

## Review

**Cite this article:** Szántó M, Yélamos J, Bai P (2024). Specific and shared biological functions of PARP2 – is PARP2 really a lil' brother of PARP1? *Expert Reviews in Molecular Medicine* **26**, e13, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1017/erm.2024.14>

Received: 28 November 2023

Revised: 7 March 2024

Accepted: 20 March 2024

### Keywords:

PARP; ATRD; inflammation; cell death; metabolism; mitochondria; cancer; aging

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# Specific and shared biological functions of PARP2 – is PARP2 really a lil' brother of PARP1?

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## Abstract

PARP2, that belongs to the family of ADP-ribosyl transferase enzymes (ART), is a discovery of the millennium, as it was identified in 1999. Although PARP2 was described initially as a DNA repair factor, it is now evident that PARP2 partakes in the regulation or execution of multiple biological processes as inflammation, carcinogenesis and cancer progression, metabolism or oxidative stress-related diseases. Hereby, we review the involvement of PARP2 in these processes with the aim of understanding which processes are specific for PARP2, but not for other members of the ART family. A better understanding of the specific functions of PARP2 in all of these biological processes is crucial for the development of new PARP-centred selective therapies.

## Introduction

PARP Enzymes are characterized by the presence of the characteristic PARP domain in the genes and proteins of the family (Ref. 1). The 'immediate' family embodies 18 genes in humans (PARP1-4, PARP5a, PARP5b, PARP6-17) (Refs 1, 2). However, based on structural and functional homology the 'extended' family of the PARP enzymes is way wider (Ref. 1). Classical PARP enzymes catalyse the cleavage of NAD<sup>+</sup> to nicotinamide and ADP-ribose units which are transferred to acceptor target proteins, thus inducing protein mono-ADP-ribosylation (MARylation) or poly-ADP-ribosylation (PARylation) that in turn modulate the biological properties of the acceptor proteins (Refs 1, 3). MARylation and PARylation are ancient reactions and are present in all domains of life (bacteria, plants, fungi and animals) (Ref. 4). For a better understanding of the mechanisms involved in ADP-ribosylation we refer the readers to renowned reviews: (Refs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

PARP enzymes have widespread physiological and pathophysiological tasks (Ref. 8). The bulk of the cellular PARylation is attributed to PARP1 and PARP2 (Refs 10, 11), and there is a strong structural and functional homology between PARP1 and PARP2 (Refs 12, 13). Recent studies have shed light on separate functions of PARP1 and PARP2 (e.g. (Ref. 14)) and hereby we will describe the biological roles of PARP2 and decipher which ones are PARP2-specific and which are shared with other PARP enzymes.

## PARP2 expression pattern and its regulation

The gene of PARP2 is located on chromosome 14 in humans. Translation of the PARP2 mRNA yields a protein product of 66.206 kDa molecular weight. The gene of PARP2 shares a bidirectional promoter with RNase P that is a rare lineup of genetic elements (Ref. 15). A functional TATA box and DSE/Oct-1 elements were identified in the promoter (Ref. 15). N-MYC was shown to induce the transcription of PARP2 (Ref. 16). In addition, the expression of PARP2 is modulated by microRNAs (Refs 17-24) (Table 1), and in turn, PARP2 was demonstrated to regulate the expression of miRNAs (Refs 25, 26). The expression of PARP2 can be induced by genotoxic agents or by the absence of PARP1 or PARP3 in multiple models including plants, as Arabidopsis (Ref. 27), non-vertebrates as sea urchin (Ref. 28) or Caenorhabditis (Ref. 29) and vertebrates (Refs 2, 4).

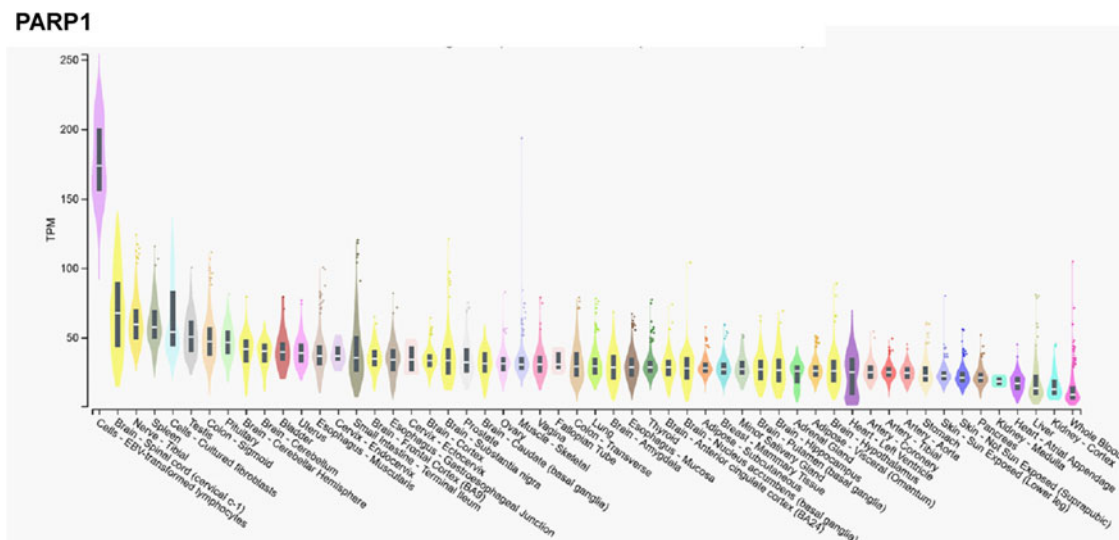
We assessed the gene expression pattern of PARP2 using the Gtexportal database (Fig. 1) that we compare to the literature data (Refs 10, 30, 31, 32). In line with the literature, the mRNA expression of PARP2 was the highest in the central nerve system (Refs 10, 32), in particular, in the neocortex (Ref. 10), while Gtexportal identified the cerebellum with the highest expression of PARP2 mRNA. Besides, notable expression was detected in spinal ganglia, stratum granulosum of the dentate gyrus and the stratum pyramidale of the hippocampus and the olfactory bulb (Ref. 10).

Tissues of the reproductive organs, as the ovary or testis, have relatively high PARP2 expression (Ref. 32), suggesting an involvement in spermatogenesis (see in a later chapter, (Refs 30, 31)) that is verified by the Gtexportal data (Fig. 1). Similar, immune-related tissues, as the thymus and the white pulp of the spleen and Peyer patches in mice have notable PARP2 mRNA expression (Refs 10, 33). PARP2 expression decreases towards the centre of the thymus as

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**Figure 2.** mRNA expression pattern of PARP1. Data was retrieved from the Gtexportal (<https://gtexportal.org/home/gene/PARP2>). The database was accessed 2023. 09. 20.

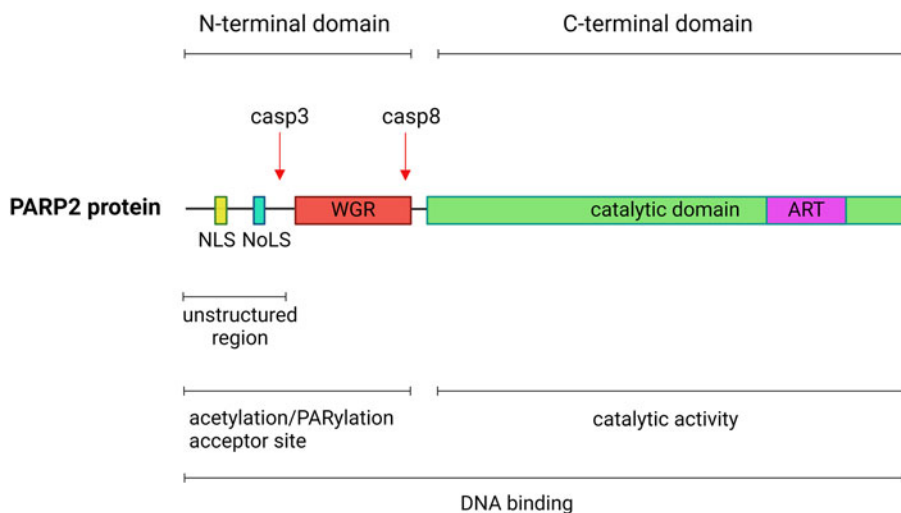
comparing the affinity of PARP2 for NAD<sup>+</sup> to the NAD<sup>+</sup>-affinity of other relevant enzymes it is visible that the  $K_M$  value of PARP2 is similar to that of SIRT1, lower than PARP1 or CD38, while much higher than tankyrase-1 (Table 2). Furthermore, while the  $k_{cat}/K_M$  value of PARP2 is lower than that of PARP1, it is clearly higher than that of SIRT1, CD38 or tankyrase-1 (Table 2). Taken together, PARP2 can limit NAD<sup>+</sup> for slower NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent enzymes or enzymes with lower affinity for NAD<sup>+</sup> (e.g. tankyrase 1) (Refs 18, 67) and can likely reduce the available cellular NAD<sup>+</sup> pool when activated, however, not to the same extent as the activation of PARP1. In other words, as a function of the level of PARP2 activation, PARP2 can represent a burden on cellular NAD<sup>+</sup> levels.

The structure of the catalytic domain of PARP2 shows high sequence and structural homology to PARP1 (Refs 49, 50, 60). There is an additional three amino acid insertion in the loop connecting the  $\beta$ -strands *k* and *l* in PARP1 (Refs 49, 50, 60). PARP2 has a narrower catalytic cleft that likely explains the lower substrate affinity and turnover rate of PARP2 as compared to PARP1 (Refs 11, 60, 61).

