

# Supplementary Materials: Synergism Through WEE1 and CHK1 Inhibition in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

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**Table S1.** Combination index analyses on RPMI-8402 and NALM-6 cell lines treated for 24, 48 and 72 hours with increasing concentration of AZD-1775 and PF-00477736.

| RPMI-8402       |           |           |           | NALM-6           |           |           |           |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| AZD/PF          | C.I. (24) | C.I. (48) | C.I. (72) | AZD/PF           | C.I. (24) | C.I. (48) | C.I. (72) |
| <b>6.9/25</b>   | 0.601     | 0.61198   | 0.42268   | <b>6.9/250</b>   | 0.34884   | 0.6052    | 0.5847    |
| <b>20.6/25</b>  | 0.46692   | 0.22987   | 0.42465   | <b>20.6/250</b>  | 0.24904   | 0.39168   | 0.66437   |
| <b>61.7/25</b>  | 0.27022   | 0.26433   | 0.27259   | <b>61.7/250</b>  | 0.16627   | 0.37351   | 0.40216   |
| <b>185/25</b>   | 0.13081   | 0.30885   | 0.1732    | <b>185/250</b>   | 0.13558   | 0.3452    | 0.36831   |
| <b>6.9/50</b>   | 0.87488   | 0.35902   | 0.25588   | <b>6.9/500</b>   | 0.7631    | 0.79851   | 0.90644   |
| <b>20.6/50</b>  | 0.48613   | 0.29401   | 0.22114   | <b>20.6/500</b>  | 0.30592   | 0.66538   | 0.76636   |
| <b>61.7/50</b>  | 0.25192   | 0.25492   | 0.20033   | <b>61.7/500</b>  | 0.314     | 0.60552   | 0.58861   |
| <b>185/50</b>   | 0.18163   | 0.24571   | 0.20489   | <b>185/500</b>   | 0.24116   | 0.52085   | 0.39227   |
| <b>6.9/100</b>  | 1.73166   | 0.56524   | 0.447     | <b>6.9/1000</b>  | 0.46692   | 0.84832   | 0.78308   |
| <b>20.6/100</b> | 0.93696   | 0.47512   | 0.3262    | <b>20.6/1000</b> | 0.3982    | 0.7761    | 0.69849   |
| <b>61.7/100</b> | 0.4717    | 0.3794    | 0.27162   | <b>61.7/1000</b> | 0.31761   | 0.75357   | 0.66371   |
| <b>185/100</b>  | 0.32807   | 0.3876    | 0.28982   | <b>185/1000</b>  | 0.32728   | 0.70776   | 0.62144   |

The additive, synergistic, and antagonistic effect of the combinations was evaluated using viability analyses of two independent experiments and was calculated using Compusyn Software (C.I. < 1 synergism; C.I. = 1 additivity; C.I. > 1 antagonism). In the table the drug combination are in bold and the concentrations are expressed in nM.

**Table S2.** List of representative genes involved in the DNA damage response pathway.

| Gene Accession | Gene Symbol | Gene Description   | Chromosome | Cytoband    |
|----------------|-------------|--|------------|-------------|
| NM_00119974    | GADD45A     | growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible, alpha            | 1          | 1p31.2      |
| NM_004073      | PLK3        | polo-like kinase 3                                       | 1          | 1p34.1      |
| NM_0011184     | ATR         | ATR serine/threonine kinase                              | 3          | 3q23        |
| NM_001018115   | FANCD2      | Fanconi anemia complementation group D2                  | 3          | 3p26        |
| NM_001237      | CCNA2       | cyclin A2  | 4          | 4q27        |
| NM_031966      | CCNB1       | cyclin B1  | 5          | 5q12        |
| NM_001790      | CDC25C      | cell division cycle 25C                                  | 5          | 5q31        |
| NM_001136017   | CCND3       | cyclin D3  | 6          | 6p21        |
| NM_000389      | CDKN1A      | cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1A (p21, Cip1)         | 6          | 6p21.2      |
| NM_001145306   | CDK6        | cyclin-dependent kinase 6                                | 7          | 7q21–q22    |
| NM_057749      | CCNE2       | cyclin E2  | 8          | 8q22.1      |
| NM_001261      | CDK9        | cyclin-dependent kinase 9                                | 9          | 9q34.1      |
| NM_004235      | KLF4        | Kruppel-like factor 4 (gut)                              | 9          | 9q31        |
| NM_001170406   | CDK1        | cyclin-dependent kinase 1                                | 10         | 10q21.1     |
| NM_001160124   | KLF6        | Kruppel-like factor 6                                    | 10         | 10p15       |
| NM_000051      | ATM         | ATM serine/threonine kinase                              | 11         | 11q22–q23   |
| NM_053056      | CCND1       | cyclin D1  | 11         | 11q13       |
| NM_001114121   | CHEK1       | checkpoint kinase 1                                      | 11         | 11q24.2     |
| NM_001143976   | WEE1        | WEE1 G2 checkpoint kinase                                | 11         | 11p15.4     |
| NM_001759      | CCND2       | cyclin D2  | 12         | 12p13       |
| NM_001798      | CDK2        | cyclin-dependent kinase 2                                | 12         | 12q13       |
| NM_000075      | CDK4        | cyclin-dependent kinase 4                                | 12         | 12q14       |
| NM_001111045   | CCNA1       | cyclin A1  | 13         | 13q12.3–q13 |
| NM_000057      | BLM         | Bloom syndrome, RecQ helicase-like                       | 15         | 15q26.1     |
| NM_004701      | CCNB2       | cyclin B2  | 15         | 15q22.2     |
| NM_004424      | E4F1        | E4F transcription factor 1                               | 16         | 16p13.3     |
| NM_004203      | PKMYT1      | protein kinase, membrane associated tyrosine/threonine 1 | 16         | 16p13.3     |
| NM_007294      | BRCA1       | breast cancer 1, early onset                             | 17         | 17q21       |
| NM_000546      | TP53        | tumor protein p53  | 17         | 17p13.1     |
| NM_018955      | UBB         | ubiquitin B  | 17         | 17p12–p11.2 |
| NM_015675      | GADD45B     | growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible, beta             | 19         | 19p13.3     |
| NM_016270      | KLF2        | Kruppel-like factor 2                                    | 19         | 19p13.11    |
| NM_001238      | CCNE1       | cyclin E1  | 19         | 19q12       |
| NM_004358      | CDC25B      | cell division cycle 25B                                  | 20         | 20p13       |
| NM_001005735   | CHEK2       | checkpoint kinase 2                                      | 22         | 22q12.1     |

