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Large-Scale Identification and Analysis of Suppressive Drug Interactions

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SUMMARY

One drug may suppress the effects of another. Although knowledge of drug suppression is vital to avoid efficacy-reducing drug interactions or discover countermeasures for chemical toxins, drug-drug suppression relationships have not been systematically mapped. Here, we analyze the growth

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, seven figures, and seven tables and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chembiol.2014.02.012>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Mu. Cokol and F.P.R. designed the study. Mu. Cokol, Z.B.W., K.Y., S.L., D.C., B.M., A.D., A.G., and Me. Cokol conducted the experiments. Mu. Cokol, Z.B.W., K.Y., M.T., A.D., M.A., S.C., G.G., I.L., C.N., B.S., and F.P.R. analyzed the data. Mu. Cokol, Z.B.W., B.M., and R.R.-E. conducted the literature analysis. Mu. Cokol, Z.B.W., K.Y., M.T., and F.P.R. wrote the paper.

response of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to anti-fungal compound (“drug”) pairs. Among 440 ordered drug pairs, we identified 94 suppressive drug interactions. Using only pairs not selected on the basis of their suppression behavior, we provide an estimate of the prevalence of suppressive interactions between anti-fungal compounds as 17%. Analysis of the drug suppression network suggested that Bromopyruvate is a frequently suppressive drug and Staurosporine is a frequently suppressed drug. We investigated potential explanations for suppressive drug interactions, including chemogenomic analysis, coaggregation, and pH effects, allowing us to explain the interaction tendencies of Bromopyruvate.

INTRODUCTION

Drugs are considered to be interacting if their combined effect for a particular phenotype differs from the independently combined single-drug effects. Interactions are considered synergistic if they correspond to a more severe combined effect or antagonistic for a diminished combinatorial effect. Suppression or hyperantagonism is an extreme case of drug antagonism, defined by an effect of the drug combination that is less than the effect of the more-potent drug alone (Figure 1) (Yeh et al., 2009). Cases of suppression in vivo are well known and may arise from a variety of mechanisms, including changes in metabolism, absorption, and excretion (Fugh-Berman, 2000; Patsalos and Perucca, 2003).

Numerous studies have been conducted to seek synergistic drug combinations for their enhanced therapeutic value (Farha and Brown, 2010; Lehár et al., 2009). However, it is also important to identify those combinations in which one drug suppresses the effect of the other. For example, the standard dose of Rapamycin (Rap) must be increased by a factor of 300 to restore its effects on T-lymphocytes due to the suppressive effects of Tacrolimus (Tac) (FK506) (Bierer et al., 1990). Numerous examples of *Rap* being suppressed are known. For example, case studies on organ transplant patients report the effects of *Rap* to be suppressed by coadministration of Phenytoin (Fridell et al., 2003) or Rifampacin (Ngo et al., 2011).

Few drug suppression relationships have been mechanistically explained. In one example, a recent study showed that protein synthesis inhibitors suppress DNA synthesis inhibitors in *Escherichia coli*, because of non-optimal regulation of ribosomal genes in the presence of DNA stress (Bollenbach et al., 2009). It is clear that this mechanism can explain only a small subset of all suppressive drug interactions. A more general picture of the mechanisms of drug suppression is needed to understand and perhaps predict suppressive drug interactions.

Combining suppressive compounds will, in general, be undesirable—typically they require an increased treatment time or dose with correspondingly increased off-target effects. However, such combinations offer potential advantages in the context of antibiotic resistance, a growing medical concern (Palmer and Kishony, 2013). It has been suggested that suppressive combinations decrease the prevalence of resistance to both drugs in a pair (Yeh et al., 2009). Reciprocal suppression relationships, such that each of two drugs suppresses the effect of the other, may have an even greater potential to prevent antibiotic resistance.

Although an improved understanding of suppressive drug interactions has therapeutic implications, no large-scale search for suppressive anti-fungal drug interactions has been previously carried out. As a tractable experimental model, we examined chemical compounds with anti-fungal activity (“drugs”) in *S. cerevisiae*. We analyzed data for 220 drug-drug pairs: this included combinatorial drug sensitivity assays previously reported for 175 pairs (Cokol et al., 2011) but that had not been previously examined for suppression relationships and 45 pairs for which combinatorial drug sensitivity was newly performed, one of which was a verification of a previously reported suppressive drug interaction (Butcher and Schreiber, 2003). Taken together, our results offer an estimate of the frequency of suppression among drugs, suggest that specific drugs have intrinsic tendencies to suppress or be suppressed by other drugs, and begin to describe a mechanistic explanation for selected drug suppression pairs.

RESULTS

Suppressive Drug Interactions in Literature

We conducted an extensive literature search for suppressive interactions between anti-fungal chemical compounds. Specifically, we identified MEDLINE abstracts that contained the names (or synonyms) of two chemicals known to inhibit yeast growth (Hillenmeyer et al., 2008) and variations of the word “suppress” (Bandy et al., 2009). We curated more than 1,000 literature abstracts to find reports of suppressive drug interactions between anti-fungal drugs. Our literature search yielded reports of 30 suppressive drug interactions, of which only four were interactions with respect to the yeast growth rate phenotype (Table S1 available online). All four of these cases involved one different chemical from the so-called Suppressor of *FK506* (*SFK*) class of compounds. Accordingly, all four *SFK* compounds were reported to suppress growth inhibition by *Tac* under highsalt conditions (Butcher and Schreiber, 2003, 2004). Only one of these *SFK* drugs (*SFK1*) was commercially available, and we experimentally verified that *SFK1* suppresses *Tac* (Figure S1). Our literature search yielded no previously known reciprocal suppression relationships within any species.

Finding Suppressive Drug Interactions in Previously Published Experimental Data

We first re-examined data from a previous study (Cokol et al., 2011) that measured the growth response of *S. cerevisiae* at 8×8 concentration combinations of 175 drug pairs among 33 drugs. Here, tested drug pairs were selected as positive and negative predictions for drug synergy. Of the tested drug pairs, 45% came from a “matrix” for which all pairwise combinations among 13 drugs were tested. We defined growth as the area under the growth curve (AUC). “Growth level” was defined as growth relative to the growth in the no-drug condition in each experiment. The names and abbreviations of drugs used in this study are given in Table 1. Tables S2 and S3 provide raw cell density measurements and tables of growth levels, respectively, for all drug pairs analyzed in this study.

Using these measurements of combinatorial drug concentration-dependent growth, we searched for drug pairs meeting each of the three criteria (Figure 1): (1) significant antagonism, such that growth in response to the drug combination was significantly higher than the expected growth under the Bliss Independence model, that is, higher than the

multiplicative expectation based on growth levels obtained for the two drugs individually, (2) significant suppression, such that growth in response to the drug combination was significantly higher than growth in response to the less-potent drug, and (3) meaningful strength of suppression, such that the growth level in response to the drug combination was greater than 10% of the growth level without any drug present. These criteria defined a less-potent drug to suppress the more-potent drug. Similarly, reciprocal suppression exists by definition if two drugs can suppress the other's action at some combination of drug concentrations. This phenomenon has been hypothesized, but not previously observed (Yeh et al., 2009).

