

1 **Genome wide screen for context-dependent tumor suppressors**  
2 **identified using in vivo models for neoplasia in *Drosophila***

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19 **ABSTRACT**

20 Genetic approaches in *Drosophila* have successfully identified many genes involved in regulation  
21 of growth control as well as genetic interactions relevant to the initiation and progression of cancer  
22 in vivo. Here, we report on large-scale RNAi-based screens to identify potential tumor suppressor  
23 genes that interact with known cancer-drivers: the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor and the  
24 Hippo pathway transcriptional cofactor Yorkie. These screens were designed to identify genes  
25 whose depletion drove tissue expressing EGFR or Yki from a state of benign overgrowth into  
26 neoplastic transformation in vivo. We also report on an independent screen aimed to identify genes  
27 whose depletion suppressed formation of neoplastic tumors in an existing EGFR-dependent  
28 neoplasia model. Many of the positives identified here are known to be functional in growth control  
29 pathways. We also find a number of novel connections to Yki and EGFR driven tissue growth,  
30 mostly unique to one of the two. Thus, resources provided here would be useful to all researchers  
31 who study negative regulators of growth during development and cancer in the context of activated  
32 EGFR and/or Yki and positive regulators of growth in the context of activated EGFR. Resources  
33 reported here are available freely for anyone to use.

## 34 INTRODUCTION

35 Studies in genetic models of tissue growth have identified networks of signaling pathways that  
36 cooperate to control growth during animal development (reviewed in (Harvey *et al.* 2013;  
37 Richardson and Portela 2017). Normal tissue growth involves controlling the rates of cell  
38 proliferation and cell death, as well as cell size, cell shape, etc. Signaling pathways mediate  
39 hormonal and neuroendocrine regulation of growth, which depend on nutritional status. Cell  
40 interactions also contribute to coordinating growth of cells within a tissue.

41 Growth regulatory pathways include both positive and negative elements to allow for  
42 feedback regulation. These feedback systems confer robustness to deal with intrinsic biological  
43 noise, and with a fluctuating external environment (Herranz and Cohen 2010). They also provide  
44 the means for different regulatory pathways to interact (Ren *et al.* 2010; Herranz *et al.* 2012a;  
45 Reddy and Irvine 2013). In the context of tumor formation, this robustness is reflected in the  
46 difficulty in generating significant misregulation of growth - a two-fold change in expression of  
47 many growth regulators seldom has a substantial effect on tissue size in *Drosophila* genetic  
48 models. More striking is the difficulty in transitioning from benign overgrowth to neoplasia:  
49 hyperplasia does not normally lead to neoplasia without additional genetic alterations (eg. (Huang  
50 *et al.* 2005; Herranz *et al.* 2012b, 2014).

51 Cancers typically show mis-regulation of multiple growth regulatory pathways. Mutational  
52 changes and changes in gene expression status contribute to driving cell proliferation, overcoming  
53 cell death and cellular senescence, as well as to allowing cells to evade the checkpoints that  
54 normally serve to eliminate aberrant cells. These changes alter the normal balance of cellular  
55 regulatory mechanisms, from initial cellular transformation through disease progression (Stratton

56 2011; Alexandrov *et al.* 2013). For many tumor types, specific mutations have been identified as  
57 potent cancer drivers, with well-defined roles in disease (Kandoth *et al.* 2013; Zehir *et al.* 2017).  
58 However, most human tumors carry hundreds of mutations, whose functional relevance is  
59 unknown. The spectrum of mutation varies from patient to patient, and also within different parts  
60 of the same tumor (McGranahan and Swanton 2017). Evidence is emerging that some of these  
61 genetic variants can cooperate with known cancer drivers during cellular transformation or disease  
62 progression. The mutational landscape of an individual tumor is likely to contain conditional  
63 oncogenes or tumor suppressors that modulate important cellular regulatory networks.

64         Sequence-based approaches used to identify cancer genes favor those with large individual  
65 effects that stand out from the ‘background noise’ of the mutational landscape in individual cancers  
66 (Stratton 2011; Alexandrov *et al.* 2013). In vivo experimental approaches are needed to assign  
67 function to candidate cancer genes identified by tumor genome sequencing, and to identify  
68 functionally significant contributions of genes that have not attracted notice in genomics studies  
69 due to low mutational frequency, or due to changes in activity not associated with mutation. In  
70 vivo functional screens using transposon mutagenesis of the mouse genome have begun to identify  
71 mutations that cooperate with known cancer driver mutations, such as K-Ras, in specific tumor  
72 models (Copeland and Jenkins 2010; Pérez-Mancera *et al.* 2012; Takeda *et al.* 2015). Genetic  
73 approaches using *Drosophila* models of oncogene cooperation have also been used to identify  
74 genes that act together with known cancer drivers in tumor formation (Brumby and Richardson  
75 2003; Pagliarini and Xu 2003; Wu *et al.* 2010; Brumby *et al.* 2011; Herranz *et al.* 2012b, 2014;  
76 Eichenlaub *et al.* 2016; Richardson and Portela 2017; Song *et al.* 2017). The simplicity of the  
77 *Drosophila* genome, coupled with the ease of large-scale genetic screens and the high degree of  
78 conservation of major signaling pathways with humans, make *Drosophila* an interesting model to

79 identify novel cancer genes and to study the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie  
80 tumor formation in vivo (reviewed in (Gonzalez 2013; Herranz *et al.* 2016; Sonoshita and Cagan  
81 2017; Richardson and Portela 2018).

82         In *Drosophila*, overexpression of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor, EGFR, or Yorkie  
83 (Yki, the fly ortholog of the YAP oncoprotein) cause benign tissue over-growth (Huang *et al.*  
84 2005; Herranz *et al.* 2012a, 2014). Combining these with additional genetic alterations can lead to  
85 neoplastic transformation and eventually metastasis (Herranz *et al.* 2012b, 2014; Eichenlaub *et al.*  
86 2016, 2018; Song *et al.* 2017). Here, we report results of large-scale screens combining UAS-  
87 RNAi transgenes with EGFR or Yki expression to identify negative regulators of these growth  
88 regulatory networks that can lead to aggressive tumor formation in vivo. We also performed an  
89 independent screen to identify factors that could suppress EGFR-driven neoplasia. These screens  
90 have identified an expanded genomic repertoire of potential tumor suppressors that cooperate with  
91 EGFR or Yki. We have also identified few positive regulators of growth in the context of activated  
92 EGFR. Interestingly, there was limited overlap among the genes that cooperated with EGFR and  
93 those that cooperated with Yki. Gene intractome analysis and analyses of cancer databases for  
94 human orthologues of positives of these screens suggest that a large number of them have strong  
95 correlations to many clinical parameters. The output of this screen would, therefore, be useful to  
96 all researchers who study negative regulators of growth during development and cancer in the  
97 context of activated EGFR and/or Yki. Resources reported here are freely available for anyone to  
98 use.

99

## 100 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 101 RNAi Screens

102 The KK transgenic RNAi stock library was obtained from the Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi Center  
103 ([www.vdrc.at](http://www.vdrc.at); also listed in Table S1) carrying inducible UAS-RNAi constructs on Chromosome  
104 II. For each cross, 5 males from the KK transgenic RNAi stock were crossed separately to 10-15  
105 virgins from each of the following three driver stocks (see Supplemental Fig. S1A for the  
106 schematics of fly stocks): w<sup>\*</sup>; *ap*-Gal4, UAS-GFP/CyO; UAS-Yki, *tub*-Gal80<sup>ts</sup>/TM6B (Yki driver;  
107 Song et al., 2017); w<sup>\*</sup>; *ap*-Gal4, UAS-GFP/CyO; UAS-EGFR, *tub*-Gal80<sup>ts</sup>/TM6B (EGFR driver;  
108 Herranz et al., 2012); and w<sup>\*</sup>; *ap*-Gal4, UAS-GFP/CyO; and w<sup>\*</sup>; *ap*-Gal4, UAS-GFP,  
109 *Socs36E*<sup>RNAi</sup>/CyO; UAS-EGFR, *tub*-Gal80<sup>ts</sup>/TM6B (EGFR driver +SOCS36E<sup>RNAi</sup>). The  
110 combination of UAS-EGFR and UAS- *Socs36E*<sup>RNAi</sup> inducing tumorous growth is reported in  
111 Herranz et al. (2012).

112 Virgin female flies were collected over 4-5 days and stored at 18°C in temperature-  
113 controlled incubators on medium supplemented with dry yeast, prior to setting up crosses. Virgin  
114 females were mated to KK stock males (day 1) and the crosses were stored at 18°C for 4 days to  
115 provide ample time for mating before starting the timed rearing protocol used for the screen. On  
116 day 5, the crosses were transferred into new, freshly yeasted vials for another 3 days at 18°C. On  
117 day 8, the adult flies were discarded, and larvae were allowed to develop until day 11, at which  
118 time the vials were moved to 29°C incubators to induce Gal4 driver activity. Crosses were aged at  
119 29°C for a further 8-9 days, after which larvae were scored for size and wing disc overgrowth  
120 phenotypes for Yki and EGFR driver screen crosses. Flies were scored for suppression of the tumor  
121 phenotype for the EGFR driver +SOCS36E<sup>RNAi</sup> crosses (see Supplemental Fig. S1B for the screen  
122 workflow).

123 In order to verify the integrity of the driver stocks during the course of the screen, we  
124 examined their expression patterns in conjunction with setting up screen crosses each week. For  
125 each driver, 2-3 of the bottles used for virgin collection were induced at 29°C for 24 hours and  
126 analyzed using fluorescence microscopy for apterous-Gal4 specific expression in wandering 3-  
127 instar larvae (see Supplemental Fig. S2 for larval images of quality control). Any batch that showed  
128 tumorous growth on its own without a cross with KK-RNAi line (in case of SOCS stocks, if the  
129 batch didn't show tumorous growth) were discarded and new batches were made from the original  
130 clean stock.

131 Positive hits from the initial screen were retested by setting up 2 or more additional crosses.  
132 The hits were scored as verified if 2 out of 3 tests scored positive. Wandering third instar larvae of  
133 confirmed positives were imaged and documented using fluorescence microscopy.