**Table S3.** Correlation analysis of primary ALL samples at diagnosis.

| Gene Symbol | Gene ID        | Pearson <i>r</i> | 95% Confidence Interval    | <i>p</i> Value (Two-Tailed) |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|             | CHEK2          | 0.5797           | 0.3233 to 0.7569           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CHEK1          | 0.577            | 0.3196 to 0.7551           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CDK1           | 0.5358           | 0.2650 to 0.7283           | 0.0004                      |
|             | BLM            | 0.5148           | 0.2378 to 0.7143           | 0.0008                      |
|             | CDK2           | 0.5145           | 0.2375 to 0.7142           | 0.0008                      |
|             | FANCD2         | 0.4889           | 0.2049 to 0.6969           | 0.0016                      |
|             | CCNB1          | 0.4774           | 0.1906 to 0.6892           | 0.0021                      |
| WEE1        | CCNA2          | 0.4651           | 0.1752 to 0.6808           | 0.0029                      |
|             | BRCA1          | 0.4549           | 0.1627 to 0.6738           | 0.0036                      |
|             | CDC25C         | 0.422            | 0.1227 to 0.6509           | 0.0075                      |
|             | CCNB2          | 0.4168           | 0.1166 to 0.6473           | 0.0083                      |
|             | CDC25B         | 0.4134           | 0.1125 to 0.6448           | 0.0089                      |
|             | <b>UBB</b>     | <b>-0.3848</b>   | <b>-0.6245 to -0.07877</b> | <b>0.0156</b>               |
|             | <b>CCND2</b>   | <b>-0.4888</b>   | <b>-0.6969 to -0.2048</b>  | <b>0.0016</b>               |
|             | <b>CDK9</b>    | <b>-0.49</b>     | <b>-0.6977 to -0.2063</b>  | <b>0.0015</b>               |
|             | CDK2           | 0.8316           | 0.6996 to 0.9087           | 0.0001                      |
|             | BRCA1          | 0.7732           | 0.6053 to 0.8752           | 0.0001                      |
|             | BLM            | 0.7199           | 0.5232 to 0.8438           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CCNB1          | 0.7058           | 0.5021 to 0.8353           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CDK4           | 0.6946           | 0.4855 to 0.8286           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CDC25C         | 0.643            | 0.4107 to 0.7969           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CDK1           | 0.6154           | 0.3721 to 0.7796           | 0.0001                      |
| CHK1        | PKMYT1         | 0.6134           | 0.3693 to 0.7783           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CCNB2          | 0.589            | 0.3358 to 0.7628           | 0.0001                      |
|             | FANCD2         | 0.5776           | 0.3204 to 0.7555           | 0.0001                      |
|             | WEE1           | 0.577            | 0.3196 to 0.7551           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CHEK2          | 0.5513           | 0.2853 to 0.7384           | 0.0003                      |
|             | TP53           | 0.5472           | 0.2800 to 0.7358           | 0.0003                      |
|             | CCNA2          | 0.5319           | 0.2599 to 0.7256           | 0.0005                      |
|             | <b>GADD45A</b> | <b>-0.4458</b>   | <b>-0.6675 to -0.1515</b>  | <b>0.0045</b>               |
|             | FANCD2         | 0.6692           | 0.4482 to 0.8130           | 0.0001                      |
|             | BRCA1          | 0.6317           | 0.3949 to 0.7898           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CDK1           | 0.6033           | 0.3554 to 0.7719           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CCNB1          | 0.5858           | 0.3314 to 0.7607           | 0.0001                      |
|             | BLM            | 0.582            | 0.3264 to 0.7583           | 0.0001                      |
|             | WEE1           | 0.5797           | 0.3233 to 0.7569           | 0.0001                      |
|             | CHEK1          | 0.5513           | 0.2853 to 0.7384           | 0.0003                      |
|             | CCNA2          | 0.5152           | 0.2384 to 0.7146           | 0.0008                      |
|             | CDC25C         | 0.5049           | 0.2252 to 0.7077           | 0.001                       |
| CHK2        | PKMYT1         | 0.4755           | 0.1882 to 0.6879           | 0.0022                      |
|             | CCNB2          | 0.468            | 0.1788 to 0.6827           | 0.0027                      |
|             | CDK2           | 0.4521           | 0.1593 to 0.6719           | 0.0039                      |
|             | TP53           | 0.443            | 0.1481 to 0.6656           | 0.0047                      |
|             | CDK4           | 0.4236           | 0.1247 to 0.6520           | 0.0072                      |
|             | <b>CCND2</b>   | <b>-0.3936</b>   | <b>-0.6308 to -0.08907</b> | <b>0.0001</b>               |
|             | <b>CDKN1A</b>  | <b>-0.4032</b>   | <b>-0.6376 to -0.1004</b>  | <b>0.0109</b>               |
|             | <b>UBB</b>     | <b>-0.4253</b>   | <b>-0.6532 to -0.1268</b>  | <b>0.0069</b>               |
|             | <b>GADD45A</b> | <b>-0.4401</b>   | <b>-0.6635 to -0.1446</b>  | <b>0.0051</b>               |
|             | <b>KLF6</b>    | <b>-0.5453</b>   | <b>-0.7345 to -0.2774</b>  | <b>0.0003</b>               |

