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Protein Interactions at the Human Topoisomerase II α Promoter

A thesis presented to Massey University in partial fulfilment of the requirement
for the degree Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry.

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*If these written words are an indication of
what I have learnt and who I have become.....
then let a blank page represent
what I have yet to learn and who I am yet to become.....*

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Abstract

Among women in the 45 to 64 age group, over half of the recorded deaths are from cancer, breast cancer being the most common. Just over 30% of all deaths in New Zealand women is caused by breast cancer. Treatment of cancer is difficult, not only due to the physiological and immunological similarities between a cancer cell and a normal cell, but also due to the high cardiotoxicity of many treatments, and also the problems related with the development of resistance. Approximately 40% of the cancer cells treated with the chemotherapy drug doxorubicin will become resistant to treatment. Drug efficacy is strongly associated with the proliferation status of a cell, as cancer cells divide rapidly, this can often be the defining factor between effective treatments or the development of resistance. Central to this proliferation status is an enzyme known as topoisomerase II α . This essential enzyme is expressed in all cells and is required to relieve the torsional stress in DNA that is created during normal cellular processes. A number of commonly used anti-cancer drugs have been found to target topoisomerase II α in cancer cells and significantly, during the development of drug resistance levels of topoisomerase II α enzyme have been found to be reduced in some cell lines and tumours. There are a number of factors that can modulate the amount of topoisomerase II α enzyme found in a cell, and one of the ways to understand this is to examine the regulation of the topoisomerase II α gene, most importantly the proteins that interact with the promoter region to direct transcription.

The human topoisomerase II α promoter has been found to be regulated by a number of transcription factors that can bind to their cognate sequences. The introduction of mutations within specific sequences of the topoisomerase II α promoter has enabled the identification of a key regulatory region within the promoter, a sequence of DNA that encompasses both the ICB1 and GC1 regulatory elements. Transcription factor NF-Y is found to bind to ICB1 element, whereas transcription factors Sp1 and Sp3 have been found to associate with the GC element. However this region of the promoter was also found to bind a fourth uncharacterised component. This research aims to further define the protein components that are found to bind to this important ICB1/GC1 regulatory region and distinguish the protein-protein and protein-DNA interactions that are important for the regulation of the human topoisomerase II α promoter.

Abbreviations.

1°	Primary
2°	Secondary
APAF	Australian Proteome Analysis Facility
APS	Ammonium persulphate
AP-2	Activator protein 2
ATF	Activating transcription factor
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
bp	Base Pair
β-gal	β-galactosidase
BrdU	Bromodeoxyuridine
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
Buffer E	Equilibration buffer
CDE	Cell-cycle dependent element
CDTA	1,2-diaminocyclohexane-N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid
CEM	Human leukemic cell line
CENins	ICB1/GC1 altered to have an inserted sequence within the intervening region
CENdel	ICB1/GC1 altered to have a deletion within the intervening region
CENmt	ICB1/GC1 altered to have a mutation within the intervening region
ChIP	Chromatin immunoprecipitation
CHR	Cell-cycle gene homology region
COS-1	SV40 transformed African green monkey kidney cells
ddH ₂ O	Double distilled water
DNA	Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid
DNA-PK	DNA-dependant protein kinase
DNA-PKcs	DNA-dependant protein kinase catalytic subunit
dNTP	Deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate
DSB	DNA double-strand break
DTT	dithiothreitol
EDTA	Ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid
EMSA	Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay
GCF	GC rich sequence binding factor

GSB	Gel shift buffer
GZP1	GC box-binding protein-1
H209/VP	Human small-cell lung cancer cell line resistant to etoposide (VP-16)
HBT20	Human brain tumour cell line
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
HeLa	Human cervical cancer cell line
HEPES	N-[2-hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-[2-ethane sulfonic acid]
Her-2	Human epidermal growth factor 2
HL-60	Human promyelocytic leukemia cells
HL-60/MX2	Human promyelocytic leukemia cells resistant to mitoxantrone
HMGB	High mobility group B proteins
HRP	Horse-radish peroxidase
ICB	Inverted CCAAT box
ICBP90	Inverted CCAAT box binding protein of 90 kDa
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
IPTG	Isopropyl thiogalactosidase
KB	Human epidermoid cancer cell line
KCl	Potassium chloride
kDa	Kilo Dalton
Ku86	Ku autoantigen 86
Ku70	Ku autoantigen 70
Ku	heterodimeric protein consisting of Ku86 and Ku70
LB	Luria Bertani bacteriological media
MCF7	Human breast cancer cells
MCF12A	Normal human breast cells
mt	Mutant
MgAc	Magnesium acetate
Mw	Molecular Weight
NaCl	Sodium chloride
NIH3T3	Cells established from NIH swiss mouse embryo, highly contact inhibited
PARP	Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline solution
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
pGL3B	pGL3B vector (for luciferase reporter gene assays)