#### 134 **Genomic DNA PCR 40D landing site occupancy test**

135 Genomic DNA from a select number of *Drosophila* KK transgenic RNAi library stocks was  
136 isolated following a protocol available at the VDRC ([www.vdrc.at](http://www.vdrc.at)). The presence or absence of  
137 the KK RNAi transgene at the 40D insertion site on the second chromosome was determined by  
138 multiplex PCR using the following primers:

139 40D primer (C\_Genomic\_F): 5'-GCCCACTGTCAGCTCTCAAC-3'

140 pKC26\_R: 5'-TGTAACGACGGCCAGT-3'

141 pKC43\_R: 5'-TCGCTCGTTGCAGAATAGTCC-3'

142 PCR amplification was performed using GoTaq G2 Hot Start Green Master Mix kit (Promega) in  
143 a 25 µL standard reaction mix and the following program: initial denaturation at 95°C for 2 min,



144 followed by 33 cycles with denaturation at 95°C for 15 sec, annealing at 58°C for 15 sec and  
145 extension at 72°C for 90 sec. One final extension reaction was carried out at 72°C for 10 min.  
146 Reactions were stored at -20°C prior to gel loading. PCR using these primers generate an  
147 approximately 450 bp product in case of a transgene insertion or a 1050 bp product in case of no  
148 transgene insertion site at 40D.

#### 149 **Screen Database**

150 Results from the three screening projects were added to a screen management database,  
151 <http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/rnai/>, including images of positive hits and background information  
152 such as RNAi line ID, corresponding gene information from the Flybase etc. The database was  
153 developed by Livetek Software Consultant Services (Pune, Maharashtra, INDIA).

#### 154 **Pathway and gene set enrichment analysis**

155 Gene set enrichment analysis was performed using genes that upon down regulation induced tumor  
156 formation (EGFR, YKI background) or suppressed tumor formation (EGFR+SOCS background).  
157 For *D. melanogaster* enrichment analysis all *D. melanogaster* protein coding genes were used as  
158 the “gene universe” together with organism specific datasets. For human ortholog enrichment  
159 analysis all human protein coding genes were used as the “gene universe” together with organism  
160 specific datasets. The algorithm packages and databases used in analysis are listed in Supplemental  
161 Tables S2 and S3. Unless otherwise specified, pathway databases included in these packages were  
162 used. The KEGG database was downloaded directly from source on 10.10.2018. Organ system  
163 specific and disease related pathway maps were excluded from this analysis. Minimum and  
164 maximum number of genes per pathway or gene set, significant criteria, minimum enriched gene  
165 count and annotated gene counts for each test and database are indicated in Supplemental Tables  
166 S2 and S3. GO results were filtered for level >2, to eliminate broad high-level categories and <10

167 to minimize duplication among subcategories. A representative term was selected in the cases  
168 were identical set of genes mapped to multiple terms within the same database. After filtering, the  
169 top 10 terms from each database were used for clustering analysis.

170 Pathway and gene set enrichment analysis results were visualized as enrichment map with  
171 appropriate layout based on gene overlap ration using igraph. Gene overlap ratio was set as edge  
172 width. Edges with low overlap were deleted, filtering threshold was based on a number of “terms”  
173 in the results table – from 0 to 50 by 10; increasing filtering thresholds from 0.16 to 0.26 by 0.2.  
174 Clusters were detected using “Edge betweenness community” algorithm. Similar biological  
175 processes were color-coded.

## 176 **R packages**

177 clusterProfiler (3.8.1) - (Yu *et al.* 2012).

178 ReactomePA (1.24.0) - (Yu and He 2016).

179 <http://pubs.rsc.org/en/Content/ArticleLanding/2015/MB/C5MB00663E>.

180 graphite (1.26.1) - Sales G, Calura E, Romualdi C (2018). graphite: GRAPH Interaction from  
181 pathway Topological Environment. R package version 1.26.1.

182 igraph (1.2.2) - Csardi G, Nepusz T: The igraph software package for complex network research,  
183 InterJournal, Complex Systems 1695. 2006. <http://igraph.org>

## 184 **Database references**

185 KEGG – (Kanehisa *et al.* 2016, 2017).

186 REACTOME – (Fabregat *et al.* 2018)

187 Panther – (Thomas *et al.* 2003)

188 GO – (Ashburner *et al.* 2000).

### 189 **STRING interaction maps**

190 STRING v10 is a computational tool for protein interaction network and pathway analysis  
191 (Szkarczyk *et al.* 2017)), to identify significant functional clustering among the candidate genes.

192 STRING builds interaction maps by combining experimental data (including protein interaction  
193 data) with information about functional associations from text mining. STRING interactome maps  
194 were used to search for statistically significant enrichment of KEGG pathways.

### 195 **Data Availability**

196 All stocks are available on request. Supplement Table S1 provides details of all RNAi lines used  
197 and link to the corresponding genes in the Flybase. Complete screen information along with larval  
198 images of the positives is also accessible from: <http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/rnai/>.

## 199 **RESULTS**

200 Overexpression of EGFR or Yki proteins in the *Drosophila* wing imaginal disc produces tissue  
201 overgrowth. Under these conditions the imaginal discs retain normal epithelial organization, but  
202 grow considerably larger than normal. However, in combination with additional genetic or  
203 environmental changes, the tissue can become neoplastic and form malignant tumors (Herranz *et*  
204 *al.* 2012b, 2014; Song *et al.* 2017; Eichenlaub *et al.* 2018). In this context, we carried out large-  
205 scale screens using UAS-RNAi lines from the Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi KK library to identify  
206 genes which would drive hyperplastic growth to neoplastic transformation when down-regulated.  
207 To facilitate screening for tumorous growth, we expressed UAS-GFP with UAS-EGFR or UAS-

208 Yki to allow imaginal disc size to be scored in the intact 3rd instar larva (Figure 1A; screen design,  
209 examples and quality controls are shown in Supplemental Figures S1 and S2).

210 A large panel of independent UAS-RNAi lines were tested for their effects on tissue growth  
211 in the EGFR and Yki expression backgrounds (Figure 1B). Of ~8800 lines tested (Table S1), 74  
212 interacted with EGFR to produce tumors (~1%), whereas 904 interacted with Yki (~10%) (Table  
213 S2). There was limited overlap, with only 21 RNAi lines producing tumors in both screens (Figure  
214 1B), but we note that some loci that would be expected to score as hits in both screens, such as  
215 *dlg*, *scrib* and *l(2)gl*, were not targeted by RNAi lines in the KK collection, and so were not tested.  
216 In a parallel screen, we started with neoplastic tumors produced by co-expression of UAS-EGFR  
217 and UAS-SOCS36E<sup>RNAi</sup> [Herranz et al., 2012] and asked whether including expression of another  
218 RNAi transgene could suppress neoplasia (Figure 1A, right panels). SOCS36E depletion has been  
219 reported to potentiate EGFR driven tumor formation by alleviating repression of JAK Stat activity  
220 [8]. Of ~8900 lines tested (listed in Supplemental Table S1), 32 suppressed tumor formation in  
221 this assay (Figure 1B). Supplemental Table S2 (A) lists the genes identified in these three screens.  
222 In previous studies, massive disc overgrowth as in Figure 1(A) was often associated with loss of  
223 apically localized Actin and E-Cadherin: features indicative of Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition  
224 (EMT); and with formation of malignant transplantable tumors [Herranz et al., 2012, 2014; Song  
225 et al., 2017]. Apico-basal polarity and Matrix Metalloprotease 1 (MMP1) expression were assessed  
226 for a randomly selected subset of lines from the EGFR and Yki screens to assess neoplastic  
227 transformation (Figure S3).

228 To identify the processes and pathways responsible for the interaction with the screen  
229 drivers, we looked for over-representation of biological functions among the screen positives using  
230 gene set enrichment analysis and the KEGG, REACTOME, GO and PANTHER databases. Figure

231 2 presents the results of the enrichment analysis as graphical interaction maps, with similar  
232 biological processes color-coded. Edge length represents similarity between genes associated with  
233 significantly enriched terms. Thus, similar terms are closer together and form a community of  
234 biological process. The genes in each cluster are shown in Figure 2 and listed in Supplemental  
235 Table S3.

236

### 237 **Genes that potentially modulate EGFR function during growth control**

238 For discs overexpressing EGFR, we observed enrichment of RNAi lines targeting the Hippo  
239 pathway, growth signaling, and apoptosis (Figure 2A, B). Many of the genes in the Hippo pathway  
240 act as negative regulators of tissue growth, so their depletion by RNAi is expected to promote  
241 growth. The Hippo pathway is known to interact with the EGFR pathway to regulate normal  
242 developmental growth (Ren *et al.* 2010; Herranz *et al.* 2012a; Reddy and Irvine 2013). The Hippo  
243 pathway hits included core elements of the pathway, *hpo*, *wts* and *mats*, which serve as negative  
244 growth regulators; the upstream pathway regulators fat (an atypical cadherin) and expanded; as  
245 well as the transcriptional corepressor grunge, which is linked to Hippo pathway activity (Table  
246 S3). Several of these loci also contributed to the enrichment of terms linked to apoptosis, along  
247 with *pten*, a phospholipase that serves as a negative regulator of PI3K/AKT signaling, protein  
248 kinase A-C1, Src42A, the insulin-like peptide, *ilp4*, which are also linked to growth control (Table  
249 S3).

250 For suppression of tumors in discs overexpressing EGFR together with SOCS36E RNAi,  
251 we observed enrichment of RNAi lines targeting signaling pathways related to growth, including  
252 elements of the AKT/PI3K pathway (Figure 2E, F, Table S3). These pathways may be required

253 for neoplasia in this EGFR driven tumor model. Interestingly, this pathway was also identified in  
254 a screen for synthetic lethals interacting with RasV12 (Willecke *et al.* 2011). As would be  
255 expected, depletion of Egfr limited tumor growth. Also enriched was a set of genes involved in  
256 protein synthesis (Table S3). This may reflect a need for active cellular growth machinery to  
257 support tumor growth. The significance of genes involved in RNA splicing merits further  
258 investigation.

### 259 **Genes that potentially modulate Yki function during growth control**

260 For discs overexpressing Yki, RNAi lines targeting the Hippo pathway and associated growth  
261 regulators led to tumor production (Figure 2C, D, Table S3). These include *hpo*, *sav*, *wts*, *mats*, *ft*  
262 and *Grunge* (*Gug*). Although *wts* null mutants show some loss of neuronal differentiation and  
263 impairment of polarity (Menut *et al.* 2007) tumor formation solely due to elevated Yki activity has  
264 not been observed previously in *Drosophila*. It is worth noting that overexpression of YAP has  
265 been shown to lead to neoplasia in mouse liver and intestinal epithelial models (Dong *et al.* 2007;  
266 Cai *et al.* 2010). While most cancers appear to result from activation/inactivation of multiple genes  
267 and pathways, sufficient activation of the Yki or Yap can result in neoplasia.