In the table, on the left, is reported which kinase between WEE1, CHK1 and CHK2, has been correlated with the panel of DDR pathway representative genes. In the table it has been reported only Pearson values with a statistic significance  $p > 0.01$ . In bold are reported the pair of genes that are negatively co-expressed.

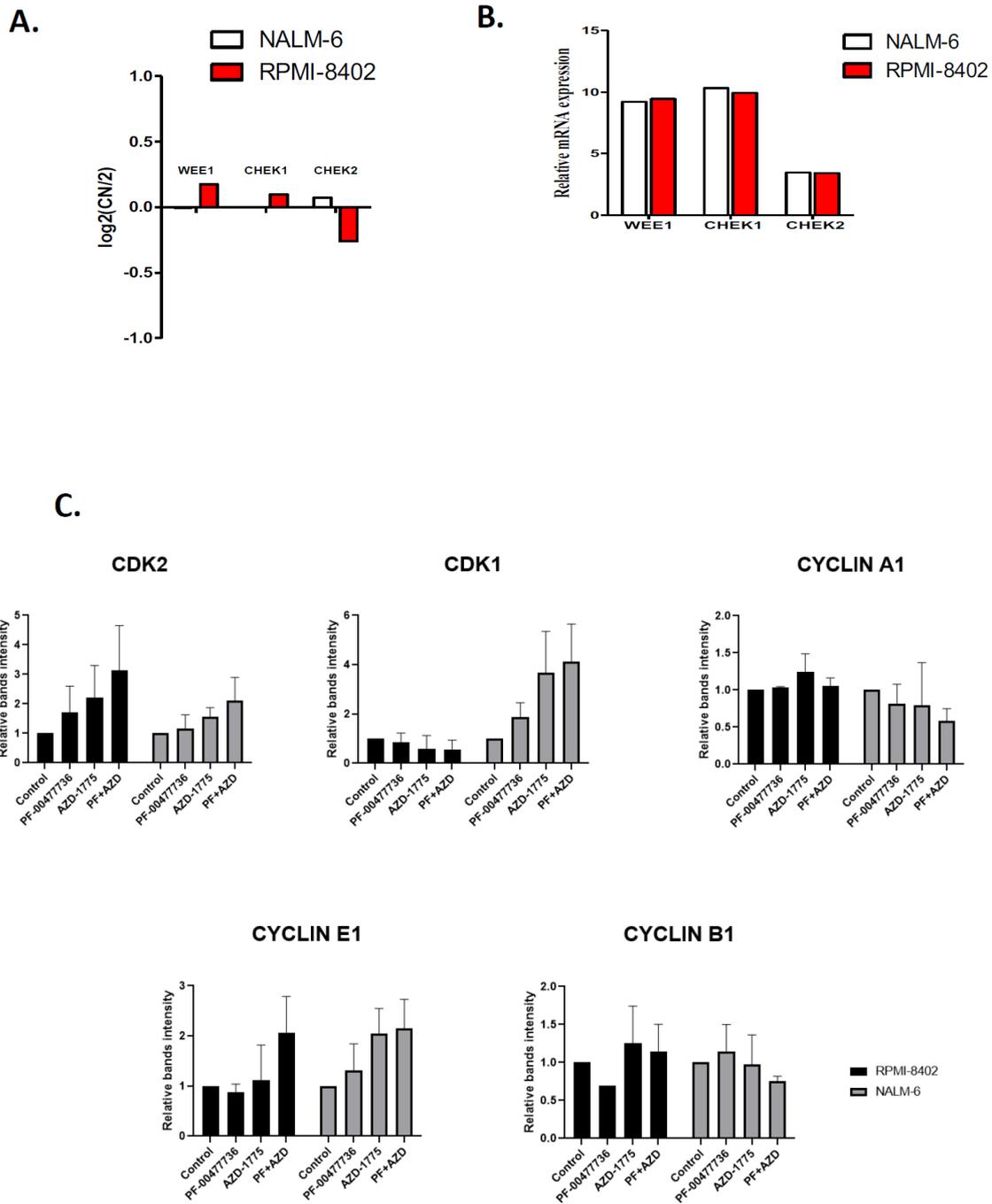
**Table S4.** Correlation analysis of primary ALL samples at relapse.

