A NOVEL STRUCTURAL PROTEIN-PROTEIN INTERACTION NETWORK MODEL:

Its Applications on Drug Off-Target Prediction and Genotype-Phenotype Linkage

by

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This is to certify that I have examined this copy of a doctoral dissertation by

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ABSTRACT

Network descriptions and analyses are important tools in systems biology; they are powerful in abstracting the complex relationships inside cells and between them, and they often provide clues for drug discovery. In the first part of this dissertation, we introduce a structural network model that we call "Protein Interface and Interaction Network (P2IN)", which is the integration of protein−protein interface structures and protein interaction networks. This interface-based network organization clarifies which protein pairs have structurally similar interfaces and which proteins may compete to bind the same surface region.

Next, we propose a new network attack strategy, "The Interface Attack", based on protein−protein interface motifs. Similar interface architectures can occur between unrelated proteins. Consequently, in principle, a drug that binds to one has a certain probability of binding to others. The interface attack strategy simultaneously removes from the network all interactions that consist of similar interface motifs. This strategy is inspired by network pharmacology and allows inferring potential off-targets. We built the P2IN with the p53 signaling network and performed network robustness analysis. We show that (1) "hitting" frequent interfaces (a set of edges distributed around the network) might be as destructive as eliminating high degree proteins (hub nodes), (2) frequent interfaces are not always topologically critical elements in the network, and (3) interface attack may reveal functional changes in the system better than the attack of single proteins. As a case study, we tried to detect the off-targets of some CDK6 binding drugs. We found that drugs blocking the interface between CDK6 and CDKN2D may also affect the interaction between CDK4 and CDKN2D.

Lastly, we describe how we use protein interactions and the structural knowledge on interacting surfaces of proteins (interfaces) in predicting the genotype-phenotype relationship. We built the phenotype specific sub-networks of protein-protein interactions (PPIs) involving the relevant genes responsible for lung and brain metastasis from primary tumor in breast cancer. First, we selected the PPIs most relevant to metastasis causing genes (seed genes), by using the "guilt-by-association" principle. Then, we modeled structures of the interactions whose complex forms are not available in Protein Databank. Finally, we mapped mutations to interface structures (real and modeled), in order to spot the interactions that might be manipulated by these mutations. Functional analyses performed on these sub-networks revealed the potential relationship between immune system, infectious diseases and lung metastasis progression, but this connection was not observed significantly in the brain metastasis. Besides, structural analyses showed that some PPI interfaces in both metastasis sub-networks are originating from microbial proteins, which in turn were mostly related with cell adhesion. Cell adhesion is a key mechanism in metastasis; therefore these PPIs may be involved in similar molecular pathways that are shared by infectious disease and metastasis. Finally, by mapping the mutations and amino acid variations on the interface regions of the proteins in the metastasis sub-networks we found evidence for some mutations to be involved in the mechanisms differentiating the type of the metastasis.

Ağ açıklamaları ve analizleri sistem biyolojisi için önemli araçlardır ; hücre içindeki ve hücreler arasındaki karmaşık ilişkileri özetlemekte güçlüdürler ve genellikle ilaç keşfi için ipuçları sağlayabilirler. Bu tezin ilk bölümünde, "Protein Arayüzey ve Etkileşim Ağı (P2IN)" olarak isimlendirdiğimiz yapısal bir ağ modelini tanıttık. Bu ağ protein-protein arayüzey yapılarının ve protein etkileşim ağlarının entegrasyonundan oluşmaktadır. Bu arayüzey bilgisine bağlı ağ organizasyonu hangi protein çiftlerinin yapısal olarak benzer arayüzeylere sahip olduğunu ve hangi proteinlerin aynı yüzey bölgesine bağlanmak için rekabet ettiğine açıklık getirmektedir.

Daha sonra, protein-protein arayüzey motiflerine dayanan yeni bir ağ saldırı stratejisi önerdik, "Arayüzey Saldırısı". Benzer arayüzey mimarileri ilintisiz protein çiftleri arasında oluşabilirler. Bu nedenle, prensip olarak, birine bağlanan bir ilacın belli bir oranda diğerlerine de bağlanma olasılığı vardır. Arayüzey Saldırısı, benzer arayüzey motiflerinden oluşan tüm etkileşimleri ağdan aynı anda kaldırır. Bu strateji ağ farmakolojisinden ilham almıştır ve potansiyel "dış-hedefler" 'in tahminine izin verir. Biz p53 sinyal ağının P2IN'ini inşa ettik ve ağda sağlamlık analizleri gerçekleştirdik. Biz (1) sıkça gözlemlenen arayüzeylerin (ağın çeşitli yerlerine dağılmış kenarlar) saldırılara hedef alınmasının, yüksek dereceli proteinlerin (hub düğümleri) ortadan kaldırılması kadar yıkıcı olabileceğini (2) sıkça gözlemlenen arayüzeylerin ağda her zaman topolojik olarak kritik noktalarda bulunmadığını (3) Arayüzey Saldırısının sistemdeki fonksiyonel değişiklikleri, tek tek proteinleri hedef alan saldırılardan daha iyi ortaya çıkarabildiğini gösterdik. "Dış-hedef" tespiti örnek çalışmasında, CDK6 ve CDKN2D arasındaki arayüzeyi engelleyen ilaçların, CDK4 ve CDKN2D arasındaki etkileşimi de etkileyebileceğini bulduk.

Son olarak da, genotip-fenotip ilişkisinin tahmini için, protein etkileşimleri ve bu etkileşimlerin üç-boyutlu yapısının nasıl kullanıldığını açıkladık. Meme kanserinde primer tümörün akciğer ve beyin metastazına yol açması ile ilintili fenotipe özel protein etkileşim alt-ağları inşa ettik. İlk olarak, "işbirliği-ile-suçluluk" prensibini kullanarak, metastaza neden olan genlerle (tohum gen) en çok ilişkide bulunan protein etkileşimlerini seçtik. Daha sonra, kompleks halleri Protein Bilgi Bankası' nda bulunmayan etkileşimlerin yapılarını modelledik. Son olarak, mutasyonlar tarafından manipüle edilmiş olabilecek etkileşimleri bulmak için, arayüzey yapıları üzerinde mutasyonları işaretledik. Bu alt ağlarda yapılan fonksiyonel analizler bağışıklık sistemi, enfeksiyon hastalıkları ve akciğer metastazı arasındaki potansiyel ilişkiyi ortaya çıkarmıştır, ama bu bağlantı beyin metastazı için kayda değer bir şekilde gözlenmemiştir. Bunun yanı sıra, yapısal analizler her iki metastaz alt-ağı içindeki protein etkileşim arayüzlerinin mikrobiyal protein kaynaklı olduğunu gösterdi. Bahsi geçen bu protein etkileşimlerinin hücre yapışması ile ilintili olduğu gözlemlendi. Hücre yapışması metastaz için önemli bir mekanizmadır; bu nedenle bu protein etkileşimleri bulaşıcı hastalık ve metastaz tarafından paylaşılan benzer moleküler yolaklarla ilgili olabilirler. Son olarak da, metastaz alt-ağlarındaki proteinlerin arayüzey bölgelerine amino asit varyasyonlarını eşleyerek, bazı mutasyonların metastaz türünün ayırt mekanizmalarına dahil olduğuna dair ipuçları bulduk.

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NOMENCLATURE

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Proteins usually team up together to function in several biological processes. Other proteins with which it interacts often regulate the function and activity of a protein. Bearing in mind that protein interactions are the basis for all cellular processes, building a protein-protein interaction network, a map of physical interactions between proteins, is a very essential step in understanding the complex mechanism in living systems. Networks help abstract the complex relationships inside cells and between them. While data are incomplete, and the approaches may not have matured, network descriptions and tools gradually become commonly used [1].

Conventional protein interaction networks provide binary information: whether two proteins interact or not. In order to grasp the information on "how protein couples interact?" the knowledge on three-dimensional structure of proteins is essential. In the last decade the molecular details of interactions have started to be integrated in protein interaction network. They provided mechanistic information about the regulatory mechanisms of protein interactions such as "mutually exclusive interactions" [2] and the location preferences of the mutations on the interfaces [3].

Another use of networks is its topological properties such as hubs, betweenness, modules, etc. Network topology determines the information flow. Information flow and robustness analyses are used to locate essential components.

This dissertation mainly focuses on integrating structural knowledge to protein-protein interaction networks and utilizing this additional information in solving problems like drug off-target prediction and genotype-phenotype mapping. Interface structures of proteinprotein interactions are modeled in atomic level and cancer related structural protein interaction networks are built. Sequence variations and drug-protein interactions are also integrated (separately) into these networks for answering specific questions. Presented methods and results may be in service to cancer bioinformatics, drug-protein interactions and systems biology.

The outline of this dissertation is as follows:

In Chapter 2, an extensive literature review is provided. This section starts with reviewing the literature on protein interactions, protein interfaces and structural protein interaction networks. Then, tells about the network robustness studies applied on biological networks. Afterwards, the network-based strategies in polypharmacology are reviewed from a systems biology perspective. Finally, the attempts to shed light in the molecular mechanisms of metastasis via systems biology approaches are reviewed.

In Chapter 3, a novel structural protein-protein interaction network model, based interface structure similarity is proposed. This new network model is named as "Protein Interface and Interaction Network" (P2IN). P2IN is explained in detail through several cancer related structural protein-protein interaction network examples.

In Chapter 4, the use of P2INs in drug off-target prediction problem is presented. For this purpose the network attacks are used to depict the effects of drugs in p53 signaling network. We found that drugs blocking the interface between CDK6 and CDKN2D may also affect the interaction between CDK4 and CDKN2D. The methodology for locating similar interfaces on a network of protein interactions is described and the interface attack, which is a novel attack strategy based on similar interface concept, is defined.

In Chapter 5, the employment of P2INs for bridging the gap between genotype and phenotype is shown. The phenotype specific structural networks for brain and lung metastasis of breast cancer are built. By mapping the sequence variations on these structural networks, SNPs related with each phenotype are revealed in case studies.

This dissertation ends with a chapter discussing the results and main conclusions.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, a comprehensive review of the studies related to protein-protein interaction networks and their applications to poly-pharmacology and metastasis is presented. First, protein-protein interactions and their types, protein-protein interfaces and structural protein-protein interaction networks are described. Then, network robustness studies are reviewed. Later, network-based strategies in poly-pharmacology are presented. Finally, the main contributions of this thesis work are described after attempts to understand the molecular mechanisms behind metastasis via systems biology approaches are reviewed.

2.1. Protein-Protein Interactions

Proteins rarely act alone. When two or more proteins team up together, protein-protein interactions occur. Other proteins with which it interacts often regulate the function and activity of a protein. PPIs are the basis for all cellular processes.

Protein interactions have a great structural and functional diversity. Large macromolecular complexes, such as ribosome, are highly stable and permanent whereas dynamic and transient interactions are key components in signaling and regulatory networks [4-7]. Protein-protein interactions (PPIs) can be classified based on their composition, affinity and life time [8, 9] as: i) homo- and hetero-oligomeric complexes, ii) non-obligate and obligate complexes and iii) transient and permanent complexes, respectively.

2.1.1. Homo-oligomeric and hetero-oligomeric complexes

These groups of complexes are differentiated based on their compositions such that if a PPI occurs between identical chains, it is said to form a homo-oligomer whereas if the PPI takes place among non-identical chains then it forms a hetero-oligomer complex. Homo-oligomers are symmetric and provide a good scaffold for stable macromolecules. For example, a chaperonin protein is formed by seven GroEL proteins associating as a homo-heptamer to form a cylinder and seven GroES proteins

cap one side of this cylinder [10]. The cylindrical region is an example of a homooligomer, whereas the GroEL/GroES complex is a supramolecule of hetero-oligomers. The stability of hetero-oligomers can vary and form a basis to gather different proteins that cooperate in a single macromolecule. For example, a/b tubulins form a stable dimer and these dimers form long protofilaments, which are constituents of microtubules [11].

2.1.2. Obligate and non-obligate complexes

The key point for differentiation between these two groups is affinity. If the constituents (protomers, monomers) of a complex are unstable on their own *in vivo* then this is an obligate interaction whereas the components of non-obligate interactions can exist independently. As an obligate complex example, Ku proteins, which are involved in DNA repair, are shown to bind DNA as obligate homodimers [12]. On the other hand, signaling protein complexes are good non-obligate interaction examples, due to their transient nature. After contributing to the propagation of a signal, they are dissociated into the stable constituent proteins. For example, H-Ras protein, which is a G protein, has a key role in controlling the cell growth and differentiation signaling pathways. It interchangeably forms non-obligate complexes with guanosine triphosphatase (GTPase) activating proteins (GAPs) (acceleration of GDP-bound state of H-Ras – switch OFF) and guanine nucleotide-exchange factors (GEFs) (acceleration of GTP-bound state of H-Ras - switch ON), when the cell is resting and when activated in response to stimuli, respectively [13].

2.1.3. Transient and permanent complexes

These groups of interaction types are discriminated based on the lifetime (or stability) of the complex. Permanent interactions are usually very stable and irreversible (e.g. IL-5 cytokine dimer (PDB ID: 3b5k) [14]). However, the components of the transient interactions associate and dissociate temporarily *in vivo* [8, 14-18]. a/b tubulin dimer is an example of an obligate/permanent complex whereas the dimers of a/b dimers are transient and non-obligatory providing the dynamic nature to microtubules in cell division, cargo transportation and cytoskeleton [19]. Non-obligate interactions are predominantly transient [17], with a few examples of permanent (**Figure 2.1**), but obligate interactions are usually permanent in nature [8]. It should be noted that, permanent and obligate terms are used interchangeably in the literature.

Figure 2.1. Relation of protein-protein interaction types based on affinity and stability [20]. Non-obligate interactions are transient but there are some examples of permanent non-obligate interactions such as enzyme-inhibitor interactions (e.g. thrombin-rhodniin inhibitor interaction)

2.2. Protein-Protein Interfaces

Proteins interact through their interfaces. Interfaces involve interacting residues that are coming from two different chains, along with neighboring residues [21]. Once the crystal structure of a protein–protein complex is present, investigating the atomic properties of the protein–protein interface is possible. However, if the complex structure is missing it is quite easy to predict the interface based on protein structures. Interfacial residues may be located by calculation based on the distance in the three-dimensional space [22, 23] or accessible surface area[24, 25].

2.3. Structural Protein-Protein Interaction Networks

Building a PPI network, a map of physical interactions between proteins, is a very essential step in understanding the complex mechanism in living systems. In PPI

networks nodes represent proteins and the undirected edges denote physical contact between two proteins. The complete collection of all PPIs within the cell is called "interactome"[26].

Until very recently structural information had nothing to do with PPI networks. However, in the last decade the molecular details of interactions have provided mechanistic information about the regulatory mechanisms of proteins. In 2006, Kim et al. added a dimension to PPI networks through structural modeling [2]. They described the interactions of two proteins that are binding to a common partner via the same binding site as "mutually exclusive interactions". According to their study these two interactions could not happen simultaneously. They constructed structural yeast PPI network with 873 proteins and 1269 interactions, 438 of which are mutually exclusive.

Moreover, Yang et al.[27] introduced SAPIN; a framework for the structural analysis of PPI networks. SAPIN was identifying the protein regions involved in interactions and provided template structures and identified the compatible and mutually exclusive interactions.

Later, Patrick Aloy and his co-workers provided structural details at atomic resolution for over 12,000 PPIs in 8 model organisms through the integration of interaction data from the main pathway repositories [28].

Wang et al. [3], built a human structural interaction network by combining PPI data and homology modeling. Using this structural network, they showed that, for corresponding diseases, in-frame mutations had a tendency to occur on the interface regions of the interacting proteins.