268 The Hippo tumor suppressor pathway is regulated by cell polarity, cell contact, and  
269 mechanical forces (Wada *et al.* 2011; Halder *et al.* 2012; Aragona *et al.* 2013) as well as by other  
270 growth signaling pathways. The atypical Cadherin Fat mediates cell interactions and acts upstream  
271 of the Hippo pathway. *Gug* is the fly ortholog of the mammalian Atrophin/RERE proteins, and has  
272 been reported to interact physically and genetically with Fat (Fanto *et al.* 2003). Growth signaling  
273 pathways involving the *sgg*, *pten*, *PKA-C1*, *TSCI* genes among others, were also identified.  
274 Additionally, a number of genes linked to membrane-cytoskeleton interaction and transmembrane  
275 transport were found to interact, including Arf and Rab family members. We also noted the

276 enrichment of terms related to lipid and general metabolism. Regulation of lipid metabolism might  
277 affect the properties of cellular membranes. An intriguing subgroup contain genes related to  
278 glutamatergic signaling, including the vesicular glutamate transporter VGlut and the Eaat plasma  
279 membrane glutamate transporters. This finding is of interest in light of the results of an in vivo  
280 chemical screen which showed that that scribble mutant RasV12 tumors are glutamine-dependent  
281 (Willoughby *et al.* 2013). These tumors upregulate Yki and require Yki for tumor growth (Doggett  
282 *et al.* 2011).

283 Another major finding from this screen is the fact that many components of the machinery  
284 causing Promoter proximal pausing of RNA Polymerase II (such as components of the 7SK  
285 snRNAP and NELF complexes) are when depleted, enhanced Yki-driven growth leading to  
286 neoplastic transformation of *Drosophila* wing imaginal discs (Nagarkar et al., 2019). Additional  
287 work suggested that this phenomenon is dependent on CDK9 function and also specific to Yki-  
288 induced growth context (Nagarkar et al., 2019).

289 The large number of Yki interactors could reflect greater sensitivity of the screen.  
290 Alternatively, it might indicate a high false positive rate. While this screen was in progress, Vissers  
291 et al. (Manning *et al.* 2016), reported that some of the RNAi lines from the Vienna *Drosophila*  
292 RNAi KK library have the potential to produce false positives in screens based on sensitized Hippo  
293 pathway phenotypes. This proved to be due to the presence of a second transgene landing site at  
294 40D that was found in a subset of KK lines, in addition to the 30B landing site (Green *et al.* 2014;  
295 Manning *et al.* 2016). We tested the 40D landing site strain (Manning *et al.* 2016) and found that  
296 it did not cause a tumor phenotype under the conditions used for the screen. Nonetheless, we  
297 sampled the 40D status for a large subset of our Yki interactors (Table S2, 734/904) and found that  
298 45% of them had insertions at 40D. A small survey comparing KK lines with Trip and GD lines

299 showed that 65% of genes for which the KK line had a 40D site retested positive for interaction  
300 with Yki using an independent (non-KK) transgene (15/23). The Yki-interaction screen should  
301 therefore be viewed as a more sensitized sampling of potential interactors, compared to the EGFR-  
302 interaction screen.

### 303 **STRING Interactome analyses**

304 To view all genes identified in the three screens as one functional unit (for the fact that they were  
305 all growth regulators in one or the other contexts), we made use of STRING v10 (Szklarczyk *et*  
306 *al.* 2017) to produce protein interaction maps. STRING v10 builds interaction maps by combining  
307 experimental data (including protein interaction data) with information about functional  
308 associations from text mining. STRING v10 also uses information of co-occurrence, co-  
309 expression, gene neighborhood, gene fusion, and does sequence similarity search to predict  
310 functional interaction between proteins. An interaction pair supported by multiple lines of evidence  
311 has higher confidence score than other pairs.

312 Figure 3A shows the STRING interaction map for the genes identified as interactors of  
313 EGFR. As noted above, Hippo pathway (red) components were prominent among the genes  
314 identified as cooperating with EGFR to drive tumor formation. Figure 3(B) shows the interaction  
315 map for the genes identified as interactors of Yki. The larger number of hits in this screen results  
316 in a more complex interaction map, with multiple interconnected clusters. The Hippo pathway  
317 (red) was again prominent in the fly screen. We also noted clusters containing elements of the  
318 ubiquitin mediated proteolysis pathway (green) and the PI3K/TOR (blue). As noted above, the  
319 higher sensitivity of this screen leads to the inclusion of weaker interactors, which may add to the  
320 complexity of these interaction maps. A focus on the stronger clusters and the interaction between  
321 them should guide future studies. Fig. 3(C) shows interaction map for the genes identified as



322 interactors of EGFR in the suppressor screen (in discs overexpressing EGFR together with  
323 SOCS36E RNAi). Among fly genes, as expected, we observed suppression of the tumor phenotype  
324 when components of EGFR pathway are down regulated.

### 325 **Human orthologs of the fly genes identified in the three screens**

326 To identify human orthologs for the candidate genes, we used the DRSC Integrative Ortholog  
327 Prediction Tool, DIOPT (Version 7.1, March 2018; [www.flybase.org](http://www.flybase.org)). DIOPT scores reflect the  
328 number of independent prediction tools that identify an ortholog for a given *Drosophila* gene.  
329 Orthology relationships are usually unambiguous when found by most of the 12 independent  
330 prediction tools in DIOPT. Table S2 lists the primary human orthologs (highest weighted DIOPT  
331 score), as well as the other orthologs with a weighted DIOPT score >2 for each of the hits in the  
332 fly screen. The primary human ortholog was used for subsequent analysis. In cases where multiple  
333 human orthologs had the same score, all orthologs with highest weighted DIOPT score were used.  
334 Out of 73 EGFR positive hits, 46 genes had one or more human orthologs, in total mapping to 50  
335 human genes. Out of 32 SOCS positive hits 30 genes had one or more human orthologs, in total  
336 mapping to 31 human genes. Out of 904 YAP positive hits 570 genes had one or more human  
337 orthologs, in total mapping to 611 human genes.

338 To view the human orthologs in a functional context, we performed a gene set enrichment  
339 analysis and the KEGG, REACTOME, GO, PANTHER, NCI, MsigDB, BIOCARTA databases.  
340 Figure 4 presents the results of the enrichment analyses as graphical interaction maps, with similar  
341 biological processes color-coded. Edge length represents similarity between genes associated with  
342 significantly enriched terms. Thus, similar terms are closer together and form a community of  
343 biological processes. The genes in each cluster are shown in Figure 4 and listed in Supplemental

344 Table S4. Because the enrichment analysis is highly sensitive to the number of orthologs for each  
345 of the fly genes, we used the minimal set consisting of only the primary human orthologs.

346 Hippo pathway components were enriched among the orthologs cooperating with EGFR  
347 to drive tumor formation (Fig 4A, B; Table S3). Two of these, LATS1 and STK3, also contributed  
348 to enrichment for a term linked to protein turnover. Regulation of protein turnover is an important  
349 mechanism for controlling the activity of a number of Hippo pathway components. For the screen  
350 for suppression of tumors in discs overexpressing EGFR together with SOCS36E RNAi, we  
351 observed enrichment of orthologs targeting growth signaling pathways, protein synthesis and  
352 mRNA splicing (Figure 4E, F, Table S4), similar to what was seen for the fly gene set analysis.  
353 We also observed enrichment of pathways related to protein folding and molecular chaperones, in  
354 the human gene set. For the Yki screen, the human ortholog set was enriched for terms related to  
355 general metabolism, and membrane transport, as well as growth signaling, and other signaling  
356 pathways, including genes involved in protein turnover (Fig 4C, D).

### 357 **METABRIC Analysis**

358 We also studied gene expression levels in cancer patients by systematically querying METABRIC  
359 (Pereira et al. 2016) a large database on breast cancer. We chose this as breast cancer is an epithelial  
360 cancer and the distribution of treatment-naïve samples from very early to late stages are well  
361 characterized. More importantly, gene expression patterns have been well studied at genomic level  
362 for all stages of the cancer. For each of the human orthologues of the genes identified in the Yki  
363 screen, we examined how their expression levels (low levels, median levels and high levels) are  
364 correlated to clinical parameters/attributes such as months of disease-free survival, early vs old  
365 age of the patients at diagnosis, Lymph node status at diagnosis, tumor grade III or above at  
366 diagnosis, early vs late stages of cancer at diagnosis and small vs large tumors at diagnosis. Total

367 365 human orthologues showed significant correlation to disease-free survival. Among them 186  
368 were associated with their low levels of expression and 179 with high levels of expression (see  
369 Supplement Table S4 and Supplemental\_Information\_METABRIC analysis). The fact that higher  
370 levels of expression correlate to aggressive tumors suggest that they are potential growth  
371 promoters, while their fly homologues were identified as potential tumor suppressors in our screen.  
372 This discrepancy could be due to more complex nature of growth control in human, wherein a  
373 conserved pathway may have different outcomes in different contexts. Expression levels of 76  
374 genes also showed strong correlations to the three clinical parameters as listed above (see  
375 Supplement Table S4 and Supplemental\_Information\_METABRIC analysis) indicating their  
376 critical role in growth control and impairment in their expression causing tumorous growth. Taken  
377 together, the positive hits in these screens would be useful for studies on growth control in  
378 development model organisms and in the context of cancer in human.

379

## 380 **DISCUSSION**

381 The Hippo pathway has emerged from this study as the single most important pathway limiting  
382 tumor formation in *Drosophila*. Increasing Yki activity by depletion of upstream negative  
383 regulators promoted tumor formation in both the EGFR and Yki hyperplasia models. Yki controls  
384 tissue growth by promoting cell proliferation and by concurrently inhibiting cell death through  
385 targets including Diap1, cycE and bantam miRNA (Tapon *et al.* 2002; Huang *et al.* 2005; Nolo *et*  
386 *al.* 2006; Thompson and Cohen 2006; Wu *et al.* 2008). The central role of the Hippo pathway as  
387 an integrator of other growth-related signals may also contribute to the abundance of tumor  
388 suppressors associated with Yki-driven growth (Harvey *et al.* 2013; Richardson and Portela 2017,

389 2018). Mis-regulation of this pathway also contributes to tumor formation in mouse models (Yu  
390 *et al.* 2015).