| Gene Symbol | Parameter | Pearson r | 95% confidence interval | P value (two-tailed) |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| WEE1        | FANCD2    | 0.8477    | 0.5763 to 0.9507        | 0.0001               |
|             | CHEK1     | 0.8476    | 0.5759 to 0.9507        | 0.0001               |
|             | PKMYT1    | 0.8249    | 0.5233 to 0.9428        | 0.0003               |
|             | BRCA1     | 0.8071    | 0.4836 to 0.9366        | 0.0005               |
|             | CDK2      | 0.7411    | 0.3468 to 0.9128        | 0.0024               |
|             | CDK1      | 0.7264    | 0.3185 to 0.9073        | 0.0033               |
|             | CCNB1     | 0.7136    | 0.2944 to 0.9025        | 0.0042               |
|             | BLM       | 0.7087    | 0.2852 to 0.9006        | 0.0046               |
|             | CDC25C    | 0.6728    | 0.2211 to 0.8869        | 0.0084               |
|             | TP53      | 0.6405    | 0.1664 to 0.8741        | 0.0136               |
|             | CDK4      | 0.6164    | 0.1275 to 0.8644        | 0.0189               |
|             | CCNE1     | 0.6927    | 0.2563 to 0.8946        | 0.006                |
|             | PKMYT1    | 0.9236    | 0.7705 to 0.9759        | 0.0001               |
|             | BLM       | 0.8733    | 0.6387 to 0.9594        | 0.0001               |
|             | CDK4      | 0.8718    | 0.6347 to 0.9588        | 0.0001               |
|             | WEE1      | 0.8476    | 0.5759 to 0.9507        | 0.0001               |
| CHK1        | CDC25C    | 0.8392    | 0.5562 to 0.9478        | 0.0002               |
|             | CDK2      | 0.8299    | 0.5347 to 0.9446        | 0.0002               |
|             | BRCA1     | 0.7994    | 0.4667 to 0.9339        | 0.0006               |
|             | FANCD2    | 0.7952    | 0.4576 to 0.9324        | 0.0007               |
|             | CDK1      | 0.7778    | 0.4208 to 0.9262        | 0.0011               |
|             | TP53      | 0.7726    | 0.4101 to 0.9243        | 0.0012               |
|             | CCNB1     | 0.7485    | 0.3613 to 0.9155        | 0.0021               |
|             | CCNA2     | 0.7143    | 0.2957 to 0.9028        | 0.0041               |
|             | CCNB2     | 0.6378    | 0.1620 to 0.8730        | 0.0141               |
|             | CCNE2     | 0.6373    | 0.1611 to 0.8728        | 0.0142               |
| CHK2        | CCNB1     | 0.7238    | 0.3136 to 0.9064        | 0.0034               |

