

### Compensation between Wnt-driven tumorigenesis and cellular responses to ribosome biogenesis inhibition in the murine intestinal epithelium

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### 2 ribosome biogenesis inhibition in the murine intestinal epithelium

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- 23 **Running title:** Ribosome biogenesis defects and tumor initiation
- 24 Keywords : Ribosome biogenesis; Wnt signaling; Colorectal cancer; p53.

#### 26 Abstract

27 Ribosome biogenesis inhibition causes cell cycle arrest and apoptosis through the 28 activation of tumor suppressor-dependent surveillance pathways. These responses are 29 exacerbated in cancer cells, suggesting that targeting ribosome synthesis may be beneficial to patients. Here, we characterize the effect of the loss-of-function of Notchless (Nle), an essential 30 31 actor of ribosome biogenesis, on the intestinal epithelium undergoing tumor initiation due to 32 acute Apc loss-of-function. We show that ribosome biogenesis dysfunction strongly alleviates 33 Wnt-driven tumor initiation by restoring cell cycle exit and differentiation in Apc-deficient 34 progenitors. Conversely Wnt hyperactivation attenuates the cellular responses to surveillance pathways activation induced by ribosome biogenesis dysfunction, as proliferation was 35 36 maintained at control-like levels in the stem cells and progenitors of double mutants. Thus, our 37 data indicate that, while ribosome biogenesis inhibition efficiently reduces cancer cell 38 proliferation in the intestinal epithelium, enhanced resistance of Apc-deficient stem and progenitor cells to ribosome biogenesis defects may be an important concern when using a 39 40 therapeutic strategy targeting ribosome production for the treatment of Wnt-dependent 41 tumorigenesis.

### 43 INTRODUCTION

44

45 Ribosome biogenesis inhibition has emerged as a promising therapeutic strategy against cancer. Indeed, in addition to targeting the production of the ribosomes required 46 47 for the increased protein synthesis demand of cancer cells<sup>1</sup>, RNA Pol I inhibition or 48 deficiencies in ribosome biogenesis factors were shown to trigger the binding of a 5S 49 rRNA/RPL11/RPL5 inhibitory complex to MDM2, thereby preventing p53 degradation<sup>2-</sup> 50 <sup>4</sup>. In absence of functional p53 pathway, ribosome biogenesis dysfunction also triggers 51 p53-independent mechanisms<sup>5</sup>. Taking advantage of specific RNA Pol I inhibitors, several 52 *in vitro* and xenograft studies have shown that lymphoma <sup>6</sup>, melanoma, osteosarcoma, 53 breast, colon <sup>7</sup> and lung <sup>8</sup> cancer cells display a strong and specific sensitivity to ribosome 54 biogenesis inhibition, that induces potent p53-dependent or independent stress 55 responses, which are not observed in normal cells<sup>6,7</sup>. As a therapeutic strategy, targeting the translational apparatus of cancer cells has two major advantages. Firstly, it is non-56 57 genotoxic and therefore minimizes the risk of inducing novel mutations in the 58 surrounding cells. Secondly, this approach displayed so far a clear differential effect 59 between normal cells and the tested cancer cell lines, making it theoretically possible to 60 establish a dosage that reduces deleterious side effects while still being efficient. However, 61 the impact of ribosome biogenesis alterations on tissues undergoing tumorigenesis in vivo 62 has insufficiently been assessed until now.

63 In humans, APC is mutated in the vast majority of colorectal cancers <sup>9</sup>. In the mouse, 64 the acute inactivation of *Apc* in the epithelium of the small intestine results in constitutive activation of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway, leading to an abnormal expansion of the 65 proliferative compartment at the expense of differentiated cells, reminiscent of early 66 events of adenoma formation<sup>10,11</sup>. It has been shown that *Myc* deletion largely rescues the 67 68 Apc loss-of-function phenotype through downstream shutdown of the Wnt pathway<sup>12</sup>, 69 suggesting that Wnt-driven tumor initiation is also *Myc*-driven. Interestingly, the 70 aforementioned Pol I inhibitors were demonstrated to be particularly efficient on Myc-71 driven cancer cells<sup>6,8</sup>. Since c-MYC is a major ribosome biogenesis positive regulator<sup>13</sup>, 72 this raised the possibility that ribosome biogenesis inhibition could also attenuate the 73 phenotype caused by *Apc* deficiency.

*Notchless (Nle)* encodes a WD40 repeats-containing protein highly conserved in
 eukaryotes<sup>14-16</sup> and involved in the late steps of maturation and subsequent export of the

60S particle<sup>17-20</sup>. In previous studies, we showed that the role of *Nle* in the maturation of 76 77 the large ribosomal subunit is conserved in the mouse<sup>21</sup>, and that *Nle* loss-of-function 78 leads to p53 activation in the intestinal epithelium, resulting in rapid stem cell and 79 progenitor exhaustion through cell cycle arrest, apoptosis and premature goblet cell differentiation<sup>22</sup>. This genetic model offers a unique opportunity to study the impact of 80 81 ribosome biogenesis perturbations specifically in the intestinal epithelium under 82 pathological conditions. Here, by combining *Nle* and *Apc* conditional loss-of-function, we 83 show that defective ribosome biogenesis strongly attenuates Wnt hyperactivation-driven 84 proliferative compartment expansion in the intestinal epithelium through restoration of cell cycle exit and differentiation. Conversely, we show that Wnt hyperactivation 85 86 alleviates the *Nle* loss-of-function phenotype, as proliferation is maintained in double 87 mutant crypts and in the stem cell compartment despite broad and persistent p53 88 stabilization.

### 90 MATERIAL AND METHODS

- 91
- 92 Mice.
- 93 All experiments were conducted at the Institut Pasteur according to the French and
- 94 European regulations on care and protection of laboratory animals (EC Directive 86/609,
- French Law 2001-486 issued on June 6, 2001) and were approved by the Institut Pasteur
- 96 ethics committee (n° 2016-0106 and 2017-0044).
- 97 The alleles used were as follows: *Nle<sup>flox 21</sup>*, *Nle<sup>null 15</sup>*, *Apc*<sup>flox 10</sup>, Villin-CreERT2 <sup>23</sup>. All
- 98 experimental animals were generated in a mixed C57BL/6Nx129/Sv genetic background.
- 99 Mice at 5 to 10 weeks of age were injected intraperitoneally with 56mg/kg tamoxifen for
- 100 three consecutive days. For proliferation assays, mice were injected with BrdU (100
- 101 mg/kg) 2h, 24h or 48h before sacrifice. Injection order was randomized between animals
- 102 and genotype was only assessed after the experiments.
- 103 Genotyping was performed by PCR after tissue lysis in 50 mM Tris, pH 8.5, 100 mM NaCl, 104 0.5% Tween 20, and 100 mg/ml proteinase K at 56°C overnight, followed by a 10-min 105 incubation at 96°C. PCR was performed using 1.0 unit of Tag DNA polymerase (MP 106 biomedicals) under the following conditions: 95 °C for 30 s; 32 cycles at 95 °C for 30 s, 107 60 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 60 s; 72 °C for 10 min. For *Nle*, PCR amplification with primers 108 mNleQF3 (5'- ctgtactctttctcatccgaccac -3'), CondF (5'- agacttggggtctggactca -3'), and 109 CondR2 (5'- ccctaactaagacaaccaaga -3') allowed us to discriminate *Nle<sup>wt</sup>* (100 bp), *Nle<sup>Flox</sup>* 110 (200 bp), and *Nle<sup>del</sup>* (500 bp) alleles. For *Apc*, PCR amplification with primers APCint13F 111 (5'- ctgttctgcagtatgttatca -3'), APCext14R (5'- ctatgagtcaacacaggatta -3'), and APCext15R (5'- caatataatgagctctgggcc -3') allowed us to discriminate *APC<sup>wt</sup>* (180 bp), *Apc<sup>Flox</sup>* (230 bp), 112 113 and Apc<sup>del</sup> (160 bp) alleles. PCR products were separated by electrophoresis on 2% high-114 resolution (NuSieve 3:1 agarose) agarose gels.
- 115

