

My project this summer focused on locating the protein Pin3 in the opportunistic fungal pathogen in order to elucidate Pin3's function in

to a more virulent, elongated hyphal form¹. In baker's yeast, a related organism, Pin3 induces protein aggregations, which may be helpful to the cell under stress conditions. We wanted to see whether Pin3 might perform a similar role in and whether its location in the cell could impact this role. A previous member of the McBride lab found that Pin3 notably co-purifies with the protein slr1-mut². We were curious if this mutant protein and Pin3 would be fluorescence microscopy was used to visualize the

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to GFP-tagged Pin3 protein in transformed cells. Pin3 was expected to be located toward the budding tip of the cells, as seen in baker's yeast³. After confirming Fluorescence

produced at normal levels, it tends to be dispersed throughout the cytoplasm (Fig.2). In cells with and without Pin3-GFP, slr1-mut was observed in the nucleus, though the tagged protein appeared brighter in cells without fluorescent Pin3 (Fig.3), meaning slr1-mut may be more concentrated in those cells. These results were consistent with localization observed in hyphal-form cells, with Pin3 being observed in bright foci at the hyphal tip in slr1-mut³ levels and slr1-mut (Fig.4). No clear co-localization of Pin3 and slr1-mut was observed, tentatively indicating these proteins are not interacting. However, the nuclear location of slr1-mut suggests we may have integrated a wildtype rather than a mutant gene into the genome, given that mutant Slr1 is not typically found in the nucleus⁴. The bright foci of Pin3 seen at the hyphal tip of cells overproducing Pin3 was an exciting observation, though— it could mean that Pin3 is aggregat

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2,4. Pholcharee T. Exploring mechanisms of mRNA localization through the identification of RNA-binding protein complexes in the pathogenic fungus [Honors Paper for the Department of Biology]. Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College; 2018. u
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