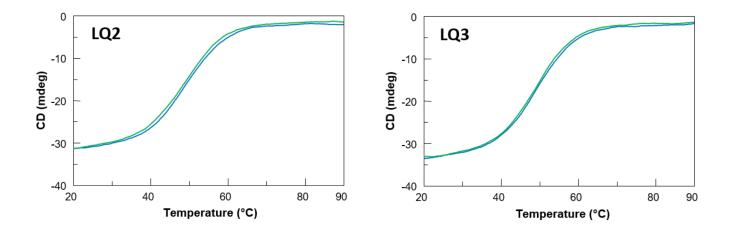
## uL3 mediated nucleolar stress pathway as a new mechanism of action of antiproliferative G-quadruplex TBA derivatives in colon cancer cells

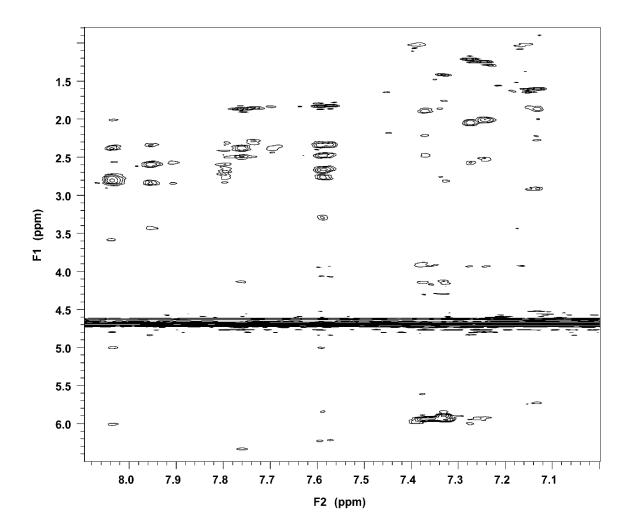
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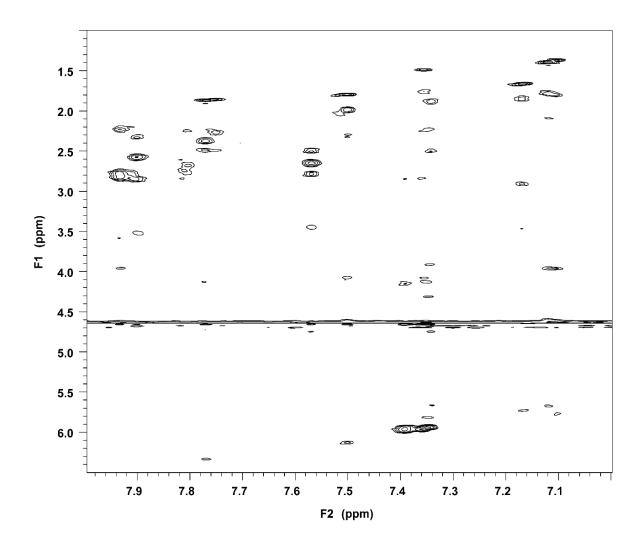
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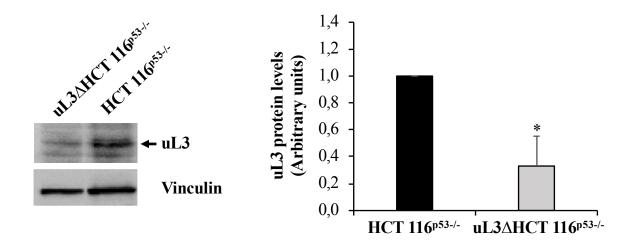
**Figure S1**. CD heating and cooling experiments. CD melting (blue) and annealing (green) curves registered as a function of temperature of the modified quadruplexes LQ2 and LQ3 at 294 nm. CD data were recorded in a 0.1 cm pathlength cuvette with a scan rate of 30°C/h at 50 $\mu$ M ODN strand concentration in K<sup>+</sup> buffer (10 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>/K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 70 mM KCl, pH 7.0).



**Figure S2**. Two-dimensional NMR experiments. Expanded 2D NOESY spectrum of LQ2 (500 MHz; 25°C; strand concentration 3 mM; 10 mM  $KH_2PO_4/K_2HPO_4$ , 70 mM KCl and 0.2 mM EDTA, pH 7.0 in H2O/D2O 9:1; total volume 0.6 ml; mixing time 180 ms) correlating aromatic base protons and sugar protons.



