

13<sup>th</sup> Annual



**ION CHANNEL RETREAT 2015**

Share Knowledge. Exchange Ideas. Establish Partnerships.

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Structure, Function and Engineering of Ion Channels

**Targeting voltage-gated K<sup>+</sup> channels in cancer  
reveal new biochemical pathways  
and therapeutic opportunities**

Saverio Gentile, Ph.D.

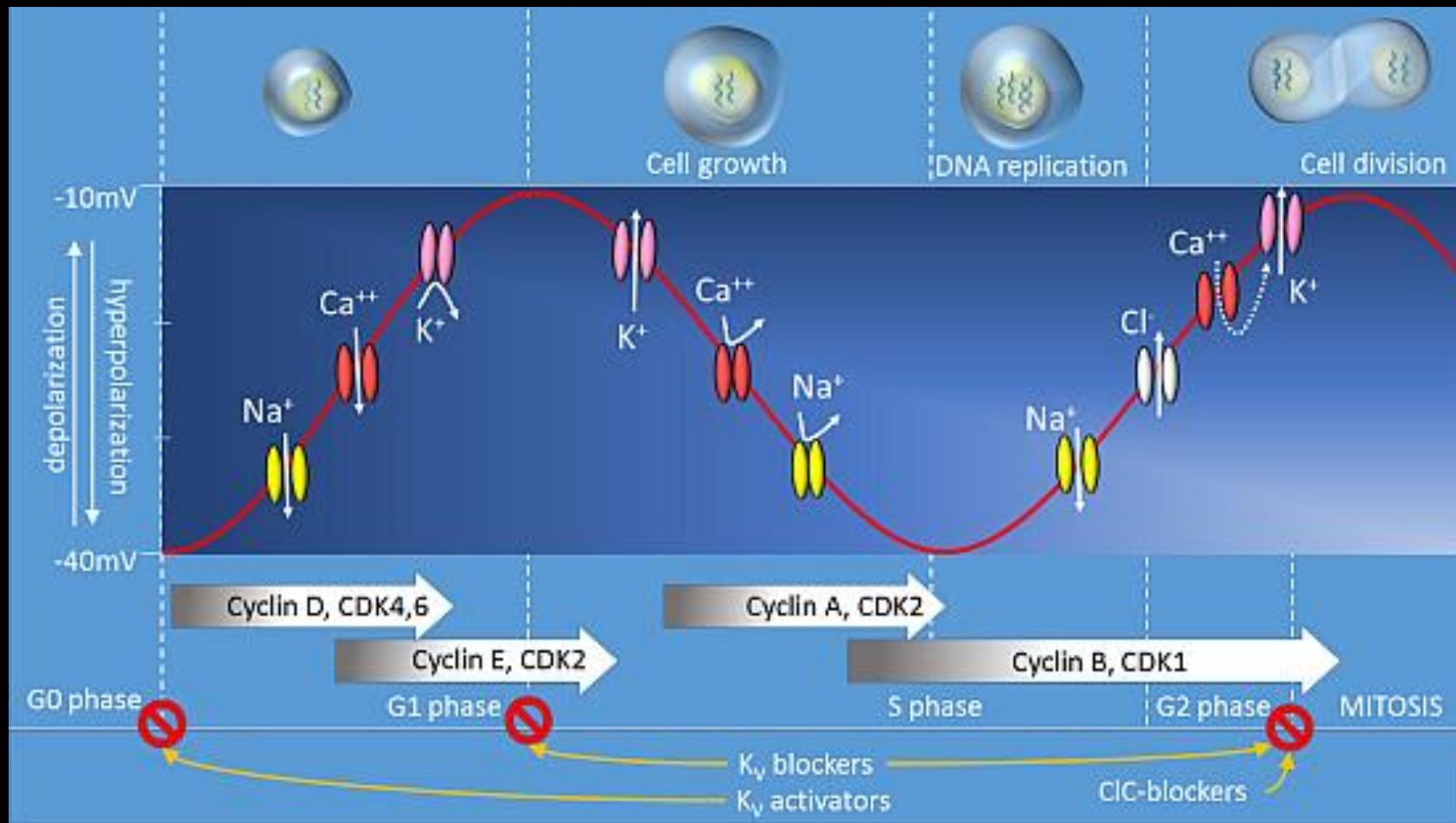
Department of Molecular Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Loyola University, Chicago

# Voltage-Gated Ion Channels in Cancer Cell Proliferation

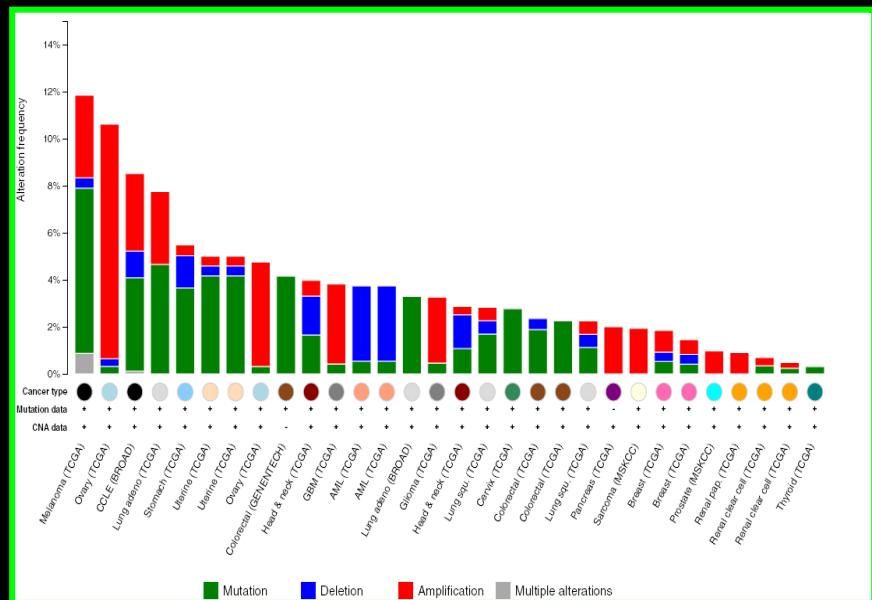
Vidhya R. Rao , Mathew Perez-Neut , Simon Kaja and Saverio Gentile

Cancers 2015, 7(2), 849-875



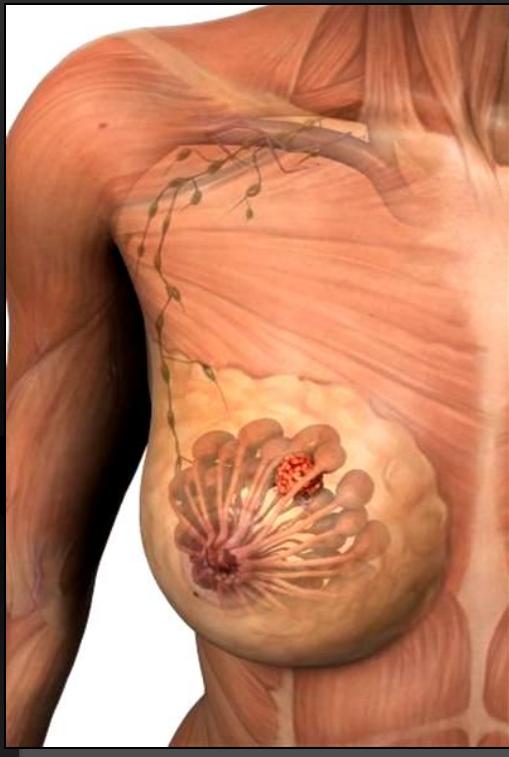
Potassium channels have been found overexpressed in a variety of tumors of different histogenesis but absent in healthy cells from which the respective tumor are derived

- Rhabdomyosarcoma
- Leukemia
- Melanoma
- Neuroblastoma
- Breast cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Intestine