391         The potential of Yki/YAP expression to drive cellular transformation has been highlighted  
392 by studies of primary human cells in culture, which have shown that YAP expression is both  
393 necessary and sufficient to confer a transformed phenotype involving anchorage independent  
394 growth and the ability to form tumors in xenograft models (Hong *et al.* 2014; Nguyen *et al.* 2014).  
395 We therefore consider it likely that the consequence of Yki overexpression predispose the tissue  
396 to transformation, allowing identification of a richer repertoire of cooperating factors. Indeed, YAP  
397 overexpression has been causally linked to formation of specific human tumors (Kapoor *et al.*  
398 2014; Shao *et al.* 2014). The Hippo pathway has also been implicated in tumor formation resulting  
399 from cytokinesis failure (Ganem *et al.* 2014) and this has recently been linked to Yki-mediated  
400 regulation of string (CDC25) expression (Gerlach *et al.* 2018). The sensitivity of Yki-expressing  
401 tissue to tumor formation might be explained by the finding that Yki promotes cell cycle  
402 progression at both the G1-S transition (through regulation of *cycE* (Huang *et al.* 2005) and at the  
403 G2-M transition through regulation of string. In contrast, mitogens and growth factors such as  
404 EGFR typically induce growth by promoting G1-S, and therefore remain somewhat constrained  
405 by the G2-M checkpoint.

406         We have analyzed in more detail one group of genes, all related to regulating promoter  
407 proximal pausing of RNA Poly II, identified in this screen to validate the importance of the  
408 repertoire of genes provided here. We have observed that Yki-driven growth is limited by the  
409 pausing of RNA Pol II, release of which is controlled by potential tumor suppressor genes  
410 (Nagarkar *et al.* 2019).

411 While our manuscript was in preparation, another group reported an RNAi screen to  
412 identify loci cooperating in tumorigenesis driven by expression in eye discs of the oncogenic  
413 activated mutant form of Ras (Zoranovic *et al.* 2018). We note that the activated Ras RNAi screen  
414 produced over 900 hits, compared with 74 for our EGFR screen, suggesting that the Ras screen  
415 was considerably more sensitized. We were surprised to note that there was almost no overlap  
416 between the two screens with only 3 hits in common: Elongin B, CG7966 and CG7313. This  
417 suggests that the genetic interactions required to promote tumorigenesis in the context of  
418 expression of an activated mutant form of RAS are distinct from those required to promote  
419 tumorigenesis in the context of native EGRF overexpression. And perhaps, the differences  
420 between the tissue contexts (eye discs in (Zoranovic *et al.* 2018) vs wing discs in our screen). It  
421 will be of interest, in future, to learn whether this distinction holds true for factors promoting tumor  
422 formation in human cancers that depend on EGFR overexpression vs those dependent on Ras  
423 mutants.

424 To conclude, the results reported here provide an extensive assessment of the genes that  
425 can serve as negative regulators of growth that can contribute to the formation of neoplastic tumors  
426 in vivo in *Drosophila*. In addition to finding genes linked to known growth control pathways, a  
427 number of novel connections to Yki and EGFR driven tissue growth have been identified, which  
428 merit further investigation in the *Drosophila* genetic model. Exploring the potential relevance of  
429 genes identified in this manner to human cancer will involve assessing the correlation of candidate  
430 gene expression with clinical outcome across a broad range of cancers (eg (Andrejeva *et al.* 2018;  
431 Eichenlaub *et al.* 2018)), as a starting point to identify biomarkers as well as novel candidate drug  
432 targets.

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442 SMC and LSS designed the screen. CG, PV, AK, NP, AA, SN and RP carried out the genetic  
443 screen and participated in data analysis. DA and MC carried out computational analysis. SMC,  
444 TLS and LSS conceived of, designed and coordinated the study. SMC and LSS analyzed the data  
445 and drafted the manuscript.

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589 *evolutionarily conserved suppressor of Ras-driven cancer.*

590

591

592 **Figure legends**

593 **Figure 1:** tumor formation/suppression visualized in intact larvae

594 (A) Larvae co-expressed UAS-GFP with the indicated transgenes to permit visualization of the  
595 imaginal discs in the intact animal. All samples carried the *ap-Gal4* driver and UAS-GFP. In  
596 addition, they carried either a second copy of UAS-GFP or one of the following: UAS-Yki, UAS-  
597 EGFR or UAS-EGFR+UAS-SOCS36E<sup>RNAi</sup>.

598 (B) Table summarizing the number of RNAi lines screened and identified in the three large-scale  
599 screens (represents those many number of interacting genes).

600

601 **Figure 2:** Summary of pathway enrichment analysis of fly genes identify in the *in vivo* screens  
602 reported here.

603 (A, C, E) The results of the pathway and gene set enrichment analysis are shown as graphical  
604 interaction maps. Each node represents a significantly enriched term or pathway from the GO,  
605 KEGG, Reactome and Panther databases (Table S3). Color-coding indicates functionally related  
606 groups of terms. Lines indicate genes shared among different terms. (B, D, F) show the individual  
607 genes associated with functionally enriched cluster.

608 (A, B) UAS-EGFR screen

609 (C, D) UAS-Yki screen

610 (E, F) UAS-EGFR+UAS-SOCS36E<sup>RNAi</sup> screen

611

612 **Figure 3:** STRING interactome analysis of potential interactors of EGFR and YKi in *Drosophila*.

613 STRING analysis was performed with confidence score of 0.7 and MCL clustering value of 2. (A)

614 STRING Interactome of 73 fly genes identified as potential negative regulators in the context of

615 over expression of EGFR. 17 out of those formed molecular clusters (with PPI enrichment value  
616 of 0.000482), largest being a cluster of 6 genes, all of which are constitutes of Fat/Hippo pathway  
617 (shown in red; FDR- $1.39E^{-5}$ ). (B) STRING Interactome of 888 genes of identified as potential  
618 negative regulators in the context of over expression of Yki. 228 of those formed a single cluster  
619 with PPI enrichment value  $1.4E^{-06}$ . Components of Fat/Hippo pathway (red: FDR-0.00076) and  
620 Autophagy genes (blue: FDR-0.0241) are enriched in this cluster. (C) STRING Interactome of 32  
621 fly genes identified as potential oncogenes in the context of SOCS suppression. 27 out of those  
622 formed molecular clusters (with PPI enrichment value of 0.0122), largest being a cluster of 14  
623 genes. A smaller cluster comprising of EGFR and DrK were enriched in Dorso-ventral axis  
624 formation (shown in purple: FDR-0.0089).

625

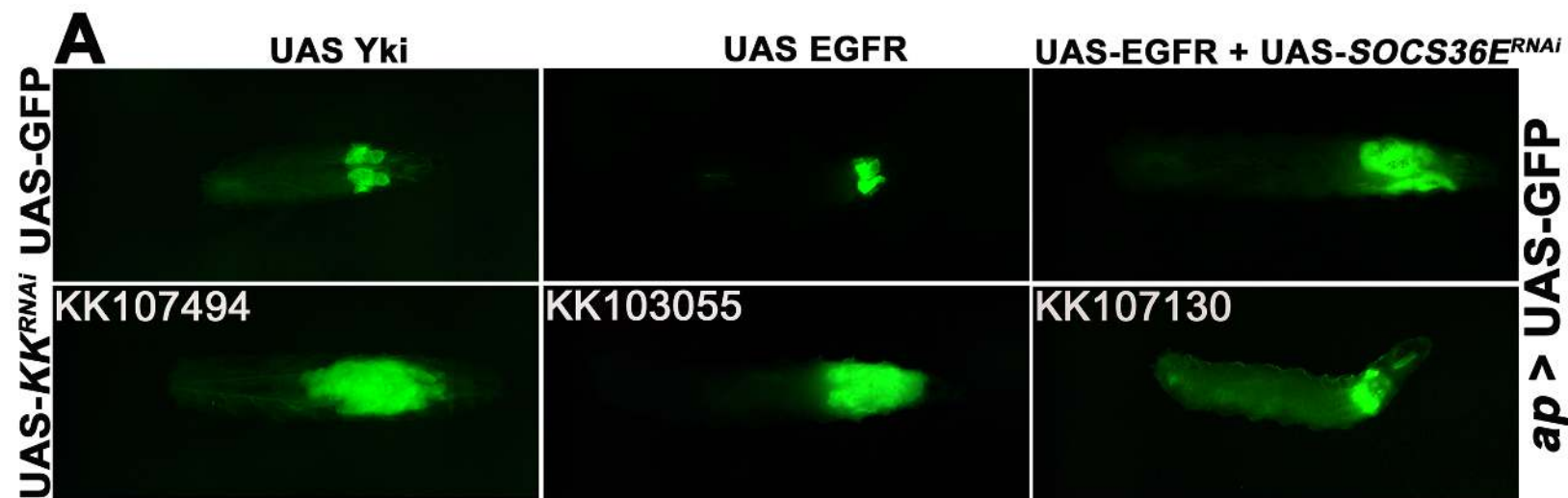
626 **Figure 4:** Summary of pathway enrichment analysis of human orthologs

627 (A, C, E) The results of the pathway and gene set enrichment analysis are shown as enrichment  
628 maps. Each node represents a significantly enriched term or pathway from the GO, KEGG,  
629 Reactome and PANTHER, NCI, MsigDB, BIOCARTA databases (Table S3). Color-coding  
630 indicates functionally related groups of terms. Lines indicate genes shared among different terms.  
631 (B, D, F) show the individual genes associated with functionally enriched cluster.