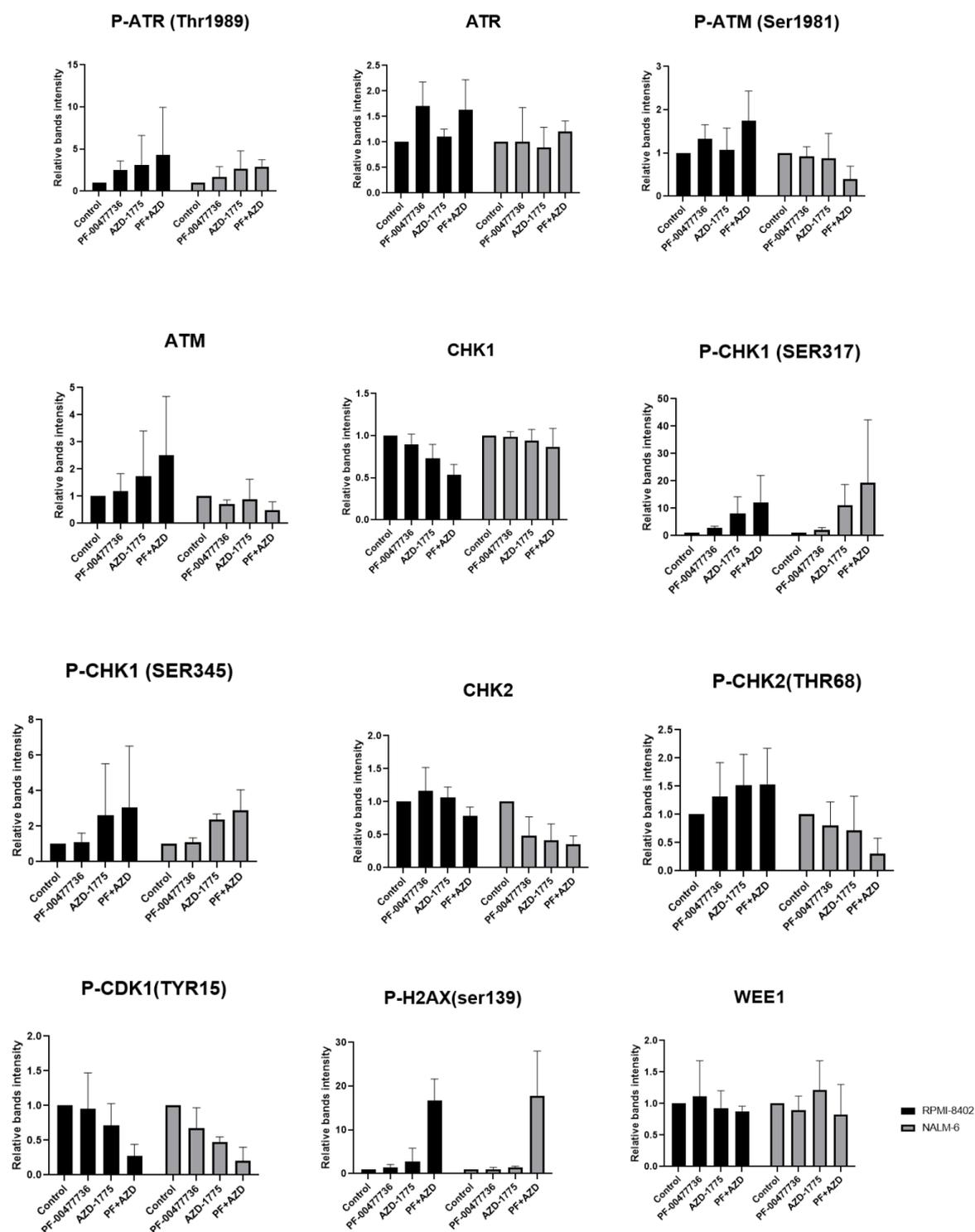
In the table, on the left, is reported which kinase between WEE1, CHK1 and CHK2, has been correlated with the panel of DDR pathway representative genes. In the table it has been reported only Pearson values with a statistic significance  $p > 0.01$ .

Table S5. Primary sample's characteristics.

