

2nd Annual

# Ligase Targeting Drug Development

Hijacking E3 Ligases to Mediate Degradation or Modulation of Undrugged Targets

## Drugging Tissue Restricted E3 Ligases for TPD-based Precision Medicine



KYMER A

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**INVENTING NEW MEDICINES**

WITH TARGETED PROTEIN DEGRADATION

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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# Outline

## How We Select Therapeutic Targets

- Drugging all target classes with multiple E3 ligases
- Opportunities for tissue sparing E3 ligases

## How We Select Tissue Sparing E3 Ligases

- Selection criteria for tissue restricted E3 ligases
- A novel E3 ligase with broad utility for solid tumors

# How We Select Our Targets

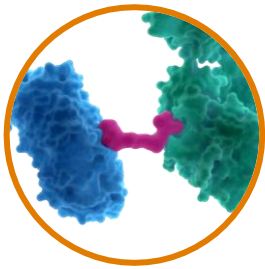


## Expanding the Druggable Proteome with TPD

ID

### Drugged Targets with Clear Degradator Advantage

Small molecule binders exist but unable to drug target fully  
e.g. IRAK4, MDM2...



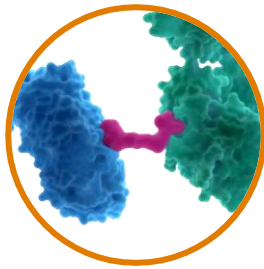
Heterobifunctional Degraders

UD

### Undrugged Targets

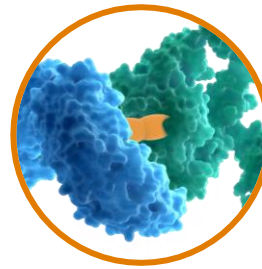
No other technology can drug

Ligandable Proteins  
e.g. STAT3...



Heterobifunctional Degraders

Un-ligandable Proteins  
e.g. MYC,  $\beta$ -catenin...



Molecular Glues

TR

### Clinically Validated Targets Unlocked by E3 Ligase Differential Expression

On target unwanted pharmacology limits clinical application  
e.g. BH3, JAK's...

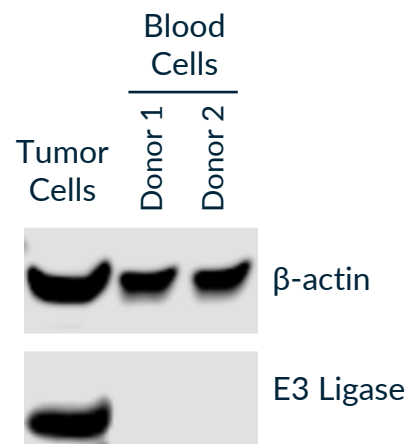


Tissue sparing or selective E3 ligases eliminate unwanted toxicity and allow full clinical potential

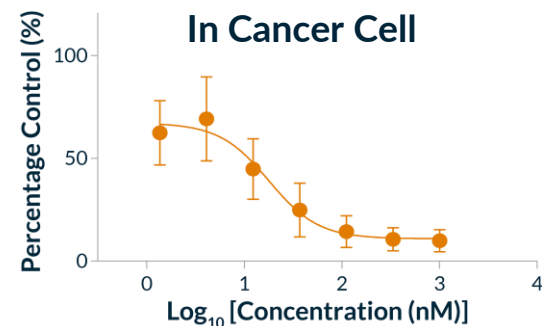
# Unlocking a Clinically Validated Target by a Tissue Sparing E3

- Kymera has characterized an E3 ligase that is expressed broadly but NOT in ONE blood cell type
- A clinically validated oncology target has dose limiting toxicity driven by on-target pharmacology in the same blood cell type where this E3 ligase is absent/very low

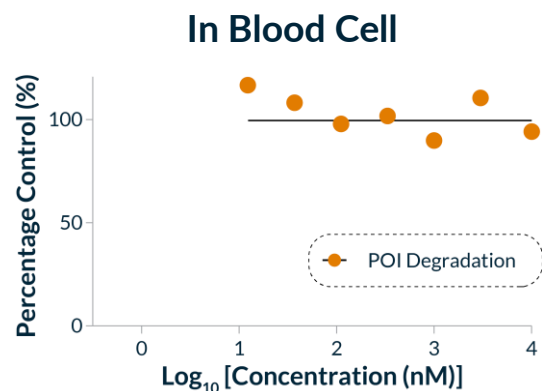
## E3 Ligase is Almost Absent in One Blood Cell Type



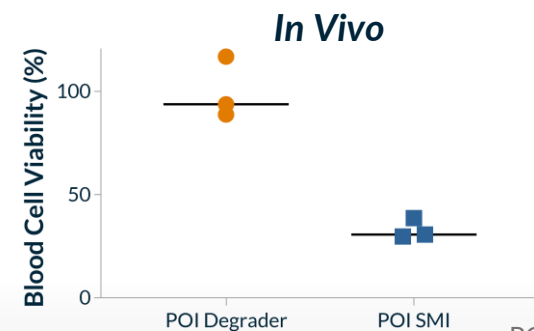
## Optimization and Degradation Program



Kymera's degrader using this E3 ligase **degrades target in cancer cells**



Kymera's degrader using this E3 ligase **DOES NOT degrade target in one blood cell type**



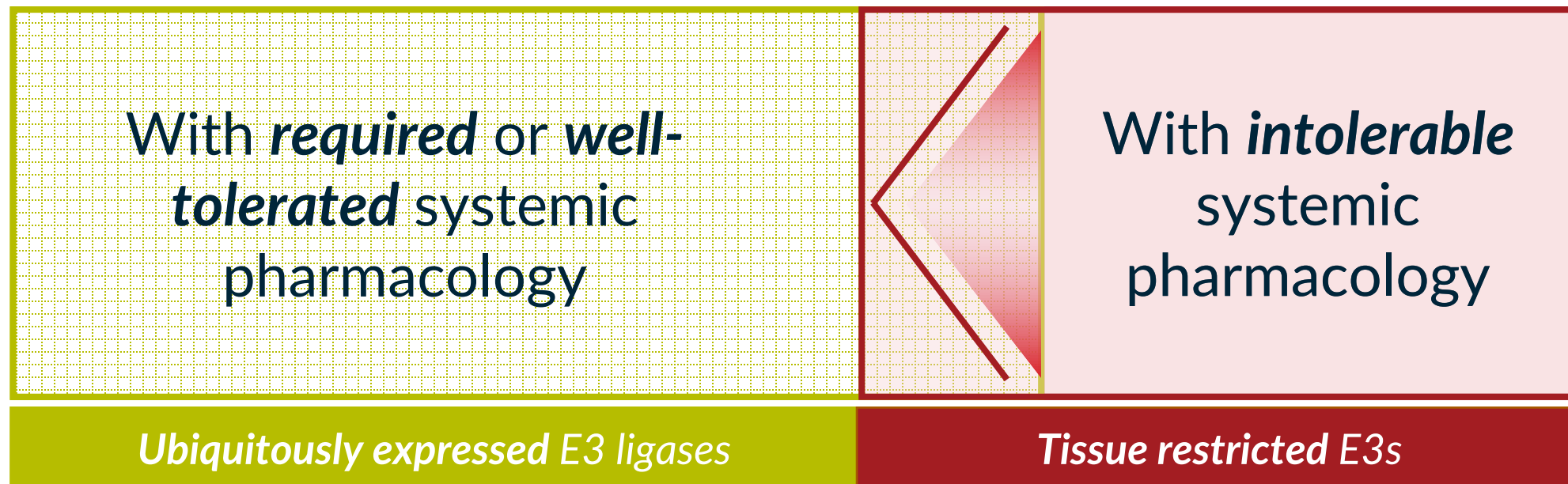
In a pharmacologically active dose *in vivo* a **degrader allows blood cells to survive** while SMI leads to substantial cell death

POI = protein target of interest

- This program is projected to nominate a development candidate in 2022

# New Opportunities for Clinically Validated Targets

## Ubiquitously Expressed Protein Targets



- There are many therapeutic proteins where a systemic blockade of their biology is **not tolerated**
- TPD with tissue restricted E3 ligases can help advance these classes of targets