hERG1 channel expression pattern in tumors

## Breast cancer facts sheet

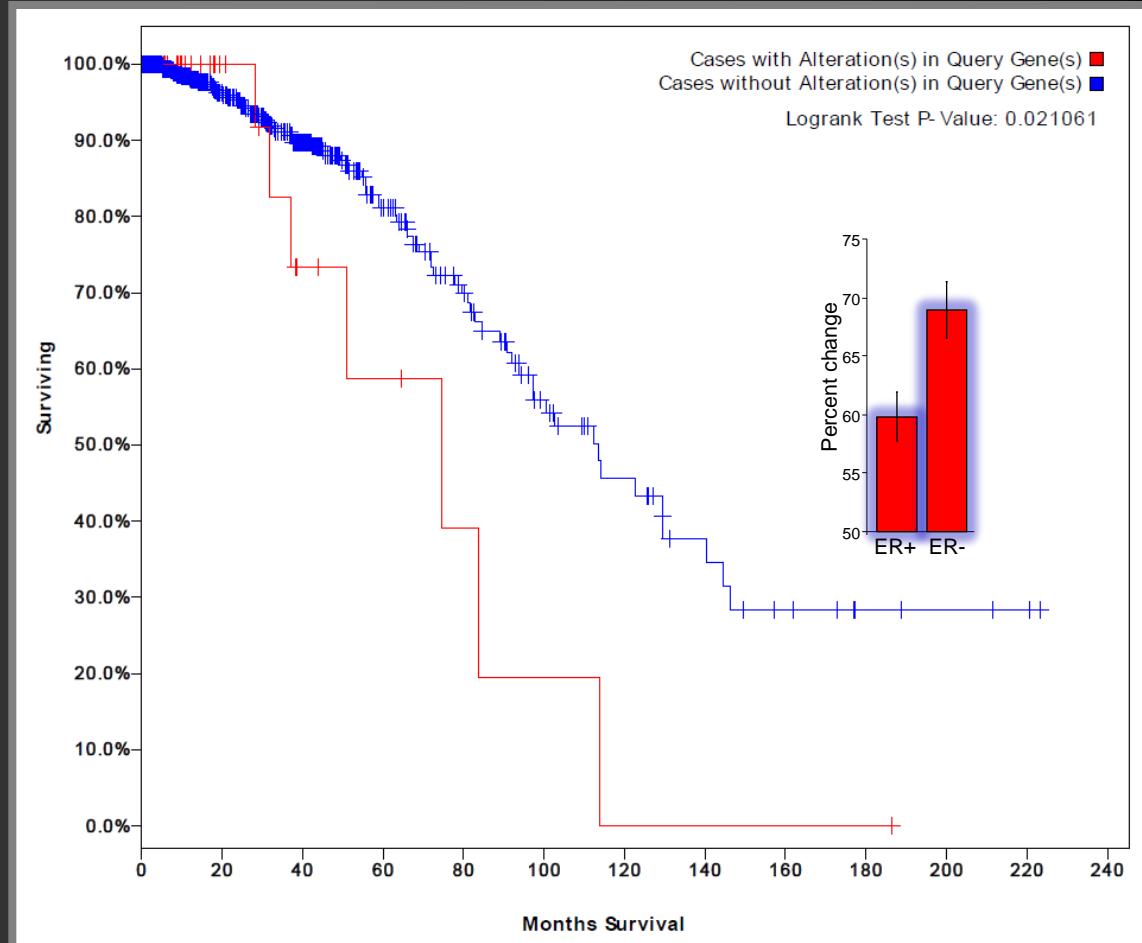


- 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

- 1 in 33 women will die from breast cancer.

- Men have the possibility of developing breast cancer as well.

- hERG1 expression is associated with higher mortality
- hERG1 is more abundantly expressed in ER-neg



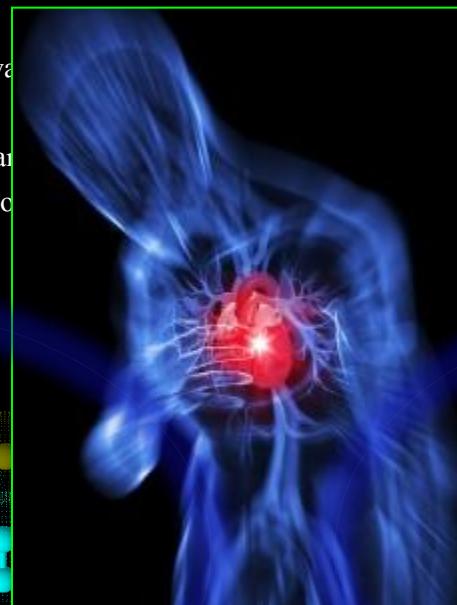
Overall Survival Kaplan-Meier Estimate  
[www.cbioportal.org/public-portal](http://www.cbioportal.org/public-portal)

## ➤Can we manipulate hERG1 to fight breast cancer ?

Previous investigation have shown that blocking hERG1 current activity leads to cancer cell death.  
However, because of the deleterious effects of hERG1 channel blockers on heart performance  
these drugs cannot be used in cancer therapy

Recently, a group of structurally different hERG1 activators

It has been shown that mammalian heart cells can be activated by hERG1 activators.  
They exert less dramatic side effects compared to hERG1 blockers.



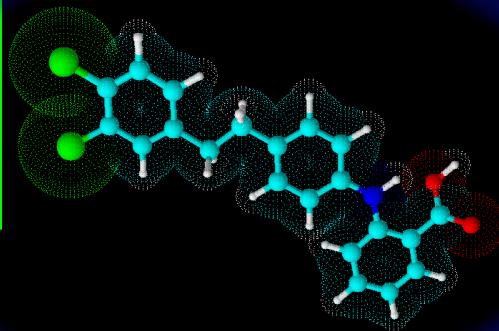
The therapy was successful  
but the patient died

NS1643

*N,N'*-Bis[2-hydroxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]urea

PD 118057

2-[[4-[2-(3,4-Dichlorophenyl)ethyl]-phenyl]amino]benzoic acid

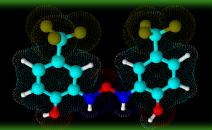


www.acdbio.com

**Q1-** What are the consequences of hERG1 potassium channel stimulation in breast cancer cells?

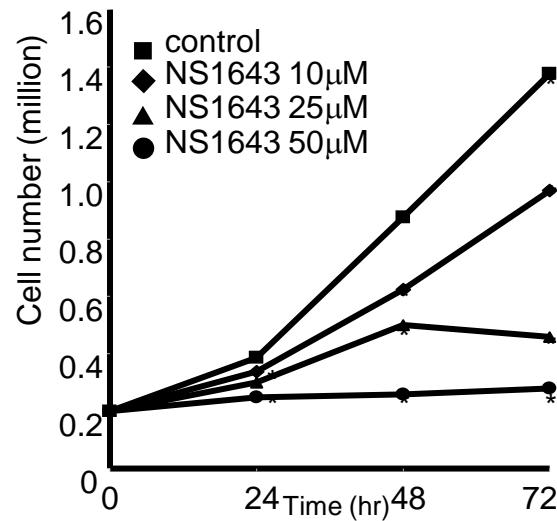
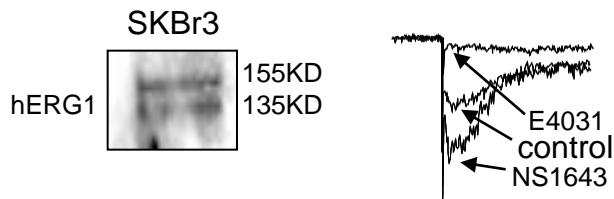
**Q2-** What is the biochemical signaling activated by stimulation of hERG1 potassium channels in breast cancer cells?

# hERG1 agonists NS1643 inhibit proliferation in breast cancer cells



Kate Lansu

Lansu et al.  
Cell death and Disease 2013



A&D) hERG1 channel expressed in ER-neg breast cancer cell line SKBr3 and CHO cells.

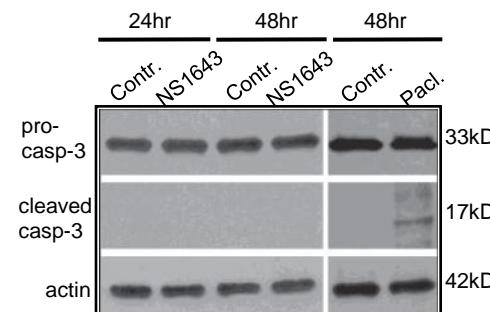
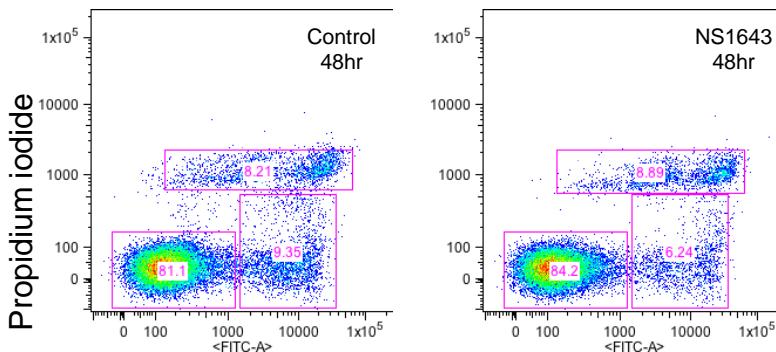
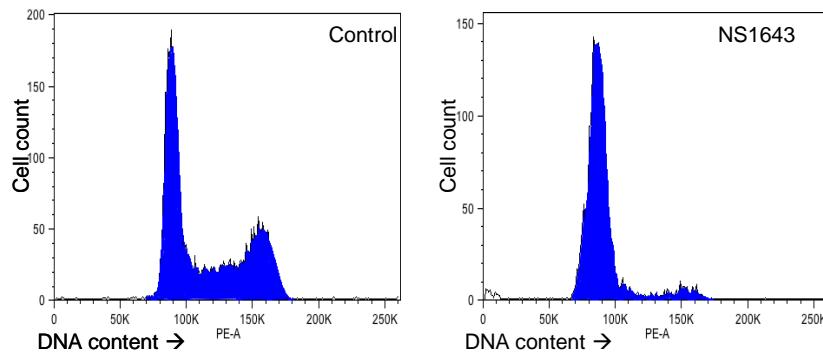
B&D) Effects of the NS1643 (50µM) on hERG1 currents.

C&F) Effects of NS1643 on proliferation rate of hERG1 negative cells.