Of the 175 drug pairs we examined, 53 (30%) passed these stringent criteria for drug suppression relationships. Of these 53 pairs with suppression relationships, 45 were directional and eight exhibited reciprocal suppression. Examples of broadly supported directional suppression (e.g., *Bromopyruvate* [*Bro*] suppresses *Staurosporine* [*Sta*]) and reciprocal suppression (*Sta* and *Myriocin* [*Myr*] suppress each other) are shown in Figure 2. Importantly, the same criteria applied to a control data set of 25 self-self drug combinations in which no suppressive relationships are expected (Cokol et al., 2011) found no suppression relationships, supporting the high specificity of our drug suppression assessment.

Yeast Suppressive Drug Interaction Network

We visualized the suppressive relationships we identified as a network (Figure 3), in which each drug is represented by a node and each suppressive relationship by a directed edge. This network has 61 edges between drug nodes among 350 ordered pairs (2×175 drug pairs). Hence, the fraction of tests in which one drug suppresses the other is 17%. We note that this is a conservative estimate, because the drug pairs we have analyzed thus far were previously selected for drug synergy, whereas suppression should correspond to antagonism more frequently than synergy.

For each drug we assessed the “out-degree” (number of drugs suppressed by the drug of interest) and the “in-degree” (number of drugs that suppress the drug of interest). Interestingly, we observed that the in-degree and out-degree of drugs is correlated ($r = 0.34$, $p = 0.05$). Thus, drugs that were frequently suppressing were also frequently suppressed. However, we noticed several exceptions to this weak correlation. For example, *Bro* suppressed 4 (33%) of 12 tested drugs but was not suppressed by any drug. On the other extreme, *Sta* was suppressed by 14 (48%) of the 29 drugs with which it was tested; but it suppressed only one (3%). These observations suggest that drugs can differ in intrinsic tendencies for suppression behavior.

We further analyzed the network for “suppressing hubs” or “suppressed hubs”—drugs that are intrinsically more likely to suppress or be suppressed (Supplemental Experimental Procedures). Amphotericin B (AmB), Benomyl (Ben), *Bro*, Chlorzoxazone (Chl), and Methotrexate (Met) had true discovery rates greater than 50% ($q < 0.5$) for being frequent suppressors (Fisher's exact test, $p = 0.04, 0.01, 0.14, 0.07, 0.07$; OR = 7.4, 3.1, 2.5, 4.9, 4.9; $q = 0.22, 0.21, 0.46, 0.49, 0.49$, respectively). We found a significant tendency for *Sta* to be suppressed (Fisher's exact test $p = 5.7 \times 10^{-5}$, OR = 5.4, $q = 9.5 \times 10^{-4}$) and a suggestive

tendency ($q < 0.5$) for *AmB* and *Tun* to be suppressed (Fisher's exact test $p = 0.04, 0.14$; OR = 7.4, 2.5; $q = 0.22, 0.46$, respectively).

Drug Interaction Experiments to Test Suppression Hubs

Because our power to detect significant “hubs” was necessarily limited by the number of pairs tested for any given drug, we performed additional experimental testing. Specifically, we further tested four of these drugs —*AmB*, *Ben*, *Bro*, and *Sta*— for additional suppression relationships. Each of these four were assessed against a panel of the following ten drugs selected on the basis of being inexpensive, readily available, and having diverse mechanisms of action: 1,10-phenanthroline (a metallopeptidase inhibitor and potent transcription inhibitor) (Chang et al., 1990), 6-azauracil (a nucleic acid synthesis inhibitor) (Exinger and Lacroute, 1992), cerulenin (a fatty acid biosynthesis inhibitor) (Inokoshi et al., 1994), cetylpyridinium (a cationic surfactant) (Hiom et al., 1993), Doxorubicin (a DNA intercalator) (Patel et al., 1997), Fluconazole and Miconazole (ergosterol biosynthesis inhibitors) (Abe et al., 2009; Sud and Feingold, 1981), sodium azide (a cytochrome oxidase inhibitor) (Whitney and Bellion, 1991), Nystatin (a polyene antibiotic) (de Resende and Alterthum, 1990), and phleomycin (a DNA intercalator) (Moore, 1989).

For each of these 40 pairwise combinations, we conducted a drug interaction experiment as described previously (Cokol et al., 2011). We identified 30 suppressive drug interactions, including nine reciprocally suppressing drug pairs. The fraction of suppressing drug interactions in this second data set is 38%, which is greater than the 17% fraction observed in the initially analyzed published data set. Each of the drug pairs tested for suppression included one drug exhibiting frequent suppression behavior in the original data, so that the high rate of suppression further supports the idea that drugs have intrinsic tendencies to suppress or be suppressed. The results of these 40 drug interaction experiments are given in Figure 4 and Table 1.

All experiments together yielded strong support for the idea that *Bro* commonly acts as a suppressor ($p = 2.0 \times 10^{-3}$, OR = 4.1, $q = 0.03$). *Sta*, on the other hand, showed a significant tendency to be suppressed within the combined data set ($p = 2.1 \times 10^{-4}$, OR = 3.7, $q = 4.4 \times 10^{-3}$). Together, our observations allow us to suggest *Bro* as a “frequently suppressing drug” and *Sta* as a “frequently suppressed drug”. Consistent with each of these trends, we had observed that *Bro* strongly suppresses *Sta* (Figure 2).

We wished to further investigate a specific suppressive drug interaction and focused on the *Bro+Sta* interaction. *Bro* has received clinical attention because of its selectivity against tumor cells (Bhardwaj et al., 2010; Ganapathy-Kanniappan et al., 2010). This selectivity is a result of its inhibition of the glycolysis pathway, which is highly utilized by tumor cells (Pelicano et al., 2006; Xu et al., 2005). Several cellular targets for *Bro* have been previously characterized, such as hexokinase, pyruvate kinase, and GAPDH (Shoshan, 2012). *Sta* is an ATP-competitive kinase inhibitor with *Pkc1* as its primary target (Yoshida et al., 1992).

Chemogenomic Experiments with *Bro*, *Sta*, and *Bro+Sta* Combination

In order to have a global understanding of the effect of *Bro*, *Sta*, and their combination on *S. cerevisiae*, we assessed the sensitivity of a genome-wide collection of yeast deletion strains to these conditions, using the HaploInsufficiency Profiling (HIP) and homozygous deletion profiling (HOP) technologies (Giaever et al., 2002; Hillenmeyer et al., 2008; Parsons et al., 2004; Pierce et al., 2007). Although HIP and HOP data have been previously obtained for *Sta* (Hillenmeyer et al., 2008; Lum et al., 2004), no such experiments have been reported for *Bro* or *Bro+Sta* combination.

We constructed two pools of isogenic yeast diploid deletion strains with specific molecular barcode tags: (1) 1,106 strains, where one copy of an essential gene is deleted (for HIP assays) and (2) 4,590 strains, where both copies of a non-essential gene are deleted (for HOP assays). Competitive growth of the mutant pools was carried out in media with four different conditions: (1) 1% DMSO (“Solvent”), (2) “*Bro*_{IC20},” *Bro* at a concentration that inhibits growth of the parental wild-type strain (BY4743) by 20% (IC20) (650 µg/ml), (3) “*Sta*_{IC20},” *Sta* at its IC20 concentration (0.7 µg/ml), and (4) “*Com*_{IC20},” an IC20 *Bro+Sta* combination with a low dose of *Bro* (200 µg/ml) and high dose of *Sta* (1.2 µg/ml). After competitive growth, the abundance of each strain was measured by microarray hybridization. The sensitivity score of a strain to a condition was defined as the negative logarithm of the ratio of strain abundance under the drug condition relative to strain abundance in the solvent condition (Pierce et al., 2007). To assess the reproducibility of these HIP and HOP experiments, biological replicate experiments for the *Bro*_{IC20} condition were performed. The sensitivity scores for two independent replicates of the *Bro*_{IC20} condition had a very high correlation ($r = 0.83$, $p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$: the default minimum value in Matlab), indicating the reproducibility of our experimental results. For *Bro*_{IC20} experiments, replicate sensitivity scores were averaged. The sensitivity scores for 5,696 strains obtained during these experiments are represented in Figure 5 and provided in Table S4.