Kar et al. [29] built a structural network of cancer related human protein-protein interactions. In this network interactions were replaced by interfaces, coming from either known or predicted complexes. They investigated the topological properties of cancer network and performed a detailed analysis of the interfaces in this network. Their results revealed that cancer-related proteins have smaller, more planar, more charged and less hydrophobic binding sites than non-cancer proteins, which may indicate low affinity and high specificity of the cancer-related interactions. Besides, they claimed that cancer-related proteins tend to interact with their partners through distinct interfaces, corresponding mostly to multi-interface hubs.

2.4. Network Robustness Studies

An attack on a network is executed in order to disrupt the information flow locally or globally, to disable a pathway or to destroy the network as a whole. An attack implies deletion or attenuation of an edge or a node of the network [30]. In chapter 4 of this dissertation we utilized network attacks to depict the effects of drugs in a proteinprotein interaction network and to develop a drug off-target detection method. In this section you will find a brief review on the network attack types.

2.4.1. Node Attack

A node attack on the network removes edges focused at a single node. There are two different node attacks [30]: complete knockout **(Figure 2.2.a)** and partial knockout (**Figure 2.2.b).** Complete knockout refers to removing a node with all of its edges; partial attack involves removing randomly selected half of the edges of a node. Complete node attacks are commonly used attack strategies. The targets of these attacks vary according to the network topology. Complex networks were believed to be randomly linked [31] until Barabasi *et al.* discovered a common topology [32]. This discovery introduced scale-free networks into network theory. While in a random network nodes have roughly the same number of edges, in a scale-free network there are many nodes with a small number of edges and a few nodes (hubs) with a large number of connections. Random node attacks may be destructive to networks that are randomly linked, whereas scale-free networks are highly robust under these attacks. Scale-free networks are defenseless upon few vital node removals [33]. Accordingly, targeting hub nodes is a preferred approach in network attacks[34-37]. Detaching those nodes, which have many neighbors, will disrupt the information flow.

Partial knockout was performed by Agoston *et al.[30]* on *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae* networks. They removed randomly half of the edges of target node or attenuated all the edges of the node. This study suggested that partial weakening of a small number of nodes (3- 5) might have a stronger effect than completely removing a selected node; in both cases the most damaging nodes were selected. Zhang *et al.* [38] questioned whether this result is a general concept for complex networks and retested all attack strategies on the Barabasi-Albert (BA) scale-free network [32] and the Erdös-Renyi (ER) random network [31]. They confirmed that multi target partial attacks may disturb complex networks more than single target complete attacks and ER random networks are more resistant to multi target partial attacks than the BA networks.

2.4.2. Edge Attack

An edge attack removes one or multiple edges from the network, where the edges do not have to be incident to a node. Depending on the network topology, attacking a high betweenness edge may damage the system more than attacking a hub node with many edges. Thus, deleting a number of edges scattered in different regions of the network might be a more efficient attack strategy than targeting a node[30]. This attack is a 'distributed attack' (**Figure 2.2.c).**

2.5. Network-Based Strategies in Polypharmacology

In the $4th$ chapter of this dissertation we proposed a network attack strategy that is inspired by polypharmacology and protein-protein interface targeting drugs. In this section you will find a broad revision of the network-based strategies in the Polypharmacology and gain a systems biology view on drug discovery. This section

will provide a basis for the research we performed on drug off-target prediction via a network-based model.

2.5.1. Poly-Pharmacology

Poly-pharmacology searches for lead compounds that bind to multiple targets, and introduces a new concept of network pharmacology, which enlarges the 'drugome' [40]. It builds upon systems biology and drug discovery [41] aiming to treat diseases through multiple targets, which can be both a drug with several targets or a number of drugs with distinct targets. Poly-pharmacology describes and advocates consideration of a "many-to-many" relation between a ligand-protein couple, in contrast to a dominant "one drug-one target" drug design paradigm [42]. The novel computational approaches to poly-pharmacology has been reviewed recently by Xie et al. [43].

2.5.2. PPI Targeting Drugs

Design of drugs that disrupt PPIs is known to be notoriously difficult. This is for two reasons: protein-protein interfaces have a more flat surface when compared to enzymes and usually do not have grooves which can serve as binding pockets [44]. The pockets on protein-protein interfaces are typically smaller than those in proteinligand interactions [45] and difficult to drug. However, now it is becoming increasingly possible to overcome these handicaps, and PPI inhibitors are gaining importance as a class of drug targets [46]. One of the most important findings was that interface regions usually contain clusters of residues, which are key contributors to the binding energy. These smaller regions of the interaction surface constitute "hot spots" [47-49]. Different studies showed that small molecules target hotspots on the proteinprotein interfaces [49, 50]. Hot spots on an interface may be predicted via HotPoint [51], HSPred [52], KFC [53], and additional servers. Moreover, currently allosteric drugs that bind elsewhere and lead to conformational changes in the interface appear increasingly feasible. Nonetheless, although designing drugs for disrupting proteinprotein interactions has surged, some such drugs have long been in existence. Protease inhibitors are well-known marketed examples of this drug class [54]. The number of PPI targeting drugs is rising; examples include inhibitors targeting IL-2 [55], MDM2 [56, 57], BCL-2/BCL-XL[58], XIAP [59] and VLA-4 [59]. There are a number of reviews [44, 54, 60-65], which investigate PPI inhibiting drugs, and these provide a more extensive list.

Pockets at the active sites of enzymes are typically stable, with high population times. Recently attempts to target PPI have also focused on detection and targeting of transient dynamic pockets, which may be stabilized upon drug binding. Such grooves can be found in PPIs [21] and elsewhere on protein surfaces and can serve as orthosteric and allosteric binding sites. Transient pockets occur often [66]; the question is their size and population time. Furthermore, the surface of interacting proteins is flexible and some disordered proteins can only be solved upon interaction with their partners [67]. Their flexibility implicates formation of transient pockets, which are very useful for inhibitor design [68]. A number of drugs have been reported to stick to these transient pockets on the surface of protein interfaces [69]. Metz et al. [70] proposed a tool that locates transient pockets of PPIs on the basis of geometry, and molecular dynamics simulation protocols are also being developed toward this aim. Further validation of the presence of at least small pockets comes from a computational analysis of crystal structures. This study observed that among 18 protein-protein complexes, 16 contain pre-existing pockets in their unbound structures [71].

A number of clinical therapies are based on humanized monoclonal antibodies which disrupt PPI. These therapies have high specificity and low toxicity; however, they also have some deficiencies such as lack of cell/blood–brain barrier permeability, and poor oral bioavailability. Thus, humanized monoclonal antibodies therapies may not be broadly applicable to PPI inhibitor design [60] in the near future.

The data on PPI inhibitors have been compiled in databases and literature. One of these, 2P2I [72], is a database which provides structural data for a collection of protein-protein interfaces with known inhibitors. TIMBAL [73] is also a database where one can find small molecules disrupting PPIs. Furthermore, Sali et. al. spotted "bi-functional positions" of proteins (overlapping ligand and protein binding sites) by aligning homologous proteins. They pointed out the significant number of proteins that

have such bi-functional positions and released the collection of structurally characterized modulators of protein interactions at http://pibase.janelia.org [74].

2.5.3. Drugs targeting multiple proteins

Side effects are one of the main reasons for drug failure [75]. In the last 10 years nearly 20 drugs have been banned from the market for causing severe side effects [76]. Adverse effects can be caused by the inherent mechanism of action of a drug, by toxic metabolites following drug degradation and by unpredictable side effects due to "offtargets" drug hits. A number of studies highlight the promiscuity as a common attribute of drugs. Yildirim *et al.* [77] constructed a drug-target network from 4252 drugs targeting 394 human proteins. They found out that among 890 drugs 788 had at least one common target and in that network the average number of target proteins was 1.8 per drug. This result revealed the fact that new drugs generally target known druggable proteins and that the number of drugs targeting others is low in the market. However a more recent study by Mestres *et al.* [78], updated the average number of target proteins per drug as 6.3, which points to the high tendency of drugs to be multitargeted. Paolini *et al.* [79] searched for the extent of promiscuity in the global pharmacological space and they also observed that among 276,122 active drug compounds, 35% hit multiple targets. The data compiled in the drug-target databases also indicates this many-to-many behavior. Some of these databases are listed in the **Table 2.1.** Among the multi-target drug examples, there are a number of kinase inhibitors, which operate by affecting multiple targets [80, 81], steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), salicylate, metformin or GleevecTM [82] and the anticancer drug lenalidomide [43]. Several multi-target drugs were also discovered by chance [83].

There are examples suggesting that targeting multiple proteins simultaneously may be successful, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs); antidepressants; multi-target kinase inhibitors and anticancer drugs [100]. Drug combinations

('cocktails') may bind at different sites on the same protein; or to multiple different proteins. Examples include the three drugs combination used to treat HIV infection, which is composed of reverse-transcriptase and protease inhibitors [101] and the drug combinations known as "CHOP", which is used in the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma [102]. Another synergistic drug combination example is Cytarabine and Aplidin **(Figure 2.3)**, used for enhancing their antitumor activities in leukaemia and lymphoma models [103]. Cytarabine is an anticancer drug used in the treatment of patients with leukemia [104] and Aplidin is another, which activates EGFR, Src, JNK and p38MAPK [105] and inhibits VEGF [106]. When the system-wide effect of Aplidin is investigated, it is observed to activate the death receptor of Fas ligands [107]. This outcome of Aplidin may be due to the activation of the $JNK/p38$ MAPK pathway [108]. In turn, Fas ligand activates the receptor-mediated extrinsic cascade of apoptosis [109]. In addition, Cytarabine increases cellular stress by inhibiting DNA repair and RNA synthesis and drops the MCL1 level which leads to activation of CASPs [110]. Finally CASPs trigger apoptosis via the mitochondrial intrinsic cascade [109].

Due to drug combinations' side effects and at the same time enhanced treatment potential, detecting new drug cocktails and understanding their underlying mechanisms are important tasks. There is an increasing number of publications in this area, including in a recent work [111] a "drug cocktail network" built to investigate existing drug cocktails and to identify new ones. The authors note that drugs in a cocktail tend to interact with same partners and share common therapeutic effects. Another example is the computational method Zhao et al. [112] used for inferring new drug combinations. They combined molecular and pharmacological properties of drugs for this purpose and looked for feature patterns enriched in drug combinations. 69 % of their method's predictions were reported by literature. They also proposed some clues for combinatorial therapies. "Combinatorial Drug Assessment" [113] is an alternative tool for combinatorial drug discovery, which uses gene expression profiling and multiple signaling pathways. Lastly, Wang et al. [114] considered drug combinations in a genetic interaction network and the associated human pathways. They observed that drug combinations alter functionally-correlated pathways and have a smaller influence range in the genetic interaction networks.

Figure 2.3. Synergistic drug combination of Cytarabine and Aplidinenhances antitumor activities [115].

2.5.4. A Systems Biology View

Biological systems are governed by physical and functional interactions. Systems biology simulates and orchestrates the molecules to optimally adapt the organism response to its environment. Diseases disturb the network; 'good' drugs restore the network to its 'proper' desired state [116]. Network descriptions and analyses are important tools in systems biology; they are powerful in abstracting the complex relationships inside cells and between them, and they often provide clues for drug discovery [117]. While data are incomplete, and the approaches may not have

matured, network descriptions and tools are gradually becoming common place [1].

The human protein-protein interaction (PPI) network is huge with approximately 130,000 binary interactions between proteins [118], and is expected to be far larger, with around 650,000 PPIs [119]. Protein-protein interaction networks are of vast importance in medicine [120, 121]. From the drug development standpoint, we would expect it to have critical components, which would make enticing drug targets. Network topology may help, because drug targets are usually not arbitrarily located on the protein interaction networks [122]. Drugs that perturb topologically critical nodes (such as highly connected nodes) have increased risk of causing lethality [35], while blocking the targeted function. This is likely to be the reason why marketed drugs do not generally target high degree nodes [123]. An 'ideal' drug target would have fewer neighbors while being located at some strategic point of the human disease network [101]. Such a target may be a nonvital bridging node [124]. It may disturb the information flow and the disease process while not causing serious side effects. For complex diseases like cardiovascular disease, central nervous system disorders, cancer, Alzheimer and aging, a network perspective is critically important. These require consideration of the global map of protein interactions and estimation of the expected outcome on the multiple, inter-connected pathways. As we describe below, in some diseases that are resistant to drug therapy [125], network-based strategy, where another protein in the same pathway is targeted may suggest alternative targets that may lead to the sought outcome [126, 127].

When enriched by high-throughput data, networks may model possible responses to a drug or optimum combination of drugs for reaching a desired outcome. On the other hand, because such data are derived from population of cells, its accuracy for specific environments and physiological states may be compromised. Networks may be analyzed using mathematical models such as Flux Balance Analysis [72, 128-130], differential equations [131], Petri Nets [132], Integer Linear Programming [133] and Boolean logic gates [134].

Another use of networks is its topological properties such as hubs, betweenness, modules, etc. Network topology determines the information flow. Information flow and robustness analyses are used to locate essential components. These algorithms are utilized to find perturbed proteins by hypothetical drugs [135] or for locating optimum drug targets that have little influence on other functions, apart from the intended one [136-139]. A key question is how to choose an efficient combination of multiple drug targets; especially those that while not key players in central pathways, ensure information flow among the network elements [124].

2.5.5. The advantages and handicaps of modeled protein-protein interactions in mono- and poly-pharmacology

Key requirements in drug discovery are the availability of protein structures and their interactions; the pathways in which they are located and the pathway crosstalk; and how similar are the binding sites to which they bind to those of other proteins in the cell. Modeling protein interactions can help by predicting which proteins interact, which permits the construction of more complete pathways and the cellular network. These may allow prediction of how targeting a specific protein can affect the entire system. The PRISM server [140, 141] is one of the tools which predicts the interacting protein couples and their interface structures. Further, because the modeled interactions provide also the information on how the proteins interact, they allow prediction of which partners interact through the same binding site. Thus, if a particular protein is targeted, this may abolish the competitive binding at the same shared site, driving the system in a certain direction, which the structural network may forecast. Such predictions may be particularly powerful for multi-molecular complexes, which are prone to toxic side effects. If the drugs target certain PPIs, the structural network may suggest the other PPI which share similar motifs [39]; and as such, may also be affected by the drug, which may also lead to toxic side effects.

Networks may be used to explain side effects of multi-target drugs. Xie et al. [142] studied the side effects of torcetrapib, which is an inhibitor of cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP). Torcetrapib was a proposed treatment for cardiovascular disease and was in clinical trials. The authors compared all ligand-binding sites in all available protein structures, with the pockets on torcetrapib and created an offtarget binding network. They combined their study with biological pathways and found the likely reasons for the effects of torcetrapib on blood pressure.

Propagation of the effects of drugs in the network may be observed for orthosteric and allosteric drugs [143, 144]. In the case of orthosteric drugs, which block the protein active site, the protein is impaired and its function is abolished; in the case of allosteric drugs, the modulating effects of drugs propagate through the protein and, through the protein-protein interactions, across the pathways. However, the effects are likely to be strongest in proteins sharing the same complex [144].

A key handicap of modeled structural networks is that they provide a static view of cell, and of the proteins. Yet, the cellular network is highly dynamic; proteins associate and dissociate. This is challenging to model, because the affinities of their interactions which are typically measured in solution, do not necessarily reflect the *in vivo* environment, where the affinities at one binding site are affected by prior allosteric events at different sites, for example, binding of other partners or post-translational modifications. They also may not account for the presence of co-factors; and fluctuations in the environment. An additional challenging problem is protein dynamics; protein structures fluctuate, and the distributions of their conformational ensembles change dynamically, which affects the binding site conformations and drug binding [143]. Accounting for dynamics in the proteins and across the pathways and the network is an extremely challenging problem. This is because it both necessitates detailed experimental data and highly demanding computational requirements. To date, modeling on the network scale is not able to fully address these problems [117]. However, for specific proteins, on the local scale, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) and molecular dynamic simulations may be able to provide some clues.

