1	The ubiquitin ligase HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by antagonizing destruction complex-
2	mediated β -catenin degradation and through a mechanism independent of β -catenin stability
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4	Short Title: HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling via two mechanisms
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19 Abstract:

20

21	WNT/ β -catenin signaling is mediated by the transcriptional coactivator β -catenin (CTNNB1).
22	CTNNB1 abundance is regulated by phosphorylation and proteasomal degradation promoted by
23	a destruction complex composed of the scaffold proteins APC and AXIN1 or AXIN2, and the
24	kinases CSNK1A1 and GSK3A or GSK3B. Loss of CSNK1A1 increases CTNNB1 abundance,
25	resulting in hyperactive WNT signaling. Previously, we demonstrated that the HECT domain
26	ubiquitin ligase HUWE1 is necessary for hyperactive WNT signaling in HAP1 haploid human
27	cells lacking CSNK1A1. Here, we investigate the mechanism underlying this requirement. In the
28	absence of CSNK1A1, GSK3A/GSK3B still phosphorylated a fraction of CTNNB1, promoting
29	its degradation. HUWE1 loss enhanced GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent CTNNB1 phosphorylation,
30	further reducing CTNNB1 abundance. However, the reduction in CTNNB1 caused by HUWE1
31	loss was disproportionately smaller than the reduction in WNT target gene transcription. To test
32	if the reduction in WNT signaling resulted from reduced CTNNB1 abundance alone, we
33	engineered the endogenous CTNNB1 locus in HAP1 cells to encode a CTNNB1 variant
34	insensitive to destruction complex-mediated phosphorylation and degradation. HUWE1 loss in
35	these cells reduced WNT signaling with no change in CTNNB1 abundance. Genetic interaction
36	and overexpression analyses revealed that the effects of HUWE1 on WNT signaling were not
37	only mediated by GSK3A/GSK3B, but also by APC and AXIN1. Regulation of WNT signaling
38	by HUWE1 required its ubiquitin ligase activity. These results suggest that in cells lacking
39	CSNK1A1, a destruction complex containing APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A/GSK3B downregulates
40	WNT signaling by phosphorylating and targeting CTNNB1 for degradation. HUWE1 enhances
41	WNT signaling by antagonizing this activity. Therefore, HUWE1 enhances WNT/CTNNB1

- 42 signaling through two mechanisms, one that regulates CTNNB1 abundance and another that is
- 43 independent of CTNNB1 stability. Coordinated regulation of CTNNB1 abundance and an
- 44 independent signaling step by HUWE1 would be an efficient way to control WNT signaling
- 45 output, enabling sensitive and robust activation of the pathway.
- 46

47 <u>Author Summary</u>

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49	The WNT pathway is a conserved signaling system with diverse functions in embryonic
50	development and adult tissue homeostasis. Dysregulation of WNT signaling drives many types
51	of cancer. Over four decades of research have revealed a great deal about how the core
52	components of the WNT pathway regulate signaling, but much less is known about additional
53	regulatory layers superimposed on the core signaling module. In this study we present an
54	example of such regulation by the ubiquitin ligase HUWE1. Phosphorylation of the
55	transcriptional co-activator β -catenin by a protein complex called the destruction complex targets
56	β -catenin for degradation. This is considered the main regulated step in WNT signaling. We
57	demonstrate that HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through two distinct mechanisms. First,
58	HUWE1 antagonizes the phosphorylation and degradation of β -catenin by the destruction
59	complex. Second, HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through a mechanism independent from
60	control of β -catenin stability. The effects of HUWE1 on WNT signaling require its ubiquitin
61	ligase activity, suggesting there is a HUWE1 substrate awaiting discovery. Our work therefore
62	reveals a new role for HUWE1 controlling the main regulated step in WNT signaling – β -catenin
63	phosphorylation by the destruction complex – and most likely a downstream mechanism.
64	

65 Introduction:

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During embryonic development and tissue homeostasis, WNT/ β -catenin signaling orchestrates 67 68 cellular processes that control tissue patterning and morphogenesis, cell fate specification, and 69 stem cell self-renewal among many other functions [1, 2]. Mutations in WNT signaling pathway 70 components can drive tumorigenesis of many cancer types, most notably colorectal cancer [3, 4]. 71 At the heart of the WNT/ β -catenin signaling pathway, the destruction complex (DC) controls the 72 abundance of the transcriptional coactivator β -catenin (CTNNB1) by regulating its degradation 73 through the ubiquitin/proteasome system. The DC is comprised of a set of core components, 74 including the scaffold proteins APC and AXIN1 or AXIN2, and the kinases case in kinase 1α 75 (CSNK1A1) and glycogen synthase kinase 3α (GSK3A) or β (GSK3B) [5]. In the absence of 76 signals initiated by secreted WNT ligands, CSNK1A1 phosphorylates CTNNB1 at serine (S) 45 77 [6, 7], priming it for further sequential phosphorylation of threonine (T) 41, S37 and S33 by 78 GSK3A and/or GSK3B [6, 8] (we refer to residues S33, S37, T41 and S45 as the CTNNB1 79 phosphodegron). When phosphorylated, residues S33 and S37 create a recognition site for the ubiquitin ligase complex SCF^{β TrCP} [9, 10], which ubiquitylates CTNNB1 and targets it for 80 81 proteasomal degradation [5]. Therefore, CTNNB1 abundance is kept low and WNT-dependent 82 transcriptional programs are repressed. Binding of WNT ligands to the cell surface receptors 83 frizzled (FZD) and LDL receptor related proteins 5 (LRP5) or 6 (LRP6) triggers the recruitment 84 of dishevelled (DVL) and at least some DC components to FZD and LRP5/6. Formation of this 85 receptor complex, or signalosome, downregulates the DC [11, 12] and results in accumulation of 86 non-phosphorylated CTNNB1. CTNNB1 enters the nucleus, where it forms a complex with

transcription factors of the TCF/LEF family and other coactivators to drive WNT target gene
transcription [13].

89 This description of WNT/CTNNB1 signaling omits additional regulatory mechanisms 90 superimposed on the core pathway that control the abundance, interactions, and subcellular 91 localization of many components of the pathway. Such additional regulatory mechanisms tune 92 WNT responses in diverse biological contexts, expand the functional repertoire of the pathway, 93 and may represent potential sites of therapeutic intervention in WNT-driven cancers. Classical 94 genetic approaches have been very successful at discovering new regulation in WNT signaling 95 [14]. In a previous study, we sought to uncover new regulatory mechanisms in WNT signaling 96 by performing forward genetic screens in HAP1-7TGP cells, a derivative of the haploid human 97 cell line HAP1 harboring a fluorescent reporter of WNT signaling [15]. HAP1 cells are 98 especially well suited for genetic screens due to the presence of a single allele of most genes in 99 their near-haploid genome, which can be disrupted by mutagenesis to generate true genetic null 100 cells [16]. We previously reported a comprehensive set of forward genetic screens designed to 101 identify positive, negative and attenuating regulators of WNT/CTNNB1 signaling, as well as 102 regulators of R-spondin (RSPO) signaling and suppressors of hyperactive WNT signaling 103 induced by loss of distinct DC components, including APC and CSNK1A1 [15]. These screens 104 recovered hits implicated at several levels of the pathway, including WNT and RSPO reception 105 at the plasma membrane, cytosolic signal transduction, and transcriptional regulation. 106 Comparative analyses of the screens enabled us to infer genetic interactions based on distinct 107 patterns of hits identified by the different screens. The screens for suppressors of hyperactive 108 signaling induced by loss of APC or CSNK1A1 suggested potential candidates for targeting 109 oncogenic WNT signaling.

110 An unexpected outcome of the APC and CSNK1A1 suppressor screens was that we 111 observed only a partial overlap between significant hits in the two screens [15]. The phenotypic 112 selection parameters used in both screens were the same and the cell lines used for the two 113 screens were isogenic except for the mutations in APC or CSNK1A1 we introduced by 114 CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing. Therefore, we expected that the hits identified in the 115 two suppressor screens would be the same. After all, if APC and CSNK1A1 regulate 116 WNT/CTNNB1 signaling through a single common function in the DC phosphorylating 117 CTNNB1, we assumed that hyperactivating the pathway by knocking out one or the other would 118 be functionally equivalent, and the complement of downstream regulators would be shared. While there were indeed many common hits with high significance scores in both suppressor 119 120 screens, including established downstream regulators of WNT/CTNNB1 signaling such as 121 CTNNB1 and CREBBP, there were also many hits unique to the APC suppressor or the 122 *CSNK1A1* suppressor screen [15]. These results suggested that the hyperactive signaling state 123 resulting from loss of these two DC components was not equivalent. We hypothesized that the 124 difference in potential downstream regulators in the two genetic backgrounds in which the 125 screens were conducted – APC knock-out (KO) or CSNK1A1 KO – could reflect additional roles 126 of APC or CSNK1A1 in WNT/CTNNB1 signaling beyond their shared function regulating 127 CTNNB1 stability.

HUWE1, the gene encoding the eponymous ubiquitin ligase, was the most striking
example of a hit that was highly significant in the *CSNK1A1* suppressor but not the *APC*suppressor screen [15]. HUWE1 is a very large, 482 kilodalton (kDa) HECT domain ubiquitin
ligase that has been implicated in many cellular processes, including transcriptional regulation,
DNA replication and repair, cell cycle arrest, cell adhesion, cell migration, cell proliferation and

133 differentiation, proteotoxic stress, ribosome biogenesis, mitochondrial maintenance, autophagy, 134 apoptosis and WNT signaling [17-20]. HUWE1 was the third most significant hit in the CSNK1A1 suppressor screen, surpassed only by CTNNB1 and CREBBP, which encode two of 135 136 the main components of the TCF/LEF transcription complex and are therefore central players in 137 the WNT pathway [15]. However, HUWE1 was not a significant hit in the APC suppressor 138 screen (rank number 8040 out of 11022 genes with mapped gene-trap integrations), and it was 139 not among the most significant hits in any of the screens performed in wild-type (WT) HAP1-140 7TGP cells, designed to identify positive regulators of WNT3A- and RSPO1-induced signaling. 141 These results suggested that HUWE1 might be involved in a regulatory mechanism that is most evident in the CSNK1A1^{KO} genetic background (for brevity, HAP1-7TGP cell lines in which 142 143 genes were disrupted will be referred to by the name of the protein encoded by the targeted gene 144 or genes followed by a "KO" superscript). In follow-up studies, we had confirmed that HUWE1 145 loss reduced WNT target gene transcription – and to a smaller extent CTNNB1 abundance – in CSNK1A1^{KO} but not in APC^{KO} cells [15]. We had also shown that microinjection of HUWE1 146 147 mRNA into Xenopus laevis embryos promoted body axis duplication, a hallmark of ectopic 148 WNT signaling [15]. These experiments established a few biological contexts in which HUWE1 149 acts as a positive regulator of WNT/CTNNB1 signaling, but the underlying mechanism remained 150 unclear and the reason why HUWE1 loss selectively reduced WNT/CTNNB1 signaling in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells remained unknown. 151 152 Here we extend our genetic analyses to show that HUWE1 enhances WNT/CTNNB1

signaling through two different mechanisms. First, HUWE1 reduces phosphorylation of the
CTNNB1 phosphodegron by antagonizing the activity of a DC composed of GSK3A/GSK3B,

- 155 APC and AXIN1, therefore increasing CTNNB1 abundance. Second, HUWE1 enhances WNT
- signaling through a mechanism that is independent from the control of CTNNB1 stability.

158 **Results:**

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HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells by antagonizing GSK3A/GSK3B-160 161 dependent phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron and increasing CTNNB1

abundance

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We previously reported that HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells caused a substantial, 80-90% 164 165 reduction in WNT reporter activity and endogenous WNT target gene expression that was 166 accompanied by a smaller, 20-32% reduction in soluble CTNNB1 abundance [15]. Soluble 167 CTNNB1 is a proxy for the signaling CTNNB1 pool because it excludes the more stable, plasma 168 membrane-associated junctional CTNNB1 pool. We readily reproduced these results in the current study: HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1KO cells reduced WNT reporter activity by 89% and 169 170 soluble CTNNB1 abundance by 36% (Figs 1A and 1B, and S1A Fig). These results raised the possibility that in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells, HUWE1 loss reduces WNT signaling solely by reducing 171 172 CTNNB1 abundance, but that a non-linear relationship between changes in CTNNB1 abundance 173 and transcriptional activity results in a disproportionately greater reduction in WNT target gene 174 expression than CTNNB1 abundance. Alternatively, HUWE1 could regulate both CTNNB1 175 abundance and another process, which when disrupted together following HUWE1 loss result in 176 a greater reduction in WNT target gene expression than in CTNNB1 abundance. To distinguish 177 between these possibilities, we thought it was important to first determine the mechanism 178 underlying the reduction in CTNNB1 abundance caused by HUWE1 loss. 179 The main mechanism regulating CTNNB1 abundance is phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron by the DC [5]. In CSNK1A1^{KO} cells we did not expect the phosphodegron to be 180

181 phosphorylated by GSK3A/GSK3B at residues S33, S37 and T41 because phosphorylation of 182 these residues generally requires the priming phosphorylation of residue S45 by CSNK1A1 [6, 183 7]. Nevertheless, we tested whether the reduction in CTNNB1 abundance caused by HUWE1 184 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells was due to changes in phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 185 phosphodegron. CTNNB1 phosphorylated at S33, S37 and T41 can be measured directly by 186 Western blot, but due to the rapid proteasomal degradation of this species, treatment with 187 proteasome inhibitors is usually required to make such measurements [7]. Since any effects of 188 HUWE1 on WNT signaling could conceivably also depend on proteasomal degradation of a 189 HUWE1 substrate, which would be disrupted by proteasome inhibitors, we opted for a different 190 way to evaluate phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron. We instead quantified 191 CTNNB1 that is not phosphorylated at residues S33, S37 and T41 (we refer to this species as 192 non-phospho-CTNNB1, but it is also known as active CTNNB1 [21]) from whole cell extracts 193 (WCE) (Figs 1C and S1B Fig). As a control, we also measured total CTNNB1 from WCE (S1B 194 and S1C Figs). Non-pospho-CTNNB1 abundance in the various conditions tested was different 195 from and exhibited larger changes than total CTNNB1 abundance (Fig 1C, and S1B and S1C 196 Figs). This indicated that non-phospho-CTNNB1 only represents a fraction of the total CTNNB1 197 in WCE and is likely to accurately reflect changes in phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 198 phosphodegron. HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells reduced non-phospho-CTNNB1 abundance by 37%, a 199 200 reduction that correlated closely with the 36% reduction in soluble CTNNB1 abundance caused

