

ATF4 destabilizes RET through nonclassical GRP78 inhibition to enhance chemosensitivity to bortezomib in human osteosarcoma

Jie Luo^{1,#}, Yuanzheng Xia^{1,#}, Yong Yin¹, Jun Luo¹, Mingming Liu¹, Hao Zhang¹, Chao Zhang¹, Yucheng Zhao¹, Lei Yang¹, Lingyi Kong^{1,*}

Supplementary Figures

Figure S1.

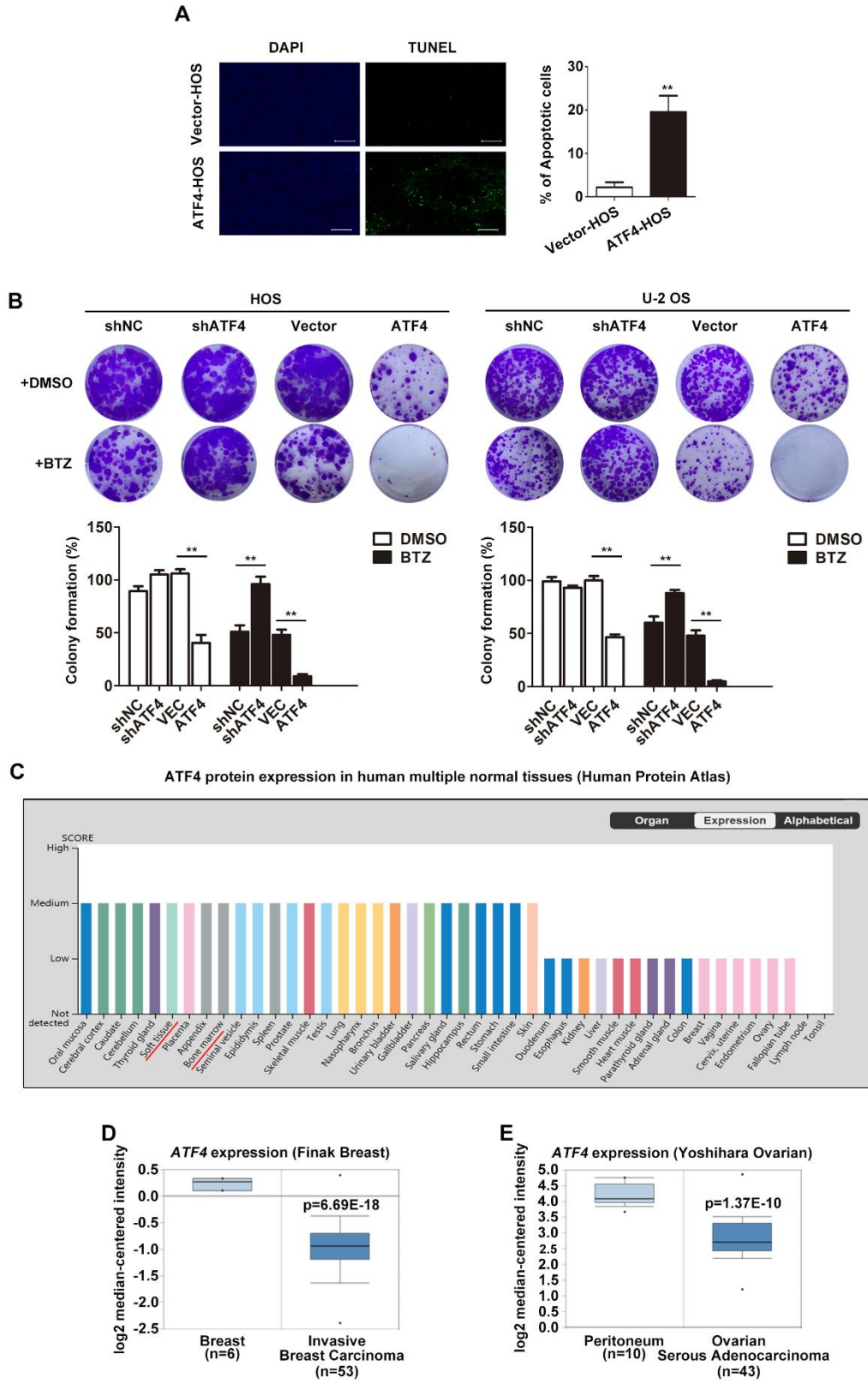


Figure S1. ATF4 is lowly expressed in multiple cancers and represents a prognostic marker.

A, Confocal images of TUNEL staining (green) in vector control and ATF4-expressing HOS xenograft tumor were shown. Nuclei were counterstained with Hoechst 33258 (blue). **Scale bars represent 50 μ m.** **B**, Representative colony formation assay by monolayer culture with BTZ (100 nM) in ATF4-expressing or ATF4-deficient HOS and U-2 OS cells. Error bars represent mean \pm SEM from three independent experiments (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$). **C**, Bar graph illustrating *ATF4* expression levels by IHC in human normal tissues. Data were retrieved from Human Protein Atlas database (<http://proteinatlas.org>). **D and E**, Box plots showing differential *ATF4* mRNA expression levels between ovarian serous adenocarcinoma and normal peritoneum tissues, or invasive breast carcinoma and normal breast in Oncomine datasets. Error bars, SD.

Figure S2.