Despite these shortcomings, single- and multi-drug pharmacology can benefit from the modeled structural proteome. Predictions are able to provide leads and hypotheses, which can then be validated by experiment.

2.6. Understanding the Molecular Mechanisms behind Metastasis via Systems Biology Approaches

2.6.1. Breast Cancer Metastasis

According to American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death among women [145]. Around 5-10% of breast cancer cases arise from gene mutations. The mutations on BRCA1, BRCA2, p53, PTEN, STK11, CHEK2, ATM, BRIP1 and PALB2 genes may be named as examples [146, 147]. Although the death rate of patients decreased with mammographic screenings and systemic adjuvant therapies [148], the breast cancer is pointed out to be the leading reason of death among women with the age of 40-59 [149, 150].

Metastasis is the mechanism that causes the distant spread of cancer [151]. As our diagnosing and treating ability of cancer advances, the fatality is moving towards metastatic phase [152]. Metastasis is the primary reason of death in cancer patients [153]. As well, the death cause of a breast cancer patient is most of the times is the metastasis in another organ, not the primer tumor. A better understanding of the molecular mechanism of the metastatic process may help to improve the clinical methods for approaching to the disease.

Breast cancer is considered to have a distinct metastatic pattern[154]. The lungs and bones are common breast cancer metastasis sites [155]. Besides most of the central nervous system metastasis originate from lung cancer (40-50%), which is followed by breast cancer (20-30%) [156]. Up to 20-40% of the patients with adult systemic malignancies grow brain metastasis [157, 158]. Brain metastasis is predicted to have 200,000 cases in us [159], which is 10 times more than the primary brain tumors [160].

2.6.2. Systems Biology Approaches to Understand Metastasis

In the recent years, numerous studies have been trying to shed light on molecular mechanisms of metastasis. Some of them are: oncogene activation with new experimental methods [161], identifying organ specific metastasis [155, 162], the identification of genes associated with metastases [151, 154, 163-165] and discovery

of pathways playing role in metastasis [166]. Besides, a series of studies in different laboratories revealed the required transcription factors for starting the process of metastasis, programming the biological changes in the cell [167-173].

Likewise, recently published gene expression profiles of breast carcinomas [174-176] have attracted wide interest in this regard. DNA-microarray studies demonstrated that primary breast tumors developing metastasis can be distinguished from tumors that do not metastasize, using gene expression profiles[148].

Massagué and his co-workers published several papers about breast cancer metastasis in the last decade, and in particular two of them studied the metastases of breast cancer towards brain and lung. One article [155] identified18 genes that mediate breast cancer to lung metastasis, and the other [177] classified 17 genes that mediate breast cancer to brain metastasis. They used differential expression analysis to identify these genes.

Genes related with metastasis are usually biologically related with each other [151]. For this reason, analysis of individual genes does not provide solid results about the metastatic process. Network formation and analyses are important tools for systems biology, providing a powerful abstraction of intracellular complex relationships. Most common diseases such as diabetes, schizophrenia, hypertension and cancer, are also believed to be caused by multiple genes (multi-genic) [178]. Recently, genes that have the potential to be involved with several diseases are uncovered through the integration of functional information of proteins and the protein interaction network [179-181]. Interactions in the sub-networks generally indicates functional signaling cascades, metabolic pathways or molecular complexes, which gives an idea about the cause or the result of the disease (phenotype) [121]. Protein interaction networks were also used to predict genes involved in breast cancer metastasis, and to identify the disease-related sub-networks [180, 182].

On the other hand, structural data can be very useful for explaining the molecular mechanisms leading to disease when used in conjunction with information about the mutation responsible for the disease [183]. For instance, Wang and colleagues [3] investigated the molecular mechanisms underlying complex genotype-phenotype relationships by integrating large-scale PPI data, mutation knowledge and atomic level

three-dimensional (3D) protein structure information available in RCSB Protein Databank (PDB) [184]. They revealed that the in-frame mutations are augmented on the disease related proteins' interaction interfaces. Similarly, David et. al. [185] combined structural data of proteins/protein-complexes and non-synonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms (nsSNPs) and they investigated the location of nsSNPs for creating a database. They have observed that disease-causing nsSNPs that occur on the protein surface prefer to be located on the protein-protein interfaces.

2.6.3. Association Between Metastasis, Infectious Diseases and Immune System

Previous studies highlighted the resemblances in cellular and molecular mechanisms of invasion between metastasis and infectious diseases [186-189]. Besides, in a recent study, Haile et al. hypothesized that metastasis process and pathogens should be utilizing the same pathways [190]. Liu et al. also mentioned that certain pathogens, activated immune cells and tumor cells may be sharing same tactics to spread in the body [191].

Metastasis, which is believed to be relatively impossible to treat completely [192], is mostly resilient to standard treatments, thus the attempts to develop a treatment for metastasis with engineered bacteria is getting many of the researchers' attention. Recently, Hayashi et al. [193] proposed a targeted therapy for metastasis with a genetically-modified strain of Salmonella typhimurium. They claim that their approach is promising for curing metastasis without the need of chemotheraphy. Moreover, in 2004 Yu et al. [194], showed that bacteria injected into living animals are able to find and replicate in metastases. *Escherichia coli,* cytosolic vaccinia and three attenuated pathogens (*Vibrio cholerae*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, and *Listeria monocytogenes*) all entered tumors and replicated. Authors remarked the "tumorfinding" ability of bacteria and viruses (engineered to transport multiple genes) might be used for diagnosing and curing cancer. Another example of bacteria used for targeting metastasis is the use of Salmonella in conjunction with the endogenous angiogeneic thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1) that has been caused the inhibition of melanoma growth and metastasis in B16F10 melanoma models[195, 196]. Highly sitespecific adherens of bacteria makes them promising for tumor specific treatments, yet it is not easy.

In 2010 Dallo et al [197] published a very interesting article suggesting that bacteria under SOS may evolve anticancer phenotypes targeting metastatic cells. Disturbed with the drugs, bacteria can be stimulated to stick to and to occupy cancer cells so that bacteria survive the drug attack.

The cancer-fighting immune system mechanisms are similar to those fighting bacteria [198], such as Toll-like receptors [199]. Besides, the bacteria settlement in tumor sites may activate the immune cells in host and may demolish the immunosuppressive phenotype of tumor microenvironment [200]. Plus, cancer appears to develop similar maneuvers to bacteria (masking cells to avoid discovery, release of immunomodulators to collapse the immune system and misleading the immune system by sending fake messages), for overcoming immune system **[198]**. In fact this is not the only common feature cancer cells share with bacteria colonies. They also acquire more basic survival tactics that have been evolved by bacteria; speedy reproduction to make the cell number, creating variation in the populations and having continuous communication among cells. Moreover, cancer and bacteria are alike in the case of drug resistance. Bacteria gets resistant to antibiotic treatments after a while, that is also what happens to cancer after frequent anticancer drug treatment **[201-203]**. Additionally, the mysterious quiescence and strike back characteristic of cancer also seems to be evolved by bacteria and used by cancer **[198]**. Cancer may reappear after it had not been identified by examinations and blood tests for an indefinite amount of time. Equivalent state may be observed on bacteria before sporulation and subsequent germination.

2.7. Main Contributions

The success of the bioinformatics approaches is restricted by the availability/reliability of the data. With the completion of the Human Genome Project and other genome sequencing projects, our understanding of the molecular biology accelerated astonishingly in the last couple of years. However the interactome level large-scale

structural knowledge is far from being complete. In order to address this problem a number of structural PPI prediction algorithms have been developed, one of which is PRISM. With the help of PRISM, we focused on increasing the structural knowledge on PPIs and integrating this knowledge to PPI networks in this dissertation. We provided structural predictions for the architecture of interfaces of several PPIs through out this thesis.

We combined the experimental data and the modeled structural networks to build cellular pathways, and suggest which specific pathways are likely to be affected by a drug or a genetic variation happening on a PPI interface. We worked on several cancer related pathways, built their structural protein interaction networks and utilized the structural information on these networks in solving problems like drug off-target prediction and genotype-phenotype mapping. The structural networks models we provided will serve as a foundation for the future cancer bioinformatics, structural and functional genomics research.

We made use of network descriptions to find ways through which protein interactions can help single- and multi-target drug discovery efforts. Such structural networks may facilitate structure-based drug design; forecast side effects of drugs; and suggest how the effects of drug binding can propagate in multi-molecular complexes and pathways.

The methods introduced in this dissertation may be applied on larger datasets and the outcomes may be validated via experiments. Deepening the analysis on structural networks with such attempts may reveal important futures about structural proteomics.

Chapter 3

A NOVEL STRUCTURAL NETWORK MODEL

This chapter presents a new network model, which we name "Protein Interface and Interaction Network (P2IN)". Similar network models were used by our group previously to analyze interface properties of cancer-related proteins [204] and topological properties of hubs [205]. This new model introduces structural information into protein interaction networks (PINs). This representation illustrates which proteins may compete for the same binding site on a protein, and all protein pairs with structurally similar interface architectures.

3.1 Protein-Protein Interface Motifs and "Similar Interfaces" Concept

The 3D structures of the protein-protein complexes and their interfaces are obtained through the application of the Protein Interactions by Structural Matching (PRISM) method [140, 141, 206]. An interface is the contact region between two interacting proteins. In our studies we assume that interfaces consist of PDB chains. Interface templates are the known structures of protein complexes. These structures of interacting proteins are derived from Protein Databank (PDB) [207].

PRISM bioinformatics tool predicts possible interactions, and how the interaction partners connect structurally, based on geometrical comparisons of the template structures and the target structures. The algorithm has four steps. First, the surfaces of all target proteins are extracted. Second, using the MultiProt engine[208], the surfaces of the target proteins are structurally aligned with known interfaces (templates) obtained from the PDB. In this step PRISM checks whether any surface region of the monomers is structurally similar to one of the complementary chains of the template interfaces, disregarding the order of the residues in the protein chain. Third, it places the two chains that are structurally similar to the template interface onto the template complex. This leads to a putative complex. The fourth step involves flexible refinement of the putative complexes by FiberDock [209, 210]. This resolves steric clashes and ranks the predicted protein complexes by their energies. Combining geometric complementarity with docking tools makes the prediction more physical.

In recent years, the PRISM algorithm was applied on various signaling pathways and reasonable structural models of the unknown interactions were obtained [39, 211, 212]. PRISM was able to model the structure of protein complexes in human proteome-scale E2-E3 interactions with 76% accuracy [211] and in human apoptosis pathway with 78% accuracy $[212]$. Besides, the prediction performance of PRISM algorithm was recently analyzed on standard docking benchmarks, and found to be comparable to other rigid docking strategies, however considerably more efficient (see Tuncbag et al. [213]).

An interface template consists of two chains of a PDB structures. The template is named with the combination of PDB ID and chain names. For example, the template interface named "1YWK-AC" template is originating from A and C chains of structure with the "1YWK" PDB ID.

PRISM finds the similarity scores between the surface of each target in our datasets and each side of a PDB template (a template has two sides, i.e. the two complementary surfaces in the complex, in cyan and magenta, **Figure 3.1**, top line). From this output, it predicts the interface (**Figure 3.1**, bottom line). For instance, take the target protein pair in **Figure 3.1**, "TAF1" and "CDK4", and template interface "1BLX-AB"; if "TAF1" has a region on its surface which is similar to the binding site on one chain of "1BLX-AB" and "CDK4" on the second chain, then they are predicted to interact similar to the interface "1BLX-AB". This means that the binding sites of proteins "TAF1" and "CDK4" are similar to those of the protein chains of interface "1BLX-AB".

Figure 3.1. Interface Structure Prediction for Interacting Target Proteins [39]. Interface information is obtained from the "Protein Interactions by Structural Matching" (PRISM) server. PRISM searches for spatial motif similarity on target proteins' surfaces using geometric complementarity and considers evolutionary conservation of hot spots based on a non-redundant protein-protein interfaces template dataset derived from the PDB. Its prediction principle is to compare both sides of a template interface with surface regions of any given two monomers, and if they are similar these two proteins are predicted to interact with each other via this interface region. In the above example the CDK6 [PDB:1BLX-A] and CDKN2D [PDB:1BLX-B] complex is derived from PDB and the target proteins CDK4 and TAF1 are found to be interacting via an interface structurally similar to 1BLX-AB interface. CDK 4 and TAF1 are predicted to be interacting via 1BLX-AB interface.

3.2. Protein Interface and Interaction Network (P2IN) Model

PINs give binary information relating to whether two proteins communicate. Being enriched with structural information, P2IN is a more physical and realistic version of PIN. Unlike the PINs whose nodes are proteins and the interactions are the connecting edges, P2IN have interface information linked to its edges and each protein in the network has a 3D structure. Interactions between the proteins are represented by edges going through the interfaces of the two chains (**Figure 3.2**). Similar interfaces may exist between different protein pairs and the same protein pair may interact through different interfaces[214-216].

A P2IN is an undirected graph, G, that describes the interface architecture of PPIs. The edges (E) of this network happen on a set of proteins (V) and each edge is labeled with an interface name (f) . This undirected graph $G = (V, E, f)$ consists of a set of nodes (V), labels (ℓ) and edges ($E \subseteq VxVx \ell$). For example in Figure 3.2 node, edge and interface sets are as follows; $V = {^{\circ}CDK6"}$, $^{\circ}CDKN2D"$ }, $E = {^{\circ}CDK6"}$, "CDKN2D", "1blxAB") }, $l = \{$ "1blxAB" }.

Figure 3.2. The P2IN Representation [39]. Interactions between proteins are represented by the edges going through the interfaces whose two chains represent the binding site regions of the proteins.

P2IN is capable of providing structural details that a PIN is not able to describe. Some of these details are exemplified in **Figure 3.3** : different protein pairs interacting via the same interface (CDK6 – CDKN2D and CDK4 – TAF1 interact via same interface);

a protein pair interacting using different interfaces (CDKN2D and CDK4) and multiple proteins competing to bind the same region on a protein (RAD51, CCNE1 and HDAC1 going for the same binding site on CDK6). This additional knowledge may allow identification of interactions which cannot take place simultaneously (**Figure 3.4**). Partners of a protein interacting with the same binding site cannot coexist. In addition, since ligands tend to bind proteins that have similar binding sites[142, 217, 218], locating protein pairs that interact via similar interfaces may help to predict additional, off-targets of these drugs. Thus, P2IN might be one step closer to mimicking systems-wise drugs effects [219].

Figure 3.3. Protein – Protein Interactions and Interface Networks (P2IN) versus Protein-Protein Interaction Network (PIN) [39]. (a) A subset of PRISM predictions represented with P2IN and (b) its PIN counterpart. In P2IN the same interface may exist between different protein pairs (CDK6 – CDKN2D; CDK4 – TAF1 interact via same interface) and the same protein pair may interact using different interfaces (CDKN2D and CDK4). Moreover many proteins may compete to bind the same binding on a protein (RAD51, CCNE1 and HDAC1 bind the same site on CDK6). PIN's are not capable of depicting such structural information of protein interactions.

Figure 3.4. CSF3 and VCAM1 proteins competing to bind ELANE via the same binding site. Graphical representation of this phenomenon through P2IN and PIN.

3.3. Cancer Related P2INs

Through out my Ph.D. studies I dealt with the structural modeling of cancer related protein interactions and constructed a number of cancer-related P2INs. In this section I described the construction of 4 cancer related P2INs in detail. The p53 centered network, the IL10 centered network and lung/brain metastasis (derived from breast cancer) networks.

