CHAPTER 4

Oxidation of p53 through DNA charge transport involves a network of disulfides within the DNA-binding domain

Adapted from Schaefer, K. N., Geil, W. M., Sweredoski, M. J., Moradian, A., Hess, S., and Barton, J. K. (2015) Oxidation of p53 through DNA Charge Transport Involves a Network of Disulfides within the DNA-Binding Domain. *Biochemistry* 54, 932–941.

KNS and WMG produced the protein mutants and conducted EMSA experiments; KNS conducted mass spectrometry sample preparation; MJS, AM, and SH conducted mass spectrometry on QTRAP 6500 and acquired data; and KNS analyzed data.

INTRODUCTION

Transcription factor p53 is one of the most heavily studied human proteins due to its marked prevalence of mutation in human cancer. Over half of all human cancers display mutations in the p53 gene, with the vast majority of these mutations localized to the DNA-binding domain, as seen in Figure 4.1.¹⁻³ Although much research has been conducted on this protein and its many roles within the cell, the precise mechanisms by which p53 senses cellular stresses and influences cellular fate are still largely unknown. We have previously shown that DNA-mediated charge transport (CT) can sequence selectively promote the oxidative dissociation of p53 bound to DNA.^{4,5} Here, we examine the mechanisms by which DNA-mediated oxidation is sensed by p53 and how the resulting dissociation from DNA occurs.

A major focus of our laboratory has been the characterization of long-range charge transport through DNA.⁶⁻¹⁰ We have found that oxidative damage to DNA can occur from a distance because of the migration of electron holes through the π -stacked bases. Ground state CT has been observed to occur over 100 base pairs (34 nm) through DNA, and oxidative damage products have been observed over 200 Å away from a DNA tethered photooxidant.^{11,12} However, perturbations in the intervening base pair stack, such as abasic sites and base mismatches, severely attenuate DNA CT. In a cellular environment, oxidative damage can occur by reactive oxygen species attacking DNA, and we have found that oxidative DNA damage can also occur from a distance *in vivo*.^{6,7} The one-electron oxidation potential of guanine is the lowest of the bases (+1.29 V), therefore making it the most readily oxidized base.¹³⁻¹⁶ Thus a known hallmark of DNA

doublets and triplets.¹⁷ However, certain amino acid functional groups possess lower 1electron oxidation potentials than guanine and could thermodynamically be oxidized in DNA-bound proteins, behaving as mild reducing agents.¹³ The residues and their corresponding one-electron oxidation potentials at pH7 are as follows: cysteine (+0.9 V), tyrosne (+0.9 V), tryptophan (+1.0 V), and histidine (+1.2).¹³ Notably, the oxidation of cysteine residues within close proximity can lead to the formation of a disulfide bond, which may induce a substantial conformational change within proteins.

To determine whether the chemistry of thiol groups near DNA could be modulated via DNA CT, thiols and disulfides located near the DNA base stack were investigated. Electrochemistry experiments on a graphite surface have shown that disulfide moieties covalently modified into the backbone of surface-bound oligonucleotides can be reduced to the corresponding thiol groups through the application of a reducing potential.¹⁸ Additionally, DNA CT induced by a distally bound anthraquinone (AQ) photooxidant is able to promote the oxidation of neighboring thiol groups incorporated into the backbone of an oligonucleotide into a corresponding disulfide bond.¹⁹

DNA-mediated oxidation via AQ excitation leads to the dissociation of p53 from its response element DNA. Unlike other redox active proteins studied in the Barton group, p53 does not contain an FeS cofactor and its redox activity appears to be conferred through a network of cysteine residues within the DNA binding domain. An intriguing feature of p53 is that it contains 10 cysteine residues within the DNA-binding domain, nine of which are highly conserved.² These cysteines are purported to play a variety of roles, including tetramer formation, Zn^{2+} binding, and sequence-specific interaction with **FIGURE 4.1** — The frequency of p53 point mutations observed in cancer. The cysteine residues within p53 are noted in red. The numbers corresponding with each residue note the number of cancer observed with point mutations at that codon, and the percent of which these mutations constitute the observed p53 point mutations.³ A representation of the p53 structural domains are depicted below the plot, giving a general idea of the location of these mutations.



the p53 response element, as depicted in Figure 4.2. Each orange sphere represents the sulfur atom of the cysteine residues present within the protein. Within each p53 monomer, three cysteine residues (C176, C238, and C242) and one histidine (H179) coordinate a zinc ion that is believed to be structurally necessary for DNA binding.^{2, 20-22} Located close to the Zn²⁺, but not participating in metal binding, is C182. Closer to the DNA-p53 interface are the remaining conserved residues of interest: C124, C135, C141, C275, and C277. Nestled into the major groove, C277 is capable of forming a hydrogen bond within the purine region of the p53 response element quarter site.²⁰⁻²² C275 is located 7.0 Å away from C277, from sulfur atom to sulfur atom. Residues C124, C135, and C141 are found as a cluster situated deeper into the core of the DNA binding domain, with C275 7.0 Å away from C135. Chen and coworkers have reported these residues as reduced in their structural characterizations of the p53 DNA binding site; however, disulfide formation is plausible based on the proximity of these residues with respect to one another.²¹⁻²²

One can imagine these conserved cysteine residues electronically coupling to promoter site DNA and playing a role in the redox modulation of p53. A model of p53 oxidation in response to DNA CT is illustrated in Figure 4.2. Oxidation of p53 is initiated at a distance by the photoexcitation of AQ covalently tethered to DNA, injecting an electron hole into the DNA base stack.^{4,5,23} This oxidizing equivalent is then shuttled through the π -stacked base pairs and localizes to sites of low redox potential. If the electron hole localizes to a site to which protein is bound, such as the p53 response element, the hole can oxidize the lower redox potential amino acid residues within close proximity to the DNA. This oxidation of p53 leads to dissociation from the DNA, **FIGURE 4.2** — Schematic illustration of p53 oxidation through DNA-mediated charge transport. Oxidation is initiated by AQ excitation, causing it to abstract an electron from DNA. This electron hole equilibrates among the π -stacked bases, ultimately localizing to a low redox potential guanine site. If the trapped electron hole localizes to the DNA-p53 interface the bound p53 protein may be oxidized, due to amino acids with lower one-electron oxidations potentials than guanine. The oxidation of DNA-bound p53 causes the formation of a disulfide bond and leads to the dissociation from DNA. The orange spheres represent the sulfur atoms of each cysteine residue within the p53 DNA-binding domain, making them candidates for oxidation via DNA CT and subsequent disulfide formation. The DNA-p53 interface is examined in greater detail in the corresponding boxed region to the right. This diagram depicts the nine conserved cysteine residues within a DNA-bound p53 monomer in relation to one another and the DNA based on the 3KMD crystal structure.²¹



ultimately altering gene regulation in response to genomic stress while leaving the DNA undamaged.⁵

Experiments using electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA) have determined that p53 responds selectively to oxidation via DNA CT, causing the protein to dissociate from various promoter sites. We have determined that the location of the guanine residues within a p53 response elements is what dictates whether DNA-bound p53 can be oxidized through DNA CT.⁵ This sequence selectivity in DNA-mediated oxidation of p53 indicates an element of control, causing oxidative dissociation of p53 when bound to certain promoter sites but not to others. This selectivity in response to DNA CT seemingly correlates with the biological regulation of genes controlled by p53 under conditions of oxidative stress.