# Outline

## How We Select Therapeutic Targets

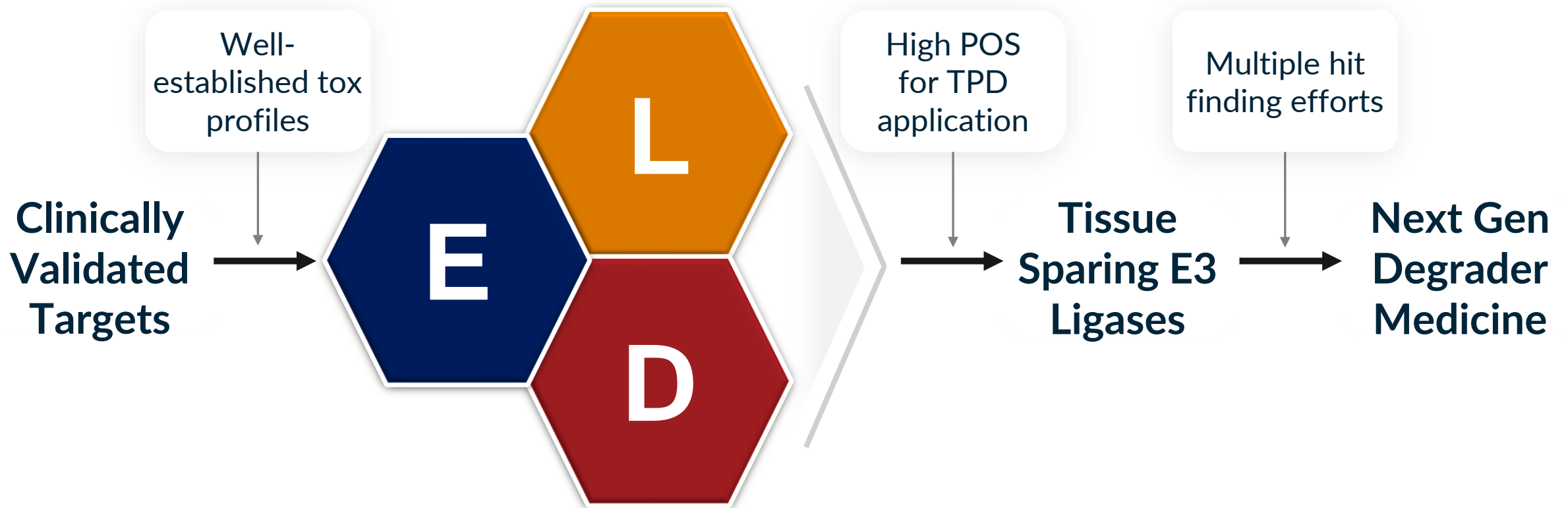
- Drugging all target classes with multiple E3 ligases
- Opportunities for tissue sparing E3 ligases

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# How We Select Tissue Sparing E3 Ligases

L.E.D Criteria Serve to Identify Matching E3 Ligases



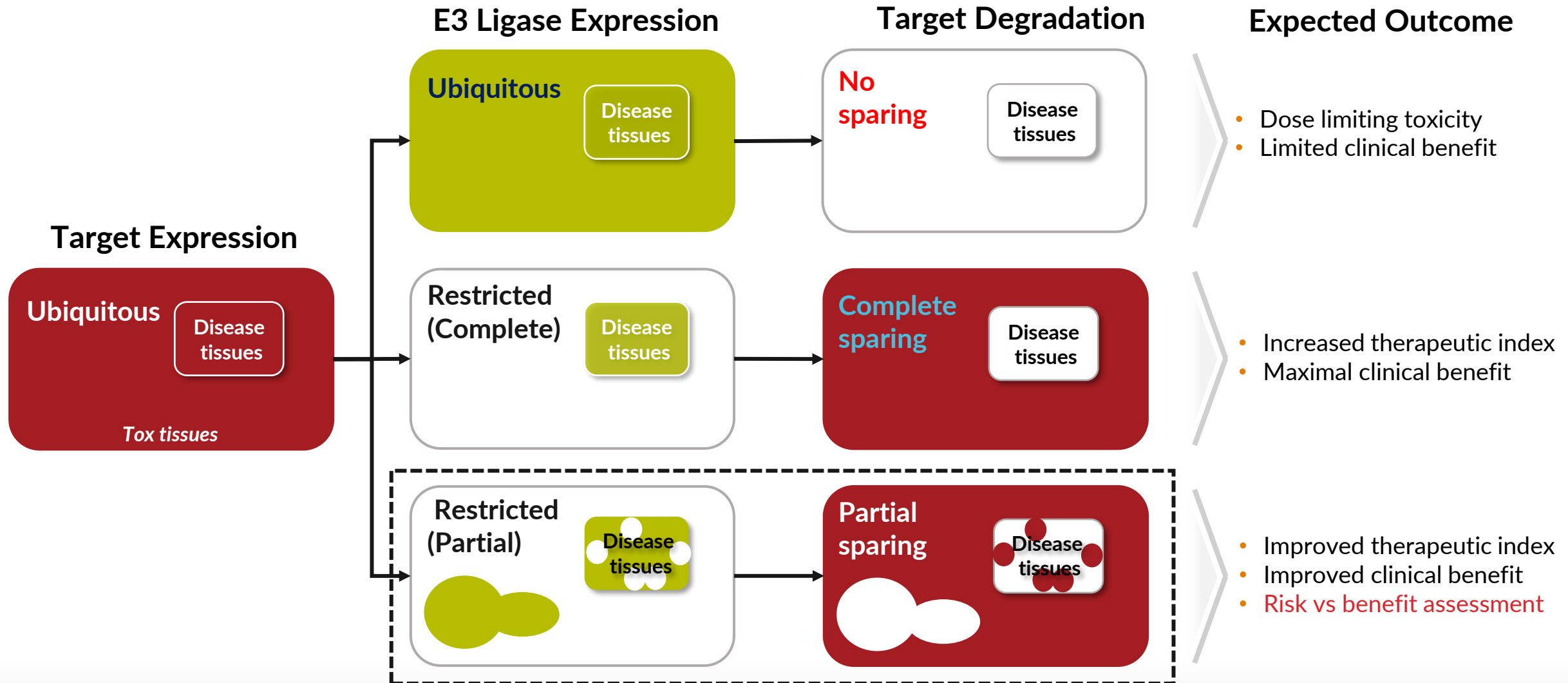
**L**igandability; **E**xpression; **D**egradation