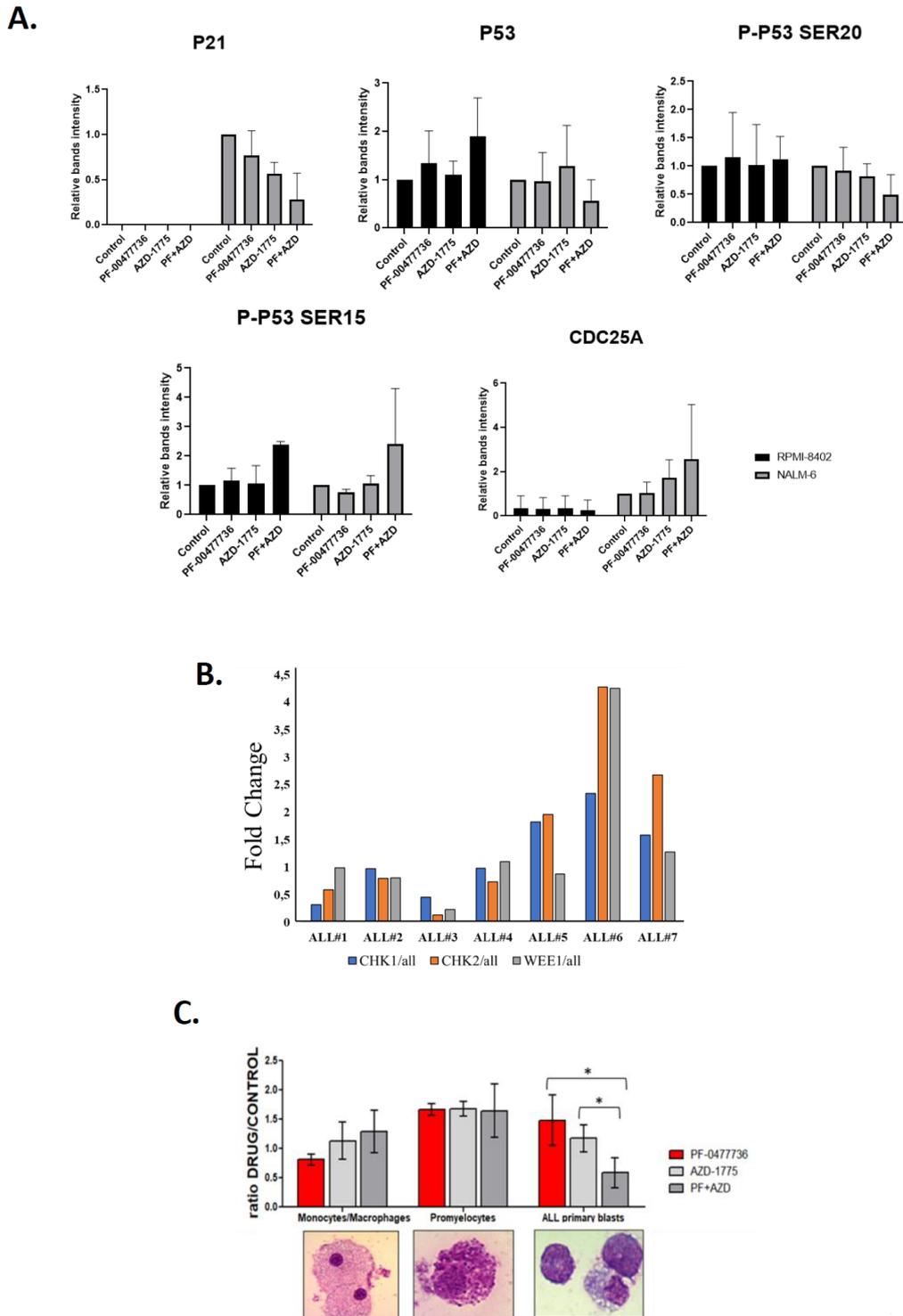
| Sample ID | Subtype           | Stage     | % Blasts | CHK1                |                               |                            | CHK2                |                               |                            | WEE1                |                               |                            |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
|           |                   |           |          | $\Delta$ Ct<br>CHK1 | $\Delta\Delta$ Ct<br>CHK1/all | Fold<br>Change<br>CHK1/all | $\Delta$ Ct<br>CHK2 | $\Delta\Delta$ Ct<br>CHK2/all | Fold<br>Change<br>CHK2/all | $\Delta$ Ct<br>WEE1 | $\Delta\Delta$ Ct<br>WEE1/all | Fold<br>Change<br>WEE1/all |
| ALL#1     | BCR-ABL1-positive | Diagnosis | 80       | 0.535               | 1.603                         | 0.329                      | 3.665               | 0.741                         | 0.598                      | -0.256              | 0.011                         | 0.993                      |
| ALL#2     | BCR-ABL1-positive | Relapse   | 70       | -1.037              | 0.031                         | 0.979                      | 3.239               | 0.314                         | 0.804                      | 0.042               | 0.309                         | 0.807                      |
| ALL#3     | BCR-ABL1-positive | Relapse   | 80       | 0.045               | 1.113                         | 0.462                      | 5.915               | 2.990                         | 0.126                      | 1.809               | 2.076                         | 0.237                      |
| ALL#4     | BCR-ABL1-positive | Relapse   | 70       | -1.046              | 0.022                         | 0.985                      | 3.365               | 0.440                         | 0.737                      | -0.403              | -0.136                        | 1.099                      |
| ALL#5     | BCR-ABL1-positive | Relapse   | 55       | -1.938              | -0.870                        | 1.828                      | 1.952               | -0.972                        | 1.962                      | -0.088              | 0.179                         | 0.883                      |
| ALL#6     | BCR-ABL1-negative | Relapse   | 80       | -2.295              | -1.227                        | 2.342                      | 0.831               | -2.093                        | 4.268                      | -2.355              | -2.088                        | 4.251                      |
| ALL#7     | BCR-ABL1-negative | Diagnosis | 70       | -1.739              | -0.671                        | 1.592                      | 1.505               | -1.419                        | 2.674                      | -0.617              | -0.350                        | 1.275                      |



**Figure S1.** Copy number, mRNA and protein levels of genes involved in the response to the inhibitors. (A) Box-plots showing the relative copy number level of CHK1, CHK2 and WEE1 genes in NALM-6 and RPMI-8402 cell lines extracted from CCLE dataset. (B) Box-plots showing the gene expression level of Chek1, Chek2 and Wee1 genes in NALM-6 and RPMI-8402 cell lines extracted from CCLE dataset. (C) Histograms showing the relative protein expression of CDK1, CDK2, CYCLIN B1, CYCLIN E1 and CYCLIN A1 proteins in RPMI-8402 (Black) and NALM-6 (Gray) cells. Protein relative expression is reported as the average of at least two independent experiments.



**Figure S2.** Histograms showing the relative protein expression of P-ATR(THR1989), ATR, P-ATM(SER1981), ATM, P-CHK1 (SER317), P-CHK1 (SER345), CHK1, P-CHK2 (THR68), CHK2, WEE1, P-CDK1(TYR15) and P-H2AX (SER139) proteins in RPMI-8402 (Black) and NALM-6 (Gray) cells. Protein relative expression is reported as the average of at least two independent experiments.