Several groups have worked to investigate the intricacies of p53 oxidation at a molecular level, an area of which little information is known after more than 30 years of research. The idea of redox modulation of p53 first arose in work showing that p53 can bind promoter sites selectively under reducing conditions, but not under oxidizing conditions.²⁴ More recently, Fersht and coworkers investigated the reactivity of cysteine residues by alkylation in an effort to stabilize mutant p53 observed in cancer.²⁵ Using nanospray ionization (nESI) mass spectrometry, they determined that C141 and C124 react first with alkylating agents and are therefore the most reactive cysteine residues, followed by C135, C182, and C277. Landridge-Smith and coworkers have utilized top-down and middle-down Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance (FT ICR) mass spectrometry to determine the reactivity of cysteine residues within p53 oxidized by H_2O_2 .²⁶ They determined that C182 and C277 exhibit significant modification with N-

ethylmaleimide and were deemed the most reactive residues. However, the high reactivity of these residues was determined to be primarily due to their high solvent accessibility, which may not be the dominant factor in DNA-bound p53 oxidation *in vivo*. Work has also been done to map oxidized cysteine residues in H₂O₂-treated p53 by nESI FT ICR mass spectrometry.²⁷ This work showed that oxidation of the p53 core domain by H₂O₂ caused a loss of Zn²⁺ binding within p53, with corresponding formation of two disulfide bonds among C176, C182, C238, and C242. Our laboratory found using MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry that DNA-mediated oxidation of p53 might proceed via formation of a disulfide bond involving C141 and an undetermined second cysteine.⁴

Here, we continue to investigate p53 cysteine oxidation promoted at a distance through DNA CT. Specifically, we aim to resolve the interplay of cysteine oxidation within the p53 DNA-binding domain through the study of p53 mutants. Using EMSA, we investigate the effect of select p53 mutations on DNA binding affinity as well as the ability to undergo oxidative dissociation from the Gadd45 promoter site. The Gadd45 promoter site was chosen since p53 is known to readily bind this sequence and also readily dissociates upon oxidation via DNA CT.⁴ To determine if oxidative dissociation of p53 occurs concurrently with disulfide bond formation and probe the specific residues involved, we employed a differential thiol labeling technique targeting cysteine residue oxidation states through the use of isotopically distinct iodoacetamide labels. The sequentially labeled samples were proteolytically digested, and labeled peptide fragment intensities were examined on a QTRAP 6500 LC-MS/MS and directly compared. Through this methodology, we are able to characterize the redox states of individual cysteine residues and observe disulfide formation within p53 oxidized at a distance

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Synthesis and modification of oligonucleotides. DNA was synthesized using standard solid phase automated synthesis, modified with anthraquinone (AQ), and radiolabeled as described previously.^{4,5,23,28} The DNA used in the following experiments contains the Gadd45 promoter site (underlined) with a 12 base 5' linker. Constructs both without photooxidant (light control, LC) and with AQ were made. AQ: 5'-AQ- AAA TCA GCA CTA <u>CAG CAT GCT TAG ACA TGT TC</u>-3'. LC: 5'- AAA TCA GCA CTA <u>CAG CAT GCT TAG ACA TGT TC</u>-3'. Complement: 5'- <u>GAA CAT GTC TAA GCA TGC TGT AGT GCT GAT TT -3'</u>.

Protein preparation. The p53' protein is a full-length human p53 containing three stabilizing mutations: M133L, V203A, and N268D.²⁹ All subsequent mutants studied are in addition to the p53' mutations and incorporated by site-directed mutagenesis (QuikChange II, Agilent) with resulting sequences verified by Laragen (primer sequences are Appendix Table 4.1). The p53' protein and subsequent mutants were purified as previously described.^{5, 30}

 ambient temperature, allowed to incubate for 20 minutes, and electrophoresed on a 10% TBE polyacrylamide native gel (Bio-Rad) in 0.5 x TBE buffer at 4 °C and 50 V for 1.5 h. DNA from the gel was transferred to Amersham Hybond-N nucleotide blotting paper (GE Healthcare) with a semidry electroblotter (Owl HEP-1) for 1 h at 175 mA in transfer buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, 200 mM glycine, 10% methanol). The blots were exposed to a phosphorimaging screen (GE Healthcare), imaged with a STORM 820 or Typhoon FLA 9000 scanning system (GE Healthcare), and analyzed using ImageQuant TL and OriginPro.

Samples prepared for p53 oxidation assays contained 25 nM p53 tetramer in the same conditions as listed above for the majority of the mutants. Two mutants were assayed at higher p53 concentrations due to their higher apparent K_D values: Y236F-p53' at 50 nM tetramer and C275S-p53' at 125 nM tetramer. Samples were made at 4 °C and irradiated in an ice bath for varying lengths of time (0, 5, 15, 30, 45, and 60 min) by solar simulator (ORIEL Instruments) with a UVB/UVC long-pass filter. These samples were then analyzed by EMSA as described above and data were normalized to the corresponding unirradiated control. The change in p53 binding was determined by monitoring the free DNA signal over the total DNA signal in each lane. Data are an average of a minimum of three assay replicates, and the error is reported as the standard error of the mean.

Selective cysteine labeling with iodoacetamide tags. Proteins p53', C275Sp53', and C141S-p53' were studied to observe changes in cysteine oxidation state in DNA-bound p53 upon long range DNA CT. An overview of the reaction scheme is depicted in Figure 4.3. Each sample consisted of 100 μ l 1.0 μ M Gadd45 DNA (LC or

AQ), 2.0 µM p53' monomer, 0.1% NP-40, 5.0 µM competitor DNA, in p53 buffer. Samples were prepared at 4 °C and allowed to incubate for 20 min prior to aliquoting. Samples for irradiation were aliquoted into a low profile 96-well PCR plate (Bio-Rad) at 10 μ L each, placed in an ice-water bath, and irradiated for 1 h by solar simulator with a UVB/UVC long-pass filter. Unirradiated samples remained in the dark at 4 °C for the duration of the other irradiations. Samples were adjusted to 6 M guanidine hydrochloride (GdmCl), by the addition of 8 M GdmCl in 20 mM Tris, 100 mM KCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, at pH 7.75. The samples were transferred to Amicon Ultra 0.5 ml 30 KDa cutoff centrifugal filter units (Millipore) and centrifuged at 13,000 x G for 15 min. The concentrated samples, $\sim 30 \,\mu$ l, were then treated with a 100-fold molar excess of iodoacetamide (Single-Use, Thermo Scientific) with respect to the number of cysteine residues present. The reaction was allowed to continue for 1 h in the dark, shaking at 250 rpm. Samples were diluted with 6 M GdmCl and centrifuged, repeatedly, until the concentration of remaining iodoacetamide within the sample was at least 100-fold below the number of cysteine residues, and concentrated to $\sim 30 \mu L$. Dithiothreitol (DTT) was added at a 10fold molar excess than the reactive species present in the sample, cysteine and remaining iodoacetamide, to reduce disulfides. This reduction was allowed to incubate for 20 min at ambient temperature in the dark, shaking at 250 rpm. The same molar concentration of Tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP-Neutral, Calbiochem) as DTT was then added to further ensure disulfide reduction and allowed to incubate, as above, for another 20 min. Samples were diluted with 6 M GdmCl and centrifuged, repeatedly, until the concentration of remaining DTT and TCEP were at a molar concentration 1000-fold below the number of cysteine residues present and the total volume concentrated to ~ 30



FIGURE 4.3 — Procedure for differential thiol labeling of cysteine residues. Examples of the labeling procedure are depicted for a fully protein (Left) reduced and its corresponding oxidized, disulfidecontaining counterpart (Right). After oxidation from a distance through DNA CT, the protein sample is denatured in 6 M GdmCl and treated with iodoacetamide. Cysteine residues in a reduced state will react with iodoacetamide (red), while cysteine residues participating in disulfide bonds remain chemically unavailable. Removal of excess iodoacetamide followed by reduction of all disulfide bonds allow for accessibility of newly reduced thiol groups to react with the second ¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide label (blue). The protein is then proteolytically digested, peptide fragments are analyzed on a QTRAP 6500 LC-MS/MS, and peak areas are integrated Skyline. Representative in of the C124 chromatograms containing SVTCTYSPALNK peptide fragment from a p53' sample set are shown as relative intensities of iodoacetamide (red) and ¹³C₂D₂IAA (blue) peptides detected. The four traces represent LCD-light control dark. LCL—light control light, AQD-anthraquinone dark, and AQL-anthraquinone light.