### 116 **Tissue extracts.**

- For paraffin sections, the intestinal tract was dissected, then flushed with ice-cold PBS to remove feces and perfused with ice-cold 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). The small intestine was rolled up from the proximal to the distal end in concentric circles, fixed in 4% PFA at 4°C overnight and embedded in paraffin wax. For RT-qPCR on total epithelium, 5 cm of duodenum was harvested in 10mL EDTA (10mM in PBS, pH=8.0). After 30 min incubation
- 122 on ice and 2x5 min vortex at maximum speed at 4°C, the muscle layer of the intestine was

manually removed and the epithelium was pelleted at 300 rcf, 4°C for 5 min, then
resuspended in 1 mL Trizol (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). For crypts and villi isolation,
5–10 cm of jejunum were collected, opened longitudinally and processed as previously
described <sup>24</sup>.

127

### 128 Histology and immunostaining.

Histology and immunostaining were performed as described previously <sup>25</sup>. Specific
antibody binding was detected using biotinylated secondary antibodies and
Streptavidin/HRP complexes (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark). For β-catenin immunostaining,
M.O.M. and ABC kits (Vector) were used. Bright field microscopy was performed using a
Axio Scan.Z1 equipped with a 20x objective lens. The system was set to run in automated
batch mode with automated focus and tissue finding. Primary and secondary antibodies
used in this study are listed in Supplementary material Supplementary Table S1.

136

### 137 In situ hybridization.

For Fluorescent In Situ Hybridization (FISH), the hybridization step was performed as previously described. Conjugated FISH probes were purchased from Eurogentec: its1-Cy5: tagacacggaagagccggacgggaaaga; its2-Cy3: gcgattgatcgtcaaccgacgctc and validated in a previous study <sup>21</sup>. ISH for Olfm4 was carried out with the RNAscope 2.5 BROWN kit (Advanced Cell Diagnostics) according to the manufacturer's instructions (Olfm4 probe reference: 311831).

144

### 145 **RT-qPCR.**

RNA extraction was performed according to the Trizol-chloroform extraction protocol
provided by Invitrogen. For epithelium, crypts and villi, the chloroform and ethanol steps
were repeated twice. Reverse-transcription was performed using the Superscript II kit
(Invitrogen) according to the manufacturers' instructions. Real-time PCR was carried on
using custom-designed primers (Supplementary Table S2) and LightCycler 480 SYBR
Green I Master mix (Roche Life Sciences) on a LightCycler 480 (Roche Life Sciences).
Expression levels were normalized using TBP and Aldolase as reference genes.

153

154 Western blot.

155 Proteins were extracted in a buffer containing 10mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 5mM EDTA, 150mM 156 NaCl, 30mM Sodium Pyrophosphate, 50mM Sodium Fluoride, 10% Glycerol, 1% NP40, 157 supplemented with antiproteases (Roche Life Sciences) and 2.5U/µL Benzonase (Sigma-158 Aldrich). The extracts were incubated on ice for 30 min, then centrifuged 10 min at 10000 159 rcf, 4°C. The supernatant was recovered and its protein content was determined using a 160 Bradford assay. Proteins were denatured in Laemmli buffer at 95 °C for 5 min before being 161 loaded on a 12% polyacrylamide gel. After migration, proteins were transferred onto a 162 nitrocellulose membrane (Biorad, Hercules, CA, USA) and incubated overnight at 4°C with 163 the primary antibodies. Membranes were incubated with peroxidase-labeled secondary 164 antibodies at RT for 80 min and rinsed in TBS-0.1% Tween. Signals were visualized using 165 ECl 2 (Pierce Biotechnology, Rockford, IL, USA) and quantified on a Typhoon Instrument. 166 Primary and secondary antibodies used in these experiments are listed in Supplementary 167 Table S1.

168

### 169 **Quantification of protein synthesis.**

Mice were injected intraperitoneally with 2mg of puromycin in PBS, 10min before sacrifice. Intestines were rapidly harvested in ice-cold PBS containing emetine to block further puromycin incorporation during the procedure. Crypts were isolated as previously described <sup>24</sup> and counted before being lysed in protein extraction buffer. Puromycilated peptide chains were quantified on a western blot against puromycin by measuring the pixel intensity through the whole length of each lane using a Typhoon instrument.

177

### 178 Crypts culture.

179 Isolated crypts were cultured as previously described <sup>45</sup>. In brief, crypts were embedded 180 in growth factor reduced matrigel (Corning LifeSciences, Tewksbury, MA, USA) with 181 culture medium (Advanced DMEM/F12; Invitrogen) containing EGF (Peprotech, Rocky 182 Hill, NJ, USA), R-spondin 1 (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA), Noggin (Peprotech) and 183 B27 (Invitrogen). For nutlin-3 treatment, 4- or 8-days old organoids derived from Control 184 or APC<sup>cKO</sup> crypts were incubated with culture medium containing DMSO (mock condition) 185 or nutlin-3a (Sigma) at 1µM, 5µM and 10µM concentrations. After 2 days of treatment, the 186 number of healthy organoids was scored manually. Images of representative organoids 187 were acquired with a bright-field Leica MZ16 binocular (Leica, M165FC). Healthy

188 organoids were defined as budding structures with at least 3 buds and visible lumen for 189 Control, and smooth spheres with visible lumen for APC<sup>cKO</sup>. 2 mice per genotype and 2 to 190 3 technical replicates per condition were assessed. For immunofluorescence, organoids 191 were fixed in 4% formaldehyde for 2 hours at RT, permeabilized with Blocking Buffer (5% 192 fetal calf serum, 0.5% Triton X-100 in 1X PBS) and incubated with appropriate primary and secondary antibodies. Phalloidin (1/50; Thermofisher) and DAPI (1/1000; Sigma) 193 194 were used to detect cell membranes and nuclei, respectively. Samples were washed 3 195 times in PBS before being imaged on the macroapotome Zeiss Axiozoomer and analyzed 196 using the Zen software.

197

**Statistical analysis.** All experiments were performed with a sample size  $n \ge 4$  (each sample is an individual mouse) so as to dampen the influence of outliers on means. No animal was excluded from the analysis. For mean comparisons, all bar graphs with pooled data show means  $\pm$  S.E.M. Statistical analyses were performed using the parametric Student's t-test and the non-parametric Mann–Whitney Wilcoxon test to account for the possibility of non-normal distributions. p<0.05 was considered significant. Tests were always two-sided.

205

RNA sequencing. Crypts were harvested at day 1 and day 2 pi from 3 mice of each
genotypes and total RNA was prepared using Trizol-chloroform extraction. PolyAenriched library preparation and PE150 sequencing were performed by Novogene Co. Ltd.
Approximately 20 million sequences were generated per sample and used for the analysis.
The sequence data have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus under
accession number GSE144233.