- by HUWE1 loss in the same cell line (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B Figs). This correlation
- suggested that the reduction in CTNNB1 abundance caused by HUWE1 loss was due to
- 203 increased CTNNB1 phosphorylation at S33, S37 and T41, presumably mediated by

204	GSK3A/GSK3B. If this were the case, inhibiting GSK3A/GSK3B should reverse the reduction
205	in both soluble and non-phospho-CTNNB1 abundance caused by HUWE1 loss. Treatment of
206	CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KO} cells with the GSK3A/GSK3B inhibitor CHIR-99021 indeed increased
207	the abundance of soluble CTNNB1 by 2.4-fold and the abundance of non-phospho-CTNNB1 by
208	3.2-fold (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B Figs), entirely reversing the reductions caused by
209	HUWE1 loss. Furthermore, GSK3A/GSK3B inhibition in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KO} cells
210	increased WNT reporter activity by 10.9-fold, restoring signaling to a comparable level to that in
211	DMSO vehicle-treated CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Fig 1A). These results indicate that even in the
212	absence of CSNK1A1, phosphorylation of residues S33, S37 and T41 by GSK3A/GSK3B can
213	regulate CTNNB1 abundance, and that HUWE1 loss reduces CTNNB1 abundance and WNT
214	signaling by promoting the phosphorylation of these residues.
215	Since HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells increased GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent
216	phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron, we wondered whether in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells
217	containing HUWE1, residues S33, S37 and T41 in the phosphodegron might be partially
218	phosphorylated by GSK3A/GSK3B despite the absence of CSNK1A1. CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells had a
219	relatively high abundance of soluble and non-phospho-CTNNB1, as well as high WNT reporter
220	activity, compared to basal levels in unstimulated WT HAP1-7TGP cells (Figs 1A-C, and S1A
221	and S1B Figs). However, GSK3A/GSK3B inhibition with CHIR-99021 in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells
222	increased the abundance of soluble CTNNB1 by 1.6-fold and the abundance of non-phospho-
223	CTNNB1 by 1.8-fold (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B Figs). WNT reporter activity also
224	increased 1.7-fold following treatment of CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells with CHIR-99021 (Fig 1A).
225	Therefore, in the absence of CSNK1A1, residual GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent phosphorylation of

- the CTNNB1 phosphodegron can still take place. This is presumably followed by ubiquitylationand proteasomal degradation of phosphorylated CTNNB1.
- In summary, in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells, CTNNB1 is still phosphorylated by GSK3A/GSK3B at
- residues S33, S37 and S41 in the CTNNB1 phosphodegron, and the reduction in soluble
- 230 CTNNB1 abundance caused by HUWE1 loss is due to increased GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent
- phosphorylation of these residues. We conclude that when present, HUWE1 antagonizes the
- 232 GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent phosphorylation and ensuing degradation of CTNNB1, thereby
- 233 increasing CTNNB1 abundance and promoting WNT signaling.
- 234 Our results raise two important questions. First, is control of CTNNB1 phosphorylation and
- abundance the only mechanism whereby HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling, or is there another
- 236 mechanism distinct from the control of CTNNB1 stability? Second, is the GSK3A/GSK3B-
- 237 dependent regulation of CTNNB1 abundance by HUWE1, and potentially any other mechanisms
- by which HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling, also mediated by other components of the DC in
- addition to GSK3A/GSK3B? We addressed both these questions.
- 240
- HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through a mechanism independent of CTNNB1 stability
- 243 We next sought to determine if HUWE1 could promote WNT signaling through additional
- 244 mechanisms distinct from control of CTNNB1 phosphorylation and abundance. Mutations in the
- 245 CTNNB1 phosphodegron that prevent phosphorylation by CSNK1A1 and GSK3A/GSK3B
- render CTNNB1 insensitive to degradation by the DC [6, 7, 22]. We reasoned that introducing
- such mutations into the single *CTNNB1* allele of HAP1-7TGP cells would enable us to decouple

control of CTNNB1 abundance from any other mechanism by which HUWE1 enhances WNTsignaling.

250	We used CRISPR/Cas9-induced homology directed repair (HDR) to edit the codons
251	encoding CSNK1A1 and GSK3A/GSK3B phosphorylation sites in the phosphodegron of the
252	single endogenous CTNNB1 locus in HAP1-7TGP cells. We introduced mutations encoding
253	alanine (A) substitutions in the codon encoding S45, which is phosphorylated by CSNK1A1, and
254	in the codons encoding T41 and S37, which are sequentially phosphorylated by GSK3A/GSK3B
255	(S1 File and S2A Fig). We were unable to mutate S33, the third GSK3A/GSK3B target site.
256	However, recognition of CTNNB1 by $SCF^{\beta TrCP}$ requires phosphorylation of both S33 and S37 [9,
257	10], and therefore the mutations we introduced still prevented DC-dependent CTNNB1
258	degradation, as we demonstrate below. We called the resulting HAP1-7TGP derivative cell line
259	CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} . The mutations in the <i>CTNNB1</i> locus of CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells indeed increased
260	soluble CTNNB1 abundance 42-fold compared to unstimulated WT HAP1-7TGP cells (Fig 2A
261	and S2B Fig), and promoted constitutive WNT signaling as judged by WNT reporter activity and
262	endogenous WNT target gene (AXIN2 [23], RNF43 [23], NKD1 [24], TNFRSF19 [25])
263	expression (Figs 2B-F). Furthermore, CTNNB1 abundance, WNT reporter activity and WNT
264	target gene expression in CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells were substantially higher than in WT HAP1-7TGP
265	cells treated with a near-saturating dose of WNT3A conditioned media (CM) (Figs 2A-F, and
266	S2B Fig). Stimulation of CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells with WNT3A CM did not significantly increase
267	total CTNNB1 abundance or WNT target gene expression (S2C-E Figs). These results confirmed
268	that the mutations we introduced into CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells rendered CTNNB1 insensitive to
269	degradation by the DC, and therefore abolished the control of CTNNB1 stability by WNT
270	ligands.

271	We then knocked out HUWE1 in CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells (S1 File and S2B Fig) and measured the
272	effect on CTNNB1 abundance and WNT signaling. HUWE1 loss in multiple independent clonal
273	cell lines (CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} ; HUWE1 ^{KO}) did not affect soluble CTNNB1 abundance (Fig 2A and
274	S2B Fig), but significantly reduced WNT reporter activity (Fig 2B and S2F Fig) and the
275	expression of some WNT target genes (Figs 2C-F). These results demonstrate that HUWE1 loss
276	reduces WNT signaling in part through a mechanism independent from the control of CTNNB1
277	stability. We also note that the 49% reduction in WNT reporter activity, 45% reduction in AXIN2
278	expression and 31% reduction in RNF43 expression caused by HUWE1 loss in CTNNB1 ^{ST-A}
279	cells (Figs 2B-D and S2F Fig) were smaller than the 89% reduction in WNT reporter activity,
280	67% reduction in AXIN2 expression and 73% reduction in RNF43 expression caused by HUWE1
281	loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 1A and 3C-D). This difference could be because in CSNK1A1 ^{KO}
282	cells, HUWE1 loss caused a 31-36% reduction in soluble CTNNB1 abundance (Figs 1B and 3A-
283	B, and S1A Fig) in addition to the reduction in signaling caused by the second regulatory
284	mechanism that is independent from changes in CTNNB1 abundance, whereas no corresponding
285	reduction in CTNNB1 abundance was observed following HUWE1 loss in CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells
286	(Fig 2A and S2B Fig).
287	In summary, we distinguished two mechanisms whereby HUWE1 loss reduces WNT
288	signaling. In CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells containing WT CTNNB1, HUWE1 loss caused a moderate
289	reduction in CTNNB1 abundance and a comparable increase in GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent
290	phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron, as well as a much larger GSK3A/GSK3B-

- 291 dependent reduction in WNT reporter activity (Fig 1). In CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells containing WT
- 292 CSNK1A1 but a mutated CTNNB1 phosphodegron, HUWE1 loss did not alter CTNNB1
- abundance but still caused a significant reduction in WNT reporter activity and WNT target gene

expression (Fig 2). We conclude that HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through two distinct
mechanisms, one that increases CTNNB1 abundance and one that is independent of CTNNB1
stability.

297

298 HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by APC

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300 Having defined two mechanisms whereby HUWE1 regulates WNT signaling, a

301 GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent mechanism that controls CTNNB1 phosphorylation and abundance,

302 and another mechanism that is independent from the control of CTNNB1 stability, we wondered

303 whether these mechanisms were also mediated by other DC components. HUWE1 was one of

304 the most significant hits in a *CSNK1A1* suppressor screen but was not a significant hit in an *APC*

305 suppressor screen [15]. Consistent with the results of these screens, HUWE1 loss substantially

306 reduced WNT reporter activity in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells but did not affect WNT reporter activity in

307 APC^{KO} cells [15]. Based on these results, we hypothesized that APC may be required to mediate

308 the effects of HUWE1 on WNT signaling. If APC is required for the reduction in WNT signaling

309 caused by HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells, then eliminating APC function in CSNK1A1^{KO};

310 HUWE1^{KO} cells, like inhibiting GSK3A/GSK3B activity (Fig 1), should reverse said reduction.

311 To the best of our knowledge, there are no pharmacological inhibitors that we could use to

acutely inhibit APC. We were also unable to knock out *APC* in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells,

as we found that knocking out additional genes by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing in

this cell line yielded very few viable clones. Instead, we first made cell lines lacking both APC

and CSNK1A1, and then tested the effects of HUWE1 loss in these cells, comparing them to

316 cells lacking CSNK1A1 alone.

317	CSNK1A1 single KO clonal HAP1-7TGP cell lines were generated and characterized
318	previously [15] (CSNK1A1 ^{KO-1} and CSNK1A1 ^{KO-2} ; we note that CSNK1A1 ^{KO-2} is a loss-of-
319	function allele containing a two amino acid deletion). We generated two new APC single KO
320	clonal HAP1-7TGP cell lines (APC ^{KO-1} and APC ^{KO-2}) as well as two new APC and CSNK1A1
321	double KO clonal HAP1-7TGP cell lines (APC ^{KO-1} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO-1} and APC ^{KO-1} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO-}
322	²) using CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing. We validated these cell lines by sequencing
323	each targeted locus (S1 File), and by Western blot analysis (Fig 3A). CSNK1A1 ^{KO} , APC ^{KO} and
324	APC ^{KO} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells all exhibited elevated soluble CTNNB1 abundance several-fold
325	higher than unstimulated WT HAP1-7TGP cells (Figs 3A and 3B). All these clonal cell lines
326	exhibited constitutive expression of WNT target genes several-fold higher than the level of gene
327	expression in unstimulated WT HAP1-7TGP cells and in WT HAP1-7TGP cells stimulated with
328	a near-saturating dose of WNT3A CM (Figs 3C-F). Consistent with our results demonstrating
329	that in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells residual phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron by
330	GSK3A/GSK3B results in some CTNNB1 degradation (Fig 1), both soluble CTNNB1
331	abundance and WNT target gene expression were higher in APCKO and APCKO; CSNK1A1KO
332	cells than in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 3A-F). These results support the notion that in HAP1 cells
333	CSNK1A1 is partially dispensable for CTNNB1 phosphorylation by GSK3A/GSK3B.
334	We then knocked out <i>HUWE1</i> in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} , APC ^{KO} and APC ^{KO} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells to
335	generate three CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KO} , three APC ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KO} and three APC ^{KO} ;
336	CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KO} clonal cell lines, which we validated by sequencing the targeted
337	HUWE1 locus (S1 File) and by Western blot analysis (Fig 3A). HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO}
338	cells substantially reduced the expression of all WNT target genes tested (Figs 3C-F) and, to a
339	lesser extent, soluble CTNNB1 abundance (Figs 3A and 3B). In contrast, HUWE1 loss in APCKO

340	cells resulted in a variable but not statistically significant reduction in WNT target gene
341	expression (Figs 3C-F) and did not reduce soluble CTNNB1 abundance (Figs 3A and 3B),
342	consistent with our previous finding that HUWE1 loss in APCKO cells had no effect on WNT
343	reporter activity [15]. Finally, HUWE1 loss in APC ^{KO} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells yielded equivalent
344	results to those in APCKO cells, showing no significant reduction in WNT target gene expression
345	(Figs 3C-F) or soluble CTNNB1 abundance (Figs 3A and 3B). These results indicate that, like
346	GSK3A/GSK3B inhibition, APC loss precludes the reduction in WNT target gene expression
347	and CTNNB1 abundance caused by HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells. We conclude that APC
348	mediates the effects of HUWE1 on WNT signaling.
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350	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC
350 351	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B
350 351 352	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B
350 351 352 353	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B We extended the same logic as for APC (Fig 3) to test the role of every core component of the
350 351 352 353 354	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B We extended the same logic as for APC (Fig 3) to test the role of every core component of the DC in mediating the functions of HUWE1 in WNT signaling. We first knocked out components
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- 359 GSK3B, test their roles individually. We used CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing to
- 360 generate HAP1-7TGP clonal cell lines lacking the desired DC components (Table 1). We
- 361 confirmed that each targeted genomic locus had been successfully mutated (S1 File) and that the
- 362 encoded protein had been eliminated (S4A Fig).

363

364 Table 1. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of

365 DC components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B.

366

Genotype	Aggregate WNT target gene expression, average of HUWE1 sgRNA1 and sgRNA2 (% of SCR sgRNA control)	Significance of change in aggregate WNT target gene expression for HUWE1 sgRNA 1/2 relative to SCR sgRNA control
WT - WNT3A	101	n.s./n.s.
WT + WNT3A	70	*/*
CSNK1A1 ^{KO}	47.5	**/***
APC ^{KO}	86.5	n.s./n.s.
APC ^{KO} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO}	86	n.s./n.s.
AXIN1 ^{KO} ; AXIN2 ^{KO}	91.5	n.s./n.s.
CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; AXIN1 ^{KO} ; AXIN2 ^{KO}	103	n.s./n.s.
CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; AXIN1 ^{KO}	95	n.s./n.s.
CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; AXIN2 ^{KO}	45.5	**/**
GSK3A ^{KO} ; GSK3B ^{KO}	88	n.s./n.s.
CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; GSK3A ^{KO} ; GSK3B ^{KO}	141.5	*/n.s.
CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; GSK3A ^{KO}	53	**/*
CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; GSK3B ^{KO}	40	**/**

367

Summary of effects of CRISPRi-mediated HUWE1 KD on aggregate WNT target gene
expression (Fig 4A). For the genotypes treatments indicated in green, both HUWE1 sgRNAs
used resulted in a significant reduction in aggregate WNT target gene expression relative to the
SCR sgRNA control.