# Stimulation of hERG1 channel causes cell cycle arrest in G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub>

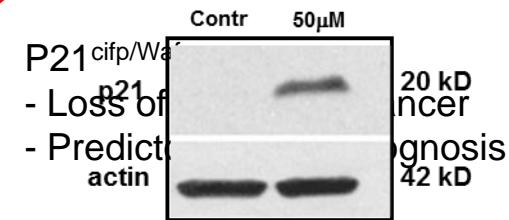
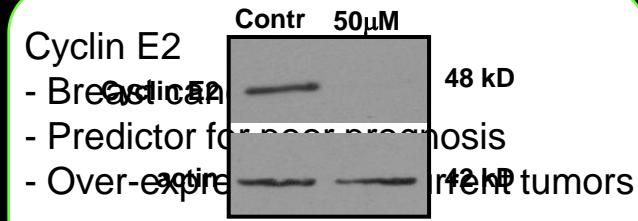
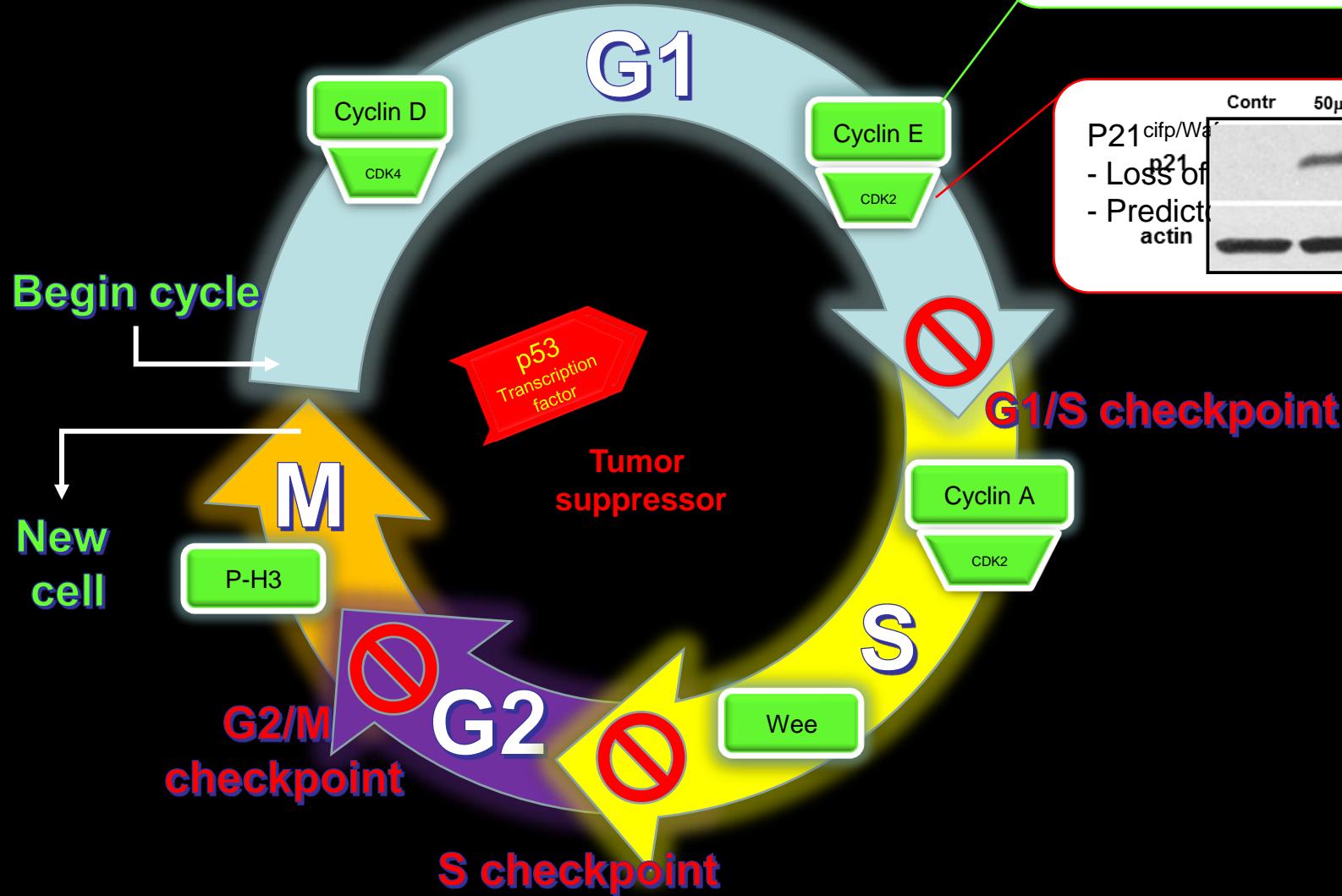
Lansu et al.  
Cell death and Disease 2013

SKBr3

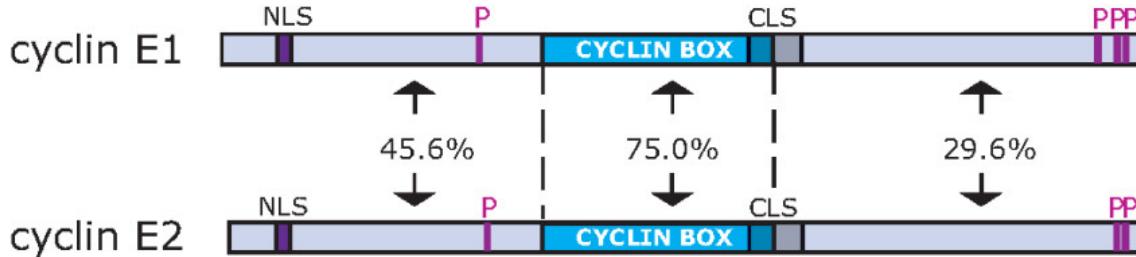


A, B & D) Cell cycle phase distribution of SKBr3 before and after NS1643 or NS1643+E4031 (herg1 blocker) treatment  
F,G & H) Cell cycle phase distribution of MDA-MD-231 before and after NS1643 treatment.

# The cell cycle



# E-type cyclins



<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 1	MPRERRERDAKERDTM----KEDGGAEFSARSRKANVTVFLQDPDEEMAKIDRTARDQ	56
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 1	MSRRSSRLQAKQQPQPSQTESPQEAQIIQAKKRKTQ---DVKKRREEVTKKHQYEIRN	56
		* * . . :***: . : . . :*.* . . : . **: * . : :	
<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 57	CGSQPWDN-NAVCADPCSLIPTPDKEDDDRVYPNSTCKPRIIAPSRSGPLPVLSWANREE	115
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 57	C---WPPVLSGGISPCLIIETPHKEIGTSDFSRFTNYRFKNLFINPSPLPDLSWGCSKE	112
		* * * : . ** : * * . ** : . * . * *** * *** . :*	
<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 116	VWKIMLNKEKTYLRDQHFLEQHPLLQPKMRAILLDWLMEVCEVYKLHRETFYLAQDFFDR	175
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 113	VWLNLKKEESRYVHDKHFEVLHSDELPQMRISILLDWLLEVCEVYTLHRETFYLAQDFFDR	172
		** * :**. * :*: ** * * : * * :* :***** :***** . *****	
<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 176	YMATQENVVKTLLQLIGISSLFIAAKLEEIYPPKLHQFAYVTDGACSGDEILTMEMLMK	235
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 173	FMLTQKDINKNMLQLIGITSLSFIASKLEEIYAPKLQEFAYVTDGACSEEDILRMELIILK	232
		: * * : : * . :***** :***** :***** *** :***** : :** * *** :* :*	
<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 236	ALKWRLSPLTIVSWLNVMQVAYLNDLHEVLLPQYPQQIFIQIAELLDLCLVLDVDCLEFP	295
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 233	ALKWELCPVTIISWLNLFLQVDALKDAPKVLLPQYSQETFIQIAQLLDDLCILAIDSLEFQ	292
		***** . * . * :* :***** : :** * :***** :***** : * :*. ***	
<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 296	YGILAASALYHFSSSELMQKVSGYQWCDIENCVKWMVPFAMVIRETGSSKLKHFRGVADE	355
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 293	YRILTAALCHFTSIEVVKKASGLEWDSISECVDWMVPFVNWKSTSPVKLKTFKKIPME	352
		* * :* :* * * :* :* . * . :* :***** . * :*. *** * : : *	
<a href="#">P24864</a>	CCNE1_HUMAN 356	DAHNIQTHRDSLDDKARAKKAMLSEQNRASPLPSGLLTPPQSGKKQSSGPEMA	410
<a href="#">O96020</a>	CCNE2_HUMAN 353	DRHNIQTHTNYLAMLEEVNYINTFRKGQLSPVCNGGIMTPPKSTEKPPGKH---	404
		* ***** : * :*: .. : : . : . * :****: * :* .	