# Desired Outcome for Tissue Sparing E3 Ligases

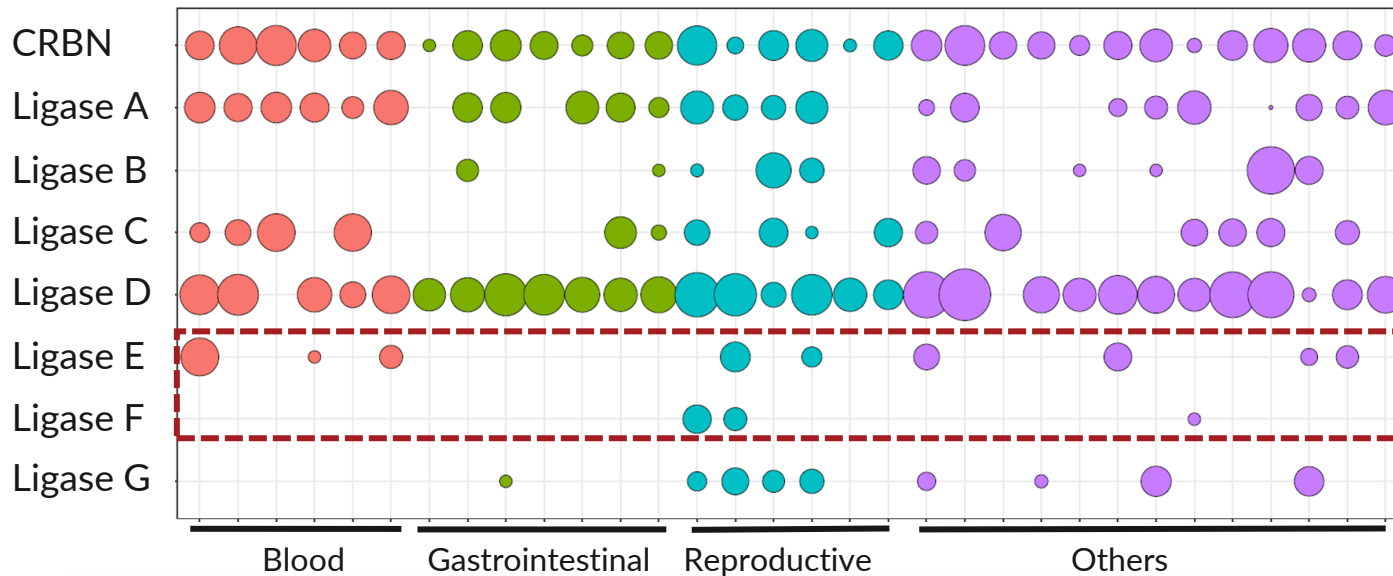
Increase of Therapeutic Index



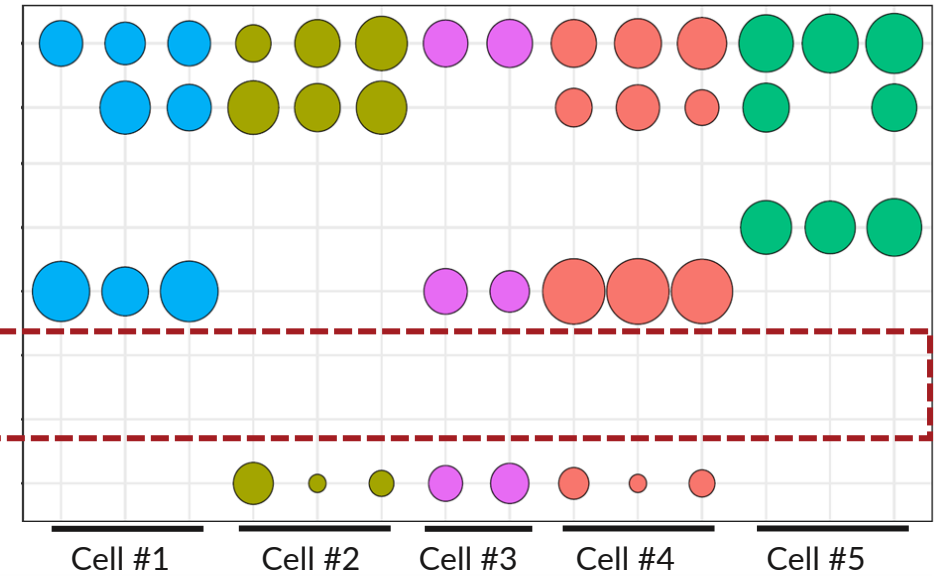


## Example: Protein Expression of Select E3s in Healthy Tissues

32 Different Healthy tissues



5 Primary Tox Cell Models

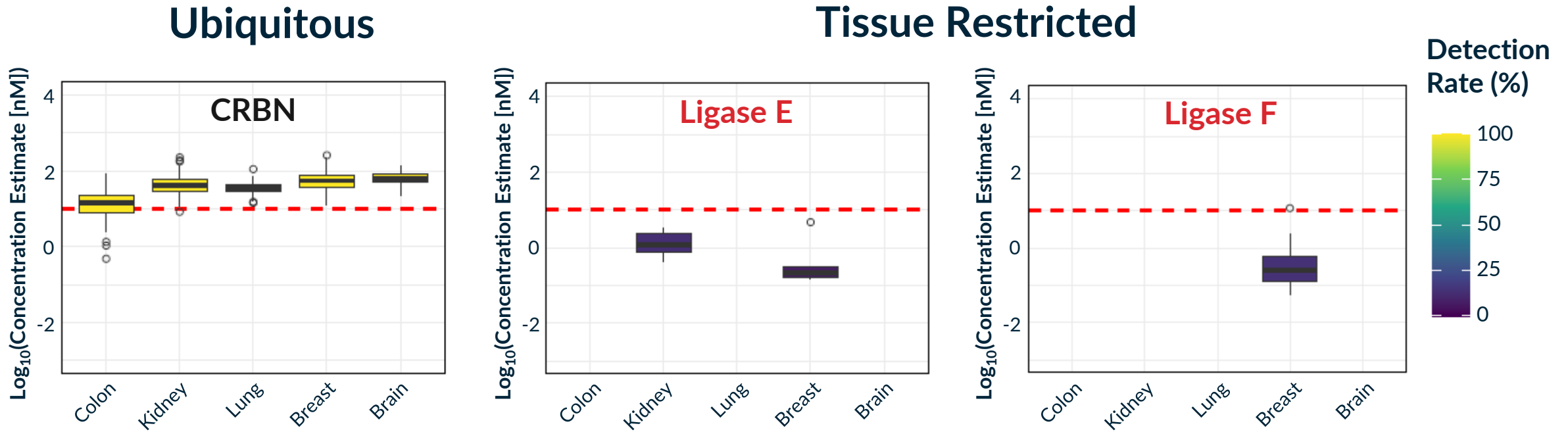


- Complete absence across different tox cell types (e.g. Ligase B, E, F) could be due to detection limit. In these E3 cases, it is important to confirm by the bulk tissue RNAseq data (e.g. GTEX) as well as scRNAseq studies for a specific tissue
- E3 ligases with very restricted expression in normal tissues (e.g. ligase F) may have little clinical utility, unless expression is seen to be upregulated in the disease settings

**Proteomics Team** Data: Healthy Tissue E3 Atlas incorporating internal and published (Wang et al., *Mol Syst Biol*, 2019) deep label-free proteomics datasets.



## Example: Limited Utility for Highly Restricted E3 Ligases



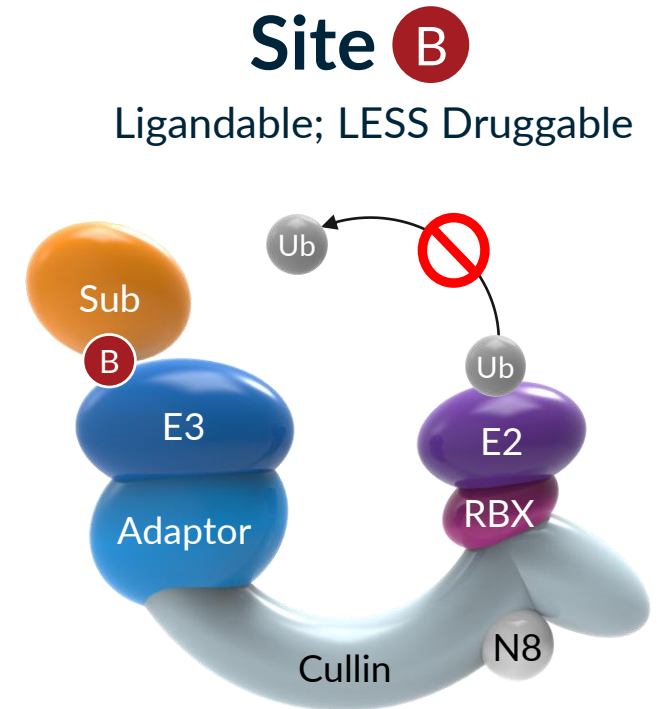
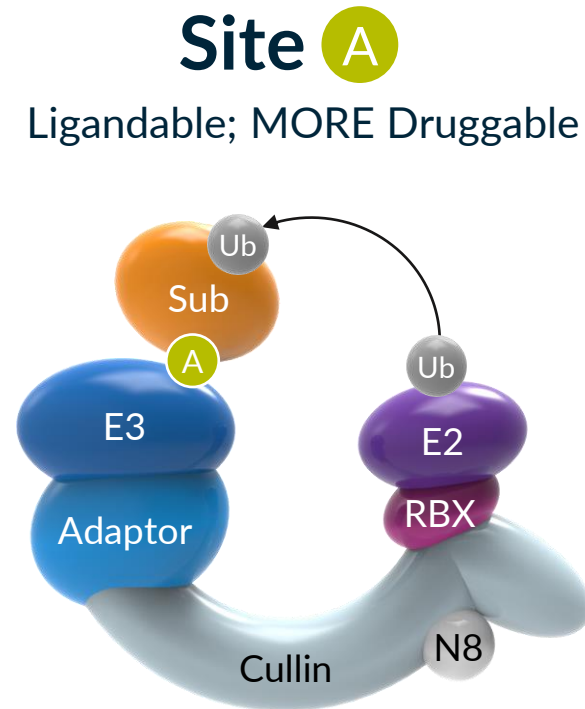
Data: Selected datasets from the Clinical Proteomics Tumor Analysis Consortium (CPTAC) and Cancer Genome Atlas Program (TCGA) reprocessed in E3 Atlas.