372

373 To test the effects of HUWE1 loss in each of these mutant cell lines, we adopted a different

are experimental strategy. We had previously quantified the effect of HUWE1 loss on WNT

375 signaling through an experimental scheme that we refer to as clonal analysis. In this scheme, we

used CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing to target *HUWE1*. We isolated multiple

377 independent clonal cell lines in which *HUWE1* had been knocked out, and multiple clonal cell

378 lines that remained WT at the targeted locus to use as controls. We then compared several KO

379 and WT clones for WNT reporter activity or other parameters of interest (Figs 2 and 3, and S2F 380 Fig). While clonal analysis enables comparisons in true genetic null conditions, it is subject to substantial inter-clonal variability, requiring the laborious isolation of many independent clones 381 382 to achieve statistical significance. Isolation of multiple clones harboring HUWE1 mutations in 383 each of the 12 different genetic backgrounds (Table 1) in which we wanted to test the effect of 384 HUWE1 loss was unfeasible. Therefore, we implemented a CRISPR interference (CRISPRi)-385 mediated knock-down (KD) strategy [26] that enabled us to measure the outcome of knocking 386 down HUWE1 in polyclonal cell populations rather than in multiple individual clonal cell lines. 387 We used a lentivirus to deliver the CRISPRi machinery together with sgRNAs targeting HUWE1 388 in the various cell lines we had generated lacking DC components (Table 1 and S4A Fig). Based 389 on Western blot measurements (S5A and S5B Figs), lentiviral delivery of either of two different 390 sgRNAs targeting HUWE1 (HUWE1 sgRNA1 or sgRNA2) followed by antibiotic selection of 391 transduced cells resulted in a consistent 59-95% KD of HUWE1 compared to a control, 392 scrambled (SCR) sgRNA. We refer to polyclonal cell populations in which we knocked down 393 HUWE1 using CRISPRi as HUWE1^{KD}, in contrast to HUWE1^{KO} clonal cell lines in which we 394 knocked out HUWE1 using CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing. 395 To validate the CRISPRi KD strategy, we tested whether knocking down HUWE1 in CSNK1A1^{KO}, APC^{KO}, and APC^{KO}; CSNK1A1^{KO} cell populations produced equivalent results to 396 397 those we had observed when we knocked out HUWE1 and conducted clonal analysis in these same cell lines (Fig 3). Consistent with our clonal analysis, HUWE1 KD in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells 398 significantly reduced the expression of four WNT target genes compared to CSNK1A1^{KO} cells 399 400 transduced with SCR sgRNA (Figs 4A-E and Table 1). However, this reduction was smaller than that caused by complete HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells (Figs 3C-F), 401

402	presumably owing to some residual HUWE1 protein present in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KD} cells
403	(S5A and S5B Figs). Also consistent with our clonal analysis, HUWE1 KD in APC ^{KO} and in
404	APC ^{KO} ; CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells did not cause a statistically significant reduction in WNT target gene
405	expression (Figs 4A-E and Table 1). These results validate CRISPRi-mediated HUWE1 KD in
406	polyclonal cell populations as a reliable alternative to the more laborious clonal analysis of
407	multiple individual HUWE1 ^{KO} clonal cell lines. We also knocked down HUWE1 in WT HAP1-
408	7TGP cells (S5A and S5B Figs), in which we had previously reported that HUWE1 KO did not
409	cause a significant reduction in WNT reporter activity or AXIN2 expression induced by a near-
410	saturating dose of WNT3A [15]. In agreement with those results, HUWE1 KD did not reduce
411	WNT3A-induced expression of AXIN2 (Fig 4B). However, HUWE1 KD in WT HAP1-7TGP
412	cells did reduce the expression of other WNT target genes, including RNF43, NKD1 and
413	<i>TNFRSF19</i> , but to a smaller extent than in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 4A-E and Table 1). Together
414	with our analysis in CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells (Fig 2), these results demonstrate that the contribution of
415	HUWE1 to WNT signaling is not limited to cells lacking CSNK1A1.
416	We then asked whether other DC components mediate the function of HUWE1. As we had
417	done for APC, we tested whether knocking out AXIN1 and AXIN2 eliminated the reduction in
418	WNT signaling caused by HUWE1 loss. In WT HAP1-7TGP cells, AXIN1 and AXIN2 are
419	functionally redundant in their capacity to suppress WNT signaling, presumably by regulating
420	CTNNB1 abundance as scaffolds in the DC: eliminating either AXIN1 or AXIN2 has no effect
421	on WNT reporter activity, whereas eliminating both promotes constitutive pathway activation
422	[15]. We initially assumed that a possible role of AXIN1 and AXIN2 in mediating the effects of
423	HUWE1 may also be redundant, so we knocked out both paralogs in HAP1-7TGP cells (S1 File
424	and S4A Fig) and tested their contribution following HUWE1 KD (S5A and S5B Figs). HUWE1

425	KD in AXIN1 ^{KO} ; AXIN2 ^{KO} cells did not reduce WNT target gene expression (Figs 4A-E and
426	Table 1), suggesting that AXIN1, AXIN2 or both mediate the effects of HUWE1 on WNT
427	signaling, similarly to what we had observed for APC (Fig 3). As we had done for
428	GSK3A/GSK3B (Fig 1) and APC (Fig 3), we also tested whether the combined loss of AXIN1
429	and AXIN2 eliminated the reduction in WNT signaling caused by HUWE1 KD in CSNK1A1 ^{KO}
430	cells. Indeed, knocking down HUWE1 in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; AXIN1 ^{KO} ; AXIN2 ^{KO} cells did not
431	reduce WNT target gene expression as it did in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 4A-E and Table 1).
432	These results confirmed that AXIN1, AXIN2 or both mediate the effects of HUWE1 on WNT
433	signaling in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells. While AXIN1 and AXIN2 are redundant in their capacity to
434	suppress WNT signaling in WT HAP1-7TGP cells [15], it was conceivable that they may not be
435	redundant in mediating the function of HUWE1 in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells. To test for individual
436	contributions of AXIN1 or AXIN2, we knocked each of them out individually in CSNK1A1 ^{KO}
437	cells (S1 File and S4A Fig) and then knocked down HUWE1 (S5A and S5B Figs). AXIN1 loss
438	in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells eliminated the reduction in WNT signaling caused by HUWE1 KD, but
439	AXIN2 loss did not (Figs 4A-E and Table 1). These results suggest that, in contrast to its
440	redundant function with AXIN2 in suppressing WNT signaling in WT HAP1-7TGP cells [15],
441	AXIN1 plays a unique role in mediating HUWE1-dependent effects on WNT signaling that is
442	not redundant with AXIN2.
443	Given these results, we wondered whether GSK3A and GSK3B are redundant in mediating
444	the functions of HUWE1 in WNT signaling. To answer this question, we did an equivalent series
445	of experiments as the one we did to determine the individual roles of AXIN1 and AXIN2 in

446 mediating HUWE1 function. Like AXIN1 and AXIN2, GSK3A and GSK3B are functionally

447 redundant in their capacity to suppress WNT signaling in WT HAP1-7TGP cells: eliminating

448	either GSK3A or GSK3B has no effect on WNT reporter activity, whereas eliminating both
449	promotes constitutive pathway activation (S1 File, and S4B and S4C Figs). HUWE1 KD in
450	GSK3A ^{KO} ; GSK3B ^{KO} cells (S5A and S5B Figs) did not reduce WNT target gene expression
451	(Figs 4A-E and Table 1), suggesting that GSK3A, GSK3B or both mediate the effects of
452	HUWE1 on WNT signaling. Next, we tested whether the combined loss of GSK3A and GSK3B
453	eliminated the reduction in WNT signaling caused by HUWE1 KD in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells.
454	Knocking down HUWE1 in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; GSK3A ^{KO} ; GSK3B ^{KO} cells (S5A and S5B Figs) did
455	not reduce – and in fact increased – WNT target gene expression (Figs 4A-E and Table 1). These
456	results confirmed that GSK3A, GSK3B or both mediate the effects of HUWE1 on WNT
457	signaling in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells. However, unlike their combined loss, loss of GSK3A or GSK3B
458	individually in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells did not eliminate the reduction in WNT signaling caused by
459	HUWE1 KD (Fig 4A-E and Table 1). We conclude that the role of GSK3A and GSK3B in
460	mediating HUWE1-dependent effects on WNT signaling is redundant, similarly to their role
461	suppressing WNT signaling in WT HAP1-7TGP cells (S4C Fig). Therefore, only the combined
462	loss of GSK3A and GSK3B eliminates the reduction in WNT signaling caused by HUWE1 KD
463	in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Fig 4A-E and Table 1).

We considered the possibility that the distinct outcomes of knocking down HUWE1 in the various genetic backgrounds we tested (Table 1) could be due to differences in the steady state abundance of HUWE1 caused by loss of some DC complex components but not others, rather than due to other effects of distinct DC components in mediating HUWE1 function. Standard Western blot analysis did not reveal obvious differences in steady state HUWE1 abundance among the various genetic backgrounds in which we knocked down HUWE1 (S4A Fig). We corroborated this result by quantitative dot blot analysis (see Materials and methods) and did not

471	detect significant differences in HUWE1 abundance among the different genetic backgrounds
472	(S4D Fig).

473	In conclusion, a subset of DC components, including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B,
474	but not CSNK1A1 or AXIN2, mediates the function of HUWE1 in WNT signaling. Since
475	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by increasing CTNNB1 abundance (Fig 1) and through
476	another mechanism independent from the control of CTNNB1 stability (Fig 2), a DC composed
477	of APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A/GSK3B must mediate the effects of HUWE1 on one or both
478	mechanisms.
479	
480	HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by antagonizing the DC
481	
482	The results presented so far are consistent with the following hypothesis: 1. In CSNK1A1 ^{KO}
483	cells, APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A/GSK3B are part of a DC that can partially suppress WNT
484	signaling by phosphorylating the CTNNB1 phosphodegron and targeting CTNNB1 for
485	proteasomal degradation; 2. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by antagonizing CTNNB1
486	phosphorylation and degradation mediated by this DC, and through another mechanism
487	independent of CTNNB1 stability. Whether the second mechanism is also mediated by the DC
488	remains unclear. Since all the data presented above were from loss-of-function genetic
489	experiments, we tested this hypothesis further through overexpression experiments. Based on
490	this hypothesis, we predicted that overexpressing the DC scaffold AXIN1 in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells
491	should increase DC activity and therefore have similar effects as knocking out HUWE1: it
492	should reduce WNT signaling by promoting GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent phosphorylation and
493	degradation of CTNNB1, and possibly by promoting the second mechanism independent of

CTNNB1 stability. Furthermore, since AXIN1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells eliminated the 494 495 reduction in WNT signaling caused by HUWE1 loss (Figs 4A-E and Table 1), we reasoned that overexpressing AXIN1 in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells should have the opposite effect and 496 497 synergize with HUWE1 loss to reduce WNT signaling. To test these predictions, we stably overexpressed human AXIN1 in CSNK1A1^{KO} and in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells through 498 499 lentiviral delivery of AXINI cDNA followed by antibiotic selection. We obtained polyclonal cell 500 populations (CSNK1A1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE} and CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE}, respectively) in 501 which AXIN1 abundance was at least 2-fold higher than that in the respective parental cell lines 502 (S1D Fig).

AXIN1 overexpression in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells indeed reduced WNT reporter activity by 80%, 503 which was comparable to the 89% reduction caused by HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells (Fig. 504 1A). AXIN1 overexpression combined with HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells reduced WNT 505 506 reporter activity by 98%, nearly down to the basal level of unstimulated WT HAP1-7TGP cells (Fig 1A). Therefore, AXIN1 overexpression in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells phenocopied HUWE1 loss, 507 508 and AXIN1 overexpression in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells synergized with HUWE1 loss to 509 reduce WNT signaling. We conclude that HUWE1 and AXIN1 exert opposing effects on WNT 510 signaling.