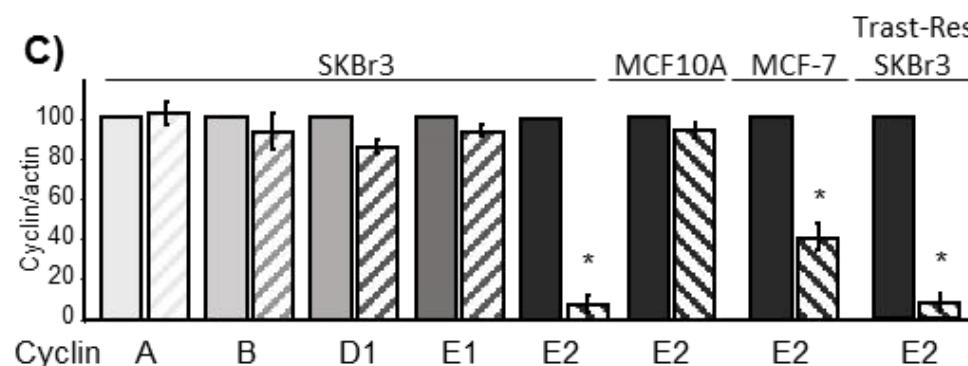
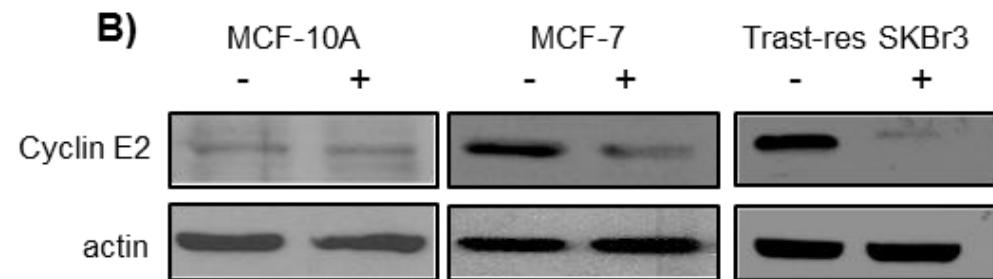
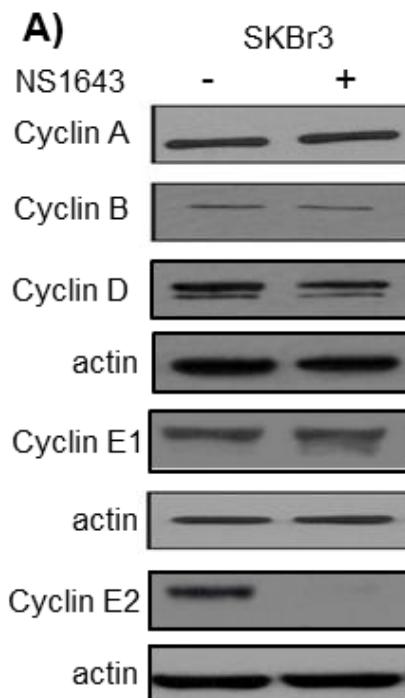
# hERG1 stimulation selectively targets cyclin E2 for degradation



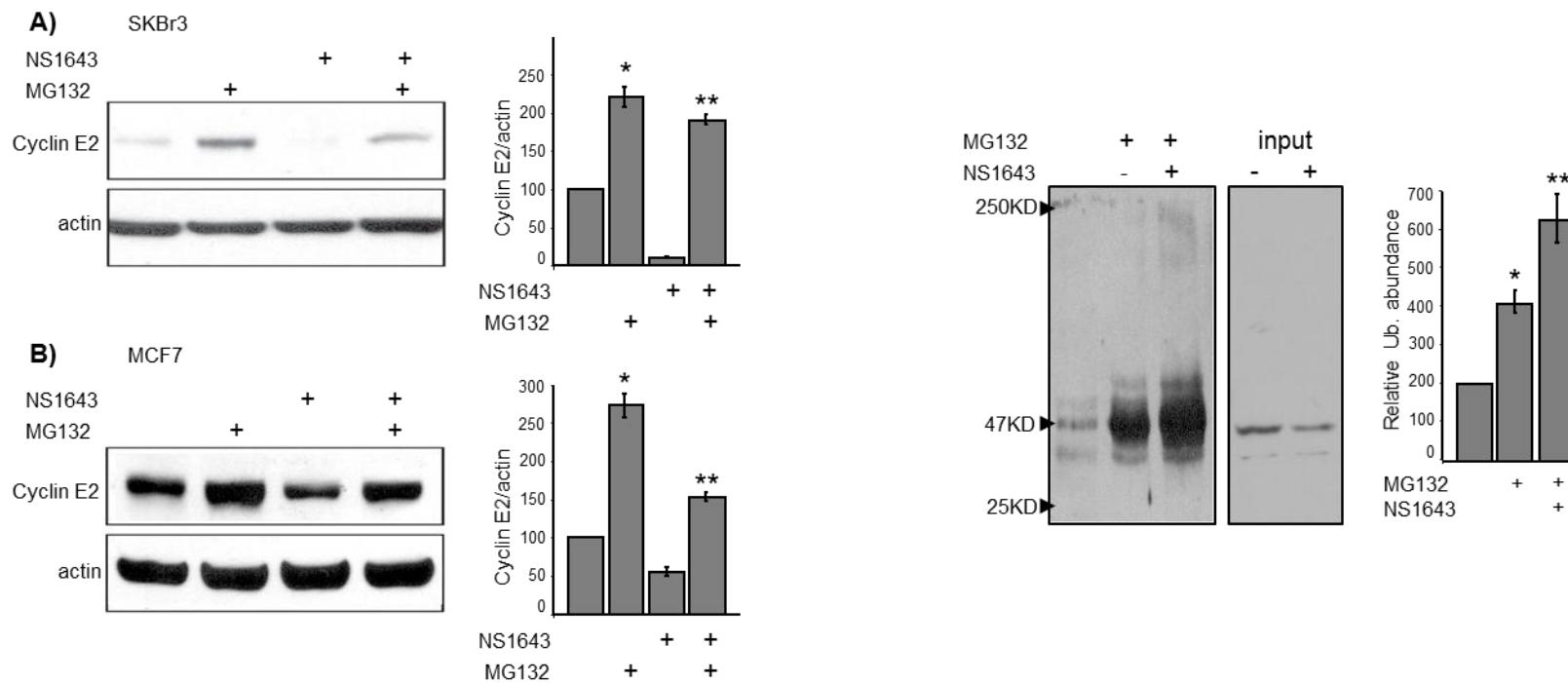
Mathew Perez-Neut

Perez et al.  
Oncotarget Jan 2015

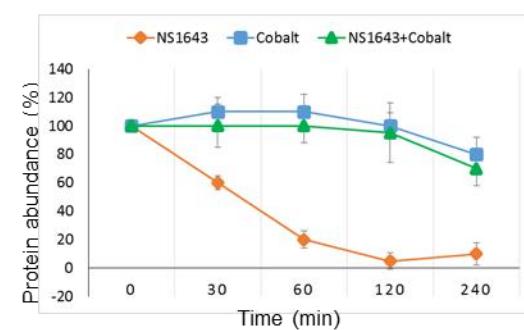
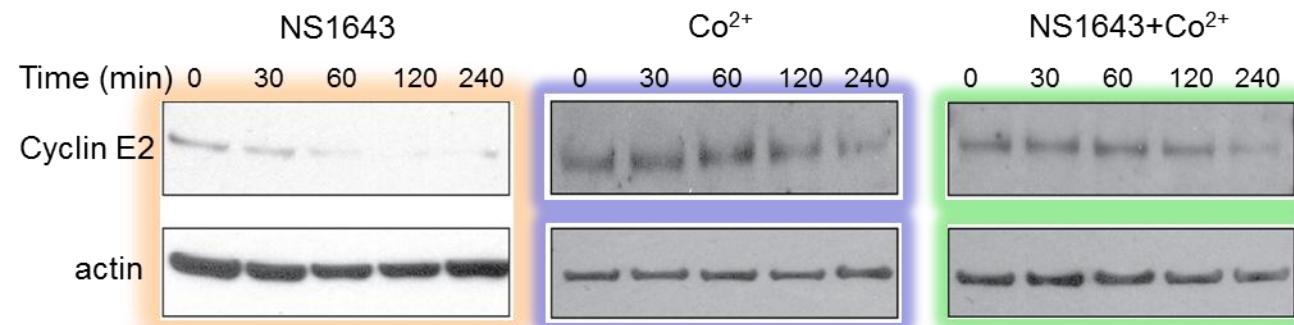
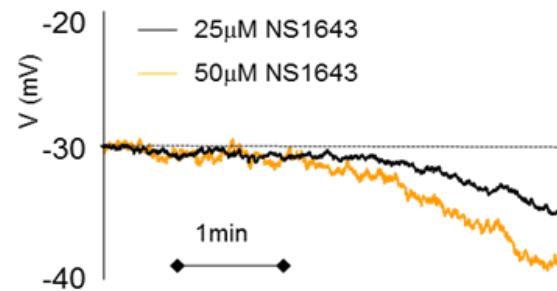
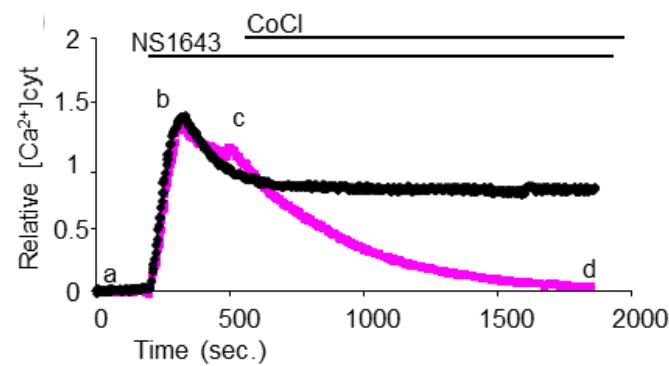
(2 hours)