632 (A, B) UAS-EGFR screen

633 (C, D) UAS-Yki screen

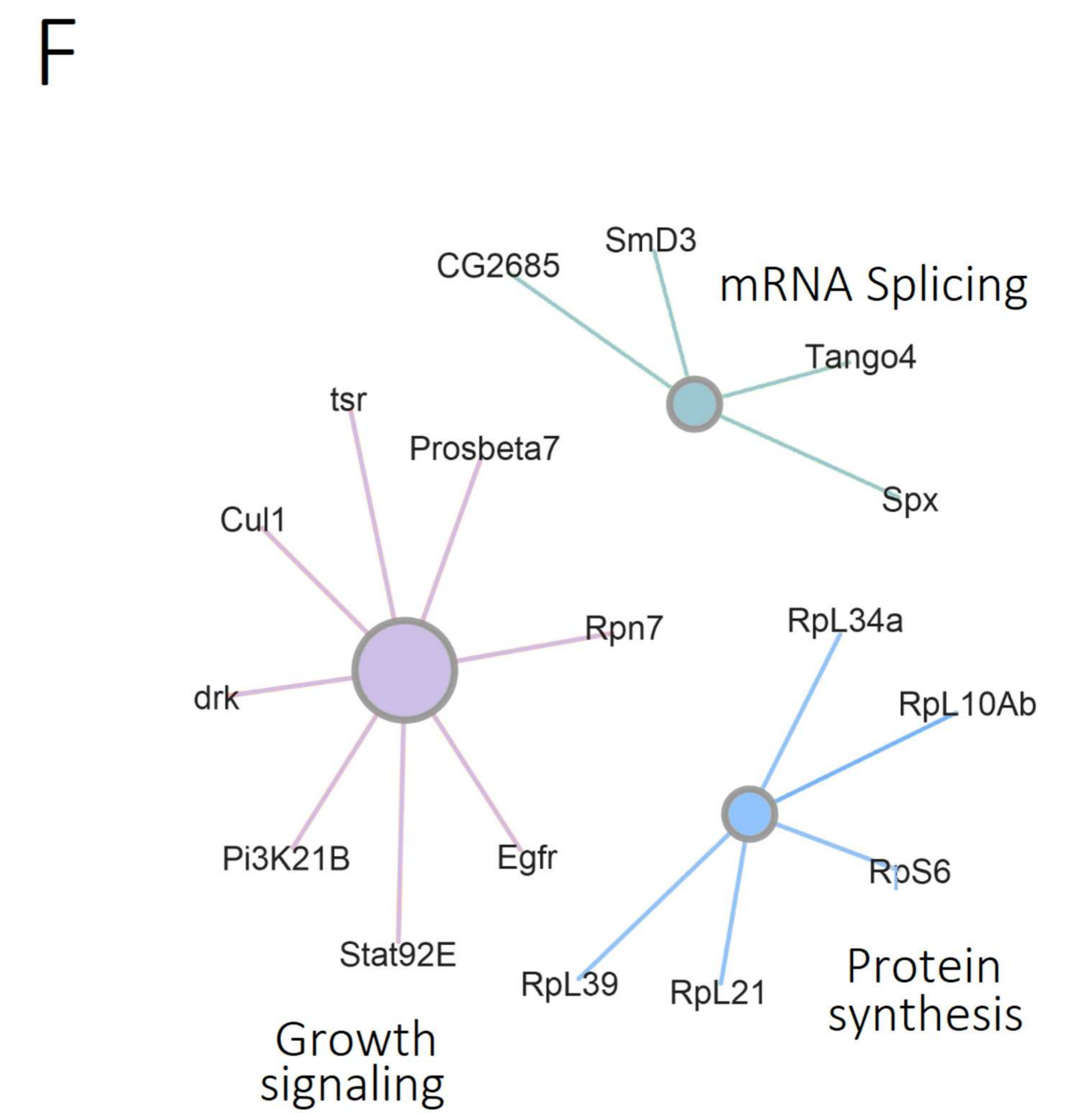
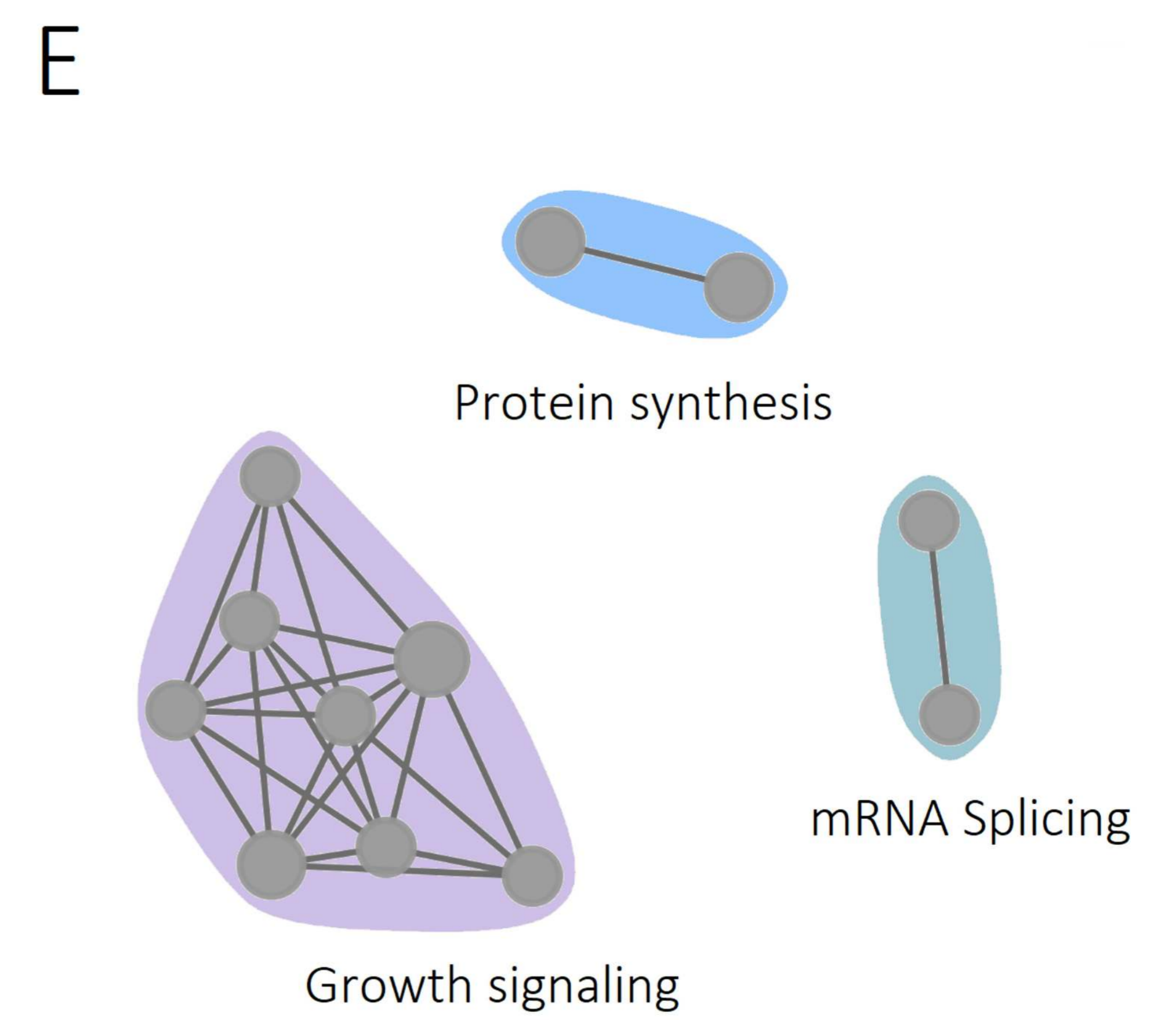
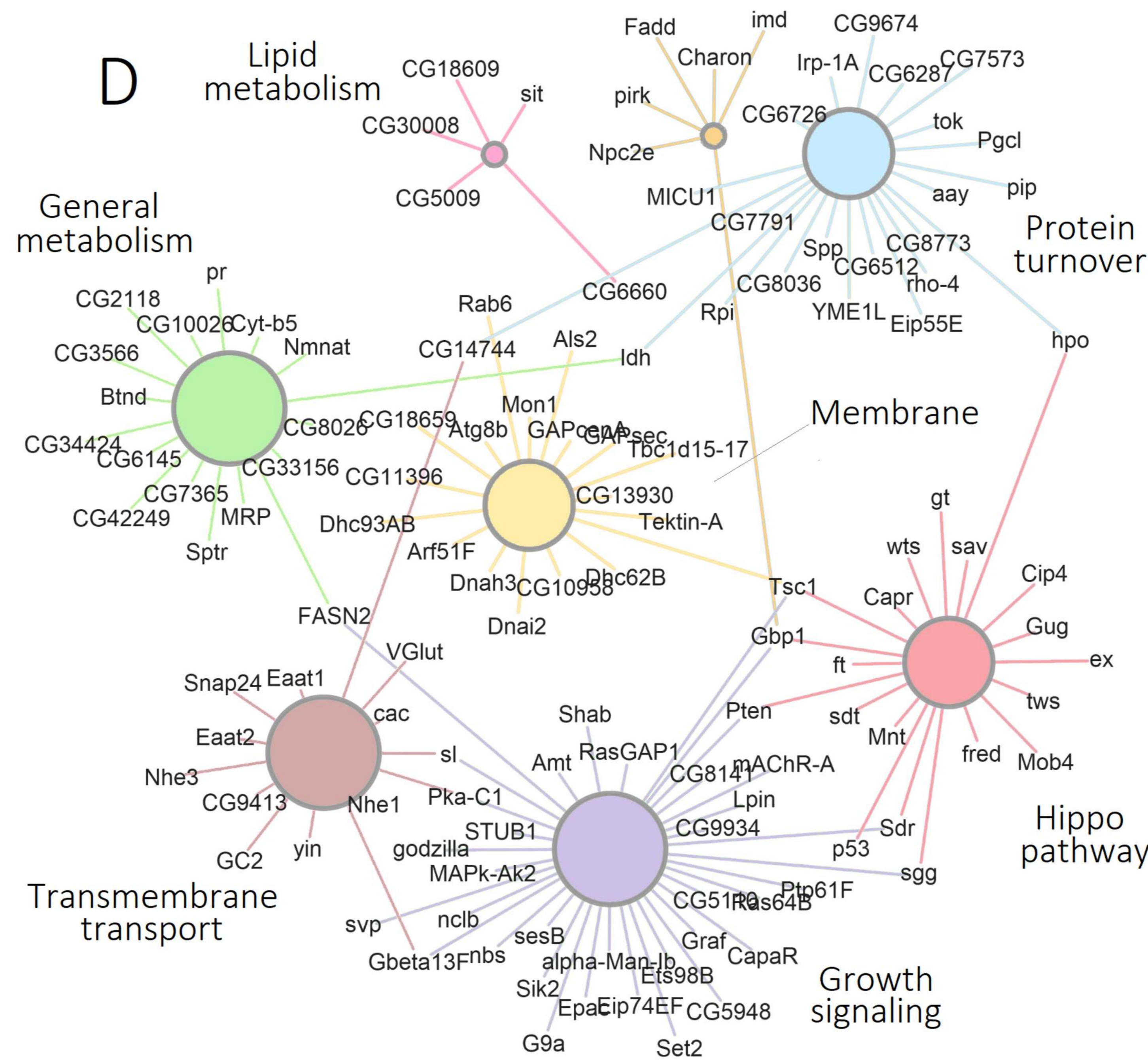
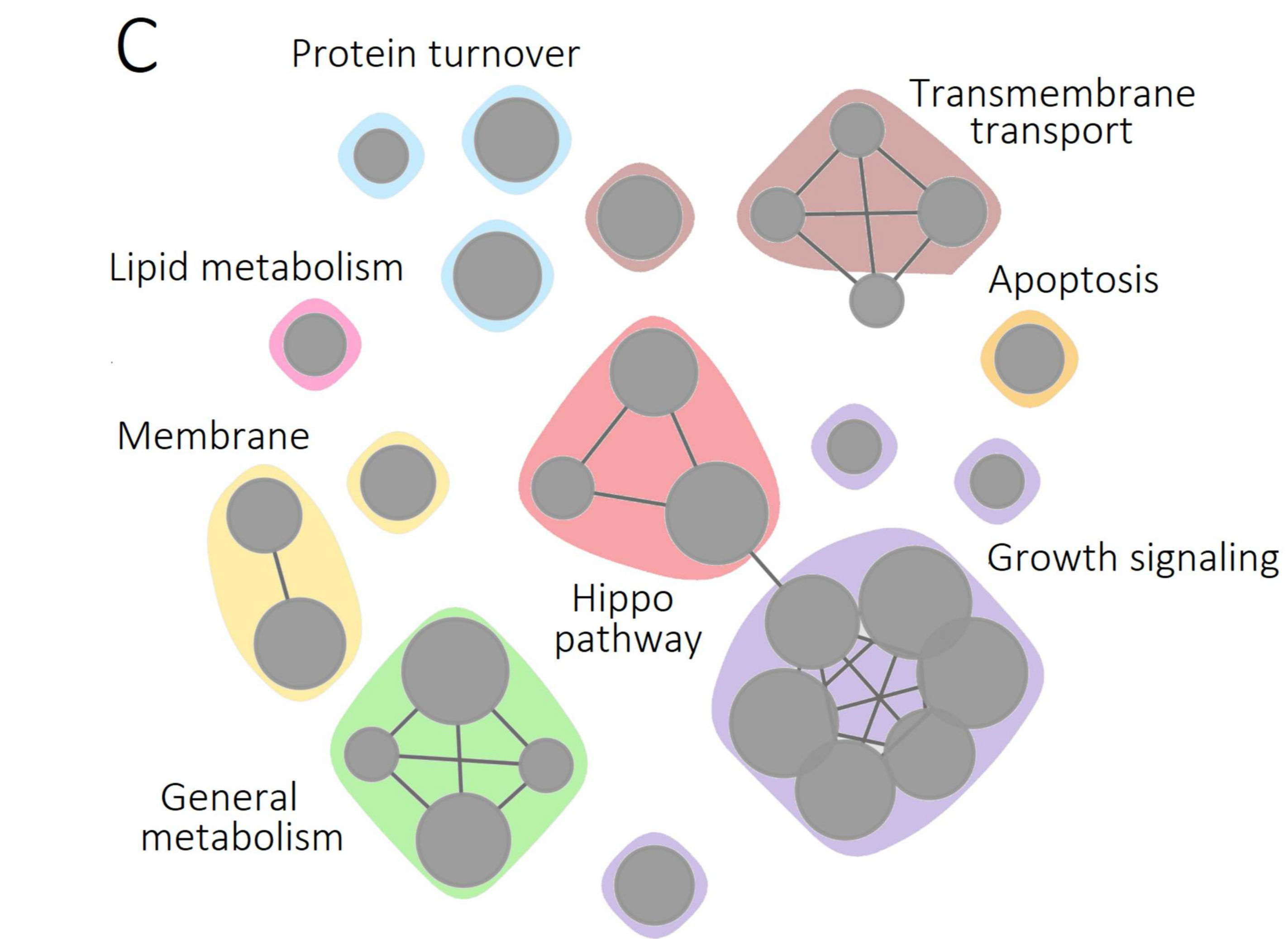
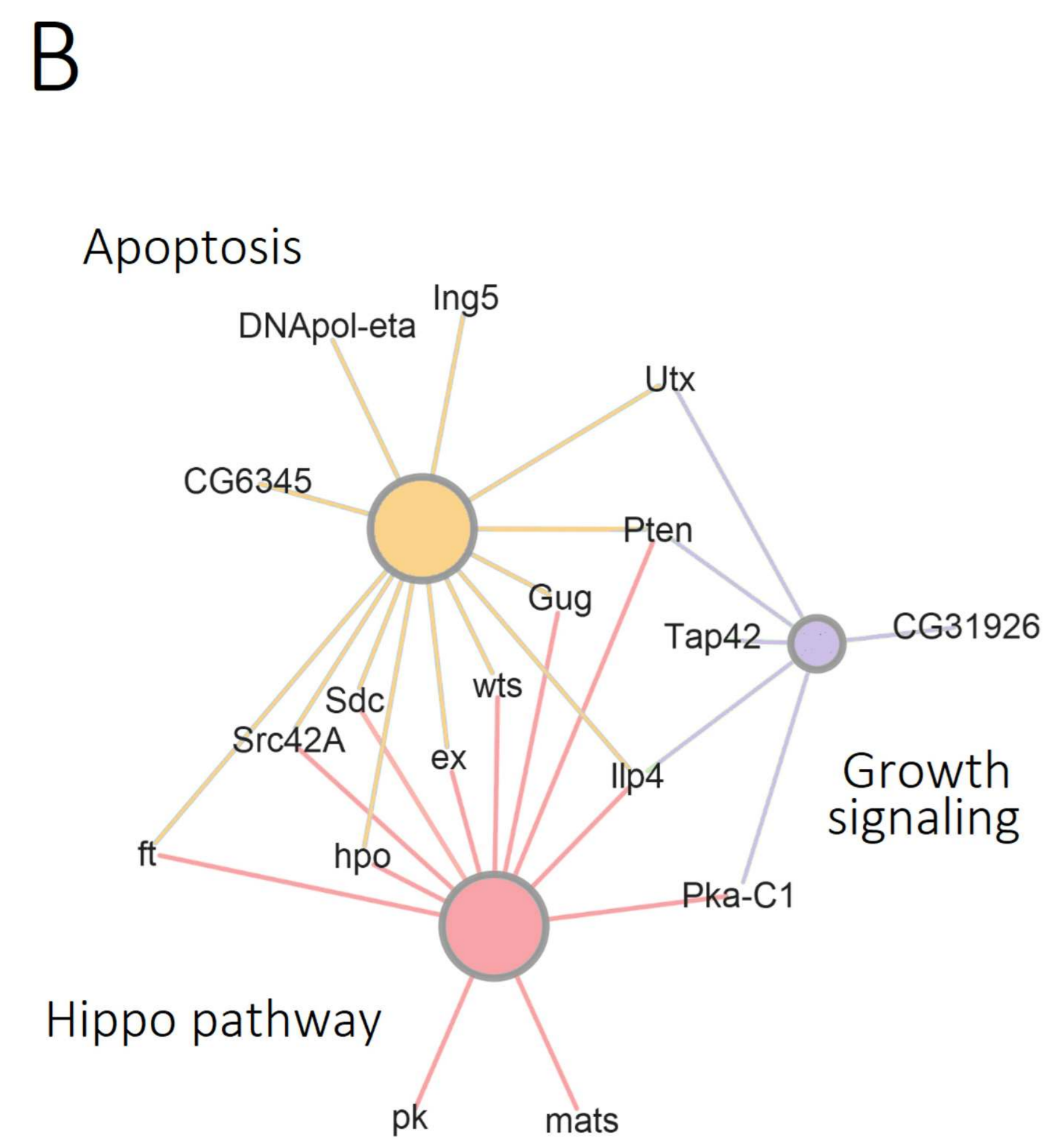
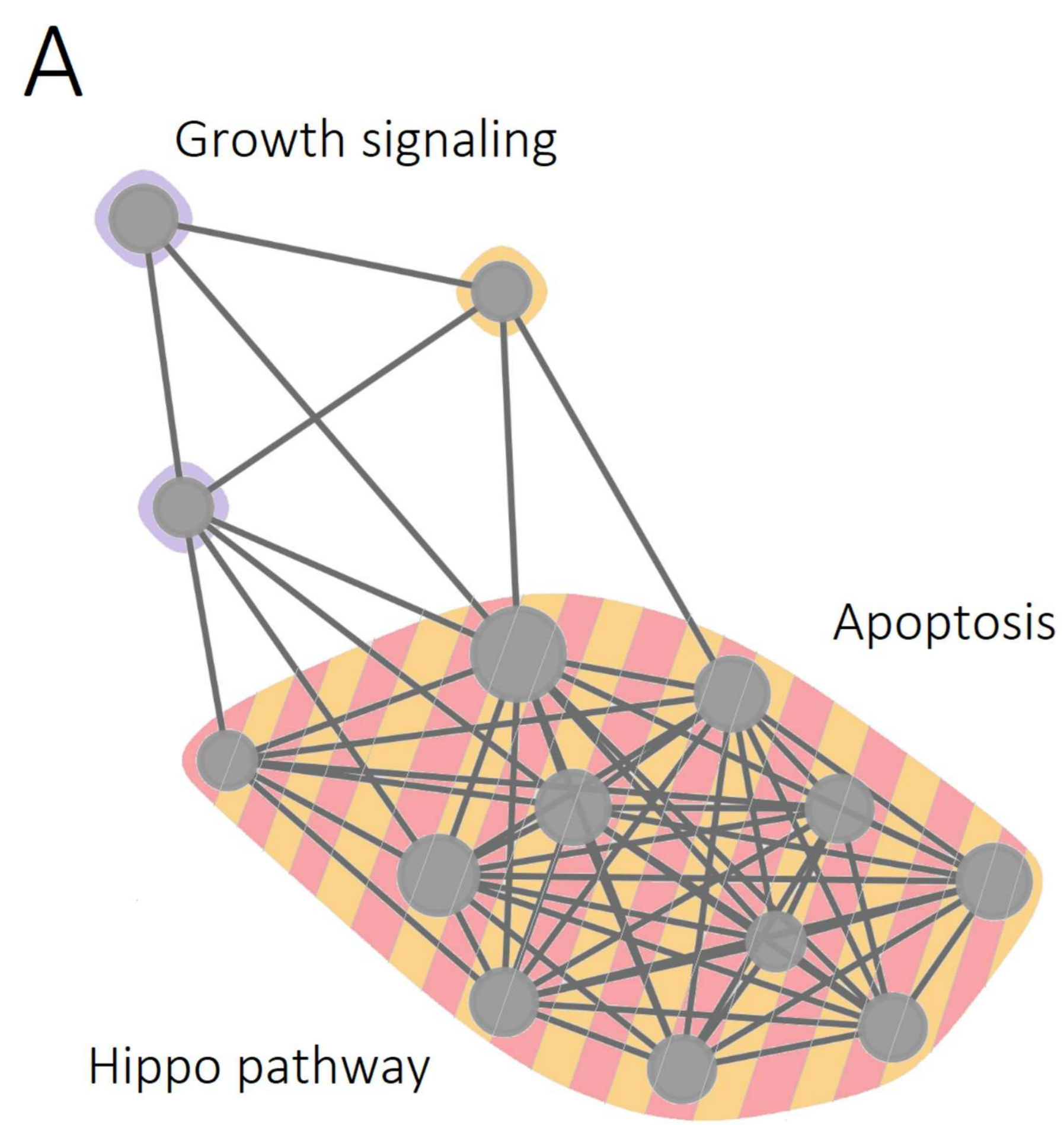
634 (E, F) UAS-EGFR+UAS-SOCS36E<sup>RNAi</sup> screen