PARP2 can homodimerize with itself or heterodimerize with PARP1 at the DNA damage sites (Refs 71, 72). In addition, HPF1 is also an important interaction partner of PARP2. HPF1 was originally described as a factor shifting the amino acid-specificity of PARPs to serine residues (Refs 3, 73). HPF1 forms

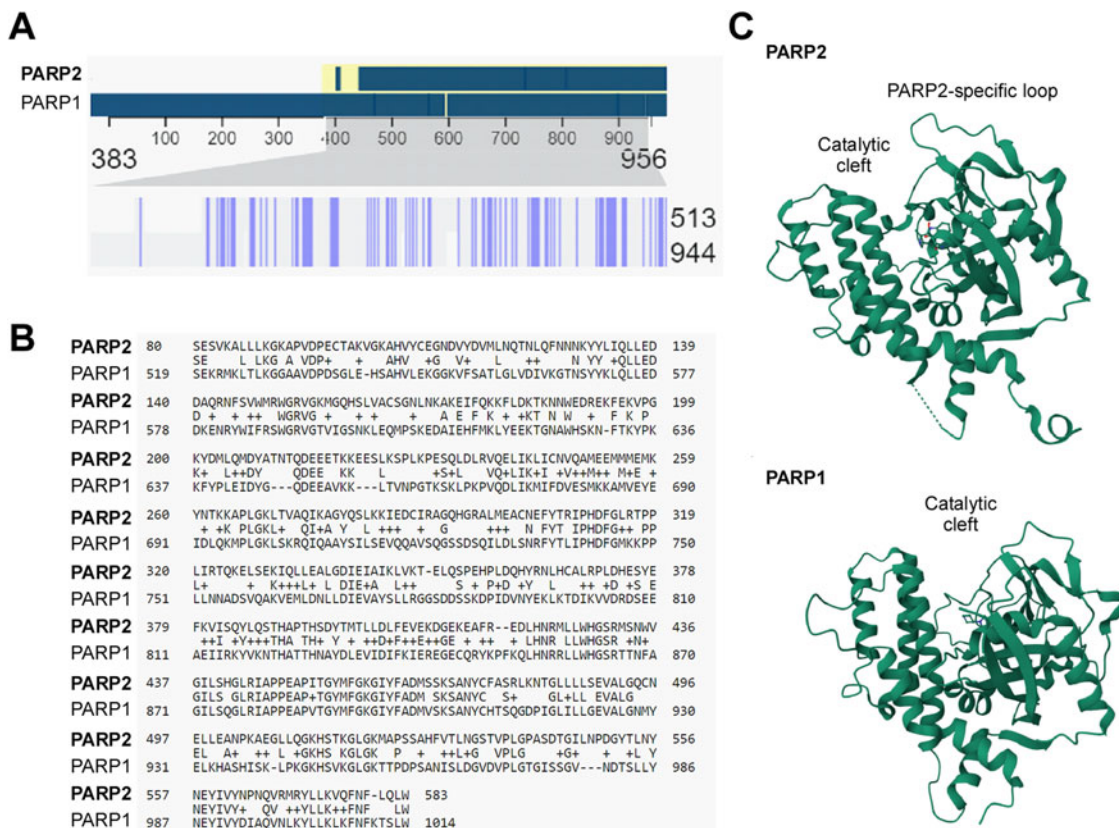
complexes with PARP1 and PARP2 to complete the PARylation enzymatic site of PARP2 and PARP1 (Ref. 74), importantly however, HPF1 is important but it is not necessary to enable PARP activity. The complex works most efficiently at sub-stoichiometric ratios of HPF1 relative to PARP1 and PARP2 (Ref. 75). HPF1 restricts elongation, stimulates initiation and induces the DNA-dependent, as well as, the DNA-independent, auto-PARylation of PARP2 and the trans-PARylation of nucleosomal histones (Refs 58, 76). The PARP2-HPF1 complex has profound roles in regulating chromatin structure as it binds to two nucleosomes and exposes the broken DNA section to facilitate ligation (Refs 56, 77). In line with that, PARP2, unlike PARP1, can bridge DNA ends very strongly as shown in single molecule atomic force microscopy experiments (Ref. 78). Furthermore, the PARP2/HPF1 complex can PARylate and activate a chromatin remodeller, ALC1 (also known as CHD1L; Chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 1-like) (Ref. 77).

In line with the DNA binding of PARP2, pharmacological PARP inhibitors trap PARP2 on the chromatin in complex with ALC1 (Refs 57, 79, 80, 81, 82). PARP2 trapping to DNA is dependent on the R140 amino acid in the WGR domain (i.e. trapping depends on DNA binding) and the H415 amino acid in the catalytic domain (i.e. trapping depends on the suppression of the PARP1- and PAR-dependent rapid exchange of PARP2) (Ref. 82).



**Figure 3.** The domain structure of PARP2. ART, ADP-ribosyl transferase domain; casp3, caspase 3 cleavage site; casp8, caspase 8 cleavage site; NLS, nuclear localization signal; NoLS, nucleolar localization signal.





**Figure 4.** The sequence and structure of the catalytic domain of PARP2 is similar to the catalytic domain of PARP1. **A.** The amino acid sequence of PARP1 and PARP2 were aligned using the Uniprot align algorithm. The blue lines represent identical amino acids. **B.** The amino acid sequence of PARP1 and PARP2 were aligned using the Blast algorithm at NCBI. The middle sequence represents the consensus amino acids between the PARP1 and PARP2. **C.** The structure of the catalytic domain of PARP2 (3KJD (Ref. 50)) and PARP1 (3L3L (Ref. 51)) is presented using the RCSB PDB viewer.

PARP2 also possesses 5'-deoxyribose phosphate (5'-dRP) lyase activity, that is comparable to the 5'-dRP lyase activity of PARP1, but much weaker than that of polymerase  $\beta$  (Ref. 63).

A large set of natural and synthetic lipids were shown to modulate the activity and expression of PARPs (Ref. 83), among them, the expression of PARP2 (Refs 84, 85, 86) (Table 3). In addition to their effects on PARP2 expression, serum lipids can render PARP2 to the insoluble fraction of the cells (Ref. 86). Lipid-dependency is a more widespread phenomenon among PARPs (Ref. 83).

### Posttranslational modifications

PARP2 undergoes multiple posttranslational modifications, including acetylation (Ref. 59). Acetyl groups are introduced by the histone acetyl-transferase P/CAF (Ref. 59). PARylation and acetylation of PARP2 can take place on the same amino acids (Lysine 36, Lysine 37) pointing towards a competition between

these two posttranslational modifications. Lysine 36 partakes in alpha-importin binding and, hence, regulates the nuclear translocation of PARP2 (Ref. 40). Furthermore, PARP2 expression affects the acetylation pattern in cells (Ref. 25). Competition between PARylation and acetylation was already suggested and appears to be a broader phenomenon, not restricted to PARP2 (Refs 55, 87). Further PARylation sites in PARP2 were mapped to the WGR and the HD domains. Sun *et al.* have suggested that the ubiquitin-proteasome system is involved in PARP2 turnover (Ref. 86).

### Interaction partners of PARP2

PARP2 interacts with a large number of protein partners (Refs 10, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93). These proteins cover a wide array of functions such as cell cycle, cell death, DNA repair, DNA replication, transcription, metabolism, energy homeostasis and RNA metabolism.

PARP2 has multiple PARylation targets including proteins involved in transcription, translation, mitochondrial organization, redox balance, DNA repair, PARylation machinery (e.g. HPF1) (Refs 53, 56, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99). Nucleic acid structures may also be sites of ADP-ribosylation (Ref. 100), nevertheless, the role of PARP2 in that context is unknown and unproven. Of note, protein-bound PAR, built upon PARP activation, is an important binding surface for DNA repair factors (Ref. 101).

### PARP2 in protecting genomic integrity and regulating chromatin structure

PARP2 was first identified as a DNA repair protein (Ref. 60), similar to PARP1 and PARP3 (Refs 6, 102, 103). The involvement

**Table 2.**  $K_M$  and the  $k_{cat}/K_M$  values of a set of NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent enzymes

Enzyme	$K_M$ for NAD <sup>+</sup> ( $\mu$ M)	$k_{cat}/K_M$ ( $s^{-1}M^{-1}$ )	Ref.
PARP2	130	323	(Ref. 60)
PARP1	50	6000	(Ref. 49)
Tankyrase1	~1500	0.0053	(Ref. 68)
SIRT1	160	0.011	(Ref. 69)
CD38	15–25	3.38	(Refs 66, 70)

**Table 3.** Lipid species modulating the expression of PARP2

Lipid species	Effect on PARP2 expression	Model	Ref.
$\alpha$ -lipoic acid	Inhibits	Rat angiotensin-II induced heart failure model	(Ref. 84)
Medroxyprogesterone		C2C12 murine myoblasts	(Ref. 85)
Tibolone			
Lithocholic acid			
Deoxycholic acid			
Vitamin D	Induces	C2C12 murine myoblasts	(Ref. 85)
Serum lipids			(Ref. 86)

of PARP2 in DNA repair has been demonstrated not only in animal models (Refs 12, 13), but in plants too (Refs 104, 105, 106, 107). PARP2 expression correlates with exposure to genotoxic noxae in humans (Ref. 108). In line with the involvement of PARP2 in DNA repair the loss of PARP2 leads cell cycle arrest in G1 upon genotoxic insult (Ref. 43).

PARP2 accumulates at DNA damage sites (Refs 109, 110) with slower pace than PARP1 (Ref. 111). PARP2 binds to both double and single-strand breaks (Ref. 112); to single-strand breaks as a monomer (Ref. 36), while to double-strand breaks as homodimer or as a heterodimer with PARP1 (Refs 10, 36). Interestingly, the caspase-cleaved N-terminal fragment of PARP1 can inhibit the DNA-induced catalytic activity of PARP2 (Ref. 113).

Damaged DNA structures that activate PARP2 contain single nucleotide gaps (Ref. 114) and 5' phosphate (Refs 44, 45, 106, 115), suggesting that these sites are ligation-competent ends. PARP2 had better affinity for nucleotide gaps as compared to AP sites (Ref. 114). Such sites include 8-oxoguanine or the apurinic/apirimidinic sites (Ref. 116) that can be inflicted by low dose ionizing radiation (Refs 43, 110, 117, 118), laser irradiation (Refs 111, 119) or DNaseI treatment (Ref. 60). PARP2 bind to the intact AP site via Schiff base formation (Ref. 63). PARP2 bridges DNA ends very strongly (Ref. 78). This is a more restricted repertoire of DNA damage sites as compared to PARP1 (Refs 120, 121). PARP2, similar to PARP1, can PARylate and MARYlate double-strand break termini in oligonucleotide models of double and single-strand breaks (Ref. 122).