We defined a deletion strain to be sensitive to a condition if its sensitivity score was greater than two (corresponding to a 2-fold depletion), in accordance with previous genome-wide chemogenomic studies (Hillenmeyer et al., 2008; Hoon et al., 2011; Pierce et al., 2007). Among 1,106 heterozygous deletion strains, we found two strains that were specifically sensitive to *Bro*_{IC20} treatment (termed “*Bro*-protective genes” hereafter, as mutants in these genes are more sensitive): *acs2* /*ACS2* and *erg10* /*ERG10* (Figure 5). *Acs2* (acetyl-coA synthetase) catalyzes the transformation of acetate to acetyl-coA (Van den Berg and Steensma, 1995). *Erg10* converts acetyl-coA to acetoacetyl-coA, a requisite for the biosynthesis of mevalonate; the precursor to sterols and nonsterol isoprenoids (Berg et al., 2010) (Figure 5). It is notable that the only two *Bro*-protective genes we identified encode adjacent enzymes in the yeast metabolic network (Caspi et al., 2013). The two reactions corresponding to the two *Bro*-protective genes are each critical for ketogenesis, which is likely to play a role when glycolysis is inhibited (Marsh et al., 2008).

We identified 11 heterozygous deletion strains as being sensitive to *Sta*_{IC20}, but not to *Bro*_{IC20}. Notably, 4 of these 11 *Sta*_{IC20}-sensitive heterozygous deletion strains were previously found to be sensitive to *Sta* (*pkc1* /*PKC1*, *rho1* /*RHO1*, *cdc12* /*CDC12*, and

rot1 /*ROT1*) in another large-scale chemogenomic study (Lum et al., 2004). We found nine heterozygous deletion strains exhibiting sensitivity specifically to *Com_{IC20}*, but not to *Bro_{IC20}* or to *Sta_{IC20}*. Of the nine *Com_{IC20}* specific gene products, five have chromatin remodeling or transcription regulatory functions (Arp7, Arp9, Rsc58, Rsc9, and Cdc39) (Szerlong et al., 2003; Titus et al., 2010).

Among 4,960 homozygous deletion strains tested, we found 106, 144, and 245 strains that were sensitive to *Bro_{IC20}*, *Sta_{IC20}*, and *Com_{IC20}*, respectively. In order to understand cellular functions that are protective in these conditions, we carried out a functional enrichment analysis (Berriz et al., 2009). Seven of the top ten functions protective against *Bro_{IC20}* involved protein kinase cascades and MAPK signaling pathways (Bhardwaj et al., 2010). For *Sta_{IC20}*, nine of the top ten protective functions involved biosynthetic processes. For 120 genes whose deletion confers sensitivity to *Com_{IC20}*, but not to either *Bro_{IC20}* or *Sta_{IC20}* (Figure 5), we found only nine enriched protective functions, six of which involved regulation of transcription by one of various carbon sources.

Taken together, the chemogenomic experiments provided insight into the mechanisms of *Bro* and *Sta* individually. However, they did not immediately yield clear explanations for the suppression relationship between *Bro* and *Sta*.

Drug Co-Aggregation Experiments

One potential source of an observed suppression relationship is the effect of one compound on the other's solubility (Feng and Shoichet, 2006). To investigate if *Bro+Sta* combination had a higher level of aggregation than either *Bro* or *Sta* alone, we conducted dynamic light scattering (DLS) experiments and estimated the mean radius of aggregates in each condition (Supplemental Experimental Procedures) (Coan and Shoichet, 2008). Each drug was prepared at its reported minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) in media/solvent to mimic experimental conditions for drug interaction testing. We found no aggregate formation under any of these conditions.

In order to test our aggregate hypothesis further, we measured aggregate formation for nine additional drug pairs with observed suppression (*Bro+Hal*, *Bro+Sta*, *Bro+Rap*, *Bro+Tac*, Dyclonine [Dyc]+Fenpropimorph [Fen], *Dyc+Tunicamycin* [Tun], *Fen+ Terbinafine* [Ter], *Fen+Tun*, Haloperidol [Hal]+*Tun*, and *Rap+Tac*). Among these pairs, we observed no case in which drugs aggregated in combination without aggregating individually. Similar to *Bro+Sta*, drugs formed no aggregates either individually or in combination with *Bro+Rap*, *Fen+Ter*, and *Fen+Tun* (Table S6). For the remaining six suppressive drug pairs, the aggregation observed for the combination was not substantially different from the maximum observed aggregation for either drug measured alone. For drugs with high individual aggregation (*Dyc*, *Hal*, and *Tac*), we conducted further DLS measurements using lower concentration combinations of drugs to ensure there was no masking of combined aggregation effects (Table S7). In all cases, we saw no impact from the presence of one drug on the solubility of the other and therefore no support for coaggregation as the basis of these ten suppressive interactions.

Drug Interaction Experiments of *Sta* and a Panel of Glycolysis Inhibitors

We wished to investigate whether *Bro*'s tendency to suppress stemmed from its known activity as a glycolysis inhibitor. To test whether *Bro* suppresses *Sta* via glycolysis inhibition, we tested *Sta*'s pairwise interaction with glycolysis inhibitors 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2DG), Iodoacetate (*Ite*), Iodoacetamide (*Ide*) (Figure 6A), and Pentachlorophenol (*Pcp*) (Figure S7), an inhibitor of the oxidative phosphorylation process that is also expected to deplete cellular ATP levels (Schmidt and Dringen, 2009). We observed that *Ite* and *Pcp* were the only two drugs that suppressed *Sta*, so that there was no apparent correlation between glycolysis inhibition and *Sta* suppression.

Interestingly, although both *Bro* and 2DG are reported to inhibit glycolysis by targeting hexokinase (Bhardwaj et al., 2010), only *Bro* suppressed *Sta*. This could potentially be rationalized by the existence of other cellular targets for *Bro*, such as pyruvate kinase and GADPH (Ganapathy-Kanniappan et al., 2009). However, the observation that *Ite* suppressed, whereas *Ide* did not, was less expected, given that these two glycolysis inhibitors are structurally similar and both are known to be cysteine peptidase inhibitors (Aitken and Learmonth, 1996). In this context, we recognized that among the five ATP-depleting drugs described above, those that suppressed *Sta* are weak acids (*Bro*, *Ite*, and *Pcp*), whereas the others are not (2DG and *Ide*). This corresponded to a suggestive enrichment of acidic compounds to suppress *Sta* (Fisher's exact Test, $p = 0.10$). Hence, we hypothesized that acidification of the growth medium by *Bro* underlies its suppression of *Sta*.