3.3.1. P53 Centered Network

The p53 tumor suppressor is a center of a protein interaction network. Under cellular stress, it is a key factor in the decision between cell cycle progression or apoptosis [36]. Stress signals may be due to failures in DNA replication, chromosome segregation and cell division [220]. Malfunction of p53 causes uncontrolled growth [221]. p53 is inactivated in more than 50% of human cancers [222, 223]. We constructed the p53 signaling P2IN using the PRISM [224, 225] predictions for this signaling pathway. Our network has 251 interactions among 81 proteins (please refer to **Table A.1** for the list of PRISM interaction predictions for p53 network). 46 different types of interface structures are observed for these interactions. 26 out of the 251 are present in Kohn's molecular interaction map (MIM) [226]; 59 are in PPI databases such as HPRD [227], Mint [228], IntAct [229], Reactome [230], BioGrid [231], Pathway Commons [232] and NCI-Nature PID [233]. 66 interaction predictions are directly experimentally validated and there is evidence in the STRING [234] database for 90 of the interactions predicted by PRISM. Overall, 104 interactions out of 251 are validated experimentally or via STRING.

3.3.2. IL10 Centered Protein-Protein Interaction Network

Inflammation by innate immunity is the first line of defense against pathogenic infections [235]. It is also involved in all phases of cancer development, including tumor initiation, promotion and metastatic dissemination [236-238]. Interleukin-10 (IL-10), identified by Mosmann and colleagues in 1989 [239], is an anti-inflammatory cytokine. It restricts the immune response to pathogens and prevents damage to the host. It is secreted by a number of immune cells and has diverse effects on many of the cell-types in the immune system.

We constructed an IL-10 centered human structural protein-protein interaction network that consists of the first and second-degree neighbors of IL-10. Each node represented a protein and each edge represented the interaction between the two proteins it connects. This network is composed of 49 proteins and 70 interactions between them (**Table A.2** and **Figure 3.5**). Among these 70 interactions only 2 (IL-10-IL-10RA and APOE-LRP1) were present in the PDB in a complex form. Accordingly, we predicted the interfaces by using PRISM and 40 additional interactions were modeled (**Figure 3.5** the edges highlighted with pink). As a result we increased the available structural interface data from 2 to 42 (**Table A.2**).

Figure 3.5. The IL-10 centered P2IN. There are 49 proteins and 70 interactions in this network and only 2 of the interactions have structural data in a complex form in the PDB. We modeled the interfaces for 40 additional interactions. Thus there are 42 interactions with interface models (edges highlighted in pink). The remaining 28 edges (out of 70) could not be modeled and are shown in cyan.

3.3.3. Lung and Brain Metastasis P2INs of Breast Cancer

In order to understand the molecular mechanism of the brain/lung metastasis of breast cancer patients, we have generated lung and brain metastatic breast cancer subnetworks by finding the most relevant edges to the seed genes identified by Massagué and his co-workers [155, 177].

Figure 3.6. The a) brain and b) lung metastasis P2INs of breast cancer. The nodes that has structural information and the edges that has interface model are highlighted in pink.

First, we built a comprehensive human PPI network, by combining the available PPI data from various databases. Then we ranked all the interactions of this network according to their relevance to genes that are known to be mediating breast cancer to brain and lung metastasis. Subsequently, we formed two distinct metastasis PPI subnetworks from high ranked interactions. We obtained a brain metastasis sub network (BMSN) with 255 nodes and 335 edges (**Figure 3.6.a**), and a lung metastasis sub network (LMSN) with 322 nodes and 327 edges (**Figure 3.6.b** and **Table A.3**). Please refer to Chapter 5 for the details of the PPI networks' constructions.

The BMSN has 58 interactions with known 3D structures for both partners. LMSN has 102 such interactions. PRISM modeled 18 out of 58 interactions as a binary complex in the BMSN (see pink edges in **Figure 3.6.a**). For the LMSN, 50 out of 102 interactions were modeled (see pink edges in **Figure 3.6.b** and **Tables A.3 - 3.1**).

Table 3.1. Edges in both metastasis sub-networks. BMSN has 335 edges, among which 58 are connecting two proteins with 3D structures. Thus, only 58 of them may be modeled by PRISM. PRISM predicted 18 of them. Besides, LMSN has 327 interactions. Among them, 102 are connecting two proteins that have 3D structures. PRISM preformed predictions for 50 of those 102 edges.

3.4. Methodology

3.4.1. Preparation of the Datasets for Interface Predictions

PRISM uses template based prediction approach, and needs the 3D structure of the queried proteins. It cannot make estimation for a protein, which does not have a 3D structure. Accordingly if an edge is not connecting two proteins whose 3D structures are available, PRISM will not be able to find results for that edge. The details of preparation of the datasets for interface predictions are described in detailed in the following paragraphs (**Figure 3.7**).

The PPIs in a P2IN may be mined from a number of PPI databases (such as DIP[240], MIPS[241], HPRD[242], BIND[243], IntAct[244], MINT[245] and BioGRID [246]). Once the set of PPIs is determined, the structural knowledge related with the interacting proteins need to be gathered.

We downloaded the complete Uniprot database [247] in order to perform automated mapping of protein names to PDB structures. The main problem in this phase is that a protein may have multiple PDB IDs or its 3D structure might not be known. It is possible to have a protein which does not have any structural information, as well as a protein which has multiple PDB structures regarding a specific region on it.

So there might be a number of redundant PDB chains regarding a specific region of a protein. We used TM-align [248] in order to eliminate redundancy of similar structures corresponding to the same interface. Accordingly, we clustered PDBs that have a TMscore greater than 0.5 and an RMSD score smaller than 2.5A. Then we chose one representative, the structure that has the best resolution and the longest chain length, for each group of PDBs that describe the same region.

For the cases in which there were no structural data available, we employed the I-TASSER server [249] for generating the homology models and selected the top 5 models generated by the server.

Finally, we took the structural knowledge of both interaction partners and cross product them to translate protein interaction pairs to protein chain interaction pairs. For example, if there is an interaction between P1 and P2. Additionally, if P1 has nonredundant PDB chains PDB1 and PDB2, and P2 has non-redundant PDB chains PDB3 and PDB4; interaction between P1 and P2 will be translated to PDB1-PDB3, PDB1- PDB4, PDB2-PDB3 and PDB2-PDB4.

As described, the structural counter part of each PPI is obtained. The final input data for PRISM analysis consists of chain level interaction information of proteins.

Figure 3.7. Flowchart of the preparation of the datasets for the interface analysis of Prism server.

3.4.2. Constructing Protein Interface and Interaction Network (P2IN)

The first step of building a P2IN is to gather raw data of protein interactions and their 3D structures. Protein interactions are collected from the literature and databases; the 3D structure of the interfaces is obtained from application of PRISM [224, 225]. There may be more than one possible template interface for one interaction pair; in such a case, there is more than one possible binding site between two proteins. All possibilities are considered, and every matching interface template is included in the interface and interaction networks. Proteins whose interface sites cannot be predicted by the PRISM server are discarded. This decreases the number of proteins and interactions.

3.4.2.1 P53 Centered P2IN

We studied the interactions between the proteins in the p53 signaling pathway. The list of proteins that are involved in this pathway was compiled from the literature [226] and databases by Tuncbag *et al.* [213]. Among these proteins, 85 had 3D structures in the PDB. The interaction and interface data is obtained from PRISM predictions. We used 1037 template interfaces that were extracted from the PDB [250] for the prediction process. The resulting interface predictions with energies lower than -10 are accepted.

PRISM predicted 251 interactions among 81 proteins and there are 46 different interface structures in the network. The number of proteins dropped from 85 to 81, since PRISM did not infer interactions for some proteins. If we were to link each protein in the network to other proteins, we would end up with \sim 3300 edges. PRISM infers 251 interactions out of those 3300 possibilities and 41% of those predictions are already known. Furthermore, in the generated p53 P2IN, there are 15 PPIs, which have PDB structures in complex form. PRISM was able to predict 13 of those interfaces correctly (**Table 3.2**).

Table 3.2. PRISM Predictions for 15 Interactions with Available PDB Structures.

There are 15 interaction predictions in the p53 P2IN, which have PDB structures in complex form. Out of these interactions, PRISM made 13 correct predictions.

3.4.2.2. IL-10 Centered P2IN

We used the String server [251] for selecting the first and second-degree neighbors of IL-10. Only interactions with experimental evidence and confidence score larger than 0.4 (the default confidence value) were considered. There were 4 first-degree and 45 second-degree neighbor proteins of IL-10. Overall, we had 50 proteins comprising the IL-10 centered protein-protein interaction network.

We checked the structural data available for the 50 target proteins. We encountered 958 PDB [252] chains for 39 of the 50 proteins and for the remaining 11, we built homology models (except IGHV3-6, whose sequence information could not be found) (**Table A.4**). We employed the I-TASSER server [249] for generating the homology models and selected the top 5 models generated by the server.

We reduced the redundancy of similar interface architectures for each protein, using TM-align [248]. We classified PDB structures that have template modeling (TM) scores larger than 0.5 and RMSD under 2.5Å. We assigned a representative PDB

structure for each similar structure group and ended up with 127 representative structures for the 39 proteins. The final IL-10 centered network is composed of 49 proteins (IGHV3-6 protein not included due to lack of structural data) and 70 interactions.

3.4.2.3. Lung and Brain Metastasis P2INs of Breast Cancer:

We searched for the 3D structural information of the proteins of lung metastasis subnetworks (LMSN) and brain metastasis sub-networks (BMSN) via the PDB. Brain metastasis network has 255 proteins and for 117 of them we found 1612 PDB structures. On the other hand, LMSN has 322 proteins and for 182 proteins we found 2712 PDB structures. In BMSN there are 58 interactions connecting proteins with known structure stored in the PDB (these interactions can be modeled with PRISM) and in LMSN there are 102 such interactions. This means that, we could only make models for these edges.

We eliminated redundancy of similar structures corresponding to the same interface using TM-align[248]. Accordingly, we grouped PDBs that have a TM-score greater than 0.5 and an RMSD score smaller than 2.5A. We chose one representative for each group of PDBs that describe the same region. We ended up with 255 PDB structures for 117 proteins of the BMSN, and with 414 PDB structures for 182 proteins of the LMSN.

In this experiment we have used 7922 interface templates (mined in 2006 from PDB) [140]. We filtered the PRISM results by considering only the interaction predictions with an energy value lower than 0. For each interface model PRISM structurally compares 2 PDB chains (target chains) to all 7922 interface templates. PRISM made multiple predictions for some of the interactions; we used the models with the lowest free binding energies.

Chapter 4 P2IN PRACTICES FOR DRUG OFF-TARGET PREDICTION

4.1. Network Attacks may Imply Effects of Drugs

The interface attack strategy proposed in this work focuses on protein-protein interface motifs. Currently protein–protein interfaces are increasingly becoming targets in drug discovery [253] [67], and it was suggested that the high flexibility of monomers may lead to overlooking small highly populated pockets that may occur when in the complex form [67]. Finding small-molecule drugs that hit protein–protein interactions is still highly challenging $[49, 254-257]$. Although generally interfaces of PPIs $(\sim 1500$ - 3000 \AA^2) are larger than protein-small molecule interactions (\sim 300 - 1000 \AA^2), an optimized small molecule may bind with an affinity comparable to that of the native partner protein or peptide [49].

Our interface attack is inspired by interface motifs and by multi-target drugs. Since drugs may disrupt protein interactions which have structurally similar interfaces, we aim to develop a strategy which may take a first step toward prediction of the outcome of disabling a set of structurally similar interactions in protein-protein interaction networks (PINs). Our study is the first to target interfaces in a network attack. A few successful PPI drugs on the market [256] such as tirofiban targeting the integrins (cardiovascular conditions) [258]; and maraviroc targeting CCR5–gp120 interactions (HIV) [259], and several new drugs entering Phase II clinical trials [260], suggest that protein interfaces can be druggable.

4.2. Interface Attack: A New Network Attack Strategy

Here we propose an attack strategy which is based on the expectation that PPItargeting drugs may disrupt a number of protein-protein interactions which have structurally similar interfaces. Interface attack is the graphical representation of this strategy and removes interactions with similar interfaces from the network (**Figure 4.1**).

Interface attack is a kind of distributed attack, since it targets one or more interactions between protein pairs. However, instead of selecting random edges or the ones which lead to the most damage, structurally similar interfaces are targeted. Interface attack is a knowledge-based distributed attack.

Figure 4.1. Interface Attack [39]. Interface attack hits the set of edges, which interact via structurally similar interfaces (marked with red crosses). When the interaction between P1 and P2 is targeted, the interactions between P4 and P7; P7 and P8 are also hit, since they all interact through interface 1.

4.3. P2INs may Help in Identifying Predicting Druggable Protein Interfaces and Drug Off-Targets

This section describes a case study for off-target prediction application on the interfaces of p53 P2IN. CDK6 is a regulator of cell cycle progression and affects the activity of tumor suppressor protein RB which inhibits it and keeps the cell growing in G1 phase. Inactivation through phosphorylation by CDK leads to cell cycle progression. Some CDK6 inhibitors that block the G1/S transition of cell are listed in **Table 4.1**. The drugs in this table have 3D structures in complex with CDK6 [207].

CDKN2D is a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, which forms a stable complex with CDK6 (**Figure 4.2.a**). The drugs listed in the table (Aminopurvalanol, PD-0332991, CHEBI: 792519, CHEBI: 792520 and Fisetin) seem to interfere with CDK6 and CDKN2D interface, when the CDK6–CDKN2D complex is superimposed on CDK6 and drug complexes present in PDB (**Figure 4.2.b – 4.2.c, Figure A.1**). The crystal structure of CDK6 and CDKN2D interface is available (PDB ID: 1BLX, chains: A, B[268]. 1BLX is a complex between human CDK6 and mouse CDKN2D. The same complex is also available for human CDK6 and human CDKN2D (PDB ID: 1BI8, chains: A, B) [269]. We considered the mouse and human CDKN2D as homologs, with 87% sequence similarity and 0.41 RMSD and used the 1BLX complex in this study since it has a better X-ray resolution). PRISM predicts an interaction between CDK4 and CDKN2D, with a structurally similar interface to the CDK6-CDKN2D interface. The interaction of CDK4 and CDKN2D is detected by *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays[270], but the 3D structure of their complex is unavailable. The interface attack by the five drugs blocking the interaction of CDK6-CDKN2D may disturb the CDK4- CDKN2D interaction.

Figure 4.2. The CDK6 (green) - CDKN2D (orange) Complex and CHEBI: 792520 (purple) Interference [39]. (a) The interface of CDKN2D - CDK6 is from PDB ID:1BLX. (b,c) In the PDB, CHEBI: 792520 has a 3D structure in complex with CDK6 (PDB ID: 3NUX). When CDK6 proteins of 3NUX and 1BLX are superimposed, CHEBI: 792520 interferes with the CDK6 and CDKN2D interface. These two figures are predicted outcomes; no structural data are available.

Using the HotPoint server [271], we identified the computational hotspots of CDK4, CDK6 and CDKN2D. When the interfaces with CDKN2D are superimposed by using Multiprot engine [208], CDK4 (obtained from PRISM predictions) and CDK6 (obtained from the PDB) have a number of identical hotspots (**Figure 4.3**). CDKN2D interacts with them via the same surface area. Lastly, we found that the hotspot (CDK6 residue Ile19) that is closest to the ligand binding region on CDK6, is also present on the binding region of CDK4 (residue Ile12) (**Figures 4.4-4.5**). These drugs are also close to hotspots Gln98, and Asp97 on CDK4, and Gln103 (hotspot), Asp102 (nonhotspot) on CDK6 (**please refer to Figures A.2 – A.3).** These residues overlap when CDK4 (PDB ID: 2W96, chain: B) and CDK6 (PDB ID: 1BLX, chain: A) are

superimposed with Multiprot engine (RMSD: 1.28 Å). At this point we propose that CDK4 may be an off-target candidate for drugs targeting CDK6. In order to see how alike the binding pockets of CDK4 and CDK6 are, we superimposed the ligand binding sites using VMD[272] (**Figure A.4**). The results revealed that CDK4 has a binding pocket which is similar to that of CDK6, with RMSD 0.87 Å.