PARP2 was first shown to be involved in single-strand break repair, as in the absence of PARP2 base excision repair (BER) slows down (Ref. 10). As discussed above, PARP2 can interact with nucleotide intermediates of BER, although, PARP2 has lower affinity to the early intermediates of BER than PARP1 (Ref. 71). Furthermore, PARP2 can interact with most BER proteins (Ref. 93) including X-ray repair cross-complementing protein 1 (XRCC1), PARP1, DNA polymerase  $\beta$  and DNA ligase III, Flap endonuclease 1 (FEN1) or Y-box-binding protein 1 (Refs 10, 90, 123, 124, 125). PARP2 is necessary for the recruitment of DNA polymerase  $\beta$  and XRCC1, however, the absence of PARP2 does not inhibit DNA polymerase  $\beta$  and XRCC1 recruitment totally; this is achieved only in the simultaneous absence of PARP1 and PARP2 (Refs 10, 119). Importantly, the NAD<sup>+</sup> hydrolase activity of PARP2 can also play role in XRCC1 and DNA polymerase  $\beta$  recruitment, as NAD<sup>+</sup> availability is also vital for the recruitment of these factors (Ref. 119). Interestingly, PARP2 can inhibit DNA polymerase  $\beta$  activity and, hence, slow down the resealing of the site of a missing DNA base, while inducing the activity of ligase III $\alpha$  (Refs 123, 124).

Successful retrotransposition requires the activation of DNA repair machinery (Ref. 126). Single strand breaks, associated with LINE-1 retrotransposon integration, recruit PARP2 to the integration site (Ref. 127). PARP2 is activated at the integration

site and supports the recruitment of the members of the integration machinery and, hence, successful LINE-1 integration (Ref. 127).

Similar to PARP1 (Ref. 128), PARP2 is also involved in the resolution of double-strand breaks. In the absence of PARP2 double-strand breaks accumulate (Ref. 129). PARP2 was shown to be involved in non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) (Refs 130, 131), as well as, in homologous recombination (HR; i.e. interaction with the Ku proteins) in animals (Refs 13, 130, 131) and in plants (Ref. 132). In line with its involvement in double-strand break repair, the absence of PARP2 hampers the maturation of thymocytes (Ref. 129) and B cells (Ref. 131), or the resolution of blocked replication forks (Refs 128, 133, 134, 135). Importantly, PARP2 restricts the accumulation of the resection barrier factor 53BP1 at DNA damage sites and tunes DNA repair towards the resection-dependent CtIP-dependent DNA end-resection (Ref. 136). The PARP2-dependent PARylation of polymerase  $\delta$ 3 at replication forks play key role in stabilizing the stalled replication forks (Ref. 134). Interestingly, mitomycin C-induced double-stranded DNA damage induces the expression of PARP2 and other double-strand break repair proteins (Ref. 137).

PARP2 also partakes in chromatin, telomere and centromere maintenance. The deletion of PARP2 induces spontaneous chromosome and chromatid breaks and an increase in the number of DNA ends lacking detectable telomere repeats, which is explained by the loss of interaction between PARP2 and TRF-2 (Ref. 138). Interestingly, the contribution of PARP2 to telomere stability appears to be limited (Ref. 27). PARP2 localizes to centromeres in a cell-cycle dependent manner and plays role in accurate chromosome segregation (Ref. 30) through interacting with kinetochore proteins, centromere protein A (CENPA), centromere protein B (CENPB) and mitotic spindle checkpoint protein BUB3 in prometaphase and metaphase (Ref. 139). Furthermore, PARP2 interacts with topoisomerase I and topoisomerase IIb and through that interaction regulates chromatin condensation (Refs 133, 140). In line with that, female lethality due to X chromosome instability was reported in PARP1  $\pm$ PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Ref. 43). Furthermore, it is tempting to speculate that early embryonic lethality in PARP1/PARP2 double knockout mice (Ref. 43) or in ATM/PARP2 double knockout mice (Ref. 72) may be due to genomic instability.

### PARP2 in transcriptional regulation

#### Regulation of chromatin structure: epigenetic marks, chromatin dynamics

In contrast to the well-characterized PARP1 (Ref. 7), little is known about the role of PARP2 in transcription. PARP2 may impact on transcription through multifaceted processes, in which the regulation of chromatin dynamics plays pivotal role.

PARP2 can bind to nucleosomes (Ref. 141). In addition, PARP2 can modulate chromatin dynamics and DNA/promoter accessibility through modulating histone acetylation status by regulating the recruitment of histone deacetylase 5 and 7 and histone methyltransferase G9a to promoters independently of its PARP activity inducing the repression of cell cycle genes (Ref. 142). PARP2 also interacts with histone acetyl-transferase P/CAF (Ref. 59) and transcriptional intermediary factor-1 $\beta$  and heterochromatin protein-1 $\alpha$  (Ref. 143). In addition to regulating histone acetylation, PARP2, in complex with HPF1, can PARylate nucleosomal histones (Refs 58, 76). ADP-ribosylation or PARylation is considered a histone mark on its own right (Ref. 144). Furthermore, serine ADP-ribosylation likely interplays with histone marks (Ref. 55) highlighting a complex involvement of histone ADP-ribosylation in the modulation of chromatin structure.

PARP2 cooperates with chromatin modelling factors, among these, topoisomerase I and II $\beta$  (Refs 133, 140). Topoisomerase activation generates DNA strand breaks (Ref. 145), and PARP2 likely assists in the resolution of the DNA nicks, similar to PARP1 (Ref. 145) and through that PARP2 supports the resolution of torsional stress upon the relaxation or compaction of chromatin and when DNA unwinds for transcription. As mentioned earlier, the PARP2-HPF1 complex can bridge two nucleosomes and display the ligation-prone broken DNA ends for ligation (Refs 56, 77, 78). Furthermore, the PARP2-HPF1 complex PARylates and activates ALC1 (Ref. 77), and cooperates with Cockayne syndrome group B protein at actively transcribed DNA regions (Ref. 146).

#### *Interaction of PARP2 with factors of RNA polymerase I and II*

The DNA repair machinery, wherein PARP2 plays major role, has strong interconnections with transcription (Refs 147, 148). In agreement with that, PARP2 is involved in RNA polymerase I and II-mediated transcription events.

PARP2 interacts with nucleophosmin/B23 (Ref. 42) which is involved in rRNA transcription (Ref. 149). Interestingly, the deletion of PARP2 does not modify rRNA expression, while the inhibition of RNA polymerase I removes PARP2 from the nucleolus (Ref. 42), hence, the involvement of PARP2 in rRNA transcription is not deciphered.

PARP2 mediates the expression of multiple RNA polymerase II-mediated genes (Refs 14, 25, 85, 150, 151) through the modulation of multiple transcription factors and cofactors (Table 4). PARP2 can impact on transcription through acting as a cofactor of transcription complexes (Refs 152, 153), by PARylating transcription factors (Refs 89, 95), by regulating the expression of transcription factors (Refs 11, 67, 85, 151, 154) or by limiting NAD<sup>+</sup> for the enzymatic activity of sirtuins and, hence, impact on the deacetylase activity of sirtuins (Refs 11, 18, 25, 67, 84, 155). DNA binding and the enzymatic activity of PARP2 is apparently required for its involvement in transcriptional regulation. These phenomena may appear in a concerted, joint fashion. Genes whose expression changes in the absence of PARP2 are involved in intermediary metabolism (mitochondrial, carbohydrate, fatty acid and cholesterol/steroid metabolism) (Refs 11, 18, 25, 67, 84, 85, 151, 152, 155), redox balance (Ref. 95) or inflammation (Ref. 89).

The PARP2-SIRT1 interaction requires a deeper discussion due to its complex and contradictory nature. SIRT1 is an NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent protein deacetylase (Refs 157, 158), therefore, PARP2 activity may limit NAD<sup>+</sup> for SIRT1 (the catalytic properties of PARP2 and SIRT1 were compared earlier in the enzymology chapter), while in the absence of PARP, NAD<sup>+</sup> levels increase, thereby increasing the activity of SIRT1. Indeed,

multiple studies have found SIRT1 induction upon the silencing or deletion of PARP2 (Refs 11, 18, 25, 67). However, increase in NAD<sup>+</sup> levels were not always confirmed. In our hands, we have not found increases in NAD<sup>+</sup> levels in all models in which PARP2 was silenced. Of note, in relation to PARP1, Ryu and co-workers (Ref. 159) showed that changes to compartment-specific NAD<sup>+</sup> metabolism plays pivotal role in regulating PARP1-dependent biological processes, as adipocyte differentiation; that appears as a charming scenario with regards to PARP2. An alternative pathway to explain the higher SIRT1 activity in the absence of PARP2 leans on the observation that SIRT1 expression is induced in models in which PARP2 was silenced (Refs 11, 67). PARP2 can act as a repressor of the SIRT1 promoter binding in the close proximity of the transcription start site (−1−91 region) (Ref. 67) that aligns well with the gene repression capacity of PARP2 through rearranging chromatin structure (Ref. 142). The deletion of PARP2 does not interfere with SIRT2 or SIRT3 activation (Ref. 67).

#### **PARP2 in oxidative stress**

Oxidative stress or high frequency irradiation damages DNA (Refs 160, 161, 162, 163) induce the DNA damage-dependent PARP enzymes (PARP1-3) (Ref. 1). The activation of PARP1 in pathologies associated with oxidative stress declutches biochemical pathways that ultimately lead to mitochondrial dysfunction, cell death, inflammation and organ failure (Refs 164, 165, 166, 167). In this chapter we will assess pathologies where PARP2 plays role in oxidative stress-induced organ damage (Table 5).

Interestingly, increased oxidative stress was detected when PARP2 was silenced in cultured cells (Refs 26, 181). One of the studies reported unchanged nitrosative stress alongside increases in oxidative stress (Ref. 181). Reactive oxygen species (ROS) stemmed from multiple sources, such as the mitochondria (Ref. 181) and the impaired capacity for scavenging ROS (Ref. 95). Impaired ROS scavenging is, at least in part, due to the PAR-mediated cellular relocalization of nuclear factor erythroid 2 (NFE2)-related factor 2 (NFE2L2, or NRF2). NRF2 is a transcription factor that plays key role in inducing the expression of genes coding for enzymes with antioxidant activity (Ref. 182). NRF2 can be PARylated by PARP2 (Ref. 95). PARylated NRF2 is anchored to the nucleus (Ref. 95). In accordance with that, while the silencing of PARP2 increased the cytosolic fraction of NRF2 and led to the rearrangement of the expression of numerous genes associated with redox homeostasis (Ref. 95). Silencing, inhibition or deletion of PARP1 was also reported to induce oxidative stress (Ref. 26) and to regulate NRF2 activity, however, with an entirely different mechanism (Ref. 183).