PMSF	Phenylsulfonylmethyl fluoride
PSF	Polypyrimidine tract binding protein
PVDF	Polyvinylidene fluoride
NF-Y	Nuclear factor Y
mM	milli molar
μ L	Micro Litre
μ g	Micro Gram
NF90	Nuclear family 90
ng	nano gram
pRb	retinoblastoma protein
RNA pol II	RNA polymerase II
SDS-PAGE	Sodium dodecylsulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
Sp1	Specificity factor 1
SUMO	Small ubiquitin-like modifier
SV40	Simian virus 40
TBE	Tris borate EDTA
TBP	TATA-binding protein
TBST	Tris-buffered saline tween-20
TE	Tris-EDTA buffer
TEMED	Tetramethylethylenediamine
Topo2 α	Topoisomerase II α
Topo2 β	Topoisomerase II β
TPA	12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate
Tris	Tris (2-amino-2-hydromethyl-1,3-propandiol)
TSS	Transcription start site
U937	Human monocytic leukaemia cell line
UV	Ultra Violet
V	Volts
VM-26	Teniposide
VP-16	Etoposide
wt	Wild type
X-gal	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoyl- β -D-galactosidase.
ZBP89	Zinc finger binding protein of 89 kDa

List of Figures

Figure 1.1: Schematic representation of topoisomerase II enzyme activity.	3
Figure 1.2: Schematic representation of topoisomerase II-targeting poisons.	6
Figure 1.3: Multifactorial regulation of topoisomerase II α	8
Figure 1.4: Schematic representation of topoisomerase II β and PARP-1 mediated gene expression. .	11
Figure 1.5: Representation of the interactions that may occur at the human Topo2 α promoter.	19
Figure 1.6: DNA-binding proteins that bind to the ICB1/GC1 composite oligonucleotide.	21
Figure 3.1: DNA binding proteins are nuclear proteins.	44
Figure 3.2: Antibody supershifts to verify protein-DNA complexes.	46
Figure 3.3: Increasing amount of MCF7 extract added to different ICB1/GC1 oligonucleotides.	48
Figure 3.4: EMSA using increasing amount of MCF12A extract.	49
Figure 3.5: Investigating the intervening sequence for protein binding.	51
Figure 3.6: Complex three is the same using the ICB1 wt/CENins/GC1 wt oligonucleotide.	53
Figure 3.7: EMSA using a short GC1 oligonucleotide as a competitor.	56
Figure 3.8: EMSA using a ICB1 wt/CENdel/GC1 wt competitor.	57
Figure 3.9: Transient transfections using reporter gene constructs that have alterations in the -617 minimal topoisomerase II α promoter.	60
Figure 4.1: Analysis of proteins in fractions purified using heparin-sepharose column.	64
Figure 4.2: EMSA using different fractions from heparin-sepharose column.	65
Figure 4.3: EMSAs using F 0.35 M KCl and different topoisomerase II α oligonucleotides.	66
Figure 4.4: DNA-binding proteins purified using a biotinylated-ICB1 mt/GC1 wt oligonucleotide and the proteins are eluted using different salt concentrations.	71
Figure 4.5: Extracts purified using biotinylated-ICB1 mt/GC1 wt oligonucleotide with the addition of increasing amounts of competitors.	74
Figure 4.6: Using a competitor to generate biotinylated-ICB1 mt/GC1 wt purified extracts.	76
Figure 4.7: EMSA using extracts that were purified using a biotinylated-ICB1 mt/GC1 wt oligonucleotide in the presence of competitors.	78
Figure 4.8: Silver stained SDS-PAGE of electro-eluted protein samples from EMSA gels.	80
Figure 4.9: Immunoblot of electro-eluted proteins.	82
Figure 5.1: Schematic representation of a cross-linking assay.	86
Figure 5.2: ICB1 mt/GC1 wt BrdU oligonucleotides tested for protein binding.	89
Figure 5.3: Different BrdU oligonucleotides used in cross-linking assays.	90
Figure 5.4: Biotinylated-oligonucleotide purified extract contains DNA-binding proteins.	93
Figure 5.5: Confirming the identity of DNA-binding proteins found in extract purified using the biotinylated-ICB1 mt/GC1 wt oligonucleotide.	98