To test whether the reduction in WNT signaling caused by AXIN1 overexpression and by
HUWE1 loss was due to the same underlying mechanisms, we measured the abundance of
soluble and non-phospho-CTNNB1 in CSNK1A1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE} and CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO};
AXIN1^{OE} cells, as we had done in WT HAP1-7TGP, CSNK1A1^{KO} and CSNK1A1^{KO};
HUWE1^{KO} cells (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B Figs). AXIN1 overexpression in
CSNK1A1^{KO} cells caused a 45% reduction in soluble CTNNB1 abundance and a 64% reduction

517	in non-phospho-CTNNB1 abundance (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B Figs). These
518	reductions were comparable to and greater than the respective 36% and 37% reductions caused
519	by HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B Figs). AXIN1
520	overexpression combined with HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells reduced soluble CTNNB1
521	abundance by 57% and non-phospho-CTNNB1 by 62% (Figs 1B and 1C, and S1A and S1B
522	Figs). These results indicate that HUWE1 and AXIN1 have opposing functions regulating a
523	common mechanism: AXIN1 promotes CTNNB1 phosphodegron phosphorylation and the
524	resulting reduction in CTNNB1 abundance, while HUWE1 antagonizes both.
525	If HUWE1 and AXIN1 exert opposing effects on WNT signaling by regulating the same
526	GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent processes - CTNNB1 phosphorylation and abundance, and
527	potentially another mechanism independent of CTNNB1 stability – then GSK3A/GSK3B
528	inhibition should reverse the effects of AXIN1 overexpression in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells, as it
529	reverses the effects of HUWE1 loss (Figs 1A-C, and S1A and S1B Figs). Therefore, we tested
530	whether the changes in WNT reporter activity, soluble CTNNB1 abundance and CTNNB1
531	phosphodegron phosphorylation caused by AXIN1 overexpression alone or combined with
532	HUWE1 loss were dependent on GSK3A/GSK3B activity. Treatment of CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; AXIN1 ^{OE}
533	cells with the GSK3A/GSK3B inhibitor CHIR-99021 reversed the effects of AXIN1
534	overexpression, increasing WNT reporter activity as well as soluble and non-phospho-CTNNB1
535	abundance to levels higher than those measured in DMSO vehicle treated-CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells,
536	and comparable to those measured in CHIR-99021-treated CSNK1A1KO cells (Figs 1A-C, and
537	S1A and S1B Figs). GSK3A/GSK3B inhibition with CHIR-99021 also reversed the synergistic
538	reduction in WNT reporter activity, as well as the reduction in soluble and non-phospho-
539	CTNNB1 abundance, caused by combined AXIN1 overexpression and HUWE1 loss in

540	CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 1A-C, and S1A and S1B Figs). These results demonstrate that in
541	CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells, HUWE1 enhances and AXIN1 inhibits WNT signaling by opposing
542	mechanisms mediated by GSK3A/GSK3B. Altogether, our results support the hypothesis that
543	AXIN1, acting as a scaffold in the DC, promotes GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent CTNNB1
544	phosphorylation and degradation, even in the absence of CSNK1A1. HUWE1 enhances WNT
545	signaling by antagonizing this DC activity.
546	
547	Regulation of WNT signaling by HUWE1 requires its ubiquitin ligase activity
548	
549	HUWE1 is a very large 482 kDa ubiquitin ligase with many protein-protein interaction domains
550	in addition to its catalytic HECT domain [27]. Therefore, it was important to determine whether
551	the ubiquitin ligase activity of HUWE1 was required for its functions enhancing WNT signaling.
552	HECT domain ubiquitin ligases form a covalent intermediate between a catalytic cysteine (C)
553	residue in the HECT domain and ubiquitin before ubiquitin is transferred to the substrate [28].
554	We used CRISPR-mediated base editing [29] to engineer the endogenous HUWE1 locus of
555	CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells, introducing a single point mutation that replaced the catalytic C4341 residue
556	with arginine (R). We isolated three independent clonal cell lines (CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{C4341R-}
557	¹ , CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{C4341R-2} and CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{C4341R-3}) in which we confirmed by
558	sequencing that the intended point mutation had been introduced (S1 File). We compared the
559	effects of eliminating the catalytic activity of HUWE1 to those of knocking out HUWE1 on
560	WNT signaling. All three CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{C4341R} clonal cell lines exhibited a substantial
561	89-94% reduction in WNT reporter activity and a 79-88% reduction in the expression of three
562	WNT target genes, equivalent to what we observed in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} ; HUWE1 ^{KO} cells (Figs 5A-

- 563 D). The C4341R point mutation did not affect HUWE1 protein stability as determined by
- 564 Western blot analysis of the three CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{C4341R} cell lines (Fig 5E). In contrast, no
- 565 HUWE1 protein was detected in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells (Fig 5E). Therefore, the
- reduction in WNT signaling measured in CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{C4341R} cells was not due to loss
- of HUWE1 protein, but rather due to the elimination of its catalytic activity. We conclude that
- the ubiquitin ligase activity of HUWE1 is required for its functions enhancing WNT signaling.

570 **Discussion:**

571

572	In this study we probed the mechanisms underlying the requirement for the HECT domain
573	ubiquitin ligase HUWE1 to sustain hyperactive WNT/CTNNB1 signaling [15]. We demonstrate
574	that HUWE1 enhances WNT/CTNNB1 signaling through two distinct mechanisms: by
575	antagonizing DC-mediated CTNNB1 phosphorylation and degradation, and through another
576	mechanism independent of CTNNB1 stability. These results are significant for two main reasons.
577	First, they reveal a new mechanism that controls CTNNB1 stability, the main regulated step in
578	WNT/CTNNB1 signaling. Second, by controlling another downstream step in the pathway,
579	HUWE1 adds a new layer of regulation superimposed on the core WNT/CTNNB1 signaling
580	module. Importantly, the coordinated regulation of CTNNB1 abundance and an independent
581	signaling step in the pathway by HUWE1 would be an efficient way to control multiple
582	processes that determine WNT signaling output. This may enable sensitive and robust activation
583	of the pathway.
584	In CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells, GSK3A/GSK3B still phosphorylate a fraction of CTNNB1 at residues
585	S33, S37 and T41 in the phosphodegron, which reduces CTNNB1 abundance (Fig 1). HUWE1
586	enhances signaling by counteracting DC-dependent phosphorylation of these residues, since
587	HUWE1 loss in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells increases phosphorylation and reduces both CTNNB1
588	abundance and WNT signaling activity (Fig 1). However, the reduction in CTNNB1 abundance
589	caused by HUWE1 loss appears insufficient to account for the larger reduction in WNT target
590	gene expression (Fig 1), suggesting that HUWE1 also enhances WNT/CTNNB1 signaling
591	through another mechanism. In CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells containing mutations in the CTNNB1
592	phosphodegron that render CTNNB1 abundance insensitive to regulation by WNT ligands and

593	the DC, HUWE1 enhances WNT target gene expression through a mechanism distinct from the
594	control of CTNNB1 stability (Fig 2). Furthermore, regulation of WNT/CTNNB1 signaling by
595	HUWE1 is mediated by a subset of DC components, including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or
596	GSK3B, but excluding CSNK1A1 and AXIN2 (Figs 1, 3 and 4). HUWE1 promotes WNT
597	signaling by antagonizing the activity of this DC (Fig 1). The ubiquitin ligase activity of
598	HUWE1 is required to enhance WNT signaling (Fig 5), suggesting that a substrate of HUWE1
599	mediates its function.
600	One of the mechanisms whereby HUWE1 enhances WNT/CTNNB1 signaling is by
601	antagonizing phosphorylation of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron by the DC complex, thereby
602	increasing CTNNB1 abundance, but surprisingly this happens in the absence of CSNK1A1.
603	These results demonstrate that in HAP1 cells, CSNK1A1 is not absolutely required for
604	GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent phosphorylation of residues S33, S37 and T41 in the CTNNB1
605	phosphodegron, either because GSK3A/GSK3B can phosphorylate these residues without the
606	priming phosphorylation of S45 by CSNK1A1, or because other kinases phosphorylate S45 in
607	the absence of CSNK1A1. While priming of S45 by CSNK1A1 is generally considered a
608	requirement for phosphorylation of S33, S37 and T41 by GSK3A/GSK3B [6, 7], some reports
609	suggest it is not [30, 31].
610	We also show there is another mechanism whereby HUWE1 enhances WNT/CTNNB1
611	signaling that is independent of CTNNB1 stability. HUWE1 could potentially regulate CTNNB1

612 subcellular localization or its interactions with the TCF/LEF transcription complex, or it could

- 613 regulate other downstream steps in the pathway. Elucidating this second mechanism and whether
- 614 it is also mediated by a subset of DC complex components, like HUWE1-dependent regulation

of CTNNB1 abundance, will be crucial to understand the full scope of how HUWE1 regulatesWNT signaling.

617 Intriguingly, only a subset of DC components, including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or 618 GSK3B, but not CSNK1A1 or AXIN2, mediate the function of HUWE1 in WNT signaling (Figs 619 1, 3 and 4). We were surprised to find that AXIN1 was required to mediate the effects of 620 HUWE1 but AXIN2 was not. In WT HAP1-7TGP cells, AXIN1 and AXIN2 are redundant in 621 their capacity to suppress WNT signaling: eliminating either AXIN1 or AXIN2 has no effect on 622 WNT reporter activity, whereas eliminating both results in constitutive pathway activation [15]. Yet, in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells, only AXIN1 loss eliminated the reduction in WNT target gene 623 624 expression caused by HUWE1 KD (Fig 4 and Table 1). These results suggest that AXIN1 and 625 AXIN2 are not redundant in their capacity to mediate the effects of HUWE1, at least in the 626 absence of CSNK1A1. This finding is unexpected given that mouse AXIN1 and AXIN2 proteins 627 have been reported to be functionally equivalent in vivo [32], and will require further 628 investigation. 629 The ubiquitin ligase activity of HUWE1 is required to promote WNT signaling in CSNK1A1^{KO} cells (Fig 5). What are the relevant ubiquitylated HUWE1 substrates, and how do 630 631 they regulate WNT signaling? Does HUWE1-dependent ubiquitylation target putative substrates 632 for proteasomal degradation or does it regulate their activity? Since a subset of DC components 633 mediates the effects of HUWE1 on WNT signaling, is the abundance or activity of a DC 634 component regulated by HUWE1-dependent ubiquitylation or are there other ubiquitylated 635 substrates that indirectly impinge on DC abundance or activity? Identification of the relevant 636 HUWE1 substrates should help answer these questions.

637	Previous reports have implicated HUWE1 as a <i>negative</i> regulator of WNT signaling [33-36].
638	This is the opposite of what we find in WT HAP1-7TGP, CSNK1A1 ^{KO} and CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells,
639	in which HUWE1 is a <i>positive</i> regulator of the pathway: eliminating HUWE1 or its catalytic
640	activity in these cells substantially reduces WNT/CTNNB1 signaling (Figs 1-5). HUWE1 has
641	been reported to polyubiquitylate DVL and prevent DVL multimerization [33], which is required
642	to form a functional signalosome and transduce WNT signals [37, 38]. HUWE1 has also been
643	reported to ubiquitylate CTNNB1 and promote CTNNB1 degradation [34]. The latter mechanism
644	is in fact the opposite of what we find in CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells, in which HUWE1 loss reduces
645	CTNNB1 abundance (Fig 1). Based on both reported mechanisms, HUWE1 loss would be
646	expected to promote rather than reduce WNT signaling. Therefore, we do not think that DVL or
647	CTNNB1 are the relevant ubiquitylated substrates that mediate the effects of HUWE1 on WNT
648	signaling in HAP1 cells. These disparate results could reflect differences in experimental
649	systems, since the previous reports primarily studied HUWE1 in C. elegans and HEK293T cells
650	[33, 34], while the experiments presented in the current study were conducted in HAP1 cells.
651	Identifying the substrate of HUWE1 that mediates its role as a positive regulator of
652	WNT/CTNNB1 signaling in HAP1 cells should help explain these differences.
653	We demonstrate that HUWE1 loss reduces WNT signaling in cells containing mutations in
654	some WNT pathway components but not in others (Figs 1-5). These results raise the possibility
655	of targeting the signaling mechanisms by which HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling selectively in
656	tumors harboring mutations in specific WNT pathway components. Eliminating or reducing the
657	activity of HUWE1 itself, which reduces WNT/CTNNB1 signaling in WT HAP1-7TGP,
658	CSNK1A1 ^{KO} and CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cells, is unlikely to be a viable therapeutic strategy due to the
659	pleiotropic effects of HUWE1 on cell physiology, including tumor suppressor functions [39].

660	However, if the relevant ubiquitylated target of HUWE1 is identified, there may be other ways to
661	phenocopy the effects of HUWE1 loss on WNT signaling more specifically. Phenocopying the
662	effects of HUWE1 loss may not be effective in tumors driven by APC truncations, given that in
663	APC ^{KO} cells HUWE1 loss does not reduce WNT signaling due to the role of APC itself in
664	mediating the effects of HUWE1. However, in tumors containing activating mutations in
665	CTNNB1 like those engineered into our CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} cell line, or mutations in the ZNRF3 or
666	RNF43 tumor suppressors, all of which result in hyperactive WNT signaling in the presence of a
667	functional DC, phenocopying the effects of HUWE1 loss may reduce WNT signaling enough to
668	provide a therapeutic benefit.
669	We recognize that all the experiments presented in the Results section of this manuscript
670	were conducted in HAP1 cells or derivatives thereof, which could raise concerns about the
671	generality and specificity of our conclusions. We also studied HUWE1 in other cell lines
672	commonly used in WNT signaling research, but our attempts to knock out HUWE1 yielded only
673	partial KOs. We targeted HUWE1 by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing in HEK293T-7TG
674	and HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells (see Materials and methods). Out of 113 independent
675	clonal cell lines in which we identified mutations in all HUWE1 alleles, at least one allele had
676	been repaired in frame to encode WT HUWE1 protein (S6A and S6B Figs). This is probably
677	because HUWE1 is a common essential gene as per DEPMAP classification
678	(https://depmap.org/portal/gene/HUWE1?tab=overview), so complete loss of HUWE1 may be
679	lethal in HEK293T cells. However, we have previously shown that microinjection of HUWE1
680	mRNA into Xenopus embryos results in body axis duplication [15], consistent with a more
681	general role of HUWE1 as a positive regulator of WNT signaling beyond HAP1 cells.
682	Furthermore, we designed many of our experiments so as to minimize the possibility of non-

specific or pleiotropic effects. We knocked out HUWE1 in two independent CSNK1A1KO cell 683 684 lines with comparable results (Fig 3). We used two different sgRNAs for CRISPR/Cas9-685 mediated HUWE1 KO in multiple clonal cell lines (Figs 1-3), a different sgRNA for CRISPR 686 base editing of the HUWE1 catalytic residue in multiple CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{C4341R} clonal cell 687 lines (Fig 5), and another two different sgRNAs for CRISPRi-mediated HUWE1 KD in 688 polyclonal cell populations (Fig 4). In all cases, we found reproducible reductions in 689 WNT/CTNNB1 signaling. We also saw consistent effects of HUWE1 loss in three different genetic backgrounds: WT HAP1-7TGP, CSNK1A1^{KO} and CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells (Figs 1-5). We 690 691 measured the effects of HUWE1 loss on three or four endogenous WNT target genes and on an 692 7TGP, an established WNT transcriptional reporter, with comparable outcomes (Figs 1-5). The 693 effects of HUWE1 on WNT signaling could be reversed completely by a relatively short and 694 specific pharmacological treatment with the GSK3A/GSK3B inhibitor CHIR-99021 (Fig 1), and 695 by introducing mutations in some DC components but not others (Figs 3 and 4). Altogether, 696 these results make it very unlikely that the effects of HUWE1 loss are non-specific or due to 697 pleiotropic downregulation of unrelated cellular functions that affect WNT signaling. 698 Our study also highlights the remarkable potential of HAP1 haploid cells to dissect complex 699 genetic networks in a cell line of human origin [16] through a combination of genome-wide 700 forward genetic screens, loss-of-function and site-directed mutagenesis analyses, and genetic 701 interaction analyses. Despite great advances in CRISPR/Cas-based genome editing technologies 702 during the last decade [40], it remains challenging to knock out two or more alleles of multiple 703 genes and to introduce targeted homozygous point mutations at scale in diploid primary cells, 704 stem cells, and polyploid immortalized cell lines. We could readily do both in HAP1 cells 705 because they have a single allele of most genes. This enabled us to conduct loss-of-function