μL. To each sample ¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide (Aldrich) in H₂O was added at a 100-fold molar excess with respect to the cysteine residues and remaining reducing agents present. This reaction was allowed to continue for 4 h at ambient temperature, shaking at 250 rpm, in the dark. The samples were diluted using 100 mM Tris, pH 8.5, to lower the GdmCl concentration. The sample was repeatedly diluted and centrifuged until the final GdmCl concentration was below 0.1 M GdmCl in a final sample volume of $\sim 30 \ \mu L$ and dried in vacuo. The dry sample pellet was dissolved in 40 µL of 8 M urea in 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5. 1 μ L of 0.1 μ g/ μ L of lysyl endopeptidase (WAKO) dissolved in 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.5 was added to each sample and allowed to incubate for 4 h at ambient temperature in the dark. The samples were subsequently diluted with 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, to a final concentration of 2 M urea and adjusted to 1 mM CaCl₂. Trypsin (1 μ L of 0.5 μ g/ μ L)(Promega) in water was added to each sample and allowed to incubate in the dark overnight at ambient temperature. The following morning, each sample was adjusted to 5% formic acid to simultaneously inhibit protease activity and protonate tryptic peptides; samples were then dried *in vacuo*. Dry samples were suspended into 50 µL of 0.1% TFA and sonicated for 5 min. Stagetips were made inhouse with Empore Extraction disk C-18 membranes (3M) for desalting the peptide samples.³¹ The stagetip was washed once with 100 μ L of 80% acetonitrile in 0.1% TFA and twice with 100 µL 0.1% TFA prior to sample loading, centrifuging for 3 min at 3000 rpm between each round. Samples were loaded to the stagetip by centrifugation and then washed twice with 100 μ L 0.1% TFA. The sample was eluted with 100 μ L of 80% acetonitrile in 0.1% TFA into fresh collection tube. The eluent was dried in vacuo and stored at -20 °C until analysis.

Multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mass spectrometry. Each protein sample, 500 fmol per injection, was dissolved in 2% acetonitrile with 0.2% formic acid To ensure consistency among sample sets and to help validate proper peak (FA). assignment by retention time, iRT peptide standards (BIOGNOSYS) were added. Samples were examined on the ABSciex QTRAP 6500 LC-MS/MS system, equipped with an Eksigent ekspert nanoLC 425 pump, ekspert nanoLC400 autosampler, ekspert cHiPLC, and Analyst software. Samples were separated on a cHiPLC Chrom XP C18-CL 3 µm trap column, 120Å (200 µm * 0.5 mm), inline with a cHiPLC Chrom XP C18-CL 3 µm column, 120Å (75 µm * 150 mm) using a 45 min linear gradient of acetonitrile in 0.2% FA at a flow rate of 300 nL/min. An unscheduled transition list of cysteinecontaining peptides with both respective iodoacetamide labels, as well as iRT peptide standards, was generated by Skyline and exported to the QTRAP for quantitation and are located in Appendix Table 4.2.³² Raw data files generated by the OTRAP were imported back into Skyline, where peak areas were then integrated and exported for further processing. Observable and quantifiable peptide fragments include: C124-[121, 132] SVTCTYSPALNK, C135—[133, 138] LFCQLAK, C141—[140, 156] TCPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR, C182-[182, 196] CSDSDGLAPPQHLIR, and C275 and C277—[274, 280] VCACPGR. Two cysteine-containing peptide fragments were unobservable in our methods due to unfavorable mass/charge of the fragments: C175-[174, 180] RCPHHER, and C229, C238, and C242-[213]248] Various proteases were HSVVVPYEPPEVGSDCTTIHYNYMC-NSSCMGGMNRR. evaluated; however, this large peptide fragment could not be further cleaved due to the inherent amino acid sequence of p53'.

Mutant p53' affinity for the Gadd45 response element.

To understand the chemistry of p53 oxidation from a distance through DNA CT, individual residues within the DNA-binding domain were selectively mutated. We used a pseudo-wild-type p53, termed p53', that incorporates three stabilizing mutations (M133L, V203A, and N268D) while remaining redox active.²⁹ All other mutants studied were created by site directed mutagenesis of the p53' plasmid. The following cysteine residues were mutated to similarly sized but redox-inactive serine: C124, C135, C141, C182, C275, and C277. Two other mutations studied include Y236F and N239Y. These mutations were chosen since they are within close proximity to the cysteine residues in question and involve the addition or deletion of a similarly redox-active tyrosine (+0.9 V).¹³ This cohort of p53 mutants was studied by EMSA to determine if any changes in binding affinity to the Gadd45 promoter site were evident without photooxidation.

Each mutant protein was evaluated by EMSA and the apparent K_D values were determined using varied concentrations of the p53' mutants in the presence of 25 nM Gadd45 DNA (LC or AQ) in p53 buffer with 5 μ M competitor DNA, 0.1% NP-40, and 0.1 mg/mL BSA. The determined apparent K_D values are listed in Table 1. The majority of the chosen mutations did not significantly change the binding affinity of these proteins to the Gadd45 promoter site as compared to p53', with or without AQ. The baseline of binding affinity is shown by p53' with K_D values of 1.6 ± 0.6 nM and 2.4 ± 1.1 nM of p53 tetramer for LC and AQ, respectively. C124S-p53', C135S-p53', C141S-p53', and C277S-p53' all share similar values as p53' with apparent K_D values below 5 nM p53' tetramer. Two mutants exhibited a slight decrease in affinity, at 9.7 ± 4.3 nM (LC)

Mutant of p53 ^{<i>a</i>}	$K_D LC DNA$ (nM tetramer) ^b	
p53′	1.6 ± 0.6	2.4 ± 1.1
C124S	3.7 ± 0.5	4.29 ± 0.04
C135S	4.4 ± 2.8	3.1 ± 1.2
C141S	4.6 ± 1.2	3.7 ± 0.3
C182S	15.1 ± 1.8	13.7 ± 4.4
Y236F	9.7 ± 4.3	8.2 ± 4.7
N239Y	1.2 ± 0.4	1.0 ± 0.1
C2758	56 ± 13	54 ± 8
C277S	3.0 ± 0.8	2.3 ± 0.5

TABLE 4.1 — Relative dissociation constants of mutant p53 bound to Gadd45 response element.

a. All mutants contain the stabilizing mutations M133L, V203A, and N268D.

b. The apparent K_D of p53' (in tetramer units) was determined at 25 nM duplex, 5 μ M dAdT, 0.1% NP-40, 0.1 mg/mL BSA in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 20% glycerol, 100 mM KCl, and 0.2 mM EDTA at ambient temperature and the sample electrophoresed at 50 V on a 10% polyacrylamide gel in 0.5 × TBE at 4 °C.

and 8.2 ± 4.7 nM (AQ) tetramer for Y236F-p53' and 15.1 ± 1.8 nM (LC) and 13.7 ± 4.4 nM (AQ) tetramer for C182S-p53'. Notably, the C275S-p53' mutant displays severely attenuated affinity for the Gadd45 promoter site with apparent K_D values of 56 ± 13 nM (LC) and 54 ± 8 nM (AQ).

Oxidative dissociation of p53' mutants through DNA CT.