212

### 213 **Computational Methods**

214 RNA-seq Data Processing and Differential Expression

Paired end RNA-seq reads were quantified against the mm9 transcriptome using Kallisto
0.43 <sup>26</sup> with default options. Rounded estimated counts were used as input to DESeq2 <sup>27</sup>.
Genes with at least 10 normalized counts in all replicates of at least one condition were
considered for differential expression analysis. For all differential expression tests
DESeq2 was run without independent filtering and without any fold change shrinkage,
genes with padj < 0.05 are considered differentially expressed. Samples at 24h and 48h</li>

- 221 were processed separately and subjected to the same analysis. We performed Wald tests
- 222 under the model  $\sim$  Nle + Apc + Nle:Apc, where Nle is a factor indicating Nle<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc is
- 223 a factor indicating Apc<sup>cKO</sup>. Roughly, for each gene, the fold changes in Nle<sup>cKO</sup> samples (N)
- and in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> samples (A) were calculated. The interaction term (D) indicates that, for a
- given gene, the fold change in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>;Nle<sup>cKO</sup> samples differs from N\*A. We tested the
- significance of the Nle, Apc and the interaction term.
- 227 K-means clustering of RNA-seq Data
- Response patterns of genes were identified using k-means clustering (using the Clustering package in Julia 0.6  $^{28}$ ) on normalised read counts. We clustered the mean expression per timepoint and condition, normalised to the maximum expression of each gene. We found k = 10 provided a balance, both generalising broad behaviours and
- 232 identify specific double cKO results.
- 233 Gene/phenotype ontology enrichment analysis
- Genes were annotated with gene ontology (GO) terms (transitively closed to include parent terms) from the MGI GO annotation (date : 26/01/2017). Enrichment tests were applied to gene lists resulting from differential expression analysis. In all cases, enrichment tests were performed using  $\chi^2$  tests for all terms with at least 5 genes in the gene list of interest against a background of annotations of all genes tested for differential expression.  $\chi^2$  test p-values were adjusted by the Benjamini-Hochberg method, those with padj < 0.05 where reported.
- The different gene clusters from the model-based analysis were also analyzed using the
  MouseMine database. For each gene list, Mammalian Phenotype Ontology Enrichment
  terms were searched with Max p-value = 0.05 and Holm-Bonferroni correction. When
  significantly enriched terms were found, those relevant to our mutant phenotypes were
  selected, and the term with the lowest p-value for each category was indicated on figures
  5E and S5. For every analysis, p<0.05 is considered significant.</li>
- 247

#### 248 **RESULTS**

249

### *Nle* loss-of-function improves survival of *Apc*-deficient mice and limits expansion of the crypt compartment.

Control (Villin-CreERT2<sup>tg/0</sup>; *Apc<sup>flox/+</sup>*; *Nle<sup>flox/+</sup>*), Apc<sup>cKO</sup> (Villin-CreERT2<sup>tg/0</sup>; 252 *Apc<sup>flox/flox</sup>; Nle<sup>flox/+</sup>*) and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> (Villin-CreERT2<sup>tg/0</sup>; *Apc<sup>flox/flox</sup>; Nle<sup>flox/null</sup>*) mice were 253 254 subjected to three daily intraperitoneal tamoxifen injections and analyzed at various time 255 points post last tamoxifen injection (pi) (Figure 1A). Conversion of the Apcflox and Nleflox alleles into *Apc<sup>del</sup>* and *Nle<sup>del</sup>* alleles respectively, was monitored by genomic PCR on both 256 257 loci. We found that recombination of the Apcflox and Nleflox alleles was efficient in the 258 intestinal epithelium from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> mice (Figure 1B). Apc<sup>cKO</sup> 259 mice lost weight and died rapidly following tamoxifen injection. Weight loss was 260 significantly reduced in double mutant mice (Figure 1C), and although persisting, their 261 death was significantly delayed compared to the Apc<sup>cKO</sup> (Figure 1D).

262 Consistent with previous reports<sup>10,11</sup>, hematoxylin-eosin staining showed that *Apc* 263 loss-of-function resulted in rapid expansion of the crypt compartment at the expense of 264 the villus (Figure 1E), loss of typical enterocyte polarity and abnormal nuclear 265 morphology (Figure S1A). Nle loss-of-function strongly dampened these histological 266 alterations (Figure 1E), as the enlarged crypt compartment was not observed, and cell 267 polarity was restored in the villus (Figure S1A). Other aspects of the *Apc* loss-of-function 268 phenotype such as the ectopic paneth cells<sup>10</sup> and enterocyte hypertrophia were similarly 269 observed in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> (Figure S1A-C). Collectively, these data indicate that *Nle* loss-270 of-function restores crypt and villus architecture in the *Apc*-deficient epithelium but does 271 not fully rescue the *Apc* loss-of-function clinical and histological phenotype.

272

## 273 *Nle* loss-of-function attenuates proliferative compartment expansion by restoring 274 cell cycle exit and differentiation despite Wnt pathway hyperactivation.

To verify that Wnt hyperactivation was effective in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal epithelia, we monitored nuclear  $\beta$ -catenin on small intestine sections. Accumulation of nuclear  $\beta$ catenin was similarly observed in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines (Figure 2A). Moreover, upregulation of the Wnt targets *c-Myc* and *Axin2* was found in both Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> epithelia (Figure 2B), confirming that hyperactivation of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway consecutive to *Apc*-deficiency was not modified by *Nle* loss-of-function. 281 We then performed a 2hrs BrdU chase to visualize proliferation in the intestinal epithelium at day 2, 3 and 4 pi (Figure 2C and S2A). As previously reported<sup>10,11</sup>, 282 283 proliferation in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> intestines abnormally extended beyond the histological crypt 284 compartment. Strikingly, the proliferation pattern was restored in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, as BrdU 285 positive cells restricted to the histological crypt like in Control intestines (Figure 2C). The 286 proportion of BrdU-positive cells within the proliferative compartment was similar for all 287 genotypes (Figure 2D), suggesting that the structure of the cell cycle is not dramatically perturbed in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> compared to Control. We observed a linear growth 288 289 of their proliferative compartment overtime (Figure S2B-C), primarily due to enlarged 290 crypt growth in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>, whereas in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, it was caused by histological crypt 291 hyperplasia (Figure S2A). Taken together, these data suggest that *Nle* loss-of-function 292 reduces the expansion of the proliferative compartment consecutive to Apc loss-of-293 function without affecting the proliferation rate of *Apc*-deficient intestinal progenitors.

294 We next tested whether such attenuation could be due to a restoration of cell cycle 295 exit by comparing the position of BrdU-positive cells after short and long periods of chase at day 2 and 3 pi. After 48h of chase, while BrdU-positive cells had exited cell cycle and 296 297 were found in the villus in Control, all Apc<sup>cKO</sup> BrdU-positive cells remained in the 298 proliferative compartment (Figure 3A and S3A), thereby contributing to its expansion. Of 299 note, BrdU staining was fainter in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> than in Control, suggesting that Apc<sup>cKO</sup> 300 progenitors underwent more cell divisions than Control cells. In Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestine, 301 BrdU-positive cells reached the villus after 48h chase at day 3pi. However, at day 2pi, 302 BrdU-positive cells were found in the crypt and at the boundary between the crypt and 303 the villus (Figure S3A-B) suggesting that though restored, cell-cycle exit is delayed in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>. *Nle*-deficiency induced a potent apoptotic response in normal intestinal 304 305 progenitors<sup>22</sup>. Caspase 3 staining on intestinal sections showed a similar proportion of Caspase-3-positive cells in both Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> proliferative compartments 306 307 (Figure 3B, E), indicating that apoptosis is unlikely to be an important driver for the 308 reduction of the proliferative compartment in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>. Finally, to evaluate the differentiation status of Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> epithelia, we performed Mucin-2 and 309 310 Chromogranin-A immunohistochemistry (Figure 3C-D) and Alcian Blue coloration 311 (Figure S3C). Enteroendocrine and goblet cells were absent from the expanded proliferative compartment of the Apc<sup>cKO</sup> as previously reported<sup>10,11</sup>. In contrast, both cell 312 313 types were found in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> villi and crypts. Consistently, *Muc2* and *ChromoA* mRNA

levels in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts were intermediate compared to Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Controls (Figure
3F). Collectively, our results indicate that *Nle* loss-of-function attenuates Wnt
hyperactivation-driven expansion of the proliferation compartment by partially restoring
the capacity of *Apc*-deficient progenitors to exit cell cycle and differentiate.

