**, 197–203.
- 334 G. Misso, M. T. Di Martino, G. De Rosa, A. A. Farooqi, A. Lombardi and V. Campani, *et al.*, Mir-34: a new weapon against cancer?, *Mol. Ther.–Nucleic Acids*, 2014, **3**, e195.
- 335 M. Yamakuchi and C. J. Lowenstein, MiR-34, SIRT1 and p53: the feedback loop, *Cell Cycle*, 2009, **8**, 712–715.
- 336 S. Z. Zheng, P. Sun, J. P. Wang, Y. Liu, W. Gong and J. Liu, MiR-34a overexpression enhances the inhibitory effect of doxorubicin on HepG2 cells, *World J. Gastroenterol.*, 2019, **25**(22), 2752.
- 337 T. Cooks, I. S. Pateras, L. M. Jenkins, K. M. Patel, A. I. Robles and J. Morris, *et al.*, Mutant p53 cancers reprogram macrophages to tumor supporting macrophages via exosomal miR-1246, *Nat. Commun.*, 2018, **9**(1), 1–15.
- 338 P. Dong, Y. Xiong, S. J. B. Hanley, J. Yue and H. Watari, Musashi-2, a novel oncoprotein promoting cervical cancer cell growth and invasion, is negatively regulated by p53-induced miR-143 and miR-107 activation, *J. Exp. Clin. Cancer Res.*, 2017, **36**(1), 1–12.
- 339 J. Xiao, H. Lin, X. Luo, X. Luo and Z. Wang, MiR-605 joins p53 network to form a p53:miR-605:Mdm2 positive feedback loop in response to stress, *EMBO J.*, 2011, **30**(3), 524–532.
- 340 G. Qin, S. Mallik, R. Mitra, A. Li, P. Jia and C. M. Eischen, *et al.*, MicroRNA and transcription factor co-regulatory networks and subtype classification of seminoma and non-seminoma in testicular germ cell tumors, *Sci. Rep.*, 2020, **10**(1), 1–14.
- 341 K. M. Taufiqul Arif, E. K. Elliot, L. M. Haupt and L. R. Griffiths, Regulatory mechanisms of epigenetic mirna relationships in human cancer and potential as therapeutic targets, *Cancers*, 2020, **12**, 2922.
- 342 M. Tomasetti, S. Gaetani, F. Monaco, J. Neuzil and L. Santarelli, Epigenetic Regulation of miRNA Expression in Malignant Mesothelioma: miRNAs as Biomarkers of Early Diagnosis and Therapy, *Front. Oncology*, 2019, **9**, 1293.
- 343 V. Bhatia, A. Yadav, R. Tiwari, S. Nigam, S. Goel and S. Carskadon, *et al.*, Epigenetic silencing of miRNA-338-5p and miRNA-421 drives SPINK1-positive prostate cancer, *Clin. Cancer Res.*, 2019, **25**(9), 2755–2768.
- 344 Z. Li, F. Yu, X. Zhou, S. Zeng, Q. Zhan and M. Yuan, *et al.*, Promoter hypomethylation of microRNA223 gene is associated with atherosclerotic cerebral infarction, *Atherosclerosis*, 2017, **263**, 237–243.
- 345 Y. Saito, G. Liang, G. Egger, J. M. Friedman, J. C. Chuang and G. A. Coetzee, *et al.*, Specific activation of microRNA-127 with downregulation of the proto-oncogene BCL6 by chromatin-modifying drugs in human cancer cells, *Cancer Cell*, 2006, **9**(6), 435–443.



- 346 W. Zhang, J. H. Chen, T. Shan, I. Aguilera-Barrantes, L. S. Wang and T. H. M. Huang, *et al.*, miR-137 is a tumor suppressor in endometrial cancer and is repressed by DNA hypermethylation, *Lab Invest.*, 2018, **98**(11), 1397–1407.
- 347 L. Xu, F. Wang, X. F. Xu, W. H. Mo, Y. J. Xia and R. Wan, *et al.*, Down-regulation of miR-212 expression by DNA hypermethylation in human gastric cancer cells, *Med. Oncol.*, 2011, **28**(SUPPL. 1), 189–196.