706 genetic analyses in multiple genetic backgrounds by comparing several HUWE1 KO and control 707 WT clonal cell lines to obtain highly quantitative phenotypic data that confirmed and extended 708 the results of our initial genetic screens (Fig 3). Using CRISPR/Cas9-mediated HDR, we 709 generated a CTNNB1 variant in which we mutated three key phosphorylation sites in the 710 phosphodegron at the single endogenous CTNNB1 locus, and in a second round of 711 CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing we generated multiple HUWE1 KO and WT cell lines 712 to demonstrate that regulation of WNT signaling by HUWE1 has a component that is 713 independent of CTNNB1 stability (Fig 2). Using CRISPR-mediated base editing, we generated 714 three clonal cell lines containing a point mutation in the catalytic residue of HUWE1 at the single 715 endogenous HUWE1 locus, which enabled us to demonstrate that the ubiquitin ligase activity of 716 HUWE1 is required for its function in WNT signaling (Fig 5). Finally, we generated single, 717 double, and triple KO mutants for all components of the DC, alone and in certain combinations 718 (11 distinct mutant genetic backgrounds in total) (Table 1 and S4 Fig). Combined with a 719 CRISPRi strategy, this enabled us to carry out an extensive genetic interaction analysis and 720 demonstrate that positive regulation of WNT signaling by HUWE1 is mediated by a subset of 721 DC components (Fig 4 and Table 1). These kinds of genetic analyses would have been 722 practically impossible to conduct in any diploid or polyploid human cell line. We hope this study 723 will inspire other researchers to take advantage of haploid human cell lines, of which there are 724 now many available [41, 42], to unravel other signaling pathways or biological processes in 725 similar ways. 726 HUWE1 has emerged as an important ubiquitin ligase with many cellular functions [17-20].

Here we show another role for HUWE1 regulating WNT/CTNNB1 signaling. Regulation of

728 CTNNB1 abundance by the DC is the central step in WNT/CTNNB1 signaling. Our discovery

- that HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by antagonizing DC-dependent CTNNB1
- phosphorylation, thereby increasing CTNNB1 abundance, demonstrates that this crucial step in
- 731 WNT/CTNNB1 signaling is subject to more nuanced regulation than previously thought. The
- second mechanism by which HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling independently of CTNNB1
- stability is an intriguing additional layer of regulation that remains to be elucidated. Both
- mechanisms provide new insights into WNT signaling and ubiquitin biology, bridging two
- research fields that already have many intimate connections.
- 736
737 <u>Materials and methods:</u>

738

- 739 The following Materials and methods relevant to this manuscript have been described previously
- 740 [15]: cell lines and growth conditions, preparation of WNT3A conditioned media and
- construction of the HAP1-7TGP WNT reporter haploid cell line.

742

743 Tissue culture media

- Complete growth medium (CGM) 1 contains Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium (DMEM)
- 745 with High Glucose, without L-Glutamine and Sodium Pyruvate (GE Healthcare Life Sciences
- 746 Cat. # SH30081.01); 1X GlutaMAX-I (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 35050079); 1X MEM
- 747 Non-Essential Amino Acids (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 11140050); 1 mM Sodium
- 748 Pyruvate (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 11360070); 40 Units/ml Penicillin, 40 mg/ml
- 749 Streptomycin (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 15140122); 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS).
- 750 CGM 2 contains Iscove's Modified Dulbecco's Medium (IMDM) with L-glutamine, with
- 751 HEPES, without Alpha-Thioglycerol (GE Healthcare Life Sciences Cat. # SH30228.01); 1X

752 GlutaMAX-I; 40 Units/ml Penicillin, 40 mg/ml Streptomycin; 10% FBS.

753

754 Plasmids

pX330-U6-Chimeric_BB-CBh-hSpCas9 (pX330) (Addgene plasmid # 42230) was a gift from

Feng Zhang; pCMV_ABEmax_P2A_GFP (Addgene plasmid # 112101) was a gift from David

- Liu; MLM3636 (Addgene plasmid # 43860) was a gift from Keith Joung; Lenti-(BB)-EF1a-
- 758 KRAB-dCas9-P2A-BlastR (Addgene plasmid # 118154) was a gift from Jorge Ferrer;
- 759 LentiCRISPRv2-mCherry (Addgene plasmid # 99154) was a gift from Agata Smogorzewska;

760	pMDLg/pRRE (Addgene plasmid # 12251), pRSV-Rev (Addgene plasmid # 12253) and
761	pMD2.G (Addgene plasmid # 12259) were a gift from Didier Trono; pCS2-YFP was a gift from
762	Henry Ho; pmCherry was a gift from Jan Carette; pX458-mCherry was generated as described
763	previously [43].
764	The following plasmids were purchased: pLenti6.2/V5-DEST (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat.
765	# V36820); pENTR2B (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # A10463); MGC Human AXIN1
766	Sequence-verified cDNA (Clone ID 5809104) (Horizon Cat. # MHS6278-202833071).
767	To generate pCMV_ABEmax_P2A_mCherry, mCherry was amplified by PCR from plasmid
768	pmCherry using primers pCMV_ABEmax_P2A_mCherry_Fw (5'-GAA GCA GGC TGG AGA
769	CGT GGA GGA GAA CCC TGG ACC TAT GGT GAG CAA GGG CGA GGA-3') and
770	pCMV_ABEmax_P2A_mCherry_Rv (5'-CAG ACT TGT ACA GCT CGT CCA TGC CG-3'),
771	designed to include BsmBI and BsrGI restriction sites, respectively. The PCR product was
772	digested with BsmBI and BsrGI and ligated into pCMV_ABEmax_P2A_GFP digested with the
773	same enzymes to replace GFP with mCherry.
774	To generate pLenti6.2-V5-EXP-N-TERM-S-FLAG-N-hAXIN1, human AXIN1 was
775	amplified by PCR from MGC Human AXIN1 Sequence-verified cDNA (Clone ID 5809104)
776	using primers pENTR2B_SalI_S-FLAG-N_hAXIN1_pcr_fw (5'-GCG CCG GAA CCA ATT
777	CAG TCG ACC CTG CAG GAT GGA TTA CAA GGA CGA CGA TGA CAA GGG CGG
778	CCG CAT GAA TAT CCA AGA GCA GGG TTT CCC CTT GGA CC-3'), containing an N-
779	terminal Sall restriction site followed by a FLAG tag sequence flanked by SbfI and NotI
780	restriction sites, and pENTR2B_XhoI_hAXIN1_pcr_rv (5'-AAA GCT GGG TCT AGA TAT
781	CTC GAG TCA GTC CAC CTT CTC CAC TTT GCC GAT GA-3'), containing a C-terminal
782	XhoI restriction site. The product was digested with SalI and XhoI, and subcloned into

- 783 pENTR2B digested with the same enzymes. One clone was sequenced completely and subcloned
- into pLenti6.2/V5-DEST using the Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme mix.
- All constructs were confirmed by sequencing.
- 786

787 Antibodies

- 788 Primary antibodies: purified mouse anti-β-catenin (Clone 14/Beta-Catenin) (1:1000, BD
- 789 Biosciences Cat. # 610154), rabbit mAb anti-non-phospho (active) β-catenin (Ser33-37-Thr41)
- 790 (D13A1) (1:1000, Cell Signaling Technology Cat. # 8814), mouse anti-GAPDH (1:4000, Santa
- 791 Cruz Biotechnology, Cat. # sc-47724), recombinant rabbit anti-Sodium Potassium (Na $^+/K^+$)
- ATPase [EP1845Y] (1:4000, Abcam Cat. # ab76020), rabbit anti-Lasu1/Ureb1 (HUWE1)
- 793 (1:1000, Bethyl Laboratories Cat. # A300-486A), rabbit mAb anti-AXIN1 (C76H11) (1:1000,
- 794 Cell Signaling Technology Cat. # 2087), rabbit mAb anti-AXIN2 (76G6) (1:500, Cell Signaling
- Technology Cat. # 2151), rabbit mAb anti-GSK- $3\alpha/\beta$ (D75D3) (1:2000, Cell Signaling
- 796 Technology Cat. # 5676), mouse anti-APC (NT, clone Ali 12.28) (1:1000, Millipore Sigma, Cat.
- # MAB3785), rabbit anti-APC (1:1000, Biorbyt Cat. # orb213564), mouse anti-CSNK1A1
- 798 (1:250, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Cat. # sc-74582).
- Secondary antibodies: IRDye 800CW donkey anti-mouse IgG (H+L) (1:10000, Li-Cor Cat. #
- 800 926-32212), IRDye 680RD donkey anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) (1:10000, Li-Cor Cat. # 925-68073),
- 801 peroxidase AffiniPure donkey anti-goat IgG (H+L) (1:5000, Jackson ImmunoResearch
- Laboratories Cat. # 705-035-003), peroxidase AffiniPure goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) (1:10000,
- 803 Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories Cat. # 111-035-003), peroxidase AffiniPure donkey anti-
- 804 mouse IgG (H+L) (1:5000, Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories Cat. # 715-035-150), goat
- anti-mouse IgG (H+L) HRP conjugate (1:10000, Bio-Rad Cat. # 1706516).

806	Primary and secondary antibodies used for detection with the Li-Cor Odyssey imaging
807	system were diluted in a 1 to 1 mixture of Odyssey Intercept Blocking Buffer (Li-Cor Cat. #
808	927–40000) and TBST (Tris buffered saline (TBS) $+$ 0.1% Tween-20), and those used for
809	detection by chemiluminescence were diluted in TBST + 5% skim milk. All primary antibody
810	incubations were done overnight at 4°C, and secondary antibody incubations were done for 1 hr
811	at room temperature (RT).

812

813 Construction of mutant HAP1-7TGP cell lines by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing

814 Oligonucleotides encoding single guide RNAs (sgRNAs) (S2 File) were selected from a

published library [44], or designed using either of two online CRISPR design tools [45, 46] and

816 cloned into either pX330 or pX458-mCherry according to a published protocol [47].

817 Clonal HAP1-7TGP cell lines were established by transient transfection with either pX330 or 818 pX458-mCherry containing the sgRNA followed by single cell sorting as follows. A transfection 819 mix was prepared by diluting 450 ng of pX330 and 50 ng of pmCherry (used as a cotransfection 820 marker for FACS sorting) or 500 ng of pX458-mCherry in 48 µl Opti-MEM I, adding 2 µl of X-821 tremeGENE HP and incubating for 20 min at RT. HAP1-7TGP cells or derivatives thereof were 822 reverse-transfected in a well of a 24-well plate by overlaying 0.5 ml of CGM 2 (without 823 antibiotics) containing 6 x 10^5 cells over the 50 µl of transfection mix. Cells were passaged to a 824 10 cm dish ~24 hr post-transfection, using 150 µl of Trypsin-EDTA (0.25%) (Thermo Fisher 825 Scientific Cat. # 25200056) to detach them (reverse-transfection of HAP1 cells caused unusually 826 high adherence, hence the higher trypsin concentration). Three to four days post-transfection, 827 single transfected (mCherry⁺) cells were sorted into 96-well plates containing 200 µl of CGM 2

828	per well and grown undisturbed for 16 to 18 days. Single colonies were passaged to 24-well
829	plates, and a small number of cells was reserved for genotyping.

830 For genotyping, genomic DNA was extracted by adding 4 volumes of QuickExtract DNA 831 Extraction Solution (Epicentre Cat. # QE09050) to the cells. Extracts were incubated 10 min at 832 65°C, 3 min at 98°C, and 5 μl were used as input for PCR amplification of the genomic locus 833 containing the sgRNA target site in 15 μ l reactions containing 1X LongAmp Tag reaction buffer, 834 300 mM of each dNTP, 400 nM of each of the flanking primers indicated in S2 File (most of 835 them designed using the Primer-BLAST online tool from the NCBI) and 0.1 units/µl of 836 LongAmp Taq DNA polymerase (NEB Cat. # M0323L). Amplification of the genomic locus 837 containing the sgRNA target site was confirmed by analysis of the PCR products on a 1% 838 agarose gel and the presence of desired mutations was confirmed by sequencing the amplicons 839 using the primers indicated in S2 File. Given that most engineered cell lines remained haploid, 840 sequencing results were usually unequivocal. Sequencing results for all the clonal cell lines used 841 in the study is presented in S1 File, and for selected clonal cell lines, immunoblot analysis 842 confirmed the absence of the protein products.

Whenever possible, multiple independent mutant cells lines, often generated using two different sgRNAs (see S1 File), were expanded and used for further characterization. For some of the comparisons between WT and mutant cells, multiple individual cell lines confirmed by sequencing to be WT at the sgRNA target site were also expanded and used as controls. To generate double and triple mutant cell lines, a single clonal cell line with the first desired mutation was used in a subsequent round of transfection with either pX330 or pX458-mCherry containing the second and, if applicable, third sgRNAs. Alternatively, WT HAP1-7TGP cells

- 850 were directly transfected with a combination of pX330 or pX458-mCherry constructs targeting
- two genes simultaneously.
- 852

853 Construction of CTNNB1^{ST-A} cell line by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated HDR

- 854 Oligonucleotides encoding sgRNAs complementary to exon 3 of CTNNB1 (S2 File) were
- designed using either of two online CRISPR design tools [45, 46] and cloned into pX458-
- 856 mCherry using a published protocol [47].
- 857 Clonal CTNNB1^{ST-A} cell lines were established by transient transfection of HAP1-7TGP
- cells with pX458-mCherry containing the sgRNA, and a single stranded oligonucleotide
- 859 (ssODN) donor template encoding the desired mutations, called CTNNB1 (ST-A mutant) donor
- 860 (5'-ATT TGA TGG AGT TGG ACA TGG CCA TGG AAC CAG ACA GAA AAG CGG CTG
- 861 TTA GTC ACT GGC AGC AAC AGT CTT ACC TGG ACG CTG GAA TCC ATG CTG GTG
- 862 CCA CTG CCA CAG CTC CTG CTC TGA GTG GTA AAG GCA ATC CTG AGG AAG
- 863 AGG ATG TGG ATA CCT CCC AAG TCC TGT ATG AGT GGG AAC AGG GAT TTT CTC
- AG-3'). A transfection mix was prepared by diluting 500 ng pX458-mCherry-CTNNB1-Ex3-
- sgRNA and 500 ng (8 pmol) ssODN in 48 µl Opti-MEM I. 2 µl of X-tremeGENE HP were
- added, and the mix was vortexed and incubated for 20 min at RT. The 50 μ l mix was placed in
- an empty well of a 24-well plate and 0.5 ml of CGM 2 containing 6×10^5 cells was seeded onto
- the mix. The cells were passaged the following day to a 10 cm dish and grown for 3 additional
- days. Single cells exhibiting high EGFP fluorescence from the 7TGP WNT reporter, presumably
- 870 due to successful mutagenesis of the CTNNB1 phosphodegron, were sorted, expanded, and
- 871 genotyped as described above. A single clonal cell line containing point mutations in three of the

four targeted sites in the phosphodegron (S2A Fig and S1 File) was used for all subsequentexperiments.