318

# *Nle* loss-of-function leads to ribosome biogenesis defects and p53 stabilization in the *Apc*-deficient epithelium.

321 The immediate consequences of *Apc* loss-of-function on ribosome biogenesis and 322 protein synthesis in intestinal epithelium have not been described so far. No difference in 323 the levels of nucleolar rRNA intermediates of the small (its1) and the large (its2) 324 ribosomal subunits was observed in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> compared to Control crypts at day 2 pi (Figure 325 4A-B) indicating that rRNA synthesis was not affected in Apc-deficient progenitors. 326 Performing FISH with its1 and its2 probes, we previously showed increased ribosome 327 biogenesis in crypts compared to villi<sup>22</sup>. Consistent with the invasion of proliferative cells 328 into the villus region, FISH staining of Apc<sup>cKO</sup> showed high pre-rRNAs levels in a region 329 corresponding to the expanded proliferative compartment (Figure 4C). These data indicate that ribosome production in Apc-deficient proliferative cells is similar to that of 330 331 *Apc*-proficient intestinal progenitors.

332 Nle loss-of-function was shown to affect large ribosomal subunit biogenesis in 333 crypt cells <sup>22</sup> leading to the specific increase in its2, but not its1, levels. A similar 334 phenotype was detected in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts at day 2 pi (Figure 4B-C), however its2 335 accumulation was no longer restricted to crypt cells but largely extended to villi (Figure 336 4C). A possible explanation for this observation would be that Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors, unlike Nlecko (Villin-CreERT2<sup>tg/0</sup>; *Nle<sup>flox/null</sup>*) progenitors, survived and continued to 337 338 proliferate despite dysfunctional ribosome biogenesis, thereby giving rise to 339 differentiated cells with increased nucleolar ribosomal pre-particles.

We next asked whether these defects activated a p53 stress response, as in a normal epithelium<sup>22</sup>. In Apc<sup>cK0</sup>, p53 was transiently stabilized at day 2 pi in a few cells located at the distalmost part of the expanded proliferative compartment (Figure 4D and S4A) consistent with previous reports<sup>29</sup>. In Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup>, strong and persistent p53 nuclear staining was observed in most cells of the crypt and of the lower part of the villus (Figure 4D and S4B), like its2 accumulation (Figure 4C). Importantly, robust p53 stabilization was observed in Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> progenitors in absence of cell cycle arrest

- 347 (Figures 2A and S2) or massive apoptotic response (Figure 3B) contrary to Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypt
  348 cells<sup>22</sup>. Collectively, our data show that *Nle* loss-of-function leads to defective ribosome
  349 biogenesis and p53 stabilization in *Apc*-deficient progenitor cells without triggering the
- cell cycle arrest and apoptotic responses normally observed in *Apc*-proficient cells.
- 351

# 352 The double mutant transcriptome is essentially the sum of single mutant 353 transcriptomes.

354 We performed RNAseq on Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts at day 355 1 and 2 pi (Figure 5; Supplementary Table S3). Principal component analysis clearly 356 distinguished samples according to their genotype (Figure 5A), with PC1 (58.79% of the 357 variance) and PC2 (12.77% of the variance) segregating the samples according to the *Apc* or *Nle* genotype respectively. Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> samples were undistinguishable from Apc<sup>cKO</sup> 358 359 according to PC1 and from Nlecko according to PC2, indicating that Apccko; Nlecko is essentially the linear combination of Nle<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>. Using K-means clustering, we 360 361 found that the 15115 genes expressed in our dataset could be spread into 10 clusters with 362 distinct gene expression variation patterns (Figure 5B; Supplementary Table S4). 363 Strikingly, the vast majority of the genes had the same expression pattern in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> 364 as in Apc<sup>cK0</sup>, with only four clusters (6, 7, 9 and 10) comprising 3259 (21%) genes that 365 were differentially regulated in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> compared to Apc<sup>cKO</sup> samples. Gene 366 expression pattern varied little according to the timing.

367 To distinguish additive from non-additive interactions between the two mutations, 368 we performed a model-based analysis where timings were considered separately (Figure 369 5C-D). Considering all samples at a given time point, a "*Nle*-related", an "*Apc*-related" fold-370 change and an interaction term describing the deviation of the double mutant from a 371 linear combination of the two mutants were calculated for each gene. Examining cases 372 where the effects of the double mutant were either an independent combination of both, 373 or exhibited a dependence, we distinguished 8 gene categories (Figure 5C; Supplementary 374 Table S5), four of which encompassed genes that were subject to non-additive interactions (*ie* have a "D" term). Consistent with the principal component analysis, *Apc* 375 376 loss-of-function was largely dominant compared to Nle loss-of-function (91% vs 38% of 377 misregulated genes at day 2 pi) (Figure 5D). Besides genes that were either unaffected in 378 all genotypes ([-|-|-]) and those affected only by Apc or Nle loss of function ([A|-|-] and [-379 [N]-]), a minority of genes was subject to either additive ([A|N]-], 15% of misregulated

380 genes at day 2 pi) or non-additive interactions ([-|-|D], [-|N|D], [A|-|D], and [A|N|D], 14% 381 of misregulated genes at day 2 pi) (Figure 5D). Gene and phenotype ontology enrichment 382 analysis (Figures 5E and S5) showed that *Apc* or *Nle* loss of function upregulated genes 383 involved in ribosome biogenesis in an additive manner (Figure 5E, [A|N|-]). Interestingly, 384 the sub-cluster of genes that are expressed at intermediate levels in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> due to 385 the additive effect of Apc-related upregulation and Nle-related downregulation is 386 significantly enriched in genes involved in cell cycling and proliferation (Figure 5E, 387 [A|N|-]). Overall, hypothesizing that the observed phenotypic differences arises from 388 differential gene regulation at the transcriptional level, these results suggest that the phenotype of the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> essentially results from additive gene-by-gene effects of 389 390 *Apc* and *Nle* loss-of-function rather than signaling pathway transcriptional activation or shutdown. 391

392 We next examined a few sets of genes whose differential expression might be relevant to the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> phenotype (Figure 5F). Upregulation of cell cycle inhibitor 393 394 genes in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors compared to Apc<sup>cKO</sup> might explain their enhanced capacity to stop proliferating. However, *p21* was the only cell cycle inhibitor upregulated 395 396 in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> to levels similar to Nle<sup>cKO</sup>. This was likely due to p53 activation since *p21* 397 is a well-known p53 target. Other p53 targets were equally upregulated in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> 398 and Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, including those that were downregulated in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup> (*Fas, Perp*). Thus, Wnt 399 hyperactivation does not dramatically impact *p53* transcriptional response. Conversely, 400 most Wnt targets were similarly upregulated in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>, suggesting that 401 *Nle* loss-of-function only marginally modulates the Wnt hyperactivation transcriptional 402 response. Finally, intestinal stem cell marker expression in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> resulted from 403 either additive (Ascl2, Sox9, Tert, Pw1, Bmi1) or non-additive (Olfm4, Lgr5, Mex3a, Lrig1, 404 Krt15, Hopx) effects. Strikingly, Nle loss-of-function attenuated Wnt hyperactivation-405 driven *Lqr5* upregulation but also participated to the synergic upregulation of the reserve 406 stem cell markers *Krt15* and, to a lesser extend *Hopx* and *Bmi1*. This suggests that the 407 reserve intestinal stem cell population might be particularly stimulated in the 408 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestine.