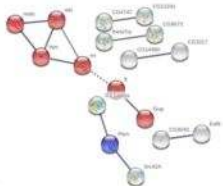
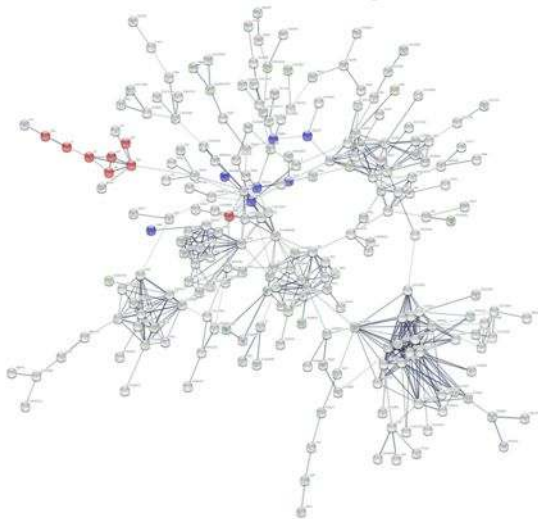
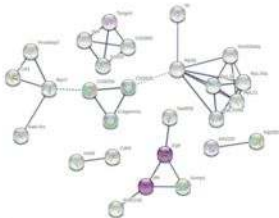