- For expression in the actual cancer cells (vs surrounding stroma), we evaluate protein and RNA data from CCLE and scRNAseq data from tumor samples.
- Highly restricted E3 ligases tend to have more heterogenous expression within the same tumor type



# What Makes an E3 Ligandable and Druggable at Kymera?

- **Ligandability:** *likelihood* of identifying a small-molecule binder with affinity < 1 uM
- **Druggability:** *likelihood* of converting the ligand into a degrader with therapeutic potential



- Ligands that bind to either site A or B can lead to TCF but **only site A binders** could be converted to efficient degraders
- Validation of “**degrader competent**” site(s) by identifying **degron(s)** is desired to assess “**ligandability**” and “**druggability**”

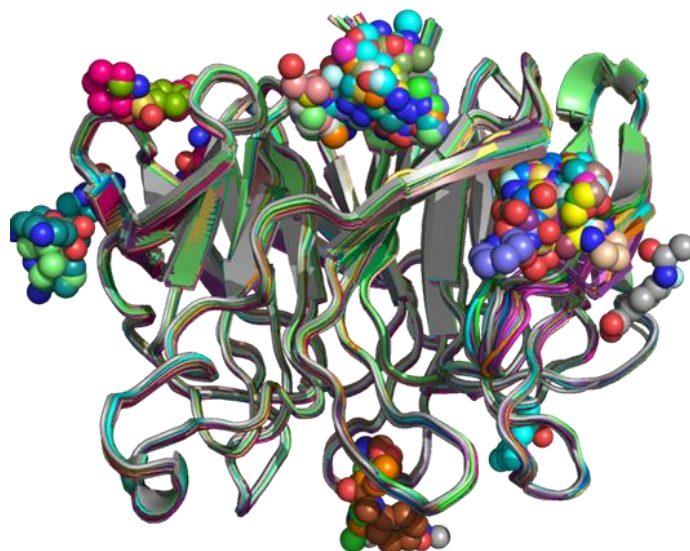


# Ligandability Assessment by Pilot Screens

## Fragment-Based Screen



Example of FBS by X-ray Crystal



### Criteria

- Availability of high quality protein with robust crystal system

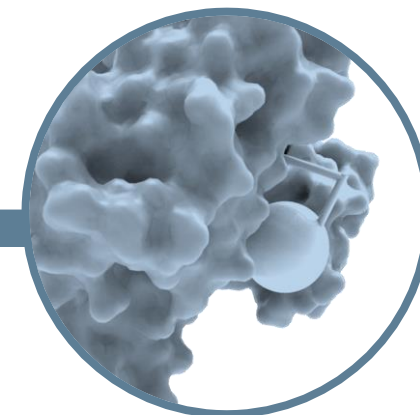
### Approaches

- Orthogonal validation of hits by SPR and NMR by SBDD

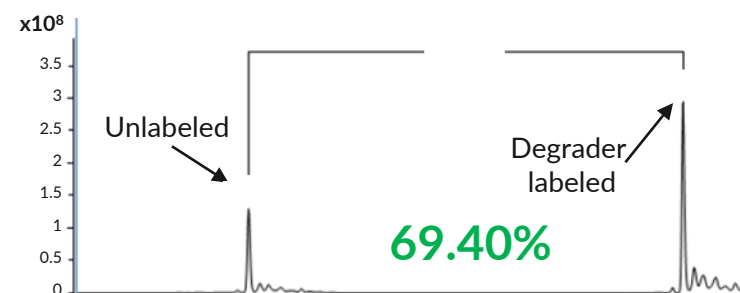
### Advantages

- Rapid evaluation of multiple potential ligandable sites

## Cysteine Covalent Screening



Covalent Screen by Intact MS



Assessment of **functional competency** by *in vitro* ub and/or COFFEE assay with functionalized (degrader-labeled) E3 ligase

### Criteria

- Surface exposed reactive cysteines

### Approaches

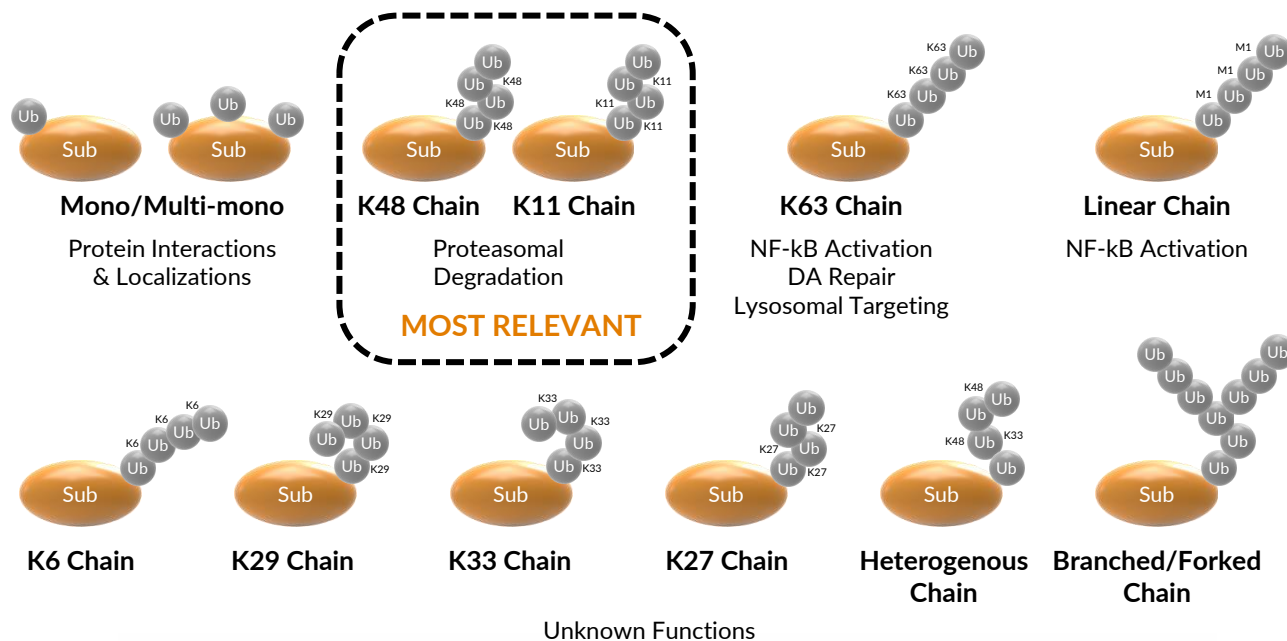
- Covalent fragment screen on purified protein by intact MS

### Advantages

- Early assessment of functionality of Cys sites by covalent degraders



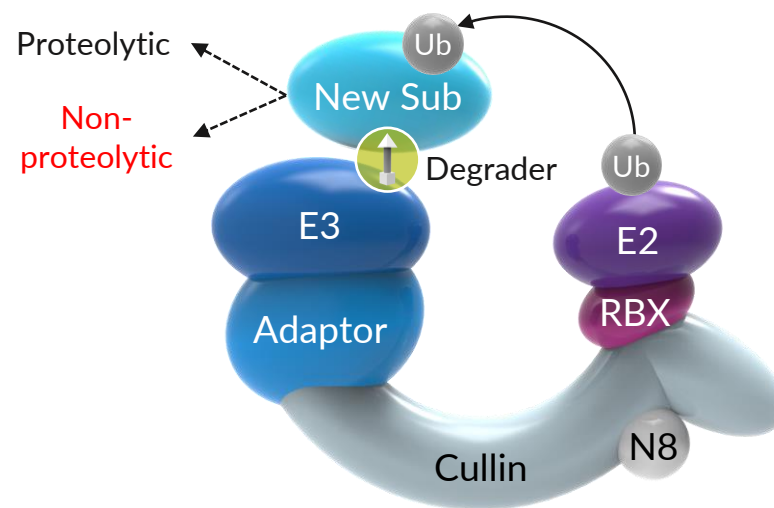
- >600 known E3 ligases in human



- The vast majority (>95%) of human E3 ligases are RING domain based which **do not** specify ubiquitin chain linkage