Silencing, genetic deletion or pharmacological inhibition of PARP2 proved to be beneficial in oxidative stress-associated pathologies of the central nervous system, cardiovascular system, the gastrointestinal tract, the liver, the retina and skeletal muscle (Table 5). Of note, multiple studies reported PARP2-related gene expression changes in response to UPF-1069 treatment. UPF-1069 is a commercially available PARP2-selective pharmacological inhibitor, however, UPF-1069 has limited selectivity towards PARP2 over PARP1 (Ref. 170). Importantly, the pathways stemming from oxidative stress-induced PARP2 activation were identified in plants (Refs 184, 185) and also in nematodes (Ref. 29) suggesting strong evolutionary conservation.

The PARP2-dependent pathways that contribute to tissue damage are multi-pronged and involve NAD<sup>+</sup> depletion (Ref. 18), NAD<sup>+</sup>/SIRT1-mediated mitochondrial damage (Ref. 11), the induction of inflammation (Ref. 173) and the regulation of cell death (Refs 186, 187). These pathways are discussed in-depth elsewhere in the review. These pathways overlap with the



**Table 4.** Known PARP2-transcription factor/cofactor interactions

Name	Mode of action	Effects	Model system	Known tissue specificity	Ref
ER $\alpha$	Unknown	Depletion of PARP2 suppress ER $\alpha$ activation, but does not affect ER $\beta$	Luciferase reporter system in PARP2 specific shRNA treated HEK293 T cells	Unknown	unpublished data, (Ref. 152)
RXR/ PPAR $\alpha$	Unknown	Depletion of PARP2 enhance PPAR $\alpha$ activation	Luciferase reporter system in PARP2 specific shRNA treated HEK293 T cells	Unknown	(Ref. 152)
RXR/ PPAR $\delta$	Unknown	Depletion of PARP2 enhance PPAR $\delta$ activation	Luciferase reporter HEK293 T in PARP2 specific shRNS treated HEK293 T cells	Unknown	(Ref. 152)
RXR/ PPAR $\gamma$	Cofactor of receptor	Modulates transcription of PPAR $\gamma$ target genes, Depletion of PARP2 leads to WAT hypofunction	Luciferase reporter system in PARP2 specific shRNA treated HEK293 T cells; PARP2 knockout mice; embryonic fibroblasts from PARP2 knockout mice	White adipose tissue	(Ref. 152)
SIRT1	PARP2 limits NAD <sup>+</sup> availability for SIRT1 that thereafter cannot deacetylate PGC1 $\alpha$ or FOXOs. PARP2 is a transcriptional repressor of SIRT1	PARP2 depletion induces SIRT1 and consequently enhance mitochondrial biogenesis in skeletal muscle, liver, the cardiovascular system and neurons	PARP2 knockout mice; Luciferase reporter system in PARP2 specific shRNA treated HEK293 T cells; PARP2 knockdown C2C12 cells. PC12 cells challenged by $\alpha$ -synuclein	Skeletal muscle, liver, vasculature, neurons	(Refs 11, 18, 25, 67, 84, 155, 156)
TTF1	Transcriptional cofactor	Regulates the expression of surfactant protein B	Luciferase reporter system in PARP2 specific shRNA treated HeLa/MLE15 cells, interaction mapping in mice and in cells	Lungs	(Ref. 154)
AR	PARP2 is a positive cofactors of AR and is necessary for the recruitment of FOXA1, a pioneer factor	PARP2 supports tumour progression	Tumour tissue analysis; siRNA-silenced prostate cancer cell lines	Prostate cancer cells	(Ref. 153)
SREBP1/2	Transcriptional repressor of the promoters of SREBP1 and 2	In the absence of PARP2 cholesterol accumulates in hepatocytes and skeletal muscle fibers	PARP2 knockout mice; PARP2 knockdown C2C12 cells	Liver, skeletal muscle	(Refs 85, 151)
NRF2	PARP2 PARYlates NRF2 and anchors it to the nucleus	The expression of antioxidant genes are rearranged	PARP2 knockdown C2C12 and HepG2 cells	Liver, skeletal muscle?	(Ref. 95)
PGC1 $\alpha$	PARP2 inhibits SIRT1 that renders PGC1 $\alpha$ and FOXO1 acetylated and inactive	PGC1 $\alpha$ deacetylation partakes in mitochondrial biogenesis	PARP2 knockout mice; PARP2 knockdown C2C12 cells	Liver, skeletal muscle	(Refs 25, 67)
FOXOs		FOXO deacetylation partakes in mitochondrial biogenesis			
SMAD3	PARP2 interacts with SMAD3 and PARYlates it and suppresses its transcriptional activity	PARP2 activation suppresses TGF $\beta$ -mediated gene expression changes	PARP2 knockdown HaCaT cells	Skin?	(Ref. 89)

AR, androgen receptor; ER, oestrogen receptor; RXR, retinoid X receptor; PPAR, peroxisome proliferator activated receptor; TTF1, Thyroid transcription factor-1; SREBP1/2, Sterol regulatory element-binding protein 1/2; NRF2, nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2.

PARP1-dependent tissue damage pathways. Nevertheless, there are clear-cut differences between PARP2 and PARP1. For example, in a secretagogue-induced murine pancreatitis model the deletion of PARP1, but not the deletion of PARP2 suppressed the inflammatory response (Ref. 188). While PARP1 activation leads to nuclear translocation of AIF from the mitochondria (Ref. 189), the deletion of PARP2 does not (Ref. 169). Moreover, the deletion of PARP1 provided protection in murine models of contact hypersensitivity and irritative dermatitis, while the deletion of PARP2 was without effect (Refs 190, 191). Furthermore, apparently, PARP2 has model specific roles, as a function of focal or global ischemia-reperfusion the deletion of PARP2 can deteriorate or ameliorate neuron loss (Ref. 168) and such difference is unlikely to be explained by the global or focal nature of ischaemia. This observation may have importance

when interpreting conflicting results in difference models and calls for verifying observations in other models or in human tissue samples.

### PARP2 in metabolic regulation

PARP enzymes have widespread metabolic roles (Refs 34, 35, 192), with no exception for PARP2. In contrast to PARP1 (Refs 193, 194) no change to circadian entrainment was observed in PARP2 knockout mice (Ref. 67) making it unlikely that central metabolic oscillatory circuits are affected by the deletion of PARP2.

As mentioned earlier, the deletion of PARP2 induces SIRT1 expression and SIRT1 activity. Through that pathway, the deletion of PARP2 induces mitochondrial biogenesis in metabolically

**Table 5.** Oxidative stress-mediated pathologies with the involvement of PARP2

Organ system	Pathology/model	Finding	Reference
CNS	Focal cerebral ischemia	Infarct volume was reduced in PARP2 <sup>-/-</sup> mice after middle cerebral artery occlusion followed by reperfusion	(Ref. 168)
		Infarct volume was reduced in PARP2 <sup>-/-</sup> mice after focal ischemia and reperfusion injury to a similar extent as in PARP1 <sup>-/-</sup> mice	(Ref. 169)
	Global cerebral ischemia	PARP2 <sup>-/-</sup> mice had higher levels of neuron loss in the hippocampal CA1 field after cardiac arrest and resuscitation	(Ref. 168)
	Oxygen and glucose deprivation in the brain	Pharmacological inhibition of PARP2 by UPF-1069 was protective against glucose and oxygen deprivation in rat hippocampal slices and in murine cortical cells	(Ref. 170)
	Alpha synuclein-induced neurodegeneration	PARP2 mRNA expression is induced, while SIRT1 expression was suppressed by $\alpha$ -synuclein aggregates in PC12 cells	(Ref. 155)
	Astrocyte activation	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> -induced activation of astrocytes is governed by PARP2 in collaboration with PARP1 and PARP3	(Ref. 171)
	Astrocyte and oligodendrocyte activation	PARP2 plays role in LPS and INF $\gamma$ -induced oxidative stress-induced	(Ref. 172)
Cardiovascular system	Doxorubicin-induced vascular smooth muscle damage	Silencing or deletion of PARP2 is protective against doxorubicin-induced vascular damage in murine and cellular models	(Ref. 11)
	Cardiac hypertrophy	Alpha-lipoic acid protected against abdominal aorta constriction-induced cardiac hypertrophy through suppressing PARP2 expression and inducing SIRT1	(Ref. 84)
	Cardiomyocytes hypertrophy	PARP2 supports cardiomyocyte hypertrophy through the inhibition of SIRT1	(Ref. 156)
Gastrointestinal tract	Colitis	Oligonucleotide-mediated depletion of PARP2 ameliorated colitis in IL10 <sup>-/-</sup> mice	(Ref. 173)
		T cell-specific deletion of PARP2 ameliorates lipopolysaccharide-induced inflammation of the large intestine	(Ref. 174)
	Oxaliplatin-induced enteric neuronal loss	PARP2 overexpression correlates with oxaliplatin-induced enteric neuronal loss	(Ref. 175)
Liver	Concanavalin A-induced liver injury	PARP2 plays role in concanavalin A-induced NKT cell-mediated liver injury	(Ref. 176)
Retina	Diabetic retinopathy	The mRNA expression of PARP2 increases in streptozotocin-induced diabetes in the neurovascular unit of the retina	(Ref. 177)
	Age-related macular degeneration	PARP2 overexpression, decreased NAD <sup>+</sup> levels, lower SIRT1 and AMPK activity, increased PGC1 $\alpha$ acetylation, mTOR activity characterize retinal of patients with age-related macular degeneration	(Ref. 178)
Skeletal muscle	Cancer-related muscular cachexia	The deletion of PARP2 protects against muscle cachexia in lung cancer that is associated with oxidative stress	(Ref. 179)
Aging	B-lymphocytes of young individual and centenarians	Reduced expression of PARP2 in the B-lymphocytes of centenarians	(Ref. 180)

AMPK, AMP-activated protein kinase; CNS, central nerve system; INF $\gamma$ , interferon  $\gamma$ ; IL, interleukin; LPS, lipopolysaccharide; mTOR, mechanistic/mammalian target of rapamycin; NKT, natural killer T cell; PGC1 $\alpha$ , peroxisome proliferator activated receptor cofactor 1 $\alpha$ .

relevant tissues, as the skeletal muscle and the liver (Refs 18, 67) and other tissues, as the cardiovascular system (Refs 11, 84, 156), the retina (Ref. 178) and the central nervous system (Ref. 155). Interestingly, the deletion of PARP2 did not induce mitochondrial biogenesis in the brown adipose tissue (Ref. 67), that is another key metabolic tissue important for maintaining energy balance. Therefore, the browning effect of PARP inhibitors are likely related to PARP1, but not to PARP2 (Refs 194, 195). ROS production due to the cellular relocation of NRF2 is another key pathway in inducing mitochondrial biogenesis in the absence of PARP2 (Refs 95, 181). Somewhat contradictory, despite the higher mitochondrial output, the mitochondrial network is fragmented in PARP2-silenced cells. In agreement with increases in mitochondrial oxidative capacity, chow-fed PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice showed higher oxygen consumption rates and were consequently leaner than their wild-type littermates (Ref. 67). Similar to the aforementioned situation, PARP2 is involved in metabolic regulation in plants (Ref. 185). Interestingly, in *Arabidopsis* PARP2 is

present in the mitochondria (Ref. 196) that is an interesting phenomenon, as in mammalian cells no PARylation activity was identified in the mitochondria (Refs 165, 197).