**B**

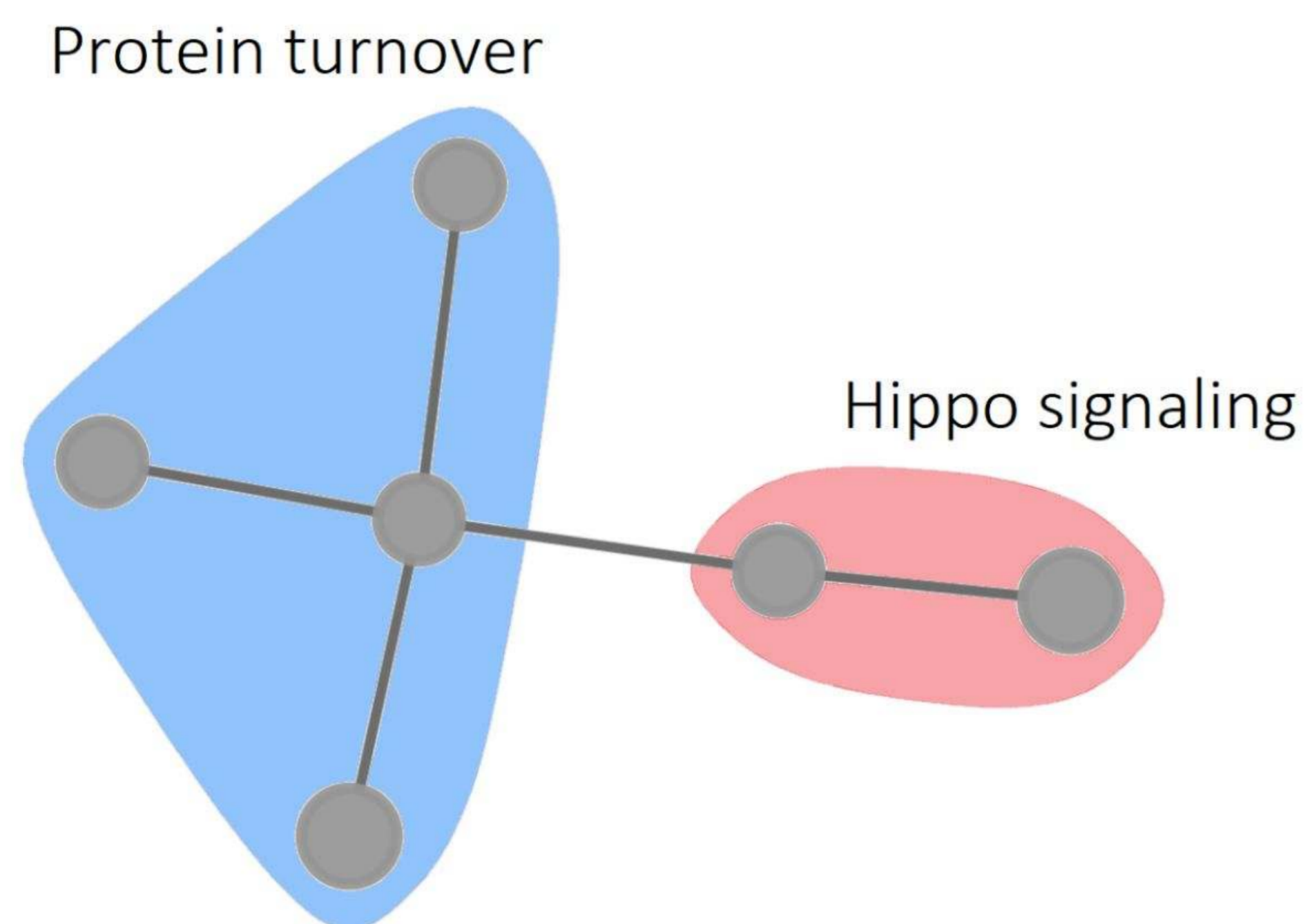
		UAS Yki	UAS EGFR	UAS-EGFR + UAS-SOCS36 <sup>RNAi</sup>
Number of RNAi lines screened		8798	8795	8948
Confirmed positives		904	74	32
	Overlapped Yki/EGFR →	21		
Confirmed positives with human orthologues		582	48	31
	Overlapped Yki/EGFR →	12		