Additional EMSAs were employed to determine if any of these mutations altered the ability of p53' to oxidatively dissociate from the Gadd45 promoter site. Changes in p53' binding to the Gadd45 promoter site with respect to irradiation time for each mutant were quantified and the results are shown in Figure 4.4, along with representative EMSA autoradiograms of C135-p53' and C275S-p53'. Most samples were composed of 25 nM p53' tetramer and 25 nM Gadd45 DNA in the presence of 5 μ M competitor DNA, 0.1% NP-40, 0.1 mg/mL BSA in p53 buffer. Y236F-p53' and C275S-p53' were assayed at higher protein concentrations, 50 nM tetramer and 125 nM tetramer, respectively, to ensure protein-DNA binding due to their higher apparent $K_{\rm D}$ values. The fraction change in p53' binding is determined as the free DNA signal divided by the sum of the free DNA and p53-bound DNA signals, normalized to the unirradiated control. Each mutant was analyzed over a minimum of three replicates, with the error bars reflecting the standard error of the mean. Previous experiments with the same construct, although with an intervening mismatch, showed an inhibition of oxidative dissociation, demonstrating that oxidation of p53 is DNA-mediated as opposed to involving a direct AQ-protein interaction.⁴ The behavior of p53' is the standard to which each mutant is compared in Figure 4.4. The EMSAs of p53' oxidation reveal minimal oxidative dissociation from the

FIGURE 4.4— Representative autoradiogram of the C135S-p53' EMSA for the evaluation of mutant p53 activity on Gadd45-response element DNA. The LC samples do not contain a photooxidant, while the AQ samples contain a 5' covalently tethered anthraquinone. The band intensities of free DNA and p53-bound-DNA are quantified with ImageQuant to determine changes in p53 occupancy upon irradiation. EMSA analysis to determine the activity of mutant p53 bound to the Gadd45 promoter site upon distally induced DNA-mediated oxidation. Solid markers represent AQ samples, while hollow markers represent LC samples. The data are representative of the average of a minimum of three replicates, with the error as the standard error of the mean. Samples contained 25 nM mutant p53' tetramer and 25 nM Gadd45 DNA in the presence of 5 μ M competitor DNA, 0.1% NP-40, and 0.1 mg/mL BSA in p53 buffer [20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 20% glycerol, 100 mM KCl, and 0.2 mM EDTA]. Two mutants were assayed at higher protein concentrations due to their higher apparent K_D values: Y236F-p53' at 50 nM tetramer and C275S-p53' at 125 nM tetramer.



Irradiation Time (minutes)

LC-Gadd45 DNA (white), lacking the pendant AQ photooxidant. However, the p53' protein readily dissociated from the AQ-Gadd45 DNA (black), with 31.0 \pm 1.2 % total p53' dissociation upon 60 minutes of irradiation. The LC-Gadd45 DNA samples across all of the mutants behave similarly, with minimal dissociation upon irradiation irrespective of additional mutations. As compared to the p53' protein, several mutants displayed a slight increase in the amount of dissociation from the AQ-Gadd45 DNA upon irradiation: C141S-p53' (37.9 \pm 2.7%), Y236F-p53' (37.2 \pm 2.3%), C135S-p53' (34.0 \pm 5.0%), and C124S-p53' (33.4 \pm 8.6%). Conversely, several mutants displayed a slight attenuation in the oxidative dissociation of p53 upon irradiation: C182S-p53' (27.2 \pm 3.0%), N239Y-p53' (25.5 \pm 0.9%), and C277S-p53' (22.6 \pm 2.9%). The most notable difference is observed with C275S-p53', which reaches a maximum of only 13.3 \pm 2.5% protein dissociation upon irradiation and is not within error of any other mutant.

Analysis of cysteine oxidation in p53' by mass spectrometry.

Using multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) through sensitive analytical mass spectrometry, we directly examined the formation of disulfide bonds within p53' and mutants from a distance through DNA CT. An overview of the cysteine labeling protocol used to differentially label cysteine residues within p53 respective to oxidation state is shown in Figure 4.4. Using this methodology, one can distinguish whether individual cysteine residues in the protein are participating in a disulfide bond. After protein oxidation is induced from a distance by irradiation of the AQ-DNA, the protein is denatured in 6 M GdmCl and treated with iodoacetamide. Reduced cysteine residues in p53' will react with iodoacetamide (red), while oxidized cysteine residues participating in disulfide bonds remain chemically unavailable. Removal of excess iodoacetamide and subsequent reduction of all disulfide bonds allow for accessibility of the newly reduced cysteine residue thiol groups to react with the isotopically heavy ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide (blue). The protein is then proteolytically digested, desalted by C18 stagetip, and analyzed on a QTRAP 6500 LC-MS/MS. Representative chromatograms of the acquired data for the peptide fragment containing C124 from a p53' sample set are shown at the bottom of Figure 4.3. The peak areas for both the iodoacetamide (red) and ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide (blue) labeled fragments were analyzed in Skyline, then directly compared.³² These data clearly show the trend toward the ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide label with the AQL sample, whereas (LCD, LCL, and AQD, see Figure 4.3) were predominated by the isotopically light iodoacetamide label.

Proteins p53', C275S-p53', and C141S-p53' were studied by mass spectrometry to observe changes in cysteine oxidation in DNA-bound p53' promoted at a distance through DNA CT. We monitored the changes of cysteine residues in p53' as our standard of comparison. We also examined C275S-p53' since it displayed the least oxidative dissociation by EMSA, and C141S-p53' since C141 was previously implicated in potential disulfide formation through DNA CT.⁴ The floating-bar plots for each peptide fragment depict the fraction of the total signal of heavy and light modified species, totaling 1.0, as depicted in Figure 4.5 for p53', Figure 4.6 for C141S-p53', and Figure 4.7 for C275S-p53'. The fraction of $^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in positive values (black) and the fraction of iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in negative values (white). These cumulative data sets are represented with individual protein mutants located in rows, and corresponding cysteine-containing peptide

fragments in columns. Each sample set per mutant is composed of 4 variants, corresponding to DNA used (LC or AQ) and irradiation (D-dark, L-light). The data represent the average of three replicates for C124, C135, C141, and C182 peptide fragments. The data for C275 and C277 represent the average of two replicates. The error is represented as the standard error of the mean. Peptide fragments corresponding to C176, C229, C238, and C242 could not be observed due to an unfavorable mass/charge ratio.

A shift toward increased ${}^{13}C_2$ -D₂-iodoacetamide labeling indicates that the cysteine of interest has become oxidized and is participating in a disulfide bond. For p53' and C141S-p53' sample sets, the AQL samples show a marked increase in ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide labeling over the LCD, LCL, and AQD control samples. The value (white) located within the AQL floating bar represents the percent change in heavy labeling of AQL sample with respect to the average of the corresponding LCD, LCL, and AQD controls. The protein p53' does indeed undergo chemical oxidation through DNA-mediated DNA CT. Interestingly, the C275S-p53' sample set depicts a different interplay of oxidation states than observed for p53' and C141S-p53'. The overall baseline of ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide corresponding to the C135 and the C182 peptides are significantly higher across all four samples. The C124, C141, and C277 peptides in C275S-p53' behave more similarly to the other sample sets with a distinct, albeit a less intense, increase in the AQL samples as compared to the controls.

FIGURE 4.5 — Determination of cysteine oxidation states by MRM mass spectrometry of p53' to observe changes in cysteine oxidation induced through DNA CT. Cumulative data are depicted with individual mutant proteins localized in rows, and the corresponding cysteine-containing peptide fragments in columns. The floating-bar plots for each peptide fragment are depicted as the fraction of the total signal of both heavy and light modified species, totaling 1.0. The fraction of $^{13}C_2$ -D₂-iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in positive values (black) and the fraction of iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in negative values (white). Each plot is composed of four samples: LCD—light control dark, LCL—light control light, AQD—anthraquinone dark, and AQL—anthraquinone light. The value (white) located within the AQL floating bar represents the percent change in heavy labeling of the AQL sample with respect to the average of the corresponding LCD, LCL, and AQD controls.



p53'

FIGURE 4.6 — Determination of cysteine oxidation states by MRM mass spectrometry of C141S-p53' to observe changes in cysteine oxidation induced through DNA CT. Cumulative data are depicted with individual mutant proteins localized in rows, and the corresponding cysteine-containing peptide fragments in columns. The floating-bar plots for each peptide fragment are depicted as the fraction of the total signal of both heavy and light modified species, totaling 1.0. The fraction of ${}^{13}C_2$ -D₂-iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in positive values (black) and the fraction of iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in negative values (white). Each plot is composed of four samples: LCD—light control dark, LCL—light control light, AQD— anthraquinone dark, and AQL—anthraquinone light. The value (white) located within the AQL floating bar represents the percent change in heavy labeling of the AQL sample with respect to the average of the corresponding LCD, LCL, and AQD controls.