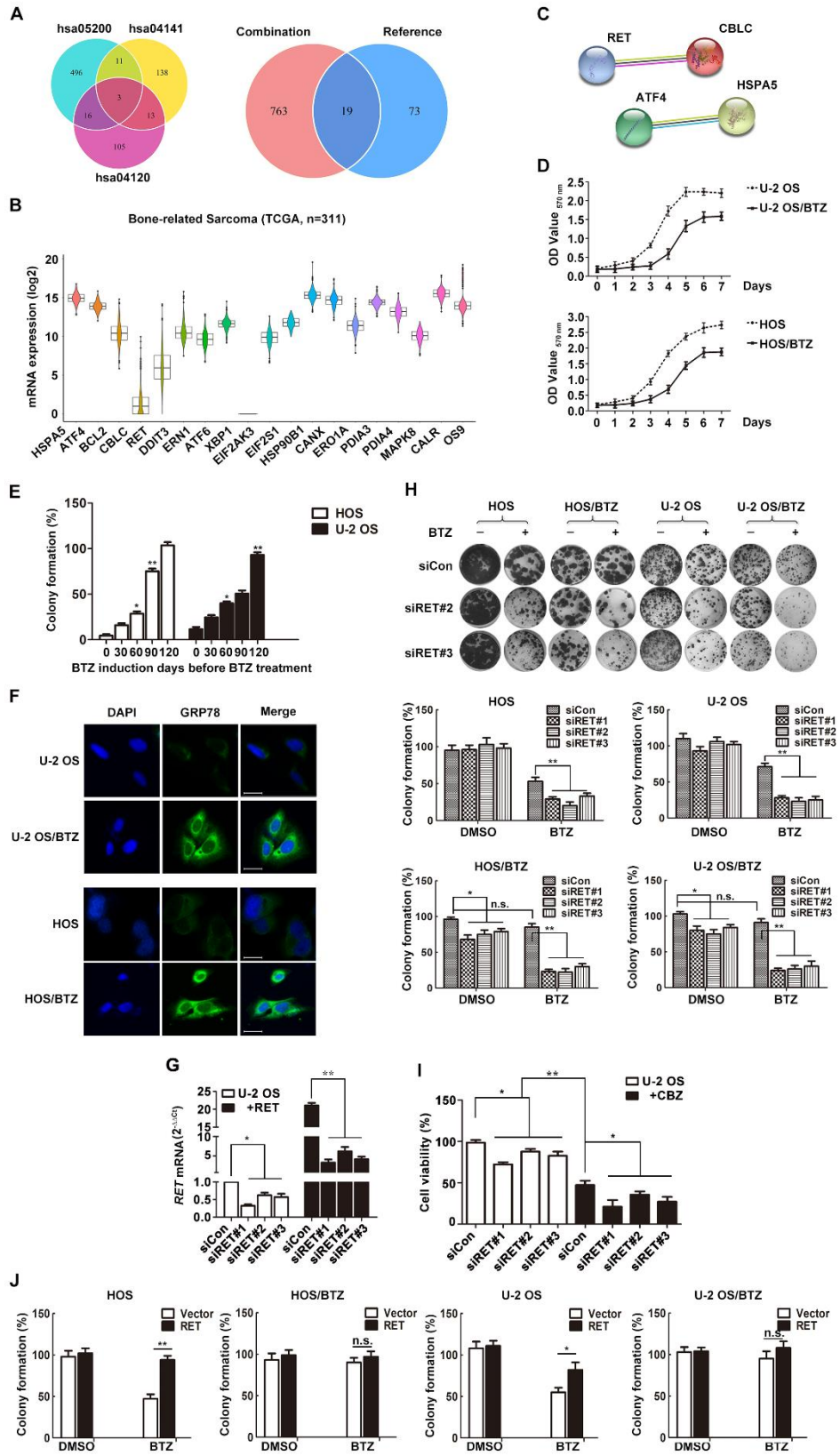


Figure S2. RET expression promotes osteosarcoma tumorigenesis and BTZ resistance. **A**, Venn diagram indicating duplication among the three gene sets regarding cancer (hsa05200), protein processing in endoplasmic reticulum (hsa04141) and ubiquitin mediated proteolysis (hsa04120) in KEGG PATHWAY database. 782 nonredundant genes were obtained. A set of 19 genes were enriched for the three KEGG pathways mentioned above (Combination) and 92 genes (Reference) which were studied or interested by us and were confirmed the interaction in STRING database. **B**, Relative expression of the 19 genes were determined for all bone-related sarcoma samples (n = 311) in TCGA. **C**, The interactions of *HSPA5*, *ATF4*, *CBLC* and *RET* in STRING database. **D**, The BTZ-resistant subline U-2 OS/BTZ and HOS/BTZ was established. Cells were seeded into 96-well culture plates and incubated for 1-7 days, respectively. MTT assay was performed to measure the cell growth curve. **E**, Colony formation efficiencies were determined in BTZ-resistant models of U-2 OS and HOS cells treated with BTZ (100 nM). **F**, Immunofluorescence analysis of GRP78 protein (green) in OS/BTZ cells, in comparison to the parental cells. Nuclei were stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue). Images were taken using the high-content imaging system. **Scale bars, 10 μ m**. **G**, Synthetic RET-siRNAs effectively suppressed endogenous *RET* mRNA in U-2 OS cells. Cells were transfected with 100 nM siRNA targeting RET (#1, 2, 3) or control siRNA (siCon), or cotransfected with ATF4 expression plasmid for 24 h. qRT-PCR quantitative analyses were performed to evaluate the efficiency of RET knockdown. **H**, RET colony formation-promoting activity. Control and RET knockdown (siRET#2 and #3) OS or OS/BTZ cells were cultured for 2 weeks with two-day BTZ (100 nM) treatment at the beginning. Then cells were fixed and stained. **I**, MTT assay of U-2 OS cells transfected with siRET (#1, 2, 3) or control siRNA in the presence of RTK inhibitor Cabozantinib (CBZ, 5 μ M). **J**, Colony formation efficiencies were determined in RET-overexpressing OS or OS/BTZ cells with BTZ

(100 nM) treatment. Error bars represent mean \pm SD from three independent experiments (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$; n.s., non-significant).

Figure S3.

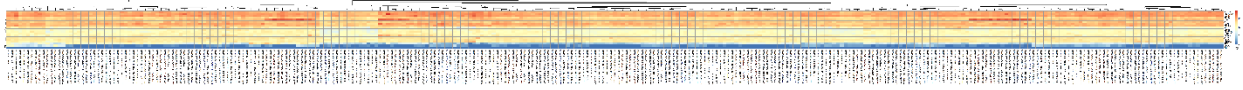


Figure S3. Heatmap of 19 genes in normalized RNA-seq counts of 311 bone-related sarcoma samples in The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) dataset.

Figure S4.