874

875 Construction of HUWE1 catalytic mutant CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{C4341R} cell lines by base

876 editing

877 An oligonucleotide encoding an sgRNA complementary to exon 83 of *HUWE1* (S2 File) was

878 designed to include the targeted nucleotide within the editing window of the base editor

879 ABEmax (positions 4-8 in the protospacer) using BE-Hive (https://www.crisprbehive.design), an

online base editing sgRNA design tool [48], and cloned into MLM3636 according to a published

881 protocol (Joung Lab gRNA cloning protocol:

882 https://media.addgene.org/data/plasmids/43/43860/43860-attachment_T35tt6ebKxov.pdf). A

transfection mix was prepared by diluting 750 ng pCMV-ABEmax-P2A-mCherry and 250 ng

884 MLM3636-HUWE1-C4341R-sgRNA1 in 50 µl Opti-MEM I, adding 2 µl of X-tremeGENE HP

and incubating for 20 min at RT. CSNK1A1^{KO} cells were reverse-transfected in a well of a 24-

well plate by overlaying 0.5 ml of CGM 2 (without antibiotics) containing $6 \ge 10^5$ cells over the

 50μ l of transfection mix. Cells were passaged to a 6 cm dish ~24 hr post-transfection, using 150

⁸⁸⁸ μl of Trypsin-EDTA (0.25%) (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 25200056) to detach them. Three

889 days post-transfection, single transfected (mCherry⁺) cells were sorted into 96-well plates

890 containing 200 μl of CGM 2 per well and grown undisturbed for 16 to 18 days. Cells were

891 expanded and genotyped as described above.

892

Targeting *HUWE1* by CRISPR/Cas9 in HEK293T-7TG and HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1^{KO}
cells

895	Oligonucleotides HUWE1-IVT-2503-F and HUWE1-IVT-2503-R encoding sgRNAs
896	complementary to exon 6 of HUWE1 (S2 File) were designed using sgRNA Scorer 2.0 [49] and
897	cloned into LentiCRISPRv2-mCherry previously digested with BsmBI. HEK293T-7TG is a
898	clonal cell line derived from HEK293T cells that contains a fluorescent WNT reporter.
899	HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1 ^{KO} is a clonal cell line derived from HEK293T-7TG cells in which
900	CSNK1A1 has been knocked out. Construction of both cell lines will be described elsewhere.
901	Clonal HEK293T-7TG and HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cell lines in which HUWE1 was
902	targeted by CRISPR/Cas9 were established by transient transfection with LentiCRISPRv2-
903	mCherry containing the sgRNAs followed by single cell sorting. \sim 24 hr before transfection, 8 x
904	10 ⁴ HEK293T-7TG or HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1 ^{KO} cells per well were seeded in 24-well plates
905	and grown in CGM 1. On the day of transfection, CGM 1 was replaced with 450 μ l of antibiotic-
906	free CGM 1. 50 μ l of a transfection mixture containing 500 ng LentiCRISPRv2-mCherry and 1
907	µl of X-tremeGENE [™] HP DNA Transfection Reagent (Millipore Sigma, Cat # 06366236001)
908	prepared in OptiMEM were added dropwise. ~24 hr post-transfection, cells were transferred to a
909	6 cm dish, and \sim 72 hr post-transfection, single transfected (mCherry ⁺) cells were sorted into 96-
910	well plates containing 200 μ l of CGM 1 media per well and grown undisturbed for 16 days.
911	Single colonies were expanded by passaging to 24-well plates, and 10 μ l of cell suspension were
912	reserved for genotyping.
913	For genotyping, genomic DNA was extracted by adding 4 volumes of QuickExtract DNA
914	Extraction Solution (Epicentre, Cat # QE09050) to the cells. Extracts were incubated for 10 min
915	at 65°C, 3 min at 98°C, and 5 µl were used as input for PCR amplification of the HUWE1 target
916	site in 15 µl reactions containing 1X LongAmp Taq reaction buffer, 300 mM of each dNTP, 400

917 nM of each of the flanking primers PS1057-NGS-F and PS1057-NGS-R (S2 File) and 0.1

918	units/ μ l of LongAmp Taq DNA polymerase (NEB Cat. # M0323L). In a second amplification
919	step, complete Illumina adapter sequences (F: 5'-AAT GAT ACG GCG ACC ACC GAG ATC
920	TAC AC <8 bp barcode> AC ACT CTT TCC CTA CAC GAC GCT CTT CCG ATC* T-3'; R:
921	5'-CAA GCA GAA GAC GGC ATA CGA GAT <8 bp barcode> G TGA CTG GAG TTC AGA
922	CGT GTG CTC TTC CGA TC*T-3'; * indicates a phosphorothioate (PTO) linked base) were
923	added and the amplicons were sequenced on the MiSeq system (Illumina). FASTQ sequencing
924	files were analyzed using the branch 1.1 version [50] of a previously described analysis pipeline
925	(https://github.com/rajchari2/ngs_amplicon_analysis). Total (dark blue) and out-of-frame (light
926	blue) mutation rates were calculated and plotted (S6 Fig).
927	
928	Preparation of lentivirus, lentiviral transduction, and selection of HUWE1 KD and AXIN1-
929	overexpressing polyclonal cell populations
930	The transfer plasmid used to generate HUWE1 KD cell lines by CRISPRi was Lenti-(BB)-EF1a-
931	KRAB-dCas9-P2A-BlastR. The transfer plasmid used to generate cell lines overexpressing
932	AXIN1 was pLenti6.2-V5-EXP-N-TERM-S-FLAG-N-hAXIN1. ~24 hr before transfection, 21 x
933	10 ⁶ HEK293T cells were plated in 20 ml of CGM 1 without antibiotics in a T-175 flask. A
934	transfection mixture was prepared by diluting 9.3 μ g of transfer plasmid, 7 μ g of pMDLg/pRRE,
935	7 μ g of pRSV-Rev, 4.66 μ g of pMD2.G, 1.05 μ g pCS2-YFP (as a cotransfection marker), and
936	87.15 μ l of 1 mg/ml polyethylenimine (PEI) in a final volume of 1 ml serum-free DMEM. The
937	mixture was incubated for 20 min at RT and added to the culture media in the flasks. The day
938	after transfection, the media was replaced with 18 ml of CGM1 containing a total of 20% FBS
938 939	after transfection, the media was replaced with 18 ml of CGM1 containing a total of 20% FBS without antibiotics. ~48 hr after transfection, the media was collected (first viral harvest),

941 18 ml of fresh media were added to the flask of cells. ~72 hr after transfection, the media was 942 collected (second viral harvest), centrifuged as before, and the supernatant was pooled with the 943 first viral harvest. The pooled supernatant was filtered through 0.45 µm filters (Acrodisc syringe 944 filters with 0.45 µm Supor membrane, Pall Corporation Cat. # 4654). The filtered media 945 containing lentiviral particles was aliquoted, snap frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C. 946 For smaller scale preparations of the lentivirus used for AXIN1 overexpression, the above 947 protocol was followed but the lentivirus was prepared using 293FT cells in in T-25 flasks and all 948 quantities and volumes were scaled down by $\sim 1/7$. 3 x 10⁶ 293FT cells were plated in 5 ml of 949 CGM 1 without antibiotics in a T-25 flask. A transfection mixture was prepared by diluting 1.33 950 μg of transfer plasmid, 1 μg of pMDLg/pRRE, 1 μg of pRSV-Rev, 0.66 μg of pMD2.G, 0.15 μg 951 pCS2-YFP (as a cotransfection marker), and 69.4 µg/ml PEI in a final volume of 180 µL serum-952 free DMEM. The mixture was incubated for 20 min at RT and added to the culture media in the 953 flasks. The day after transfection, the media was replaced with 2.5 ml of CGM 1 containing 20% 954 FBS without antibiotics and the viral supernatants were collected and processed as described 955 above. Approximately 24 hr before transduction, 2.5 x 10⁵ HAP1-7TGP cells or derivatives thereof 956

were seeded in a 6-well plate. Cells were transduced by adding 1 ml of lentivirus-containing
supernatant mixed with 1 ml of CGM 2 and 4.4 µg/ml polybrene. ~24 hr post-transduction, cells
were passaged to 10 cm dishes and selected with 8 µg/ml blasticidin in CGM 2 for ~96 hr.
Untransduced cells from each genetic background were treated in parallel with 8 µg/mL
blasticidin to ensure that all cells were killed by the time selection of transduced cells was
complete.

963

964 Analysis of WNT reporter fluorescence

965	To measure WNT reporter activity in HAP1-7TGP cells or derivatives thereof, ~24 hr before
966	treatment cells were seeded in 24-well plates at a density of 8 x 10^4 per well and grown in 0.5 ml
967	of CGM 2. Cells were treated for 24 hr with the indicated concentrations of WNT3A CM diluted
968	in CGM 2. Cells were washed with 0.5 ml PBS, harvested in 150 μ l of Trypsin-EDTA (0.05%)
969	(Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 25300054), resuspended in 450 μ l of CGM 2, and EGFP
970	fluorescence was measured by FACS on either a SA3800 Spectral Cell Analyzer (Sony
971	Biotechnology) or a CytoFLEX S Flow Cytometer (Beckman Coulter). Typically, fluorescence
972	data for 5,000-50,000 singlet-gated cells was collected and, unless indicated otherwise, the
973	median EGFP fluorescence \pm standard error of the median (SEM = 1.253 s/n, where s = standard
974	deviation and $n =$ sample size) was used to represent the data.
975	To measure WNT reporter activity in cells treated with the GSK3A/B inhibitor CHIR-99021,
976	~24 hr before treatment cells were seeded in 6-well plates at a density of 0.5 x 10^6 per dish. Cells
977	were treated the following day with 10 μ M CHIR-99021 (CT99021) (Selleckchem Cat. # S2924)
978	or an equivalent volume of DMSO vehicle diluted in CGM 2 for 48 hr, replacing the media with
979	fresh CHIR-99021 or DMSO in CGM 2 after 24 hr of treatment. Cells were washed with 2 ml
980	PBS, harvested in 0.5 ml of 0.05% Trypsin-EDTA, resuspended in 1.5 ml of CGM 2, and EGFP
981	fluorescence was measured as described above.
982	

983 Quantitative (q)RT-PCR analysis

Approximately 24 hr before treatment, cells were seeded in 24-well plates at a density of 3×10^5

per well and grown in 0.5 ml of CGM 2. Cells were treated for 24 hr with 50% WNT3A CM in

986 CGM 2 where indicated. The medium was removed, cells were washed once with PBS and

987 harvested in 400 µl of TRIzol Reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 15596018). Extracts 988 were processed according to the manufacturer's protocol, taking the appropriate precautions to 989 avoid contamination with nucleases, and total RNA was resuspended in 20 µl of DEPC-treated 990 water (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # AM9920). To synthesize cDNA, 125 ng of RNA were 991 diluted in 2 µl DEPC-treated water and incubated with 0.25 µl 10X ezDNase buffer and 0.25 µl 992 ezDNase enzyme for 5 min at 37°C to digest DNA contaminants. After DNase treatment, 1 µl of DEPC-treated water and 1 µl of SuperScriptTM IV VILOTM MM (Invitrogen Cat. # 11766500) 993 994 were added and the reaction was incubated for 10 min at 25°C, 10 min at 50°C, and 5 min at 995 85°C. For each primer pair, a cDNA dilution series from a representative sample was analyzed to 996 ensure that target amplification was linear across a sufficiently broad range of cDNA 997 concentrations. cDNA was diluted 1:100 in water, and 5 μ l were mixed with 5 μ l of Power 998 SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems Cat. # 4367659) containing 400 nM each of 999 forward and reverse primer (S2 File). Triplicate reactions for each cDNA and primer pair were 1000 prepared in a MicroAmp Optical 384-well Reaction Plate (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 1001 4309849), sealed with MicroAmp Optical Adhesive Film (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # 1002 4311971) and run using standard parameters in a QuantStudio 5 Real-Time PCR System 1003 (Applied Biosystems). Thermo Fisher cloud design and analysis software (DA2) was used to 1004 calculate the average relative abundance of AXIN2, RNF43, TNFRSF19, or NKD1 mRNA 1005 normalized to HPRT1 mRNA, and fold-changes in mRNA abundance were calculated as the 1006 quotient between the experimental and reference samples, with appropriate error propagation of 1007 the respective standard deviations (SD). 1008

1009 Immunoblot analysis and quantification of soluble CTNNB1 from membrane-free

1010 supernatants (MFS)

1011 Approximately 24 hr before treatment, cells were seeded in 6 cm dishes at a density of 2.5×10^6

- 1012 per dish and grown in 5 ml of CGM 2. Cells were treated for 24 hr with 50% WNT3A CM in
- 1013 CGM 2 where indicated. Cells were harvested, lysed by hypotonic shock, and extracts were
- 1014 prepared as follows, with all handling done at 4°C. Cells were washed twice with ~5 ml cold
- 1015 PBS and twice with \sim 5 ml cold 10 mM HEPES pH 7.4. Residual buffer was removed, and 100 μ l
- 1016 of ice-cold SEAT buffer (10 mM triethanolamine/acetic acid pH 7.6, 250 mM sucrose, 1X
- 1017 SIGMAFAST Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Tablets EDTA-free (Sigma-Aldrich Cat. # S8830), 25

1018 µM MG132 (Sigma-Aldrich Cat. # C2211), 1X PhosSTOP (Roche Cat. # 04906837001), 1 mM

1019 NaF, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, 1 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 62.5 U/ml Benzonase Nuclease (EMD

1020 Millipore Cat. # 70664), 1 mM MgCl₂) were added to the cells. Cells were scraped using a cell

1021 lifter (Corning Cat. # 3008), transferred to 2-ml centrifuge tubes and disrupted mechanically by

triturating 10 times. Crude extracts were centrifuged for 20 min at 20,000 x g to pellet

1023 membranes and other insoluble cellular material, and the MFS was carefully removed, avoiding

1024 contamination from the pellet. The MFS was flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C
1025 until further processing.