Figure 4.3. Hotspots of CDK4-CDKN2D and CDK6-CDKN2D Interfaces [39]. The predicted hotspots of CDK4 (cyan) and CDK6 (orange) proteins are represented with "Licorice" and the hotspots of CDKN2D are drawn as a (red) surface, using VMD [272]. The red, transparent body in the background is also CDKN2D protein. CDK4 and CDK6 have a number of identical hotspots, when their interfaces with CDKN2D are superimposed.

Figure 4.4. CDK4 Docking Simulations [39]. AutoDock [273] is used to dock the drugs (Aminopurvalanol, PD-0332991, CHEBI: 792519, CHEBI: 792520 and Fisetin) to candidate off target CDK4. The hotspot (CDK6 residue Ile19) that is closest to the ligands' binding region on CDK6, is also present on the binding region of CDK4 (residue Ile12).

Figure 4.5. CDK6 Docking Simulations [39]. AutoDock[273] is used to dock the mentioned drugs (Aminopurvalanol, PD-0332991, CHEBI: 792519, CHEBI: 792520 and Fisetin) to primary target CDK6. The hotspot (CDK6 residue Ile19) that is closest to the ligands' binding region **on CDK6 is also present on the binding region of CDK4 (residue 12).**

Docking simulations may suggest if a ligand is capable of binding to a protein. AutoDock[273] is used to dock these drugs to candidate off-target CDK4 (**Figure 4.4**) and primary target CDK6 (**Figure 4.5**). As shown in **Table 4.2**, the binding free energies between CDK4 and the drugs are promising; they are comparable to the binding energies between CDK6 and its inhibitors. The listed energies are the lowest binding free energies of the most populated clusters. The RMSD values of superimpositions of the best poses of each drug molecule docked to CDK4 compared to CDK6 are also provided in **Table 4.2** (**Figure A.5**). These findings strengthen our proposition that CDK4 is an off-target for the drugs targeting CDK6.

Table 4.2. AutoDock [273] Results. Results given in terms of the lowest binding energy of the largest conformational clusters are in the first two rows. The RMSD values of superimpositions of the best poses of each drug molecule docked to CDK4 compared to CDK6 are in the last row.

Lastly, we searched for the inter-relationship between CDK6 inhibitors and CDK4 in the literature. We found that PD-0332991 has been designed to turn off both CDK4 and CDK6[274]. Moreover, SuperTarget states that CDK4 is a target of CHEBI: 792520 [275]. Accordingly, we are able to verify two of our off-target predictions. To conclude, we may now suggest that CDK6 binding drugs that block the interface between CDK6 and CDKN2D, may also bind to CDK4 and disrupt the interaction between CDK4 and CDKN2D. Therefore, when CDK6-CDKN2D interaction is hit in the interface attack, we may also break the interaction between CDK4 and CDKN2D.

4.4. Biological Consequences of Interface Attack versus Complete Node Attack

Networks of protein interactions are vital tools for explaining a series of events in the cell which may be triggered by a drug. A drug which inhibits protein-protein interactions may be represented in the network by removing the respective edges. To foresee the effects of a drug designed to inhibit all the interactions of a single protein, one can simply remove this node from the network and investigate the changes. For making an accurate functional analysis, we need all known protein interactions in the p53 pathway. We constructed a p53 network which, regardless of the structural availability, contains all known protein interactions and proteins. We simulated the changes in the network when subject to node and interface attacks. We partitioned the network using the "Affinity Propagation" algorithm [276]. This clustering algorithm

determines the representative examples (examplars) of the graph and then partitions the network according to these examplars.

We mapped the experimentally validated PRISM interface predictions of the p53 pathway on Kohn's MIM [226] as the starting point for constructing an experimentally validated network of protein interactions enriched with interfaces. We obtained a p53 PIN with 109 nodes and 227 edges. We expanded this network with the 66 PRISM predicted interfaces that were experimentally validated (26 interactions present in Kohn's MIM, 33 additional interactions from various experimental databases). We gathered a network of 115 nodes and 269 edges. Recall that there were a number of proteins from databases other than Kohn's MIM in our PRISM target. As a result the number of nodes also increased (**Figure 4.6**). The clusters generated by the Affinity Propagation algorithm are shown using pie charts (**Figure 4.7** top row). Clusters are named according to the highest degree node of that partition.

Figure 4.6. Structurally Enriched MIM Attacked Based on the 1jsuBC Interface [39]. Experimentally validated edges of p53 P2IN mapped on the Kohn's MIM [226]. The edges with interface structures are shown in pink color and the edges with 1jsuBC

interface is highlighted in green. In the close-up figure edges with 1jsuBC interfaces are also can be seen in green.

When the 1jsuBC interface (template interface is between the CCNA2 and CDKN1B proteins) is attacked, 11 edges are removed from the network. Six of these are around the CDKN1B node. Therefore, this node is completely removed from the network by the 1jsuBC interface attack, in addition to the removal of 5 edges around other nodes. One can see that this attack causes the cluster, with the RB1 hub node, to get significantly bigger (please refer to the slices of RB1cluster in the top and middle rows of **Figure 4.7**). RB1 now has a greater influence on the network. MYC is no more the hub node of a cluster (red slice present in the top row of **Figure 4.7** dissapears in the middle row of **Figure 4.7**) and the cluster of CDK2 enlarges from 9% of the nodes of network to 16% (**Figure 4.7** middle row). A complete node attack targeting the CDKN1B protein, means breaking all of this node's interactions detaching it from the network. PRISM predicts that all 6 interactions of CDKN1B have a similar structure to 1jsuBC interface. Thus, to block all of the interactions of CDKN1B, a drug has to attack the 1jsuBC interface, which affects 5 more edges in the network. However, in the case of complete node attack on CDKN1B, only edges of this node are discarded from the network. We do not observe a significant change in the sizes of the clusters following complete node attack (see top and bottom rows of **Figure 4.7**).

The changes observed after the interface attack appear reasonable. During the 1jsuBC interface attack, CDKN1B is removed from the network, CDK2 cluster gets bigger and the influence of this protein on other nodes increases. Since CDKN1B has inhibitory activity on some CDK2 complexes[277], this change is expected. Once MYC is not a hub in a cluster, the RB1 cluster expands. In the presence of MYC, the RB1 transcription is suppressed and MYC activates a set of miRNAs, which in turn inhibit the translation of RB1 [278]. Finally, CDKN1B and RB1 are tumorsuppressors. The RB1 cluster gets bigger when CDKN1B loses all of its interactions, possibly suggesting that RB1 may be involved in an alternative pathway.

Figure 4.7. Pie Charts of Clusters Generated with Affinity Propagation Algorithm [39]. In the pie charts each slice represents a cluster and they are named with the clusters' hub nodes. Percentages of the slices are the ratio of the node number in the corresponding cluster to the total number of nodes in the network. (Top row) Clusters of the network generated by mapping the experimentally validated PRISM predictions of p53 pathway onto Kohn's MIM. (Middle row) The clusters after 1jsuBC interface attack. (Bottom Row) The clusters after CDKN1B node attack.

4.5. Network Attack Scenarios Applied to P53 P2IN and Changes in the Network Robustness

P53 P2IN is a small sub-network, and it does not have a scale-free architecture. The average number of interfaces per node is 3.24 in this P2IN. Besides, its clustering coefficient is 0.197, its network diameter (the largest distance between two nodes) is 7, its network radius (the minimum distance, among the non-zero distances, between two nodes) is 4, its characteristic path length (the expected distance between two connected nodes) is 2.672 and its average number of neighbors (average connectivity of a node) is 5.926.

The robustness of a network relates to its ability to withstand the damage caused by attacks. It can be expressed by topological parameters. The most commonly used robustness parameters are the average inverse geodesic length (AIGL) [34, 279] and the giant component size [34] (GCS). To monitor the change in the connectedness of the nodes in the system, we use both.

For the p53 P2IN survivability analysis, several attack types and target selection strategies are used. These attack scenarios refer to partial or complete knockout of hub nodes and deletion of multiple edges that are scattered around the network. At each step a new target is hit and the topological parameters are recalculated until the network is left without interactions.

4.5.1. Hub Node Attack

A hub is the highest degree node of the network; it is the node that has the largest number of interactions. This attack type targets the largest degree node of the network. Hitting this element also affects its interacting partners and causes a serious disturbance in the network communication.

4.5.2. Frequent Interface Attack

In P2IN, the number of occurrences of each interface type is known. In this strategy the most frequently observed interface is selected as the target of interface attack.

4.5.3. Maximal Damage Strategy

The maximal damage strategy is a greedy algorithm, which was studied by Agoston *et al. [30]*. It hits the component that will harm the network the most in each attack. This

tactic may be used in both node and edge attack types. Removing multiple edges that are selected according to the maximal damage target selection strategy is a kind of a distributed attack. It targets the node or interface that is expected to cause the greatest possible harm.

4.5.4. Frequent Interface Attack is as Harmful as Complete Hub Knockout and it is a More Realistic Scenario

Breaking an edge can be considered as the graphical representation of a drug blocking the interaction of two proteins. If we were to map node-targeted attacks (complete or partial knockout) to a drug mechanism, it would be a "magic bullet"; even if a drug would specifically bind to one protein, in most of the cases it may not obstruct all of its interactions. It seems that complete knockout is rarely observed in realistic drug action. The common "similar binding sites should recognize similar ligands" strategy[280], motivated us to develop the interface attack.

Complete/partial hub node attacks and interface attacks based on their frequencies of occurrence are performed on the p53 P2IN. In **Figure 4.8** the change in the network robustness is plotted according to AIGL and GCS. The x-axis stands for the number of attacks, while the y-axis is the AIGL or GCS values during the attacks. A drop in AIGL or GCS of the network correlates with the damage caused to the system. The plots show that attacking the most frequent interface in the p53 signaling network is at least as harmful as complete removal of the hub nodes from the network. Thus, rather than targeting a well connected protein, which is more likely to be essential [35], we may target edges that have similar interface structures.

Figure 4.8. Hub Node Attack versus Most Frequent Interface Attack [39]. The figure plots of the damage to the network following 15 successive complete hub node attacks, partial hub node attacks and frequent interface attacks (for AIGL (on the left) and GCS (on the right) topological parameters). The results suggest that the most frequent interface attack and complete hub knockout lead to roughly the same damage, while the effect of the partial hub knockout is to a lesser extent.

The most frequent interface (PDB ID: 1JSU, chains: B, C) is observed 46 times in the p53 network. 21 of these predictions are validated experimentally or present in the STRING database. If there was a drug designed to disturb one of these 46 interactions, not just that particular edge, but all 46 interactions could be hit. This interface is not focused around a hub node, however many high degree nodes of the p53 P2IN utilize it (**Figure 4.9).** During a possible attack some of the hub nodes will also be partially affected. Hence, building the interface and interaction network of a biological system may provide us such insights and may be helpful for drug development.

Figure 4.9. Degree sorted circular layout of p53 P2IN. Most frequent interface 1jsuBC is utilized by the edges highlighted in pink. The node sizes are proportional to their degrees.

4.5.5. Interface Attack is not as Harmful as Distributed Attack when Maximal Damage Strategy is Applied

Agoston *et al.* [30] showed that rather than removing a node completely from the network, one could inflict similar damage by removing a number of edges distributed around the network. They chose the most destructive edges.

Interface attack is a kind of distributed attack, but it chooses the target edge set based on interface similarity. We performed distributed attacks and interface attacks on the p53 P2IN. In this experiment we followed a maximal damage target selection strategy, by selecting the most damaging edges (distributed attack) or the most damaging interface in successive attacks. The comparison of the damage caused by distributed attack and interface attack is plotted in **Figure 4.10**. The x-axis is the number of edges removed during attacks and the y-axis the change in the network GCS and AIGL. It is

clear that distributed attack harms the network more than interface attack. However, comparison of interface attack and distributed attack is not straightforward, since distributed attack selects edges one by one, while interface attack chooses between sets of edges. This is why distributed attack is so harmful and is nearly the optimal attack strategy for collapsing the network. However, interface attack seems to be physically more suitable for simulating the impact of multi-target drugs on the network, since the interactions affected by multi-target drugs are not always the most harmful.

Figure 4.10. Maximal Successive Damage Strategy on Distributed and Interface Attack [39]. Damage in the network (both according to AIGL (on the left) and GCS (on the right) topological parameters) is monitored, under successive attacks. Distributed attack and interface attack are executed using the maximal damage strategy. The number of edges removed from the network in each attack is parallel to the harm attacks cause on the network. It is obvious that distributed attack is the most harmful strategy.

4.5.6. Frequent Interfaces are not Observed on Topologically Critical Interactions

When random edge attacks are compared with frequent interface attacks (**Figure 4.11**) according to the change in giant component sizes, the most frequent interface attack is less harmful to the p53 P2IN than random edge attacks.

However, when the attacks are performed on randomly selected interfaces, we observe that on average they harm the network more than random edge attacks. Consequently, random interface attacks are more harmful to the network than frequent interface attacks; that is, a frequent interface is less likely to hit topologically critical elements of the network. This makes the network more resistant to failures.

Figure 4.11. Random Edge Attacks versus Interface Attacks [39]. The most frequent interface attack is relatively less harmful to the p53 P2IN than random edge attacks (on the left). However, the average of random interface attacks harms the network more than the average of random edge attacks (on the right). Consequently, random interface attacks give more harm to the network than frequent interface attacks.

4.6. Methodology

4.6.1. Docking Parameters

For adding polar hydrogens, assigning Gasteiger charges and drawing grid boxes AutoDockTools 1.5.4[273] was used. Binding affinities were calculated with AutoGrid version 4. Lamarckian genetic algorithm (trials of 50 dockings, population size of 150, and maximum number of generations of 27000) was used to do the docking experiments using AutoDock 4.0 [273].

4.6.2. Clustering Algorithm

We partitioned the network according to the "Affinity Propagation" algorithm [276] with the help of Clustermaker plugin [281] of Cytoscape [282].

4.6.3. Mapping the experimentally validated PRISM interface predictions of p53 pathway on the Kohn's MIM

Kohn's MIM has some nodes that do not have a protein counterpart, or some nodes correspond to multiple proteins. Before constructing the PIN, we updated nodes in Kohn's MIM by removing or expanding some of them (**Table A.5**). If a node was replaced with multiple proteins, the number of interactions automatically increased. We searched the String database for validating the new edges and picked the ones which were coming from experiments or databases. For example, the "CDK4-6" node corresponds to three proteins $(CDK4 - CDK5 - CDK6)$. In the original map there was an interaction between "CDK7" and "CDK4-6". The "CDK7" interactions with CDK4 and CDK5 are validated, but not with CDK6. The full list of interactions can be found in **Table A.6**.

4.6.4. Robustness Measures

AIGL is the sum of the inverses of all shortest paths, divided by the number of possible node combinations. The definition is given in Equation 1. The notation used is as follows:

- ℓ = average geodesic length
- $n =$ number of nodes

 $i, j =$ proteins

 d_{ii} = distance between proteins i and j

If there is no path connecting nodes i and j, the distance between them is set to infinity. Some studies use the average geodesic length but we preferred to use AIGL. Even after several attacks, AIGL will not be equal to infinity, because if there is no navigable route between i and j, $\frac{1}{11}$ dij $= 0.$

$$
\ell^{-1} = \frac{1}{(n)(n-1)} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{1}{d_{ij}} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})
$$

GCS is the number of nodes in the network's largest connected sub-graph and it may give important clues about the collapsing mechanism of network under attacks.