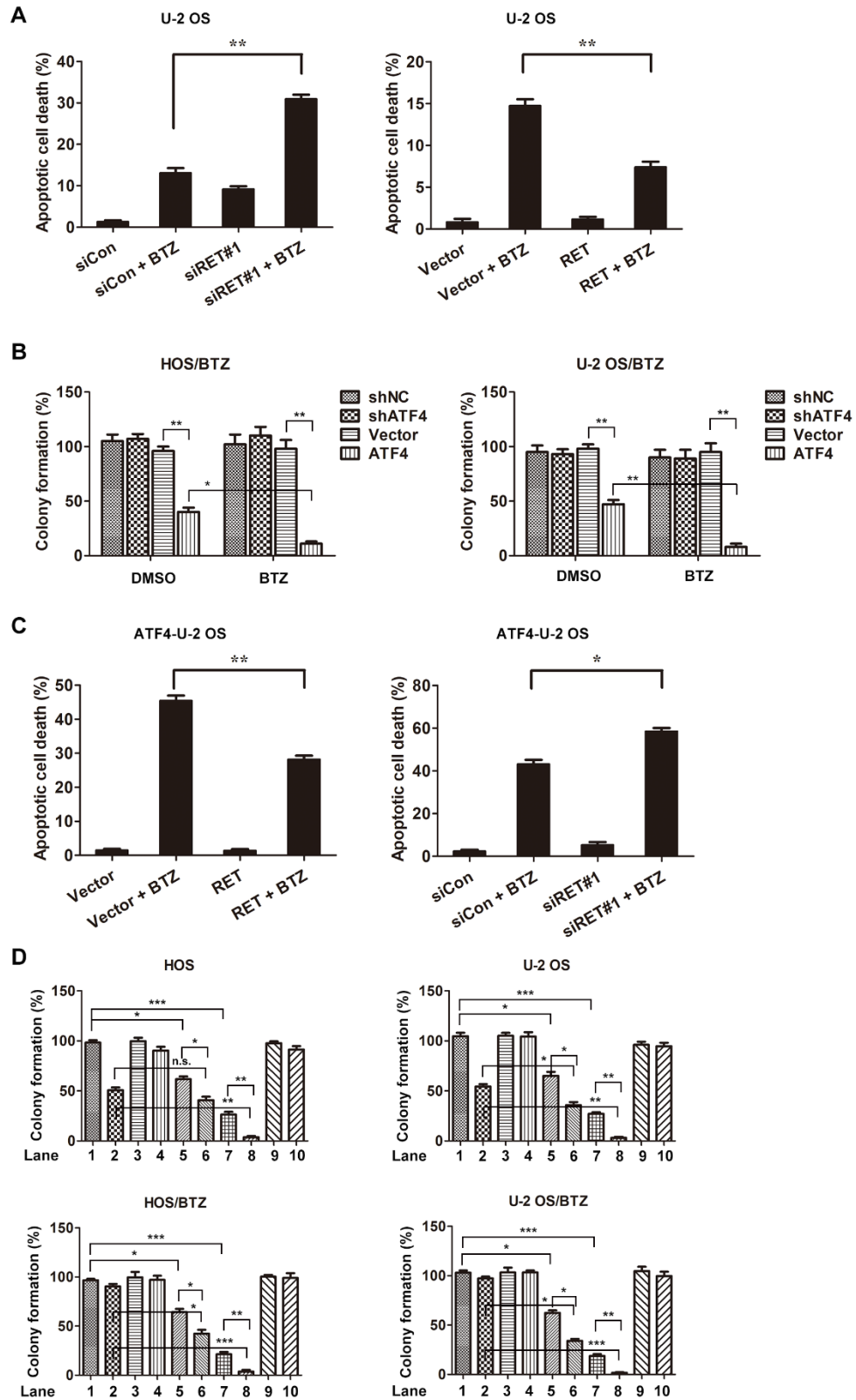


Figure S4. The quantification for apoptotic and colony formation assays. **A**, Quantification analysis of **Figure 3C**. U-2 OS_{siRET#1} and U-2 OS_{siCon} cells or U-2 OS_{RET} and U-2 OS_{vector} cells were challenged by either vehicle or BTZ (100 nM), stained with fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-conjugated Annexin V and propidium iodide (PI), and analysed by flow cytometry to evaluate the role of RET in the prevention of apoptosis. Significance is shown by $^{**}P < 0.01$. **B**, Quantification analysis of **Figure 4A**. The functional phenotypes of retroviral shATF4 and ATF4-transfected OS/BTZ sublines are indicated by colony formation assays in 100 nM BTZ. The pGLV or EF1a vector was used as a control. The cells were fixed, stained, and photographed after 14 days. Error bars represent mean \pm SD from three independent experiments ($^{*}P < 0.05$, $^{**}P < 0.01$). **C**, Quantification analysis of **Figure 4F**. Stable U-2 OS_{ATF4} cells transfected with RET or siRET#1 were challenged with either vehicle or BTZ (100 nM), stained with FITC-conjugated Annexin V and PI, and analysed by flow cytometry to evaluate the role of RET in the prevention of apoptosis induction involving ATF4 overexpression. Significance is shown by $^{*}P < 0.05$ and $^{**}P < 0.01$. **D**, Quantification analysis of **Figure 4G**. Colony formation assays in OS and OS/BTZ cells, with either ATF4 or RET alterations mediated by the transient transfection of siRNAs or expression vectors, cultured in 100 nM for the first two days of the experiment. The cells were fixed, stained, and photographed after two weeks. Error bars represent mean \pm SD from three independent experiments ($^{*}P < 0.05$, $^{**}P < 0.01$, $^{***}P < 0.001$; n.s., non-significant).

Figure S5.

