

## 许 杰 · 研究组

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## PD-L1 棕榈酰化是抗肿瘤免疫新靶点

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上海交通大学医学院许杰研究组发现了程序性死亡配体-1 (programmed-death ligand 1, PD-L1) 的棕榈酰化及其影响其降解的作用机制,并在此基础上开发了靶向 PD-L1 棕榈酰化的多肽 PD-PALM,为肿瘤免疫检查点抑制剂的研发提供了新思路。该研究成果以“*Inhibiting PD-L1 palmitoylation enhances T-cell immune responses against tumours*”为题于 2019 年 3 月在线发表于生物医学工程领域顶级期刊 *Nat Biomed Eng*。博士后姚晗是论文的第一作者,许杰研究员是论文的通信作者。上海交通大学医学院附属仁济医院是论文的通信单位。

免疫检查点是分布于体内免疫系统中的抑制性信号通路,能够调控免疫反应的强弱和持续时间,避免组织损伤并维持机体自身的耐受。而肿瘤细胞则能够利用免疫检查点通路的抑制作用,逃避免疫细胞的识别,特别是抑制 T 细胞的免疫应答,以实现免疫逃逸。因此,适当地抑制免疫检查点可以激发免疫系统原有的抗肿瘤能力。目前,靶向免疫检查点蛋白如细胞毒性 T 淋巴细胞相关蛋白 4 (cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4, CTLA-4)、程序性死亡受体-1 (programmed death-1, PD-1) /PD-L1 的单克隆抗体已被批准用于治疗多种类型的恶性肿瘤。

然而在临床上,免疫检查点阻断疗法存在总体效率不高、长期使用后产生耐药以及可发生严重不良反应等较多问题。研究发现,部分肿瘤细胞通过将自身表达的 PD-L1 与 T 细胞表面的 PD-1 相结合,引起 T 细胞的衰竭,从而逃避宿主免疫系统的监视。也有研究发现,除了可分布于细胞表面外,PD-L1 还可存在于细胞内的高尔基体、循环内体以及微囊泡上,而后的 PD-L1 则具有促癌功能,可通过囊泡转运重新

被转移到细胞表面。因此,深入研究 PD-L1 的相关调控机制对改善肿瘤免疫治疗的效果将有所帮助。目前,有关 PD-L1 的靶向蛋白降解策略备受关注。

许杰研究组发现 PD-L1 可被 DHHC3 酶进行棕榈酰化修饰,从而抑制 PD-L1 的泛素化修饰,增强 PD-L1 的表达和功能。体内和体外研究模型一致表明,靶向 PD-L1 的棕榈酰化可抑制 PD-L1 的表达和功能,从而增强 T 细胞对肿瘤细胞的杀伤作用。由于目前棕榈酰化的小分子抑制剂缺少对 DHHC 酶的选择性,因此许杰研究组针对棕榈酰化竞争性抑制剂进行研发,通过设计合成的 PD-PALM 多肽降低了肿瘤细胞 PD-L1 的表达量。该研究揭示了靶向降解 PD-L1 的新途径,为肿瘤免疫药物的研发提供了一定的参考。

*Nat Biomed Eng* 刊发了加拿大学者 Stephane Lefrancois 对该项研究的评论,认为“利用多肽抑制剂来阻断 PD-L1 的棕榈酰化,突出了基于翻译后修饰的新的靶向方法。许杰研究组开发的这种细胞穿透多肽可显著抑制 PD-L1 的表达,该多肽分子或将成为有潜力的治疗分子”。此外,汤森路透 BioWorld 新闻网站在题为《靶向细胞内的 PD-L1 增强免疫检查点阻断疗法》的报道文章中指出,“中国研究者证明,棕榈酰化对调控 PD-L1 的稳定性至关重要,发现了有潜力的酶学治疗靶点,可用于增强抗肿瘤免疫”。

该项工作由上海交通大学医学院许杰研究组和四川大学生物治疗国家重点实验室石虎兵教授研究组合作完成。在许杰研究员的指导下,博士后姚晗、博士研究生李楚舒等历时 2 年多完成该工作。同时,研究得到了复旦大学生物医学研究院陆豪杰教授的支持。该项研究也获得了多项国家自然科学基金、国家重点研发计划等课题的资助。

**Inhibiting PD-L1 palmitoylation enhances T-cell immune responses against tumours**引自: *Nat Biomed Eng*, 2019, 3(4): 306-317. DOI: 10.1038/s41551-019-0375-6.