Adapted from: Park CW et al. *BMB Rep.* 2014

- Not all E3 ligases are suitable for TPD application



- Validation of intrinsic **degradative activity** is a must-have mitigation strategy

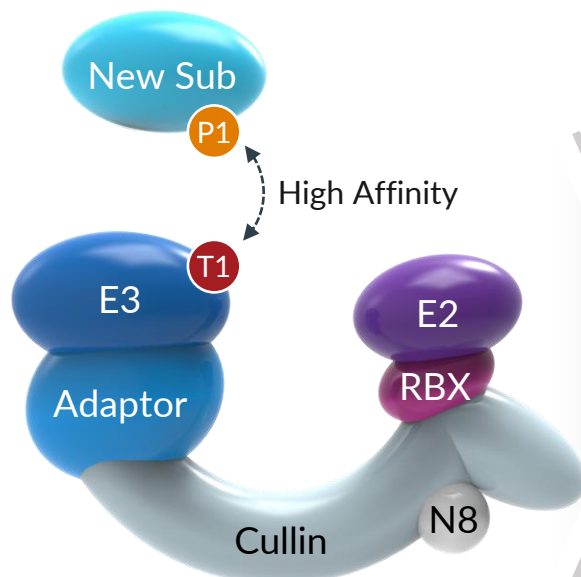




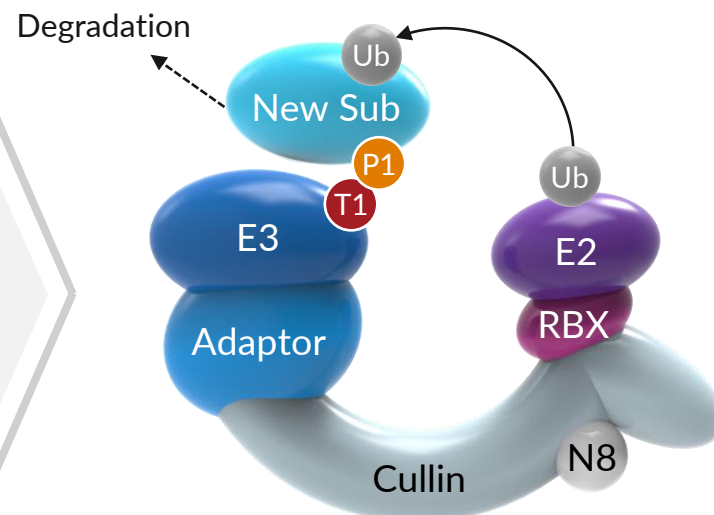
# How We Validate Degradative Activity of E3 Ligases

New Proximity Assay Based on High Affinity Peptide-protein Pair

## Leveraging Peptide-Protein Pair

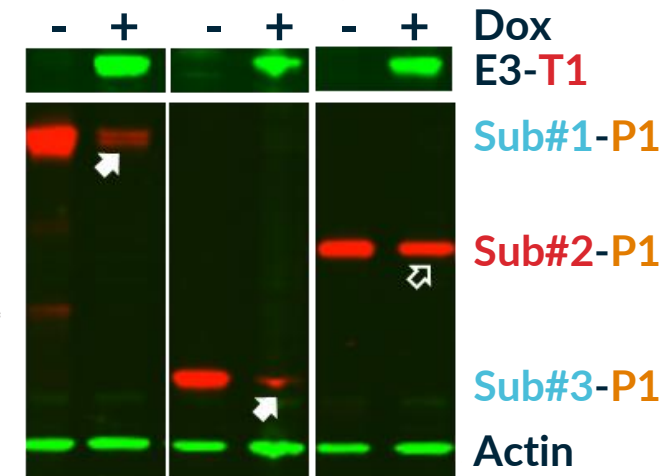


## Forced E3-Sub Interaction



## PoC of New Proximity System

Example with Ligase D



- Not all neo subs are equally degradable!
- Ubiquitination is likely to happen on subs

- Leveraging a **high affinity interaction** between peptide (T1) and protein (P1) to enable a forced proximity of E3 and substrates
- Enable early assessment of **intrinsic degradative activity** of novel E3 ligases in both cellular and cell-free contexts
- Small peptide size (~15a.a.) allows for assessment of "D" with a **minimal perturbation** of the natural conformation E3 ligases
- Affinity between T1-P1 could be **"tunable"** by T1 variants; Scalable and quantitative with readily degradable reporter proteins

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# A Novel Tissue Sparing E3 Ligase with Broad Cancer Utility

## High Level Background

<b>Ligase Type:</b>	RING domain-based
<b>Known Substrates:</b>	Multiple degradative substrates identified
<b>Function:</b>	Confidential Information
<b>Crystal Structures:</b>	Structure solved by internal effort
<b>Value Proposition:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broad utility in cancer</li><li>• Highly expressed in multiple cancer types</li><li>• Low to no expression in key tox cell types.</li><li>• Compelling biology for UPS involvement.</li></ul>

## Tractability Assessment

### Precedence and Datamining

- ☒ Contains ligandable domains/protein family analysis
- ☒ Known degrons/substrates
- ☐ Known and validated small-molecule

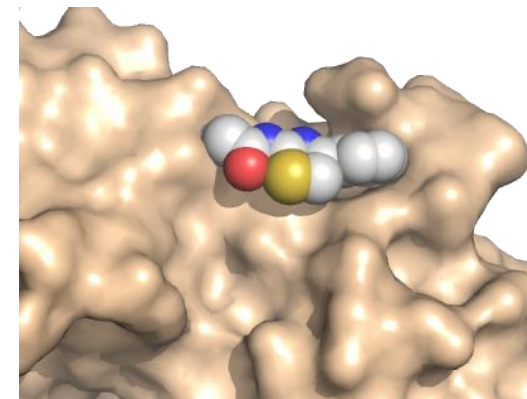
### Structure-based Assessments

- ☒ Ligandability score
- ☐ Cryptic pocket available

### Experimental/Biophysical

- ☒ Identified hits from pilot screens

## Progress on Chemical Matter



An example of ligand-bound Ligase D

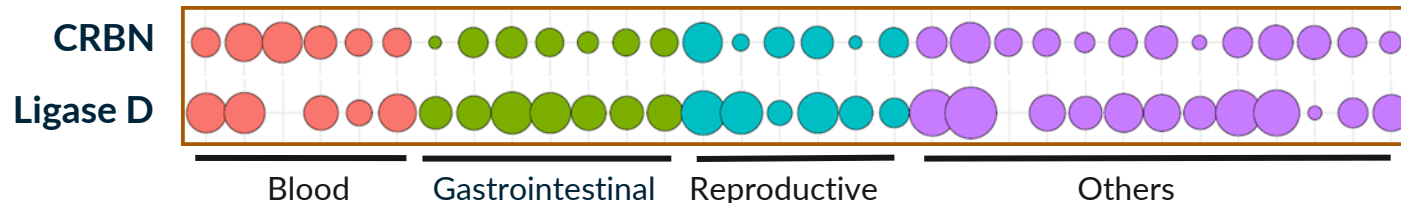
Protein Sciences & Lead Discovery

- **FBS by X-ray crystal:** multiple hits binding to 3 sites, including a known degron binding site; one with Cys
- **Cysteine covalent screen:** multiple single-labeling hits with confirmation by co-crystals
- **DEL screen:** (+/-) competitors to identify more “drug-like” molecules