1026 Extracts were thawed quickly at RT and transferred to ice. The protein concentration in the

1027 MFS was quantified with the Pierce BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. #

1028 23225), using BSA as a standard, and samples were normalized by dilution with SEAT buffer.

1029 The MFS was diluted with 4X LDS sample buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. # NP0007)

1030 supplemented with 50 mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP), incubated for 45 min at RT or

1031 heated at 95°C for 10 min, and 30 µg of total protein were electrophoresed alongside Precision

1032 Plus Protein All Blue Prestained Protein Standards (Bio-Rad Cat. # 1610373) in 4-15% TGX 1033 Stain-Free protein gels (BioRad, various Cat. numbers) at 75 V for 15 min and 100 V for 1 hr 15 min using 1X Tris/Glycine/SDS running buffer (BioRad Cat. # 1610772). Following 1034 1035 electrophoresis, the gel was briefly activated with UV light using a Chemidoc imager (BioRad) 1036 to covalently label proteins in the gel with Stain-Free fluorochromes. 1037 Proteins were transferred to PVDF membranes in a Criterion Blotter apparatus (Bio-Rad Cat. 1038 # 1704071) at 60 V for 2 hr using 1X Tris/Glycine transfer buffer (BioRad Cat. # 1610771) 1039 containing 20% methanol. Following transfer, the membrane was imaged using the ChemiDoc 1040 imager, and the total protein in each lane was quantified. Membranes were cut, blocked with Odyssey Blocking Buffer (Li-Cor Cat. # 927–40000), incubated with mouse anti-β-catenin or 1041 1042 mouse anti-GAPDH primary antibodies, washed with TBST, incubated with IRDye 800CW 1043 donkey anti-mouse IgG secondary antibody, washed with TBST followed by TBS, and imaged 1044 using a Li-Cor Odyssey imaging system. Acquisition parameters in the manufacturer's Li-Cor 1045 Odyssey Image Studio Lite software were set so as to avoid saturated pixels in the bands of 1046 interest, and bands were quantified using background subtraction. The integrated intensity for 1047 CTNNB1 was normalized to the total protein (or in some cases to the average of total protein and 1048 the integrated intensity for GAPDH) in the corresponding lane. The average \pm SD normalized 1049 CTNNB1 intensity from duplicate blots was used to represent the data. 1050 For CHIR-99021 or DMSO vehicle treated cells, ~24 hr before treatment cells were seeded 1051 in 6 cm dishes at a density of 2 x 10^6 per dish and treated the following day with 10 μ M CHIR-1052 99021 or DMSO for 48 hr. The media was replaced with fresh CHIR-99021 or DMSO in CGM 2 1053 after 24 hr of treatment.

1054

1055 Immunoblot analyses of soluble HUWE1, APC and CSNK1A1 from MFS

- 1056 Some of the same membranes used to blot for soluble CTNNB1 were cut and used to blot for
- 1057 other proteins as indicated in the same figures. Blots were incubated with rabbit anti-
- 1058 Lasu1/Ureb1 (HUWE1), mouse anti-APC and mouse anti-CSNK1A1 primary antibodies. The
- 1059 following secondary antibodies were used: for HUWE1, IRDye 680RD donkey anti-rabbit IgG,
- 1060 for APC, IRDye 800CW donkey anti-mouse IgG (both were imaged using a Li-Cor Odyssey
- 1061 imaging system) and for CSNK1A1, peroxidase AffiniPure goat anti-mouse IgG (developed
- 1062 using SuperSignal West Femto Maximum Sensitivity Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific Cat. #
- 1063 34095)).
- 1064

1065 Immunoblot analysis of total HUWE1, APC, CTNNB1, AXIN1, AXIN2, GSK3A/B and

1066 CSNK1A1 from whole cell extracts (WCE)

Approximately 72 hr before harvest, cells were seeded in 10 cm dishes at a density of 3 x 10⁶ per dish and grown in 10 ml of CGM 2. Cells were harvested in 2 ml Trypsin-EDTA (0.05%) and resuspended in 6 ml CGM 2. 10 x 10⁶ cells were centrifuged at 400 x g for 5 min, washed in 5 ml

- 1070 PBS, and centrifuged at 400 x g for 5 min. The supernatant was aspirated, and the cell pellets
- 1071 were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. Pellets were thawed quickly at RT and
- 1072 transferred to ice. All subsequent steps were done on ice. The cell pellets were resuspended in
- 1073 150 µl of ice-cold RIPA lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 2% NP-40, 0.25%
- 1074 deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 1X SIGMAFAST protease inhibitors, 1 mM MgCl₂, 62.5 U/ml
- 1075 Benzonase Nuclease, 1 mM DTT, 10% glycerol), sonicated in a Bioruptor Pico sonication device
- 1076 (Diagenode) 4 x 30 s in the ultra-high setting, centrifuged 10 min at 20,000 x g and the
- 1077 supernatant (WCE) was recovered.

1078 The protein concentration in the WCE was quantified using the Pierce BCA Protein Assay

1079 Kit. Samples were normalized by dilution with RIPA lysis buffer, further diluted with 4X LDS

sample buffer supplemented with 50 mM TCEP, incubated for 45 min at RT, and 30 µg of total

1081 protein were electrophoresed alongside Precision Plus Protein All Blue Prestained Protein

1082 Standards in 4-15% Criterion TGX Stain-Free protein gels at 75 V for 15min, and 100 V for 1 hr

1083 and 15 min using 1X Tris/Glycine/SDS running buffer.

1084 Proteins were transferred at 60 V for 2 hr to PVDF membranes using 1X Tris/Glycine

transfer buffer containing 20% methanol, and membranes were cut and blocked with either

1086 Odyssey Intercept Blocking Buffer or TBST, 5% skim milk. Blots were incubated with rabbit

1087 anti-Lasu1/Ureb1 (HUWE1), rabbit anti-APC, mouse anti-β-catenin, rabbit anti-AXIN1, rabbit

1088 anti-AXIN2, rabbit anti-GSK3A/B, mouse anti-CSNK1A1 and mouse anti-GAPDH (as a loading

1089 control) primary antibodies, washed with TBST, incubated with Peroxidase AffiniPure anti-

1090 rabbit or anti-mouse secondary antibodies, washed with TBST followed by TBS, and developed

1091 with SuperSignal West Femto.

1092

1093 Immunoblot analysis and quantification of non-phospho-CTNNB1 (S33/S37/T41) and total
 1094 CTNNB1 from WCE

1095 Approximately 24 hr before treatment, cells were seeded in 6 cm dishes at a density of 2 x 1096 10^6 per dish and treated the following day with 10 μ M CHIR-99021 or an equivalent volume of 1097 DMSO vehicle for 48 hr. The media was replaced with fresh CHIR-99021 or DMSO in CGM 2 1098 after 24 hr of treatment. Cells were harvested in 1 ml Trypsin-EDTA (0.05%) and resuspended in 1099 3 ml CGM 2. Cells were centrifuged at 400 x g for 5 min, washed in 5 ml PBS, and centrifuged 1100 at 400 x g for 5 min. The above protocol for immunoblot analysis of total proteins from WCE

1101 was followed, except that protein samples were heated at 95°C for 10 min prior to 1102 electrophoresis, and the total protein in each lane was quantified as follows and used for 1103 normalization. Following electrophoresis, the gel was briefly activated with UV light using a 1104 Chemidoc imager (BioRad) to covalently label proteins in the gel with Stain-Free fluorochromes. 1105 Following transfer, the membrane was imaged using the ChemiDoc, and the total protein in each 1106 lane was quantified. The blots were incubated with rabbit non-phospho (active) β-catenin (Ser33-1107 37-Thr41), mouse anti- β -catenin or mouse anti-GAPDH (as a loading control) primary 1108 antibodies, IRDye 680RD donkey anti-rabbit IgG or IRDye 800CW donkey anti-mouse IgG 1109 secondary antibodies, and imaged using a Li-Cor Odyssey imaging system. 1110 1111 Quantitative dot blot of HUWE1 from WCE 1112 3 µl WCE containing 8 µg protein were spotted onto nitrocellulose membrane for each sample in 1113 triplicate. The membrane was allowed to dry for 15 min prior to staining with Revert 520 Total 1114 Protein Stain (Li-Cor Cat. # 926-10010) according to the manufacturer's protocol 1115 (https://www.licor.com/documents/108anlg26tnwqkj135ki6bo61fy4ztmi). The membrane was 1116 imaged on the Li-Cor Odyssey M imaging system using the 520 nm channel to obtain a total 1117 protein quantification for normalization. The membrane was then blocked with Odyssey 1118 Blocking Buffer, incubated with rabbit anti-Lasu1/Ureb1 (HUWE1), washed with TBST, 1119 incubated with IRDye 680RD donkey anti-rabbit IgG secondary antibody, washed with TBST 1120 followed by TBS, and imaged using the Li-Cor Odyssey M imaging system. Acquisition 1121 parameters in the manufacturer's Li-Cor Odyssey Image Studio Lite software were set so as to

1122 avoid saturated pixels in the dots of interest, and dots were quantified using background

subtraction. The integrated intensity for HUWE1 was normalized to that for Revert 520 Total

- 1124 Protein Stain in the same blot, and the average \pm SD from triplicate dot blots was used to
- 1125 represent the data. The specificity of the HUWE1 signal was confirmed by comparing dot blots
- 1126 of WCE from CSNK1A1^{KO} and CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} cells. All normalized HUWE1
- 1127 intensity values were within the linear range of a standard curve prepared from dot blots of a
- 1128 serial dilution of WCE from CSNK1A1^{KO} cells.
- 1129

1130 Preparation of figures and statistical analysis

- 1131 Figures were prepared using PowerPoint (Microsoft). Table 1, S1 and S2 Files were prepared
- using Excel (Microsoft). Graphs were prepared and statistical analysis performed using Prism 6
- 1133 (GraphPad) or Excel. Details of the statistical tests used are given in the figure legends.
- 1134 Significance is indicated as ****(p<0.0001), *** (p<0.001), ** (p<0.01), * (p<0.05) or n.s. (not
- significant). Pictures of immunoblots were adjusted for contrast and brightness only when
- 1136 necessary for clarity using Image Studio Lite (LiCor), and were arranged in PowerPoint.

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1139

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1274 Figure legends:

1275

1276 Fig 1. HUWE1 and AXIN1 reciprocally regulate WNT signaling by modulating

1277 GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent CTNNB1 phosphorylation and abundance.

- 1278 (A-C). We note that the data for WT HAP-7TGP, CSNK1A1^{KO} and CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO}
- 1279 cells is discussed in the first section of the results, while the data for CSNK1A1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE} and
- 1280 CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE} cells is discussed in a later section of the results subtitled
- 1281 "HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by antagonizing the DC." Cells were treated with DMSO
- 1282 vehicle or 10 μM of the GSK3A/GSK3B inhibitor CHIR-99021 for 48 hr as indicated. (A) WNT
- 1283 reporter activity (median EGFP fluorescence from 10,000 singlets was measured for triplicate

1284 wells and the average \pm standard deviation (SD) of the three measurements is depicted), relative

- to WT HAP1-7TGP cells treated with DMSO. Significance was determined by unpaired t-test
- 1286 with Welch's correction. (B) Soluble CTNNB1 abundance (CTNNB1 intensity normalized to
- 1287 total protein, average \pm SD from duplicate immunoblots shown in S1A Fig) in membrane-free
- 1288 supernatants (MFS) of the indicated cell lines, relative to WT HAP1-7TGP cells treated with
- 1289 DMSO. (C) Non-phospho-CTNNB1 (S33/S37/T41) abundance (non-phospho-CTNNB1
- 1290 intensity normalized to total protein, average \pm SD from duplicate immunoblots shown in S1B
- Fig) in whole cell extracts (WCE) of the indicated cell lines, relative to WT HAP1-7TGP cellstreated with DMSO.

1293

1294 S1 Fig. HUWE1 and AXIN1 reciprocally regulate WNT signaling by modulating

1295 GSK3A/GSK3B-dependent CTNNB1 phosphorylation and abundance.

1230 (A-C) we note that the data for with $AI = / 101$, CSNKTAT and CSNKTAT, 110 with
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- 1297 cells is discussed in the first section of the results, while the data for CSNK1A1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE} and
- 1298 CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO}; AXIN1^{OE} cells is discussed in a later section of the results subtitled
- 1299 "HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling by antagonizing the DC." Cells were treated with DMSO
- 1300 vehicle or 10 μ M of the GSK3A/GSK3B inhibitor CHIR-99021 for 48 hr as indicated. (A)
- 1301 Immunoblots of soluble CTNNB1 from MFS, used for quantification in Fig 1B. (B)
- 1302 Immunoblots of non-phospho-CTNNB1 (S33/S37/T41) and total CTNNB1 from WCE, used for
- 1303 quantification in Fig 1C and S1C Fig, respectively. (C) Total CTNNB1 abundance (CTNNB1
- 1304 intensity normalized to total protein, average \pm SD from duplicate immunoblots shown in S1B)
- in WCE of the indicated cell lines, relative to WT HAP1-7TGP cells treated with DMSO. (D)
- 1306 Immunoblot analysis of total AXIN1 from WCE of the indicated cell lines used in A-C, and in
- 1307 Fig 1. The polyclonal cell populations overexpressing AXIN1 were generated as described in
- 1308 Materials and methods. AXIN1 abundance (AXIN1 intensity normalized to GAPDH intensity),
- 1309 relative to CSNK1A1^{KO} cells, is indicated below the blots.
- 1310

Fig 2. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through a mechanism independent of CTNNB1stability.