Suppression of *Sta* by *Bro* Is Explained by *Bro* Acidity

To test this hypothesis, we carried out several experiments: first, we found that, at the MIC dose of *Bro* (1 mg/ml), the growth environment pH decreased by approximately 0.5 (from 6.5 to 6.0). Second, we confirmed that lowering pH by 0.5 had no effect on yeast growth rate as established in the literature (Orij et al., 2012). Third, we found that a 0.5 decrease of pH induced an increase of *Sta*'s MIC (i.e., suppressing *Sta*) (Figure 6B) and uncovered previous reports of this phenomenon (Yoshida and Anraku, 2000). This effect is discernible even at a pH change of 0.05, which corresponds to the acidity change that is induced by 10% MIC of *Bro*. Fourth, we found that the suppressive interaction between *Bro* and *Sta* is lost when the media is buffered to 6.5 using NaPO₄ buffer (Figure 6C). Fifth, we observed that for the *Sta* dose that has some inhibitory effect at high pH, the growth curve obtained in acidic media is indistinguishable from the no-drug growth curve. Finally, we observed that *Sta*'s anti-fungal activity does not change with prior exposure to acidity.

Taken together, these observations suggest that *Bro* has two discernible effects. The primary effect is glycolysis inhibition, which reduces yeast growth directly. *Bro* has a secondary effect: media acidification. The magnitude of the pH change caused by *Bro* at its MIC has no discernable effect on yeast growth but can relieve the detrimental effects of *Sta*.

In order to further understand this phenomenon, we searched for genetic interactions between *Sta*-protective genes and genes for which mutation causes a change in cytosolic pH (pH_c) (Orij et al., 2012). Interestingly, the *Sta*-protective gene *ARP4* (encoding nuclear

actin-related protein) has 14 reported negative genetic interactions with pHc genes (for which deletions confer an increase in cytosolic pH) in the BioGRID Interaction database (Chatr-Aryamontri et al., 2013). In contrast, we failed to find genetic interactions between *Bro*- and *Sta*-protective genes. Although this represents an interesting avenue for future investigation of the pH-dependence of *Sta*, we wished to focus on the extent to which pH could explain the suppression network beyond *Bro*.

For this, we checked the pH impact on the MIC of eight additional drugs for which all pairwise suppression relationships had been tested: *Ben*, *Hal*, Latrunculin B (*Lat*), Pentamidine (*Pen*), *Rap*, *Sta*, *Ter*, and *Tun*. No drug other than *Bro* caused a pH change in the growth medium. Hence, none of the suppressive interactions between these eight drugs are likely to be caused by acidification of the growth media.

To assess whether the pH impact of *Bro* explained its suppressing effects beyond *Sta*, we determined the MIC of nine drugs (*Bro* and the eight assessed in the preceding paragraph), both in normal and acidic media. The raw data for these experiments are given as Table S5. For *Hal*, *Rap*, and *Tac*, the three *Bro*-suppressed drugs within this set of nine drugs (Figure 3), acidic media increased the MIC (Figure 6D). Interestingly, the known targets of these three drugs (*Erg2*, *Tor1*, and *Cnb1*, respectively) have 19 negative genetic interactions with genes whose deletion increases cytoplasmic pH. Moreover, all these targets have a negative genetic interaction with *VMA11*, an ATPase involved in proton transport in yeast (Hirata et al., 1997). These observations suggest the possibility that acidity modifies the cellular concentration of these drugs by affecting drug transporters. Decrease of pH also suppressed (i.e., increased the MIC) of four other drugs within the set of nine tested—*Lat*, *Pen*, *Ter*, and *Tun* (Figure 7D), although the effects were subtle for *Ter* and *Tun*. Interestingly, acidity increased the efficacy of *Ben* (Figure 6D). We had previously observed no evidence that *Bro* interacts with these drugs (Cokol et al., 2011). These apparent conflicts suggest that, for most drug pairs, *Bro*'s more direct biological effect is overriding any pH-mediated effects.

DISCUSSION

Here, we systematically analyzed suppression relationship between drug pairs. We tested 220 drug pairs for suppression: 175 pairs via an analysis of data that had been previously described (Cokol et al., 2011), but not analyzed for suppression, 44 additional pairs with unknown suppression relationships examined experimentally for this study, and one pair previously reported to be suppressive (confirmed here). Collectively, we found 93 directed drug pairs to exhibit suppressive drug interactions and an overall drug suppression frequency of 17% (considering only pairs not tested on the basis of suppression behavior). Based on the extensive literature survey we carried out for this study, we collectively expanded our knowledge of growth suppression relationships between anti-fungal compounds by a factor of 23.

We provided evidence that some drugs have intrinsic tendencies to suppress or be suppressed. Thus, drug suppression frequency likely depends on the drugs and drug pairs tested. In total, we report 17 reciprocally suppressive drug interactions. Although drug

interactions of this type have been hypothesized (Yeh et al., 2009), to the best of our knowledge, reciprocal suppression has not been previously reported within any species.

We tested whether drug suppression can arise due to coaggregation of two drugs by comparing the aggregate sizes in individual drugs and combinations. We observed no relationship between coaggregation and drug suppression for all ten pairs among the nine drugs examined. In addition, we observed that some drugs formed aggregates at the doses at which they inhibited yeast growth. Because drugs in aggregates behave differently than in solution (Coan and Shoichet, 2008), a more complete understanding of the aggregation levels of drugs could further our understanding of drug interactions.

From an analysis of the drug suppression network, we identified *Bro* as frequently suppressing and *Sta* as frequently suppressed. Consistent with each of these trends, we had observed that *Bro* strongly suppresses *Sta*. We conducted chemogenomic experiments with *Bro* and *Sta* individually and with a combination in which suppression is observed. Our results for *Sta* were in agreement with previous studies, indicating *Pkc1* as a major target and several biosynthetic processes as protective functions, including steroid and ergosterol synthesis. The tendency of *Sta* to be suppressed by many drugs (a significant phenomenon even where suppression by *Bro* is excluded from the network) may be explained by the fact that many drugs induce a stress response (Fulda et al., 2010), which may cause a decrease of biosynthetic processes shown to be protective of *Sta* activity.

As no previous chemogenomic study was conducted for *Bro*, our chemogenomic study of *Bro* is a genome-wide effect analysis for this compound, which is currently under investigation as a chemotherapeutic (Shoshan, 2012). Among 1,106 heterozygous deletions, we identified only two genes (acetyl-CoA-synthetase and acetoacetyl-CoA-thiolase) for which deletion confers sensitivity to *Bro*. Interestingly, both of these genes encode enzymes impinging on acetyl-CoA metabolism, both carrying out reactions essential during ketogenesis. A reliance on ketogenesis in the presence of *Bro* supports reports in humans of a synergy in the treatment of astrocytoma between glycolysis inhibitors and a ketogenic diet (Galluzzi et al., 2013) (Marsh et al., 2008).

We found strong evidence that the tendency of *Bro* to suppress is due to media acidification. Indeed, *Bro* does not suppress *Sta* in pH-buffered media. With further experimentation, we found that *Bro*'s suppression of *Hal*, *Rap*, and *Tac* could also be explained by change in acidity. We also found that the targets of these drugs have a negative genetic interaction with *VMA11*, an ATPase involved in proton transport in yeast (Hirata et al., 1997). A previous study has found that *Sta* is exported from the cytosol by H⁺/drug antiporters (Yoshida and Anraku, 2000). These observations suggest that acidity modifies the cellular concentration of these drugs via effecting drug transporters. We found no evidence that pH effects contributed to the observed suppression network beyond *Bro*. Furthermore, the *Bro*-protective genes identified by chemogenomic profiling are presumably unrelated to its acidity, given that the 0.5 pH change caused by *Bro* has no discernable growth effect on yeast.