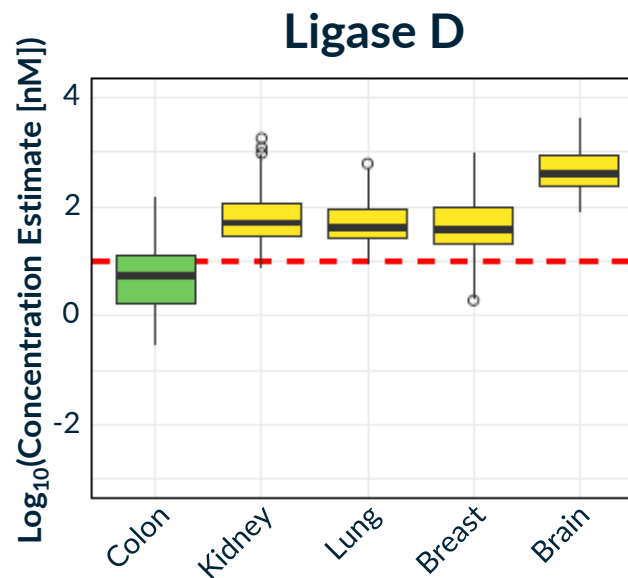
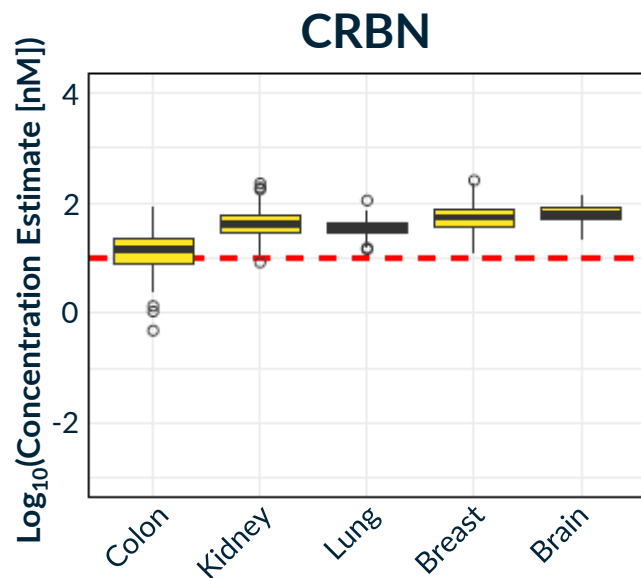
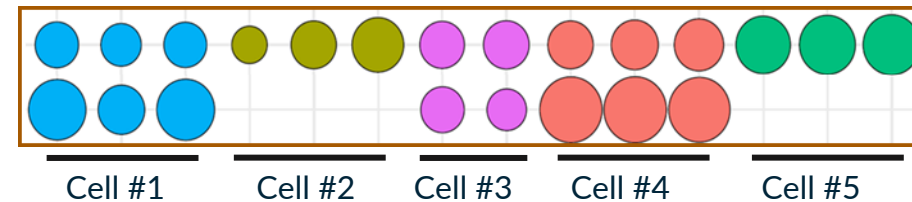


# Protein Expression of Ligase D in Healthy and Cancer Tissues

## 32 Different Healthy Tissues



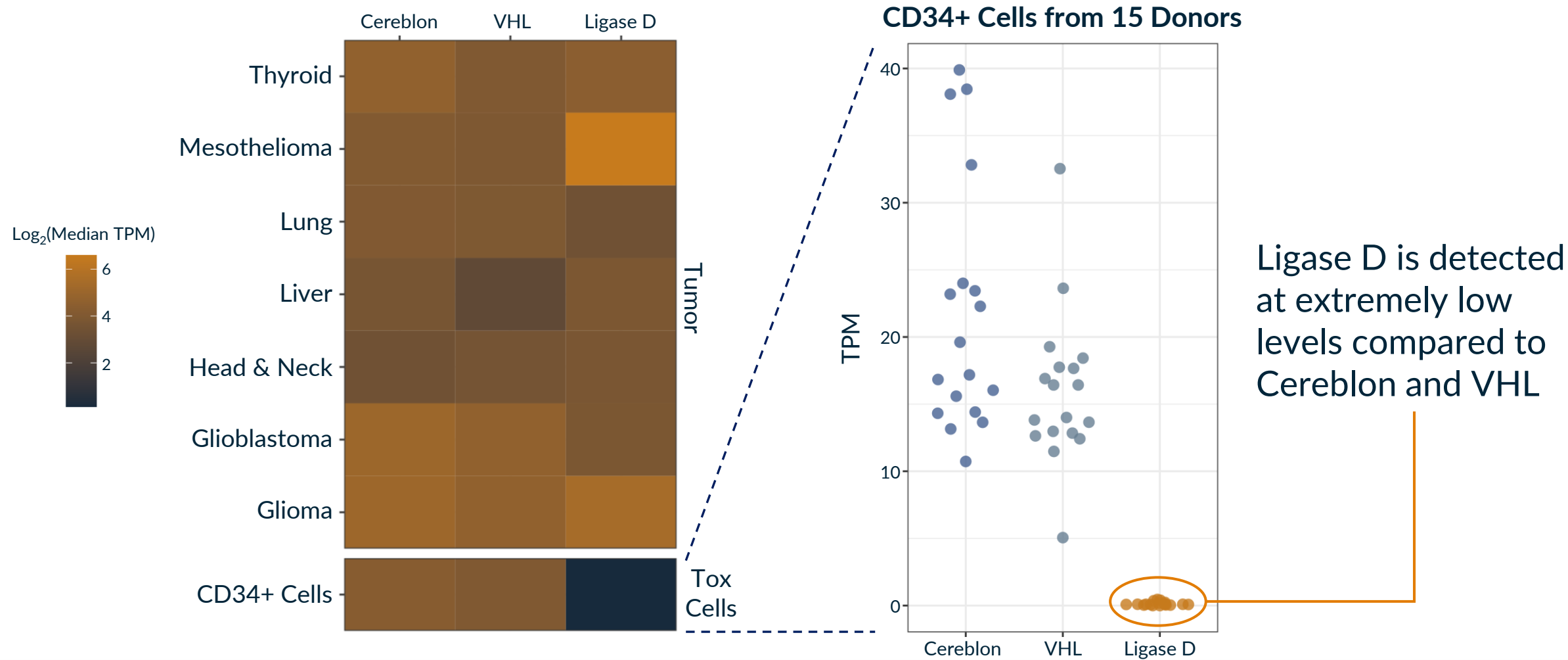
## 5 Primary Tox Cell Models



- Highly expressed in multiple cancer types (i.e. comparable to CRBN)
- Very low to no expression in key tox cells, especially in blood progenitors
- Tissue-sparing potential is suitable for multiple solid tumor indications



# Ligase D is Not Expressed in Blood Lineage Progenitors

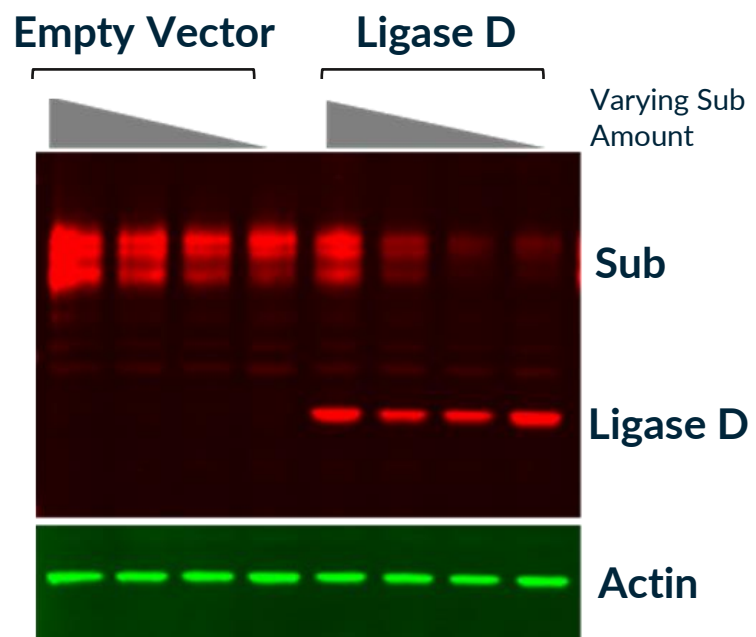


TCGA RNAseq, reprocessed by Toil; CD34+ RNAseq from Yuan, *Blood*, 2021, reprocessed internally