409

*Nle* loss-of-function leads to a reduction of mature rRNAs and protein synthesis
activity in *Apc*-deficient crypts.

412 We next asked whether alterations in ribosome content and protein synthesis 413 activity could contribute to the phenotype. We first quantified the levels of mature rRNAs 414 (18S and 28S) by RT-qPCR (Figure 4A). No difference in rRNA levels was observed in 415 Apc<sup>cKO</sup> crypts compared to Control at day 2 pi (Figure 6A) indicating that, like pre-rRNA, 416 ribosome content was not affected in Apc-deficient progenitors. We also monitored 417 protein synthesis by puromycin incorporation *in vivo*<sup>22</sup>. Surprisingly, quantification of 418 puromycylated nascent chains after a short in vivo pulse of puromycin revealed an 419 increased number of active ribosomes in Apc-deficient progenitors compared to the 420 control at day 2 and day 3 pi (Figure 6B-C, S6). Taken together with the aforementioned 421 analyses of pre-rRNA levels, these data indicate that upregulation of protein synthesis, 422 but not ribosome biogenesis, is an early feature of Apc-deficient progenitors.

423 Interestingly, contrary to the Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, mature rRNA levels were significantly 424 decreased in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts (Figure 6A). It can be hypothesized that progenitor 425 survival and proliferation despite ribosome biogenesis defects in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> gives 426 rise to cells with decreased ribosome content. Strikingly, the number of active ribosomes 427 in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypt cells reduced to normal level compared to Apc<sup>cKO</sup> (Figure 6B-C, S6). 428 Altogether, these data suggest that, in the context of *Apc*-deficient intestinal epithelium, 429 *Nle* loss-of-function leads to a reduction of ribosome content consecutive to ribosome 430 biogenesis defects, which, in turn, decreases translational activity of Apc-deficient 431 progenitors to control-like levels. Such impairment of translation stimulation might 432 contribute to induce cell cycle exit in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors.

433

### Wnt hyperactivation prevents p53-induced rapid depletion of intestinal stem and progenitor cells in *Nle*-deficient crypts.

436 We then examined the fate of intestinal stem cells in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> mice. RT-gPCR 437 confirmed the transcriptomic data as *Lqr5* was upregulated in the Apc<sup>cK0</sup> and restored to control levels in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> at day 2 pi, whereas *Olfm4* was downregulated in both 438 439 Nle<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> compared to Control (Figure 7A). *In situ* hybridization indicated 440 that, as expected, *Olfm4* expression confined to cells at the crypt bottom in Control, 441 extended upward in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and was markedly decreased in Nle<sup>cKO</sup> (Figure 7B). In 442 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, *Olfm4* staining was similar to Apc<sup>cKO</sup> but varied from crypt to crypt and was 443 generally fainter than both Control and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>. Interestingly, nuclear p53 protein was 444 detected in crypt base columnar (CBC) cells, recognizable by their shape and location at the crypt base, at every tested time point (Figure 7C) suggesting that, like progenitors, *Apc*-deficient stem cells were less sensitive to ribosome biogenesis defects and p53
activation than *Apc*-proficient stem cells. Indeed, contrary to Nle<sup>cK0</sup>, proliferating CBCs
were present at the bottom of Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> crypts (Figure 7D). Collectively, these data
show that intestinal stem and progenitor cells are maintained in Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> mice
despite defective ribosome biogenesis and robust p53 activation.

451 To confirm this point, we derived organoids from control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and 452 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts harvested at day 1 pi (Figure 8A-B). Contrary to Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts, Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts grew into organoids at the same rate as Control (Figure 8A). Of note, 453 454 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> organoids grew as spheroids like Apc<sup>cKO</sup> (Figure 8B). Over time, 455 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> organoids were progressively populated by *Nle*-proficient cells that had 456 escaped recombination at the *Nle* locus. This, together with the fact that continuous Cre 457 induction is detrimental to organoid growth <sup>46</sup>, prevented us to assess the behavior of 458 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> organoids at later time points. In order to highlight possible increased 459 resistance to p53 activation of Apc<sup>cKO</sup> stem and progenitor cells compared to Control, we 460 cultured organoids with increasing doses of nutlin-3, a small compound that activates p53 461 through inhibition of Mdm2. Apc<sup>cKO</sup> organoids were more resistant to nutlin-3 treatment 462 than Control, as viability of Control was strongly reduced at 5µM nutlin-3 while that of APC<sup>cKO</sup> organoids was almost unaffected (Figure 8D) despite robust p53 stabilization 463 (Figure S7B). Collectively, these results show that Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal stem and 464 465 progenitor cells display enhanced survival to p53 activation. 466

#### 467 **DISCUSSION**

468

469 Colorectal cancers, like many cancers, are characterized by increased ribosome 470 biogenesis and protein translation<sup>30,31</sup>. High expression of pre-rRNA is associated with 471 poor prognosis in colorectal cancer<sup>32</sup> and increased translational elongation is key for 472 intestinal tumorigenesis<sup>33</sup>. Interestingly, oxaliplatin, a drug commonly used to treat 473 colorectal cancers, was shown to affect ribosome biogenesis and trigger p53 induction 474 and, consistent with this, cancer cells sensitive to oxaliplatin display higher ribosome 475 biogenesis and mRNA translation rates<sup>34</sup>. Here, we showed that *in vivo* gut epithelium-476 specific inhibition of ribosome biogenesis strongly attenuates the expansion of the 477 proliferative compartment during tumor initiation.

478 Inactivation of some key target genes of the Wnt/β-catenin pathway such as *c*-479  $Myc^{12}$ , cyclinD2<sup>35</sup> and Fak1<sup>36</sup> or of the chromatin remodeling factor Brg1<sup>37</sup> were also shown to dampen the expansion of the proliferative compartment in Apc<sup>cKO</sup> mice. In all 480 481 these situations, dampening was accompanied by a marked alteration of the Wnt 482 hyperactivation transcriptional signature. In contrast, Nle loss-of-function only 483 marginally modifies the transcriptomic response to Apc loss-of-function. The partial 484 rescue of Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> mice phenotype is thus rather due to the compensation between 485 the antagonistic effects of Wnt-driven tumorigenesis and ribosome biogenesis inhibition.

486 In Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> mice, attenuation likely results from the activation of the 487 RP/MDM2/p53 ribosome biogenesis surveillance pathway. Upon Apc inactivation, p53 488 stabilization is observed only locally and transiently in a small population of cells and the 489 intestinal phenotype of Apc loss-of-function is not modified in absence of p53 (this study 490 and <sup>29</sup>). In contrast, high levels of p53 are detected in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypt and villus cells 491 showing dysfunctional ribosome biogenesis, recognizable by their nucleolar 492 accumulation of precursor rRNAs of the large ribosomal subunit. Contrary to Apc-493 deficient progenitors, Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors are able to exit cell cycle and 494 differentiate. Upregulation by p53 of *p21* could be contributing to the restoration of cell 495 cycle arrest and attenuation of the expansion of the proliferative compartment. Another 496 explanation for this attenuation is that Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors are unable to upregulate 497 protein synthesis at a level sufficient for tumorigenesis. We show here that increased 498 protein translation is an immediate hallmark of Apc loss-of-function that is no longer 499 observed in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors. Enhanced translation likely increases the 500 production of important rate-limiting cell cycle regulators and could influence the 501 capacity of cells to divide or not. Similar to *Nle* loss-of-function, genetic or pharmacologic 502 inhibition of mTORC1-dependent translational stimulation limits the expansion of the 503 proliferative compartment during tumor initiation<sup>33</sup>. The reduction of the translational 504 potential of Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> progenitors may therefore contribute to their eventual cell 505 cycle exit and differentiation.