107

FIGURE 4.7 — Determination of cysteine oxidation states by MRM mass spectrometry of C275S-p53' to observe changes in cysteine oxidation induced through DNA CT. Cumulative data are depicted with individual mutant proteins localized in rows, and the corresponding cysteine-containing peptide fragments in columns. The floating-bar plots for each peptide fragment are depicted as the fraction of the total signal of both heavy and light modified species, totaling 1.0. The fraction of ${}^{13}C_2$ -D₂-iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in positive values (black) and the fraction of iodoacetamide labeled species is represented in negative values (white). Each plot is composed of four samples: LCD—light control dark, LCL—light control light, AQD—anthraquinone dark, and AQL—anthraquinone light. The value (white) located within the AQL floating bar represents the percent change in heavy labeling of the AQL sample with respect to the average of the corresponding LCD, LCL, and AQD controls.



C275S-p53



108

Although much work has been done elucidating the redox-dependent binding of p53 to different promoter sites, relatively little is known about the chemistry of p53 oxidation at a molecular level. We are particularly interested in how the protein may be coupled into a charge transport pathway with DNA and how DNA-mediated oxidation of p53 may affect the affinity of p53 for individual promoter sites. The conserved cysteine residues not involved in Zn^{2+} binding are of particular interest due to their biologically accessible oxidation potential, close proximity to DNA, and ability to form disulfide bonds. In our studies, we sought to determine the role of various cysteine residues (C124, C135, C141, C182, C275, and C277) within the DNA-binding domain of p53 through mutagenesis. The cysteine-to-serine mutation was chosen, since serine is structurally similar to cysteine but does not contain the redox-active sulfur atom. Two other mutations involving redox-active tyrosine residues (Y236F and N239Y) were investigated as well, as tyrosine has the same one-electron oxidation potential as cysteine (+0.9 V), also making it accessible to photooxidation by DNA-bound AQ.¹³

Effect of select mutations on p53' binding affinity.

Each mutant of p53' was first evaluated by determining changes in affinity for the Gadd45 promoter site. All comparisons were made against the observed affinity of p53' tetramer for Gadd45 DNA, which was determined to be 1.6 ± 0.6 nM and 2.4 ± 1.1 nM of tetramer for LC and AQ, respectively. The majority of our chosen mutations did not significantly alter the binding affinity of these proteins to the Gadd45 promoter site. C124S-p53', C135S-p53', C141S-p53', N239Y-p53', and C277S-p53' all share similar

affinities as p53', with apparent K_D values below 5 nM p53' tetramer, indicating that C124, C135, C141, N239, and C277 do not play a significant role in modulating p53 binding affinity to DNA. Y236F-p53' and C182S-p53' both exhibited a slight decrease in affinity, with corresponding apparent K_D values between 8-15 nM p53 tetramer. This indicates that the integrity of Y236 and C182 within the protein may contribute to binding affinity through necessary DNA-protein contacts or protein-protein interactions in tetramer formation. Notably, the C275S-p53' mutant displays severely attenuated affinity for the Gadd45 promoter site with K_D values of 56 ± 13 (LC) and 54 ± 8 nM (AQ). This finding demonstrates that the integrity and likely positioning of C275 is necessary for the high affinity binding of p53 to promoter site DNA.

Effect of select mutations on oxidative dissociation.

How do these mutations affect the oxidative dissociation of DNA-bound p53? The behavior of p53' is the standard to which each mutant was compared. For p53', 31% p53' dissociation is seen relative to controls after 60 minutes of irradiation of DNA-tethered AQ. Oxidative dissociation from the AQ-Gadd45 DNA is equal to or slightly increased for C124S-p53', C135S-p53', C141S-p53', and Y236F-p53' upon irradiation. Slightly increased dissociation suggests that the integrity of these residues is not essential. In contrast, several mutants did cause attenuation in oxidative dissociation. The C182S-p53' mutation appears to slightly decrease oxidative dissociation. The N239Y-p53' mutation also shows a slight decrease in dissociation; since tyrosine has the same redox potential as cysteine and is within close proximity of the DNA, the added tyrosine residue may become oxidized, preventing electron hole migration to other

cysteine residues.¹² Interestingly, while known to be a stabilizing mutation within p53, N239Y has been observed in colorectal cancer somatic cell mutations.^{29, 33, 34} It is noteworthy that the C277-p53' mutant binds Gadd45 DNA with comparable affinity as p53' but does not to dissociate as readily at 22% and not within error of p53'. This result indicates that C277 may be a necessary element for the oxidative dissociation of p53, perhaps through coupling into the DNA CT pathway and initiating disulfide formation with the nearby C275. Indeed, the most significant difference observed with the mutants is the severe attenuation of oxidative dissociation of C275S-p53', with a maximum of only 13% dissociation. Thus it is evident that C275 plays a critical role in the affinity of p53 for its promoter site as well as enabling oxidative dissociation. Interestingly, the mutation of C275 has been observed in lung cancer.³⁵ The attenuation of oxidative dissociation in both C275S and C277S suggests the possibility that these residues form a key disulfide bond upon oxidation. The formation of a disulfide between C275 and C277 would also remove DNA contacts, lowering DNA affinity overall, and enabling p53 dissociation. The observed amounts of oxidative dissociation of C275S-p53' and C277Sp53' are not equivalent, indicating that these two residues are not phenocopies. This variation is due to the location of the cysteine residues with respect to the DNA bases conveying the electron hole.

Mass spectrometry results to characterize cysteine oxidation states.

Mass spectrometry studies were carried out to understand the chemistry of DNAmediated p53 oxidation. A differential-thiol labeling method was devised to determine the oxidation state of specific cysteine residues within p53. The sequential use of iodoacetamide, reducing agents, and isotopically distinct ¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide enables us to label cysteine residues depending on their respective oxidation state. A shift toward greater ¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide labeling in comparison to controls, as monitored through MRM mass spectrometry, indicates oxidation of that residue and its disulfide participation. We were able to study six of the ten cysteine residues present within the DNA-binding domain through this technique. We were unable to detect C176 since it is located in a very small and highly charged peptide fragment [RCPHHER], resulting in an unfavorable mass/charge ratio. Three cysteine residues (C229, C238, and C242) all reside within extraordinarily large peptide fragment that one [HSVVVPYEPPEVGSDCTTIHYNYMCN-SSCMGGMNRR] could not be further digested proteolytically and could therefore not be detected within the limits of our instrumentation. The remaining six cysteine residues are readily detected and quantifiable. However, C275 and C277 reside within the same peptide fragment, so secondary ion intensities were utilized to deconvolute mixed species containing both iodoacetamide and ¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide.

It is important to note that these mass spectrometry data indicate directly that the DNA-bound p53' protein can be oxidized from a distance through DNA-mediated CT. Residues bound to the DNA, and not those most accessible to solution, are oxidized, funneling oxidative damage from the DNA helix and into the protein. This DNA-mediated process promotes p53' dissociation from the Gadd45 promoter site.