**Figure S3**. Two-dimensional NMR experiments. Expanded 2D NOESY spectrum of LQ3 (500 MHz; 25°C; strand concentration 3 mM; 10 mM  $KH_2PO_4/K_2HPO_4$ , 70 mM KCl and 0.2 mM EDTA, pH 7.0 in  $H_2O/D_2O$  9:1; total volume 0.6 ml; mixing time 180 ms) correlating aromatic base protons and sugar protons.



**Figure S4**. Representative western blotting analysis of uL3 in HCT  $116^{p53-/-}$  and uL3 $\Delta$ HCT  $116^{p53-/-}$  cells. Protein extracts were analyzed by western blotting with the indicated antibodies. Vinculin was used as loading controls. Full-length blot is presented in Figure S8. Quantification of signals is shown. Bars represent the mean of triplicate experiments; error bars represent the standard deviation. \*p < 0.05 vs. HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells set at 1.

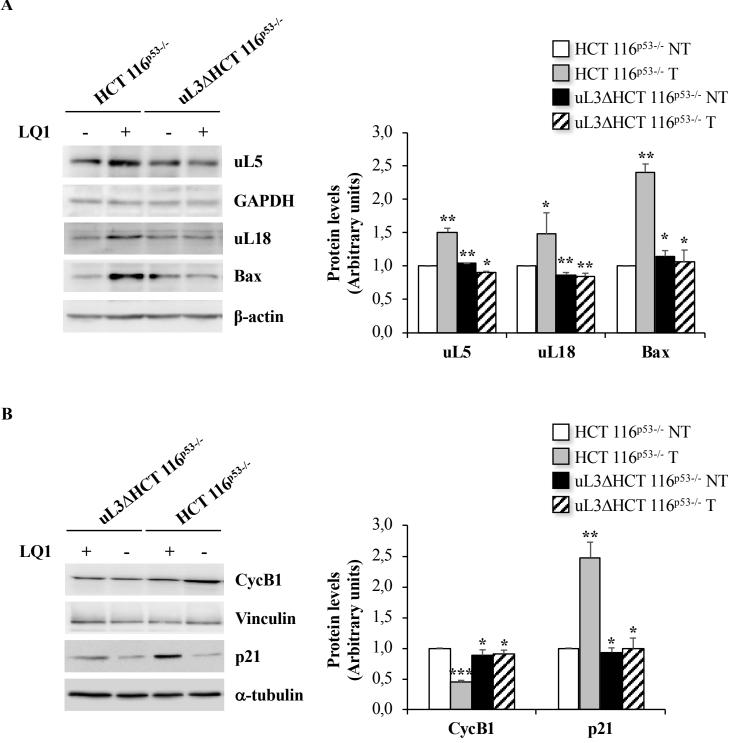
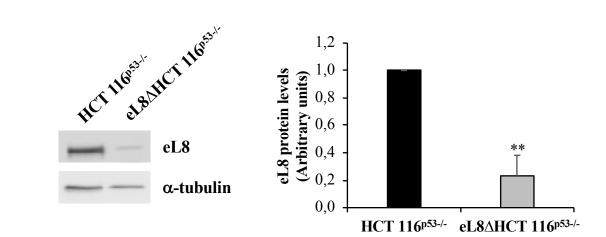
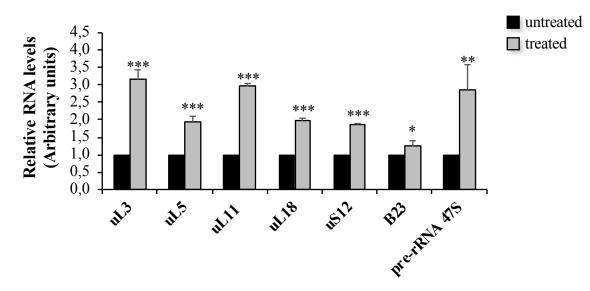