- 348 T. Tsuruta, K. I. Kozaki, A. Uesugi, M. Furuta, A. Hirasawa and I. Imoto, *et al.*, miR-152 is a tumor suppressor microRNA that is silenced by DNA hypermethylation in endometrial cancer, *Cancer Res.*, 2011, **71**(20), 6450–6462.
- 349 Z. Wang, Z. Chen, Y. Gao, N. Li, B. Li and F. Tan, *et al.*, DNA hypermethylation of microRNA-34b/c has prognostic value for stage I non-small cell lung cancer, *Cancer Biol. Ther.*, 2011, **11**(5), 490–496.
- 350 P. D. C. Monroig and G. A. Calin, MicroRNA and Epigenetics: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Opportunities, *Curr. Pathobiol. Rep.*, 2013, **1**(1), 43–52.
- 351 J. S. Mohamed, A. Hajira, M. A. Lopez and A. M. Boriak, Genome-wide mechanosensitive microRNA (MechanomiR) screen uncovers dysregulation of their regulatory networks in the mdm mouse model of muscular dystrophy, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2015, **290**(41), 24986–25011.
- 352 J. D. Humphrey, E. R. Dufresne and M. A. Schwartz, Mechanotransduction and extracellular matrix homeostasis, *Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.*, 2014, **15**, 802–812.
- 353 K. E. Kubow, R. Vukmirovic, L. Zhe, E. Klotzsch, M. L. Smith and D. Gourdon, *et al.*, Mechanical forces regulate the interactions of fibronectin and collagen i in extracellular matrix, *Nat. Commun.*, 2015, **6**, 1–11.
- 354 Y. C. Poh, J. Chen, Y. Hong, H. Yi, S. Zhang and J. Chen, *et al.*, Generation of organized germ layers from a single mouse embryonic stem cell, *Nat. Commun.*, 2014, **5**, 1–12.
- 355 S. W. Shan, D. Y. Lee, Z. Deng, T. Shatseva, Z. Jeyapalan and W. W. Du, *et al.*, MicroRNA MiR-17 retards tissue growth and represses fibronectin expression, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2009, **11**(8), 1031–1038.
- 356 Z. J. Rutnam, T. N. Wight and B. B. Yang, MiRNAs regulate expression and function of extracellular matrix molecules, *Matrix Biol.*, 2013, **32**, 74–85.
- 357 X. Zhang, S. Liu, T. Hu, S. Liu, Y. He and S. Sun, Up-regulated microRNA-143 transcribed by nuclear factor kappa B enhances hepatocarcinoma metastasis by repressing fibronectin expression, *Hepatology*, 2009, **50**(2), 490–499.
- 358 Y. Sylvestre, V. De Guire, E. Querido, U. K. Mukhopadhyay, V. Bourdeau and F. Major, *et al.*, An E2F/miR-20a autoregulatory feedback loop, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2007, **282**(4), 2135–2143.
- 359 J. K. Mouw, Y. Yui, L. Damiano, R. O. Bainer, J. N. Lakins and I. Acerbi, *et al.*, Tissue mechanics modulate microRNA-dependent PTEN expression to regulate malignant progression, *Nat. Med.*, 2014, **20**(4), 360–367.
- 360 P. M. Gilbert, J. K. Mouw, M. A. Unger, J. N. Lakins, M. K. Gbegenon and V. B. Clemmer, *et al.*, HOXA9 regulates BRCA1 expression to modulate human breast tumor phenotype, *J. Clin. Invest.*, 2010, **120**(5), 1535–1550.
- 361 A. J. Trimboli, C. Z. Cantemir-Stone, F. Li, J. A. Wallace, A. Merchant and N. Creasap, *et al.*, Pten in stromal fibroblasts suppresses mammary epithelial tumours, *Nature*, 2009, **461**(7267), 1084–1091.