- 1313 (A-F) Each circle represents a unique clonal cell line (determined by genotyping, S1 File). The
- 1314 same cell lines were used in A-F. A single value for the parental WT HAP1-7TGP cell line, and
- 1315 the average value from 3 independent clonal cell lines for each of the other genotypes, all
- 1316 relative to the untreated WT HAP1-7TGP sample, are indicated by a horizontal line and
- 1317 quantified above each group of circles. WT HAP1-7TGP cells were treated with 50% WNT3A
- 1318 CM for 24 hr where indicated. Significance was determined by unpaired t-test with Welch's

1319 correction. (A) Relative soluble CTNNB1 abundance (CTNNB1 intensity normalized to total 1320 protein and GAPDH intensity, average from duplicate immunoblots shown in S2B Fig) in MFS of the indicated cell lines. (B) Relative WNT reporter activity (median EGFP fluorescence from 1321 1322 100,000 singlets). (C-F) Relative WNT target gene expression (average quantification of AXIN2, 1323 RNF43, TNFRSF19, or NKD1 mRNA normalized to HPRT1 mRNA, each measured in triplicate 1324 reactions). 1325 S2 Fig. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through a mechanism independent of CTNNB1 1326 1327 stability. (A) Genomic nucleotide and corresponding amino acid sequences comprising the CTNNB1 1328

phosphodegron of WT HAP1-7TGP and CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells. The kinases that phosphorylate S or

T residues in the phosphodegron are indicated. Nucleotides and amino acids in red indicate

mutations. (B) Immunoblots of soluble HUWE1 and CTNNB1 from MFS of the indicated cell

lines. The CTNNB1 immunoblots were used for quantification in Fig 2A. (C-E) Treatment of

CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells with WNT3A does not promote further accumulation of soluble CTNNB1

CM for 24 hr where indicated. (C) Immunoblots of total CTNNB1 from WCE used for

quantification in D. (D) Total CTNNB1 abundance (CTNNB1 intensity normalized to total

protein and GAPDH intensity, average \pm SD from duplicate lanes of the immunoblots shown in

C) in WCE of CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells treated with WNT3A CM, relative to untreated CTNNB1^{ST-A}

abundance (average ± SD AXIN2, RNF43, TNFRSF19, or NKD1 mRNA normalized to HPRT1

mRNA, each measured in triplicate reactions) in CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells treated with WNT3A CM,

cells. Significance was determined by unpaired t-test with Welch's correction. (E) mRNA

and does not further increase WNT target gene expression. Cells were treated with 50% WNT3A

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1342	reported as	percentage of the	mRNA abundar	ice in untreated	d CTNNB1 ^{ST-A} c	ells. (F) WNT
1072	reported us	percentage of the	mint in a abandan				/ '' ± '

1343 reporter activity (median EGFP fluorescence from 5,000 singlets) for the indicated cell lines,

1344 relative to the average for CTNNB1^{ST-A} cells. Each circle represents a unique clonal cell line

1345 (determined by genotyping, S1 File), and the average of 9-12 independent clones for each

1346 genotype is indicated by a horizontal line and quantified above each group of circles.

1347 Significance was determined by unpaired t-test with Welch's correction.

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1349 Fig 3. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by APC.

1350 (A-F) The same cell lines were used in A-F. WT cells were treated with 50% WNT3A CM for 24 hr where indicated. (A) Immunoblot analysis of soluble proteins from MFS of the indicated 1351 clonal cell lines. We note that CSNK1A1^{KO-2} cells contain a loss-of-function mutation resulting 1352 1353 in a 2-amino acid deletion (S1 File), and hence the protein product is still present. The "a" and "b" superscripts next to the protein names indicate which of two membranes the corresponding 1354 strips were cut from. * indicates a non-specific band observed with the mouse anti-APC 1355 1356 antibody. (B-F) Each circle represents a unique clonal cell line (determined by genotyping, S1 1357 File). A single value for the parental WT HAP1-7TGP cell line, and the average value from 2-3 1358 independent clonal cell lines for each of the other genotypes, all relative to the untreated WT 1359 HAP1-7TGP sample, are indicated by a horizontal line and quantified above each group of 1360 circles. Significance was determined by unpaired t-test with Welch's correction. (B) Relative 1361 soluble CTNNB1 abundance (CTNNB1 intensity normalized to total protein, average from 1362 duplicate immunoblots) in MFS of the indicated cell lines. (C-F) Relative WNT target gene 1363 expression (average quantification of AXIN2, RNF43, TNFRSF19, or NKD1 mRNA normalized 1364 to *HPRT1* mRNA, each measured in triplicate reactions).

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1366 Fig 4. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC

1367 components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B.

- 1368 (A-E) The same cell lines are used in A-E. WT HAP1-7TGP cells were treated with 50%
- 1369 WNT3A CM for 24 hr where indicated. (A) Aggregate WNT target gene expression (average \pm
- 1370 SD of all four target genes, calculated from the individual average quantifications of AXIN2,
- 1371 RNF43, TNFRSF19 or NKD1 mRNA normalized to HPRT1 mRNA, each measured in triplicate
- 1372 reactions) in polyclonal cell populations targeted with HUWE1 sgRNAs, reported as percentage
- 1373 of aggregate WNT target gene expression in polyclonal cell populations targeted with SCR
- 1374 sgRNA control. Significance was determined by unpaired t-test with Welch's correction. (B-E)
- 1375 WNT target gene expression (average \pm SD AXIN2, RNF43, TNFRSF19, or NKD1 mRNA
- 1376 normalized to *HPRT1* mRNA, each measured in triplicate reactions) in polyclonal cell
- 1377 populations targeted with HUWE1 sgRNAs, reported as percentage of WNT target gene
- 1378 expression in polyclonal cell populations targeted with SCR sgRNA control.
- 1379

S4 Fig. HUWE1 enhances WNT signaling through mechanisms mediated by a subset of DC components including APC, AXIN1 and GSK3A or GSK3B.

- 1382 (A) Immunoblot analysis of total protein from WCE of the indicated clonal cell lines used for
- 1383 CRISPRi-mediated HUWE1 KD in Fig 4 and S5 Fig. The AXIN1 and AXIN2 immunoblots of
- 1384 CSNK1A1^{KO}; AXIN1^{KO} and CSNK1A1^{KO}; AXIN2^{KO} cells, respectively, exhibited bands of
- 1385 lower abundance and molecular weight than their respective counterparts in WT HAP1-7TGP
- 1386 cells. These bands may represent residual truncated protein products, but in both cases frameshift
- 1387 mutations in the single allele of the respective genes (S1 File) predicted the absence of full-

1388	length, WT proteins. * indicates a non-specific band observed with the rabbit anti-APC antibody.
1389	The "a" and "b" superscripts next to the protein names indicate which of two membranes the
1390	corresponding strips were cut from. Dashed vertical lines indicate a rearrangement of samples
1391	within the same blot. (B, C) GSK3A and GSK3B are functionally redundant in WNT signaling
1392	in HAP1 cells. The same cell lines were used in B and C. (B) Immunoblot analysis of total
1393	GSK3A and GSK3B from WCE of the indicated cell lines. (C) WNT reporter activity (median
1394	EGFP fluorescence from 50,000 singlets was measured for biological duplicates of a single
1395	clone, and the average \pm SD of the two measurements was calculated) relative to untreated WT
1396	HAP1-7TGP cells. (D) HUWE1 abundance, quantified by dot blots, in the clonal cell lines used
1397	for CRISPRi-mediated HUWE1 KD in Fig 4 and S5 Fig. Total HUWE1 abundance (HUWE1
1398	intensity normalized to total protein, average \pm SD from triplicate dot blots) in WCE of the
1399	indicated cell lines, relative to WT HAP1-7TGP cells. Significance was determined by unpaired
1400	t-test with Welch's correction, and the difference in HUWE1 abundance between each mutant
1401	cell line and WT HAP1-7TGP cells was not significant (not depicted).
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1403	S5 Fig. Quantification of CRISPRi-mediated HUWE1 KD in various genetic backgrounds.
1404	(A-B) Two polyclonal cell populations targeted with HUWE1 sgRNAs (1 and 2) and one
1405	polyclonal cell population targeted with SCR sgRNA were derived for each genotype as
1406	described in Materials and methods. (A) Immunoblots of total HUWE1 from WCE used for
1407	quantification in B. The "a" and "b" superscripts next to the protein names indicate which of two

- 1408 duplicate membranes the corresponding strips were cut from. Dashed vertical lines indicate a
- 1409 rearrangement of samples within the same blot. (B) HUWE1 abundance (average HUWE1
- 1410 intensity normalized to either Na^+/K^+ ATPase or GAPDH intensity from duplicate immunoblots

- shown in A) in WCE of cell populations targeted with HUWE1 sgRNAs, reported as percentage
- 1412 of HUWE1 abundance in WCE of cell populations targeted with SCR sgRNA control.
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1414 Fig 5. Regulation of WNT signaling by HUWE1 requires its ubiquitin ligase activity.

- 1415 (A) WNT reporter activity (median \pm standard error of the median (SEM) EGFP fluorescence
- 1416 from 37,000-50,000 cells) of one CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{KO} clonal cell line and three catalytic
- 1417 mutant CSNK1A1^{KO}; HUWE1^{C4341R} clonal cell lines, relative to CSNK1A1^{KO} cells. (B-D) WNT
- 1418 target gene expression (average \pm SD AXIN2, RNF43 or TNFSRF19 mRNA normalized to
- 1419 *HPRT1* mRNA, each measured in triplicate reactions) of the indicated clonal cell lines, relative
- to CSNK1A1^{KO} cells. (E) Immunoblot analysis of total HUWE1 protein in WCE of the same cell
- 1421 lines used in A-D.
- 1422

1423 S6 Fig. Quantification of CRISPR/Cas9-mediated *HUWE1* mutations in HEK293T-7TG

1424 and HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1^{KO} cells.

1425 (A, B) Sequencing reads of the HUWE1 locus targeted by CRISPR/Cas9 in individual clonal cell lines derived from HEK293T-7TG (A) or HEK293T-7TG CSNK1A1^{KO} (B) cells were quantified 1426 1427 for mutations. The X-axis shows individual clones, and the Y-axis indicates the percentage of 1428 reads containing mutations. Bars in dark blue indicate the percentage of reads containing any 1429 kind of mutation (total mutations) at the targeted locus in each clone, and bars in light blue 1430 indicate the percentage of reads containing out-of-frame mutations at the same locus. In all 113 1431 clones in which ~100% of the reads contained mutations (indicating all HUWE1 alleles had been 1432 successfully targeted), some of those mutations were always in frame, strongly suggesting that at 1433 least one WT HUWE1 allele is required for cell viability in HEK293T cells.

1435 Supporting Information:

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1437 S1 File. CRISPR/Cas9-engineered clonal cell lines used in this study.

1438 Single-mutant clones in which a single gene was targeted using CRISPR/Cas9 and double- or 1439 triple-mutant clones in which multiple genes were targeted using CRISPR/Cas9 are described in 1440 two separate spreadsheets labeled accordingly. When more than one clone was generated using the same CRISPR guide, the 'Clone Name' column indicates the generic name used throughout 1441 1442 the manuscript to describe the genotype, and the 'Clone #' column identifies an individual clone. 1443 The 'HDR Donor' column indicates the name of the ssODN donor template used to generate 1444 some of the clonal cell lines (see Materials and Methods). The 'CRISPR guide' column indicates 1445 the name of the guide used, which is the same as that of the oligos encoding sgRNAs (see 1446 Materials and methods, and S2 File). The 'Genomic Sequence' column shows 80 bases of 1447 genomic sequence (5' relative to the gene is to the left) surrounding the target site. For each 1448 group of clones made using the same CRISPR guide (separated by gray spacers), the 'Genomic 1449 Sequence' column is headlined by the reference WT genomic sequence (obtained from RefSeq), 1450 with the guide sequence colored blue. The site of the double strand cut made by Cas9 is between 1451 the two underlined bases. Sequencing results for individual clones are indicated below the 1452 reference sequence. Some clones that remained WT at the targeted locus are indicated as such 1453 and were used as controls. For mutant clones, mutated bases are colored red (dashes represent 1454 deleted bases, three dots are used to indicate that a deletion continues beyond the 80 bases of 1455 sequence shown, and large insertions are indicated in brackets), and the nature of the mutation and the resulting genotype are described in the columns labeled accordingly. The figures in 1456 1457 which each clone was used are also indicated. For double- and triple-mutant clones, the CRISPR

guide used, the genomic sequence, the mutation and the genotype pertaining to each of the two or three targeted loci are designated '1', '2' and '3' in the column headings, and are shown under green, orange and purple spacers, respectively.

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1462 S2 File. Oligonucleotides and primers used in this study.

1463 Oligonucleotides and primers used for generation and characterization of clonal cell lines

1464 engineered using CRISPR/Cas9 nuclease (CRISPRn), base editing, and CRISPRi, as well as

1465 those used for qRT-PCR, are described in separate spreadsheets labeled accordingly. CRISPRn,

1466 base editing and CRISPRi: the names and sequences of pairs of oligonucleotides encoding

sgRNAs, which were cloned into the respective vectors for each application as described in

1468 Materials and methods, are shown in columns A and B, respectively. Additionally, for CRISPRn

1469 and base editing the names and sequences of pairs of forward and reverse primers used to

1470 amplify corresponding genomic regions flanking sgRNA target sites are shown in columns C and

1471 D, respectively, and where applicable, the names and sequences of individual primers used to

sequence the amplified target sites are shown in columns E and F, respectively. qRT-PCR: the

1473 names and sequences of pairs of forward and reverse primers used for qRT-PCR are shown in

1474 columns A and B, respectively.






S2 Fig

А

CTNNB1 phosphodegron

CTNNB1^{WT}: CTG GAC TCT GGA ATC CAT TCT GGT GCC ACT ACC ACA GCT CCT TCT CTG CTNNB1^{ST-A}: CTG GAC TCT GGA ATC CAT GCT GGT GCC ACT GCC ACA GCT CCT GCT CTG

CTNNB1^{WT}: L31, D32, S33, G34, I35, H36, S37, G38, A39, T40, T41, T42, A43, F44, S45, L36 CTNNB1^{ST-A}: L31, D32, S33, G34, I35, H36, A37, G38, A39, T40, A41, T42, A43, F44, A45, L36









S5 Fig





S6 Fig



Clone