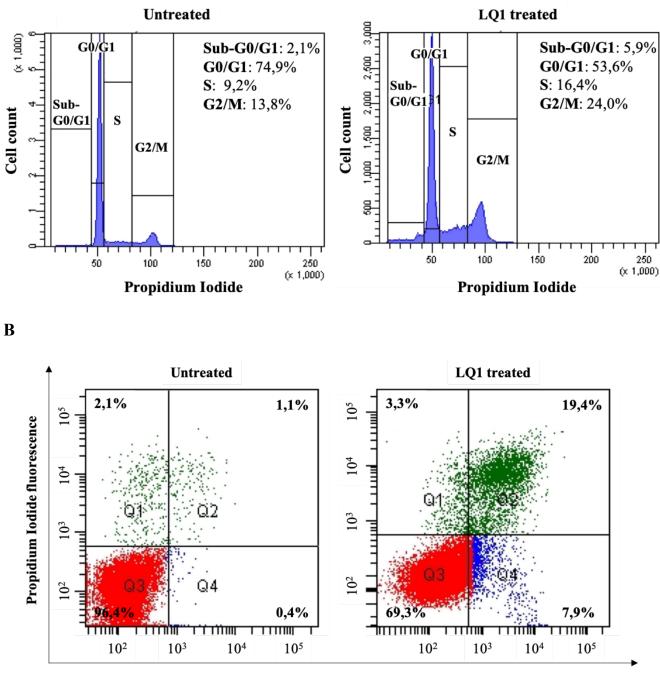
Figure S5. LQ1 treatment modulates the expression of nucleolar stress, cell cycle and apoptosis related genes. Representative western blot analysis of uL5, uL18 and Bax (A), CycB1 and p21 (B). HCT  $116^{p53-/-}$  and uL3 $\Delta$ HCT  $116^{p53-/-}$  cells were treated with 10  $\mu$ M of LQ1 for 48h. After treatment, protein extracts from the samples were analyzed by western blotting with antibodies against indicated proteins. GAPDH,  $\beta$ -actin, Vinculin and  $\alpha$ -tubulin ware used as loading controls. Full-length blot is presented in Figures S9 and S10. Quantification of signals is shown. Bars represent the mean of triplicate experiments; error bars represent the standard deviation. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001 vs. HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells set at 1. NT: untreated; T: LQ1 treated.





**Figure S6**. LQ1 treatment induces nucleolar stress in eL8 $\Delta$ HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells. (**A**) Representative western blot analysis of eL8 in HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> and eL8 $\Delta$ HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells. Protein extracts were analyzed by western blotting with the indicated antibodies. **a**-tubulin was used as loading controls. Full-length blot is presented in Figure S11. Quantification of signals is shown. Bars represent the mean of triplicate experiments; error bars represent the standard deviation. \*\*p < 0.01 vs. HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells set at 1. (**B**) Total RNA from eL8 $\Delta$ HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells, untreated or treated with 10 µM of LQ1 for 48 h, was subjected to RT-qPCR with primers specific for indicated genes (Table 2). Quantification of signals is shown. Bars represent the mean of triplicate experiments; error bars represent the mean of triplicate experiments is shown. Bars represent the mean of triplicate at 1. (**B**) Total RNA from eL8 $\Delta$ HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells, untreated or treated with 10 µM of LQ1 for 48 h, was subjected to RT-qPCR with primers specific for indicated genes (Table 2). Quantification of signals is shown. Bars represent the mean of triplicate experiments; error bars represent the standard deviation. \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\*P<0.001 vs. untreated cells set at 1.

B



Alexa Fluor 488 Annexin V fluorescence

**Figure S7**. LQ1 treatment causes cell cycle arrest and apoptosis in eL8 $\Delta$ HCT 116<sup>p53-/-</sup> cells. (A) Cells were incubated with 10  $\mu$ M of LQ1 for 48 h and the cell cycle distribution was evaluated using PI staining and flow cytometry analysis. (B) Cell death was assessed by FACS analysis of Annexin V and PI staining. Representative dot plots are shown.