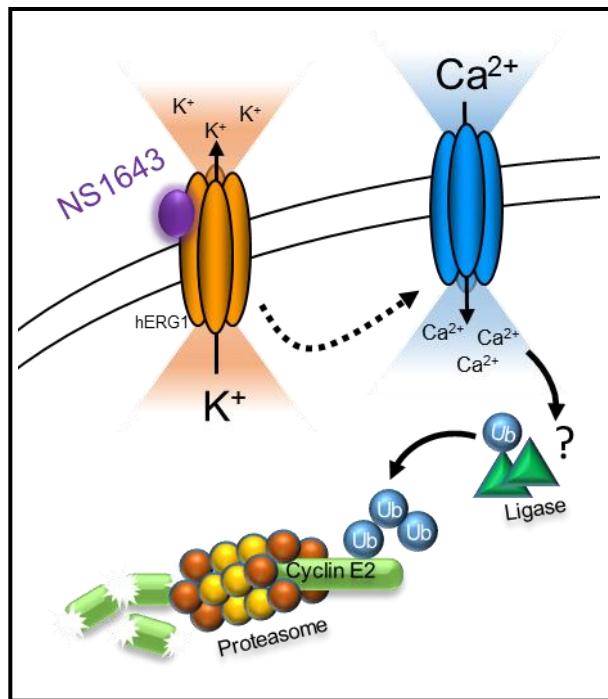


## **hERG1 stimulation selectively targets cyclin E2 for degradation**



# Stimulation of hERG1 leads to $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -dependent cyclin E2 degradation





Perez et al. "Stimulation of hERG1 channel activity promotes a calcium-dependent degradation of cyclin E2, but not cyclin E1, in breast cancer cells" Jan. 2015 - Oncotarget