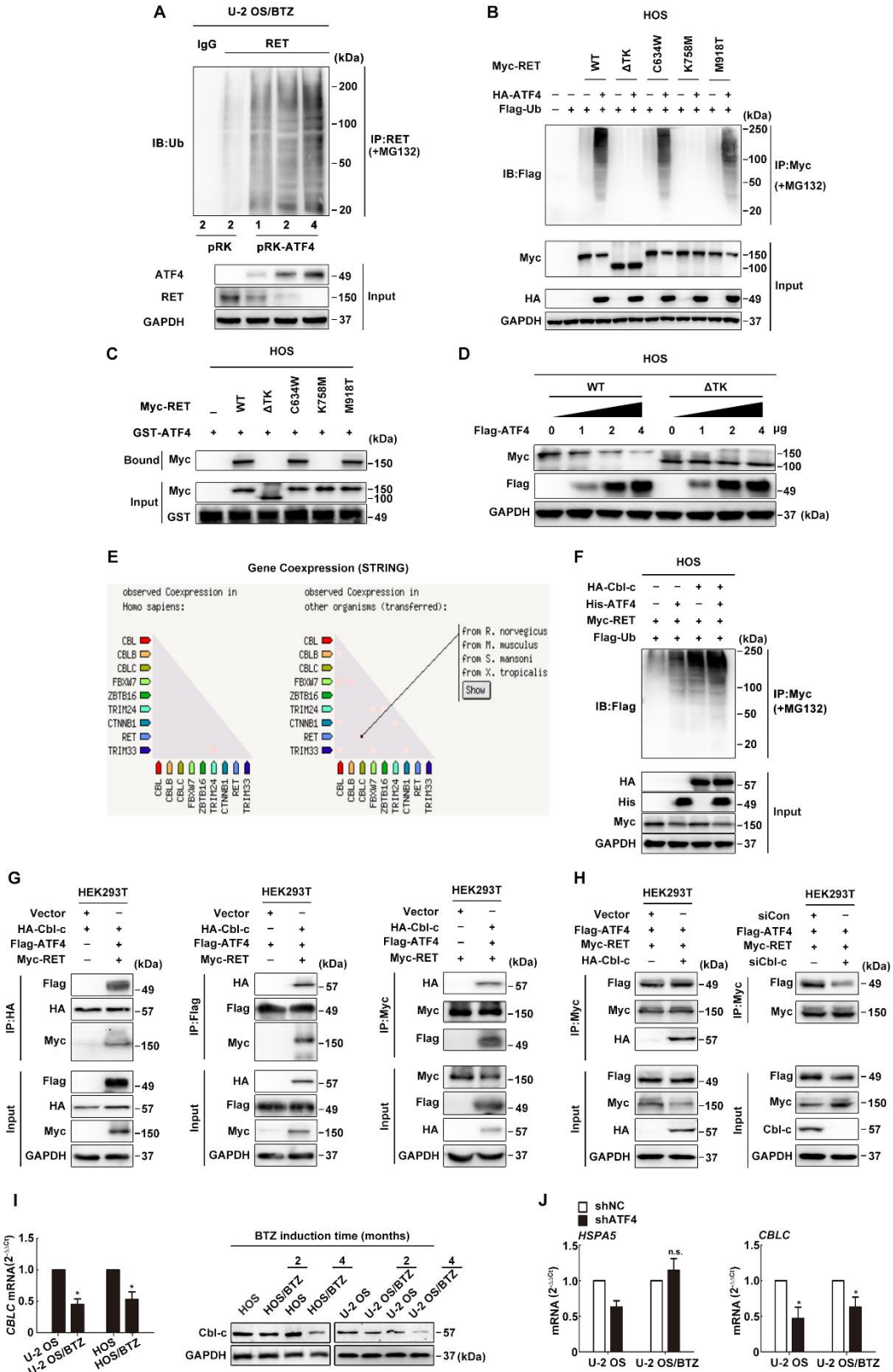


Figure S5. ATF4-Cbl-c-RET interaction accelerates RET turnover. **A**, Ubiquitination profile of RET immunoprecipitated from U-2 OS/BTZ cells treated with increasing concentrations of ATF4 expression vector and incubated for 4 h in the presence of MG132 (20 μ M). Immunoprecipitated samples were normalized for equivalent GAPDH loading. **B**, ATF4 promotes *in vivo* RET ubiquitination, but not Δ TK RET. Expressing vectors were transfected with HA-ATF4, Myc-RET mutants and FLAG-ubiquitin into HOS cells as indicated. The cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with anti-Myc antibody, and multiubiquitinated RET were detected by immunoblotting with anti-FLAG (upper panel). Expression level of each protein was assessed by anti-Myc, anti-HA, and anti-GAPDH (lower panel). **C**, Detection of the interaction between ATF4 and RET *in vitro*. Glutathione-agarose beads containing GST or GST-ATF4 were incubated with whole-cell extracts derived from HOS cells expressing WT RET, Δ TK, C634W, K758M and M918T mutants. **D**, HOS cells were transiently transfected with an expression vector for WT ATF4, WT RET, and Δ TK RET. After 24 h, the cell lysates were analyzed by western blot using antibodies against the indicated epitope tags. **E**, Coexpression profile of *RET* and its associated genes referred to ubiquitin process in STRING database. **F**, HOS cells were cotransfected with HA-Cbl-c, Myc-RET, and FLAG-ubiquitin, and His-ATF4, and protein extracts were immunoprecipitated. Ubiquitination of RET was measured with an anti-Myc antibody. Cell lysates were immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. **G**, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with HA-Cbl-c, FLAG-ATF4, Myc-RET, or three vectors together. Cell extracts were IP using anti-HA, anti-FLAG or anti-Myc antibody and blotted with indicated antibodies. **H**, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with FLAG-ATF4 and Myc-RET, in the absence or presence of HA-Cbl-c or Cbl-c siRNAs. Cell extracts were pulled down using anti-Myc antibody and blotted with indicated antibodies. **I**, Expression of *CBLC* mRNA and protein in OS and OS/BTZ cells analyzed by qRT-

PCR and western blotting. **J**, Expression of *HSPA5* and *CBLC* in shNC control and ATF4-shRNA transfected OS and OS/BTZ cells analyzed by qRT-PCR. All values were mean \pm SD relative to the basal condition, two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test, * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$; n.s., non-significant.

Figure S6.