**Figure S3.** Effect of the combination in the protein level of ALL cell lines and relative mRNA level and morphological staining of primary B-ALL cells (A) Histograms showing the relative protein expression of P-P53(SER20), P-P53(SER15), P53, P21 and proteins in RPMI-8402 (Black) and NALM-6 (Gray) cells. Protein relative expression is reported as the average of at least two independent experiments (B) Histograms showing the normalized mRNA expression of Chek1, Chek2 and Wee1 mRNA of primary leukemic cells isolated from the BM of the seven B-ALL cases used for the clonogenic assays. The level of expression of each gene has been normalized with the average expression of the same gene in our cohort. (C) Morphological analysis of primary cells isolated from the colonies harvested in the clonogenic assays. The columns represent the ratio between the number of cells in the treated samples and in the controls (ratio Drug/Control). An average number of 300 cell/experimental condition was evaluated to quantify the number of cells.  $p < 0.05$  one asterisk (\*).

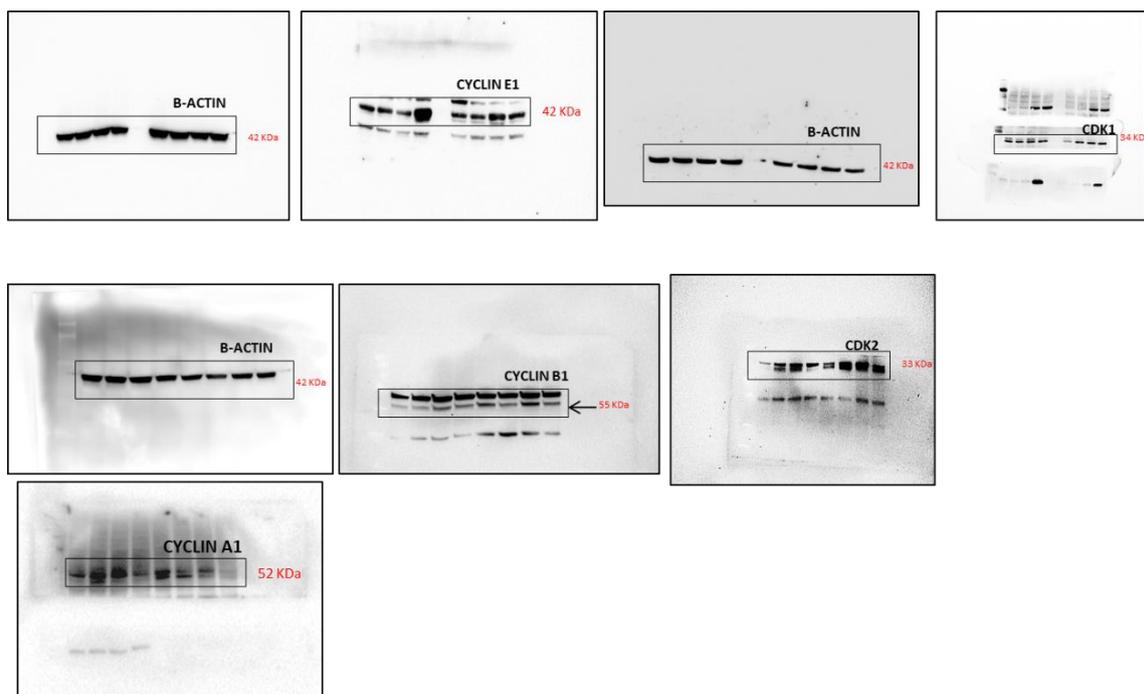


Figure S4. Whole western Blot images.