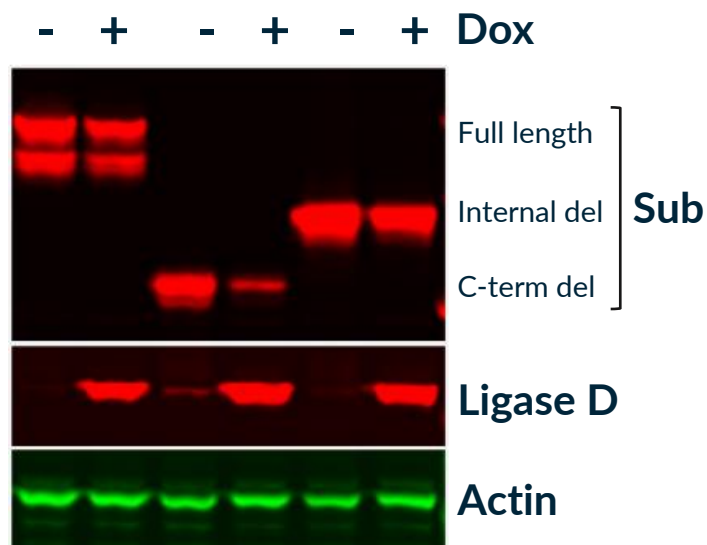


# Robust “D” Toward Natural and Neo-substrates

## Degradation of Endogenous Substrate

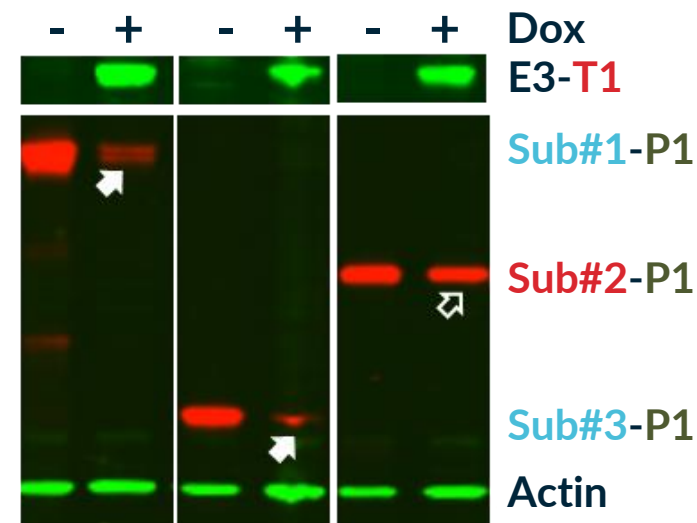


## Dox-inducible Stable Lines



## Degradation of Neo Substrates

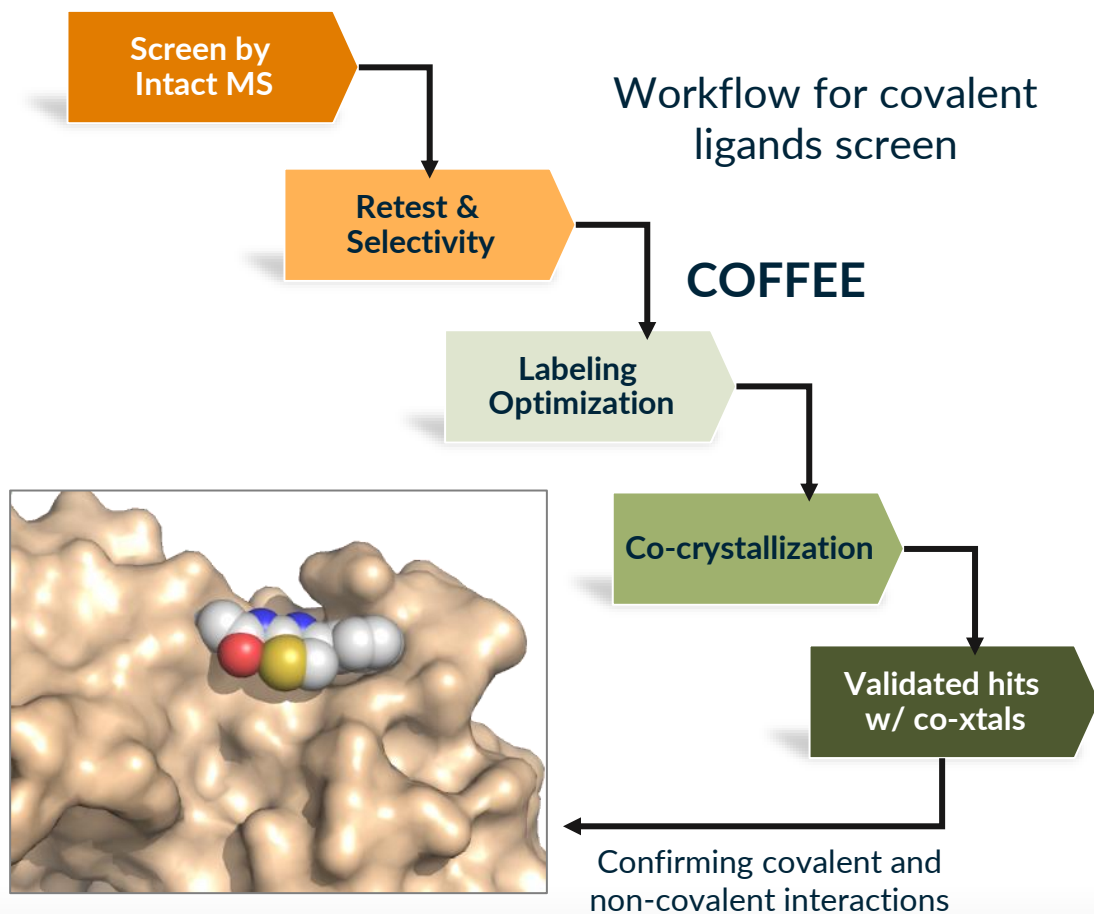
### PoC of New Proximity System



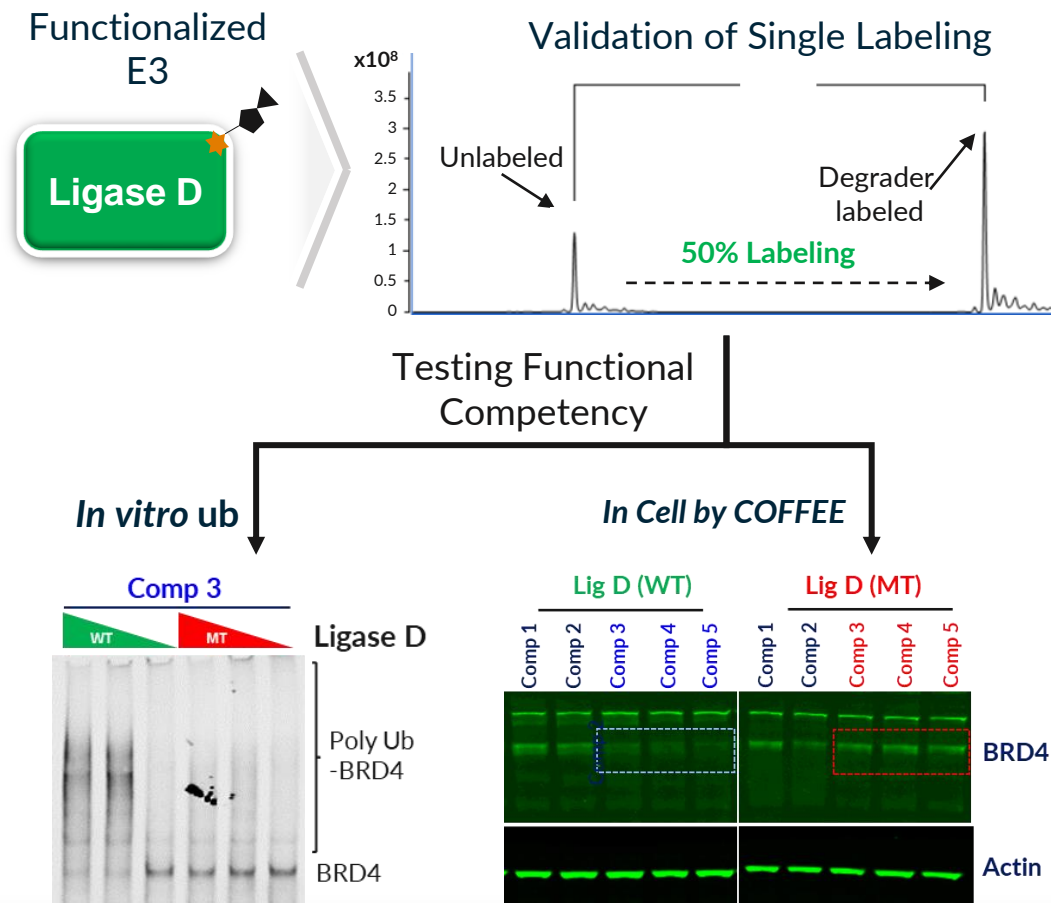


# Validation of Druggability of Novel Site

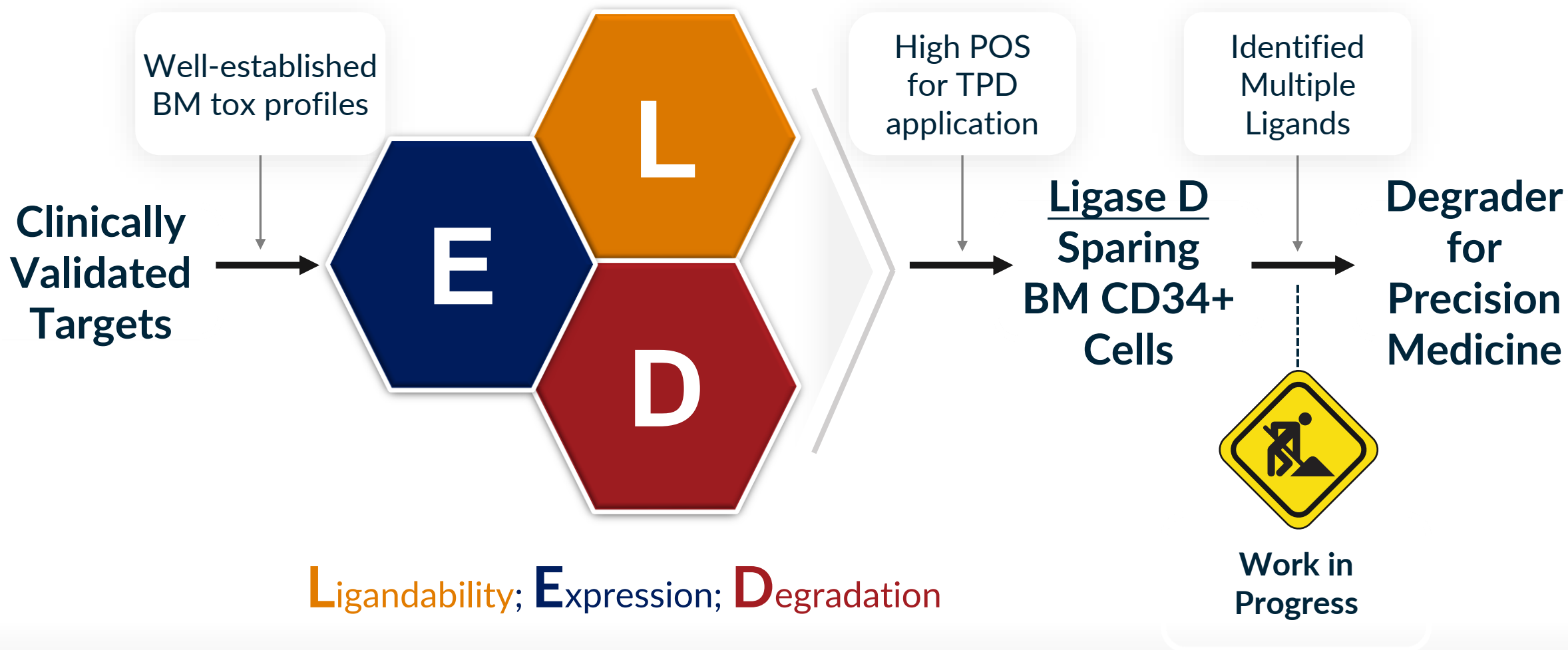
## Identification of Covalent Ligands



## Validation of Functional Competency



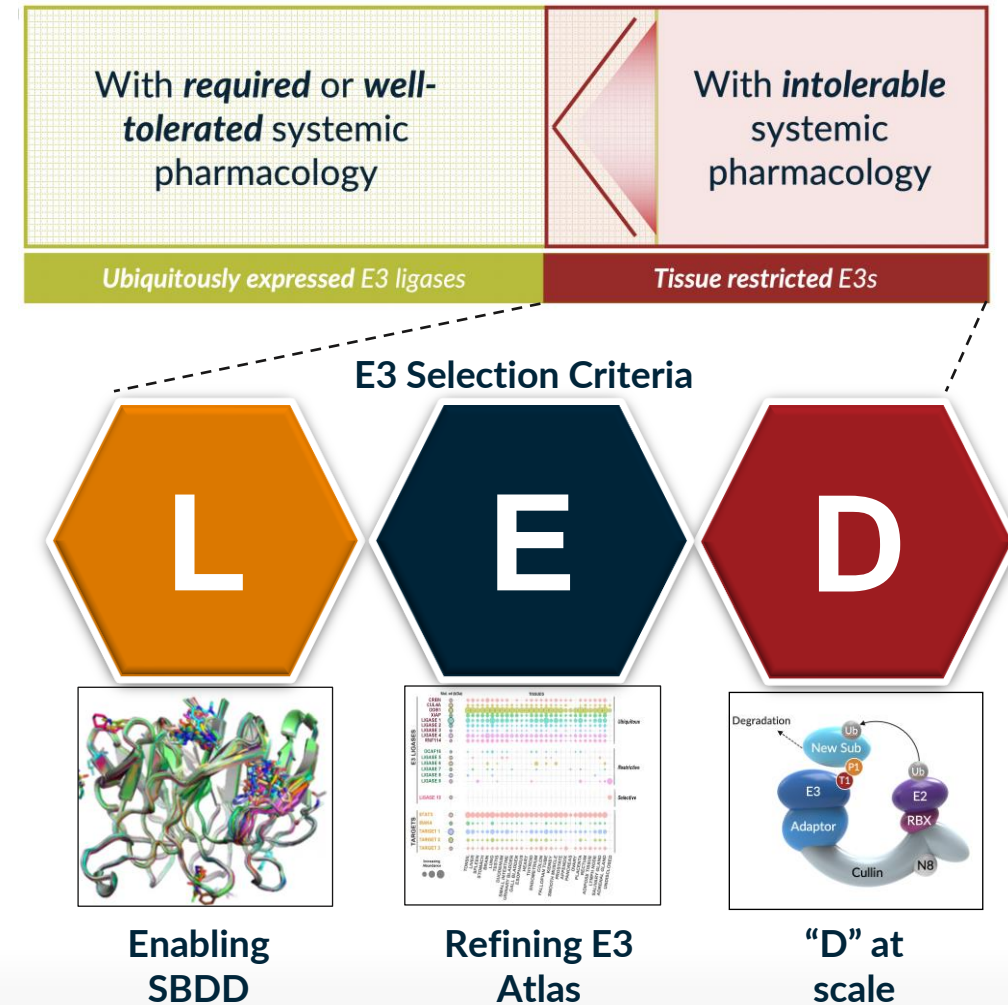
# Developing Next Gen Degradar for Precision Medicine



# Summary and Future Ambition

- TPD with **tissue sparing E3 ligases** can help maximize the therapeutic index of clinically well-validated targets by minimizing on-target toxicity
- Tissue restricted degradation can enable new **therapeutic opportunities** for these classes of targets
- The E3 Ligase Whole-Body Atlas identified multiple E3 ligases with **restricted expression** across different healthy tissues and tox cell types
- Through Pegasus Platform combined with L.E.D selection criteria, we identified a novel tissue-sparing E3 with a broad utility in solid tumor indications

## Enabling TPD-based Precision Medicine







# Thank You



July 2021