Figure 6.1: Transient transfection to show the effects of a PARP-1 inhibitor (PJ34) on wt -617topo2 α promoter activity.....	102
Figure 6.2: Transient transfection to show the effects of a PARP-1 inhibitor (PJ34) on CENins - 617topo2 α promoter activity.....	103
Figure 6.3: Transient transfection to show the effects of a PARP-1 inhibitor (PJ34) on -617topo2 α promoter activity with mutations in GC1 and GC2.....	105
Figure 6.4: Sp1 has increased affinity for DNA upon inhibition of ribosylation.....	107
Figure 6.5: Immunodetection of proteins present in electro-eluted extracts.....	109
Figure 6.6: Schematic representation of DNA-termini binding assay.....	114
Figure 6.7: Schematic representation for the generation of the ICB1mt/GC1wt concatemers.....	115
Figure 6.8: Immunodetection DNA-termini binding assay.	117
Figure 7.1: Summary of the different DNA-binding proteins found in each of the protein-DNA complexes that are seen to form using the topoisomerase II α ICB1 wt/GC1wt oligonucleotide.	120
Figure 7.2: Schematic representation of the DNA-binding proteins observed using EMSA and the corresponding promoter activities observed using transient transfections.....	128
Figure 7.3: Increased cytotoxicity of chemotherapy in the presence of PARP-1 inhibitors.....	134
Figure 7.4: Schematic representation of fluorescence resonance energy transfer for detection of DNA-binding proteins.	140

List of Tables

Table 2.1: Processing β galactosidase data.....	40
Table 2.2: Processing Luciferase data.	40
Table 2.3: Generating normalised luciferase activities.	40
Table 3.1: Sequences of oligonucleotides used in EMSAs	50
Table 4.1: Summary of the molecular weights of purified DNA-binding proteins using different techniques.....	83
Table 5.1: Sequences of oligonucleotides used in EMSAs and cross-linking.	88
Table 5.2: Summary of the sizes of isolated DNA-binding proteins	95
Table 5.3: Summary of the results from protein analysis.....	96

Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	I
ABBREVIATIONS	II
LIST OF FIGURES	V
LIST OF TABLES	VI
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Cancer	1
1.2 Topoisomerases	2
1.2.1 <i>Topoisomerase IIα and Her-2 genes</i>	4
1.2.2 <i>Topoisomerase II-targeting anti-cancer drugs</i>	5
1.2.3 <i>Drug resistance</i>	7
1.3 Gene regulation	10
1.3.1 <i>Chromatin remodelling for transcriptional regulation</i>	11
1.3.2 <i>Initiation of transcription</i>	12
1.4 Human topoisomerase IIα promoter	12
1.4.1 <i>GC elements</i>	14
1.4.2 <i>CCAAT sequences/ICB elements</i>	16
1.4.3 <i>Central regulatory region ICB1/GC1</i>	20
1.5 Research outline	22
2 MATERIALS AND METHODS	23
2.1 Materials	23
2.2 Methods	25
2.2.1 <i>DNA agarose gel electrophoresis</i>	25
2.2.2 <i>Restriction endonuclease digestion</i>	25
2.2.3 <i>Oligonucleotides</i>	25
2.2.4 <i>Preparing double-stranded oligonucleotides</i>	25
2.2.5 <i>Polymerase chain reactions (PCR)</i>	26
2.2.6 <i>DNA purification by gel electrophoresis</i>	26
2.2.7 <i>Phosphatase treatment of plasmids</i>	26
2.2.8 <i>Addition of 5' phosphate groups to oligonucleotides</i>	27

2.2.9 Ligation reactions.	27
2.2.10 Transformation of Escherichia coli (E.coli).	27
2.2.11 Purification of plasmids.	28
2.2.12 Tissue culture.	28
2.2.13 Treatment with PJ34.	29
2.2.14 Whole cell HeLa extracts.	29
2.2.15 HeLa cell nuclear extracts.	30
2.2.16 Quantification of total protein in extracts.	31
2.2.17 Sodium dodecylsulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.	31
2.2.18 Coomassie-blue stain for protein gels.	32
2.2.19 Silver staining for protein gels.	32
2.2.20 Immunodetection/Western Blotting.	32
2.2.21 Ion-exchange chromatography (heparin-sepharose column).	33
2.2.22 Oligonucleotide-affinity chromatography.	34
2.2.23 ³² P-labelling oligonucleotides.	35
2.2.24 Electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA).	36
2.2.25 Electro-elution of proteins from EMSA gels.	37
2.2.26 BrdU cross-linking.	37
2.2.27 Transient transfections.	38
2.2.28 β -galactosidase activity.	38
2.2.29 Luciferase assays.	39
2.2.30 Calculations for the normalised luciferase activities.	39
2.2.31 Database searches.	41
2.2.32 DNA sequencing reactions.	41
3 DNA BINDING PROTEINS.	42
3.1 Synopsis.	42
3.2 Protein complexes on the ICB1/GC1 composite element.	42
3.2.1 Whole cell and HeLa nuclear extracts.	43
3.2.1.1 Antibody Supershifts.	45
3.2.2 Protein complexes in other cell lines.	47
3.3 Investigating binding patterns of complex three.	49
3.3.1 Examining the intervening sequence between ICB1 and GC1.	50
3.3.2 Does ICB1wt/CENins/GC1wt bind complex three?	52
3.3.2.1 Using a mutated ICB1wt/CENins/GC1wt oligonucleotide.	53
3.3.2.2 Using a short GC1 competitor.	54
3.3.2.3 Using an ICB1wt/CENdel/GC1wt competitor.	56
3.4 Functional Significance of Complex three.	58
3.5 Chapter summary.	61