Our finding that *Bro* suppresses *Sta* by acidifying the extracellular media suggests that *Bro* has two discernible effects: a primary effect (glycolysis inhibition, which inhibits cell growth) and a secondary effect (pH decrease). The secondary nature of the pH change is supported by the observation that a pH change as great as that caused by the MIC concentration of *Bro* shows no inhibition of cell growth. In small doses, *Bro*'s secondary effect protects the cell from the inhibitory effects of *Sta*. Thus, off-target effects of one drug may protect from the primary effect of a second drug. These expand the framework of considerations required for further computational or experimental analysis of drug interactions.

SIGNIFICANCE

Although not every suppression relationship will be clinically relevant, the observation that 17% of drug pairs not tested on the basis of suppression behavior exhibited significant and substantial suppression demonstrates the high probability that such drug interactions are common and that many clinically relevant interactions remain to be found. Here, with a single systematic study of drug suppression effects, we report 93 suppressive relationships between antifungals and further suggest a framework for systematically exploring the mechanisms of drug suppression. This highlights the value of more extensive study of drug interactions, an important topic at the intersection of pharmacology and systems biology.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Experimental Tests for Drug Interactions

Latrunculin B, Rapamycin, Staurosporine, and Tacrolimus were purchased from AG Scientific. All other drugs were purchased from Sigma. All drugs were dissolved in DMSO (except bromopyruvate and sodium azide, which were dissolved in water) and kept at -20°C . All experiments were conducted with *S. cerevisiae* strains BY4741 or BY4743 or heterozygous/heterozygous deletion strain collections derived from BY4743. Yeast cells were grown in yeast extract peptone dextrose (YPD) (1% yeast extract, 2% bacto-peptone, and 2% glucose) overnight ($\text{OD}_{600} \sim 5$) and diluted to an OD_{600} of 0.01 in YPD with the desired drug concentrations controlled for solvent concentrations (plus 0.2 M NaCl in Tac + SFK experiment). Cells were grown at 30°C for 20–24 hr in 96-well plates in Tecan F200 or Genios microplate readers, with OD_{595} readings of cell density recorded every 15 min. We used the area under growth curve (AUC) of each condition as a metric of cell growth, after discarding the first ten measurement points. The growth measurement data obtained during this study are given as Table S2.

Finding Suppressive Drug-Drug Interactions

For each 8×8 grid of drug combinations analyzed, the first column and row contains linearly increasing concentrations of only one drug. Therefore, they correspond to the growth rates observed under certain concentration of drugs A and B, defined as $g[\text{A}]$ or $g[\text{B}]$. The remaining rows and columns correspond to the growth rates observed for 49 different concentration combination of drugs $g[\text{AB}]$. The growth level in each condition was defined as the area under growth curve in condition normalized by the area under curve in

“no drug” condition. To find suppressive drug interactions, we searched for drug pairs in which the following conditions are satisfied (1) $g[AB]$ is larger than $g[A] \times g[B]$, (2) $g[AB]$ is larger than $g[A]$ or $g[B]$, and (3) $g[AB]$ is larger than 10% of growth in the no drug condition. For each suppressive drug-drug interaction, the less-potent drug was defined to suppress the more-potent drug. The matrices of growth levels and suppressive drug interactions are given as Table S3. For error model and enrichment analysis, see the Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Chemogenomic Experiments

S. cerevisiae deletion strains were grown in pools competitively in the presence of chemicals. One pool contains 1,106 heterozygous deletions strains deleted for one copy of the essential genes, which identifies chemical targets through HaploInsufficiency Profiling (HIP). The other pool contains 4,590 homozygous deletions strains deleted for both copies of the non-essential genes, which identifies genes involved in buffering the chemical target pathway through homozygous deletion profiling (HOP). Both pools share the same BY4743 genetic background, and each strain is specifically barcoded. Five HIPHOP experiments were performed at ~20% inhibition levels of Bromopyruvate (two replicates), Staurosporine, a combination of the two drugs in which suppression has been shown to occur. All yeast cultures started at an initial OD_{595} of 0.0625 in the presence of each drug and were grown with a Tecan F200 microplate reader (Tecan Systems) at 30°C with orbital shaking. OD_{595} readings were taken every 15 min for the duration of the experiments. The homozygous deletions strains pool was grown for five generations, whereas the heterozygous deletions strains pool was grown for 20 generations. The homozygous and heterozygous pools for each drug treatment were combined together at an equal amount, and genomic DNA was extracted. PCR was performed on the genomic DNA to amplify the specific barcodes associated with deletion strains. The barcodes were then hybridized to a TAG4 microarray with the complementary sequences of the barcodes. All drug HIPHOP experiments results were normalized against the DMSO experiment.

Dynamic Light Scattering

Drug solutions were made to 100 times the final concentrations in DMSO (bromopyruvate in water). Stocks were diluted 10-fold into filtered YPD and vortexed 10 s. Final samples were made by combining 10 μ l of each drug-YPD stock, adding 80 μ l filtered YPD, and vortexing 10 s. Measurements were made at room temperature using a DynaPro MS/X (Wyatt Technology) with a 55 mW laser at 826.6 nm. The laser power was 100%, and the detector angle was 90°. Samples were run in duplicate.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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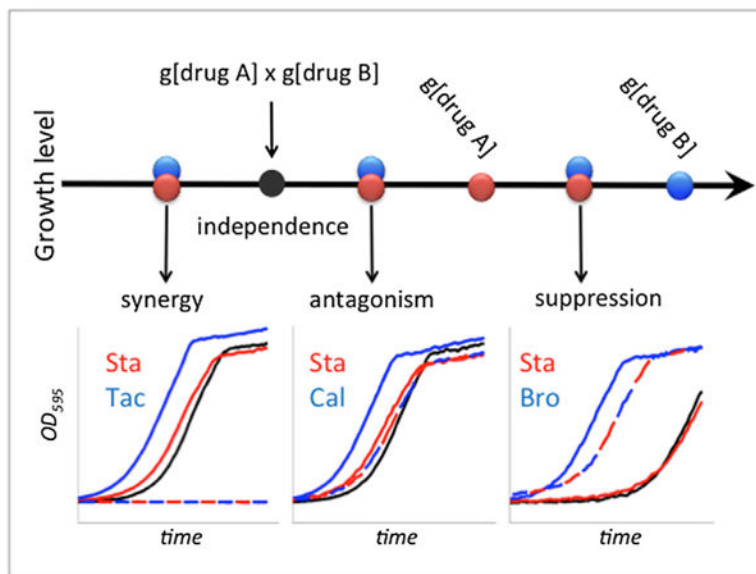


Figure 1. Types of Interactions between two Drugs

Certain concentrations of drug A and drug B allow growth levels $g[\text{drug A}]$ and $g[\text{drug B}]$, respectively. These drugs are considered independent under the Bliss independence model if their combined effect is the multiplication of the effects of individual drugs, shown as a black filled circle ($g[\text{drug A}] \times g[\text{drug B}]$). Overlapping blue and red circles represent three possible regions under which the observed growth may fall, which correspond to three types of drug interactions. Synergy or antagonism occurs when the growth rate under drug combination is smaller or larger than independence, respectively. Suppression is an extreme form of antagonism, where the growth rate under drug combination is higher than the growth rate under [drug A]. In this case, drug B is defined to suppress drug A. Examples for each interaction type are shown as growth curves under single drugs and combinations: synergistic interaction of 0.72 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Staurosporine with 16 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Tacrolimus, antagonistic interaction of 0.72 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Staurosporine with 0.6 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Calyculin A, and suppressive interaction with 70 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Bromopyruvate suppressing 1.26 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Staurosporine. For growth curve insets: drug A, drug B, drug A+B observed, and drug A+B expected growth are depicted in red, blue, dashed blue/red, and black, respectively.