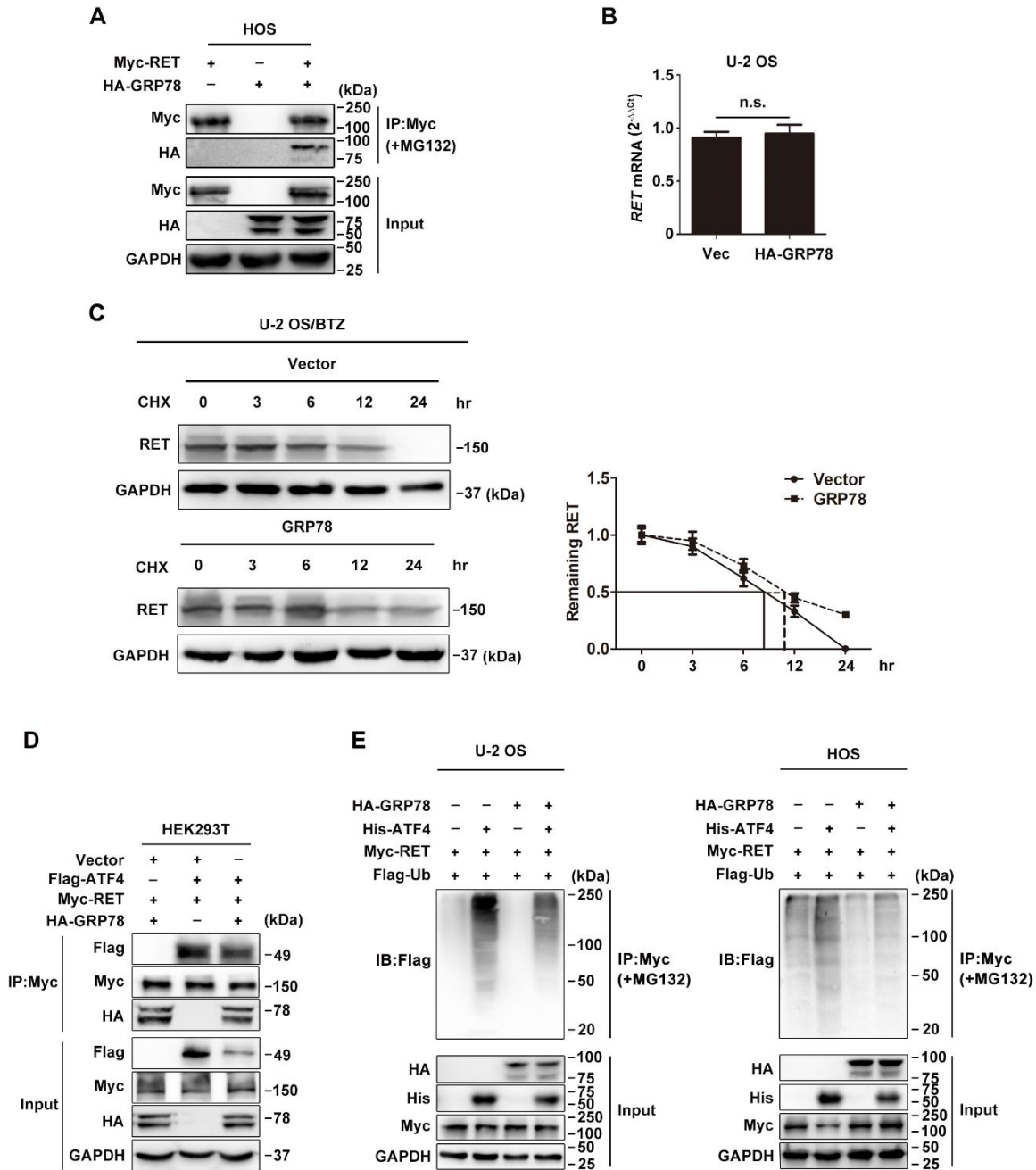
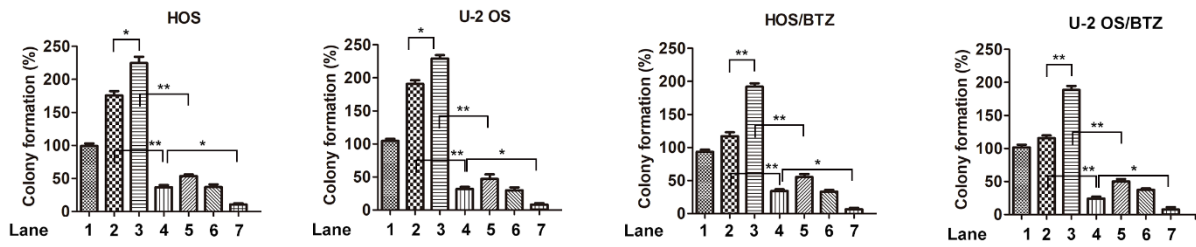


Figure S6. GRP78 delays RET degradation through interfering with the binding of RET to ATF4. A, HOS cells were transiently transfected with Myc-RET or HA-GRP78 with or without vector, pcDNA3.1(+) for 2 days with 4 h MG132 (20 μ M) treatment and whole cell lysates were

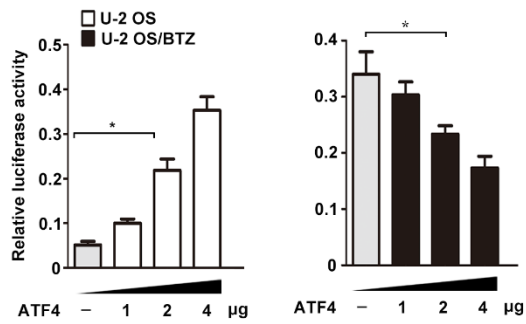
immunoprecipitated with anti-Myc antibody and blotted with indicated antibodies. **B**, mRNA expression analysis of the *RET* gene in U-2 OS cells upon GRP78 expression using qRT-PCR. Data were expressed as the mean \pm SD (n = 3) and analysed by two-tailed unpaired t-tests. n.s., non-significant. **C**, GRP78 prolongs the half-life of the RET protein. U-2/BTZ cells transfected with HA-GRP78 or control vector were treated with CHX (10 μ M), and the expression of the indicated proteins was determined by immunoblotting at the indicated times. **D**, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with FLAG-ATF4 and Myc-RET or HA-GRP78 and Myc-RET. Cell extracts were immunoprecipitated using anti-Myc antibody and blotted with indicated antibodies. **E**, U-2 OS and HOS cells were cotransfected with Myc-RET, FLAG-ubiquitin, and His-ATF4 or HA-GRP78, and protein extracts were immunoprecipitated. Ubiquitination of RET was measured with an anti-Myc antibody. Cell lysates were immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. Data are representative immunoblots of three independent assays.

Figure S7.