## Abstract:

Checkpoint blockade therapy targeting the programmed-death ligand 1 (PD-L1) and its receptor programmed cell death 1 promotes T-cell-mediated immunosurveillance against tumours, and has been associated with marked clinical benefit in cancer patients. Antibodies against PD-L1 function by blocking PD-L1 on the cell surface, but intracellular storage of PD-L1 and its active redistribution to the cell membrane can minimize the therapeutic benefits, which highlights the importance of targeting PD-L1 throughout the whole cell. Here, we show that PD-L1 is palmitoylated in its cytoplasmic domain, and that this lipid modification stabilizes PD-L1 by blocking its ubiquitination, consequently suppressing PD-L1 degradation by lysosomes. We identified palmitoyltransferase ZDHHC3 (DHHHC3) as the main acetyltransferase required for the palmitoylation of PD-L1, and show that the inhibition of PD-L1 palmitoylation *via* 2-bromopalmitate, or the silencing of DHHHC3, activates antitumour immunity *in vitro* and in mice bearing MC38 tumour cells. We also designed a competitive inhibitor of PD-L1 palmitoylation that decreases PD-L1 expression in tumour cells to enhance T-cell immunity against the tumours. These findings suggest new strategies for overcoming PD-L1-mediated immune evasion in cancer.



## 学者介绍

许 杰 博士

研究员、博士生导师

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2836-1081

XU Jie Ph.D

Professor, Doctoral Supervisor

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2836-1081

许 杰 (1979—), 上海交通大学医学院附属仁济医院研究员、博士生导师。2010 年获布鲁塞尔自由大学博士学位。同年, 于鲁汶大学医学院从事博士后研究工作。

致力于消化系统肿瘤的发生机制与生物治疗靶点研究, 针对肿瘤免疫检查点通路和抑癌通路开展转化研究。主要包括: ①发现 HIP1R 介导的 PD-L1 溶酶体降解途径, 根据 HIP1R 的分子功能设计多肽 PD-LYSO 用于靶向降解 PD-L1, 为免疫检查点抑制剂的开发提供新思路 (*Nat Chem Biol*, 2019)。②阐明 PD-L1 的棕榈酰化修饰影响其稳定性的机制, 开发相应抑制剂 PD-PALM 多肽, 证明 PD-L1 的棕榈酰化为有效靶点 (*Nat Biomed Eng*, 2019)。③研究 PD-L1 和 PD-L2 在不同肿瘤及其发展阶段的表达特征, 发现 PD-L2 的糖基化修饰及潜在靶点意义 (*Oncoimmunology*, 2018)。④发现 Morn3 通过抑制 p53 促进直肠癌的发生与发展, 并据此开发靶向多肽抑制肿瘤生长 (*Cell Chem Biol*, 2018)。曾获国家自然科学基金优秀青年基金资助, 入选国家高层次人才 (青年拔尖人才) 特殊支持计划。

XU Jie (1979—), professor and doctoral supervisor of Renji Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine. He received his Ph.D from Vrije Universiteit Brussel in 2010. And then, he went to Faculty of Medicine, Catholic University of Leuven to do postdoctoral research.

Dr. XU has been engaged in the mechanisms of carcinogenesis in the digestive system and the targets of biological therapy, especially in the immune checkpoint pathway and tumor suppressing pathways. Related work includes the following: ① Discovered the lysosomal degradation pathway of PD-L1 mediated by HIP1R, identified the functional sequences of HIP1R, and thereby developed PD-LYSO peptide to target degradation of PD-L1 (*Nat Chem Biol*, 2019). ② Revealed the mechanism of palmitoylation dependent stabilization of PD-L1, developed the PD-PALM peptide targeting molecule on this basis, and demonstrated the palmitoylation of PD-L1 as a new effective target (*Nat Biomed Eng*, 2019). ③ Studied the expression features

of PD-L1/PD-L2 in different types and stages of tumors, and identified the glycosylation of PD-L2 and its molecular functions (*Oncoimmunology*, 2018). ④ Found the cancer testicular antigen (CTA) Morn3 mediated the occurrence of colorectal cancer by inhibiting the function of p53, and thereby developed the targeted peptides to suppress tumor growth (*Cell Chem Biol*, 2018). He has been supported by Outstanding Youth Science Foundation of National Natural Science Foundation of China. Also, he was enrolled into National Program for Special Support of Eminent Professionals.

## 许杰研究组

致力于肿瘤发生机制及其治疗靶点的转化医学研究。利用系统生物医学研究方法，该研究组力求发现在肿瘤发生中具有关键功能的癌症靶标，通过将机制研究和靶向分子设计有机结合，为肿瘤的生物治疗提供新的理论依据和先导药物。目前，在 PD-1/PD-L1 肿瘤免疫检查点和 p53 抑癌通路的调控机制及靶向方法方面已取得系列研究进展。

Prof. XU's group is committed to the researches of oncogenic mechanisms, therapeutic targets and translational medicine. Using systematic biomedical research methods, XU's group aims to discover anticancer targets with key functions in tumorigenesis. By combining mechanistic investigation and molecular design, XU's group provided new models and molecules for the biological treatment of tumors. At present, a series of advances have been made in the regulation and targeting approaches of PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint and p53 tumor suppressor pathways.



### 5 篇代表性论文：

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