- 362 A. Moro, T. P. Driscoll, L. C. Boraas, W. Armero, D. M. Kasper and N. Baeyens, *et al.*, MicroRNA-dependent regulation of biomechanical genes establishes tissue stiffness homeostasis, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2019, **21**(3), 348–358.
- 363 S. Feske, Calcium signalling in lymphocyte activation and disease, *Nat. Rev. Immunol.*, 2007, **7**, 690–702.
- 364 C. Diener, M. Hart, D. Alansary, V. Poth, B. Walch-Rückheim and J. Menegatti, *et al.*, Modulation of intracellular calcium signaling by microRNA-34a-5p, *Cell Death Dis.*, 2018, **9**(10), 1–13.
- 365 S. U. Mertens-Talcott, S. Chintharlapalli, X. Li and S. Safe, The oncogenic microRNA-27a targets genes that regulate specificity protein transcription factors and the G2-M checkpoint in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells, *Cancer Res.*, 2007, **67**(22), 11001–11011.
- 366 Z. Li, S. Hu, J. Wang, J. Cai, L. Xiao and L. Yu, *et al.*, MiR-27a modulates MDR1/P-glycoprotein expression by targeting HIPK2 in human ovarian cancer cells, *Gynecol. Oncol.*, 2010, **119**(1), 125–130.
- 367 C. E. Fletcher, D. A. Dart, A. Sita-lumsden, H. Cheng, P. S. Rennie and C. L. Bevan, Androgen-regulated processing of the oncomir MiR-27a, which targets Prohibitin in prostate cancer, *Hum. Mol. Genet.*, 2012, **21**(14), 3112–3127.
- 368 C. Palmieri, B. Rudraraju, M. Monteverde, L. Lattanzio, O. Gojis and R. Brizio, *et al.*, Methylation of the calcium channel regulatory subunit $\alpha 2\delta$ -3 (CACNA2D3) predicts site-specific relapse in oestrogen receptor-positive primary breast carcinomas, *Br. J. Cancer*, 2012, **107**(2), 375–381.
- 369 F. Liu, J. Chen, P. Wang, H. Li, Y. Zhou and H. Liu, *et al.*, MicroRNA-27a controls the intracellular survival of Mycobacterium tuberculosis by regulating calcium-associated autophagy, *Nat. Commun.*, 2018, **9**(1), 1–14.
- 370 P. Beesetty, K. B. Wiczerzak, J. N. Gibson, T. Kaitsuka, C. T. Luu and M. Matsushita, *et al.*, Inactivation of TRPM7 kinase in mice results in enlarged spleens, reduced T-cell proliferation and diminished store-operated calcium entry, *Sci. Rep.*, 2018, **8**(1), 1–22.
- 371 J. Wan, A. A. Guo, I. Chowdhury, S. Guo, J. Hibbert and G. Wang, *et al.*, TRPM7 Induces Mechanistic Target of Rap1b Through the Downregulation of miR-28-5p in Glioma Proliferation and Invasion, *Front. Oncol.*, 2019, **9**, 1413.
- 372 M. Liu, K. Inoue, T. Leng and S. Guo, Xiong Z gang. TRPM7 channels regulate glioma stem cell through STAT3 and Notch signaling pathways, *Cell Signalling*, 2014, **26**(12), 2773–2781.
- 373 A. Vultur, C. S. Gibhardt, H. Stanis and I. Bogeski, The role of the mitochondrial calcium uniporter (MCU) complex in cancer, *Pflugers Arch.*, 2018, **470**, 1149–1163.



- 374 S. Marchi, L. Lupini, S. Patergnani, A. Rimessi, S. Missiroli and M. Bonora, *et al.*, Downregulation of the mitochondrial calcium uniporter by cancer-related miR-25, *Curr. Biol.*, 2013, **23**(1), 58–63.
- 375 G. Rao, S. K. D. Dwivedi, Y. Zhang, A. Dey, K. Shameer and R. Karthik, *et al.*, Micro RNA -195 controls MICU 1 expression and tumor growth in ovarian cancer, *EMBO Rep.*, 2020, **21**(10), e48483.