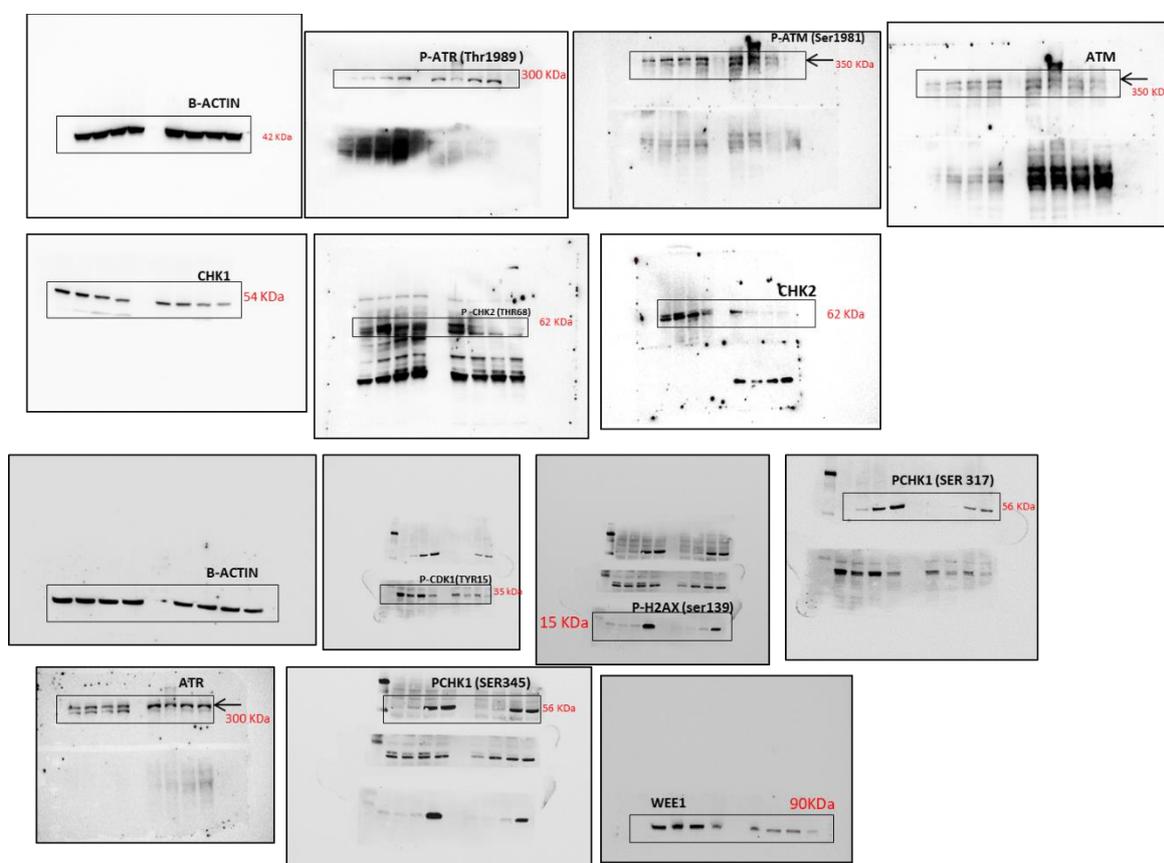


Figure S5. Whole western Blot images.

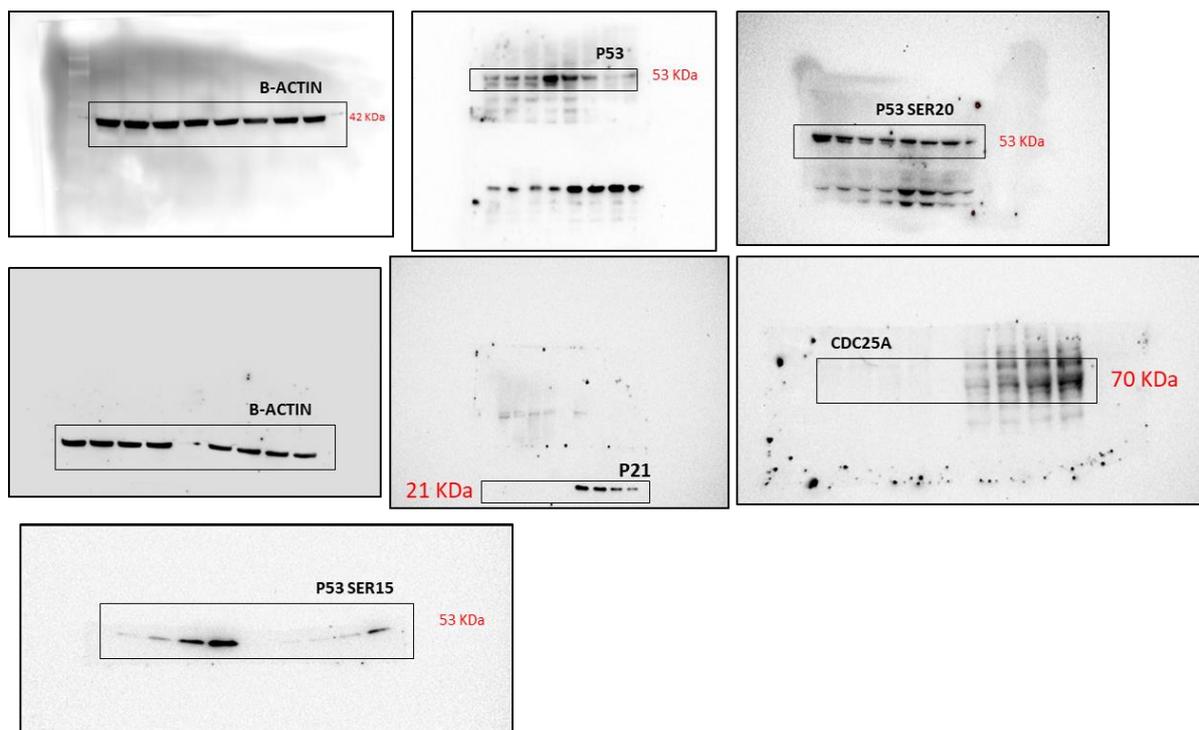


Figure S6. Whole western Blot images.



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