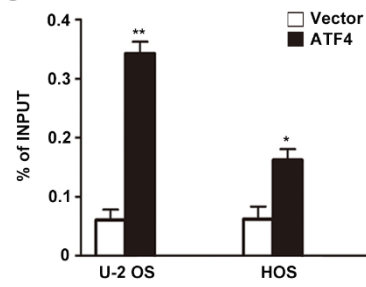
A



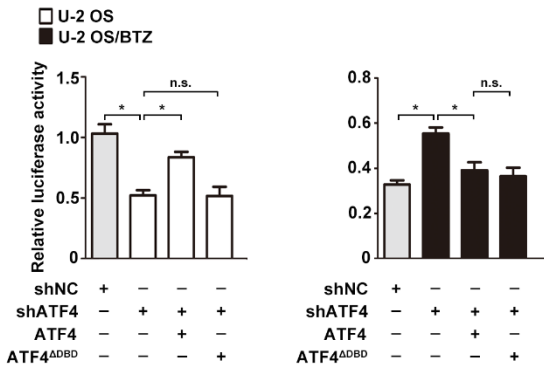
B



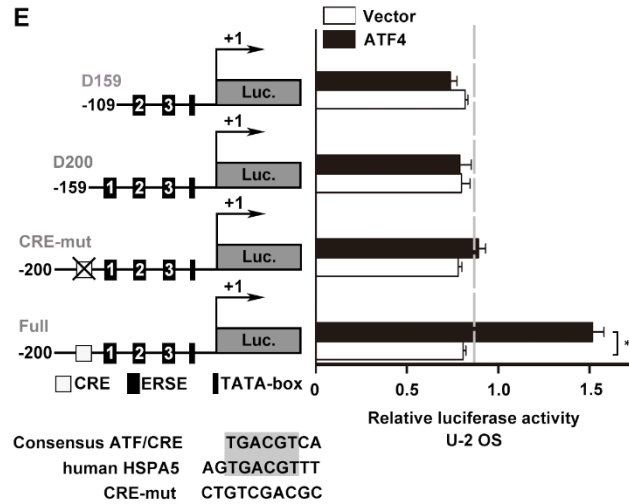
C



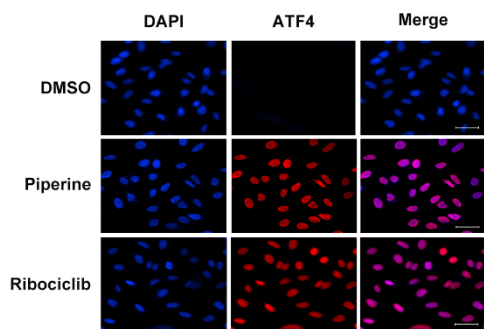
D



E



F



G

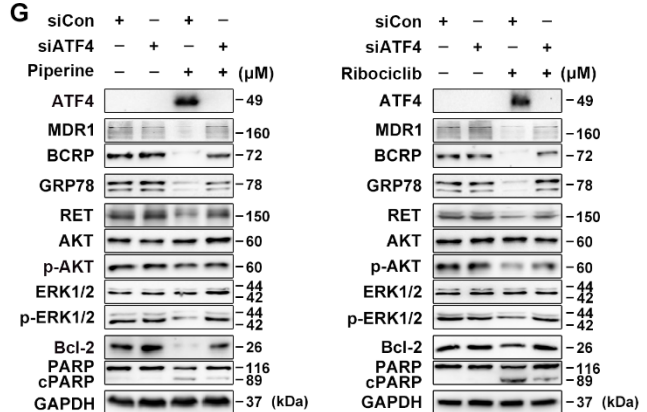
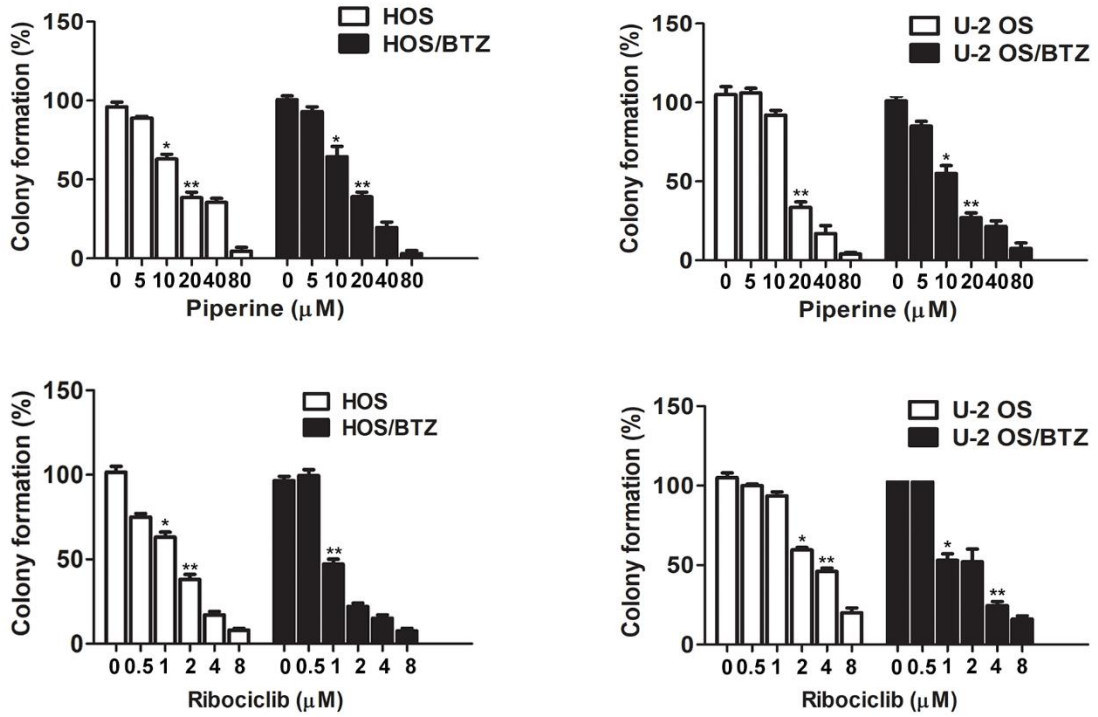