506 Apc-deficiency dramatically modifies the cellular responses of intestinal cells to 507 defective ribosome biogenesis. Indeed, while Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> stem cells and progenitors 508 express high levels of nuclear p53 and display a clear p53 transcriptional signature, they 509 do not elicit the strong proliferation arrest and apoptotic responses normally observed in 510 crypt cells<sup>22</sup>. Crosstalk between the Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin pathway and p53 have been 511 previously reported and involve the direct or indirect modulation of p53 stability by 512 GSK3<sup>38,39</sup>. However, the regulation of p53 activity by GSK3 leads to p53 degradation, 513 suggesting that this is not the mechanism through which *Apc* loss-of-function attenuates 514 p53 activation in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypt cells. Rather, the fate of stem and progenitor cells 515 with an activated RP/MDM2/p53 ribosome biogenesis surveillance pathway may be 516 modified by the transcriptional response to  $Wnt/\beta$ -catenin hyperactivation, such as for 517 example increased expression of *Ppan*, which has been previously shown to elicit anti-518 apoptotic activities in intestinal stem cells and progenitors<sup>40</sup>. On a different note, it has 519 been shown that the Wnt pathway modulates protein stoichiometry of polysomal 520 ribosomes during mouse neocortex development<sup>41</sup>, which, in turns could potentially 521 result in significant modulation of the proteome<sup>42</sup>. If it holds true in the intestine, such 522 qualitative changes in translation may also contribute to the different behaviors of 523 intestinal cells to p53 activation.

524 It is unclear why intestinal progenitors eventually exit cell cycle in Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> 525 mice. Disequilibrium between the antagonistic actions of Wnt hyperactivation and 526 defective ribosome biogenesis may trigger proliferation arrest. The extended 527 proliferative compartment of the Apc mutant is in many respects heterogeneous, in 528 particular regarding p53 stabilization (this study and <sup>29</sup>) and p21 expression<sup>43</sup>, which 529 concern a small population of cells located at the leading edge of the proliferative 530 compartment. It is therefore possible that while leaving the crypt domain, Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> 531 progenitors experience a suprainduction of p53 and p21, which, together with increased 532 concentration of pro-differentiation cues such as BMPs, trigger cell cycle exit. At the same

time, Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> progenitors located in the crypt domain are able to proliferate despite
defective ribosome biogenesis, giving rise to cells with reduced numbers of ribosomes.
Such decrease may also be interpreted as a signal for proliferation arrest, as suggested by
the impaired proliferation of primary human cell lines with a defective RP/MDM2/p53
ribosome biogenesis surveillance pathway<sup>44</sup>.

538 Our work also unravels major modifications of the *Nle* loss-of-function phenotype 539 by Apc-deficiency. Importantly, our demonstration that Apc-deficient stem cells and 540 progenitors are resistant to defective ribosome biogenesis challenges the notion that 541 cancer cells, and in particular c-MYC-driven cancer cells, are more sensitive to ribosome 542 biogenesis inhibition than normal cells<sup>6-8</sup>. Moreover, enhanced survival of stem cells to 543 ribosome biogenesis stress under Wnt hyperactivation conditions may be a major 544 limitation for therapeutic strategies targeting ribosome production, not only for 545 colorectal cancers, but also for other cancers associated with deregulation of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -546 catenin pathway such as cutaneous melanoma, breast carcinoma, hepatocarcinoma or 547 pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma.

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560

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562

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### 702 FIGURE LEGENDS

703

704 Figure 1 Nle loss-of-function improves survival of Apc-deficient mice and limits 705 crypt hyperplasia. (A) Scheme of tamoxifen injection and analysis. (B) Detection of the 706 nonrecombined (flox) and the recombined (del) Apc (top) and Nle (bottom) alleles by PCR 707 performed on DNA extracts from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> small intestinal 708 epithelium. Two bands of similar intensity are amplified from Apcflox/del (top) and Nleflox/del 709 (bottom) DNA (T). The wt allele appears on the gel for *Apc* but not for *Nle*. (C) Weight curve of Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> mice following tamoxifen injection. \*, p<0.05 710 \*\*\*, p<0.001 according to Student's t-test. (D) Kaplan-Meier survival curve of Control, 711 712 Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> mice following tamoxifen injection. The difference between Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> is significant with p<0.05 according to Mann-Whitney Wilcoxon 713 714 test. (E) Hematoxylin–eosin staining of intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> 715 and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> small intestines at day 2 pi. Black bars indicate the crypt compartment 716 (enlarged in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>). Scale bars, 50 μm.

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718 Figure 2 Nle loss-of-function limits the expansion of the proliferative compartment 719 expansion despite Wnt pathway hyperactivation. (A)  $\beta$ -catenin immunostaining 720 (brown) counterstained with hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from 721 Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. The second lane shows magnified 722 views of framed regions. Scale bars, 50 µm. (B) RT-qPCR performed on total RNA from 723 Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal epithelium extracts at day 2 pi. Graphs 724 represent the mean fold changes ± S.E.M. for Wnt transcriptional target genes *c-Myc* and 725 *Axin2*. n  $\ge$  3 for each genotype. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, p<0.01 \*\*\*, p<001 according to Student's t-726 test. (C) BrdU immunostaining (brown) counterstained with hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 727 728 pi harvested 2 hours after BrdU injection. Black bars indicate the extension of the 729 proliferative compartment. Scale bars, 50 µm. (D) Histogram showing the mean 730 proportion (± S.E.M.) of BrdU-positive cells in the proliferative compartment in Control, 731 Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> small intestines. Twenty-five transverse crypt sections were 732 scored per mouse, n = 4 for each genotype. The means were not significantly different 733 among genotypes according to Mann-Whitney Wilcoxon test.

735 Figure 3 Nle loss-of-function restores cell cycle exit and differentiation in the Apc-736 deficient epithelium. (A) BrdU immunostaining (brown) counterstained with 737 Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control,  $Apc^{cKO}$  and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 3 pi harvested 2 hours or 48 hours after BrdU injection. 738 739 Plain black bars indicate the proliferative compartment. Dotted black bars indicate the 740 range of proliferative cell migration within 48 hours. Scale bars, 50 µm. (B) Cleaved-741 Caspase 3 immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. 742 743 Arrowheads indicate Caspase 3-positive cells. Scale bars, 50 µm. (C) MUC2 744 immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal 745 epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. Scale 746 bars, 50 µm. (D) Chromogranin A immunostaining (brown) counterstained with 747 Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and 748 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. Scale bars, 50 μm. (E) Histogram showing the mean 749 number (+/-SEM) of Caspase 3 positive cells per crypt in Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and 750 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. 30 transverse crypts were scored per mouse,  $n \ge 3$  for 751 each genotype. \*, P<0.05 Mann-Whitney Wilcoxon test. (F) RT-qPCR performed on total 752 RNA from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal crypt extracts at day 2 pi. Graphs 753 represent the mean fold changes ± S.E.M. for differentiation markers *Mucin 2 (Muc2)* and *Chromogranin A* (*ChromoA*).  $n \ge 3$  for each genotype. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, p<0.01 according to 754 755 Mann-Whitney Wilcoxon test.