The mass spectrometry data furthermore establish which cysteine residues are being oxidized from a distance through DNA CT. In most cysteine residues observed for both the p53' and the C141S-p53' sample sets, the AQL samples show a marked increase in ¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide labeling samples as compared to the LCD, LCL, and AOD controls. Thus, cysteine oxidation resulting in disulfide bond formation is occurring among all observable cysteine residues within p53' and C141S-p53'. However, we are unable to determine whether the disulfide formation is occurring intramolecularly or intermolecularly through our methodologies. Both p53' and C141S-p53' show very similar profiles of oxidation with a significant AQL-¹³C₂D₂-iodoacetamide increase in all observable cysteine residues: C124, C135, C141, C182, C275, and C277. It should be noted that across all of the samples there is a baseline level of oxidation, indicating some disulfide presence in the protein prior to DNA CT. Nonetheless it appears that the majority of the cysteines are in the reduced state. Importantly, the fraction of ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ iodoacetamide labeling is greatly increased upon oxidation, resulting from DNA CT. Removal of C141 through the C141S mutation does not appear to alter the DNA binding affinity, oxidative dissociation, or the ability to oxidize any other cysteine residues. This suggests that oxidation of C141 may occur, but its presence is not necessary for modulation of p53' binding affinity through DNA-mediated oxidation.

The C275S-p53' sample set depicts a different interplay of oxidation states than observed in either p53' or C141S-p53', however. The overall baseline of ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide labeling for C135 and C182 peptide controls are high across all four samples, greater than 60%, and only show a slight increase in the AQL samples over the controls. The C124, C141, and C277 peptides in C275S-p53' behave more similarly to the other sample sets with a distinct, albeit less intense, increase in the AQL samples with respect to the controls. The smaller shift toward ${}^{13}C_2D_2$ -iodoacetamide labeling in the

AQL samples relative to the controls suggests that the absence of C275 disrupts the ability of oxidation to be transferred to the more internal residues.

Oxidative dissociation of p53' by disulfide formation.

By applying the observed data to the network of cysteine residues within p53, we can consider how DNA-mediated oxidation of p53 may occur and how it may lead to changes in protein conformation that decrease affinity for DNA. Reduced p53 binds as a tetramer to the Gadd45 promoter site. Upon DNA oxidation, an electron hole will migrate through the π -stacked bases and localize to DNA sites of low redox potential, such as guanine. This CT occurs on a timescale that is fast compared to irreversible reaction of guanine radicals.³⁶ In the case of the Gadd45 promoter site, the low oxidation potential guanine sites are located within the purine region of the response element in close proximity to the p53 residue C277. Since the redox potential of cysteine (+0.9 V) is lower than guanine (+1.29 V), the C277 residue tucked in the major groove near guanine can accept the electron hole, become oxidized, and lose its hydrogen bond to the major groove of DNA.¹³⁻¹⁶ Due to the solvent accessibility of C277 and its close proximity to C275, further oxidation of C277 by molecular oxygen would allow for loss of a second electron and result in disulfide formation between C277 and C275, located 7.0 Å away. Disulfide formation between these two residues would result in the loss of essential p53-DNA binding contacts, leading to a significant decrease in affinity, causing the dissociation of the oxidized p53 monomer, as is schematically depicted in Figure 4.8.

Disulfide bonds are known to rearrange among other cysteine residues within close proximity of one another within proteins.^{37,38} Upon formation of the C277-C275

FIGURE 4.8 — Proposed disulfide formation within p53 via DNA CT based on the 3KMD crystal structure.²¹ Formation of the disulfide bond between C275 and C277 results in the loss of DNA response element contacts and is therefore most likely responsible for the loss of DNA binding affinity upon oxidation through DNA CT.



disulfide bond, a subsequent rearrangement could occur given the presence of many other reduced cysteine residues within close proximity. If this were to occur, C275 would most likely form a disulfide with C135 (7 Å away). This bond rearrangement would funnel the disulfide bond deeper into the protein and enable C277 to become reduced and possibly reestablish its H-bond to DNA. The disulfide bond could then rearrange once more, resulting in one disulfide bond potentially residing among the inner triad of cysteine residues: C124, C135, and C141.

Thus, well conserved cysteine residues of p53 provide a chemical platform through which genomic oxidative stress can be directly sensed. Since p53 is a transcription factor presiding over the regulation of hundreds of human genes, the oxidative dissociation of p53 allows for a direct response in p53 gene regulation during times of genomic stress. The extent of oxidative dissociation of p53 depends on the DNA sequence of the promoter site to which it is bound.⁵ Low redox potential guanine bases located in the purine region of the p53 promoter site allow for electron holes to localize at the DNA-protein interface and concomitantly oxidize p53. The variability of bases within the promoter site, while fully conforming to the response element constraints, allows for a tuning of the redox potential at the DNA-protein interface. The DNA sequence of the promoter site determines whether DNA-bound p53 will be able to accept an electron hole and respond to genomic stress. The cysteine residues in the protein create a network, which is coupled to DNA, capable of accepting electron holes via DNA CT. It is through p53 oxidation and disulfide formation that the affinity of p53 for DNA is decreased, leading to the observable oxidative dissociation of DNA-bound p53.

These results thus indicate that DNA-mediated oxidation of p53 is a chemically distinct mechanism for the cell to respond specifically to oxidative damage to the genome. The oxidation of p53 through DNA CT resulting in disulfide formation within a protein is an exciting new chapter in the study of cellular signaling of oxidative stress and the response of p53.

REFERENCES

- Paveletich, N. P., Chambers, K. A., and Pabo, C. O. (1993) The DNA-binding domain of p53 contains the four conserved regions and the major mutation hot spots. *Genes Dev.* 7, 2256-2564.
- Joerger, A. C., and Fersht, A. R. (2007) Structure-function-rescue: The diverse nature of common p53 cancer mutants. *Oncogene 26*, 2226-2242.
- Petitjean, A., Mathe, E., Kato, S., Ishioka, C., Tavtigian, S. V., Hainaut, P., and Olivier, M. (2007) Impact of mutant p53 functional properties on TP53 mutation patterns and tumor phenotype: lessons from recent developments in the IARC TP53 database. *Hum Mutat.* 28, 622-629. Version R17.
- Augustyn, K. E., Merino, E., and Barton, J. K. (2007) A role for DNA-mediated charge transport in regulating p53: Oxidation of the DNA-bound protein from a distance *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 104*, 18907-18912.
- 5. Schaefer, K. N., and Barton, J. K. (2014) DNA-mediated oxidation of p53. *Biochemistry* 53, 3467-3475.
- Hall, D., Holmlin, R., and Barton, J. K. (1996) Oxidative DNA damage through long-range electron transfer. *Nature* 382, 731-735.
- Delaney, S., and Barton, J. K. (2003) Long-range DNA charge transport. J. Org. Chem. 68, 6475-6483.
- 8. Muren, N. B., Olmon, E.D., and Barton, J. K. (2012) Solution, surface, and single molecule

platforms for the study of DNA-mediated charge transport *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 14, 13754-13771.