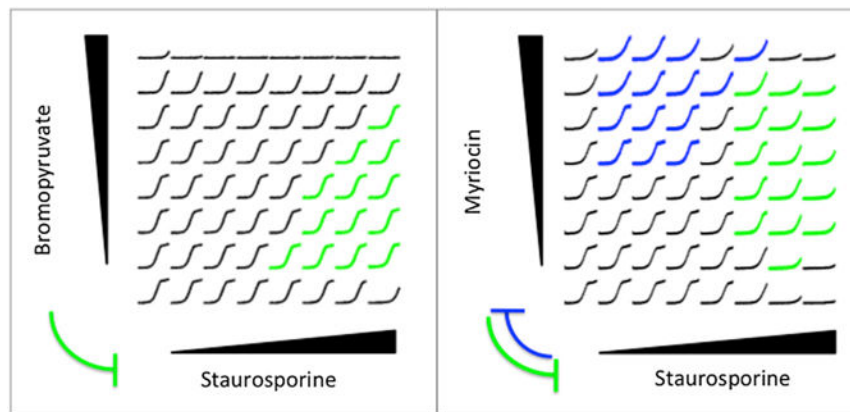


Figure 2. Assessing Suppression and Reciprocal Suppression

S. cerevisiae cells were grown in an 8×8 grid of drug combinations, where the concentration of one drug was linearly increased in each axis. The maximum dose of each drug was chosen close to its MIC. For each drug concentration combination, growth measurements (y axis) for 24 hr (x axis) are depicted. The growth curves corresponding to drug combinations in which the horizontal drug suppresses the vertical drug are given in blue, and the opposite direction of suppression are given in green. Here, we show two broadly supported suppression examples we have found among 175 drug pairs tested, where breadth is defined as the number of combinations in which the suppression phenotype was observed. Suppressive edges learned from data are shown between drug names, where the edge width represents the breadth of suppression.

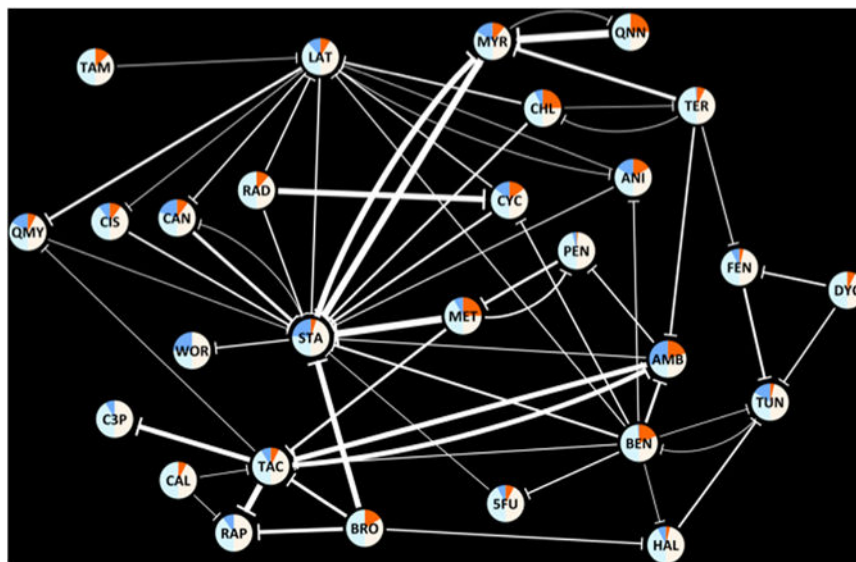


Figure 3. A Network of 61 Suppressive Drug-Drug Interactions

Nodes represent drugs, and edges represent suppressive interactions. The width of an edge represents the breadth of suppression. The nodes are colored according to the suppression behavior of each drug. Bright blue and orange areas correspond to the frequency of “suppressed” and “suppressing” edges for a drug among all interactions against which it was tested. Similarly, light blue and white areas correspond to the frequency of “not suppressed” and “not suppressing” edges for a drug among all interactions against which it was tested. The three-letter abbreviations for each drug are given in Table 1.

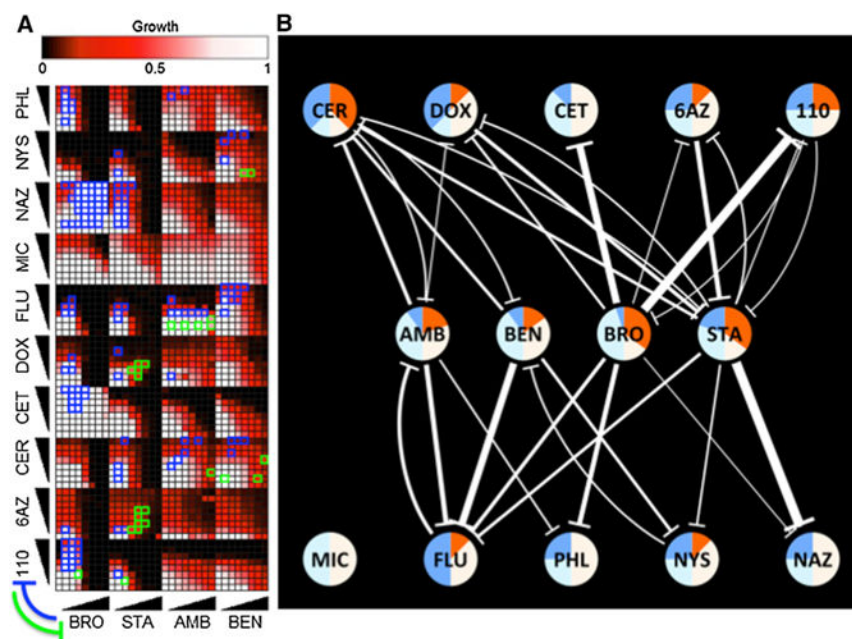


Figure 4. Further Suppression Tests of Four Drugs against a Panel of Ten Drugs

(A) Experimental results. Drug pairs were combined in 8×8 matrices as described in Figure 2. Significant suppressive interactions between drugs are shown with green or blue rectangles, where suppression direction is indicated on the lower left.

(B) Network representation of results of additional drug suppression tests. Nodes represent drugs, and edges represent suppressive interactions. Edge width and node coloring according to the suppression behavior of each drug are as described for Figure 3. The three-letter abbreviations for each drug are given in Table 1.