PARP2 impacts on lipid metabolism in the white adipose tissue (Ref. 152), the skeletal muscle and the liver (Ref. 67). In the white adipose tissue the deletion of PARP2 hampers the transcriptional activity of PPAR $\gamma$  (Ref. 152) that leads to the downregulation of a set of PPAR $\gamma$  target genes as adipocytes protein 2 (aP2), CD36, lipoprotein lipase (LPL) and fatty acid synthase (FAS) that altogether lead to impaired fat accumulation and white adipose tissue function (Ref. 152). In line with that, low level metaflammation was detected in the white adipose tissue of PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Ref. 152). There was no sign of being/browning in the white adipose tissue of the PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice in line with the lack of mitochondrial biogenesis in the brown adipose tissue.

In the skeletal muscle and in the liver the deletion of PARP2 impacted on lipid metabolism through the induction of mitochondrial lipid oxidation (Ref. 67). This process is primarily



associated with increases in SIRT1 activation and the induction of the expression of uncoupling protein (UCP)-2, muscle isoform of carnitine O-palmitoyltransferase 1 (mCPT1b), acyl coenzyme A oxidase I (ACOX1), medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD), malonyl-CoA decarboxylase (MCD), Ndufa2, cytochrome c (cyt c) and COX IV (Ref. 67). Importantly, PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice have lower respiratory quotient as compared to their wild type counterparts during the active (dark) phase which points towards higher fatty acid oxidation. As PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice prefer fatty acid during their diurnal cycle (i.e. they are locked-in in fatty acid oxidation) that can be considered a form of metabolic inflexibility.

Another PARP2-mediated arch of lipid metabolism is cholesterol biosynthesis and cholesterol-utilizing downstream pathways as steroidogenesis. PARP2 acts as suppressor of sterol regulatory element-binding protein (SREBP)-1 and SREBP2 (Refs 85, 151), hence the silencing or deletion of PARP2 induces SREBP1/2 mRNA and protein expression and the accumulation of the active, processed nuclear form of SREBP1 in the nucleus in the liver and the skeletal muscle (Refs 85, 151). Subsequently, the expression of the SREBP-dependent genes was upregulated leading to higher hepatic and muscular cholesterol content (both esterified and non-esterified) (Refs 85, 151). Higher cholesterol content coincided with stark changes to the composition of the membrane-constituent lipids (Refs 85, 151) and slower lateral diffusion in the membranes (Ref. 85).

In addition to changes in the tissue cholesterol homeostasis, systemic cholesterol homeostasis was also impacted upon deletion of PARP2. Serum HDL levels were lower in the PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice highlighting impaired cholesterol traffic both to the peripheral tissues and to the liver (Ref. 151) (of note, in mice HDL serves both directions of cholesterol transport). Furthermore, hepatic cholesterol output through ABCA1 was hampered in the absence of PARP2 (Ref. 151).

In skeletal muscle cholesterol was channelled towards sexual steroid biosynthesis through Star, HSD17b11 and Srd5a1 (Ref. 85). The upregulation of these enzymes was due to the loss of the promoter suppression effects of PARP2 (Ref. 85). These changes culminated in the overproduction of dihydrotestosterone, an anabolic steroid (Ref. 85). Higher anabolic steroid levels coincided with improved muscular fibre strength (Ref. 85). Sexual steroid biosynthesis was also upregulated in the skin of PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice marked by higher expression of Stard5, HSD17B3 and Cyp19A1, however, the intermediates were channelled towards oestrogen biosynthesis (Ref. 150).

The deletion of PARP2 in spite of increased mitochondrial oxidative capacity led to higher serum glucose and lower serum insulin levels in the PARP2 knockout mice under both fed and fasted conditions (Ref. 67). Glucose challenge in intraperitoneal glucose tolerance test verified these observations, high fat diet-fed PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice were unable to dispose of glucose, as glucose-induced insulin secretion was blunted in the PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice (Ref. 67). Disrupted glucose-induced insulin secretion was due to the hypoplasia of the Langerhans islands and  $\beta$  cells that was linked to lower pdx-1 expression in beta cells (Ref. 67).

PARP1 was associated with autophagy (Refs 198, 199, 200, 201, 202) and recent data connected PARP2 to autophagy as well (Refs 25, 203, 204). The silencing of PARP2 increased the number of autophagic vesicles in an AMPK, mTORC1/2-dependent fashion (Ref. 203). Autophagy can provide valuable nutrients (Ref. 205) and even NAD<sup>+</sup> levels (Ref. 202) for cell growth therefore, enhanced autophagy in the absence of PARP2 may serve that role.

It should be noted that metabolic inflexibility, as it is the case upon PARP2 knockout, is an actionable feature of cancer cells

(Ref. 206). Furthermore, the physical presence and the activity of PARP2 is associated with a set of metabolic sensors (AMPK, mTORC1, mTORC2, SIRT1), that also serve in survival signaling. Both of these findings have important practical applications in terms of antineoplastic therapy, nevertheless, were not assessed in detail.

### Selective role of PARP2 in biological processes related to high proliferative index

Characterization of mouse models with deficiency in PARP2 or in PARP1 has revealed selective functions of PARP2, over PARP1, in various biological processes associated with a high cell proliferation rate, including T cell development (Ref. 33), spermatogenesis (Ref. 30), erythropoiesis at steady-state (Ref. 14) conditions, and hematopoiesis under stress conditions (Ref. 118).

#### PARP2 is required for T cell development

T cell development takes place in the thymus from bone marrow derived thymic progenitors through highly regulated processes involving T cell receptor gene rearrangement, proliferation, selection, survival and differentiation (Ref. 207). These sequential steps are required for the differentiation of double-negative (DN; CD4-CD8-) thymocytes into double-positive thymocytes (DP; CD4+CD8+). DP thymocytes undergo intensive negative and positive selection to differentiate into either CD4+ or CD8+ single positive thymocytes that migrate to the periphery as mature naïve T lymphocytes. Interestingly, PARP2-deficient, but not PARP1-deficient mice show a significant reduction in the number of DP thymocytes indicating that PARP2 plays a role in T cell development (Ref. 33). This phenotype is associated with the function of PARP2 in preventing the accumulation of DNA double-strand breaks and the ensuing activation of a DNA damage response (DDR) during T cell receptor rearrangement in a p53-dependent manner (Refs 33, 129).

#### Selective role of PARP2 in spermatogenesis

Spermatogenesis is a complex process that takes place in the seminiferous epithelium in which diploid spermatogonial stem cells differentiate into male haploid germ cells (Ref. 208). Interestingly, PARP1 and PARP2 have a different distribution in the seminiferous epithelium, with PARP1 expression restricted to the peripheral cell layer, whereas PARP2 expression is homogeneously distributed throughout the seminiferous tubules (Refs 10, 209, 210) suggesting a discrete role of PARP1 and PARP2 in spermatogenesis. Indeed, PARP2-deficient male mice show hypofertility connected with abnormalities in spermatogenesis including chromosome missegregation in metaphase I cells, impaired meiotic sex chromosome inactivation, large number of spermatoocytes in meiotic prophase and metaphase I displaying features of apoptosis and high level of DNA damage in primary spermatoocytes and haploid cells (Refs 30, 31, 210). PARP2 (similar to PARP1) partakes in genome remodelling during spermiogenesis (Refs 31, 140)

Human studies have also verified these observations. Jha *et al.* (Ref. 211), based on studies on the semen samples of 18 healthy and 12 infertile humans, showed that the expression of PARP2 correlated with genotoxic insults to semen. Furthermore, Sakugawa *et al.* (Ref. 212) have identified on a cohort of 18 Japanese men three single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the region coding the PARP2 catalytic domain and two in the 3' UTR associated with azoospermia.

### PARP2 in hematopoiesis

Hematopoiesis is a highly regulated multistep process within the bone marrow in which multipotent hematopoietic stem cells self-renew and differentiate into a series of committed progenitors that give rise to all mature blood cell lineages, including lymphocytes, monocytes, granulocytes, platelets and erythrocytes (Ref. 213). To maintain hematopoietic homeostasis through life, several pathways involved in cell cycle regulation, DNA repair and apoptosis must be tightly regulated in order to prevent genomic instability, haematological malignancies and bone marrow failure (Ref. 214). Indeed, hematopoiesis is a process highly sensitive to genotoxic agents such as radiation or chemotherapy which causes myeloablation-associated site effects in patients (Refs 214, 215). Hence, understanding DDR pathways in hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells is critical to avoid off-target responses in patients under treatment with genotoxic agents.

Interestingly, PARP2-deficiency, but not the deficiency of PARP1, accelerated bone marrow failure and death of mice exposed to sublethal doses of irradiation. This phenotype is associated with an impaired DDR and increased p53-dependent and Puma-dependent apoptosis of hematopoietic stem-progenitor cells in the absence of PARP2 (Ref. 118).

Furthermore, at steady-state conditions, PARP2, but not PARP1, deficiency leads to chronic anaemia in mice (Ref. 14). The reduced circulating erythrocytes number in PARP2-deficient mice is associated with the accumulation of DNA damage in response to high replicative stress in erythroid progenitors, which limits their expansion through the activation of cell cycle checkpoints and apoptosis (Ref. 14).

### Immunomodulatory roles of PARP2

The aforementioned cellular roles of PARP2 may impact, in a specific manner, on the biology of immune cells of both the innate and the adaptive immune system and thus affect different immune-mediated functions. Interestingly, the involvement of PARP2 in the regulation of immune responses is evolutionarily conserved and can also be found among plants (Ref. 216).

### PARP2 in innate immune responses

The innate immune system consists of cells (neutrophils, macrophages, dendritic cells, mast cells, natural killer cells and other innate lymphoid cells) and soluble molecules that serve as the front line of host protection to infection, tissue injury and tumour progression. In addition, the innate immune system also stimulates adaptive immune responses. One of the major protective reactions of the innate immune system is inflammation, a process by which innate immune components are recruited to site of infection or damaged tissues. PARP2 has been shown to be involved in different aspects of the inflammatory response, which are specifically detailed below.