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757 Figure 4 Nle loss-of-function leads to ribosome biogenesis defects and p53 758 stabilization in the *Apc*-deficient epithelium. (A) Simplified diagram illustrating the 759 main steps of ribosome biogenesis in eukaryotic cells. Blue arrows represent the primers 760 used to measure the levels of ribosomal RNAs by RT-qPCR. FISH probes used to detect 761 its1 (red) and its2 (green) sequences from precursors of the small and large ribosomal 762 subunits, respectively, are indicated. (B) RT-qPCR performed on total RNA from Control, 763 Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal crypt extracts at day 2 pi. Graphs represent the mean 764 fold changes  $\pm$  S.E.M. for the different amplicons. n = 4 for each genotype. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, 765 p<0.01 \*\*\*, p<0.001 according to Student's t-test. (C) FISH for its1 (red) or its2 (yellow) 766 counterstained with Hoechst (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> 767 and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines. Scale bars, 50 µm. (D) p53 immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control,
Apc<sup>cK0</sup> and Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. Lateral bars indicate the position of the
crypt domain for Control and Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> and of the enlarged crypt-like compartment
for Apc<sup>cK0</sup>. Scale bars, 50 μm.

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Figure 5 The double mutant transcriptome is the sum of simple mutant 773 774 transcriptomes. (A) Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the samples. PC2 is plotted 775 against PC1. Apc<sup>cK0</sup> (A) and Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> (AN) are distinguishable from Control (C) and 776 Nle<sup>cKO</sup> (N) according to PC1, whereas N and AN are distinguishable from C and A according 777 to PC1, meaning that PC1 corresponds to *Apc* loss-of-function and PC2 corresponds to *Nle* 778 loss-of-function. (B) K-means clustering on all genes normalized by their maximum 779 expression among the samples. (C) List and description of the 8 theoretical categories of 780 genes according to the model-based analysis. -: no change; N: change in all Nle<sup>cKO</sup> samples 781 including double mutant ones; A: change in all Apc<sup>cKO</sup> samples including double mutant 782 ones; and D: change in double mutant Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> different from that predicted by the 783 additive combination of N and A. (D) Histogram showing the distribution of genes among 784 the 8 categories at day 1 pi and day 2 pi. The number of genes assigned to each category 785 is indicated at both timings. (E) Genes in the [A|N|-] and [A|N|D] categories were 786 separated into clusters by the direction of the A, N and D fold changes at day 2 pi. Gene 787 number is plotted on the left of each heatmap. For each cluster, genes relevant to the 788 analyzed phenotypes are indicated, as well as the most significantly enriched gene (black) 789 and phenotype (blue) ontology terms from MouseMine. (F) Histograms showing the 790 expression variation at day 2 pi of some cell cycle inhibitor-coding mRNAs (blue), p53 791 transcriptional targets (red), Wnt transcriptional targets (purple) and transcripts 792 enriched in ISCs (red). ns, fold change not significant.

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Figure 6 *Nle* loss-of-function causes a diminution of mature rRNA levels and global protein synthesis in the *Apc*-deficient epithelium. (A) RT-qPCR for 18S and 28S rRNA performed on total RNA from Control,  $Apc^{cKO}$  and  $Apc^{cKO}$ ; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal crypt extracts at day 2 pi. Graphs represent the mean fold changes ± S.E.M. for the different amplicons. n = 4 for each genotype. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, p<0.01 according to Student's t-test. (B) Antipuromycin immunoblotting of protein extracts for identical number of crypts cells from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. (C) Histogram showing the mean 801 normalized signal intensity  $\pm$  S.E.M from the immunoblot shown in (B). n = 4 for each 802 genotype. \*, p<0.05 according to Mann–Whitney Wilcoxon test.

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804 Figure 7 Apc loss-of-function attenuates stem cell loss following Nle deletion. (A) RT-805 qPCR performed on total RNA from Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal 806 crypt extracts at day 2 pi. Graphs represent the mean fold changes ± S.E.M. for ISC markers 807 Lgr5 and Olfm4. n = 4 for each genotype. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, p<0.01 \*\*\*, p<001 according to 808 Student's t-test. (B) In situ hybridization for Olfm4 mRNA (brown) counterstained with 809 Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines. The second lane shows magnified views of framed regions. Scale 810 811 bars, 50 µm. (C) p53 immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) 812 on crypt sections from Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at days 2, 3 and 4 pi. Asterisks indicate 813 p53-positive CBCs. Scale bars, 25 µm. (D) BrdU immunostaining (brown) counterstained 814 with Hematoxylin (blue) on crypt sections from Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> 815 intestines at day 2 pi harvested 2 hours after BrdU injection. Asterisks indicate BrdU-816 positive CBCs. Scale bars, 25 µm.

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### 818 **Figure 8** Apc<sup>cKO</sup> intestinal organoids show increased tolerance to *Nle*-deficiency and

819 **p53 stabilization.** (A) Histogram showing the mean percentage (± S.E.M.) of organoid 820 formation and survival at day 4 pi from an initial culture of 400 crypts per well from Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines harvested at day 1 pi.  $n \ge 3$ 821 822 experiments for each genotype. (B) Pictures of organoids obtained from Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> crypts. The top lane shows a global view of a well for each 823 824 genotype at day 4 pi. The middle lane (resp. bottom lane) shows the morphology of 825 organoids of the different genotypes at day 4 (resp. 6) pi. (C) Histogram showing the mean 826 percentage (± S.E.M.) of healthy organoids after 48h culture with various concentration 827 of nutlin-3. (D) Pictures of Control and Apc<sup>cKO</sup> organoids after 48h in mock and 10µM 828 nutlin-3 culture conditions. Under nutlin-3 treatment, many Control organoids displayed 829 abnormal morphology (star) with absence of budding, swelling and increased opacity 830 likely resulting from increased accumulation of dead cells in the lumen while some Apc<sup>cKO</sup> 831 spheroids were of irregular shape, opaque and collapsed (arrowhead). Such unhealthy 832 structures were usually degenerating in the following days of culture. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, p<0.01 833 according to Mann-Whitney Wilcoxon test. Scale bars, 150 µm.



1.515



#### Α BrdU d3 pi











Control

d4 pi

Nlecko

Apc<sup>cKO</sup> Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>

с <sub>р53</sub>



Арс<sup>ско</sup>; Nle<sup>ско</sup>



Nle<sup>cKO</sup>

d2 pi

Арсско

Арсско; Nleско







 Control
 Apc<sup>cKO</sup>

 Mock
 10µM nutlin-3
 Mock
 10µM nutlin-3

 Image: Control of the second sec

### **Supplementary Figures**

# Compensation between Wnt-driven tumorigenesis and cellular responses to ribosome biogenesis inhibition in the murine intestinal epithelium

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This file contains 7 supplementary figures and 2 supplementary tables :

- Figure S1 : *Nle* loss-of-function only partially restores epithelial histology in the *Apc*-deficient intestine.
- Figure S2: *Nle* loss-of-function reduces proliferative compartment expansion rate in the *Apc*-deficient epithelium.
- Figure S3: Cell cycle exit is delayed in the double mutant compared to the control.
- Figure S4: *Nle* loss-of-function induces persistent p53 stabilization in the *Apc*-deficient epithelium.
- Figure S5: Functional analysis of gene clusters does not indicate signaling pathway interference between *Apc* loss-of-function and *Nle* loss-of-function.
- Figure S6: Global protein synthesis at day 3 pi
- Figure S7: Derivation and nutlin-3 treatment of intestinal organoids
- Supplementary Table 1: list of primary and secondary antibodies

