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PII: S0012-1606(18)30250-1
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ydbio.2018.05.008>
Reference: YDBIO7764

To appear in: *Developmental Biology*

Received date: 3 April 2018
Revised date: 10 May 2018
Accepted date: 10 May 2018

Cite this article as: Qinghang Meng, Maureen Mongan, Jingjing Wang and Ying Xia, Repression of MAP3K1 expression and JNK activity by canonical Wnt signaling, *Developmental Biology*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ydbio.2018.05.008>

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Repression of MAP3K1 expression and JNK activity by canonical Wnt signaling

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Abstract

Morphogenesis is a complex and highly coordinated process orchestrated by temporal spatial activity of developmental pathways. How the different pathways interact to guide the developmental program remains an intriguing and open question. MAP3K1-JNK and Wnt are signaling pathways crucial for embryonic eyelid closure, an epithelial morphogenetic event conserved in mammals. Here we used a mouse model of eyelid development and genetic and biochemistry tools to investigate the relationships between the two pathways. We found that Wnt activation repressed MAP3K1 expression. Using Axin-LacZ reporter mice, spatial Wnt activity was detected in the leading edge of the developing eyelid. Conditional knockout of *Wntless* (*Wls*) in ocular surface ectoderm blocked eyelid formation, and significantly increased MAP3K1

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