### PARP2 in adaptive immune responses

Adaptive immune response is mediated by T and B lymphocytes. Despite the aforementioned role of PARP2 in T cell development at the thymus, PARP2 deficiency does not change the number of peripheral T cell subsets under basal conditions, although its effect on the functional activity of these cells is unknown. Noteworthy, PARP2-deficient T cells produce more interferon  $\gamma$  (IFN $\gamma$ ) than wild-type T cells by unknown mechanisms that would be interesting to explore given their possible functional implications (Ref. 217). Characterization of germline and B lymphocyte-specific PARP2 $^{-/-}$  mice revealed that PARP2

deficiency has no impact on B lymphocyte development, in contrast to T lymphocyte development. Furthermore, PARP2 deficiency has no impact on antibody production in response to T-dependent and T-independent antigens (Ref. 218).

### PARP2 in the regulation of inflammation

The role of PARPs in inflammation became evident in the late 1990s, when PARylation was implicated in monocyte/macrophage activation upon lipopolysaccharide (LPS) induction (Refs 219, 220), and the genetic deletion or pharmacological inhibition of PAR synthesis was shown to exert anti-inflammatory effects in mice (Ref. 221). Since these initial findings, multiple studies demonstrated the involvement of PARP activation in inflammatory reactions (for detailed review see in (Refs 222, 223, 224)), as much as the protective effect of PARP inhibition in acute and chronic inflammation (Refs 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245). As the majority of cellular PARP activity in mammals is attributed to PARP1, most of the available data in the context of inflammatory regulation focuses on the role of PARP1. However, PARP inhibitors target not only PARP1, but also PARP2-derived PAR synthesis (Ref. 246). Hence, for evaluating the anti-inflammatory effect of PARP inhibitors, it would be important to learn more about the tissue-specific targets of PARP2 activity and their relevance in pro- and anti-inflammatory pathways. It is also to be noted that in certain instances, the regulatory action of PARPs involves only the scaffolding function of the enzymes, and independent of their catalytic activity. One such example is the nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B) coactivator function of PARP1 (Ref. 247), but possibly there are cell type-dependent factors determining the nature of interaction between PARP1 and NF- $\kappa$ B that may be relevant in different inflammatory settings.

Nevertheless, in the past decade it turned out that PARP2 has multi-faceted regulatory roles in inflammatory mechanisms, which have been involved in various conditions, including neuroinflammation, hepatitis, colitis and psoriasis. In this chapter, we provide an overview on the role of PARP2 in immune modulation to explain why PARP2 deficiency tends to be protective in inflammatory pathologies.

PARP1/2 inhibition by PJ34 protects mice from concanavalin A (ConA)-induced liver injury (Refs 233, 248), a murine model of immune cell-mediated hepatitis in humans (Ref. 249). It later turned out, that it is the deficiency of PARP2, and not of PARP1, which is protective against the hepatolysis caused by ConA (Ref. 176). Surprisingly though, neither PJ34, nor the genetic deletion of PARP2 suppressed the inflammation that is key in the promotion of hepatolysis induced by ConA.

The ConA-induced liver injury is dependent on Natural Killer T (NKT) lymphocytes (Refs 250, 251, 252). In the spleen and liver of PARP2 $^{-/-}$  mice, a marked reduction was found in the percentage of type I or invariant NKT (iNKT) cells, the major NKT population in the liver. This resulted in reduced hepatocyte death after ConA induction, while the recruitment and activation of immune cells, such as conventional T lymphocytes, and their proinflammatory cytokine expression was unaffected (Ref. 176). The reduction of iNKT lymphocyte subset may be explained by the role PARP2 play in T cell receptor  $\alpha$ -chain (TCR $\alpha$ ) rearrangement process during thymopoiesis (Ref. 33), as the iNKT cells are characterized by the expression of TCR $\alpha$  chain with a unique rearrangement (V $\alpha$ 14-J $\alpha$ 18).

There are some other points in this context that might worth considering. Although the most potent activator of iNKT cells is thought to be the synthetic glycolipid antigen  $\alpha$ -galactosylceramide (Refs 253, 254), which was also used in the study by Filliol *et al.* (Ref. 176) to analyse iNKT cells in the

PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice, numerous endogenous lipid antigens, both bacterial and self-lipids, capable of iNKT activation have been identified (Refs 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260). As described above, studies performed on PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice in the past 15 years revealed characteristic changes in the lipidome of several tissues with local, as well as systemic consequences on animal physiology (Refs 83, 85, 151). It seems feasible that lipidomic alterations may have far-reaching effects on the differentiation and activation of iNKT cells in PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

Since microbial antigens modulate iNKT activation (Refs 257, 258, 261, 262), gut microbiota composition may have significant effect on iNKT cell function not only in intestine but probably distant tissues, as well (Refs 255, 261, 262, 263). Interestingly, PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> mice display a more diverse gut microbiota composition compared to their wild-type littermates (Refs 264, 265, 266), although these alterations were not linked to immune modifications in PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> mice so far. Future studies might determine if a functional association exists between gut microbiota and immune cell homeostasis in PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

Even more so, that iNKT cells have been associated with the regulation of gut microbiota composition (Refs 267, 268, 269), and thereby with the control of intestinal inflammation (Refs 268, 269, 270). Along this line, it was reported that the depletion of PARP2 by antisense oligonucleotide delivery reduced intestinal inflammation in the interleukin-10 (IL10)-deficient mouse model of colitis, as evidenced by the reduced lymphocyte infiltration, as well as attenuated TNF $\alpha$  and IFN $\gamma$  secretion in the colon of mice treated with the PARP2-specific oligonucleotide compared to the control mice with colitis (Ref. 173). It was not established what may underlie the anti-inflammatory effect of PARP2 silencing in this model. The application of the antisense oligonucleotide resulted in only a small reduction in PARP2 expression in the colonic epithelial cells, hence it is unlikely to be responsible for the effect. More likely is the interference with innate immune responses caused by the suppression of PARP2 expression. In contrast to the colon, the oligonucleotide caused a significant decrease in PARP2 expression in the liver of mice (Ref. 173). It is possible that the lipid homeostasis of liver is disturbed upon PARP2 depletion that affects iNKT cell activation. The gut also harbours iNKT cells, and it was suggested that a bi-directional interactive network, also called as the liver-gut axis, exists between iNKT cells of liver and gut and the gut microbiota, that together control inflammatory processes in the two organs (Ref. 271). Of note, there are discrepancies in the literature as to the role of iNKT cells in inflammatory regulation, as well as several gaps on the influence of PARP2 on innate immune processes that warrant further investigations.

Nevertheless, there is evidence that PARP2 mediates intestinal inflammation at the level of adaptive immunity, as well. The T cell-specific downregulation of PARP2 ameliorated LPS-induced acute colitis in mice (Ref. 174). Lower IL17 production was measured in the colon of T cell-PARP2-KO mice than in the control mice after LPS treatment, suggesting that local activation of T helper 17 (Th17) cells, a key component in the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease (Ref. 272), was impaired in mice with the T cell-specific conditional PARP2 deletion. This could be the result of suppression by regulatory T (Treg) cells, as Treg cell number was increased in the intestinal mucosa of LPS-treated T-cell-specific PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice compared to control animals after LPS treatment (Ref. 174). To note, Th17 and Treg cells share a common precursor and require a common tumour growth factor (TGF) $\beta$  signal for differentiation. In the presence of pro-inflammatory cytokines (e.g. IL6), TGF $\beta$  drives the differentiation of naïve CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells into Th17 cells, however, in the absence of these cytokines the TGF $\beta$  signal directs towards Treg differentiation (Refs 273, 274, 275). Hence, Th17 and Treg cells

have opposite functions in immune regulation in autoimmunity, as Th17 cells can trigger, while Treg cells can suppress autoimmune diseases (Ref. 276). Interestingly, PARP2 was shown to modulate TGF $\beta$  signalling in vitro, as PARP2, in complex with PARP1, seems to negatively regulate the Smad-dependent transcriptional responses induced by TGF $\beta$  in HaCaT keratinocyte cultures (Ref. 89). A similar mechanism may exist in T cells, and PARP1 and PARP2 may coordinately assist the differentiation of naïve CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells in different conditions, as PARP1 regulates TGF $\beta$  signalling in T cells, as well (Ref. 277). The CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells of PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> mice display higher expression of TGF $\beta$  receptors (Ref. 277), and PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> mice have higher number of Tregs in spleen, thymus and lymph nodes than in PARP1<sup>+/+</sup> mice (Refs 278, 279).

PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells also have an increased capacity to differentiate into Th17 cells in response to TGF $\beta$  and IL6 in vitro (Ref. 277). Although this supports the role of PARP1 in the TGF $\beta$  signalling of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, it is unlikely to occur in vivo in the steady state since PARP1 deficiency in mice is associated with generally lower IL6 levels, and PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells secreted less IL6 in response to antigen stimulus in vitro than PARP1<sup>+/+</sup> T cells (Ref. 277). However, pro-inflammatory stimulus can upregulate IL6 production in mice, and this may explain why PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> mice show augmented inflammation in mouse models of Th17-mediated inflammatory diseases, such as the experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE), the murine model of multiple sclerosis (Refs 280, 281), and the imiquimod-induced psoriasis-like dermatitis (Ref. 282).