- 376 J. Fares, M. Y. Fares, H. H. Khachfe, H. A. Salhab and Y. Fares, Molecular principles of metastasis: a hallmark of cancer revisited, *Signal Transduction Targeted Ther.*, 2020, **5**, 1–17.
- 377 T. P. Lele, A. Brock and S. R. Peyton, Emerging Concepts and Tools in Cell Mechanomemory, *Ann. Biomed. Eng.*, 2020, **48**(7), 1–10.
- 378 B. Zhao, K. Tumaneng and K. L. Guan, The Hippo pathway in organ size control, tissue regeneration and stem cell self-renewal, *Nat. Cell Biol.*, 2011, **13**, 877–883.
- 379 C. Yang, M. Tibbitt, L. Basta and K. Anseth, Mechanical memory and dosing influence stem cell fate, *Nat. Mater.*, 2014, **13**(6), 645–652.
- 380 M. Mori, R. Triboulet, M. Mohseni, K. Schlegelmilch, K. Shrestha and F. D. Camargo, *et al.*, Hippo signaling regulates microprocessor and links cell-density-dependent mirna biogenesis to cancer, *Cell*, 2014, **156**(5), 893–906.
- 381 S. G. Chaulk, V. J. Lattanzi, S. E. Hiemer, R. P. Fahlman and X. Varelas, The hippo pathway effectors TAZ/YAP regulate dicer expression and MicroRNA biogenesis through Let-7, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2014, **289**(4), 1886–1891.
- 382 H. D. Zhang, L. H. Jiang, D. W. Sun, J. Li and Z. L. Ji, The role of miR-130a in cancer, *Breast Cancer*, 2017, **24**, 521–527.
- 383 J. Chen, D. Yan, W. Wu, J. Zhu, W. Ye and Q. Shu, Micro RNA-130a promotes the metastasis and epithelial-mesenchymal transition of osteosarcoma by targeting PTEN, *Oncol. Rep.*, 2016, **35**(6), 3285–3292.
- 384 B. Li, P. Huang, J. Qiu, Y. Liao, J. Hong and Y. Yuan, MicroRNA-130a is down-regulated in hepatocellular carcinoma and associates with poor prognosis, *Med. Oncol.*, 2014, **31**(10), 230.
- 385 X. C. Wang, L. L. Tian, H. L. Wu, X. Y. Jiang, L. Q. Du and H. Zhang, *et al.*, Expression of miRNA-130a in nonsmall cell lung cancer, *Am. J. Med. Sci.*, 2010, **340**(5), 385–388.
- 386 S. Shen, X. Guo, H. Yan, Y. Lu, X. Ji and L. Li, *et al.*, A miR-130a-YAP positive feedback loop promotes organ size and tumorigenesis, *Cell Res.*, 2015, **25**(9), 997–1012.
- 387 G. Zhu, Y. Wang, M. Mijiti, Z. Wang, P. F. Wu and D. Jiafu, Upregulation of MIR-130b enhances stem cell-like phenotype in glioblastoma by inactivating the Hippo signaling pathway, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 2015, **465**(2), 194–199.
- 388 B. Zhao, L. Li and K. L. Guan, Hippo signaling at a glance, *J. Cell Sci.*, 2010, **123**, 4001–4006.
- 389 B. A. Callus, A. M. Verhagen and D. L. Vaux, Association of mammalian sterile twenty kinases, Mst1 and Mst2, with hSalvador via C-terminal coiled-coil domains, leads to its stabilization and phosphorylation, *FEBS J.*, 2006, **273**(18), 4264–4276.
- 390 X. Pan, Z. X. Wang and R. Wang, MicroRNA-21: a novel therapeutic target in human cancer, *Cancer Biol. Therapy*, 2010, **10**, 630–639.
- 391 M. L. Si, S. Zhu, H. Wu, Z. Lu, F. Wu and Y. Y. Mo, miR-21-mediated tumor growth, *Oncogene*, 2007, **26**(19), 2799–2803.