Figure S7. ATF4 exerts inverse transcriptional regulation of GRP78. **A**, Quantification analysis of **Figure 7H**. Colony formation assay was performed using paired OS and OS/BTZ cells transfected with control or siGRP78, GRP78, ATF4 and RET vectors with BTZ (100 nM) treatment for the first two days of the experiment. The cells were fixed, stained, and photographed after 14 days. Error bars represent mean \pm SD from three independent experiments (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$). **B**, Relative luciferase activity driven by *HSPA5* promoter in U-2 OS and U-2 OS/BTZ cells. Cells were cotransfected with increasing concentrations of ATF4 plasmid and *HSPA5* promoter (-457 to +1)-luciferase reporter plasmid for 24 h, and then the luciferase values were determined. **C**, ATF4 binds to the *HSPA5* promoter. U-2 OS and HOS cells were transfected with ATF4 or vector control. Chromatin immunoprecipitation was performed using either a control IgG antibody or antibody against ATF4. PCR primers were designed to amplify the specific *HSPA5* promoter fragment spanning from -457 to +1. Primers for the *DDIT3* promoter were used as positive control. **D**, ATF4 transcriptionally regulates *HSPA5* through the DNA binding domain. Cells were transfected with the shRNA-ATF4, ATF4 or Δ DBD ATF4 expression plasmid and the *HSPA5* promoter (-457 to +1)-luciferase reporter plasmid, and luciferase activity was determined 24 h after transfection. **E**, ATF4-mediated *HSPA5* promoter repression in wild-type OS requires the CRE element. U-2 OS cells were transfected with the plasmid encoding the firefly luciferase gene driven by the illustrated promoter together with vector control (white bar) or the plasmid encoding ATF4 (black bar). After 24 h, cells were harvested and measured for luciferase activity. Data are shown as the mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance was determined by Student's t-test. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$; n.s., non-significant. **F**, Indirect immunofluorescence detecting the expression of ATF4 in U-2 OS/BTZ cells before subjected to Piperine or Ribociclib for 24 h. Images were taken using the high-content imaging system. **Scale bars, 10 μ m**. **G**, OS/BTZ cells

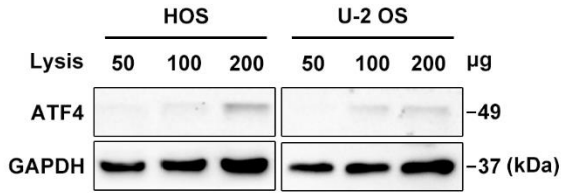
transiently transfected with siCon or siATF4 were challenged with piperine or ribociclib for 24 h. Cell lysates were collected, and the indicated proteins were analysed. Data from representative immunoblots of three independent assays are shown.

Figure S8.

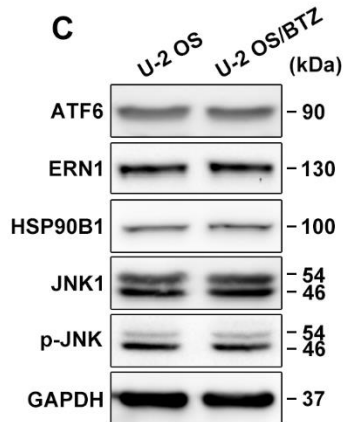
A



B



C



D

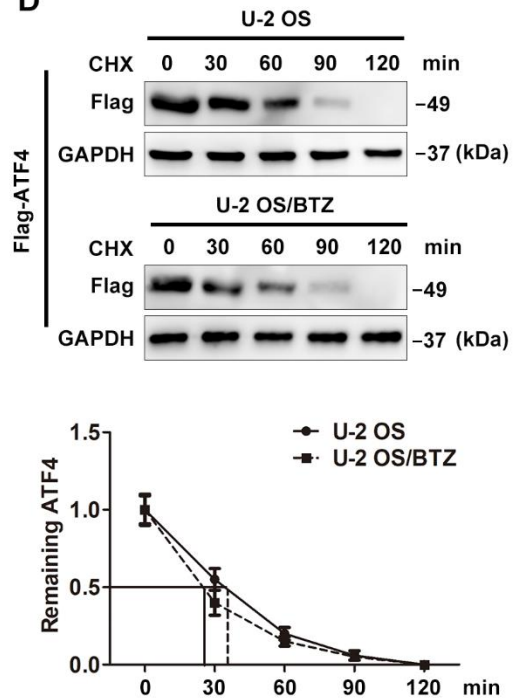


Figure S8. A, Quantification analysis of **Figure 8A.** Proliferation of control or piperine and ribociclib-treated OS and OS/BTZ cells was evaluated by colony formation assays. Error bars represent mean \pm SD from three independent experiments ($*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$). **B,** Western blotting analysis of the basal protein level of ATF4 with an increasing loading lysis from HOS and U-2 OS cells. **C,** Western blotting analysis of another 4 stress-related proteins ATF6, ERN1, HSP90B1 and MAPK8 (JNK) in the parental and BTZ-resistant U-2 OS cells. **D,** The half-life of ATF4 protein in U-2 OS and U-2 OS/BTZ cell lines. Cells transfected with FLAG-ATF4 or control vector were treated with CHX (10 μ M), and the expression of ATF4 was determined by immunoblotting at the indicated times. Data are representative immunoblots of three independent assays.

2. Supplementary Tables

Table S1. Primary antibodies used in the study.

Antibody	Vendors	Catalogue No.	Applications	Dilution
ATF4	CST	11815	WB	1:1000
GRP78	CST	3177	WB	1:1000
RET	CST	14556	WB	1:1000
ABCB1	CST	12683	WB	1:1000
MRP1	CST	14685	WB	1:1000
Cleaved PARP (Asp214)	CST	5625	WB	1:1000
PARP	CST	9532	WB	1:1000
cCASP9 (Asp315)	CST	20750	WB	1:1000
cCASP3 (Asp175)	CST	9664	WB IHC	1:1000
p-AKT (Ser473)	CST	4060	WB	1:2000
AKT	CST	4685	WB	1:1000
p-ERK1/2 (Thr202/Tyr204)	CST	8544	WB	1:1000
ERK1/2	CST	12950	WB	1:1000
Bcl-2	CST	4223	WB	1:1000
Ubiquitin	CST	3936	WB	1:1000
GAPDH	CST	5174	WB	1:5000
α -tubulin	BOSTER	BM1452	WB	1:1000
Cbl-c	Abcam	ab34750	WB	1:500
BCRP	Abcam	ab24115	WB	1:1000
RET	Abcam	ab134100	IP IF	1:100 1:100
ATF4	Abcam	ab184909	IF IHC	1:1000 1:100
GRP78	Abcam	ab108615	IF	1:200
phospho-RET (Y1062)	Abcam	Ab51103	WB	1:1000
RET (C-3)	Santa Cruz	sc-365943	WB	1:500
GDNF(B-8)	Santa Cruz	sc-13147	WB	1:1000
Bcl-2	Bioss	bs-0032R	IHC	1:500
PCNA	Bioss	bs-0754R	IHC	1:500
JNK1	CST	3708	WB	1:1000
p-JNK (Thr183/Tyr185)	CST	9255	WB	1:1000
GRP94	CST	20292	WB	1:1000
ATF6	CST	65880	WB	1:1000
IRE1 α	CST	3294	WB	1:1000
FLAG-Tag	Sigma	F3165	WB IP	1:2000 1:200
FLAG-Tag	CST	14793	WB IP	1:2000 1:200
Myc-Tag	Sigma	M4439	WB IP	1:2000 1:200
HA-Tag	Sigma	H6908	WB IP	1:2000 1:200
HA-Tag	CST	2278	WB	1:2000