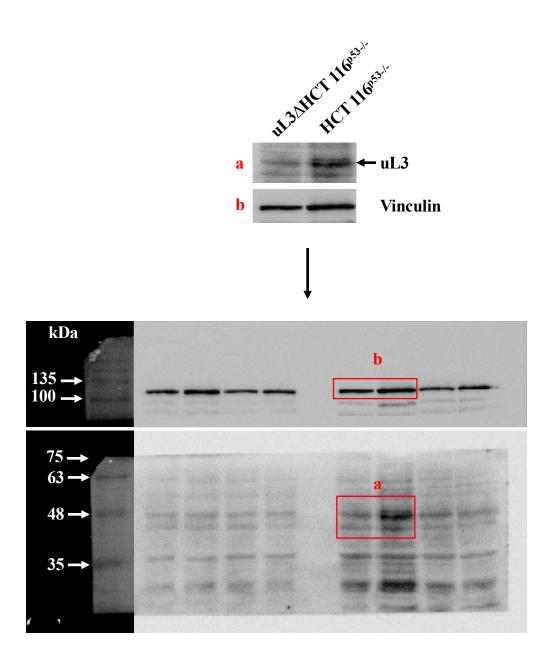
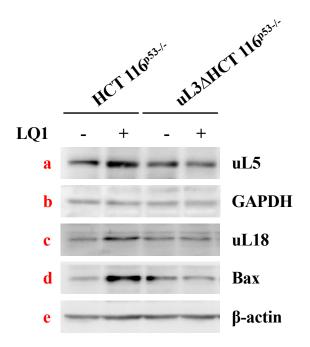


Figure S8. Full-length blots of western blotting showed in Figure S4.



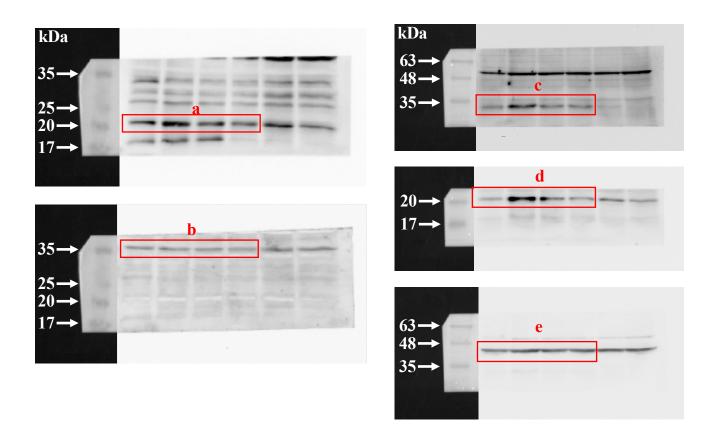
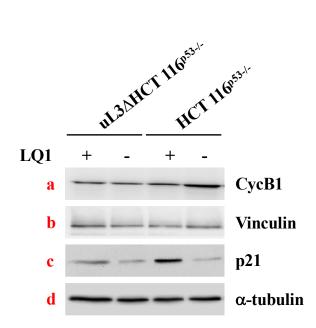


Figure S9. Full-length blots of western blotting showed in Figure S5A.



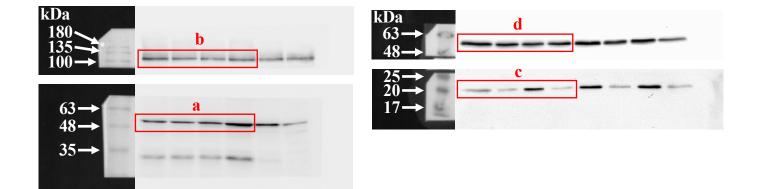


Figure S10. Full-length blots of western blotting showed in Figure S5B.

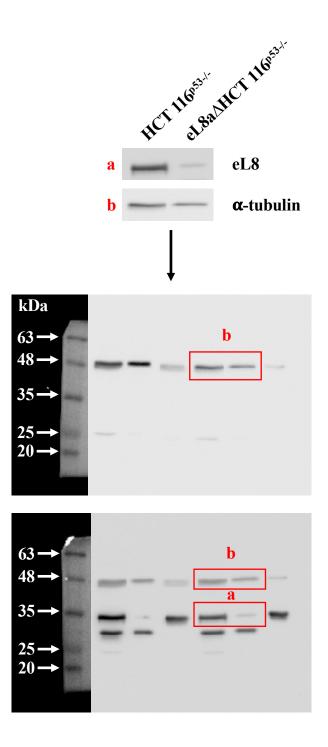


Figure S11. Full-length blots of western blotting showed in Figure S6A.