- 392 C. Li, N. Talele, S. Boo, A. Koehler, E. Knee-Walden and J. Balestrini, *et al.*, MicroRNA-21 preserves the fibrotic mechanical memory of mesenchymal stem cells, *Nat. Mater.*, 2016, **16**, 379–389.
- 393 I. Carnevale, M. Capula, E. Giovannetti, T. Schmidt and S. Coppola, A mechanical memory of pancreatic cancer cells, *bioRxiv*, 2019, 730960.
- 394 H. A. Burris, M. J. Moore, J. Andersen, M. R. Green, M. L. Rothenberg and M. R. Modiano, *et al.*, Improvements in survival and clinical benefit with gemcitabine as first-line therapy for patients with advanced pancreas cancer: a randomized trial, *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 1997, **15**(6), 2403–2413.
- 395 M. Momcilovic, A. Jones, S. T. Bailey, C. M. Waldmann, R. Li and J. T. Lee, *et al.*, In vivo imaging of mitochondrial membrane potential in non-small-cell lung cancer, *Nature*, 2019, **575**(7782), 380–384.
- 396 J. A. Katzenellenbogen, C. G. Mayne, B. S. Katzenellenbogen, G. L. Greene and S. Chandarlapaty, Structural underpinnings of oestrogen receptor mutations in endocrine therapy resistance, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2018, **18**, 377–388.
- 397 Y. Zhao, O. Bucur, H. Irshad, F. Chen, A. Weins and A. L. Stancu, *et al.*, Nanoscale imaging of clinical specimens using pathology-optimized expansion microscopy, *Nat. Biotechnol.*, 2017, **35**(8), 757.
- 398 S. W. Hell, S. J. Sahl, M. Bates, X. Zhuang, R. Heintzmann and M. J. Booth, *et al.*, The 2015 super-resolution microscopy roadmap, *J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys.*, 2015, **48**, 443001.
- 399 Q. Luo, M. Huang, C. Liang, J. Zhang, G. Lin and S. Yu, *et al.*, All-optical Mechanobiology Interrogation of Yes-associated Protein in Human Cancer and Normal Cells using a Multi-functional System, *JoVE*, 2021, **178**, e62934.
- 400 J. Strecker, A. Ladha, Z. Gardner, J. L. Schmid-Burgk, K. S. Makarova and E. V. Koonin, *et al.*, RNA-guided DNA insertion with CRISPR-associated transposases, *Science*, 2019, (6448), 364.
- 401 C.-H. Huang, K.-C. Lee and J. Doudna, Applications of CRISPR-Cas Enzymes in Cancer Therapeutics and Detection, *Trends Cancer*, 2018, **4**(7), 499–512.
- 402 S. J. Patel, N. E. Sanjana, R. J. Kishton, A. Eidizadeh, S. K. Vodnala and M. Cam, *et al.*, Identification of essential genes for cancer immunotherapy, *Nature*, 2017, **548**(7669), 537–542.
- 403 J. G. Reiter, M. Baretti, J. M. Gerold, A. P. Makohon-Moore, A. Daud and C. A. Iacobuzio-Donahue, *et al.*, An analysis of genetic heterogeneity in untreated cancers, *Nat. Rev. Cancer*, 2019, **19**(11), 639–650.



- 404 J. Gao, J. F. Ward, C. A. Pettaway, L. Z. Shi, S. K. Subudhi and L. M. Vence, *et al.*, VISTA is an inhibitory immune checkpoint that is increased after ipilimumab therapy in patients with prostate cancer, *Nat. Med.*, 2017, **23**(5), 551–555.
- 405 L. B. Alexandrov, S. Nik-Zainal, D. C. Wedge, S. A. J. R. Aparicio, S. Behjati and A. V. Biankin, *et al.*, Signatures of mutational processes in human cancer, *Nature*, 2013, **500**(7463), 415–421.
- 406 Q. Jia, W. Zhou, W. Yao, F. Yang, S. Zhang and R. Singh, *et al.*, Downregulation of YAP-dependent Nupr1 promotes tumor-repopulating cell growth in soft matrices, *Oncogenesis*, 2016, **5**(4), e220.