4 PURIFICATION OF DNA BINDING PROTEINS.....	62
4.1 Synopsis.....	62
4.2 Ion-exchange Chromatography.....	62
4.2.1 Purification of proteins from whole cell HeLa extract using heparin-sepharose column chromatography.....	62
4.2.2 Proteins purified using heparin-sepharose column.....	63
4.2.2.1 DNA-binding proteins in heparin-sepharose fractions.....	65
4.3 Oligonucleotide-affinity Chromatography.....	68
4.3.1 Purification of ICB1mt/GC1wt-binding proteins.....	70
4.3.1.1 Using a competitor to reduce non-specific protein-DNA interactions.....	72
4.3.1.2 EMSA with the extract purified using oligonucleotide-affinity chromatography.....	77
4.4 Isolating protein from EMSA gels.....	79
4.5 Comparing the molecular weights of all the different purified DNA-binding proteins.....	82
4.6 Chapter summary.....	84
5 IDENTIFICATION OF DNA-BINDING PROTEINS.....	85
5.1 Synopsis.....	85
5.2 Using BrdU to cross-link DNA to protein.....	85
5.2.1 Incorporating BrdU at different locations within the ICB1mt/GC1wt oligonucleotide.....	87
5.2.1.1 EMSA using BrdU oligonucleotides.....	88
5.2.1.2 Cross-linking using BrdU oligonucleotides.....	89
5.2.1.3 Cross-linking nuclear extract & biotinylated extract.....	92
5.3 Analysis of potential DNA-binding proteins.....	94
5.3.1 Results of protein analysis.....	95
5.4 Confirming identity of DNA-binding proteins.....	96
5.5 Chapter summary.....	99
6 ANALYSIS OF DNA BINDING PROTEINS.....	100
6.1 Synopsis.....	100
6.2 Inhibiting Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase activity.....	100
6.2.1 PARP-1 & the topoisomerase II α promoter.....	101
6.2.2 PARP-1 ribosylates Sp1.....	106
6.3 Identifying proteins in electro-eluted extracts.....	108
6.4 Ku proteins.....	113
6.4.1 Are the proteins binding to the ends of DNA?.....	114
6.4.1.1 Generating a concatemered ICB1mt/GC1wt oligonucleotide.....	115
6.4.1.2 DNA-termini binding assays.....	116
6.5 Chapter summary.....	118

7 DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORK	119
7.1 Synopsis	119
7.2 Protein-ICB1/GC1 interactions	120
7.2.1 <i>Complex 1/Sp1 interacting with the GC1 element</i>	121
7.2.2 <i>Complex 2/NF-Y interacting with the ICB1 element</i>	122
7.2.3 <i>Complex 4/Sp3 interacting with the GC1 element</i>	123
7.2.4 <i>Complex 3/proteins and the intervening sequence</i>	125
7.3 Ku Proteins	129
7.4 PARP-1	131
7.4.1 <i>PARP-1 inhibitors</i>	133
7.5 PSF	136
7.6 Improving methods & further research	137
7.6.1 <i>Affinity chromatography</i>	137
7.6.2 <i>Electro-eluting proteins</i>	138
7.6.3 <i>Immunoprecipitation</i>	138
7.6.4 <i>Other methods to examine protein-DNA interactions</i>	139
7.6.5 <i>Functional assays</i>	140
7.6.5.1 <i>ChIP assays</i>	141
7.6.5.2 <i>Protein-protein interactions</i>	141
7.7 Significance of topoisomerase IIα expression	142
7.8 Conclusion	142
REFERENCES	144
APPENDIX 1	169
APPENDIX 2	170
APPENDIX 3	172
APPENDIX 4	174