- Sontz, P. A., Muren, N. B., and Barton, J. K. (2012) DNA charge transport for sensing and signaling. Acc. Chem. Res. 45, 1792-1800.
- 10. Genereux, J., Boal, A., and Barton, J. K. (2010) DNA-mediated charge transport in redox sensing and signaling. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 132, 891-905.
- 11. Slinker, J., Muren, N., Renfew, S. E., and Barton, J. K. (2011) DNA charge transport over 34 nm. *Nat. Chem. 3*, 228-233.
- 9. Núñez, M. E., Hall, D. B., and Barton, J. K. (1999) Long-range oxidative damage to DNA: Effects of distance and sequence. *Chem. Biol.* 6, 85-97.
- Milligan, J. R., Tran, N. Q., Ly, A., and Ward, J. F. (2004) Peptide repair of oxidative DNA damage. *Biochemistry* 43, 5102-5108.
- Steenken, S., Jovanovic, S. V., Bietti, M., and Bernhard, K. (2000) The Trap Depth (in DNA) of 8-Oxo-7,8-dihydro-2'deoxyguanosine as Derived from Electron-Transfer Equilibria in Aqueous Solution. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 122, 2373-2374.
- 15. Milligan, J. R., Aguilera, J. A., Nguyen, J. V., and Ward, J. F. (2001) Redox reactivity of guanyl radicals in plasmid DNA. *Int. J. Radiat. Biol.* 77, 281-293.
- Steenken, S. and Jovanovic, S. V. (1997) How easily oxidizable is DNA? One electron reduction potentials of adenosine and guanosine radicals in aqueous solution. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 119, 617-618.
- Sugiyama, H., and Saito, I. (1996) Theoretical studies of GG specific photocleavage of DNA via electron transfer: Significant lowering of ionization potential and 5'-localization of HOMO of stacked GG bases in B-form DNA. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 118, 7063-7068.
- Gorodetsky, A. A., and Barton, J. K. (2007) DNA-mediated electrochemistry of disulfides on graphite. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 129, 6074-6075.
- 19. Takada, T., and Barton, J. K. (2005) DNA charge transport leading to disulfide bond formation. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 127, 12204-12205.
- Cho, Y., Gorina, S., Jeffrey, P. D., and Pavletich, N. P. (1994) Crystal-structure of a p53 tumor-suppressor DNA complex: Understanding tumorigenic mutations. *Science 265*, 346-354.

- 21. Chen, Y., Dey, R., and Chen, L. Crystal structure of the p53 core domain bound to a full consensus site as a self-assembled tetramer. (2010) *Structure 18*, 246-256.
- 22. Chen, Y., Zhang, X., Dantas Machado, A. C., Ding, Y., Chen, Z., Qin, P. Z., Rohs, R., and Chen, L. (2013) Structure of p53 binding to the BAX response element reveals DNA unwinding and compression to accommodate base-pair insertion. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 41, 8368-8376.
- Parks, D., Bolinger, R., and Mann, K. (1997) Redox state regulates binding of p53 to sequence-specific DNA, but not to non-specific or mismatched DNA. *Nucleic Acids Research 25*, 1289-1295.
- Kaar, J. L., Basse, N., Joerger, A. C., Stephens, E., Rutherford, T. J., and Fersht, A.R. (2010) Stabilization of mutant p53 via alkylation of cysteines and effects on DNA binding. *Prot. Sci.* 19, 2267-2278.
- 25. Scotcher, J., Clarke, D. J., Weidt, S. K., Mackay, C. L., Hupp, T. R., Sadler, P. J., and Langridge-Smith, P. R. (2011) Identification of two reactive cysteine residues in the tumor suppressor protein p53 using top-down FT ICR mass spectrometry. J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom. 22, 888-897.
- Scotcher, J., Clarke, D. J., Mackay, C. L., Hupp, T., Sadler, P. J., and Langridge-Smith, P. R. (2013)) Redox regulation of tumour suppressor protein p53: identification of the sites of hydrogen peroxide oxidation and glutathionylation. *Chemical Science* 4, 1257-1269.
- Armitage, B., Yu, C., Devadoss, C., and Schuster, G. B. (1994) Cationic anthraquinone derivatives as catalytic DNA photonucleases: Mechanisms for DNA-damage and quinone recycling. J. Am. Chem.Soc. 116, 9847-9859.
- Gasper, S. M. and Schuster, G. B. (1997) Intramolecular photoinduced electron transfer to anthraquinones linked to duplex DNA: The effect of gaps and traps on long-range radical cation migration. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 119, 12762-12771.
- Nikolova, P. V., Henckel, J., Lane, D. P., and Fersht, A. R. (1998) Semirational design of active tumor suppressor p53 DNA binding domain with enhanced stability. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 95*, 14675-14680.
- Veprintsev, D. B., Freund, S. M., Andreeva, A., Rutledge, S. E., Tidow, H., Cañadillas, J. M., Blair, C. M., and Fersht, A. R. (2006) Core domain interactions in full-length p53 in solution *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 103*, 2115-2119.

- 31. Graham, R. L. J., Kalli, A., Smith, G. T., Sweredoski, M. J., Hess, S. (2011) Avoiding pitfalls in proteomics sample preparation. *Biomacromol. Mass Spectrom.* 2, 273-284.
- MacLean, B., Tomazela, D. M., Shulman, N., Chambers, M., Finney, G. L., Frewen, B., Kern, R., Tabb, D. L., Liebler, D. C., and MacCoss, M. J. (2010) Skyline: an open source document editor for creating and analyzing targeted proteomics experiments. *Bioinformatics 26*, 966-968.
- Rebischung, C., Gerard, J. P., Gayet J., Thomas, G., Hamelin, R., and Laurent-Puig, P. (2002) Prognostic value of P53 mutations in rectal carcinoma. *Int. J. Cancer 100*, 131-135.
- 34. Webley, K. M., Shorthouse, A. J., and Royds, J. A. (2000) Effect of mutation and conformation on the function of p53 in colorectal cancer. *J. Pathol.* 191, 361-367.
- 35. Gao, H. G., Chen, J. K., Stewart, J., Song, B., Rayappa, C., Whong, W. Z., and Ong, T. (1997) Distribution of p53 and K-ras mutations in human lung cancer tissues. *Carcinogenesis 18*, 473-478.
- Arkin, M. R., Stemp, E. D. A., Pulver, S. C., and Barton, J. K. (1997) Long-range oxidation of guanine by Ru(III) in duplex DNA. *Chemistry & Biology 4*, 389-400.
- 37. Gilbert, H.F. (1995) Thiol/disulfide exchange equilibria and disulfide bond stability. *Methods in Enzymology 215*, 8-28.
- Kadokura, H., Katzen, F., and Beckwith J. (2003) Protein disulfide bond formation in prokaryotes. *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 72, 111-135.

Mutation	Direction	Primer Sequence (5' to 3')				
N239Y	Original plasmid of stabilized p53 quadruple mutant from Fersht Lab containing M133L, V203A, N268D, and N239Y. ¹					
Reversion on the N239Y mutation was used to create the p53' plasmid						
Y239N	Forward	CCA CTA CAA CTA CAT GTG TAA CAG TTC CTG CAT GG				
	Reverse	CCA TGC AGG AAC TGT TAC ACA TGT AGT TGT AGT GG				
C1246	Forward	GTC TGT GAC TTC CAC GTA CTC CCC				
C1248	Reverse	GGG GAG TAC GTG GAA GT CACA GAC				
C1259	Forward	CAA GCT GTT TAG CCA ACT GGC C				
C1358	Reverse	GGC CAG TTG GCT AAA CAG CTT G				
C141S	Forward	CCA ACT GGC CAA GAC CTC CCC TGT GC				
	Reverse	CAG CTG CAC AGG GGA GGT CTT GGC C				
C1936	Forward	GGC GCT GCC CCC ACC ATG AGC GCA GC				
C182S	Reverse	GGA GGG GCC AGA CCA TCG CTA TCT GA				
Var	Forward	CCA TCC ACT ACA ACT TCA TGT GTA AC				
Y236F	Reverse	CTG TTA CACA TG AAG TTG TAG TGG AT				
C2759	Forward	GTG CGT GTT AGT GCC TGT CCT				
02758	Reverse	AGG ACA GGC ACT AAC ACG CAC				
C077 8	Forward	GTG CGT GTT TGT GCC AGT CCT GGG				
C2778	Reverse	CCC AGG ACT GGC ACA AAC ACG CAG				

Appendix 4.1: Primer sequences for site directed mutagenesis of the p53' plasmid.