NetworkX [283], a Python language software package, was used for the damage simulations on p53 centered network.

Chapter 5

P2IN PRACTICES FOR LINKING GENOTYPE TO PHENOTYPE

In this chapter, on behalf of understanding the molecular mechanism of the brain/lung metastasis of breast cancer patients, we have generated lung and brain metastatic breast cancer sub-networks by finding the most relevant edges to the seed genes identified by Massagué and his co-workers [155, 177]. Then, we enriched these networks with structural information of 3D structural models of known proteincomplexes and predicted its protein-protein interfaces. We have analyzed the proteinprotein interfaces commonly employed in these sub-networks and observed that interactions of microbial origin played an important role. We also investigated the mutations happening on the most relevant proteins of the breast cancer metastasis subnetworks. (**Figure 5.1**)

Figure 5.1. Flow chart of the bioinformatics pipeline designed for genotypephenotype mapping.

5.1. P2INs of Lung and Brain Metastasis Driven from Breast Cancer

5.1.1. Identifying Brain & Lung Metastatic Breast Cancer Sub-networks and Their Functional Annotations

We have built a comprehensive human PPI network that consisted of 11,123 proteins and 149,931 interactions. We ranked each PPI in the network, according to its relevance to the seed nodes causing breast cancer metastasis, using GUILD (Genes Underlying Inheritance Linked Disorders) network-based prioritization tool [284].

We defined a score threshold and discarded interactions below the threshold based on the following reasoning: 1) we need two comparable sets of nodes and edges for brain and lung metastasis, where the topology may be different but not the size; 2) predicting the interface structures of interacting proteins is a highly time-consuming step, therefore we needed to reduce the network to a limited sub-network of small but highly relevant edges (i.e. less than 500) for each metastasis under study.

Figure 5.2. The BMSN and the LMSN networks [285]. We obtained a) the BMSN and b) the LMSN by choosing the edges of human PPI network with GUILD Score higher than 0.178. The proteins that have PDB structures are highlighted in pink, plus the edges that have complexes modeled by PRISM are also in pink color. c) PLOD2 cluster (the first-degree neighbors of PLOD2) from the BMSN d) BMSN and LMSN merged as a one big network. There are 84 common proteins and 71 common PPIs (blue edges). The edges that are only present in LMSN are shown with green and the edges that are only present in BMSN are shown with pink.

We plotted the number of edges versus their scores to select the best cut-off (see **Figure A.6**)**.** We observed a dramatic rise in the number of interactions (and also nodes), between scores 0.15 and 0.18 for the punctuation of brain and lung metastasis (**Figure A.7 and Table 5.1)**. Accordingly, we selected 0.178 as the common GUILD cut-off score to generate both sub-networks**.** This cutoff yielded a brain metastasis BMSN with 255 nodes and 335 edges **(Figure 5.2.a)**, and a lung metastasis LMSN with 322 nodes and 327 edges **(Figure 5.2.b)**.

Table 5.1. The number of edges and nodes of metastasis networks according to Guild Scores.

	BRAIN METASTASIS		LUNG METASTASIS	
CUTOFF VALUES	#OF NODES	#OF EDGES	#OF NODES	#OF EDGES
Score 0.140	276	5382	354	7085
Score 0.170	255	4220	322	328
Score 0.178	255	335	322	327

Although we used all proteins of both sub-networks (BMSN and LMSN) in our analyses, we tracked down the evidence for the expressions of the genes that coded the proteins in both sub-networks in breast tissue. We found that 87% of the genes in the LMSN (280 out of 322, see **Table A.8)** and 93% in the BMSN (238 out of 255, see **Table A.9)** are expressed in breast tissue.

We used ClueGo [286] to find significant KEGG pathways in BMSN (**Table 5.2)** and LMSN (**Table 5.5)**. Each pathway in KEGG belongs to a class according to KEGG Orthology (KO) [287]. Then we mapped each KEGG pathway to its KEGG class. Subsequently, we calculated the percentages of observed KEGG classes (**Figure 5.3**).

We found out that "Transport and Catabolism Cellular Processes" and "Replication and Repair Genetic Information Processing" classes contain the most abundant significant pathways in BMSN "Infectious Diseases", "Cancer" and "Immune System" were the classes of most abundant pathways in the LMSN.

Table 5.3. The KEGG pathways enriched (P<0.05) in lung metastasis network

with respect to ClueGO p-value are listed in this table.

According to the functional analysis we have observed a functional link between lung metastasis of breast cancer, infectious diseases and immune system. Although, BMSN was also significantly enriched in some pathways that are governed by "Immune system" and "Infectious Diseases", these two classes were not covering the most abundant pathways. It is interesting that immune system and infectious diseases seem to play an important role in lung metastasis, while transport and catabolism seem to play a major role for brain metastasis. Indeed, lung tissue is in contact with the environment, being likely prepared for infection, while brain is separated of circulating blood by the blood-brain barrier and it requires metabolic processes to transport and catabolize glucose. Still, these results are obtained for networks which expression is produced mostly in breast.

5.1.2. Structural Analysis of the Metastasis Sub-Networks

The network representation of PPIs provides information about the sets of interacting proteins (i.e. whether two proteins bind or do not bind and the number of interactions a protein can have). Introducing structural knowledge to PPI networks adds an extra dimension of data to the representation. When we know how proteins are interacting structurally, we can detect multiple proteins trying to bind the same region on a protein

surface. This extra knowledge may help us realize which interactions cannot happen concurrently. Besides, there may be protein pairs interacting via similar interface architectures. A drug targeting on any of these PPIs will have a high probability of targeting the others as well [39, 115], since ligands have tendency to bind to similar binding sites [288-290]. Moreover, knowing the interface region of two proteins helps us to check whether mutations of these proteins occur in the interface or not.

Among the PPIs of the BMSN, only 4 of them had 3D structural data of the binary complex in PDB. Similarly, for LMSN, only 2 PPIs were found with the structure of the binary complex in PDB **(**see **Table 5.4)**. In order to increase the structural coverage of interactions of our sub-networks, it is necessary to use modeling. We used PRISM [140, 141, 206] in order to predict, assign and model the structure of the interface of protein-pairs in the BMSN and LMSN (see **Methods** for the details).

Table 5.4. Interactions available in PDB. In PDB 4 of the PPIs of brain metastasis network had 3D structural data in their complex forms. Similarly, only 2 were found for lung metastasis network.

PRISM produces template-based predictions and it models the structure of an interaction based on the known 3D structure of two interacting proteins. The BMSN has 58 interactions with known 3D structures for both partners. LMSN has 102 such interactions. PRISM modeled 18 out of 58 interactions as a binary complex in the BMSN (see **Figure 5.2.a**). For the LMSN, 50 out of 102 interactions were modeled (see **Figure 5.2.b)**.

We should note that PRISM can model an interaction using structurally different interface templates or can use the same template interface to model different interacting protein pairs. Besides, a protein may be embodied with different chains (as identified in the PDB) or domains describing different portions or protein-states (i.e. due to post-transcriptional modifications). Therefore, the interaction between two proteins can imply more than one interface region (i.e. produced by two or more pairs of domains) that may or may not occur at the same time. This would explain the causes for multiple interface predictions. On the other hand, template interfaces can be assigned to several interactions, some of them being common for different subnetworks or highly frequent in some sub-network. This arises a particular interest because it can explain a phenotype but also has implications on the putative use of drugs disrupting a particular set of interactions. As a consequence, for BMSN we obtained 32 predictions for 18 PPIs coming from 28 interface templates. Therefore, the average template interface frequency in BMSN is 1.14 (32/28). For LMSN, we obtained 99 predictions for 50 interactions and 75 out of 99 corresponded to different template interfaces. Thus, the average template interface frequency for LMSN is 1.32 (99/75). The numbers of occurrences of interfaces in both metastasis networks are shown in **Table A.10**.

We studied the common template interfaces in the BMSN and LMSN. We observed top 3 high frequency template interfaces in the LMSN: 1) 2b8nAB 8 times, the interface extracted from the homodimer Glycerate kinase, putative. 2) 1jogCD 5 times, the interface extracted from the homodimer Uncharacterized protein HI_0074. 3) 2a6aAB 4 times, the interface extracted from the homodimer Peptidase M22 glycoprotease. We observed 4 template interfaces with less frequency (only in 2 PPIs) in the BMSN: 1) 2b8nAB (as for LMSN), 2) 1nqlAB, taken from the interface between EGFR-EGF, 3) 1qjcAB the interface extracted from the homodimer phosphopantetheine adenylyltransferase and 1moxAC (the interface between EGFR-TGFA). Interestingly, the 2b8nAB template interface is the most frequent interface in both sub-networks (see **Figure 5.4** and **Figure 5.5)**. Details of the most frequent interface templates can be found in **Table A.11** and **Table A.12**. We observed that the three most common interface templates in LMSN are all coming from bacterial proteins.

Figure 5.4. Commonly observed interfaces of lung metastasis network [285]. In this figure structural sub-networks are also included. In these sub-networks only the interactions that have PRISM modeled complex structures are present. Each node represents a protein that has 3D structure and each edge stands for a distinct model between two proteins. The relevant template interfaces are represented with pink edges in these structural sub-networks.

Figure 5.5. Commonly observed interfaces of brain metastasis network [285]. Legend for the sub-networks is the same as in **Figure 5.4**.

Then we studied the source organisms of all the template interfaces used in our subnetworks. We used 28 different template interfaces (**Table A.10** for modeling the complexes in BMSN. Each template interface consists of 2 chains, thus there are 56 template interface chains utilized for the predictions. Among them, 30 template interface chains are originating from microbes (bacteria/virus) (see **Figure 5.6, bottom sketch**). The probability of observing 30 or more microbial chains in a randomly selected set of 56 template interface chains is not significant (p-value = 0.09). Likewise, there were 150 template interface chains (75 template interfaces see **Table A.10**) used for the modeling of LMSN's complexes. 78 out of 150 template interface chains are coming from microbes (see **Figure 5.6, top sketch**). Observing 78 or more template interface chains found in microbes in a randomly selected set of 150 is significant (p-value=0.024). Thus, metastasis protein complexes may be mimicking microbial interface architectures to form complexes, although only for LMSN this feature is significant.

Figure 5.6. The "subcellular locations" depiction of lung metastasis structural sub-network (top sketch) and brain metastasis structural sub-network (bottom sketch). Proteins, which are only in membrane, are shown in red, which are only observed in extracellular region are in yellow and the ones only in intracellular region are purple. The proteins, which can be present in multiple regions of the cell has multiple colors (e.g., EGFR), which is present in intracellular $\&$ extracellular regions

and membrane. The green dashed edges are the interactions, which have similar architecture to bacteria/virus interfaces.

Then we investigated the interactions modeled with templates of protein interactions found in microbes. 53% of the models are coming from microbial origin in BMSN (**Figure 5.7, left**) and 59% of the models are coming from microbes in LMSN (**Figure 5.7, right**). Again, the protein complexes in LMSN, utilize more interface templates with microbial origin than the ones in brain network.

Figure 5.7. Percentages of source organisms [285]. We considered the interfaces' number of observations in the networks. 53% of the modeled complexes use microbial template interfaces in BMSN and this percentage is 59% in LMSN.

There are 14 proteins in BMSN whose interactions are modeled via templates originating from microbes. Seven out of these 14 proteins (**Table A.13)** are actually known to be involved in host-pathogen interactions. For LMSN this ratio is 14/40 (**Table A.14)**. These proteins have binding sites similar to microbial interfaces and some of them are observed to be involved in the host-pathogen protein-protein interactions. This finding suggests that these metastasis related proteins might be involved in mechanisms shared by metastasis and infectious diseases.

Likewise, except 1nqlAB and 1moxAC templates, all the common interfaces observed in both metastasis sub-networks are coming from bacteria. The human proteins in our networks, which are using these frequent templates, have mostly cell adhesion biological process. Moreover, 50 % of all the proteins modeled with microbial templates in our sub-networks are related with cell adhesion (**Tables A.14 – A.15**). Besides, in BMSN, 25% of the proteins modeled with non-microbial interface predictions are related with cell adhesion. Finally, 21% of the proteins in the LMSN use non-microbial interface architecture (an interface other than microbial interfaces) to interact. Cell adhesion molecules play a significant role in cancer metastasis [291, 292]. Those molecules use mechanisms of cell adhesion for creating metastasis in another organ [293]. Proteins using bacterial interface architectures for interacting with other proteins may be reproducing the adhesion ability of the bacterial proteins.

Moreover, both functional analysis discussed above and the structural analysis suggest a relationship between pathogens, immune system and metastasis. Pathogens may be triggering some mechanisms that lead to metastasis of a primary breast cancer tumor or vice-versa, metastasis may create the proper environment for bacteria invasion.

Actually, previous studies highlighted the resemblances in cellular and molecular mechanisms of invasion between metastasis and infectious diseases [186-189]. Besides, in a recent study, Haile et al. hypothesized that metastasis process and pathogens should be utilizing the same pathways [190]. Liu et al. also mentioned that certain pathogens, activated immune cells and tumor cells may be sharing same tactics to spread in the body [191]. These findings reinforce our functional and structural analyses results.

5.1.3. Overview of the Lung/Brain Metastasis Sub-networks

Network representation of the proteins and their interactions provides a systems level abstraction. Via network representation we may identify the proteins that are central and important. Hubs, proteins with a high number of interactions, are the vulnerable points of scale-free networks and are very important. As expected the hub proteins in the LMSB and BMSN are actually the protein products of the seed genes mentioned earlier. However, not all of the seed genes' products are hubs in these two networks (**Table 5.5**). In BMSN PLOD2, HBEGF, MMP1, LAMA4, FSCN1, TNFSF10 and SCNN1A are the hubs (**Figure 5.2.a**), whereas in LMSN KRT81 (KRTHB1), FSCN1, ID1, NEDD9, CXCR4, VCAM1 and MMP1 are the hubs (**Figure 5.2b**). Consequently, these seed genes are more critical from a systems point of view.

Table 5.5. Metastasis seed genes. 18 genes [155] that mediate breast cancer to lung metastasis, and 17 genes [177] that mediates breast cancer to brain metastasis. (*) Implies the genes, whose protein products are hubs in the metastasis sub-networks.

These hubs are mostly not in direct interaction with each other, consequently the topology of both networks consist of a number of node clusters (a seed gene and its interaction partners). Please refer to **Figures A.8** and **A.9** for the significantly enriched KEGG pathways in each cluster.

Furthermore, there are 2 hub nodes, LAMC1 and ITGA3, in BMSN that are not seed genes. They became hub nodes in the network because of the their interactions with PLOD2's interaction partners (shown with green edges in **Figure 5.2.c**). PLOD2 cluster (the first degree neighbors of PLOD2) is shown in **Figure 5.2.c**. They have a very high potential of being major players in brain metastasis formation. In fact, ITGA3 is down regulated in metastatic medulloblastoma tumors and claimed to be allowing metastatic tumors to spread more eagerly [294].

There are 84 common proteins and 71 common PPIs (blue edges in **Figure 5.2.d**) in both metastasis networks. There are PPIS present only in LMSN (green edges in **Figure 5.2.d**) and only in BMSN (pink edges in **Figure 5.2.d**). As one can see from **Figure 5.2.d,** FSCN1 and MMP1 are two hubs that are common to both metastasis sub-networks, thus they are not very helpful in differentiating two metastasis types. On the other hand, the interactions of PLOD2, the highest ranked protein in BMSN, are only present in BMSN. Similarly, KRT81 is the highest ranked protein in LMSN and its interactions are only present in LMSN. These two proteins may be playing key roles in the related metastasis types.

In **Figure 5.2.a** and **Figure 5.2.b** the proteins that have PDB structures are shown with pink nodes, while the proteins that don't have PDB structures are shown with blue nodes. Most of the hub nodes do not have PDB structures, thus we couldn't make further structural analyses for them. The edges that are modeled with PRISM are shown in pink in **Figure 5.2.a** and **Figure 5.2.b**.