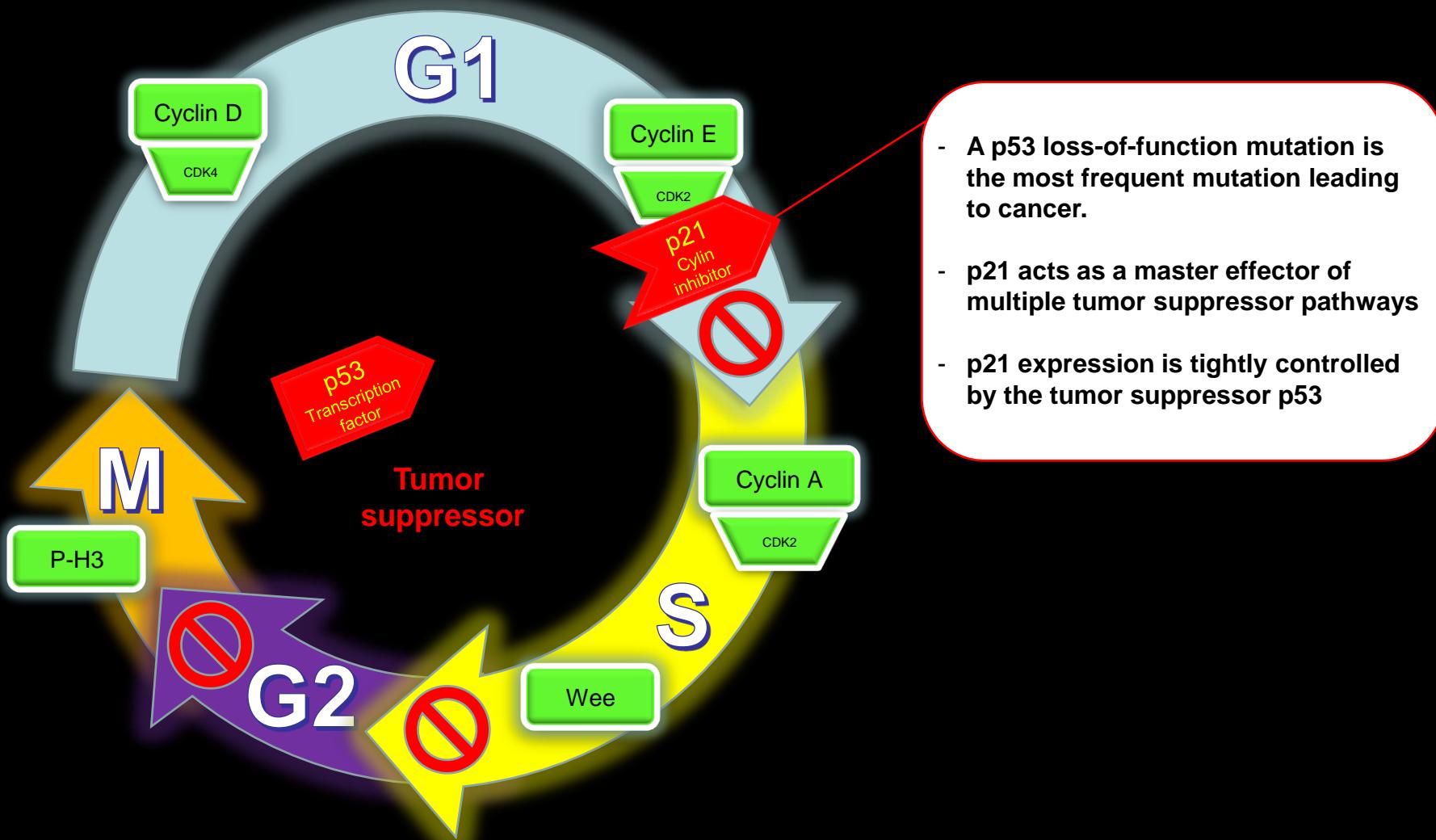
Cyclin E1



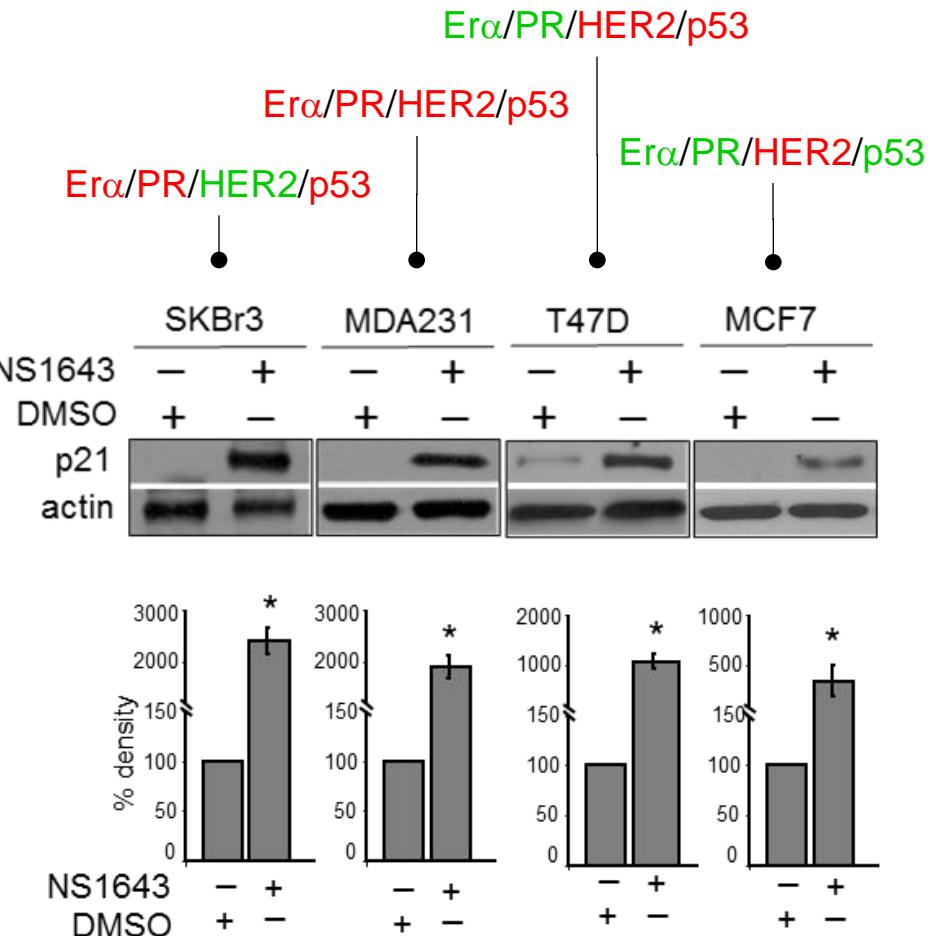
Cyclin E2



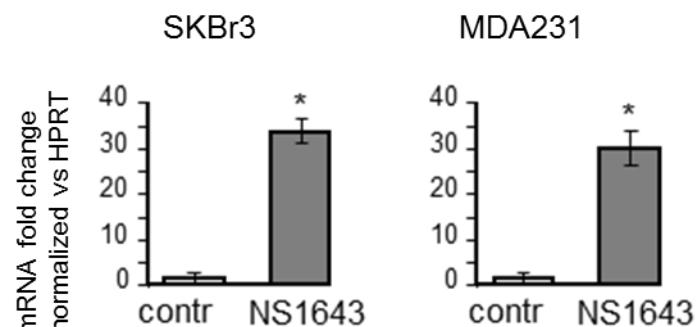
# p21<sup>cip/WAF</sup>



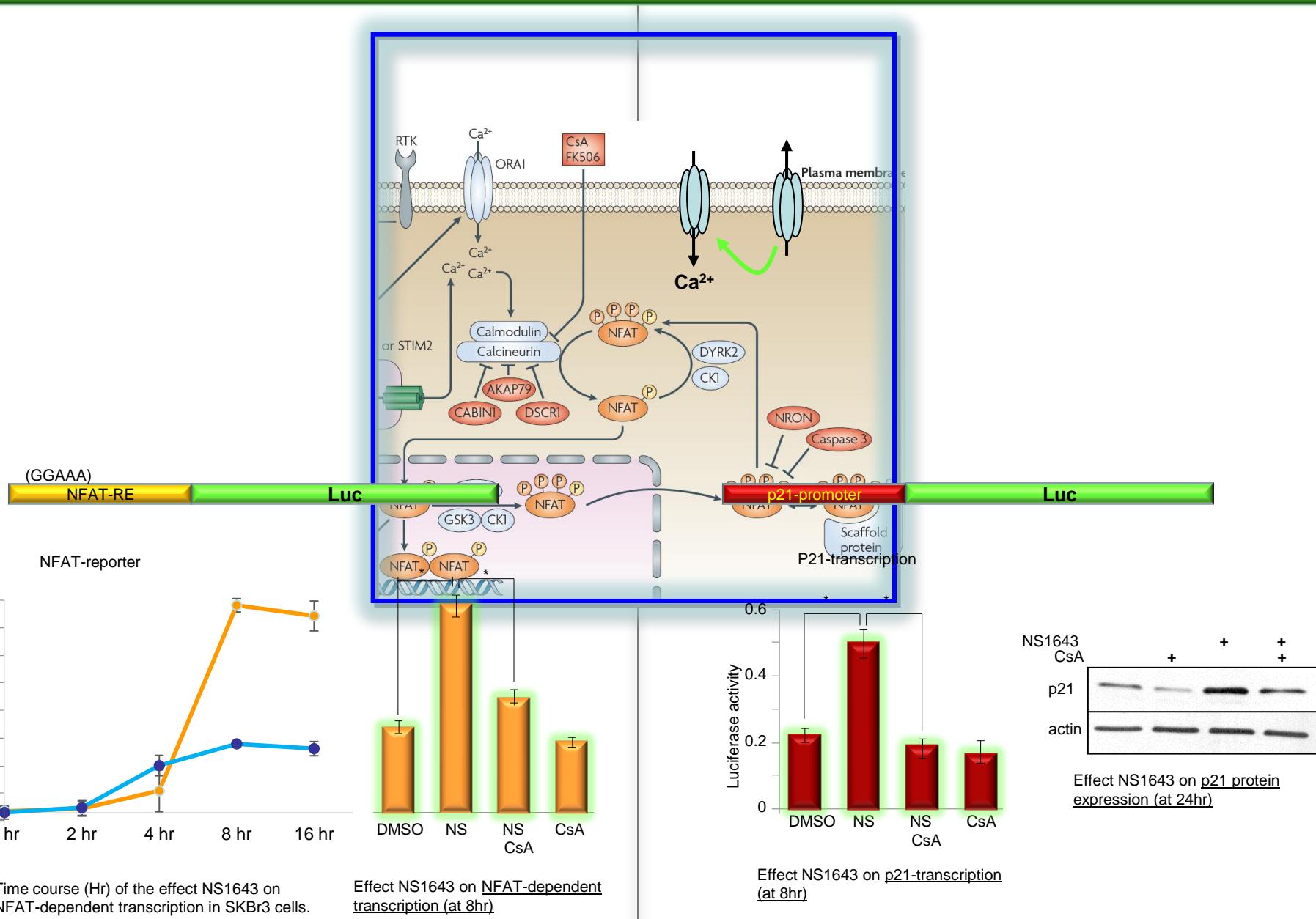
# Stimulation of hERG1 leads to an increase of the tumor suppressor p21

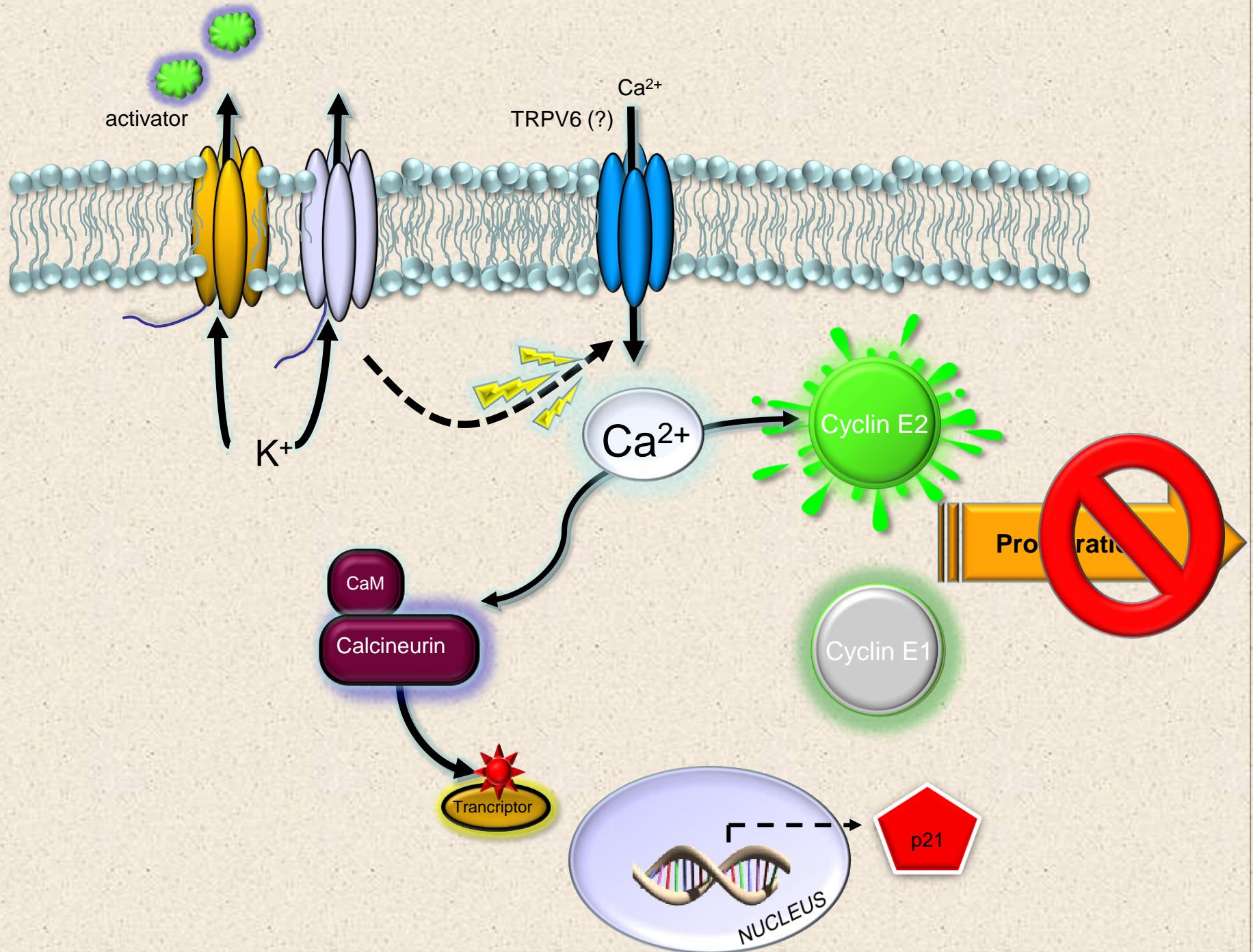


- E $\alpha$ : Estrogen Receptor alpha
- PR: Progesterone Receptor
- HER2: EGFR2
- p53:  $\rightarrow$ p21

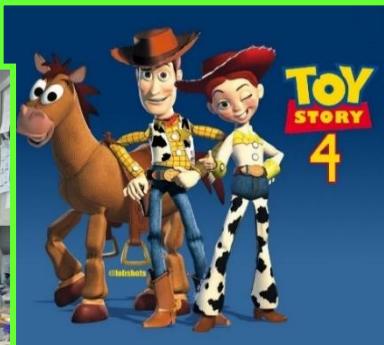


# Stimulation of hERG1 activates transcription of the tumor suppressor p21





**Katherine Lansu**  
(2011-2013)  
now Ph.D. candidate UNC



**Mathew (one t) Perez**  
Psychedelic Tech 2013-present  
now Ph.D. candidate U.of C.



*Vidhya Rao*  
(Post-doc 2014-present)