Further studies are required to determine the potential role of PARP2 in TGF $\beta$  signalling in naïve CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells, but we might as well assume that PARP2 cooperates with PARP1 in regulating the TGF $\beta$  signalling of T cells in a similar manner to what was found in HaCaT cultures. However, it would not explain why PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice, in contrast to PARP1<sup>-/-</sup> mice, are protected against Th17-mediated inflammation. In EAE, PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice displayed a delayed disease onset and a significantly reduced number of Th17 lymphocytes and hence inflammation in the central nervous system (Ref. 280). In the imiquimod-induced psoriasis model PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice exhibited ameliorated dermatitis compared to PARP2<sup>+/+</sup> mice (Ref. 150). Immune cell subsets were not characterized in the infiltrate of the skin of PARP2<sup>+/+</sup> and PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice with psoriasis-like dermatitis, but the smaller IL17 concentration measured in inflamed skin lysates of PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice suggests lower presence or suppressed activation of Th17 cells. These data suggest the existence of a PARP2-specific regulation of Th17 differentiation. It was shown in PARP2-depleted human keratinocytes and in the skin of PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice that phosphorylation of NF- $\kappa$ B p65 subunit is reduced in response to psoriasis-mimicking pro-inflammatory stimulus (Ref. 150). The repressed activation of NF- $\kappa$ B and hence the amelioration of inflammatory response was a result of induced estradiol biosynthesis in PARP2-deficient keratinocytes (Ref. 150). On one hand, decreased activation of NF- $\kappa$ B in keratinocytes can lead to decreased production of chemokines that recruit the Th17 subset to the site of inflammation. On the other hand, it was found in the imiquimod-treated skin of PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice that the expression of IL6, that is a NF- $\kappa$ B target gene, reduced compared to PARP2<sup>+/+</sup> mice, which may have hampered the TGF $\beta$ -mediated differentiation of resident naïve T cells into Th17 cells. In addition, estradiol has a direct effect on Th17 cell differentiation. Although there are contradictory data in the literature (Refs 283, 284), estradiol and oestrogens in general are considered as negative regulators of Th17 cell differentiation (Refs 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290). Of note, only the skin has been studied in the imiquimod-treated PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice, but in the case of whole-body knock-out mice, the probability of the



contribution of systemic effects must not be ruled out. A systemic shift towards oestrogen action in PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice could also explain, at least in part, the protective phenotype of PARP2<sup>-/-</sup> mice in EAE (Ref. 280), as multiple studies demonstrated the protective role of oestrogens in EAE (Refs 288, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295).

Taken together, PARP2 may have more complex roles in inflammatory regulation than we are currently aware of, and more studies are needed to explore PARP2-specific immune modulatory effects that may facilitate efforts towards the development of PARP2-specific inhibitors and may open new avenues for the applicability of the clinically available PARP inhibitors outside tumour therapy.

### PARP2 in cancer

Cancer development is a multistep process involving the acquisition of capabilities (cancer hallmarks) for maintaining proliferative signalling, deregulating cellular metabolism, cell death resistance, increased genomic instability, inducing angiogenesis, activating tumour invasion, promoting inflammation, enabling replicative immortality, evading growth suppressors and immune evasion (Ref. 296). As aforementioned, PARP2 has been shown to play important roles in many of these processes, both at the level of the tumour cell itself and its environment, suggesting its involvement in tumour progression (Table 6). Accordingly, increasing evidence suggests though that PARP2 plays specific roles in different types of cancers through different mechanisms including transcription regulation, immunomodulatory functions and DDR regulation (Table 6).

#### PARP2 in breast cancer

In a mouse model of PyMT-driven spontaneous breast cancer (MMTV-PyMT) (Ref. 300), it was observed that PARP2 deficiency in the whole mouse or PARP2 deficiency only in the mammary gland delayed tumour onset, without affecting tumour growth rate, while selective PARP2 deficiency in the myeloid lineage did not affect tumour initiation (Ref. 297). Interestingly, lung metastasis was significantly reduced in PARP2-deficient MMTV-PyMT mice as well as in hosted wild-type mice implanted with PARP2-deficient cells compared to control. Conversely, in another syngeneic mouse model of bone metastasis-prone breast cancer, PARP2 deficiency has been shown to increase bone metastasis mediated by converting the bone microenvironment to immunosuppressive by altering the balance of Treg and T helper 1 (Th1) cells (Ref. 297).

In a different syngeneic breast cancer mouse model in which the PARP2 proficient AT-3 breast cancer cell line was implanted in host-wild-type mice and in mice with a PARP2-deficiency only in T cells, we observed a significant reduction in AT-3-induced tumour growth in host mice with a deficiency of PARP-2 only in T cells compared to control host mice, suggesting a critical role of PARP2 in modulating the T cell response against breast tumour (Ref. 217). More recently, in a triple negative breast cancer model, it was demonstrated that selective degradation of PARP2 by proteolysis targeting chimera (PROTAC) has a therapeutic effect, both in vitro and in vivo (Ref. 301).

In addition to these pre-clinical studies, PARP2 has also been suggested to play a role in the response to chemotherapy in breast cancer; multiple studies have shown associations with SNPs in PARP2 and breast cancer survival or risk. In a study using a cohort of postmenopausal breast cancer patients, it was shown that the intronic rs878156 SNP in PARP2 can modulate cancer specific survival in breast cancer patients as a function of chemotherapy (Ref. 302). Another study by Popanda *et al.* (Ref. 303) identified association between a PARP2 polymorphism and breast

cancer risk. Finally, in ER-positive/HER2-negative breast tumours, the expression of PARP2 was associated with poor prognosis (Ref. 304).

#### PARP2 in prostate cancer

Genetic depletion or pharmacological inhibition of PARP2 with the selective inhibitor UPF-1069, inhibited androgen receptor (AR)-positive, but not AR-negative, prostate cancer cell growth in vitro (Ref. 153). In addition, prostate tumour growth inhibition was also observed in vivo after selective targeting of PARP2 in an immunodeficient mouse model with subcutaneous implantation of AR-positive cancer cells (Ref. 153). The transcription factor AR plays a critical role in prostate cancer progression. This effect of PARP2 in prostate cancer progression has been suggested to be due to the interaction of PARP2 with FOXA1, a critical factor facilitating AR recruitment to genome-wide prostate-specific enhancer regions. Moreover, analysis of PARP2 expression in prostate tumour samples has shown that overexpression of PARP2 is associated with prostate cancer aggressiveness (Ref. 153).

#### PARP2 in haematological malignancies

The role of PARP2 has been explored in different haematological malignancies. Interestingly, in a mouse model of c-Myc-driven B cell lymphoma, PARP2 deficiency delays tumour progression by exacerbating replication stress in c-Myc-overexpressing B cells, resulting in accumulation of DNA damage and concomitant cell death that restricts the c-Myc-driven expansion of B cells in a p53-dependent manner (Ref. 298). However, in a mouse model of spontaneous p53-deficiency-driven T cell lymphoma, PARP2 deficiency accelerates the progression of T cell lymphomas (Refs 129, 305). In both models, PARP2 deficiency triggers, in response to DNA damage accumulation, a p53-dependent DDR, resulting in cell cycle arrest and impaired survival of c-Myc-overexpressing pre-B cells or thymocytes respectively as the major intrinsic tumour-suppressor mechanism. Indeed, when p53 is removed, the protective effect associated with PARP2 deficiency disappears in the model of B cell lymphoma (Ref. 298) or even accelerated tumour progression in the case of T cell lymphoma (Refs 129, 305). Interestingly, PARP2 deficiency does not influence the survival in a mouse model of Notch-1-driven T cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (Ref. 298). Altogether, these data suggest that the effect of PARP2-deficiency may be specific to c-Myc-driven haematological malignancies.

In an alkylator-induced mouse model of acute myeloid leukaemia, induced in multiple in-bred mouse strains, Cahan and Graubert identified network of cancer-inducing and supporting genes, among which PARP2 had a prominent place (Ref. 306).

#### PARP2 in tumours of the digestive tract

Recently, PARP2 has been involved in different types of tumours of the digestive tract. For instance, the pro-tumour effect of circular RNA-RAD23B in the invasion of oesophageal cancer cells has been suggested to be mediated by promoting the expression of PARP2 (Ref. 21). In gastric cancer, PARP2 deletion restrained cell proliferation, migration and invasion of gastric cancer cell lines (Ref. 23). Moreover, PARP2 have also been involved in pathways associated with hepatocellular carcinoma. For instance, PTTG3P acted as an oncogenic lncRNA to promote hepatocellular carcinoma development through upregulating CCND1 and PARP2 (Ref. 24). In addition, high expression of PARP2 and low expression of miR-149 in hepatocellular tumour tissues correlated with larger tumour mass size, capsular and vascular invasion, lymph node metastasis and high histological grade.



**Table 6.** PARP2 in cancer

Cancer type	Experimental model	Outcome of PARP2-deficiency	Refs.
Breast	PyMT-driven spontaneous mouse breast cancer	Whole mouse: delayed tumour progression and reduced lung metastasis	(Ref. 297)
		Mammary gland: delayed tumour progression	
		Myeloid lineage: no affect	
	Hosted wild-type mice implanted with syngeneic PARP2-deficient cells	Reduced lung metastasis; Increased bone metastasis	
Prostate	Expression level in PCa tissue	Associated with good PCa prognosis	(Ref. 153)
	In vitro cell proliferation of wild-type vs PARP2-deficient cells	Suppressed the growth of AR-positive cells	
	Immunodeficient wild-type mice implanted with xenogeneic PARP2-deficient cells	Delayed tumour progression	
Haematological	c-Myc-driven spontaneous mouse B-cell lymphoma	Delayed tumour progression	(Ref. 298)
	Mouse model of Notch-1-mediated T-ALL	No influence on survival	
	p53-deficient-driven spontaneous mouse T-cell lymphoma	Accelerated tumour progression	
Oesophageal	Expression level in oesophageal cancer tissue, and cell lines	Decreased pro-tumoural effect of circular RNA-RAD23B	(Ref. 21)
Gastric	PARP2 depletion in gastric cancer cell lines	Suppressed in gastric cancer proliferation, migration and invasion	(Ref. 23)
Hepatic	Expression level in hepatocellular tumour tissue	Associated with good prognosis	(Ref. 24)
	Deletion of PARP2 in hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines	Inhibited the phosphorylation of PI3 K and Akt	(Ref. 19)
Glioblastoma multiforme		A 5-gene signature panel (APEX1, APRT, PARP2, PMS2L2, POLR2L) stratified patients into high- and low-risk groups	(Ref. 299)

PCa, Prostate cancer; AR, Androgen receptor; T-ALL, T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Accordingly, high PARP2 expression is a poor prognosis factor and correlated with low survival rate (Ref. 19).

### Development and aging

The involvement of PARP1 in development and aging was known since the late '90s (Refs 307, 308, 309). The role for PARP1 in aging was mostly associated with its role in DNA repair, although subsequently PARP1 was associated with most hallmarks of aging (Refs 310, 311, 312). Recent data suggest that PARP2 is likely to be involved in development and aging, furthermore, the role of PARP2 in development and aging is evolutionarily conserved, as such features were identified in plants as well (Ref. 313).