Supplementary Table 2: Sequences of RT-qPCR primers



Figure S1 Nle loss-of-function only partially restores epithelial histology in the Apc-deficient intestine. (A) Hematoxylin-eosin staining of intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup> small intestines at day 2 pi. Scale bars, 50 μm. For each genotype, a portion of the villus is magnified (top) to highlight enterocyte hypertrophia, as well as a portion of the enlarged crypt compartment in the Apc<sup>CKO</sup> and of the corresponding villus section in the other genotypes (middle) to highlight epithelial architecture restoration in the ApccKO; NlecKO, and a magnification of the histological crypt (bottom) is shown to highlight the presence of cells with granules (arrowheads) in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cK0</sup>; Nle<sup>cK0</sup>. (B) Lysozyme immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi. Scale bars,  $50 \mu m.$  (C) Histogram showing the mean (± S.E.M.) length (defined as the lateral membrane section length) and width (defined as the apical or basal membrane section length) of enterocytes in Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> villi. Twenty-five transverse sections of enterocytes homogeneously distributed along the jejunum were scored per mouse, n = 4 mice for each genotype. Means were normalized according to mean control measurements. \*, p<0.05 \*\*, p<0.01 according to Student's t-test. Differences that were significant according to Student's t-test were also significant according to Mann-Whitney Wilcoxon test with p<0.05.



**Figure S2** *Nle* **loss-of-function reduces proliferative compartment expansion rate in the** *Apc***-deficient epithelium**. (A) BrdU immunostaining (brown) counterstained with hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control (day 2 pi), Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> (days 2, 3 and 4 pi) intestines harvested 2 hours after BrdU injection. Scale bars, 50 μm. (B-C) Graphs showing the mean total cell number (B) and the mean number of BrdU-positive-cells (C) in a transverse section of the proliferative compartment of Control, Apc<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at several timing post tamoxifen injection. Twenty-five transverse crypt sections were scored per mouse, n = 4 for each genotype and each time point. R<sup>2</sup>, correlation coefficient with a linear model (plain regression lines). The dotted horizontal line shows baseline Control levels according to day 2 pi measurements. Hypothesizing linear growth, proliferative compartment expansion begins at 0 day pi in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup> as previously reported [10] and in the Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup>.



**Figure S3 Cell cycle exit is delayed in the double mutant compared to the control**. (A) BrdU immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi harvested 2, 24 or 48 hours after BrdU injection. Plain black bars indicate the proliferative compartment. Dotted black bars indicate the range of proliferative cell migration within 24 or 48 hours. Scale bars, 50 µm. (B) BrdU immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on crypt sections from Control and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 2 pi harvested 2 hours or 24 hours after BrdU injection. Plain black bars indicate the proliferative compartment. The dotted horizontal lines indicate the limits of the double-mutant specific compartment (see text). Scale bars, 25 µm. (C) Alcian blue coloration counterstained with Nuclear Fast Red on intestinal epithelium sections from Control, Nle<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> and Apc<sup>cKO</sup>; Nle<sup>cKO</sup> intestines at day 3 pi. Scale bars, 100 µm.



**Figure S4** *Nle* **loss-of-function induces persistent p53 stabilization in the** *Apc***-deficient epithelium.** (A) p53 immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control (day 2 pi) and Apc<sup>cK0</sup> (days 2, 3 and 4 pi) intestines. Scale bars, 50 μm. (B) p53 immunostaining (brown) counterstained with Hematoxylin (blue) on intestinal epithelium sections from Control (day 2 pi) and Apc<sup>cK0</sup> (days 2, 3 and 4 pi) intestines. Scale bars, 50 μm.



**Figure S5 Functional analysis of gene clusters does not indicate signaling pathway interference between** *Apc* **loss-of-function and** *Nle* **loss-of-function.** Genes in the [A|N|-] and [A|N|D] categories were separated into clusters by the direction of the A, N and D fold changes at day 2 pi. Gene number is plotted on the left of each heatmap. For each cluster, genes relevant to the analyzed phenotypes are indicated, as well as the most significantly enriched gene (black) and phenotype (blue) ontology terms from MouseMine.



**Figure S6 Global protein synthesis at day 3 pi.** (A) Anti-puromycin immunoblotting of protein extracts for identical number of crypts cells from Control,  $Apc^{cKO}$  and  $Apc^{cKO}$ ;  $Nle^{cKO}$  intestines at day 3 pi. (B) Histogram showing the mean normalized signal intensity ± S.E.M from the immunoblot shown in (A). n = 4 for each genotype. \*, p<0.05 according to Mann–Whitney Wilcoxon test.



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**Figure S7 Derivation and nutlin-3 treatment of intestinal organoids** (A) Detection of the nonrecombined (flox) and the recombined (del) *Nle* alleles by PCR performed on DNA extracts from Control and Apc;NleVilcKO wells at different time points. Control DNAs with 20%, 50% and 80% flox alleles obtained by mixing *Nleflox/+* and *Nleflox/del* DNAs are presented. The *Nle+* and *Nlenull* alleles are not shown on the gel. (A) p53 immunostaining of an APC<sup>cKO</sup> organoid cultured for 48h with 5µM nutlin-3. A single optical section is shown. Note the presence of numerous p53 positive nuclei on the whole circumference of the spheroid. Bright dots correspond to non specific staining of debris present in the lumen of the organoid. Bar: 50µM.

### Supplementary Table 1: list of primary and secondary antibodies

Antibodies	Reference	Dilution used
anti-cleaved Caspase 3	9661L Ozyme	1/200
anti-BrdU	347580 BD	1/150
anti-β-catenin	C19220 BD	1/50
anti-p53	CM5-p Leica	1/500
anti-lysozyme	A0099 Dako	1/1000
anti-Muc2	sc-15334 Santa-Cruz	1/200
anti-ChromoA	sc-1488 Santa-Cruz	1/300
anti-puromycin	5B12, David <i>et al.,</i> JCB 2012	1/5000
Biotinylated goat anti-rabbit IgG	E0432 Dako	1/400
Biotinylated goat anti-mouse IgG	E0433 Dako	1/400

### Supplementary Table 2: Sequences of RT-qPCR primers

Target gene	Forward primer	Reverse primer
Olfm4	ATCAGCGCTCCTTCTGTGAT	AGGGTTCTCTCTGGATGCTG
Lgr5	ACATTCCCAAGGGAGCGTTC	ATGTGGTTGGCATCTAGGCG
Muc2	CAAGGGCTCGGAACTCCAG	CCAGGGAATCGGTAGACATCG
ChromoA	AGTCATCTCCGACTCGCTGT	GGTGTCGCAGGATAGAGAGG
с-Мус	AAGGCCCCCAAGGTAGTG	TGCTCGTCTGCTTGAATGGA
Axin 2	GATTCCCCTTTGACCAGGTGG	CCATTACAAGCAAACCAGAAGT
lts1	TCTGACCTCGCCACCCTA	CCTCGTAGACACGGAAGAGC
lts2	TGTGTGTGTTTTGGGTCTTGC	GGATACCACCTCTCTCCGTTC
285	TCATCAGACCCCAGAAAAGG	GATTCGGCAGGTGAGTTGTT
185	CGGCTACCACATCCAAGGAA	GCTGGAATTACCGCGGCT