**Clodia Osipo**  
Loyola Cancer Center



**Thanks to:**

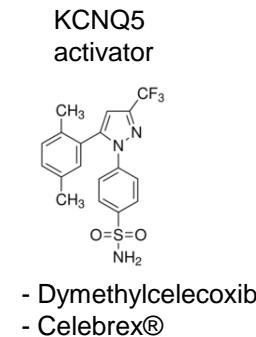
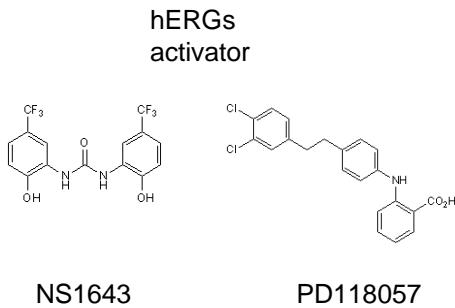
*The bunch...*



**Richard Miller**  
(Northwestern Univ.)



...it is not just hERG1

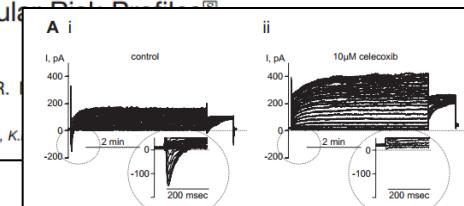


## Celecoxib: A Specific COX-2 Inhibitor With Anticancer Properties

Differential Effects of Selective Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibitors on Vascular Smooth Muscle Ion Channels May Account for Differences in Cardiovascular Risks

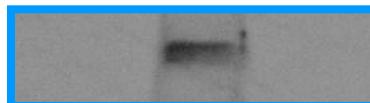
Lioubov I. Brueggemann, Alexander R. Kurn, Kenneth L. Byron

Department of Pharmacology (L.I.B., A.R.M., B.K.M., K.L.B.)  
Maywood, Illinois



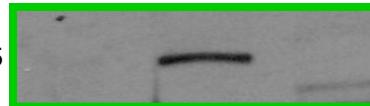
Cell line CHO A375 1123

hERG3

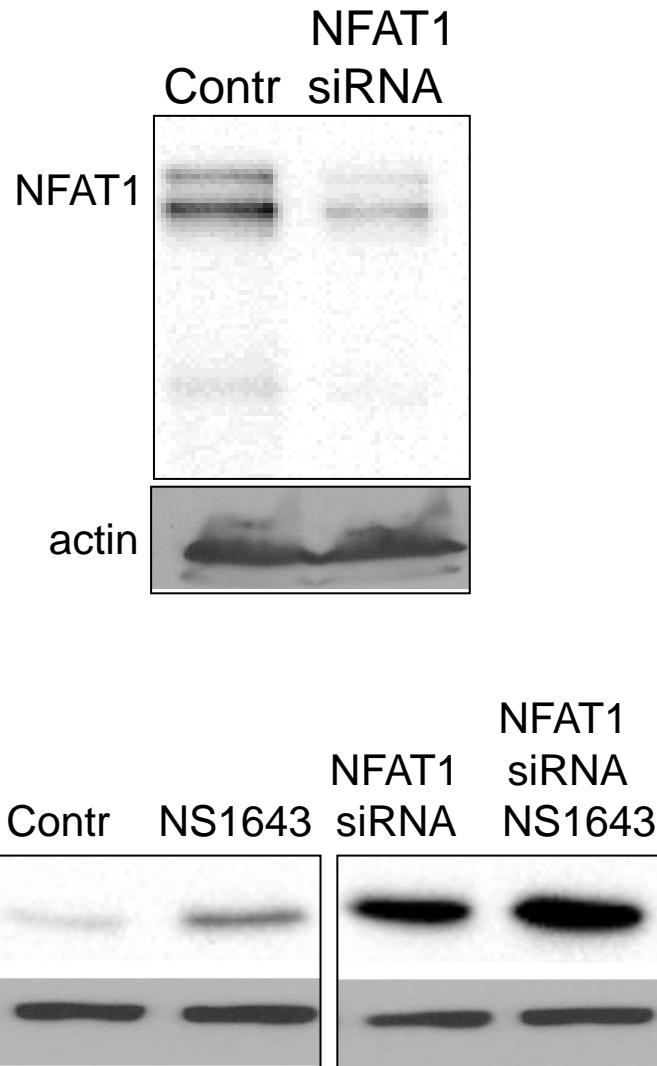
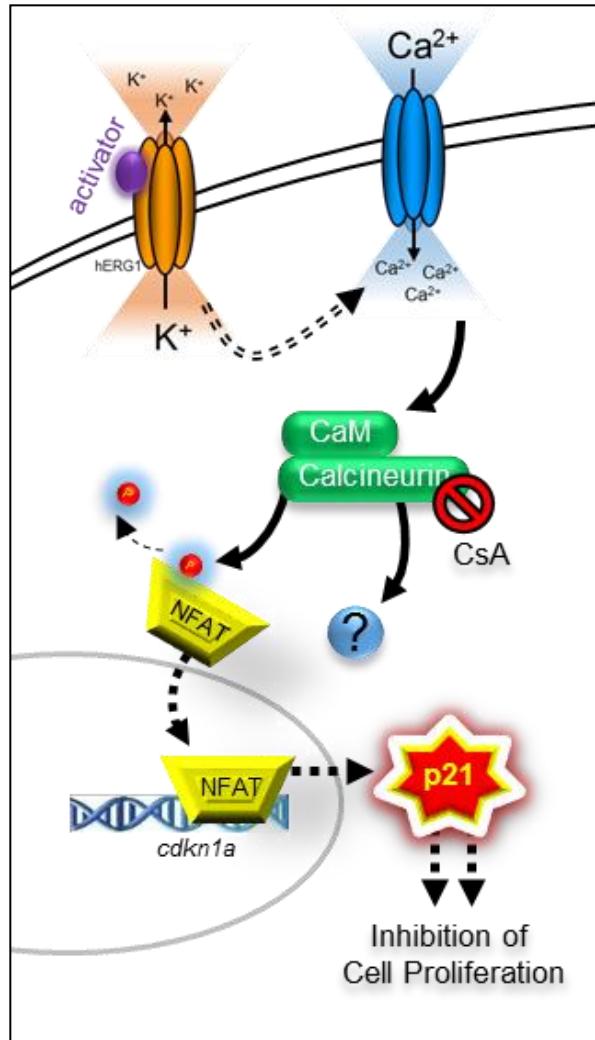


Cell line CHO SKBr3 MDA-231

KCNQ5



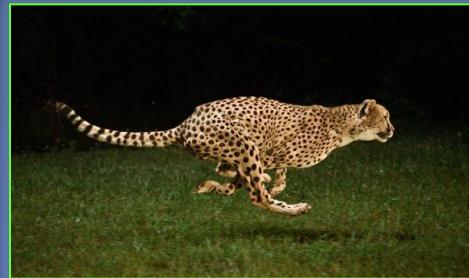
	hERGs activators	KCNQ5 activator
SKBr3 (Herg1)	Inhibition	Inhibition
MDA-231 (Herg1)	Inhibition	Inhibition
Melanoma (Herg3)	Inhibition	
SKBr3 KCNQ5		
Proliferation	Inhibition	Inhibition
Cell cycle	Stop G1/S	Stop G2/M
Cell death	No	No(?)
Autophagy	No	N.D.
Senescence	Yes	Yes



- Ion channels are pore-forming membrane proteins whose functions include establishing electrical signals by gating the flow of ions across the cell membrane.
- Ion channels are key components in a wide variety of biological processes that involve both rapid and slow changes in cells