In **Figure 5.4** and **Figure 5.5** the most frequently observed template interfaces in LMSN and BMSN are depicted. In these figures structural sub-networks are also included. In these sub-networks only the interactions that have PRISM modeled complex structures are present. Each node represents a protein that has 3D structure and each edge stands for a distinct model between two proteins. The relevant template interfaces are represented with pink edges in these structural sub-networks. According to structural sub-network of lung metastasis NEDD9 is a hub protein with multiple interface architectures on different regions of its surface (please see **Figure A.10** for the first three most frequently observed interfaces of LMSN mapped on NEDD9). Actually, NEDD9 has multiple domains like SH3 domain, SH2 domain and C-terminal domain containing a HLH motif that it uses for its interactions [295-297]. Right now there is only one PDB structure available in PDB (PDB ID: 2L81) that contains the SH3 and the SH2 domains. Accordingly our predictions are limited with these two domains.

5.2. Genetic Variations on The Protein Interfaces

There are 6 proteins that are present in both metastasis sub-networks and have at least one different interaction partner in each network. We wanted to find out whether the reason why these proteins are changing partners is related with genetic variations. By mapping the mutations on the proteins' 3D structures we may see if the mutation is on the interface region and if the mutated residue is a hotspot, which may intensely affect the interaction strength.

We have PRISM models for 12 interactions that these 6 proteins are involved in (**Table 5.6**). These 12 interactions are happening between 13 proteins. By using the genetic variation data in UNIPROT and COSMIC we made further investigations for them. There are 386 genetic variations taking place on the mentioned 13 proteins; 251 variations on the surface, 135 variations in the core. Among these 386 genetic variations, only 28 of them are happening on the interface regions. Even in recent publications it is mentioned that in-frame mutations [3] and disease causing SNPs [185] have a tendency to occur on protein-protein interfaces we have not encountered this phenomenon **(Tables A.17 and A.18).** However, if we had a larger protein set, this result might have been different. Plus the structural information we have on interfaces is very limited, most probably we are missing some additional interfaces. Thus the genetic variations mapped on the surface region may be coinciding with interfaces as well.

PROTEIN	BRAIN NETWORK INTERACTION PARTNERS	LUNG NETWORK INTERACTION PARTNERS
ELANE	CSF ₃	VCAM1
EGFR	HBEGF	EREG
ITGA5	ITGB1 CD44 FBN1	TNC
ERBB4	HBEGF	EREG
CD44	FBN1 ITGA5 MMP1	MMP1
FN ₁		TNC

Table 5.6. List of proteins that exist in both metastasis network and the different interactions they make in each metastasis network.

Two of the interactions that have genetic variations on their interface regions are discussed further as case studies below.

5.2.1. EGFR and ERBB4

The EGFR and ERBB4 proteins interact with HBEGF in BMSN, whereas they interact with EREG in LMSN. In fact HBEGF is a gene known to have a role in brain metastasis of breast cancer [177], while EREG is a gene known to be mediating lung metastasis of breast cancer **[155]**. The structural models of these interactions are not available in PDB, but we have PRISM predictions for these complexes. HBEGF is predicted to interact with EGFR and ERBB4 via the same binding site on its surface, and this is also the case for EREG (**Figure 5.8**).

Figure 5.8. The PRISM predictions for a) EREG (blue) – EGFR (pink), b) EREG (blue) – ERBB4 (green) interaction, c) HBEGF (purple) - EGFR (pink) interacrion and d) HBEGF (purple – ERBB4 (green)) interaction [285]. We have discovered multiple genetic variations happening on these interfaces.

Both EREG and HBEGF are growth factors that may be integrated to the membrane and can also be present in the extracellular space. EGFR binds EGF family members via its L1 (between residues 1-151) and L2 (between residues 312-481) domains [298]. The interface residues modeled with PRISM on EGFR (interfaces with HBEGF and EREG) are lying in these domains. Similar to EGFR; ERBB4 binds to EGF family members via its L1 and L2 domains (between residues 27-198 and 324-517 [299]). Most of the interface residues of ERBB4 modeled by PRISM are coinciding with these domains as well. Plus, the EGF-like domain (between residues 20-208) of HBEGF is known to have an important role in binding to EGFR [300]. The predicted interface residues for HBEGF are taking place in its EGF-like domain. EREG's C-terminal (between residues 96-106) is suggested to be involved with its binding to ErbB receptors[301]. The C-terminus of EREG is in the interface model produced by PRISM.

There are a number of EGFR complexes, one ERBB4 complex and one HBEGF complex available in PDB, while there are no EREG complexes. When we compare our model's interface residues with the binding sites of the available PDB complexes, we see that they are all overlapping (see **Tables A.19, A.20, A.21 and A.22**).

Position 102 in the amino-acid sequence of EREG acquires a SNP (p.R102L) in some cancer patients (derived from COSMIC database). This amino acid is on the interface region of EREG-ERBB4 interactions. Plus, this residue lies in the C-terminal of EREG that is known to be essential for its interactions with ErbB receptors. Moreover, ERBB4 acquires 5 different mutations that coincide with its interfaces. These mutations are observed in cancer patients (derived from COSMIC). Genetic variations p.L39F, p.A90T, p.409L and p.V468F mutations are coinciding with ERBB4-EREG interactions. Furthermore p.L39F and p.N352S mutations are coinciding with ERBB4- HBEGF interaction. Additionally, 4 mutations of EGFR derived from COSMIC database are coinciding with its interactions. While p.D46N, p.Q432H and p.V441I are affecting EGFR-EREG interaction, p.R377S mutation is affecting both EGFR-EREG and EGFR-HBEGF interactions.

These mutations may be making the mentioned interactions stronger or weaker but they are most probably changing the functions of the EREG, HBEGF, EGFR and ERBB4 proteins (**Figure 5.8**). Besides, there may be a relationship between the metastasis progression and these mutations.

5.2.2. ELANE (ELA2)

ELANE interacts with CSF3 in BMSN, while it is switching its interaction partner to VCAM1 in LMSN. CSF3 is a seed gene in BMSN **[177]**, while VCAM1 is a seed gene in LMSN **[155]**. The structural models of these interactions are not available in PDB, but we have PRISM predictions for these complexes.

ELANE has variants that coincides with its interfaces (p.V98L, p.V101L, p.V101M and p.S126L (derived from UNIPROT)). The variances in the amino acid 101, which are polymorphisms, coincide with one of the hotspots of the interface region between ELANE and CSF3 and the variances in the amino acids 98 (polymorphism) and 126 (unclassified variation) are inside the interface region of VCAM1 on ELANE (**Figure 5.9**). These amino-acid variances may be affecting the interactions of ELANE with CSF3 and VCAM1. As a result, these amino acid variations may be related with metastasis progression in breast cancer patients.

Figure 5.9. The PRISM predictions for ELANE (orange) - VCAM1 (green) and ELANE - CSF3 (blue) interaction [285]. The amino acids 98, 101, 126 (red amino acids) on ELANE have genetic variations. Amino acid 101 is a hotspot in the CSF3 – ELANE interface, moreover amino acids 98 and 126 are part of the ELANE – VCAM1 interface.

5.3. Methodology

5.3.1. The Human PPI Network

Experimental data on protein interactions are spread among multiple databases. Even if the data in these databases partially overlap, the reliability of data differs because of the variations in the experimental techniques and the organisms used. In addition, information of the same protein can be stored with different designations in different databases. Therefore, all the available data should be queried properly and matches should be combined to form a comprehensive human PPI network. We made use of BIANA [302] (Biological Integration And Network Analysis) bioinformatics tool in order to form human PPI network. BIANA gathered PPI data from various databases and dealt with mapping between the different identifiers. We combined DIP[240], MIPS[241], HPRD[242], BIND[243], IntAct[244], MINT[245] and BioGRID [246] databases (all downloaded on May, 2011). Interactions and protein information were integrated with BIANA assuming that two proteins from different databases were the same if they had the same UNIPROT Accession, amino acid sequence, or Entrez Gene Identifier.

5.3.2. The Sub-networks Implicated in Lung and Brain Metastatic Breast Cancer

We used GUILD, a network-based disease-gene prioritization tool [284] to identify the sub-networks implicated in the two phenotypes of our interest: 1) breast cancer metastasis in lung, and 2) breast cancer metastasis in brain. GUILD package includes several methods of "guilt-by-asssociation" to prioritize a list of candidate genes associated with a phenotype. Guilt-by-association approaches are based on a set of genes associated with a phenotype, named seeds, and the tendency that other genes associated with the same phenotype will interact with the seeds. We took 18 genes that mediate breast cancer to lung metastasis **[155]**, 17 genes mediating breast cancer to brain metastasis [177] identified by Massagué and his co-workers and used them as seeds for each phenotype (**Table 5.5**).

We employed the NetCombo algorithm in GUILD using the default parameters as in [284] to rank all the proteins of the major component of the human PPI network. This algorithm combines the algorithms of NetScore, NetZcore and NetShort. The scores

were different for proteins produced by genes associated with brain metastasis than those associated with lung metastasis. Therefore, two different sub-networks were considered with the proteins associated with lung or brain metastasis and their interactions.

GUILD scored only the nodes (proteins/genes) but not the edges (PPIs) and gene-gene associations), therefore we needed to transfer the score of the nodes into the edges. Thus, we defined the score of the edge as the average of the scores of its nodes (the values of these scores lie between 0 and 1). We selected a common threshold cut-off on the score of the edges to set up the sub-networks of brain and lung metastasis with similar size.

We used HPRD [242], UNIPROT [295, 296] and TIGER[303] databases for checking the expression of genes in breast tissue.

The average node degree is 2.6 for BMSN and 2 for LMSN. Nodes with 12 or more edges are considered to be hubs.

We have used VMD [272] for visualizing protein structures and for network visualizations we have used Cytoscape [282].

5.3.3. Functional Analysis of Brain and Lung Metastatic Networks

We used the ClueGo [286], a Cytoscape [282] plugin, designed for biological interpretation of gene sets. The significance (enrichment) analysis was performed with right-sided hyper-geometric testing with a Bonferroni step down P-value correction factor. KEGG pathways used for the calculations are downloaded in 24.05.2012. Pvalues smaller than 0.05 were considered significant.

5.3.4. Structural Analysis of Brain and Lung Metastatic Networks

We have used "uniprot_sprot.dat" (downloaded in November of 2012, from UNIPROT's ftp server) for detecting the source organisms of the PDB chains used for modeling the protein complexes in both metastasis networks.

For significance testing, we have calculated the p-value of a hyper-geometric distribution using the R package[304]. P-values smaller than 0.05 were considered significant. Please refer to **Table A.23** for the numbers we have used for calculations.

Every protein-protein interface consists of two chains. The 7922 template interfaces used in the experiments, consist of 15844 template chains. Among them the source organism of 11255 were available in "uniprot_sprot.dat" and 4918 were coming from microorganisms (bacteria/virus).

The protein interfaces that are available in PDB are clustered according to their structural similarity. These clusters are provided in PRINT database which can be accessed from the http://prism.ccbb.ku.edu.tr/interface/ address. We mentioned these structurally similar protein clusters as PRINT clusters all through the text.

While detecting the source organisms of the template interfaces, we have taken into account all the interfaces, not only the representative interfaces (in each PRINT cluster). Besides, we have used the biological process and the molecular functions listed in UNIPROT database for our analyses.

In **Figure 5.6** the interfaces coming from pathogens are presented with green dashed lines. We have used "Cellular Component Ontology"[305] in order to find out the locations of the molecules. If an interface has PDB's coming from both eukaryotes and pathogens in its cluster, we have counted it as a pathogenic interface.

We have made use of UNIPROT and HPIDB[306] databases to mine the knowledge on the host-pathogen relationships of the related proteins. We have checked whether the proteins are known to be interacting with pathogens or not (**Tables 5.10** and **5.11**).

5.3.5. Genetic Variations on Interface Surfaces

We obtained the available point mutations related with cancer from COSMIC [307] database and humsavar.txt of UNIPROT database. UNIPROT [295, 296] provides the variants of a protein's amino-acid sequence. These variations can be polymorphisms, variations between strains, isolates or cultivars, disease-associated mutations or RNA editing events. Both databases provide detailed information about the mutations, as well as the mutated residue numbers. Then, we mapped these point mutations to the interface regions of interacting proteins in the metastasis subnetworks (BMSN and LMSN). We used the PDBSWS database [308] for the PDB and Uniprot residue-level alignment.

We used Naccess [309] for determining the surface and core residues. Naccess computes the atomic accessible area by rolling a probe (typically with the same radius as water (1.4 Angstroms)) around the Van der Waal's surface of macromolecule. It employs the Lee & Richards method [310], whereby a probe of given radius is rolled around the surface of the molecule, and the path traced out by its centre is the accessible surface.

For the statistical calculations of location preferences of genetic variations we used fisher's (exact) test and two-tailed P-value for statistical significance (P-value smaller than 0.05 was considered statistically significant) as described in David et al.'s [185] article. We used the R package[304] for the statistical calculations.

Hot spots are the residues that contribute more to the binding free energy with respect to other residues in the protein-protein interface. We have used HotPoint [271] for hot spot predictions. This webserver calculates the hot spots in protein interfaces using an empirical model with 70% accuracy.

Chapter 6

CONCLUSION

The main focus of this dissertation has been the integration of structural knowledge to protein-protein interaction networks and utilizing this additional information in solving drug off-target prediction and genotype-phenotype mapping problems.

We proposed a new network representation (P2IN), which introduces the structures of protein interfaces into the PINs. In addition to providing the binary information of whether two proteins interact with each other, the P2IN also provides information on the structure of the complex that they form. Through out my PhD studies we have built a number of cancer related P2INs and increased the structural knowledge on protein interactions of these networks. The accuracy of these P2INs is limited with the completeness of protein interactions, reliability of homology models and availability of template interface structures, however with the exponential growth of the number of protein complexes in PDB and the discovery of pairwise protein interactions building high-quality P2INs will be possible.

P2IN representation allows us to propose a new attack strategy, interface attack, of hitting edges between protein pairs that interact via structurally similar interfaces rather than nodes. We generated the signaling network of the p53 P2IN and tested its robustness to various attacks. Both node and edge attacks are performed. The interface attack is found to be as destructive as hub node attacks; however, it is not as harmful as distributed attack that targets maximal edges. A drug that disturbs a frequent interface type may be as destructive as a drug targeting a high degree protein, suggesting the usefulness of considering the frequency of interface motifs during drug development. We discovered that some drugs (Aminopurvalanol, PD-0332991, CHEBI:792519, CHEBI:792520 and Fisetin) binding to CDK6, disrupt its interaction with CDKN2D. We applied our interface attack strategy to this case and found that drugs blocking this interface may also affect the interaction between CDK4 and CDKN2D. CDK4 also appears an off-target for drugs binding to CDK6. This example illustrates the promise in our strategy as a first step in indentifying potential off-target drug hits. Finally, we provided a case study of a comparison between node and interface attacks. Challenging next steps are accounting for molecular flexibility. Proteins are highly dynamic, and structure-based drug discovery requires detailed structural treatment to uncover transient pockets which are unlikely to be observed in the static crystal snapshots and rigid docking. Nonetheless, systems-wide outcome involving possible off-targets of a drug is an important consideration, and eventually would need to be integrated with detailed structural investigation in attempts to forecast potential side effects. Here, our concept of interface attack exploits structural motifs. It is inspired by network pharmacology, an emerging paradigm in drug discovery.

In the future this drug off-target prediction approach may be exerted on the complete human interactome. Working in larger scale would provide a more complete view of the pathways affected by a given drug. Besides, while building the P2IN, considering both the bound and unbound states of a protein will also increase the reliability of our off-target prediction approach. In addition, experimental verifications could be very useful to prove the credibility of our prediction method.