Although PARP2 knockout mice are conceived, develop and are viably born, the double knockout of PARP2 and other DNA repair enzymes as PARP1 (Ref. 43) or ATM (Ref. 72) are non-viable and double knockout embryos are lost in the first half of the pregnancy. Although, the exact cause of the underdevelopment and loss of the double knockout embryos is not explored in detail and not defined. Nevertheless, PARP2 is involved in decidualization (Ref. 314) and in developing endometrial receptivity and supporting blastocyst implantation (Ref. 48) that represent likely explanations for early embryonic lethality alongside deficient DNA repair. PARP2 interacts with transcription factors that influence the development of organs, as TTF-1 (Ref. 154) that impact on lung development. PARP2 regulates cell death processes (Refs 30, 33, 186).

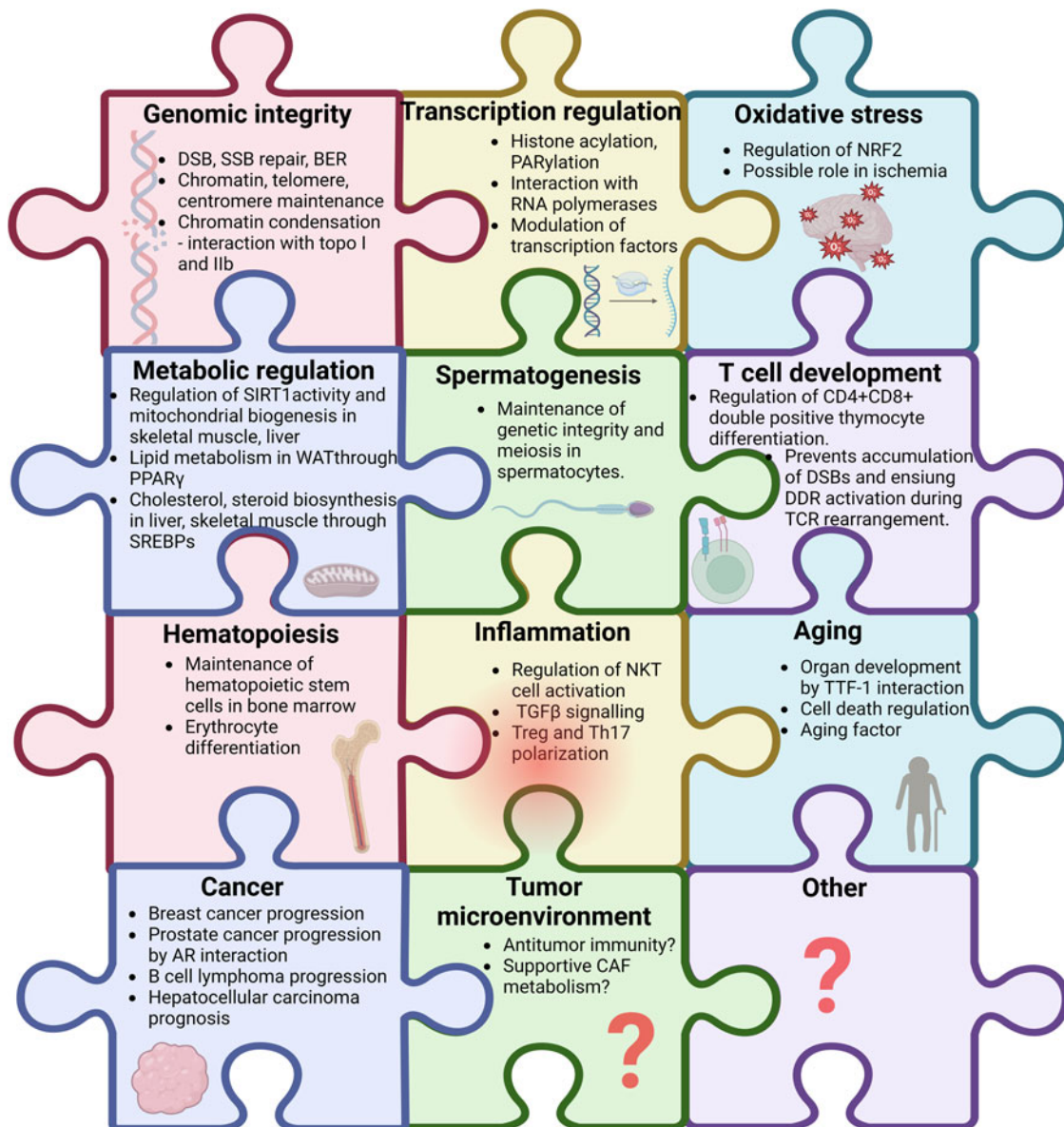
At the other end of the life cycle of an individual, PARP2 is associated with aging. As discussed earlier, PARP2 is involved

in processes that are considered as the hallmarks of aging as systemic inflammation (Ref. 315), metabolic features (Ref. 316), cardiovascular health (Ref. 317), microbiome health (Refs 318, 319). Chevanne *et al.* (Chevanne *et al.* (Ref. 180)) showed that the expression of PARP1 and PARP2 in immortalized B lymphocytes from aged and centenarians, as compared to cells from young individuals, decrease supporting the previous observations that successful aging is associated with sustained PARP1 (and PARP2?) expression (Refs 310, 311, 312). This observation can be linked to features we have discussed, such as the reduced thymopoiesis in the PARP2 knockout mice that resembles to the processes associated with thymic aging (Ref. 33). The currently available data suggest that while PARP2 is associated with aging, it is likely not an individual aging factor, but PARP2 is likely a member of a web that acts in a coordinated fashion during aging.

### Future prospects

Hereby, we reviewed the known biological properties and roles of PARP2, including inflammation, cancer, hematopoiesis, metabolism, oxidative stress-related diseases (Fig. 5). It is likely that there are other, yet uncovered biological functions of PARP2, such as its involvement in the life cycle of viruses (Refs 223, 320, 321). Uncovering and understanding these pathways warrant further research.

Early in vivo studies demonstrated a sensitivity of PARP1 and PARP2-deficient mice to genotoxic agents, indicating a role for these proteins in the DDR, although possibly with spatio-



**Figure 5.** The schematic representation of the PARP2-mediated physiological and pathophysiological functions. AR, androgen receptor; BER, base excision repair; CAF, cancer-associated fibroblast; DDR, DNA damage response; DSB, double-strand break; NRF2, nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2; PARylation, poly-ADP-ribosylation; PPAR, peroxisome proliferator activated receptor; SREBP, Sterol regulatory element-binding protein; SSB, single-strand break; TCR, T cell receptor; TTF1, Thyroid transcription factor-1; topo, topoisomerase; WAT, white adipose tissue.

temporal differences. Accordingly, considering the critical role of the DDR in cancer, PARP1/2 inhibitors (PARPi) have emerged as an important new class of therapeutics in cancer. However, in spite of increasing evidence suggesting that PARP1 and PARP2 have discrete biological roles, PARPi currently approved for clinical use, targeting the highly conserved catalytic site of PARP1/2, do not discriminate between PARP1 and PARP2 (Ref. 322). Taking into account the specific functions of these two proteins in various biological processes, including cancer models, a new generation of selective inhibitors has been initiated, aim to optimized anti-tumour immune response, reduce off-target effects and optimize the side-effect profile of the inhibitors. A clear example of this development is the generation of a selective PARP1 inhibitor by AstraZeneca that is already in clinical trials (Ref. 323). The development of selective PARP2 inhibitors is at an earlier stage. UPF-1069 has very limited selectivity which limits its clinical use (Ref. 153). In addition to classical small molecules, PROTAC has emerged as a new strategy for selective PARP2 inhibition that has demonstrated efficacy in a pre-clinical breast cancer model (Refs 301, 314). Undoubtedly, the arrival of

these PARP1/PARP2-selective inhibitors in the pre-clinical and clinical phase will allow validation of the results of genetic depletion of PARP2 in different tumours and may represent a very important therapeutic advance in the fight against certain types of cancer.

**Acknowledgement.** The project was funded by grants from the NKFIH (K142141, FK134588), from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (POST-COVID2021-33, NKM2022-30). Project no. TKP2021-EGA-19 and TKP2021-EGA-20 have been implemented with the support provided from the National Research, Development and Innovation Fund of Hungary, financed under the TKP2021-EGA funding scheme. This project has received funding from the HUN-REN Hungarian Research Network. The Yélamos lab is funded by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (grant PID2020-112526RB-I00; funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033). The project is realized support from the Science Funding Initiative at the University of Debrecen. Figures 3 and 5 were created with BioRender.com.

**Abbreviations.** ACOX1, acyl coenzyme A oxidase I; AMPK, AMP-activated protein kinase; aP2, adipocytes protein 2; AR, androgen receptor; ART, ADP-

ribosyl transferase enzymes; BER, base excision repair; CAF, cancer-associated fibroblast; CENPA, centromere protein A; CENPB, centromere protein B; CHD1L, Chromodomain-helicase-DNA-binding protein 1-like; CNS, central nerve system; ConA, concanavalin A; cyt c, cytochrome c; DDR, DNA damage response; DN, double-negative (CD4- CD8-); DP, double-positive thymocytes (CD4+ CD8+); DSB, double strand break; EAE, experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis; ER, estrogen receptor; FAS fatty acid synthase; FEN1, Flap endonuclease 1; HR, homologous recombination; IFN $\gamma$ , interferon  $\gamma$ ; iNKT, invariant NKT; IL, interleukin; LPL, lipoprotein lipase; LPS, lipopolysaccharide; MARylation, mono-ADP-ribosylation; MCAD, medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase; MCD, malonyl-CoA decarboxylase; mCPT1b, muscle isoform of carnitine O-palmitoyltransferase 1; mTOR, mechanistic/mammalian target of rapamycin; NFE2L2, nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2; NF- $\kappa$ B, nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B; NHEJ, non-homologous end joining; NKT, Natural Killer T; NRF2, nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2; PARPi, PARP1/2 inhibitors; PARylation, poly-ADP-ribosylation; PGC1 $\alpha$ , peroxisome proliferator activated receptor cofactor 1 $\alpha$ ; PPAR, peroxisome proliferator activated receptor; PROTAC, proteolysis targeting chimera; ROS, Reactive oxygen species; RXR, retinoid X receptor; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; SREBP, Sterol regulatory element-binding protein; T-ALL, T cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia; TCR $\alpha$ , T cell receptor  $\alpha$ -chain; Th1, T helper 1; Th17, T helper 17; topo, topoisomerase; TTF1, Thyroid transcription factor-1; Treg, regulatory T; TGF, tumour growth factor; UCP-2, uncoupling protein-2; WAT, white adipose tissue; XRCC1, X-ray repair cross-complementing protein 1; 5'-drp, 5'-deoxyribose phosphate.

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