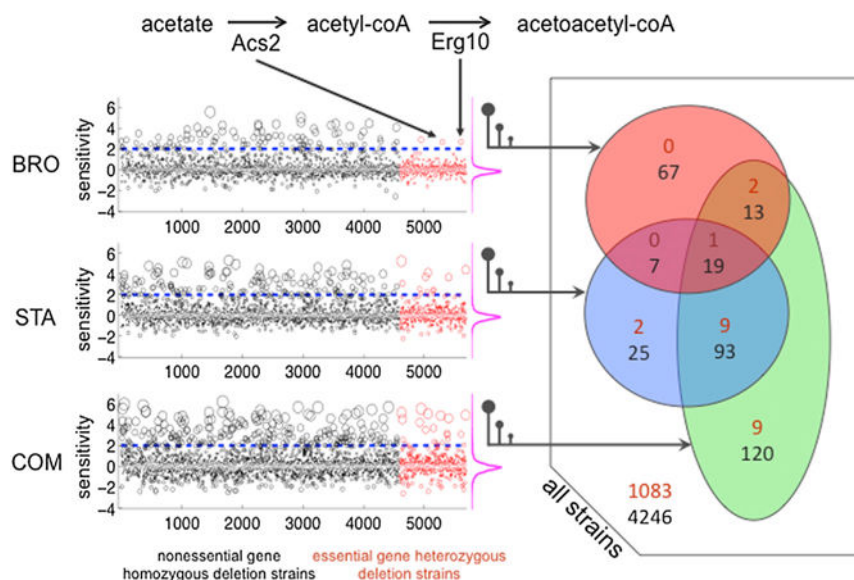


Figure 5. Genome-wide Sensitivity Assessment for Yeast Deletion Strains against Bromopyruvate (BRO_{IC20}), Staurosporine (STA_{IC20}), and Their Combination (COM_{IC20})
 In the left panel, sensitivity scores for 4,960 strains, in which both copies of a non-essential gene have been deleted, are shown as black circles (HOP). Sensitivity scores for 1,106 strains, in which one copy of an essential gene has been deleted, are shown as red circles (HIP). For visibility, the sizes of the circles are proportional to the absolute value of the sensitivity scores. In each experiment, strains are ordered by the alphabetical order of the systematic name of the deleted gene(s). On the right of each experiment, the distribution of the sensitivity scores are shown by magenta frequency distributions, indicating that a large majority of deletion strains do not show a growth change. The right panel is a Venn diagram representation of the sensitive strains. Black and red numbers correspond to homozygous or heterozygous deletion strains, respectively.

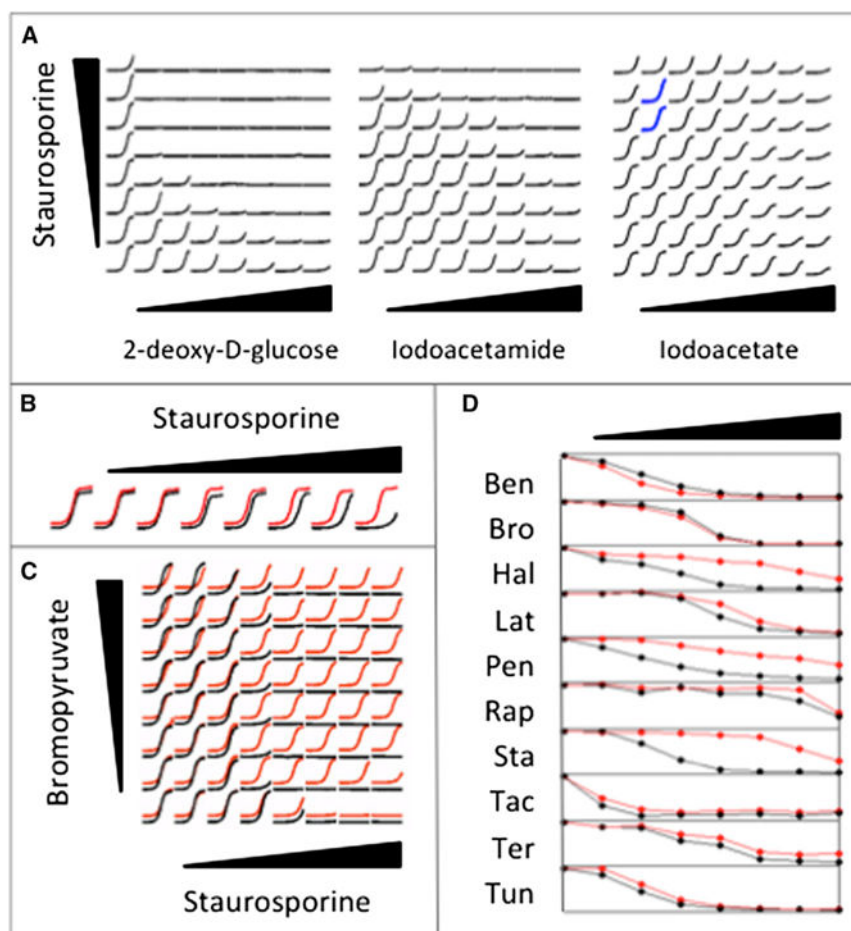


Figure 6. Drug Sensitivity and Interaction Assays

(A) Drug interaction assays between Staurosporine and three glycolysis inhibitors. 2-deoxy-D-glucose and Iodoacetamide do not suppress Staurosporine. The regions in which Iodoacetate suppresses Staurosporine are shown with blue growth curves.

(B) Growth curves in increasing doses of Staurosporine under normal (black) and acidic (red) media are shown slightly offset for visibility in this and the next panel. For each drug concentration, growth measurements (y axis) for 24 hr (x axis) are depicted. Staurosporine has higher MIC in acidic media.

(C) Drug interaction assay between Bromopyruvate and Staurosporine under buffered (black) or unbuffered (red) media. Bromopyruvate does not suppress Staurosporine under buffered media.

(D) Relationship between growth level (y axis) and drug dose (x axis) for ten drugs in normal and acidic media are shown in black and red, respectively. The three-letter abbreviations for drugs are given in Table 1. Hal, Pen, and Sta have decreased toxicity, and Ben has increased toxicity under acidic conditions.