 Nikolova, P. V., Henckel, J., Lane, D. P., and Fersht, A. R. (1998) Semirational design of active tumor suppressor p53 DNA binding domain with enhanced stability. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 95, 14675–14680.

Peptide	Q1 (amu)	Q3 (amu)	Dwell Time (msec)	Declustering Potential	Collision energy (V)
C141S.TSPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y10.light	919.475782	1026.52145	20	98.1	42
C141S.TSPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y9.light	919.475782	927.453036	20	98.1	42
C141S.TSPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y8.light	919.475782	812.426093	20	98.1	42
C141S.TSPVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y6.light	919.475782	624.346386	20	98.1	42
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y11.light	955.975092	1212.600763	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y10.light	955.975092	1026.52145	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y8.light	955.975092	812.426093	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y6.light	955.975092	624.346386	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y11.heavy	957.984724	1212.600763	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y10.heavy	957.984724	1026.52145	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y8.heavy	957.984724	812.426093	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y6.heavy	957.984724	624.346386	20	100.8	43.3
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y11.light	927.46436	1212.600763	20	98.7	42.2
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y10.light	927.46436	1026.52145	20	98.7	42.2
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y8.light	927.46436	812.426093	20	98.7	42.2
p53_3X.TC[CAM]PVQLWVDSTPPPGTR.+2y6.light	927.46436	624.346386	20	98.7	42.2
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.light	410.18364	720.29159	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	410.18364	560.260942	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	410.18364	489.223828	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.light	410.18364	329.193179	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.heavy	414.202903	728.330116	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.heavy	414.202903	564.280205	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.heavy	414.202903	493.243091	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.heavy	414.202903	329.193179	20	61	23.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.light	353.162176	606.248662	20	56.9	21.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	353.162176	503.239478	20	56.9	21.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	353.162176	432.202364	20	56.9	21.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.light	353.162176	329.193179	20	56.9	21.6
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.light	412.193272	724.310853	20	61.2	23.7
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	412.193272	560.260942	20	61.2	23.7
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	412.193272	489.223828	20	61.2	23.7
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.light	412.193272	329.193179	20	61.2	23.7
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	412.193272	564.280205	20	61.2	23.7
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	412.193272	493.243091	20	61.2	23.7
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.light	414.202903	728.330116	20	61.3	23.8
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	414.202903	564.280205	20	61.3	23.8
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	414.202903	493.243091	20	61.3	23.8
p53_3X.VC[CAM]AC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.light	414.202903	329.193179	20	61.3	23.8
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.light	373.68433	647.29297	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	373.68433	560.260942	20	58.4	22.3

Appendix 4.2: QTRAP 6500 LC-MS/MS Peptide Transitions.

C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	373.68433	489.223828	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.light	373.68433	329.193179	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.heavy	375.693962	651.312233	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.heavy	375.693962	564.280205	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.heavy	375.693962	493.243091	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.heavy	375.693962	329.193179	20	58.4	22.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y6.light	345.173598	590.271506	20	56.3	21.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y5.light	345.173598	503.239478	20	56.3	21.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y4.light	345.173598	432.202364	20	56.3	21.3
C275S.VSAC[CAM]PGR.+2y3.light	345.173598	329.193179	20	56.3	21.3
iRT.LGGNETQVR.+2y8.light	487.256705	860.42207	20	66.6	26.4
iRT.LGGNETQVR.+2y4.light	487.256705	503.293622	20	66.6	26.4
iRT.AGGSSEPVTGLADK.+2y8.light	644.822606	800.451245	20	78.1	32.1
iRT.AGGSSEPVTGLADK.+2y6.light	644.822606	604.330067	20	78.1	32.1
iRT.VEATFGVDESANK.+2b8.light	683.827888	819.38831	20	81	33.5
iRT.VEATFGVDESANK.+2y9.light	683.827888	966.452701	20	81	33.5
iRT.YILAGVESNK.+2y8.light	547.298038	817.441408	20	71	28.6
iRT.YILAGVESNK.+2y6.light	547.298038	633.32023	20	71	28.6
iRT.TPVISGGPYYER.+2y9.light	669.838059	1041.499986	20	79.9	33
iRT.TPVISGGPYYER.+2y8.light	669.838059	928.415922	20	79.9	33
iRT.TPVITGAPYYER.+2y8.light	683.853709	956.447222	20	81	33.5
iRT.TPVITGAPYYER.+2y7.light	683.853709	855.399543	20	81	33.5
iRT.GDLDAASYYAPVR.+2y8.light	699.338423	926.473043	20	82.1	34
iRT.GDLDAASYYAPVR.+2y7.light	699.338423	855.435929	20	82.1	34
iRT.DAVTPADFSEWSK.+2y9.light	726.835713	1066.484001	20	84.1	35
iRT.DAVTPADFSEWSK.+2y9+2.light	726.835713	533.745639	20	84.1	35
iRT.TGFIIDPGGVIR.+2y7.light	622.853512	713.394064	20	76.5	31.3
iRT.TGFIIDPGGVIR.+2y6.light	622.853512	598.367121	20	76.5	31.3
iRT.GTFIIDPAAIVR.+2y8.light	636.869162	854.509428	20	77.5	31.8
iRT.GTFIIDPAAIVR.+2y6.light	636.869162	626.398421	20	77.5	31.8
iRT.FLLQFGAQGSPLFK.+2y10.light	776.929751	1051.557107	20	87.8	36.8
iRT.FLLQFGAQGSPLFK.+2y9.light	776.929751	904.488693	20	87.8	36.8
p53.ELNEALELK.+2y7.light	529.790046	816.446159	20	69.7	27.9
p53.ELNEALELK.+2y6.light	529.790046	702.403232	20	69.7	27.9
p53.ELNEALELK.+2y5.light	529.790046	573.360639	20	69.7	27.9
p53.ELNEALELK.+2y4.light	529.790046	502.323525	20	69.7	27.9
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y8.light	670.829377	893.472708	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y7.light	670.829377	792.42503	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y6.light	670.829377	629.361701	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y5.light	670.829377	542.329673	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y8.heavy	672.839008	893.472708	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y7.heavy	672.839008	792.42503	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y6.heavy	672.839008	629.361701	20	80	33
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y5.heavy	672.839008	542.329673	20	80	33

p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y8.light	642.318645	893.472708	20	77.9	32	
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y7.light	642.318645	792.42503	20	77.9	32	
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y6.light	642.318645	629.361701	20	77.9	32	
p53.SVTC[CAM]TYSPALNK.+2y5.light	642.318645	542.329673	20	77.9	32	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y6.light	440.241481	766.391622	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y5.light	440.241481	619.323208	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y3.light	440.241481	331.233982	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y6+2.light	440.241481	383.699449	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y6.heavy	442.251112	770.410885	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y5.heavy	442.251112	623.342471	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y3.heavy	442.251112	331.233982	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y6+2.heavy	442.251112	385.70908	20	63.2	24.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y6.light	411.730749	709.370158	20	61.1	23.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y5.light	411.730749	562.301744	20	61.1	23.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y3.light	411.730749	331.233982	20	61.1	23.7	
p53.LFC[CAM]QLAK.+2y6+2.light	411.730749	355.188717	20	61.1	23.7	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y7.light	555.938627	860.510097	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y6.light	555.938627	763.457333	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y8+2.light	555.938627	466.277243	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y7+2.light	555.938627	430.758686	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y7.heavy	557.278382	860.510097	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y6.heavy	557.278382	763.457333	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y8+2.heavy	557.278382	466.277243	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y7+2.heavy	557.278382	430.758686	20	71.6	27.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y7.light	536.931473	860.510097	20	70.3	26.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y6.light	536.931473	763.457333	20	70.3	26.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y8+2.light	536.931473	466.277243	20	70.3	26.8	
p53.C[CAM]SDSDGLAPPQHLIR.+3y7+2.light	536.931473	430.758686	20	70.3	26.8	