			IP	1:200
His-Tag	CST	12698	WB	1:2000
GST-Tag	CST	2624	WB	1:2000

Table S2. Sequences of real time PCR primers used in the study.

Gene	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')
<i>ATF4</i>	ATGACCGAAATGAGCTTCCTG	GCTGGAGAACCCATGAGGT
<i>RET</i>	CAGAACCCTAGCCATAGCCG	AAAACGCACGAGGGAAAAGC
<i>HSPA5</i>	GAACGTCTGATTGGCGATGC	ACCACCTTGAACGGCAAGAA
<i>CBLC</i>	ACAGAAGGACGGCTTCTACC	AGTCCCCTTTAGGAGTCTCA
<i>BCL2</i>	GAACCTGGGGGAGGATTGTGG	CATCCCAGCCTCCGTTATCC
<i>BCL-XL</i>	CGGATTTGAATCTCTTCTCTCCC	CGACCCCAGTTTACCCCATC
<i>MCL-1</i>	CTTTTGGCTACGGAGAAGGAG	GTCACAATCCTGCCCCAGTT
<i>BAX</i>	CCAGAGGCGGGGTTTCAT	CATCCTCTGCAGCTCCATGT
<i>BAK</i>	ACAGCCTGTTTGAGAGTGGC	GCAGGGAGGACATTGCAGTC
<i>BAD</i>	AGAGTTTGAGCCGAGTGAGC	ATCCCACCAGGACTGGAAGA
<i>BID</i>	CATGGACCGTAGCATCCCTC	AGCACCAGCATGGTCTTCTC
<i>BIM</i>	GTATTCGGTTCGCTGCGTTC	ACCTCCGTGATTGCCTTCAG
<i>NOXA</i>	TGCAGGACTGTTTCGTGTCA	TGAACTGTTTCTCCCCAGCC
<i>PUMA</i>	GAAAGGCTGTTGTGCTGGTG	AGGCTAGTGGTCACGTTTGG
<i>GAPDH</i>	GAAAGCCTGCCGGTGACTAA	AGGAAAAGCATCACCCGGAG
<i>HSPA5</i> promoter (-457 to +1)	GCGGATGGGGCGGATGTTAT	TCTTGCCAGCCAGTTGGGCA
<i>HSPA5</i> promoter (Full, CRE-mut, D200, D159)	TGGCGCCTTGTGACCCCGGG	TCTTGCCAGCCAGTTGGGCA
<i>CBLC</i> promoter (-382 to +1)	CCGCCTGCCTCGGCCTCCTA	TGGGAGCCTCGCGTGTGCCG
<i>DDIT3</i> promoter (-400 to +1)	AAGTTGCCTCTCCCCCTTCC	TCTCTGCAGTTGATCAGTC

Table S3. High-throughput screening of FDA-approved Drugs

Summary of the High Throughput Screen	ATF4 Induction	Target(s)	Disease(s)
Piperine	✓	MDR1	Cancer
Ribociclib	✓	CDK4/CDK6	Cancer
Tozasertib	✓	Aurora A, B, C	Cancer
Decitabine	✓	DNMT	Cancer
Iloperidone	✓	D2/5-HT2 receptor	Schizophrenia
Bafetinib	✓	Bcr-Abl/Lyn	Cancer
Moxonidine	✓	11-R	Hypertension
(+, -)Octopamine HCl	✓	Dopamine receptor	Neuromodulation
S-Ruxolitinib	✓	JAK1/2	Cancer
Alisertib	✓	Aurora A	Cancer
Dabrafenib	✓	BRAF	Cancer

Summary of a high-throughput screening of 1,452 biologically active compounds approved by the FDA for ATF4 induction in BTZ-resistant U-2 OS cells. Immunofluorescence data are represented as the mean of triplicate samples \pm SD and are representative of three independent experiments.

Table S4. Software and Algorithms for statistics

<i>GraphPad Prism</i>	GraphPad	https://www.graphpad.com/scientificsoftware/prism/
<i>Heatmap Illustrator</i>	Wankun Deng, Yongbo Wang, Zexian Liu, Han Cheng and Yu Xue. PLoS One 2014 Nov 5;9(11):e111988	http://hemi.biocuckoo.org/
<i>R Programming Language</i>	R Project for Statistical Computing	https://www.r-project.org/
<i>R Studio</i>	R-Studio	https://www.rstudio.com/
<i>data.table</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=data.table
<i>dplyr</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=dplyr
<i>pheatmap</i>	CRAN - Package	https://cran.r-project.org/package=pheatmap
<i>gridGraphics</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=gridGraphics
<i>futile.logger</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=futile.logger
<i>VennDiagram</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=VennDiagram
<i>ggplot2</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=ggplot2
<i>R.devices</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=R.devices
<i>corrplot</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=corrplot
<i>BiocManager</i>	CRAN - Package	https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=BiocManager
<i>AnnotationDbi</i>	Pagès H, Carlson M, Falcon S, Li N (2018). AnnotationDbi: Annotation Database Interface. R package version 1.44.0.	http://bioconductor.org/packages/AnnotationDbi/
<i>org.Hs.eg.db</i>	Carlson M (2018). org.Hs.eg.db: Genome wide annotation for Human. R package version 3.7.0.	http://bioconductor.org/packages/org.Hs.eg.db/
<i>Microsoft Office</i>	Microsoft Corporation	https://www.office.com/