We combined PPI networks, protein-protein interface structure and genetic variations together at the systems level to explain genotype-phenotype relationships. We have built two networks of proteins playing roles in different breast cancer metastasis and tried to explain the mechanisms behind metastasis process.

We built a comprehensive human PPI network, by combining the available PPI data from various databases. Then we ranked all the interactions of this network according to their relevance to genes that are known to be mediating breast cancer to brain and lung metastasis. Subsequently, we formed two distinct metastasis PPI sub-networks from high ranked interactions. Next, we introduced structural knowledge to metastasis PPI subnetworks. Only a small proportion of our protein complexes were available in PDB. We modeled the interface structures of PPIs by using PRISM tool. Knowing the interface structure between two proteins and the residue numbers on the interface surface, allowed us checking whether the mutations are located in the interfaces or not.

We preformed functional analysis on metastasis sub-networks and observed that the proteins engaged in LMSN are enriched in "Infectious Diseases", "Cancer" and "Immune System" KEGG classes. This correlation pinpoints a relationship between pathogens, immune system and lung metastasis. This may be due to the fact that, brain is a betterprotected area than the lung, due to the blood-brain barrier and being less exposed to outside world compared to lung. Besides, the protein complexes in LMSN utilize more interface templates found in PPIs in microbes than BMSN. This finding reinforces our conclusion about the relationship between lung metastasis progression and pathogens. Furthermore, we saw that in both metastasis sub-networks the proteins using microbial interface architectures are mostly related with cell adhesion. Cell adhesion is a very important mechanism for metastasis and our findings suggest that there may be some mechanistic commonalities, such as cell adhesion, between pathogens and metastatic cancer cells employed during cell invasion. Actually, most of these proteins have interactions with proteins of pathogens themselves.

We provided structural predictions for the architecture of interfaces of interactions between EGFR-EREG, EGFR-HBEGF, ERBB4-EREG, ERBB4-HBEGF, ELANE-CSF3 and ELANE-VCAM1. Moreover, we have discovered some genetic variations happening on these interfaces which are most probably related with the metastasis progression of breast cancer patients.

For future studies our metastasis network models may provide a foundation and may also be helpful for finding escape pathways of breast cancer metastasis. In our results, there is a group of SNPs that are nominated to be related with specific metastasis types, they could be validated with experiments. This would increase the impact of our predictions.

We have utilized P2INs in predicting drug off-targets and linking genotype to phenotype. However these networks have the potential to be used for answering several other questions as well. Deepening the analysis on these networks may reveal important futures about structural proteomics. Besides, the visualization of P2INs may be improved in the future, which may enable us to acquire structural data intuitively from the network representation.

In the overall, significant information is gained towards the protein interactions in the systems level. Integration of structural knowledge into protein interaction networks helped us answer many questions by providing additional information on "how protein couples interact". We believe that this work will serve functional and structural genomics, cancer bioinformatics and drug design.

APPENDIX

Supplementary!Figures:

Figure A.1. CDK6 binding site (one chain of CDK6–CDKN2D interface) highlighted on CDK6-drug complexes present in PDB [39]. In each figure CDK6 structure is the transparent green body and the binding site on CDK6 is the opaque green one a) Fisetin-CDK6 complex b) PD-0332991-CDK6 complex, c) Aminopurvalanol-CDK6 complex, d) CHEBI: 792519-CDK6 complex, e) CDKN2D-CDK6 complex, f) CHEBI: 792520-CDK6 complex. The structures of CDK6 are not exactly the same in each PDB (please refer to Table A.7 for the RMSD values of CDK6 structures), as a consequence we didn't perform a superimposition between CDK6-drug complexes and CDKN2D-CDK6 complex like we did in the **Figure 4.2**.

Figure A.2. The hotspots of CDK4 (dark blue surfaces), CDK4 structure (cyan transparent body) and the drugs (balls and sticks) docked on CDK4 can be seen all together in this figure [39]. The drugs are close to hotspots 12 ILE, 98 GLN and 97 ASP.

Figure A.3. The hotspots of CDK6 (pink surfaces), CDK6 structure (gray transparent body) and the drugs (balls and sticks) docked on CDK6 can be seen all together in this figure [39]. The drugs are close to hotspots 19 ILE, 103 GLN and non-hotspot residue 102 ASP (cyan surface).

Figure A.4. Superimposition of pockets of CDK6 (cyan) and CDK4 (dark blue) using VMD visualization tool [39].

Figure A.5. Superimposition of pockets of CDK6 (dark blue), CDK4 (red) and the drugs docked to them [39]. The blue ligands are docked on CDK6 and the red ones are docked on CDK4. The ligands in the figures are: a) PD-0332991 b) Fisetin c) Aminopurvalanol d) CHEBI: 792520 e) CHEBI: 792519.

THE NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS vs. THE GUILD SCORES

Figure A.6. This graph shows the increase in the number of interactions, as the number of GUILD score gets smaller [285].

Figure A.7. This graph shows the increase in the number of interactions, as the number of nodes gets bigger [285].

Figure A.8. The significantly enriched KEGG pathways in the clusters of LMSN.

Figure A.9. The significantly enriched KEGG pathways in the clusters of BMSN.

Figure A.10. NEDD9 is a hub protein with multiple interface architectures on different regions of its surface. a) There is only one PDB structure available in PDB (PDB ID: 2L81) that contains the SH3 and the SH2 domains. The first three most frequently observed interfaces (b) 1jogCD interface, c) 2a6aAB interface and d) 2b8nAB interface) of LMSN mapped on NEDD9.

Supplementary!Tables: Table A.1. List of PRISM Interaction Predictions for p53 Network. Out of 251 PRISM interaction predictions, 26 are present in Kohn's map, 59 are present in various PPI databases and 90 are present in STRING database. 104 interactions are validated totally.

Table A.3. PPIs and Interface Templates used for modeling the interactions in the brain/lung metastasis networks.

Table A.4. A list of Proteins in the IL-10 Centered Protein-Protein Interaction Network. The Distance from IL-10 column provides the degree of contiguity of the proteins to IL-10 protein. For example, if a protein is a first-degree neighbor of IL-10, its distance from IL-10 is 1.

Table A.5. Protein List of Kohn's MIM. Kohn's molecular interaction map (MIM) has some nodes that do not have a protein counterpart, or some nodes correspond to multiple proteins. We updated Kohn's MIM's nodes by removing or expanding some of them.

Table A.6. The Updated Interactions' List of Kohn's MIM. If a node was replaced with multiple proteins, the number of interactions automatically increased. We searched STRING database for validating the new edges and picked the ones, which were coming from high throughput experiments or databases.

RPA2 ppi UNG	EXPERIMENTS	CCNA2 ppi RPA3	EXPERIMENTS
CDC25A ppi CDK4	DATABASES	TP53 ppi RPA1	EXPERIMENTS
CDC25A ppi CDK6	DATABASES	RAD51 ppi RPA1	EXPERIMENTS
CDK4 ppi CCND1	EXPERIMENTS	RAD51 ppi RPA3	DATABASES
CDK4 ppi CDKN2A	EXPERIMENTS	RAD52 ppi RPA1	EXPERIMENTS
CDK4 ppi CDKN2A	EXPERIMENTS	RAD52 ppi RPA2	EXPERIMENTS
CDK6 ppi CDKN2A	EXPERIMENTS	RAD52 ppi RPA3	EXPERIMENTS
CDK7 ppi CDK4	EXPERIMENTS	RPA3 ppi RAD23B	DATABASES
CDK7 ppi CDK5	EXPERIMENTS	RPA1 ppi ERCC4	EXPERIMENTS
CCNH ppi CDK4	DATABASES	RPA3 ppi ERCC4	DATABASES
CCNH ppi CDK5	EXPERIMENTS	RPA3 ppi ERCC1	DATABASES
TFDP1 ppi E2F1	EXPERIMENTS	RPA3 ppi GTF2H1	DATABASES
TFDP2 ppi E2F1	EXPERIMENTS	XPA ppi RPA1	EXPERIMENTS
TFDP1 ppi E2F4	EXPERIMENTS	XPA ppi RPA3	DATABASES
TFDP2 ppi E2F4	EXPERIMENTS	XPA ppi RPA2	EXPERIMENTS
TFDP1 ppi E2F5	EXPERIMENTS	XPC ppi RPA3	DATABASES
TFDP2 ppi E2F5	EXPERIMENTS	TP53 ppi CSNK2A1	EXPERIMENTS

Table A7. RMSD values of CDK6 structures. We highlighted the RMSD values higher than 2.5 with red.

Table A.9. We have tested the evidence of the presence of the genes of brain metastasis subnetwork in different databases

Table A.10. The frequency of interfaces in both metastasis networks.

1qjcAB	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{2}$	1e8oCD	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1moxAC	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{2}$	1a49AB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1jogCD	5	$\mathbf{1}$	1iieAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1gveAB	3	$\mathbf{1}$	1fr3AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1oh0AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1djrDE	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$
1bqqMT	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1p65AB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1zdnAB	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1symAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
2bo4CD	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1c4zAD	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$
1tueAH	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1y0eAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1xx9CD	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1x8dAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1g8tAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1p5qAC	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf 0$
1b3dAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1u6iAF	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1jflAB	$\mathbf 0$	$\mathbf{1}$	1u0kAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1okjAB	$\mathbf 0$	$\mathbf{1}$	1wb1BD	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf 0$
1qiaCD	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1twjCD	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1eq2GJ	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1xqcAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
2b99CE	$\mathbf 0$	$\mathbf{1}$	1tljAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1kkmAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1f6fBC	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$
2btfAP	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1p60AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$
1jyaAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1pbiAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1cd9AB	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1yw0AD	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf 0$
1jzmAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1iawAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$
1nh0AB	$\overline{2}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1v8pEF	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1rd5AB	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1qorAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1kamAB	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1rkeAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$
1ywkAC	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	1060AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1t6uAF	$\overline{2}$	0	1jd1AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1y9iAD	$\overline{2}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	1vr0BC	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1pe0AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf 0$	1n1bAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$
1j2rCD	$\mathbf{1}$	0	1fiuAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1u2eAC	$\mathbf{1}$	0	3ezeAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1wmhAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0	1k2fAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1tb3AD	$\mathbf{1}$	0	1um0CD	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1sj1AB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf 0$	1vi6AB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1zuwAC	$\mathbf{1}$	0	1q5cAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1xmzAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0	1s96AB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
2erbAB	$\mathbf{1}$	$\pmb{0}$	1yllAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0
1mzhAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0	1t3uAB	$\mathbf{1}$	0

Table A.11 Most frequently used interfaces while modeling the interactions of lung metastasis network.

Table A.12. Most frequently used interfaces while modeling the interactions of

brain metastasis network.

Table A.13. Host-pathogen knowledge on proteins that use pathogenic interface architectures in brain metastasis network.

PROTEIN RELATIONSHIP SOURCE ABL1 | HIV1 downregulates | HPIDB $BCARI$ - $-$ BSG - - CCL₂ involvement in mycobacterium tuberculosis susceptibility [312] CD44 HIV1 downregulates HPIDB CDH1 - - CNTN1 - - CRKL $\qquad \qquad \text{CXCL1}$ - $-$ CXCR4 Host-virus interaction UNIPROT ELA2 (elane) associated with Hendra
virus **HPIDB** EZR FN1 interaction with bacteria [311] FSCN1 | | IL13 - ITCH Host-virus interaction UNIPROT ITGB1 Host-virus interaction UNIPROT ITGB7 Host cell receptor for virus
entry UNIPROT $JAK3$ \qquad KPNB1 Host-virus interaction UNIPROT LTBP1 | | MICAL1 | -MMP1 Host-virus interaction UNIPROT MMP9 -MYH9 - NEDD9 - PIK3CA associated with influenza A
virus **HPIDB** PLS3 -PTK2 – F PTK2B - $PTPN11$ \qquad PTPN6 -PTPRC defense response to virus UNIPROT PXN

Table A.14. Host-pathogen knowledge on proteins that use pathogenic interface architectures in lung metastasis network.

SERPINA3		
SMAD1		
TNC		
TNFSF11		
VAV1		
VCAM1	Host-virus interaction	UNIPROT

Table A.15. Proteins in brain metastasis sub-network with PRISM interface predictions

Table A.16. Proteins in lung metastasis sub-network with PRISM interface predictions

Table A.17. Distribution of the residue numbers and the mutation numbers per protein.

Table A.18. The total residues numbers/genetic variations observed in different locations and the odds ratio, 95% confidence interval, and the P-value for a two tailed test that OR is different from 1.0.

Table A.19. Interface residues (Sequence IDs) of HBEGF-EGFR model, the binding site residues of HBEGF protein's complexes available in PDB and the binding site residues of EGFR protein's complexes available in PDB. The interface residues that are overlaping with available binding site residues are in italic, bold fonts.

Table A.20. Interface residues (Sequence IDs) of EREG-EGFR model and the binding site residues of EGFR protein's complexes available in PDB. The interface residues that are overlaping with available binding site residues are in italic, bold fonts.

Table A.21. Interface residues (Sequence IDs) of HBEGF-ERBB4 model, the binding site residues of HBEGF protein's complexes available in PDB and the binding site residues of ERBB4 protein's complexes available in PDB. The interface residues that are overlapping with available binding site residues are in italic, bold fonts.

127	117	38	39
129	118	39	40
130	124	40	41
131	126	52	42
132	127	91	44
133	131	120	51
134	132	121	91
135	133	125	111
136	134	352	112
137	135	375	120
138	138	376	121
139	139	377	123
140	140	382	125
141	141	383	148
143	142	384	346
147	144	411	369
	145	435	370
	146	443	371
	147	444	382
			383
			384
			385
			405
			429
			432
			435
			437
			438
			459

Table A.22. Interface residues (Sequence IDs) of EREG-ERBB4 model and the binding site residues of ERBB4 protein's complexes available in PDB. The interface residues that are overlapping with available binding site residues are in italic, bold fonts.

73		34	36
74		36	37
75		37	38
77		38	39
78		39	40
84		40	41
86		41	42
87		44	44
89		52	51
91		90	91
93		91	111
94		120	112
96		121	120
99		373	121
100		375	123
101	C-terminus	376	125
102		377	148
104		383	346
105		409	369
106			370
107			371
108		443	382
		444	383
		465	384
		467	385
		468	405
		494	429
			432
			435
			437
			438
			459

Table A.23. The table for the source organism distribution of template chains, used for modeling the complexes of BMSN and LMSN.

Table A.24. The interfaces in the 1jogCD PRINT cluster.

Table A.27. The biological processes of the proteins utilizing the most frequent interfaces of brain metastasis network.

Table A.28. The molecular functions of the proteins utilizing the most frequent interfaces of brain metastasis

Metastasis	Template Interface	Proteins in the Network		cell adhesion		moscumbimeracion	religione	Lactation	Transcription		Transdition regulation	acute phase	collage degredation
	2b8nAB, 1qjcAB	IFN1	\pm		$\ddot{}$	$\ddot{}$					$\ddot{}$		
	2b8nAB, 1qjcAB	LTBP1	Biological Process Not Listed										
	2b8nAB	BSG						Biological Process Not Listed					
	2b8nAB	MMP1		$\ddot{}$								$\ddot{}$	
BRAIN	1qjcAB	CD44	$\ddot{}$										
	1qjcAB	litga5	$\ddot{}$	$\ddot{}$									
	1nglAB, 1moxAC	ERBB4					$\ddot{}$	$\ddot{}$	$\ddot{}$	$\ddot{}$			
	1nqlAB, 1moxAC	HBEGF						Biological Process Not Listed					
	1nqlAB, 1moxAC	LEGFR						Biological Process Not Listed					
			BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES										

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