**milliseconds**

- Neuronal transmission (270 miles/hr)
- Muscle contraction



**minutes**

- Cell volume
- T-cell activation
- Transport of nutrients
- Secretion



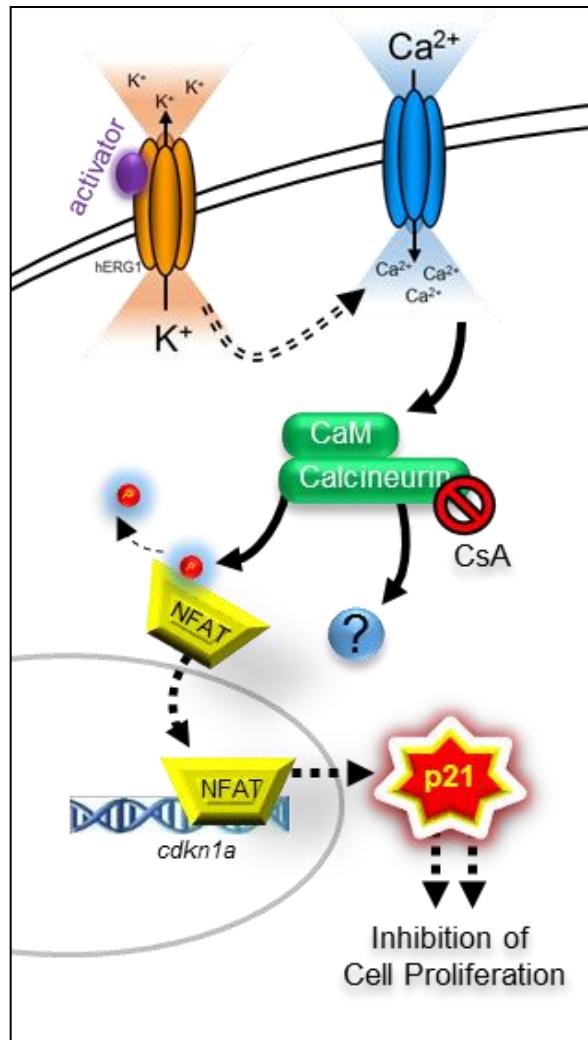
**hours**

- Proliferation



**CANCER**

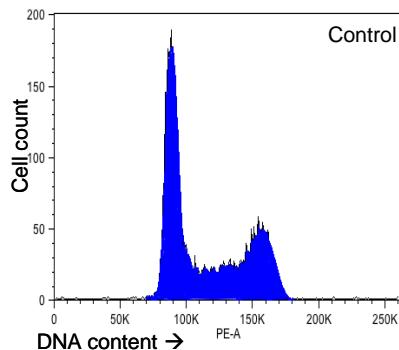




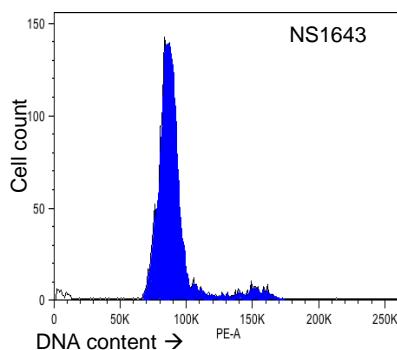
Perez et al. "hERG1Kv11.1 activation stimulates transcription of p21wafcip in breast cancer cells via a calcineurin-dependent mechanism" Apr. 2015 - Oncotarget

# Stimulation of hERG1 channel causes cell cycle arrest in G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub>

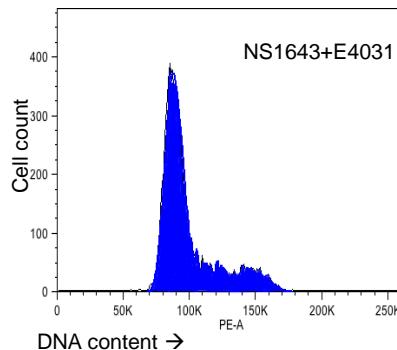
A SKBr3



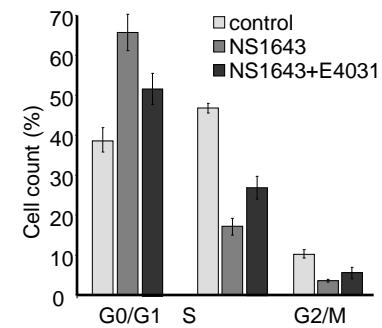
B



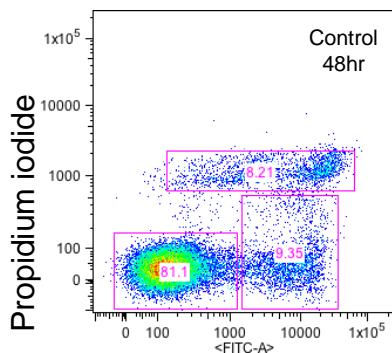
C



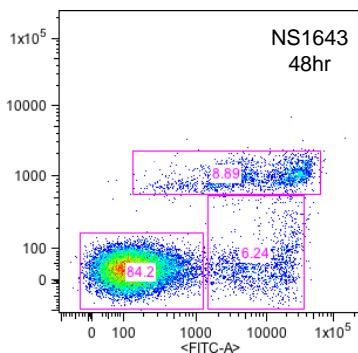
D



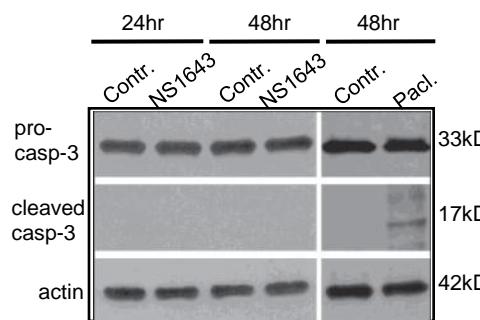
F



G

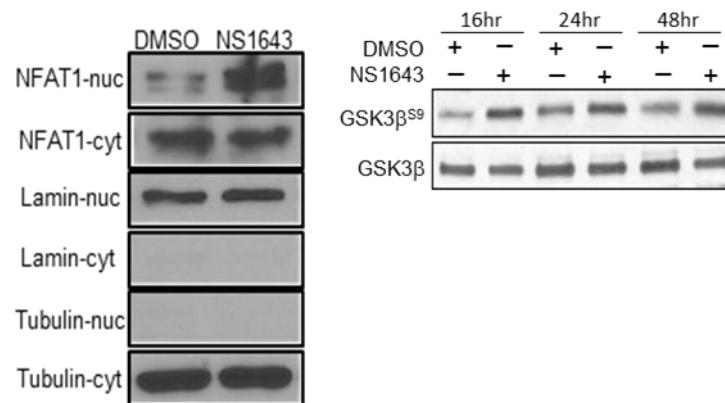
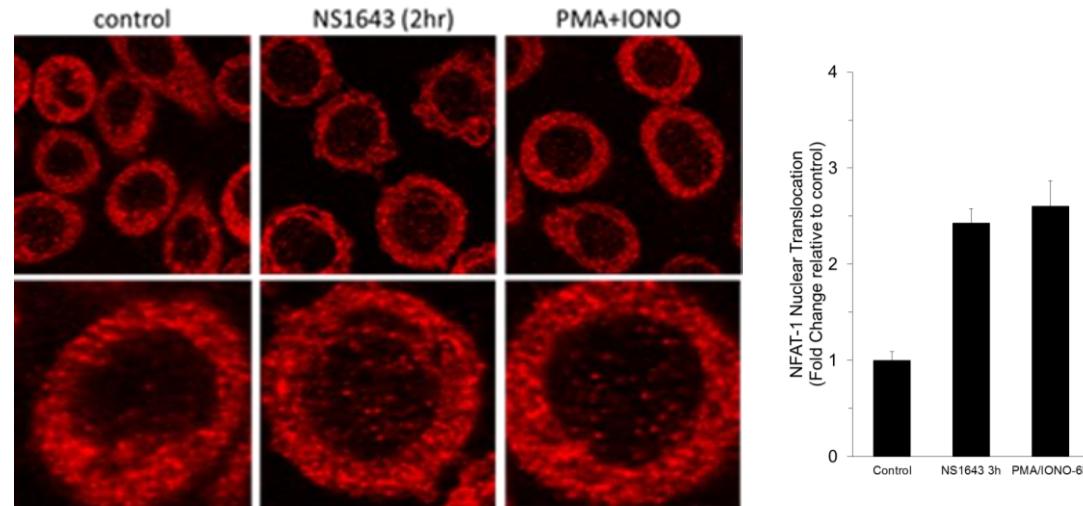


H

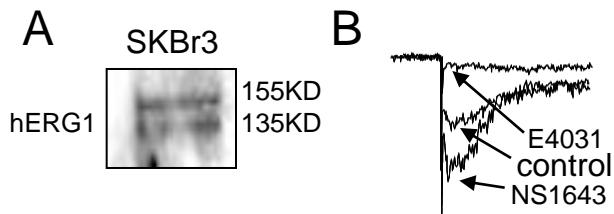
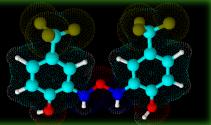


A, B & D) Cell cycle phase distribution of SKBr3 before and after NS1643 or NS1643+E4031 (herg1 blocker) treatment  
 F,G & H) Cell cycle phase distribution of MDA-MD-231 before and after NS1643 treatment.

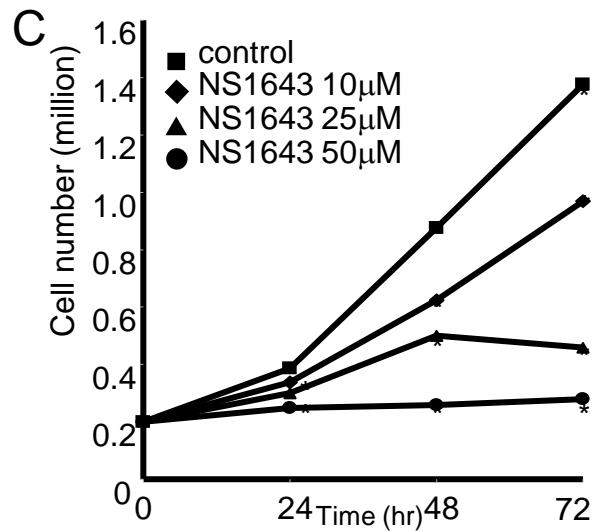
## NS1643 promotes NFAT nuclear translocation



# hERG1 agonists NS1643 inhibit proliferation in breast cancer cells



Kate Lansu



A&D) hERG1 channel expressed in ER-neg breast cancer cell line SKBr3 and CHO cells.

B&D) Effects of the NS1643 (50 $\mu$ M) on hERG1 currents.

C&F) Effects of NS1643 on proliferation rate of hERG1 negative cells.