Table 1

Drugs Analyzed for Drug-Drug Suppression

Drug	Abbreviation	Max Dose (µg/ml)	Experimental Tests and Suppressive Interactions
1,10-phenanthroline	<i>110</i>	5	AmB, Ben, Bro, Sta
2-deoxy-D-glucose	<i>2DG</i>	250	Sta
5-fluorouracil	<i>5FU</i>	28	Ben , Lat, Pen, <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
6-azauracil	<i>6Az</i>	1,000	AmB, Ben, Bro, Sta
Amphotericin B	<i>AmB</i>	0.49	110, 6Az, Ben, Cer , Cet, <u>Dox</u> , Flu , Mic, Naz, Nys, <u>Pen</u> , <u>Phl</u> , <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
Anisomycin	<i>Ani</i>	3.5	Ben, Lat , Pen, <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
Aureobasidin A	<i>AbA</i>	280	Lit, Wor
Benomyl	<i>Ben</i>	28	110, 5FU, 6Az, <u>AmB</u> , <u>Ani</u> , Bro, C3P, Cal, Cer , Cet, Chl, Cis, <u>Cyc</u> , Dyc, Dox, Fen, <u>Flu</u> , <u>Hal</u> , <u>Lat</u> , Met, Mic, MMS, Myr, Naz, <u>Nys</u> , Pen, Phl, Qmy, Rad, Rap, <u>Sta</u> , <u>Tac</u> , Ter, Tun
Bromopyruvate	<i>Bro</i>	490–1,000 ^d	110 , 6Az, Ben, Cal, Cer, <u>Cet</u> , <u>Dox</u> , Dyc, Fen, <u>Flu</u> , <u>Hal</u> , Lat, Mic, <u>Naz</u> , Nys, Pen, <u>Phl</u> , <u>Rap</u> , <u>Sta</u> , <u>Tac</u> , Ter, Tun
Calyculin A	<i>Cal</i>	2.1	Ben, Bro, Dyc, Fen, Hal, Lat, Pen, <u>Rap</u> , Sta, <u>Tac</u> , Ter, Tun
Cantharidin	<i>Can</i>	140	Lat , Pen, Sta , Tac, Ter
Carbonyl cyanide 3-chlorophenylhydrazone	<i>C3P</i>	21	Ben, Lat, Pen, Sta, Tac, Ter
Cerulenin	<i>Cer</i>	0.335	AmB, Ben , Bro, Sta
Cetylpyridinium	<i>Cet</i>	0.8	AmB, Ben, Bro , Sta
Chlorzoxazone	<i>Chl</i>	350	Ben, <u>Lat</u> , Pen, <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
Cisplatin	<i>Cis</i>	80	Ben, Lat , <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
Clozapine	<i>Clo</i>	105	Rad
Cycloheximide	<i>Cyc</i>	0.91	Ben , <u>Lat</u> , Pen, Rad , <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
Doxorubicin	<i>Dox</i>	11.6	AmB , Ben, Bro, Sta
Dyclonine	<i>Dyc</i>	49	Ben, Bro, Cal, <u>Fen</u> , Hal, Lat, Pen, Rap, Sta, Tac, Ter, <u>Tun</u>
Fenpropimorph	<i>Fen</i>	1.54	Ben, Bro, Cal, Dyc , Hal, Lat, Pen, Rap, Sta, Tac, Ter , <u>Tun</u>
Fluconazole	<i>Flu</i>	10	AmB, Ben, Bro, Sta
Haloperidol	<i>Hal</i>	56	Ben, Bro , Cal, Dyc, Fen, Lat, Pen, Rap, Sta, Tac, Ter, Tun
Hygromycin	<i>Hyg</i>	7	Lat, Myr, Rad, Rap, Sta
Iodoacetamide	<i>Ide</i>	3	Sta
Iodoacetate	<i>Ite</i>	500	<u>Sta</u>
Latrunculin B	<i>Lat</i>	14	5FU, Ani, Ben , Bro, C3P, Cal, <u>Can</u> , Chl , <u>Cis</u> , <u>Cyc</u> , Dyc, Fen, Hal, Hyg, Met, MMS, Myr, Pen, <u>Qmy</u> , Rad , Rap, <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Tam , Ter, Tun
Lithium	<i>Lit</i>	4,500	AbA, Rad, Rap, Sta, Tac
Methotrexate	<i>Met</i>	1,000	Ben, Lat, Pen , Sta, Tac, Ter
Methyl methanesulfonate	<i>MMS</i>	175	Ben, Lat, Pen, Sta, Tac, Ter

Drug	Abbreviation	Max Dose (µg/ml)	Experimental Tests and Suppressive Interactions
Miconazole	<i>Mic</i>	0.12	AmB, Ben, Bro, Sta
Myriocin	<i>Myr</i>	0.350	Ben, Hyg, Lat, Pen, <u>Qnn</u> , Rad, <u>Sta</u> , Tac, <u>Ter</u>
Nystatin	<i>Nys</i>	2	AmB, <u>Ben</u> , Bro, <u>Sta</u>
Pentachlorophenol	<i>PcP</i>	28	<u>Sta</u>
Pentamidine	<i>Pen</i>	70	5FU, AmB , Ani, Ben, Bro, C3P, Cal, Can, Chl, Cyc, Dyc, Fen, Hal, Lat, <u>Met</u> , MMS, Myr, Qmy, Rad, Rap, Sta, Tac, Ter, Tun
Phleomycin	<i>Phl</i>	0.00083	AmB , Ben, Bro , Sta
Quinine	<i>Qnn</i>	1,000	<u>Myr</u> , Rad
Quinomycin	<i>Qmy</i>	30	Ben, Lat , Pen, <u>Sta</u> , Tac , Ter
Radicicol	<i>Rad</i>	56	Ben, Clo, <u>Cyc</u> , Hyg, <u>Lat</u> , Lit, Myr, Pen, Qnn, Rap, <u>Sta</u> , Tac, Ter
Rapamycin	<i>Rap</i>	0.0049	Ben, Bro , Cal , Dyc, Fen, Hal, Hyg, Lat, Lit, Pen, Rad, Sta, Tac , Ter, Tun
Sodium azide	<i>Naz</i>	25	AmB, Ben, Bro , Sta
Staurosporine	<i>Sta</i>	1.26	<u>110</u> , 2DG, 5FU, <u>6Az</u> , AmB , Ani , Ben , Bro , C3P, Cal, Can , Cer , Cet, Chl , Cis , Cyc , Dox , Dyc, Fen, Flu, Hal, Hyg, Ide, Ite , Lat , Lit, Met , Mic, MMS, <u>Myr</u> , <u>Naz</u> , <u>Nys</u> , Pcp , Pen, Phl, Qmy , Rad , Rap, Tac, Tam, Ter, Tun, <u>Wor</u>
Suppressor of FK506	<i>Sfk</i>	3	Tac
Tacrolimus	<i>Tac</i>	110	5FU, AmB , Ani, Ben , Bro , C3P, Cal , Can, Chl, Cis, Cyc, Dyc, Fen, Hal, Lat, Lit, Met , MMS, Myr, Pen, <u>Qmy</u> , Rad, <u>Rap</u> , Sfk , Sta, Tam, Ter, Tun
Tamoxifen	<i>Tam</i>	2.8	<u>Lat</u> , Sta, Tac, Ter
Terbinafine	<i>Ter</i>	10.5	5FU, AmB , Ani, Ben, Bro, C3P, Cal, Can, Chl , Cis, Cyc, Dyc, <u>Fen</u> , Hal, Lat, Met, MMS, <u>Myr</u> , Pen, Qmy, Rad, Rap, Sta, Tac, Tam, Tun
Tunicamycin	<i>Tun</i>	0.35	Ben , Bro, Cal, Dyc , Fen , Hal , Lat, Pen, Rap, Sta, Tac, Ter
Wortmannin	<i>Wor</i>	280	AbA, Sta

Also given are the three-letter abbreviations used in the figures, the maximum dose used, and a list of all the drug interaction experiments made for each drug. The last column indicates the suppressed drug (underlined) and the suppressing drug (shown in bold). Each drug was tested in eight different concentrations, where the lowest concentration is zero, the highest concentration is close to MIC, and increments are evenly spaced between these extremes. Thus, the lowest concentration for each drug tested is 1/7 of the MIC value, and the next is at 2/7 of MIC, etc.

^aBro MIC was reported as 490 µg/ml in a previous study. In this study, we found Bro MIC as 1,000 µg/ml and used this MIC value in experiments. For all other drugs, the MIC variation was less than 2-fold.