$LQ2 5'-G_{L1}G_{L2}T_{D3}T_{L4}G_{L5}G_{L6}T_{L7}G_{L8}T_{L9}G_{L10}G_{L11}T_{D12}T_{L13}G_{L14}G_{L15}-3'$											
	H8/H6	H1'	H2'/H2''	H3'	H4'	H5'/H5''	CH <sub>3</sub>				
<u>G</u> L1	7.32	5.95	2.82	4.89	4.30	4.16	-				
GL2	8.04	6.00	2.40/2.82	5.00	4.21	4.17	-				
T <sub>D3</sub>	7.60	6.23	2.34/2.49	4.84	4.24	4.07	1.83				
T <sub>L4</sub>	7.25	5.93	2.02/2.53	4.79	4.22	3.93	1.26				
<u>G</u> L5	7.33	5.88	2.78/3.30	4.77	4.52	4.06	-				
GL6	7.59	5.84	2.49/2.68	5.01	N.D.	4.08/3.95	-				
$T_{L7}$	7.76	6.34	2.38/2.51	4.75	4.31	4.15	1.86				
GL8	7.37	5.61	1.90/2.22	4.57	4.30	3.90	-				
$T_{L9}$	7.14	5.74	1.87/2.28	4.53	4.20	N.D.	1.60				
<u>G</u> L10	7.36	5.94	2.82/3.58	4.80	4.16	N.D.	-				
$G_{L11}$	8.04	6.03	2.38/2.78	5.03	N.D.	4.14	-				
T <sub>D12</sub>	7.57	6.22	2.34/2.49	4.84	4.24	4.07/3.93	1.82				
T <sub>L13</sub>	7.28	6.00	2.06/2.58	4.80	4.20	3.95	1.21				
<u>G</u> L14	7.37	5.94	2.84/3.43	4.84	N.D.	N.D.	-				
G <sub>L15</sub>	7.95	6.05	2.35/2.61	4.80	4.29	4.16	-				

	H8/H6	H1'	H2'/H2"	H3'	H4'	H5'/H5"	CH <sub>3</sub>
<u>G</u> L1	7.36	5.97	2.84	4.88	N.D.	N.D.	-
G <sub>L2</sub>	7.81	5.85	2.25/2.68	4.97	4.61	4.29	-
$T_{L3}$	7.36	5.85	2.10/2.24	4.86	N.D.	N.D.	1.49
T <sub>D4</sub>	7.10	5.78	1.82/2.78	5.00	4.33	N.D.	1.36
$\underline{G}_{L5}$	7.35	5.94	2.80/3.45	4.78	4.30	N.D.	-

5.00

4.75

4.69

4.53

4.80

5.00

4.62

4.61

4.80

4.69

4.36

4.31

N.D.

N.D.

4.29

4.25

4.26

4.28

4.33

4.12

4.24

4.14

N.D.

3.65

N.D.

4.13

4.08

N.D.

4.18

N.D.

-

1.86

-

1.66

-

\_

1.80

1.39

-

-

2.50/2.66

2.38/2.50

1.88/2.23

1.84/2.29

2.85/3.60

2.23/2.80

2.00/2.31

1.78/2.08

2.85/3.52

2.34/2.59

7.57

7.77

7.34

7.17

7.39

7.93

7.50

7.12

7.39

7.90

 $G_{L6}$ 

 $T_{L7}$ 

GL8

 $T_{L9}$ 

<u>G</u>L10

 $G_{L11}$ 

 $T_{L12} \\$ 

T<sub>D13</sub>

<u>G</u>L14

GL15

5.82

6.34

5.68

5.74

5.94

5.80

6.13

5.68

5.96

6.02

 $LQ3 5'-G_{L1}G_{L2}T_{L3}T_{D4}G_{L5}G_{L6}T_{L7}G_{L8}T_{L9}G_{L10}G_{L11}T_{L12}T_{D13}G_{L14}G_{L15}-3'$ 

**Table S1.** Chemical shift values. Proton chemical shifts assignment for G-quadruplex formed by ODNs LQ2 and LQ3 (500 MHz,  $T = 25^{\circ}$ C) in 10 mM KH2PO4/K2HPO4, 70 mM KCl and 0.2 mM EDTA (pH 7.0). N.D. = not determined. Residues adopting the syn glycosidic conformation are underlined.