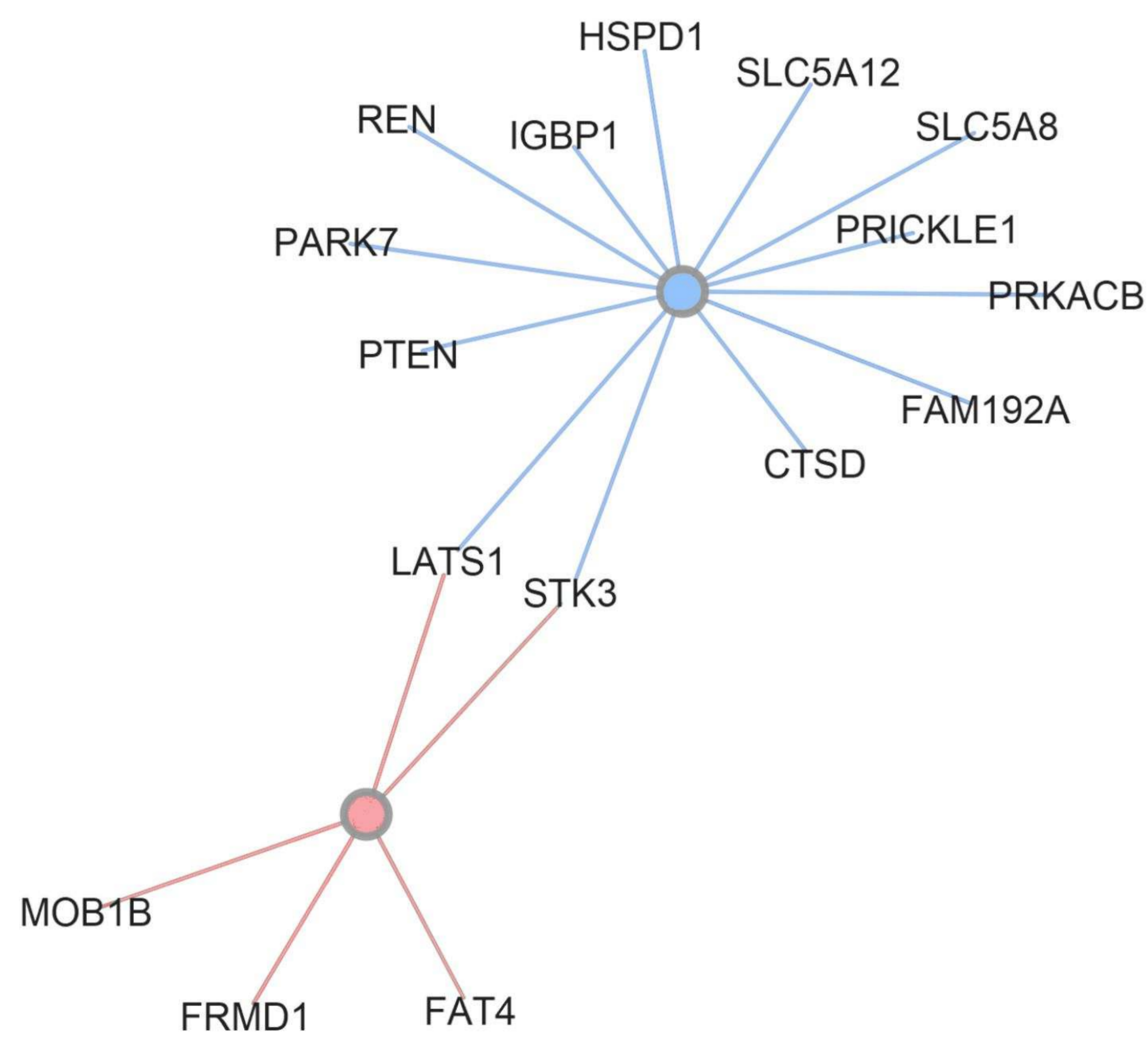


**A****B****C**

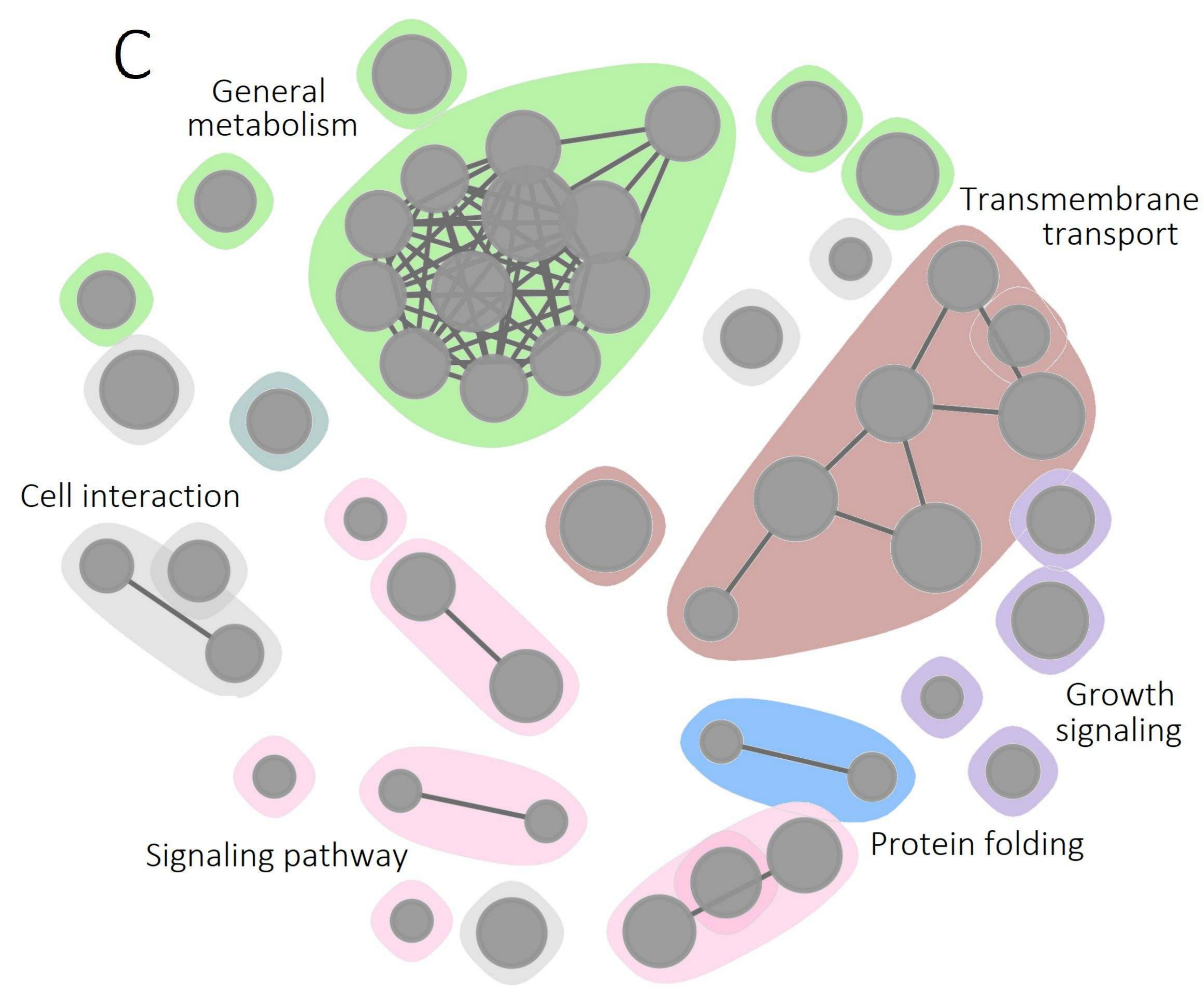
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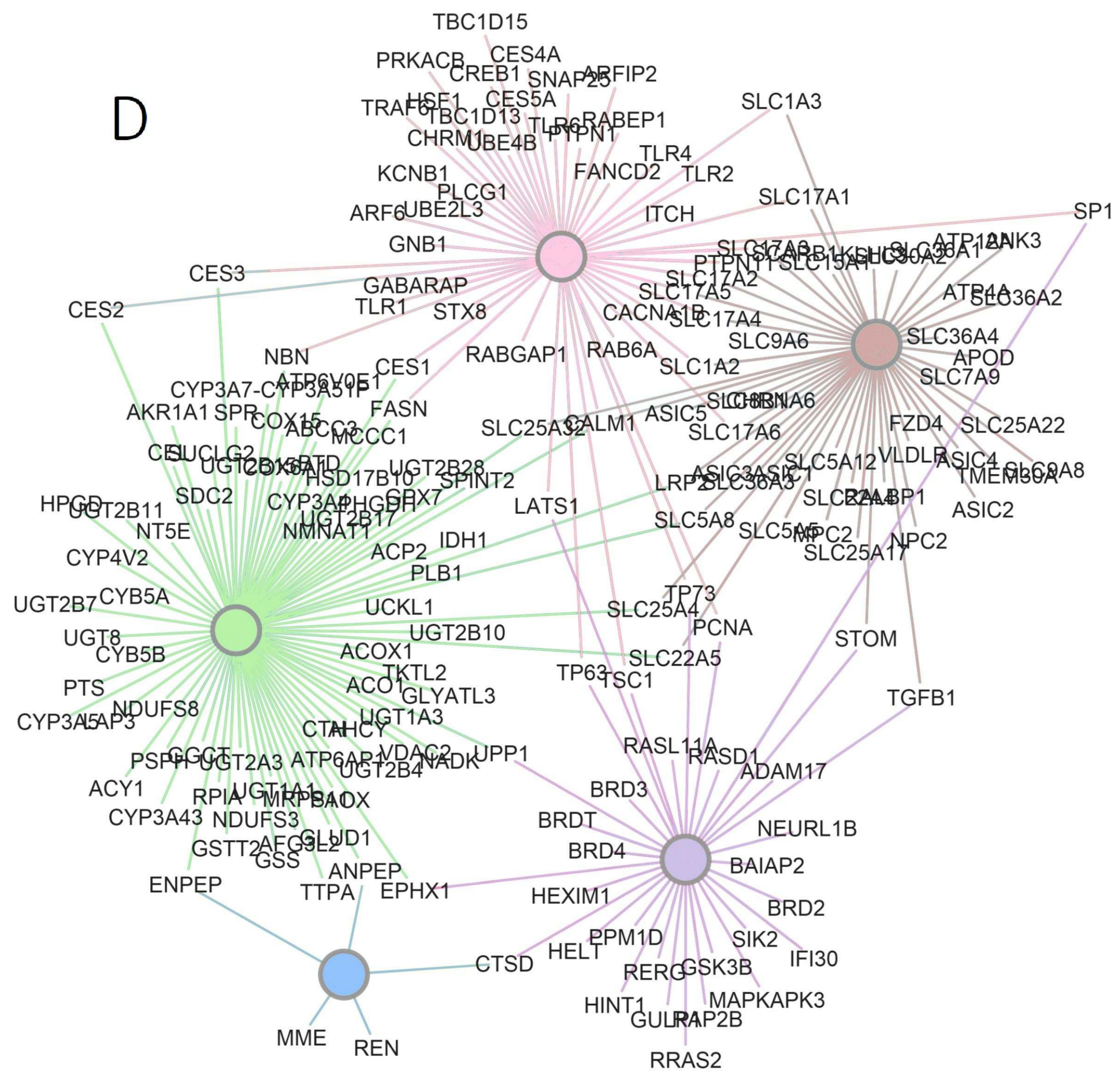
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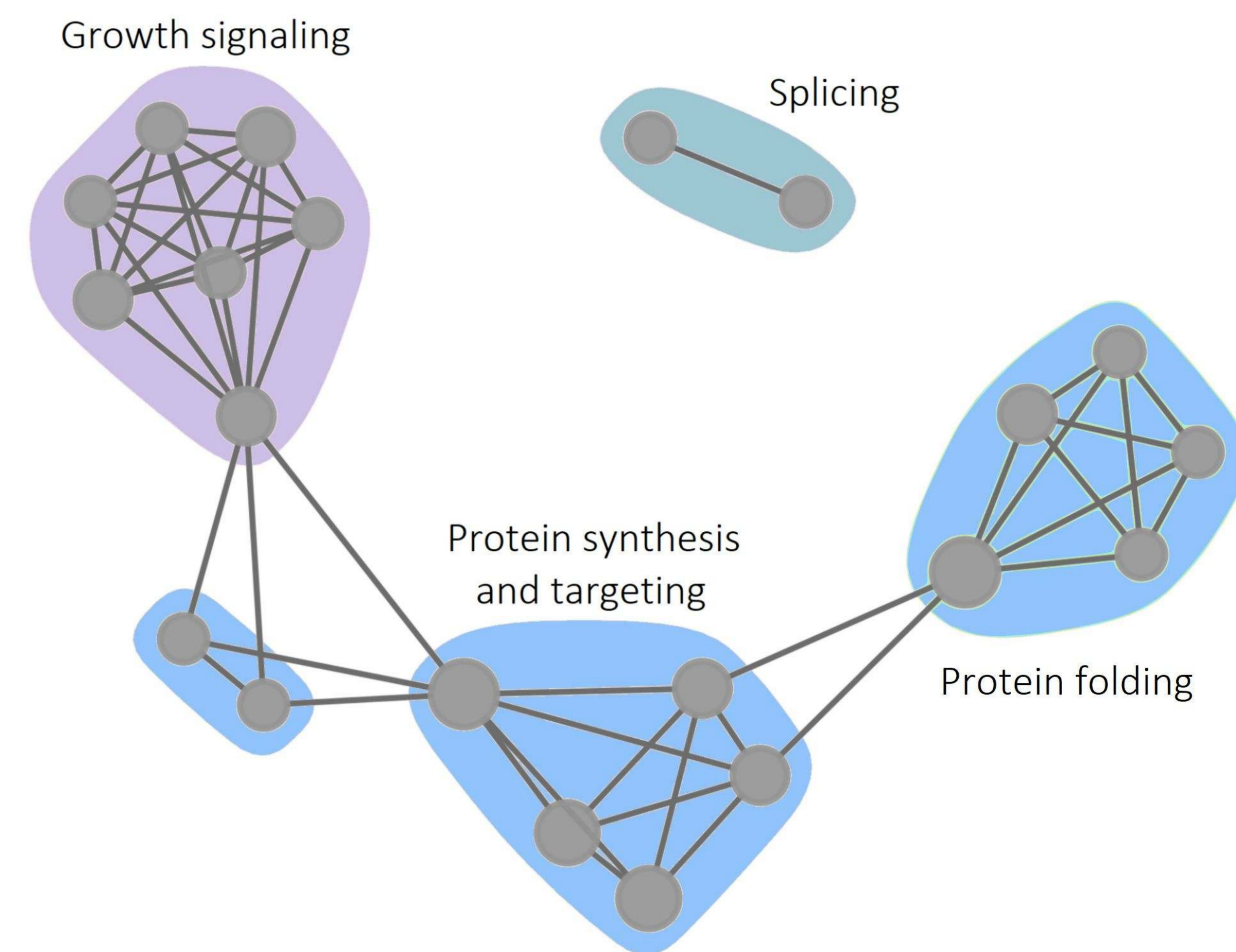
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D



E



F

